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## Banking career led to job at nonprofit

**The job:** Morris Township resident Katherine Laud is chief financial officer at Homeless Solutions in Morristown.

**The business:** A private nonprofit founded in 1983 to provide temporary housing, Homeless Solutions expanded its mission in 1999 to include building affordable-housing units, such as the Jean Street apartments in Morristown.

Because of the success of this new venture, Laud's job was created.

"It's expensive to live here," she said. "People who work in retail earn \$8 an hour and are forced to live in Pennsylvania."

**Roots:** Born in 1958 in Morristown and grew up in Morris Township. A graduate of Morristown High School, her yearbook noted that she hoped to be "press secretary to the president." "I still love putting words on a page."

**Education:** Graduated from Dartmouth College with a degree in English and American studies. Also earned MBA from the Tuck School at Dartmouth.

**The road to Wall Street:** After graduation, Laud joined The Bank of New York as an investment manager of stock portfolios. After three years, she transferred to the Chicago branch, where she worked in derivatives for five years.

"I've always loved to write and wanted to be a writer," she said. "In college, I asked a friend not to let me take a job with a bank, but I liked the idea of working in New York, the salary and I liked the people at Bank of New York."

**On-the-job training:** "All my liberal arts degree enabled me to do was talk about interesting things, and I could write a good letter."

Laud recalls asking her father about the difference between stocks and bonds when she started working at the bank. "I worked hard to learn the business."

**Community activities:** On the board of directors of Provident Financial Services and The Provident Bank, where she also serves on its directors' trust committee.

She joined the board of First Morris Bank & Trust, which merged with Provident, after taking off seven years to spend time with her children.

**Family:** Laud lives in Morris Township with her husband, Paul, and three children: Matt, 18; Charlie, 15; and Maisie, 13.

Their home is two doors from the one in which Laud grew up.

"I loved living in Chicago, but the job market brought us back here," she said.

**Role model:** "There was a volatile, difficult woman at Bank of New York, who I used to hang around hoping to learn from her - she was wicked smart. I later learned that she really did like me."

**Home away from home:** The Lauds have a second home in Vermont. "My favorite place is South Hero Island."

**Leisure:** Loves to cook organic food. "The organic movement made a big impression on me."

**On the page:** Recently read "Divisadero" by Michael Ondaatje and "The Food We Eat."

**Favorite restaurant:** Pure Food and Wine in New York. "It's artistic and comforting at the same time."

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### JOHN BELL / DAILY RECORD

Katherine Laud, chief financial officer of Homeless Solutions in Morristown, hopes more people will be able to find affordable housing in Morris County. 'It's expensive to live here,' she said.

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Dossier was reported by Sally Silverman, a freelance writer.

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