



Father Ryan Arts Center

of Focus On Renewal

701 Chartiers Avenue, McKees Rocks

Phone: 412.771.3052 Web: www.forstorox.org

Press Release

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Contact: Patricia J. Moran,
Father Ryan Arts Center Director
(412) 771-3052
pmoran@forstorox.org

McKees Rocks, PA, August 5, 2008 – Focus On Renewal is pleased to announce that a new \$500,000 gift from The Richard King Mellon Foundation has brought overall fundraising efforts for *the Father Ryan Arts Center Capital Campaign* to \$3.4 million. The campaign launched publicly in 2004 to renovate a former furniture store into a \$4.2 million state-of-the-art, multi-level arts center providing unmatched resources in all facets of artistic education, enrichment and entertainment is nearly complete.

“The Richard King Mellon Foundation has been extremely generous since our earliest days and indispensable to so many important accomplishments in this working-class neighborhood. Our success is a reflection of the tremendous support and commitment of an extraordinary group of dedicated individuals and organizations such as the Richard King Mellon Foundation,” said Father Regis Ryan, Focus On Renewal executive director.

The latest \$500,000 contribution in support of Focus On Renewal’s newest initiative was awarded in two installments including an unrestricted \$250,000 grant for operating support and completion of the cultural arts center. An additional \$250,000 challenge grant to be awarded by December 2008 based on satisfactory matching funds raised by Focus On Renewal is currently underway. This is the Richard King Mellon Foundation’s third major gift to *the Father Ryan Arts Center*. Previous gifts include a \$1million donation in 2006 and a \$500,000 challenge grant in 2007 for renovation and construction efforts, which was matched dollar for dollar by the generous contribution of another foundation.

“This is an incredible opportunity for us to reach out to our friends and neighbors about making an investment in their community that will immediately double in value. All donations, however small or large, will bring us closer to completing the renovation of this historic former furniture store at 420 Chartiers Avenue,” said Father Ryan.

Once completed, the new facilities will contain performance space and seating, an outside courtyard, on-site gallery, café, office space for administrative staff, lobby space, commercial kitchen, recording studio, dance studios, music rooms, computer graphics lab, pottery studios, visual and performing arts rooms, and a private meeting room for sponsors, entertainment and rentals.

To date, Focus On Renewal has received major funding pledges totaling \$164,867 toward the challenge including contributions from *Massey Charitable Trust, Anonymous donors, United States Steel Foundation, Gordon Terminal, Clearview Credit Union, Quinn Family donation, McDermott Funeral Home, Mancini's Bakery, Musmanno's Funeral Home, Ann and Jack Fisher donation, Rachel Hoff donation, John Bavero Architects.*

For more information, please contact Patricia Moran, Father Ryan Arts Center director at 412.771.3052 or email pmoran@forstorox.org.

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Focus on Renewal (F.O.R.) is a non-profit human service agency that has served the McKees Rocks community for nearly 40 years, and is nationally recognized as a model of comprehensive services to low-income people of all ages. For more information please call 412.771.6460 or visit us on the Web at www.forstorox.org.