



Crossroads of Heritage and Hospitality

## **Downtown Bedford, Inc.**

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For Immediate Release:

### Downtown Bedford, Inc. receives 2009 National Trust Main Street Accreditation

Bedford, PA (May 13, 2009)—Downtown Bedford, Inc. has been designated an accredited National Main Street Program for meeting the commercial district revitalization performance standards set by the National Trust Main Street Center. Each year, the National Trust and its coordinating program partners announce the list of accredited Main Street programs that have built strong revitalization organizations and that have demonstrated their ability to follow the Main Street methodology.

“We congratulate this year’s nationally accredited Main Street programs for meeting our established performance standards,” says Doug Loescher, director of the National Trust Main Street Center. “Rebuilding a district’s economic health and maintaining that success requires broad-based community involvement and support, in addition to establishing a solid organization with sound management that is committed to long-term success.”

The National Trust Main Street Center works in partnership with Coordinating Main Street Programs throughout the nation to identify the local programs that meet the National Trust’s 10 basic performance standards. These standards set the benchmarks for measuring an individual Main Street application of the Main Street Four-Point Approach to commercial district revitalization. Evaluation criteria determines the communities that are building comprehensive and sustainable revitalization efforts and include standards such as developing a mission, fostering strong public-private partnerships, securing an operating budget, tracking economic progress, and preserving historic buildings. For more information on the National Program accreditation program, visit [www.mainstreet.org/nationalprograms](http://www.mainstreet.org/nationalprograms).

Downtown Bedford, Inc.’s performance was evaluated by The Pennsylvania Downtown Center, which is the coordinating organization for Main Street program in Pennsylvania.

Downtown Bedford, Inc. has obtained numerous grants for the good of the community including: bike racks, new light posts, a replicated wall of the original Fort Bedford and is working on more grants to enhance the town such as more lighting, new sidewalks, a bike trail, etc. The group also hosts many special events during the year for the residents & tourists to enjoy. Plus, DBI has administered over \$135,000 in façade grants to improve the town’s buildings. DBI is constantly looking at ways to recruit and retain businesses, as well as to promote the town as a whole. “One of our most important goals is to have the community realize how important downtown is and to have them use the downtown to it’s fullest potential”, says Juli Dull, Main Street Manager for DBI. “Neglecting downtown leads to blight, empty storefronts, crime, and littering.

Bedford has been lucky enough not to have a lot of those problems, but we need to stay proactive, or that can easily happen. This program helps us realize and accomplish goals of becoming a destination town, while staying “safe, clean and green”. We are proud of the many successful, small businesses in our town, and hope to attract more through the hard work and dedication of our committees, volunteers, and DBI board using the Main Street approach.”

Since 1980, the National Trust Main Street Center has helped hundreds of downtown and neighborhood commercial districts across the nation reclaim the unique quality of life that only a thriving community center can provide. Through the Main Street Four-Point Approach to commercial district revitalization, which combines historic preservation and economic development, the Center has forged a nationwide movement for the revival of America’s historic and traditional commercial districts. The Center provides a nationwide membership network, comprehensive on-site consulting services, in-depth seminars and conferences, technical publications and training material, and national advocacy for commercial districts.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a non-profit membership organization bringing people together to protect, enhance and enjoy the places that matter to them. By saving the places where great moments from history--and the important moments of everyday life--took place, the National Trust for Historic Preservation helps to revitalize neighborhoods and communities, spark economic development and promote environmental sustainability. With headquarters in Washington, DC, nine regional and field offices, 29 historic sites, and partner organizations in all 50 states, the National Trust for Historic Preservation provides leadership, education, advocacy and resources to a national network of people, organizations and local communities committed to saving places, connecting us to our history and collectively shaping the future of America’s stories. For more information visit on The National Main Street Organization log onto: [www.nationaltrust.org](http://www.nationaltrust.org) or for information on Downtown Bedford, Inc., log onto: [www.downtownbedford.com](http://www.downtownbedford.com).



Pictured in photo:  
Juli Dull, Main Street Manager for DBI, and Melinda Foor, Administrative Assistant.