The acronym “STEM,” based on the disciplines of science, technology, engineering and math, was coined in 2001 by the National Science Foundation. It acknowledges the importance of teaching and learning in an interdisciplinary way—an important skill for our young people as they grow-up in a knowledge-based economy. Oasis has embraced this focus by introducing robotics instruction using LEGO and Tetrix platforms in our After-School and Teen Programs.

Robotics can be considered the "glue" that holds STEM together. Children in third through fifth grades build and program WeDo robots. Our sixth through eighth graders learn programming through Robot Virtual Worlds and the LEGO Mindstorms EV3 platform. Two FIRST Tech teams, the Oasis Orbiters and Oasis Orions, are working diligently to build Tetrix robots integrated with programmed Android devices. When our youth work with the robots, each aspect of the STEM acronym is put into action:

- **Science:** The science of friction, the force that opposes motion when two surfaces are rubbed together. Students quickly learn the role that friction plays when the wheels or caterpillar treads move along the surface of a playfield.

- **Technology:** The technology of sensors communicating data to the robot brain, such as distance or color sensors.

- **Engineering:** The engineering of building a robot or components of a playfield such as a button to open a ramp.

- **Math:** The math of calculating the number of centimeters that a robot can travel by determining the circumference of the robot's wheel.

The robotics initiatives are coordinated by volunteer Sharon Mistretta, a robotics instructor for the NASA Endeavor and Mercy College STEM Academy programs. Assisting Mrs. Mistretta are Jessica Egger, Oasis STEM coordinator, Brianna Luongo and Avery Munroe, TEEN Program Coordinators. Oasis STEM Interns Emma Hammer, Emily Koehne, Dana Padilla and Regine Thimothee provide support and guidance to our budding scientists, programmers, engineers and mathematicians. Additionally, we are grateful to BAE Systems for financially supporting the Oasis Robotics Program. We look forward to another semester of STEM fun!
**MESSAGE FROM JENNIFER BRADY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

We begin 2017 bursting with ideas and plans for the future of Oasis and expanded efforts to improve the lives of the women and children who turn to us. We know that education breeds success and a path out of poverty, and we’ve been fortunate enough to receive some technology grants to enhance our education programs.

I recently sat in on our GED Science class where our women were using our new SMART Board to learn to balance chemical equations. I watched as, one by one, our students—many in their 30s and 40s who haven’t attended school since they were 16—grasped these difficult concepts through hands-on participation and engagement. Amazing.

It has also been incredible to watch our TEEN Robotics Teams work with Sharon Mistretta, learning how to build and operate robots and engage in real-life engineering challenges. Next year they plan to go to competition! We know we are expanding horizons both in the After-School and TEEN Programs and opening up our kids to a new world of possibilities.

As we continue to seek new ways to engage our students and expose them to new technologies and career paths, we are grateful to have you, our volunteers and supporters, by our side. We look forward to seeing what new ideas 2017 brings!

With gratitude, Jen Brady

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**13TH ANNUAL OKTOBERFEST HONORS THE PARISH OF ST. ELIZABETH**

This past year’s Oktoberfest on Friday, October 14, 2016 was another fantastic opportunity to celebrate and honor one of the organizations which has supported Oasis for two decades—the Parish of Saint Elizabeth in Wyckoff. The *Patricia McLaughlin Spirit of Oasis Award* recognized the many parishioners who are generous with their time and treasure, volunteering in our soup kitchen or other programs, stocking our food pantry, and providing donations that support our many programs for women and children. We are so very grateful for them, as well as for the Chernalis Family and The Market Basket, generous hosts of this annual event of German food, music and fun for 600+ people under the Big Tent. Thanks as well to the numerous sponsors (below). Mark your calendar for 2017—Friday, October 13!

