NEW LITERACY CLASS ALREADY MAKING STRIDES

In September, 2017, Oasis launched an Adult Basic Literacy class to teach basic reading, writing, and math to illiterate women. Our students—most of whom are mothers or grandmothers responsible for young children—attend this class every morning from 9:00 am until noon. In September, they tested into the class at a third grade level. They have already advanced to the fourth grade. Their growing mastery of phonics, punctuation, and basic arithmetic will transform their lives—and they know it.

What is remarkable about this Oasis program is that it is run entirely by ten volunteer teachers, several of them retired public school teachers, who work in pairs to teach five days a week. They are supervised and assisted by Merry Kennedy, our GED Coordinator. “Our volunteers teach with great sensitivity—they understand the courage it takes for a woman to try to learn the fundamental skills that she somehow failed to learn as a child,” says Miss Merry. These volunteers keep our students coming back.

While Miss Merry has praise for our volunteer teachers, the volunteers speak of their admiration for the students. Says Bobbie Hart, “I admire the women’s dedication and determination. These women work very hard.” Anne Kautzmann notes: “This is not a ‘hand out’—the program supports the efforts and drive of the students... It reflects the Oasis belief that opportunities should be made available to all, yet that opportunity should still be earned.”

The class is an enormous success because it has filled a need: An illiterate woman cannot read the label on a bottle of medicine or a note from her child’s teacher. Illiteracy is crippling and—what’s worse—it is often transmitted to the next generation. Oasis is changing that.

We give thanks to Impact 100 Garden State, a women’s philanthropic group that has provided Oasis with major funding for our Adult Education program and Adult Basic Literacy class. Impact 100’s support is supplemented by a grant from the City of Paterson Community Development Block Grant program and, of course, by the constant and reliable donations from hundreds of individual donors—like you—who keep our programs running and our doors open. We thank you for helping transform the lives of illiterate women at Oasis.
At Oasis, we begin the new year feeling very blessed. Blessed that you, our friends, have chosen to support our mission to help raise women and children out of poverty. We can’t imagine more important work and we cannot do that work without you!

Your support fuels our programs which, each day, serve 700 of the most vulnerable women and children in our community. They include survivors of domestic violence, newcomers to our country, women raised in generational poverty, fire victims, recovering addicts, the homeless. Once they walk through our doors, they become part of the Oasis family. Once they walk through our doors, they find hope.

The year ahead holds great promise for Oasis. We will formalize our Adult Basic Literacy program thanks to our volunteers and funding from Impact 100 Garden State. As you read on the front-page, this program gives hope to women who have nowhere else to turn. We will continue the work we have begun to help our children and teens achieve academic and personal success as well as plan for college and careers. With you as a partner in our mission, we will do whatever it takes to respond to the needs, crises, and pleas of those we help each day.

On behalf of our staff, our Board of Directors, and most importantly, on behalf of the women and children we serve, thank you for being a blessing to Oasis and we wish you a happy and healthy 2018.

This fall’s Oktoberfest celebrated long-time partner Wyckoff Family YMCA and 14 years of serving Oasis children through the Carl’s Kids Summer Camp. Joyce Kwiatkowski and Joy Vottero accepted the Patricia McLaughlin Spirit of Oasis Award from Megan McLaughlin, Bill McLaughlin, and Jennifer Brady (picture #1). Thank you to The Market Basket and Chernalis Family, led by Phyllis and Tony (#2), for 14 years of great parties in support of needy women and children. The event known for its delicious German food and beer, Oompa Band, and late night dancing grew to include a games tent this year (#3, #4). And there’s always room to bring your own accessories (#5)! Join us in 2018 on October 12th!
GIVING THANKS AT OASIS

There is nothing quite like food to bring people together around the holidays. The Oasis Thanksgiving community lunch and turkey giveaway is no exception, as this year over 500 women and children enjoyed a delicious meal by the Market Basket in Franklin Lakes (#1). Special guests who volunteered their time included Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno (#2) and her staff, Assemblywoman Shavonda Sumter (#3), Freeholder Sandi Lazzara (#4), and City Councilman Andre Sayegh (#4). Our volunteers included individuals as well as groups from Temple Sholom of West Essex (#5), UPS (#6), Benjamin Moore (#7), Health and Wellness Partners (#8), and Mead Johnson Nutrition. Over 1,000 turkeys were donated from various organizations such as St. Francis Food Pantries (NYC) and UPS (Wayne). We are so grateful for the support!

GALA OF HOPE AND ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

Spring is around the corner and so begins our busy fundraising season. Oasis events are a great way to change the lives of women and children in Paterson while having a fun time with good friends.

Tickets/sponsorships for both events can be found online:
Gala—Friday, April 27, 2018
https://501auctions.com/oasis
Golf Outing—Monday, June 11, 2018
https://501auctions.com/oasisgolf

If you can’t attend, there are numerous ways to support each event—visit us online for details!
HOLIDAY JOY

It was a season of joy at Oasis this past December as we distributed thousands of toys along with holiday cheer. A full list of those who donated to Oasis during the holidays is available at oasisnj.org. A few pictured here include:

- Frank Politano and his team from City Santas delivered toys to all 100 children of the After-School Academy (#1).
- Friends and family of Cath McDonough continued her holiday shop tradition to help our After-School students choose gifts for their parents (#2).

- Oasis hosted its annual Christmas community lunch and toy giveaway on December 21 (#3).
- The all-volunteer team from Holiday Express shared joy through music, dance, food, face-painting, and laughter (#4).

LUNCHES WITH LOVE

Many thanks to all those who donated a “LUNCHES WITH LOVE” from September through December, 2017. This program is a great way to celebrate any special occasion—birthday, anniversary—and a fantastic gift for someone who has everything! Visit oasisnj.org to purchase yours for $144.

- Priti Shetty
- Karen Hovey
- Toni & John Foerch—In memory of Dorothy Zablatsky
- Erin Avnet, Citrin Cooperman & Company, LLP
- Direct Energy
- Arthur and Emilia Nalven—In honor of the Nursery Program
- Tracy Gribben Transcription, LLC—In memory of Kathleen Fitzgerald
- William Paterson University Campus Activities and Service Organizations Students
- Don Bosco Prep Mission Club
- Susan Lynch
- Grace Bertone, BertonePiccini LLP
- Sabrina McIntee
- Sandy Arlington—In honor of Beth Haverim Shir Shalom
- Keri Fleming—In honor of Benjamin Moore, Clifton office
- Jonathan Daspin—In honor of Erin Daspin’s birthday
- Tara Roberts
- Wendy Schechter—In memory of Kathleen Fitzgerald
- Elizabeth Annis—In honor of Christy Holdefehr’s birthday
- Anthony Allgood
- Marie Bogest—In memory of Merina Colageo
- Stefan Christman—In honor of Emerson Christman’s 7th birthday
- Michele Liebman—In honor of Jeff Liebman
- Vincent Salvatore—In memory of Michael Jarosz
- Maureen Moser—In memory of Renee Kushner
- Andrew Schaeffer—In honor of Rebecca Schaeffer
- Sumana Gadiraju—In memory of Rajesh Pinnadhari
- Clifton High School Staff (8 lunches)
- Lois Hejna—In honor of Jorge Becerra
- Scott Goldberg
- Jane Donohue—In honor of Ann Rasmussen
- Robert and Kathleen Wilson
- MaryBeth Gallagher
- Dr. Mary Mancuso
- James and Rita Sullivan