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(PHOTO ATTACHED)
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America's Artisan Bakery Receives Loan Funds from the Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance (NEPA)

PITTSSTON, PA, April 9, 2008 – Officials gathered recently to present a check for \$200,000 in loan funds to Al Pera, Abbie and Patrick Agresto, America's Artisan Bakery, Frackville for the purchase of machinery and equipment.

America's Artisan Bakery d/b/a Olde World Cheesecake produces quality, handmade and natural products. Olde World received national attention in 2006 with the presentation of the Gallo Family Vineyard Gold Medal Award for Best Artisan Confectionery product. Their products were highlighted on Good Morning America with Diane Sawyer which has helped to increase Olde World's exposure as they continue to provide their delicious delights both on a local and ever growing national level.

According to Abbie Agresto, "Olde World is only one of a few companies purveying a truly Artisan product line offering a high end varied selection while keeping the product all natural. The all natural product is gaining tremendous market recognition, so the demand for Olde World's products continues to grow. Previously, our products were sold in 60 PA based food stores and that has increased to 575 stores and we have expanded from operating in 800 square feet to 8,000 square feet."

The Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance offers a variety of financing programs for businesses. For more information, contact NEPA Alliance at (570) 655-5581.



EDITOR'S NOTE: PHOTO ATTACHED

Pictured, seated, from left: Jeffrey Box, President & CEO, NEPA Alliance; Abbie Agresto, America's Artisan Bakery and Mary Beth Dougherty, Administrative Assistant to Senator James Rhoades. Standing, from left: Al Pera, America's Artisan Bakery; John Wozniak, Business Finance Manager, NEPA Alliance; Edward Kleha, Legislative Assistant to Rep. Neal Goodman; Patrick Agresto, America's Artisan Bakery and Mark Scarbinsky, Director, Schuylkill County Economic Development Office.