



**Opportunity
House**
Today's Answer, Tomorrow's Hope



securing Our Future,
Today!

Opportunity House does exactly what its name implies. It provides the opportunity for families to become self-sufficient; it provides the opportunity for single moms to get into the productive business world and to increase their self-respect; it provides children with a nurturing environment and pre-school education which will affect (in a positive way) their entire lives.

With the inclusion of state-of-the-art technology, additional classrooms and skilled professionals, the expansion of the Second Street Learning Center will open up more programs for children who would not otherwise have access to the future in the same way. The thought of offering opportunities to people in our own community is thrilling to us. Our hope is to help turn children's dreams into realities and we're excited to be a part of this Capital Campaign. Please join us in building a brighter kids world and securing our...their future, today!

Lois E. Cohen

Irvin Cohen

Lois E. & Irvin Cohen
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As the saying goes, "a hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was or the type of car I drove, but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child." That, to me, is what the 2009 Capital Campaign for Opportunity House's new Learning and Technology Center is all about.

I am deeply honored to be Chair of the Capital Campaign Cabinet, and to be surrounded by so many wonderful people working together to make a difference in the lives of families in need in our community. It's hard to imagine a more worthwhile endeavor than to be building a new school for inner-city children of working parents. The existing Second Street Learning Center, which for many years has served as a vital component in helping working families obtain employment and achieve self sufficiency, has reached its limit, while the need in the community for its services continues to grow. In constructing a new, state-of-the-art Learning and Technology Center, not only will we be doubling the Learning Center's current capacity, but we'll be providing inner-city children the same access to technology and high-tech curriculum as middle and upper income families, thus better equipping them with the tools and knowledge to become tomorrow's leaders. In addition, we'll be helping to secure the future of Opportunity House by generating new revenues for its other important program areas, such as the homeless shelter; Children's Alliance Center; transitional and permanent housing; job readiness program; and Reading Health Dispensary at Second Street. Please join us in contributing to this very worthwhile cause. An investment in the life of a child today, will reap dividends for generations to come.

Thank you,

Eric Schippers
Cabinet Chair

Addressing Community Needs



For more than 23 years, Opportunity House has been improving the quality of life for children, adults and families facing various obstacles in the Reading area, and supporting their efforts to achieve and maintain self-sufficiency and well-being. Over the years, the agency has expanded its services in order to meet the growing needs in our community. Through its multi-dimensional, integrated approach, *Opportunity House is changing lives and moving people to self sufficiency.*

**Opportunity House is changing lives
and moving people to self sufficiency.**

A Unique Opportunity

Our 2009 Capital Campaign provides us with a unique opportunity to address several emerging community needs that will have both an immediate and long term impact upon the quality of life in our community. The focus is on the lack of quality, affordable and flexible child care in the city of Reading. The Second Street Learning Center provides a safe and affordable atmosphere for working parents to leave their children. It is the only 24 hour per day, 7 day per week licensed child care center in Berks County. In addition, it is the only child care facility in the city of Reading that transports enrolled students to and from all elementary and middle schools in the school district. There is currently a waiting list for children to be enrolled in the Center, and a waiting list in Reading that continues to grow.



80% of parents surveyed last year stated that the Center has helped them obtain and maintain employment.

Securing our Future, *Today!*

Since opening in the winter of 1984, the emergency shelter at Opportunity House has struggled each year to secure enough funding to offset its operating expenses. At the same time, the Second Street Learning Center has finally outgrown its capacity, despite the community's ongoing need for quality, affordable and flexible child care for working parents. Following discussions with local business leaders as well as city, county, and United Way officials, a strategy was adopted by the Board of Directors to develop a social venture that would be consistent with our mission and also generate the required revenue to offset the annual operating deficit in the shelter. From this an exciting new vision was born to construct a new, state-of-the-art **Learning and Technology Center**, that will nearly double the current capacity of the Second Street Learning Center. Once opened, this new addition will provide a stable source of revenue to maintain shelter operations.



Focus on the Digital Divide

The new learning and technology center will be designed to help close the “digital divide” between lower and middle income families by providing both access to technology and a curriculum to teach the required skills to master it. Modeled after the Honickman Learning Center in Philadelphia, it is anticipated that this center will enhance the academic skills of children, while over the long term promoting personal growth, economic equality, and social mobility.

The following facts further highlight the vital need for this new facility:

- The recent opening of Sun Rich Fresh Foods at the Buttonwood Gateway is expected to bring approximately 260 local jobs into the community, creating additional need for first and second shift child care.
- The Reading School District, which needs additional classroom space, has indicated a potential interest in partnering with Opportunity House to provide a state of the art learning environment for inner city students.

It is estimated that the total construction costs will be approximately \$2.5 million for this state-of-the-art 10,000 square foot facility.

The Berks County Capital Campaign Review Board has approved a capital campaign for Opportunity House for this expansion project. Our objective is to meet and hopefully exceed the approved goal, without incurring debt, thereby increasing the profitability of this important social venture. Individuals, corporations and businesses, foundations and organizations will be asked to make a thoughtful charitable investment, through a three year pledge, to the capital campaign. In doing so, they will be providing inner city children with the knowledge and tools to become tomorrow's leaders, while supporting the many vital programs of Opportunity House today!



Partnerships in the Community

“ ... to help close the digital divide between lower and middle income families by providing each student with their own computer while on-site, working with dedicated tutors assisting in this important learning process. ”



"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."

- Anne Frank

MISSION

Opportunity House is a multi-service organization that improves the quality of life for children, adults and families who face various obstacles, and supports their efforts to achieve and maintain self-sufficiency and well-being.

\$2,500,000

Capital Campaign
Gift Pyramid
\$2,500,000



"Alone we can do so little;
together we can do so much."

- Helen Keller





Modesto D. Fiume
President, Opportunity House

Addressing critical community needs has been, and continues to be, the driving force behind the growth of Opportunity House. Whether it be feeding and sheltering the homeless, providing quality, affordable and flexible child care, operating supportive housing programs for disabled adults and families, or caring for victims of severe child sexual abuse, Opportunity House has become a catalyst for change in our community.

It is with great anticipation and enthusiasm that I look forward to our 2009 Capital Campaign. Changing lives is what Opportunity House is all about, and the construction of a state of the art technology center for inner city children living in poverty certainly is consistent with this mission. When combined with the fact that this facility will be constructed in a neighborhood once rife with crime and urban blight, not only are we changing the way these children learn, we are changing the neighborhood in which they live and play.

By investing in our youth today, we are securing the future for our children and grand children. Please join us in this endeavor. With your support, we can make this happen. Thanks.

Modesto D. Fiume

Modesto D. Fiume

Pocket starts at pink line



" The future is not someplace we are going to, but a place we are creating. The paths to it are not found, they are made. "

- Jane Garvey



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