The mission of Oasis is to change the lives of women and children by breaking the cycle of poverty through compassionate programs designed to feed, clothe, educate and empower women and children in need.

59 Mill Street, Paterson, NJ  07501 • 973.881.8307 • www.OASISNJ.org

**SPRING 2017**

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**FIGHTING HUNGER—THE GATEWAY TO OASIS**

When Oasis was founded 20 years ago, it was to address the needs of hungry women and children. The soup kitchen, our flagship program, not only continues to provide sustenance to those living in poverty, but serves as a gateway to other Oasis programs.

No matter what leads our clients to join us for breakfast or lunch, they quickly find that Oasis has so much to offer. They begin with nutritious food from a diverse menu, recently updated to better utilize fresh produce and culture-specific ingredients. Then, our social workers might notice that a mother doesn’t have a winter coat, or some children have outgrown their clothes, and they begin a conversation. This could lead to Mom joining our ESL program or registering her kids for Carl’s Kids Summer Camp. Congratulating a mom with a newborn spurs her to register for a S.I.D.S prevention class. The stories are endless, but the common theme remains—kindness during a time of need opens up a world of possibility for those living in poverty.

The soup kitchen as “gateway” to Oasis pertains to volunteers as well. Many of our individuals and corporate groups begin as lunch servers and then deepen their involvement by contributing in other ways: from a lunch volunteer starting a birthday club for our After-School Program participants to a corporate partner hosting a teen career day featuring speakers and experts from multiple corporations; from a corporate communications team supporting Oasis’ marketing and social media efforts to a retired engineer teaching math in our High School Equivalency Test (HiSET) prep class. They all began by serving a meal.

Our soup kitchen also leads to tremendous partnerships with those who support our mission. The Community Food Bank of NJ supports our food purchases and meals for our After-School Program participants; City Green, the Ryan Family, and First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell sustain our community garden; Abma’s Farm, Wyckoff Reformed Church, The Fresh Market, St. Francis Food Pantries and Shelters, and others provide fresh produce and other food to supplement our garden and kitchen. These partnerships are grounded in the belief that fighting hunger is the first step, but overcoming poverty is the ultimate goal. We welcome all of our supporters to visit our gateway anytime and join us for lunch!
Spring has finally come and we couldn’t be more ready! We are looking forward to planting our garden with produce that Chef Jayne will use to provide healthy meals for the women and children who turn to Oasis for help and hope. But we are growing much more than zucchinis at Oasis!

This spring we continue to grow young minds, providing our children and teenagers with robotics, STEAM programming, aquaponics, yoga, SAT prep, and academic support. Our adult learners continue to grow their futures by completing their high school equivalency degrees, learning English and computers, and getting jobs.

We look to the future growth of Oasis as well as we conclude a year-long strategic planning process. Our Board of Directors and staff have thoughtfully identified programmatic areas of growth and investment: 1) accelerating youth success and 2) investing in employment. Additionally, they have created solid organization-wide goals: 3) measuring program effectiveness and 4) creating a sustainable future. We look forward to sharing details in the months ahead.

All this growth is possible, we know, thanks to your support. Oasis remains 96 percent privately funded and maintains a 4-Star rating on Charity Navigator. Your donations sustain us and allow us to dream big dreams for our women and children. We thank you for being a partner in our mission to change lives.

**5TH ANNUAL “NIGHT AT THE RACES” BEEFSTEAK**

Who knew virtual horse racing could be so fun!? This year’s “Night at the Races” Beefsteak on February 16 was a tremendous success, raising over $27,000 for the women and children of Oasis. Over 150 people gathered at the Brownstone, including friends of Raff & Raff (top left) and Health and Wellness Partners employees (top and bottom right), to bet on horses, become a horse owner (middle right), cheer on the races (bottom left), win “funny money,” and take a chance on the tricky tray raffle (middle left). With over 35 baskets, three grand prizes, and lots of door prizes, there were many happy winners at the end of the night. Thanks to all!

Special Thanks to Our Sponsors!

**Event Sponsors**
- BD
- Raff & Raff

**Race Sponsors**
- Benjamin Moore & Co.
- Railroad Construction Company, Inc.
- Quest Diagnostics

**Winner’s Circle Sponsors**
- Machinery Services Corp.
- Rapid Pump & Meter Service Co., Inc.

We are also grateful to the over 35 individuals and organizations who donated items for the fantastic tricky tray raffle. Our event wouldn’t be such a wonderful success without you!
20 years and going strong! The Oasis Gala of Hope on March 31 was a wonderful celebration of over 500 people who have changed lives in Paterson for two decades. High on that list are our honorees, the Buchanan Family (top left). The gathering included Chernalis and Buchanan extended family members (middle right); the founders of Oasis, Ann Wagner and Christine De Vita Breit (middle left); and so many friends of Oasis. The children of the Michael Wagner After-School Program (bottom middle) danced us into the evening, with Rich Taylor and William McLaughlin (top right) ensuring our youth programs will continue through an amazing appeal. Many thanks to the over 50 members of our Gala Committees (some bottom left) and our tireless Board (bottom right) for making it all happen!
Many thanks to all those who donated a “LUNCHES WITH LOVE” from January through March

Purchase yours for only $144 to celebrate a birthday, anniversary, or other special occasion. Visit oasisnj.org or call (973) 881-8307 x133 to learn more.

- Sandy Arlington—In honor of the Michelle Mitzvah Group of Beth Haverim Shir Shalom
- Health and Wellness Partners (8 lunches)
- Allison Verrino—In memory of Ben Verrino
- Cindy Clancy—In memory of Cath McDonough
- Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, William Paterson
- Ann Boyle—In memory of Cath McDonough
- Janna Ferrer—In honor of Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie Volino
- Jane Dalton—In honor of Marie McKeon
- Ramsey High School Interact Club
- Delia Barcelona
- Satie Budhram—In honor of her birthday
- Susan Forman—In memory of Anne Hutcheon
- Sandy Kelman—In honor of Debbie Fecteau and in memory of Larry Kelman
- Don Bosco Crew Team—In memory of Merrily Main
- Glen Rock Women in Community Service (3 lunches)
- Alicia Silvestri
- Catholic Campus Ministries, William Paterson
  
We are so grateful for the very many groups who supported us in special ways this winter and spring, including:

- Top left: Students from the Willard School in Ridgewood collected items and decorated gift bags for our adult students for Mother’s Day.
- Top right: Joseph Rosselli from KPMG used his photography talents to provide our women with headshots and pictures with their children for Mother’s Day.
- Bottom left: For her Girl Scout Gold Award, Alexa Vitti donated games and books to the children of the After-School Program.
- Bottom right: Christian Health Care Center in Wyckoff ran a baby item drive with their hundreds of employees.

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10TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

“It’s amazing. Tee to green, it’s such a spectacular test of golf.”
Phil Mickelson, after playing the 2014 Barclays at The Ridgewood Country Club

Monday, June 12, 2017
The Ridgewood Country Club
96 West Midland Ave, Paramus, NJ


Registration 10am - Range Open 10:30am-12 noon
Putting Contest 11am - Lunch 11:30am-12:30pm
Shotgun Start 12:30pm
Cocktails, Dinner, Awards 5:30pm
Tickets—$800

For sponsorship opportunities and registration, visit http://oasisnj.org/events

You can be a tee sponsor for only $500! Consider supporting adult education and youth development programs for needy women and children today!