

Our Mission

*Opportunity House changes lives
by feeding, housing, employing
and empowering people to stand
on their own feet.*



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Reading, PA 19601
610-374-4696
www.opphouse.org



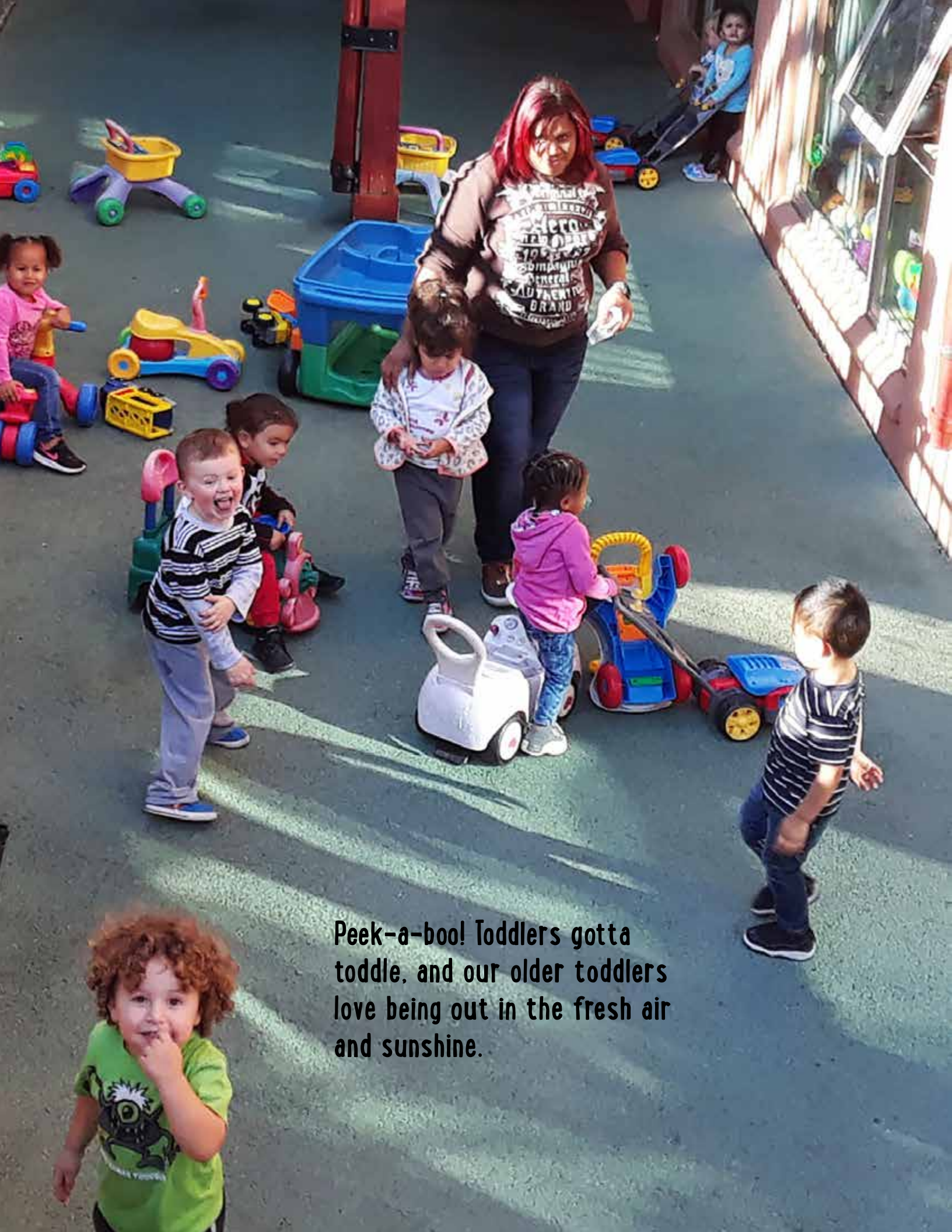
3045 North Fifth Street Highway
Reading, PA 19605
484-509-2087
www.opphouse.org

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Moving toward a better tomorrow

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Peek-a-boo! Toddlers gotta toddle, and our older toddlers love being out in the fresh air and sunshine.

