

# 2021-2022 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



## Opportunity House

### Making it Their Home

*A Journey to Permanent Housing*

Donna and her teenage daughter moved to Opportunity House when they had nowhere else to go. Now they've moved into their own two-bedroom apartment.

Read their full story on the back cover.



We empower individuals to improve their lives.

Dear Friends,

When we think of overcoming challenges, it's easy to think of the lives of those we serve. For over 30 years, we have helped Berks County's most vulnerable citizens break through barriers to become stably housed.

In 2021, COVID continued to impact our organization. We became more flexible and nimbler to meet the

needs of our shelter clients, Learning Center children and their families, Veterans, donors, and volunteers.

472

men, women and children stably housed



215 children enrolled in the Second Street Learning Center



Our doors remained open to those who needed shelter. We quickly adapted to accommodating the ever-changing regulations and requirements of COVID precautions and protocols. Our Supportive Services for Veteran Families team provided in-person support to Veterans throughout the year.

We provided childcare services, including offering virtual school for school-age children. The Second Street

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*Learning Center hosted multiple vaccine clinics for families, employees of Opportunity House and the community at large.*

*Faithful cooks and cooking groups delivered meals. By spring 2022, cooking groups happily returned to cook and serve meals on-site. Our gardeners resumed gardening and tended to the fruits and vegetables throughout the summer.*

*Souper Bowl, our premier community event, looked different and continued to be a sold-out event. Local restaurants provided gourmet soups that were packaged by our loyal volunteers and*



*distributed to supporters who enjoyed the takeout-style event.*

*Wine, Women and Shoes was an overwhelming success as women (and men) from Berks County enjoyed one of the first in-person events in two years.*

*OppShop resumed operations and new and returning customers have helped us*



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*generate increased revenue for the programs and services of Opportunity House.*

**310,000**

pounds of goods diverted from landfills



*Our Reuse and Recycle program is a vital source of product and profits to our organization while reducing the impact we have on the environment.*

*Our donors continued to show their unwavering support of Opportunity House. Your continued financial support and in-kind donations help us transform the lives of those who are forgotten or marginalized in our community.*

*selfless individuals who graciously provided a lasting legacy to Opportunity House.*

*Thank you to all of you for partnering with us to provide safety, stability, and security to our clients.*

*Sincerely,*

*Modesto D. Fiume, President*

**295**

Veterans served through our programs

*We remember and are thankful to the estates of*



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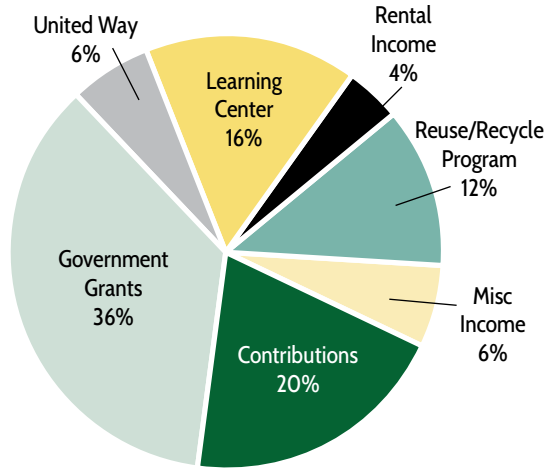
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## 2022 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

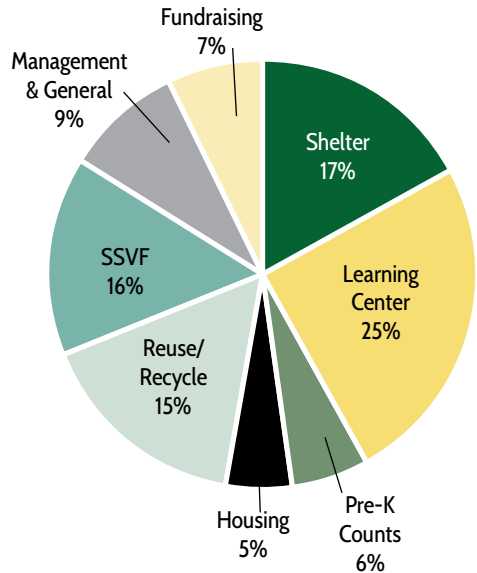
### Revenue

Contributions	\$ 1,367,718
Government Grants	2,467,807
United Way of Berks County	427,434
Learning Center	1,130,470
Rental Income	248,058
Reuse/Recycle Program	838,854
Miscellaneous Income	383,098
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,863,439</b>



### Expenses

Shelter	\$ 1,041,163
Learning Center	1,503,324
Pre-K Counts	336,367
Housing	321,215
Supportive Services for Veteran Families	961,364
Reuse/Recycle Program	920,032
Management & General	562,542
Fundraising	434,095
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,080,102</b>



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# Making it Their Home

Donna\* and her daughter Denise,\* know that little things turn an apartment into a home. From the colorful loveseat and chair to the tastefully enhanced kitchen decor, Donna turned their new apartment into a warm and welcoming home.

Their journey to permanent housing was years in the making. Donna was living in Brooklyn, New York with her aunt. She decided to come to Reading and live with a friend. The house was too crowded and she had to leave. With no place to go, Donna came to Opportunity House with her then-14-year-old daughter, Denise.

When they arrived, her case manager helped them complete apartment applications and got them connected to the services and support they needed.

Life in the shelter was challenging for the young teenager. Finding a quiet space to do homework or studying was difficult.

Months later, Donna and Denise moved to the second floor of Opportunity House where they had their own bedroom and a shared living space. It was a welcome respite from dorm-style living.

Living in the new space gave them opportunities to focus on their goals. For Donna, it was her health. She learned to cook healthier and lost a considerable amount of weight. “My diabetes is gone. I have more energy,” Donna notes. Denise began to explore career opportunities, including cosmetology and accounting.

Soon they received news that they were selected for a two-bedroom apartment at Beacon House, one of Opportunity House’s permanent housing buildings.

Both Donna and Denise appreciate the peacefulness of their new home. “It’s good for both of us and it helps us be calm and focus on our long-term goals, said Donna.”

\*Names changed to protect confidentiality.



[www.opphouse.org](http://www.opphouse.org)

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