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**Platinum Sponsors**
- Raff & Raff LLP

**Gold Sponsors**
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- The Granatell Family / Grant Industries
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- The Pash Family
- Paramus Rotary Club
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The Oasis Thanksgiving community lunch continues to be a joyous event that brings together various individuals—clients enrolled in our adult education classes; children of all ages; those living in poverty in the greater Paterson area; elected officials from the federal, state, and local level; and corporate and other community volunteers. We had a full house, with nearly 1,000 meals served throughout the day—all donated by The Market Basket in Franklin Lakes! Our volunteers in the dining room included individuals as well as groups from Unilever, UPS, St. Joseph’s Healthcare System, NJ Office of Homeland Security, and Temple Sholom of West Essex.

Over 1,500 turkeys were donated from various organizations such as St. Francis Food Pantries (NYC), UPS (Wayne), St. Elizabeth’s Church (Wyckoff), First Presbyterian Church (Caldwell), Saddle River Valley Junior Woman’s Club, Fairway Market (Woodland Park), and Wyckoff-Midland Park Rotary. Additional thanks to BAE Systems for helping to deliver many of the turkeys to 59 Mill Street!

1) Assemblywoman Shavonda Sumter and NJ Homeland Security Director Chris Rodriguez greeted lunch guests with Executive Director Jen Brady. 2) Infants are always welcome at Oasis! 3) Senator Cory Booker served lunch and took lots of selfies with the women and staff of Oasis. 4) A team of over 30 volunteers joined us from Unilever. 5) Long-time holiday volunteers Ben & Jerry (no relation to the ice cream makers) manned the coffee station. 6) Oasis Board Member Aleta Taylor joined Councilman Andre Sayegh and Jen Brady in plating food. 7) Life is good on turkey day! 8) UPS Wayne employees worked outside in the cold distributing turkeys and food bags.
PLATINUM GALA OF HOPE

HONORING THE BUCHANAN FAMILY  
DAVID, SUSAN, MAX, NICK, CAITLIN, AND JAKE  

FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 2017  
6:00 PM  
THE VENETIAN  
546 RIVER DRIVE, GARFIELD, NJ  

Cocktail Attire

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- EVENT SPONSOR - $50,000
- COCKTAIL SPONSOR - $25,000
- JOURNAL SPONSOR - $15,000
- WINE SPONSOR - $10,000
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- DESSERT SPONSOR - $10,000

Table Reservations

- LEADERSHIP TABLE(S) FOR 10 @ $10,000
- BENEFACTOR TABLE(S) FOR 10 @ $7,500
- VISIONARY TABLE(S) FOR 10 @ $5,000
- PATRON TABLE(S) FOR 10 @ $3,500
- TICKETS AT $350 EACH

ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES

- OUTSIDE BACK COVER @ $5,000 - COLOR AD
- INSIDE FRONT COVER @ $3,500 - COLOR AD
- INSIDE BACK COVER @ $2,500 - COLOR AD
- GOLD FULL PAGE AD @ $2,000 - 8"W X 10"H
- SILVER FULL PAGE AD @ $1,500 - 8"W X 10"H
- BRONZE FULL PAGE AD @ $1,000 - 8"W X 10"H
- HALF PAGE AD @ $500 - 8"W X 5"H
- QUARTER PAGE AD @ $250 - 4"W X 5"H
- GOODY BAG LISTING @ $1,000

I CANNOT ATTEND, BUT WOULD LIKE TO DONATE $_______________

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: __________________________________________

Ads due by 3/10; tickets by 3/17. You can also purchase your sponsorships, ads, or tickets online at www.OASISNJ.ORG.