President's Letter

Dear Friends:

At Opportunity House, we pride ourselves on our ability to assist individuals and families who struggle daily in their quest to succeed. Many of them have fallen through the cracks of society and come to Opportunity House with broken dreams and little hope for the future. Our Emergency Shelter/ Supportive Housing Program, along with the Second Street Learning Center, Supportive Services for Veterans Families Program, and Our Reuse/Recycle Program not only ensure that their basic needs are being met, but also provide the framework for them to achieve and maintain self-sufficiency.

The Children's Alliance Center continues to meet the need of children who have been victimized by sexual abuse. It is a safe haven where a child can tell their story, receive emotional support and counseling, and be comforted by the fact that our staff are working diligently with law enforcement and the Prosecutor's Office to identify the offender and bring that person to justice.

Opportunity House changes lives by educating, housing, feeding, and empowering people to stand on their own feet. Over four hundred men, women, and children are supported by the programs at Opportunity House each month. Our dedicated staff, along with the Board of Directors, and hundreds of volunteers who cook and serve meals, read to the children, sort clothing at our warehouse, help maintain our facilities, and raise money each year to support our mission are to be congratulated for their efforts.

Thank you so much for your support over the past year. Your contributions enable us to provide these valuable services and help restore dignity and hope to an often overlooked population. Without your generosity, we simply wouldn't be able to do what we do.

Best regards,

Bob Dieruff
Chair, Board of Directors

Modesto Fiume
President

"It really opened my eyes that homelessness can happen to anyone, and quickly. But after going through the program, I recently accepted a full-time job as a cook and am saving for my own place."

— Marquis

Emergency Shelter & Transitional Housing

FINDING HOPE — AND HOMES

Opportunity House provided affordable supportive housing to 22 families and 24 individuals—85 people in all. Most of those in our housing programs have gone through our shelter program, which provides the services needed to begin to recover from homelessness. Those services include child care, drug and alcohol and mental health counseling, money management, life skills programs, community service, case management, medication management, advocacy, assistance with securing welfare and social security benefits, transportation, and support with legal issues.

Families that have been identified as potential tenants have shown a strong desire to begin to break the cycle of homelessness. They set their goals and their ability to accomplish them determines their ability to enter our housing program. Being in a supportive environment where you and your family (including your children) have a team of people who will support you when you are faced with issues that may have set you back when you were living independently in the community can sometimes make the difference between you staying in your current living situation or returning to homelessness.

— Delia McLendon, VP, Shelter and Housing

"Opportunity House has been a haven for me. I now have a job and an apartment"

— Maria



438

men, women and children spent 25,185 nights at the emergency shelter in 2017

22

families were provided with affordable housing and case management services

172

Veterans and their families who received assistance through Supportive Services for Veteran Families

"I live in the neighborhood around Opportunity House, and work here at the Second Street Learning Center. When my children are here, I know they are safe."

— Yalissa



The Second Street Learning Center

OUR KIDS STEAL THE SPOTLIGHT

The Center had a wonderful year. In November 2016, the Reading Musical Foundation bestowed a grant that allowed the children to begin drumming classes using drumsticks and 5 gallon buckets. That grant was renewed in 2017.

In spring 2017, our "Second Street Drummers" performed using djembes—a type of drum originally from West Africa—for 400-plus people during our Wine, Women and Shoes fundraiser and also at a reception for Lynn Nottage, winner of the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for Drama for her acclaimed play *Sweat*, set in and inspired by the city of Reading.

This spring, the Learning Center was the recipient of a Keystone STARS Grant that allowed us to purchase much-needed furnishings and materials for the Center.

In summer 2017, our school-age children attended Reading Recreation's Sports Camp along with music and dance classes at the House of Starz. The culmination of the music and dance classes: the creation of an uplifting video featuring our children, which can be viewed on our Facebook page. The summer classes and sports camp were made possible by the many generous donations received at Wine, Women, and Shoes.

