The Oasis Workplace Readiness Program (OWRP) recently graduated a class well-prepared to enter the workforce. The program, designed to help women find and secure meaningful employment, focuses on resume writing and interview preparation while helping women identify their skill sets and regain their confidence.

Women attending classes at Oasis live in poverty and face many challenges on a daily basis, including transportation, child care and healthcare, all which threatened their successful completion of the class. This group of women, however, were very determined and persevered through the 8 week session. As one graduate said, “this class motivated me to want to get a job.”

Tamik, a recent graduate, had lost a temp job and was not having much success finding full-time employment when she found Oasis. After completing the program she remarked “I’m pretty confident that when I go on my next interview I’m going to get the job.” Due to the skills she learned in class and her renewed confidence, Tamik recently accepted a full-time position at a fashionable clothing manufacturer.

Elaine, another graduate, told Oasis when she arrived for help that after many interviews, "no one was calling me back. I wanted to know what was wrong with my resume. I tried fixing it and got outside opinions, but it wasn't working." Elaine had been out of work for two years when she enrolled in class at Oasis. On the day of graduation, she was beaming with confidence and determination. Within weeks of graduation, Elaine had a successful interview and was hired as a full time Office Assistant at a food company in Secaucus.

In addition to Tamik and Elaine, six other women so far have found full-time employment as a result of attending Oasis’ program. OWRP is funded in part through a Community Development Block Grant from the City of Paterson and includes internship opportunities for graduates to work at Oasis as kitchen and maintenance staff.
The Board of Directors is pleased to announce that as of February 2015, Sister Gloria Perez will assume the role of Director of Education at Oasis. Sister Gloria brings expertise to Oasis’ educational programs, having served as the Principal of Paterson Catholic for many years. As Sister Gloria takes a step towards retirement by assuming this part-time position, we are grateful she will remain an integral part of the Oasis team.

Beginning February 2, 2015, Jennifer Brady will join Oasis as the Executive Director. Jennifer has 27 years’ experience working in the non-profit sector, most recently as the Director of Fund Development at Help From People to People in Rockland County, NY. Jennifer has been a member of the Oasis Board of Directors since 2004, and has served as President of the Board for the past four years. “I am humbled and grateful to have this opportunity to work with the dedicated staff and volunteers at Oasis, and to guide Oasis’ work to help the poor and lift women and children out of poverty.”

Please join us in congratulating both Sister Gloria and Jennifer in their new roles at Oasis. Thank you, as always, for your continued commitment to our mission, and may God bless you in the new year.

The Oasis Board of Directors

11TH ANNUAL OKTOBERFEST HONORS MAUREEN AND FRANK BIVONA

The Big Tent at McBride Field, Franklin Lakes was packed with the largest crowd yet—close to 625 people—on Friday, October 17 for the annual fundraiser for the women and children of Oasis. This year, the Patricia McLaughlin Spirit of Oasis Award was presented to Frank and Maureen Bivona of Franklin Lakes. The night included German food and drink, an Oompa Band, and Big Convention.

This event could not have happened without the generosity of the Market Basket and the Chernalis Family—Tony and Phyllis, Mark, and Susan Buchanan. Thanks as well to John Merkovsky, raffle winner, who donated the winnings back to Oasis! Finally, Oasis is also grateful for the sponsors of the event, listed below. We are truly blest that this fun tradition continues year after year!

**Gold Sponsors**
The Bebe Foundation
The Bivona Family
Columbia Bank
The Granatell Family
Machinery Services Corp.
Rapid Pump and Meter Service
Valley Stables Food & Drink
Warner Music Group

**Silver Sponsors**
Atlantic Stewardship Bank
The Buchanan Family
Health and Wellness Partners
JP Morgan Chase
Railroad Construction Company
The Rohde Family
Smith-Sondy Asphalt Construction

**Bronze Sponsors**
Boswell Engineering
FIJI Water
Indian Trail Club
The Salameno Family
Shop-Rite of Fair Lawn
CCTNVNJ
Edward & Ruth Hennessy
Dick & Gail Robbins
Shop-Rite of Wayne
Topcon America Corp.

**Top row:** Sister Gloria Perez, Honorees Maureen and Frank Bivona, Board Member Bill McLaughlin; **Middle row:** Ray Van Duren, Tony Chernalis, and Rodger Rohde; Oktoberfest wine glasses; **Bottom row:** Attendees enjoy the German feast!
Oasis hosted its annual Thanksgiving meal and turkey giveaway on Tuesday, November 25, 2014. We served our largest crowd yet, with nearly 1,000 meals served to the Oasis adult education students and to women and children from the greater Paterson community. Our helpers in the dining room included employees from BD, Health and Wellness Partners, and staff from the Lieutenant Governor’s office.

Employees from UPS staffed the turkey and food bag distribution outside. Over 1200 turkeys were donated from various organizations such as St. Francis Food Pantries, UPS and St. Elizabeth’s Church, Wyckoff. The delicious turkey-and-fixings meal was donated by The Market Basket.

