

ADDRESSING *Community Needs*:

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 first focuses on the lack of quality, affordable and flexible child care in the city of Reading. The Second Street Learning Center is the only 24 hour per day, 7 day per week licensed child care center in Berks County. The center 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.

FOCUS on the *Digital Divide*:

Our campaign focuses on eliminating the “digital divide” that currently exists between low income and middle/upper income students. This term refers to the gap between those with regular, effective access to digital and information technology, and those without this access. A key component of this expansion will be the development of a Technology Center that will provide both access to technology and a curriculum to teach the required skills to master it. Our hope is that this center will enhance the academic skills of children and encourage learning short term, and over the long term promote personal growth, economic equality, and social mobility.

PARTNERSHIPS in the *community*:

Additionally, this project hopes to address a need identified by the Reading School District for additional classroom space for their pre-kindergarten program. In preliminary discussions with the school district, they have indicated an interest in leasing this space during the school year. This partnership would provide a state of the art learning environment for inner city students and provide revenue to Opportunity House to offset the operating expenses of this new facility.

ENSURING the *future*:

Lastly, this project focuses on ensuring the continued operation of the only homeless shelter in Berks County open to men, women, and children. Since the emergency shelter first opened over twenty years ago, it has always been a challenge to secure enough funding to offset its operating expenses. By doubling the capacity of the Learning Center, we will be able to generate sufficient revenue to offset the expenses of operating the shelter, thus enabling us to continue to serve the truly needy in Berks County.