This fall, a new 72-passenger school bus arrived the beginning of September to replace a well-used smaller school bus. Again, fund raising for this began at Wine, Women, and Shoes. Also, the Learning Center, in conjunction with the Berks County Intermediate Unit, will have two dedicated Head Start Preschool Classrooms. We are pleased to have this longstanding program based in our Center.

— Nancy M. Remy, VP, Second Street Learning Center

579 children from low-income families were enrolled in the Second Street Learning Center

60 children attended the Second Street Learning Center summer program



Every Tuesday morning, volunteer Santo Ferrarello shares his love of reading with our pre-school kids.



Second Street Drummers performed at a reception for Lynn Nottage and at Wine, Women and Shoes.

Children's Alliance Center (CAC)

EXPANDING OUR REACH

The CAC is a multidisciplinary approach in which professionals from the CAC, law enforcement, children and youth, victim advocacy, medical, mental health, and prosecution all work together to investigate cases of child sexual abuse, provide services, and bring the cases to successful prosecution. The CAC provides child sexual abuse victims with an opportunity to talk about the details of their abuse once, rather than multiple times. During the past fiscal year, the CAC provided 436 children and their families with forensic interviews and other services, including medical exams and mental health counseling.

Within the past fiscal year, we moved to the County Services Center, where we are in closer proximity to many of our professional partners and team members. The CAC continues to be a very child-friendly environment.

We increased our pool of therapy dogs and handlers who are able to come in and reduce the anxiety level for children and their families. The dogs are also a stress reliever for the professionals who work in this field.

We hired a new bilingual forensic interviewer who assists in being able to provide this service to the growing Hispanic population in Berks County.

During this period, the CAC provided education about our center and the services we provide to approximately 335 people from various agencies and organizations in the community.

– *Melissa B. Haydt, VP,
Children's Alliance Center*

Reuse/Recycle - OppShop

Everyone in the community knows OppShop! Our Back to School Event in August drew local kids and their parents for food, crafts, a selfie station, and (of course) back-to-school finery.



436 children received a forensic interview through the CAC

103 tons of clothing were recycled

240 tons of books were recycled

13,817 transactions on ebay, Amazon and half.com

15th Annual Souper Bowl

January 30, 2017, Crowne Plaza, Reading

A crowd of about 450 selected handmade bowls made by local students, churches and professional artists, sampled soup and other delectables from 28 local restaurants—and raised \$50,000 to support our programs. The Hitching Post Restaurant hosted the Preview Party, and Grammy Award winner David Cullen entertained over 90 attendees. At the event, Nathan Hirschbock thrilled the crowd with his work on a potter's wheel. The attendees awarded Chef Tim of The Crowne Plaza, best soup and the giant silver spoon. The other awards went to Dans at Green Hills, Russo Food and Market, Monte Lauro European Gourmet and Café Sweet Street. Four local high school students won gift cards for their hand-formed and thrown bowls.



Wine, Women and Shoes

May 19, 2017, DoubleTree Hotel, Reading

This year, over 400 women sipped wine and celebrated fashion to support our programs and services—and the men went along for the ride! Beyond charming the women and pouring them wine, our Shoe Guys raised over \$20,000. Local and national boutiques offered shopping in our marketplace and eight different vintners offered samples of excellent wines from around the world. The fashion show featured four local clothiers: Jan Rae, Fromouth Tennis, Bell Tower and Bella Jules. Our little drummers from the Second Street Learning Center provided entertainment.

Major Donors

Dr. and Mrs. Samie Alley
Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Auman
Mr. and Mrs. David Baker
Dr. and Mrs. Richard Baumbach
Mr. and Mrs. Albert Boscov
Mr. and Mrs. William Cambardella
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Campbell
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Carlino
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2017 Financial Report

