

Capital Campaign

Kitchen and Dining Hall Renovation



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What I Did:

The kitchen and dining hall at Racine Lutheran High School needed a complete demolition and reconstruction. An architect and a kitchen design consultant were hired to design a space that would meet our needs. Bids for the construction were reviewed, and a local contractor who could complete the work over the two summers was selected. A capital campaign to raise \$400,000 was designed and implemented, reaching out to former donors, alumni, parents, students, local businesses and foundations.

What I Learned:

I can successfully run a capital campaign.
Focusing on the students and the importance of this project for them made it much easier to ask for money.
I needed to dedicate specific time blocks to work on the campaign; phoning and meeting with people takes time.
It is valuable to keep data and notes on every contact.

What Is and Will Be Different:

We are on target to complete this project on time and with the necessary funding by the end of 2014. We should finish under budget. The Fall 2013 changes were made on time, including the replacement of the condemned grease trap, the purchase of a new dishwasher, and the completion of the necessary plumbing. At completion of this project, the new design and decor will remove congestion and offer an attractive and functional dining area, including a condiment area built away from the kitchen service lines. Students will have breakfast options and at least two menu choices each day for lunch, with an increased selection of side items. Additionally, we will realize savings from more energy efficient appliances, the walk-in cooler/freezer, new lighting, and the new HVAC unit. We anticipate additional revenue from lunch sales, as well as from the new addition of offering our students a breakfast option before school.