We were also joined in service by elected officials throughout the state, including New Jersey Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno; State Senator Nellie Pou; State Assemblywoman Shavonda Sumter; Paterson Mayor Jose Torres; and Paterson City Councilman Andre Sayegh.

Top row: Sister Gloria introduced special servers Assemblywoman Shavonda Sumter, Senator Nellie Pou, Paterson Mayor Jose “Joey” Torres, and Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno. Second row, left: Some of the 40 volunteers from BD plated meals. Second row, right: UPS employees from the Wayne office provided turkeys and food bags. Third row, left: Lt. Governor Guadagno and her staff served at Oasis as part of the Christie Administration’s “Season of Service.” Third row, right: One of the close to 100 beautiful children we fed throughout the day. Bottom row, left: A family of guests enjoyed the meal from the Market Basket. Bottom row, middle: Workplace Readiness graduate Elaine Gonzalez with her son. Bottom row, right: Members of the Paterson community lined up around the block for the special meal and turkey giveaway.
3RD ANNUAL
“NIGHT AT THE RACES”
BEEFSTEAK

THE BROWNSTONE
351 WEST BROADWAY, PATerson, NJ
THURSDAy, FEBRUARY 26, 2015 — 6:30PM
$65 PER PERSON

INCludes: BEEFSTEAK DINNER, WINE, BEER, SODA
AND VIRTUAL HORSE RACING

2015 EVENT SPONSOR:

SPONSORSHIP AND TICKET OPPORTUNITIES

___ RACE SPONSORSHIP—$2,500
INCludes ONE TABLE WITH 10 PREMIUM SEATS PLUS SIGNAGE/PUBLIC RECOGNITION AT EVENT AND LISTING IN RACE BROCHURE.

___ WINNER’S CIRCLE SPONSORSHIP—$1,000
INCludes SIGNAGE IN THE WINNER’S CIRCLE PLUS PUBLIC RECOGNITION AT EVENT AND LISTING IN RACE BROCHURE.

___# OF SINGLE TICKET(s)—$65 PER PERSON

TOTAL $_______

NAME: ________________________________________________________________
ORGANIZATION: _______________________________________________________
ADDRESS: ____________________________________________________________
CITY/STATE/ZIP: ______________________________________________________
CELL PHONE: ___________________________ EMAIL: ____________________________

☐ Enclosed is my check made payable to Oasis—A Haven for Women and Children

☐ Credit Card Number: ________________________________ Exp. Date: __________ Sec. #: __________

PLEASE CIRCLE: VISA MASTERCARD AMERICAN EXPRESS DISCOVER

Name of Card Holder: _____________________________________________________
Signature: ______________________________________________________________

Return by February 12 or you can purchase your tickets online at www.OAISnJ.ORG.
For more information please contact Lynn McCormack at lynnmcormack@oasisnj.org or (973) 881-8307 ext 108.
# 19th Annual Gala

**Honoring**

**Joe and Melissa Kelly**

**Friday, April 24, 2015**

6:00pm

**The Venetian**

546 River Drive, Garfield, NJ

*Cocktail Attire*

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## Sponsorship Opportunities

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I cannot attend, but would like to donate $________________

**Total:** $________________

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**Name:** ________________________________

**Organization:** ________________________________

**Address:** ________________________________

**City/State/Zip:** ________________________________

**Cell Phone:** ________________________________ **Email:** ________________________________

- Enclosed is my check made payable to Oasis—A Haven for Women and Children

- Credit Card Number: ________________________________ **Exp. Date:** __________ **Sec. #:** __________

  **Please Circle:** VISA  MASTERCARD  AMERICAN EXPRESS  DISCOVER

**Name of Card Holder:** ________________________________

**Signature:** ________________________________

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Return by April 3 or you can purchase your tickets online at [www.OASISNJ.ORG](http://www.OASISNJ.ORG).

For more information please contact Lynn McCormack at lynnmcormack@oasisnj.org or (973) 881-8307 ext 108.
OASIS HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE

Our annual toy drive received donations of all shapes and sizes from so many different individuals, schools, and businesses. We are so grateful for the over 5000 items contributed during the holiday season. You can find a full list of all who donated at www.oasisnj.org. Thank you for your generosity!

Top row, left to right: Tom O’Connor, center, from Terrie O’Connor Realtors with Jim Walsh, left, and Sister Gloria, right, and a van load of toys for this year’s drive; Sister Gloria with Sebastian Bortz, who bought gifts for our toy drive for the third year running with what would have been his Christmas gift money. Middle row, left to right: Special thanks to Olivia and her fellow students from the Academy of the Most Blessed Sacrament who donated over 600 toys, books, clothing items, and gift cards for the drive. Olivia, pictured with Oasis Board Member Bill McLaughlin, was the main organizer of the school drive; Fr. Lou Scurti (left) and members of the William Paterson football team dropped off donations to our toy drive.