Income

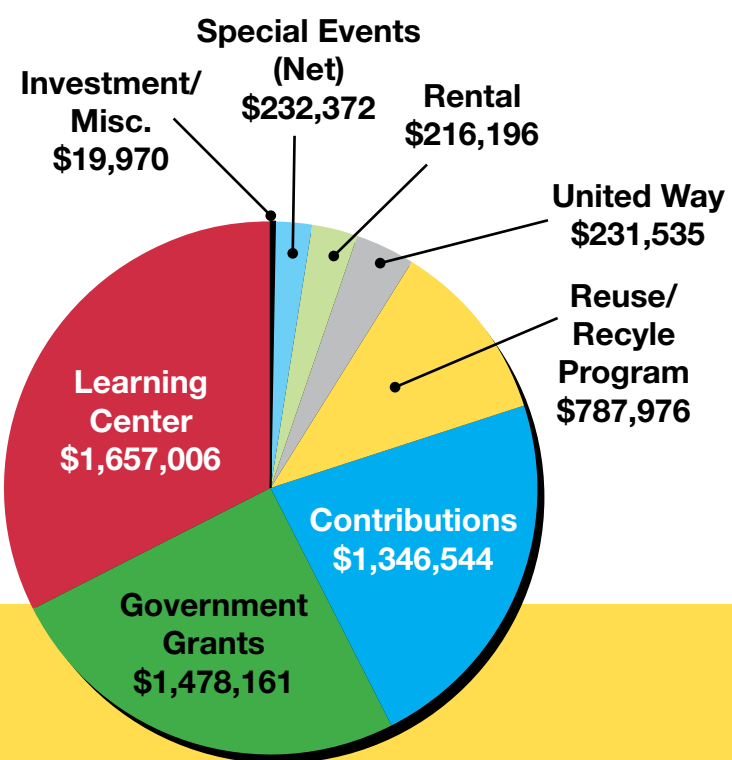
Learning Center	\$1,657,006
Government Grants	1,461,683
Contributions	1,346,544
Retail	787,976
United Way	231,535
Rental	216,196
Special Events (Net)	232,372
Investments/Miscellaneous	19,970
Total Unrestricted Revenue and Other Support	\$5,953,282

Expenses

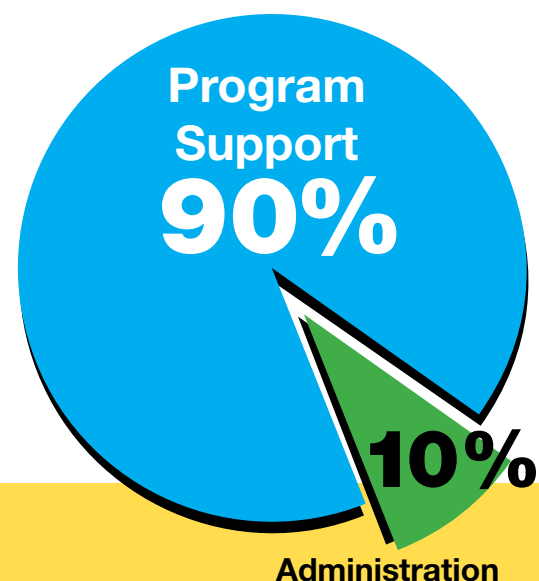
Learning Center	\$2,107,941
Shelter Services	762,210
Resale/Reuse Services	1,037,810
Supportive Services for Veteran Families	689,064
Management & General Fundraising	595,931
Housing	490,317
Children's Alliance Center	281,202
Total Expenses	\$5,964,875

The financial information contained was derived from the June 30, 2017 financial statement audited by Reinsel Kuntz Leshner, LLP.

Where the money comes from...



Where the money goes...



Board of Directors

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Vice President & Senior Financial Advisor,
The Dieruff Group

R. Keith Hillkirk, Vice Chairperson
Chancellor, Penn State Berks College

Lori Gerhart, Secretary
Sales Manager, Reading Eagle Company

Richard Jones, CPA, Treasurer
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Chair, Dept. of Family & Community Medicine,
Reading Health System

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Nancy Remy
VP, Child Care

Rachael Arndt
Director, Supportive Services for Veteran Families

Shelly Murphy
Director, Case Management



Our volunteers help us achieve our mission. Local stylists offer makeovers to our shelter clients, Cuts for a Cause, November 2016; volunteers from Wells Fargo Bank's monthly cooking group.

620 meals were provided by 120 volunteer cooking groups

770 individuals/groups from who volunteered their time, giving over 7,000 hours of service