For more information please contact Clarissa Perez at clarissaperez@oasisnj.org or (973) 881-8307 ext 108.
### Sponsorship Opportunities

- **Event Sponsor**: $15,000 includes foursome, tee sign, and title sponsor listing on event signage and materials.
- **Dinner Sponsor**: $12,500 includes foursome, tee sign, and prominent sponsor listing on event signage & materials.
- **Gift Sponsor**: $10,000 includes foursome, tee sign and event signage.
- **Cocktail Hour Sponsor**: $7,500 includes foursome, tee sign and event signage.
- **Lunch Sponsor**: $6,000 includes foursome, tee sign, and event signage.
- **Beverage Sponsor**: $3,500
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- **Closest to the Pin Sponsor**: $2,000
- **Cart Sponsor**: $1,500
- **Tee Sponsor**: $1,000
- **Tee Sponsor**: $500 minimum donation

### Ticket Opportunities

- **Golfer(s)**: $800 per person includes golf, lunch and dinner
- **Foursome(s)**: $3,200
- **Foursome(s) with Tee Sponsor**: $3,500
- **Guest(s) for Cocktails and Dinner**: $150 per person

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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: 

Please circle: 

- Visa
- Mastercard
- American Express
- Discover

**Exp. Date:** 

**Sec. #:** 

**Name of Card Holder:** 

**Signature:**

Return by June 1 or you can purchase your tickets online at [www.OASISNJ.ORG](http://www.OASISNJ.ORG).

For more information please contact Clarissa Perez at clarissaperez@oasisnj.org or (973) 881-8307 ext 108.
Oasis was again blessed by the support of so many friends who donated 1,500 turkeys and 5,000 toys to the women and children of Oasis during the holidays. View a full list of all who donated at www.oasisnj.org!

Here are just a few of our many turkey and toy drive donors (from top, l-r):

- Saddle River Valley Junior Woman’s Club donated 50 turkeys.
- Atlantic Stewardship Bank donated 40 teddy bears.
- AAA donated 36 turkeys.
- Terrie O’Connor Realtors donated 12 large bags of toys.
- Academy of the Most Blessed Sacrament donated over 600 toys and over 40 gift cards.

Oasis lost a dear friend this past December. For years, Cath McDonough (third from right) would rally her friends to run a program that would allow our After-School Program children to “shop” for Christmas gifts for their parents. She and her dog Potter were also year round visitors to the After-School Program and were dearly loved. We are so very grateful for the friends and family of Cath who donated to Oasis in her memory, raising over $15,000 to support the kids she loved so much. Cath, you’ll be missed!

This January, Oasis was able to purchase a SMART Board through a grant from Catholic Human Services Foundation. Our Science GED teacher Anthony Durso put it to immediate use helping teach our women how to balance chemical equations. Other teachers and staff look forward to using this tool to better support our students!
Oasis is very grateful to all who make the holidays a very joyous time, bringing cheer to those who need it most. Our celebrations spanned the month of December:

♥ Santa visited each child in our Nurturing and Children’s Centers on December 16 (row 1).

♥ Holiday Express brought its troupe of performers and special guests, such as Frosty, Rudolph, and Santa, to Oasis for an annual show for After-School Program children and families on December 17 (rows 2 & 3).

♥ Oasis hosted its annual Christmas community lunch on December 21, serving over 700 meals and distributing thousands of toys to the community (rows 4 & 5). Volunteers in our dining room and toy room included groups from NJ Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness and Fordham Alumni. Thanks, as always, to The Market Basket for the delicious holiday meal.

For a full list of all who donated to the Oasis toy drive, please visit www.oasisnj.org.

Volunteer Spotlight—Brendan Hillin

Brendan Hillin has been volunteering for the past eight years in the Oasis After-School Program and Saturday “Rise and Shine” Program.

How did you first hear about Oasis?
When I was in fifth grade through a family friend. I started volunteering periodically in the After-School Program in middle school, and now very actively during high school.

What are your favorite aspects about volunteering at Oasis?
The camaraderie and teamwork of the volunteers, families & children! We all work together in creating an environment that is both educational & fun.

