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## ***PARTNERSHIP FOR TOMORROW AWARDS NINE NEW PROPERTY RENOVATION GRANTS***

The ***Partnership For Tomorrow (PFT)*** is awarding nine new Property Renovation Grants today as part of their continuing effort to strengthen the Greer community and to improve the revitalization efforts in Greer's historic city center known as Greer Station. The nine grants total \$59,000 and are anticipated to facilitate \$1.4 million in new investment in Greer Station through the renovations and upfit of properties. This year there were 16 total grant applications received and a total of nine projects funded.

The ***PFT*** Property Renovation Grant Program is a competitive grant program specifically developed to assist those projects that enhance the exterior appearance of buildings and to facilitate renovations of buildings and property in Greer Station. Major emphasis of the program is on assisting projects that continue the preservation of the historic character and integrity of the property in Greer Station. Each grant application is reviewed and evaluated based on the type of project, project need, the merit of the application, and the potential impact the project may have on Greer Station.

Between 1998 and 2003 the Partnership For Tomorrow awarded approximately \$25,000 in Property Improvement Grants. These grants helped leverage approximately \$75,000 of property redevelopment in Greer Station during the same time period. In 2004, ***PFT*** successfully raised over \$1.5 million dollars of financial support from the community to continue economic development and community revitalization efforts for another five years. The ***PFT*** Property Renovation Grant program is a major component of ***PFT's*** City Center Revitalization efforts. Additional ***PFT's*** City Center Revitalization efforts include working on the relocation of the CSX rail line in downtown as well as assisting the City of Greer on continued streetscape, signage, and parking improvements. ***PFT*** is also supporting the City of Greer as they work on developing a new City Government Complex in the downtown area.

"On behalf of the ***Partnership For Tomorrow*** we congratulate this years Property Renovation Grant recipients. We appreciate their willingness to continue the revitalization efforts in Greer Station," said Larry Wilson, ***PFT*** Grant Committee Member. "The ***PFT*** grant provides critical resource money for a number of good projects that will have an impact on the community. This year there were a large number of quality applications with a limited number of resource dollars. This made it more difficult than in years past."

“Over the past five years Greer Station has experienced a significant transformation. Property owners and business operators are making significant investments in the downtown community. This grant program is a good catalyst that can produce some big results for Greer,” commented Ed Driggers, **PFT** Grant Committee Member. “The City of Greer is dedicated to working with the **Partnership For Tomorrow** on a team approach to revitalization of the city center. Development of the city government complex, the rail relocation effort, and additional improvements to streetscapes, signage and parking are all critical aspects the City and the **Partnership** can work on together rather than apart.”

“The **PFT** Property Renovation Grant is a high impact program that will forever change Greer’s city center. Often times in local economic development it is up to the local community leaders to develop the programs and projects that will revitalize the community. The **PFT** grant program working with local property owners demonstrates that people in Greer are serious about economic development and community revitalization,” said Wryley Bettis, Vice Chairman for the Greer Development Corporation.

For more information on the **PFT** Property Renovation Grant program you may contact Richard Blackwell at the Greer Development Corporation at (864) 849-0013 or [rblackwell@greerdevelopment.com](mailto:rblackwell@greerdevelopment.com).

*The Partnership for Tomorrow is the non-profit organization focused on economic development and community revitalization in the Greer community. PFT brings together public and private sector partners that provide financial resources and program support that will improve the economic development potential in Greer, the continued revitalization of Greer’s city center, the enhanced marketing of the community, and targeted engagement with the local educational institutions.*

*The Greer Development Corporation is a non-profit organization established to promote and enhance economic growth and development in the Greer community. GDC is a 501c(4) public-private partnership focused on business recruitment and retention activities, targeted marketing, and product development.*