Did you know that.....

....Franklin Lakes Pizza and Wyckoff Pizza donate close to 150 pizzas every month to our soup kitchen?

Everyone loves pizza day! Thank you to both restaurants for the yummy treat!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT—ST. ELIZABETH’S MONTHLY FOOD BAG COLLECTION MINISTRY

Once a month, Oasis receives a bountiful donation of bagged, boxed, and canned food from the Church of St. Elizabeth in Wyckoff. This donation is usually between 150-200 bags of food that is placed directly into our food pantry. It is organized, sorted, and delivered by the members of the Food Bag Collection Ministry of the parish, pictured above: Fred Polizzi, Don Schaefer, Ray Accettura, Bob Auger, Frank Jannuzzi, Lee Warner, Art Geissler, Joe Megihan, and Jeff Phelps (not pictured). We are so grateful for their generosity and hard work, for they are the main reason our pantry is fully stocked each month. Thank you as well to all the parishioners of St. Elizabeth’s who support this endeavor!
Oasis hosted its annual Christmas meal on Thursday, December 18, serving over 700 meals to our adult education students as well as members of the community. Over 5,000 toy room donations were distributed that day as well. Volunteers in our dining room and toy room included groups from BD, KPMG, and Fordham Alumni. Thanks to all who contributed or volunteered (rows one and two)! Extra special thanks to Mary Ellen Vitti (row three, left, with Oasis Social Worker Vanessa Munoz), who again organized the amazing toy room!

Our families also enjoyed numerous parties throughout the holiday season, and we are so grateful for the generosity and good cheer of the following Oasis supporters:

- Frank Politano and friends from Kohler Distributors hosted a party for the After-School Program (Row three, right)
- The Lasalandra and Junkers Families hosted a cookie exchange party and brought toys and treats to the After-School Program (Row four, left)
- The Wyckoff YMCA hosted a party for the After-School Program
- Holiday Express presented its annual show to all the families of Oasis (Row four, right)
Many thanks to all those who donated a “LUNCHES WITH LOVE” from July through December!

Purchase yours for only $139 to celebrate a birthday, anniversary, or other meaningful occasion. Contact (973) 881-8307 to learn more.

- Morgan Stanley Wealth Management (two lunches)
- Glen Rock Women in Community Service (two lunches)
- Debbie & Tom Duffy—in honor of Brian & Sunny O’Toole
- Andrea Holt, Katie Devitt, and “Kids from Ho-Ho-Kus”
- William Grier—in honor of Audrey Grier
- Colleen Westervelt
- Sandy Kelman—in memory of Larry Kelman
- Beth Haverim Shir Shalom
- Denise Dryden-Reaves—in memory of Joyce Lodge
- Ilyse Smith
- Lois Salvatore—in memory of Michael Jarosz
- Mary O’Connell—in honor of Rosemary O’Connell
- Kathy Liebmann—in honor of Ilyse Smith
- Linda Spinella

Vanessa Breschard
in honor of Jani Hegarty, Bonnie Welsch, and Audrey Pezzuti at Health & Wellness Partners

- Jennifer Knight—in memory of Anita Box
- Janis Gallo (four lunches)
- Jim Karam & Melissa Bartolo (three lunches)
- Daniel Stern
- Diane Riche
- Gary and Susan McElroy
- in memory of Elizabeth “Betty” Karam
- Robert and Kathleen Wilson
- Mona Lisa Adamo

DINING ROOM DEDICATION

On Sunday, November 2, many friends of Oasis gathered to remember and celebrate former Board President Patricia McLaughlin as the dining room was named in her memory.

Top, left to right: TJ McLaughlin, Kathryn McLaughlin, Michael McLaughlin, Shalini McLaughlin, Bob McLaughlin, Mary McLaughlin; Jennifer Brady remembering Pat McLaughlin. Bottom, left to right: Joseph Kelly, Sr., Rich Taylor, Joseph Kelly, Jr; Mary McLaughlin, Bill McLaughlin, Vinny McLaughlin, Patty McLaughlin, Bob McLaughlin, Mary Joyce McLaughlin.

SEEN AROUND OASIS THIS FALL

Penny Budesa and Kyle DeGraaf from Boiling Springs Savings Bank (pictured here with Oasis Nurturing Center Supervisor Theresa Lorenzo, right) dropped off three large boxes of baby supplies from their October collection in the Wyckoff branch.

NFL star and Paterson native Mike Adams donated close to 600 winter coats from his annual coat drive to Oasis this December, and asked his friends and family to deliver them. (Pictured l-r, Sister Gloria Perez, Mike’s best friend Steven Patrick, Mike’s Marketing Manager Melissa LaCorte, and Mike’s Grandmother, Miss Mary Adams.)

Thanks to Jeff Ferreri, pictured here with Volunteer Coordinator Barbara Loscalzo, and his team from ABC Bus Companies for their generous donation of $3,000 for the women and children of Oasis.