Tell us a little about your experience with the children of Oasis.
I always look forward to the days that I get to work with the kids. They’re all so positive, engaging and eager to learn. I tutor math and there is nothing better than the reaction of a child who grasps a new concept. Their hard work ethic motivates me to continue to improve my tutoring skills and help them achieve academic success.

If you are interested in volunteering in any of our youth development programs please contact Signe Howard at signehoward@oasisnj.org or (973) 881-8307 x 121.
Many thanks to all those who donated a “LUNCHES WITH LOVE” from October through December! Visit oasisnj.org to purchase yours for $144.

- Maribel Rodriguez—In honor of Latino Heritage Programming
- Suneetha Pinnadhari—In memory of Rajesh Pinnadhari
- Cynthia Mulit—In honor of Ruxanda Ritter
- Sweet Couture Angels
- Women’s Cornerstone, Our Lady of the Valley R.C. Church
- Arthur & Emilia Nalven—In honor of the Children’s Center
- Health & Wellness Partners—In memory of Roy Giffen (2 lunches)
- Jeanne Muller
- Patty Pang—In honor of Oasis teachers and volunteers
- Michele Liebman—In honor of Jeffrey Liebman
- Mary O’Connell (2 lunches)
- Joan Toscano—In honor of Eileen Goldblatt & Marleen Leventhal
- Mary Tedeschi—In honor of Patricia Sharp and Carrie Saketkoo (2 lunches)
- Vincent Salvatore—In memory of Michael Jarosz
- Christine Mohrmann—In honor of Nancy Leyrer
- Susan Di Pasquale—In memory of Jean and Joseph McCabe
- Robert Wilson
- Jewish Home Assisted Living
- Jeanette Yackeren—In honor of Dexter Thomas Hall
- Molly Fagan
- Wendy Schechter
- Frank Sandler—In memory of Catherine McDonough

**Please Welcome Our Newest Staff Members!**

- **Brianna Luongo** is currently a Senior at Montclair State University where she majors in Family and Child Studies with a focus on Family Services. She first came to Oasis for field experience for a college course, and later became the TEEN Girls Coordinator. She hopes to attend grad school to study speech pathology after she graduates this spring.

- **AJ Munroe** is currently a Psychology major at William Paterson. He plans on attending grad school to become a high school guidance counselor. He’s been working with teens for the past 4 years as a basketball coach in Teaneck. He is now our TEEN Boys Coordinator, and hopes Oasis will give him a better understanding of teens’ struggles in and out of the classroom.

- **Clarissa Perez**, our new Special Events Coordinator, first started planning events in college for a student organization. Since then she’s worked in the non-profit and for-profit sectors organizing fundraisers and corporate events. She’s excited to get back to her roots and combine her love for event planning with helping others. As a Paterson native, it means so much more to her to be a part of the great work happening here at Oasis.

- **Jennie Vega** is a licensed social worker with 14 years’ experience specializing in domestic violence and sexual assault. She was previously lead case manager at Passaic County Women’s Center supporting women in all aspects of their lives. She applied to the position at Oasis because she felt inspired by the mission statement and nurturing environment. She loves the camaraderie between staff members and clients here at Oasis.

**In The Spotlight Supports Oasis**

Oasis was the beneficiary of two great events planned by our friends at In The Spotlight Dance Studio in Waldwick. The first was a “Ladies Night” event at Neiman Marcus, organized by Natasha Karaty and Behind the Spotlight, the parents’ group at the Studio. Over 90 women attended the fashion show, which also included a tricky tray and 50/50 raffle.

The second event was the **Annual Benefit Performance** by the In The Spotlight Company Dancers. Over 1,000 people filled the Bergen Academies Auditorium, with all proceeds supporting Oasis. The children of our After-School Program also participated in the performance, practicing for months with ITS teacher Candice Karaty Mancini. We are so very grateful for the love and support of the Karaty Family and this fantastic dance school through the years. Between these two events, the parents and friends of ITS donated over $40,000 to the programs of Oasis. Thank you!