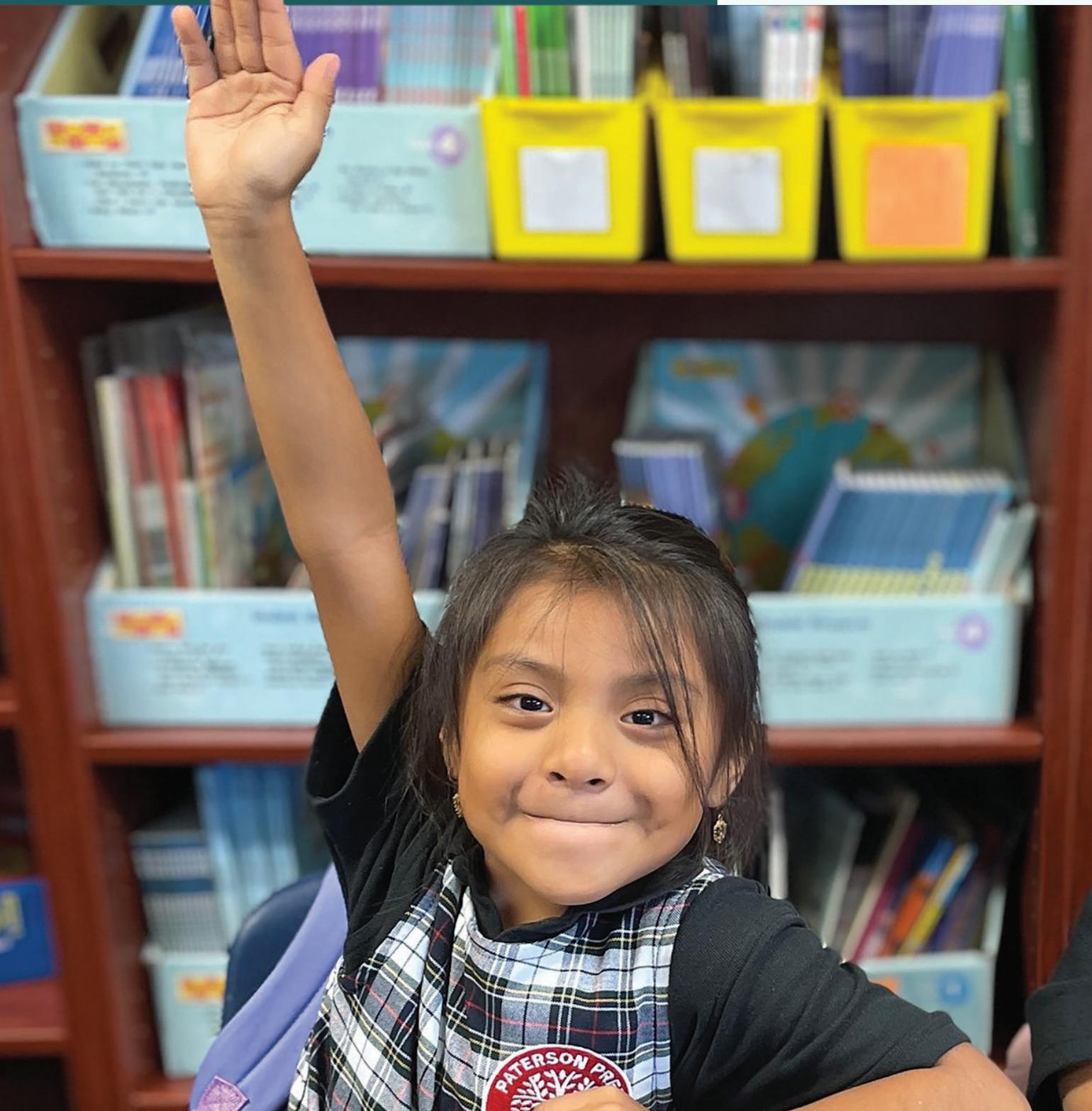


# WOMEN AND CHILDREN RISING

2023/2024 Annual Report



## OUR MISSION

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.

## OUR IMPACT



748

adults provided with educational classes



753

children and teens provided with out-of-school academic programs



1,436

women received counseling



90,891

hot meals served

Numbers Served in Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024).



## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We are pleased to present Oasis's Impact Report, *Women and Children Rising*, which showcases the work we do every day in Paterson. Oasis helps women and children rise out of poverty by providing them with basic human needs and educational opportunities, making a lasting impact on their lives. This is possible only because of your support.

First, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude to our supporters, collaborative partners, and all those who invest in our mission. Your contributions have helped Oasis change thousands of lives for the better.

Over the past several years, Oasis has worked to answer the ever-increasing need in Paterson. Our meals services, adult and children's education, and social service programs have seen a tremendous rise in the numbers of individuals seeking support. Our Saturday program, where we serve whole families, has grown to include 15 different course offerings, and demand for our academically geared after-school programs is at all-time highs.

In Paterson, where over 33 percent of children live below the poverty line, your support makes a crucial difference. The families you help face serious challenges: hunger, violence, unsafe streets, chronic illness, and stress. At Oasis, we firmly believe that with the right tools and a supportive environment, women and children can build the confidence they need to break the cycle of poverty and realize their potential. Every day at Oasis, women and children move towards self-sufficiency and a brighter future.

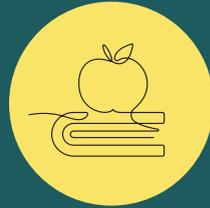
This past year, we've seen remarkable transformations. Young people who never thought they could go to college moving into dormitories and pursuing their dreams. Women earning their high school diplomas and become US citizens. Families shaken by violence in their home countries are finding safety and a brighter future. These successes are your successes.

Our programs exist thanks to the support of individuals and organizations who believe it is our obligation to give back and help others rise. This report is a testament to the incredible power of community. To the impact we can have collectively on women and children who want so desperately to learn, to work, to triumph. We hope that this report inspires everyone to join us in building a legacy of hope for the women and children of Paterson.

In gratitude for your support,

**Jennifer Brady**  
Executive Director

# ADULT EDUCATION



## The Challenge

In Paterson, nearly 1 in 4 women never completed high school, and 13 percent of women didn't finish ninth grade. More than a third of city residents struggle with English. These barriers limit women's ability to participate in the workforce. When women lack basic education and essential skills, they and their families remain trapped in a relentless cycle of poverty.

## The Oasis Response

Oasis provides free educational programs to help women tackle these challenges. Participating students are offered a myriad of Oasis wraparound services: hot meals, grocery bags, baby supplies, and the support of social workers. In this way, women pursue their educational and career goals while meeting their essential needs. While we focus on women's empowerment, men are welcome in evening and Saturday classes.

In addition, Oasis provides free daycare allowing moms to attend classes while their children are cared for—removing a common barrier to women's progress.



## OASIS PROGRAMS



**Job Counseling** helps women move into the workforce. We offer an internship program and several workforce certification programs to help women secure employment.

91 WOMEN COUNSELED



**English as a Second Language Program** offers four levels of English classes and a conversational practice class to help women learn to speak English well in everyday life.

410 WOMEN EDUCATED



**GED Program** provides GED courses and supports students as they take the exams required to earn their high school equivalency diploma.

90 WOMEN AND MEN EDUCATED  
14 STUDENTS GRADUATED



**Computer Training Program** offers a range of courses, from digital literacy to advanced computer skills, giving women essential tools for the 21st-century marketplace.

120 WOMEN TRAINED



**Citizenship Program** prepares women for the U.S. citizenship test and helps them navigate the naturalization process.

46 WOMEN SUPPORTED



**Saturday Rise and Shine Program** provides over 15 different courses free to the community, including Spanish GED, Sewing, Yoga, and more.

241 WOMEN AND MEN PARTICIPATED



## SUCCESS STORY Dasha

A top student with a promising future, gifted in math, she excelled academically in high school. She was also a star basketball player.

In her junior year, however, she experienced a personal crisis and dropped out. For several years, she worked low-paying jobs without a high school diploma and with little hope for the future. Daesha's potential was being squandered.

Then she found Oasis. Within three months, Daesha earned her GED through the Oasis program. With help from the Oasis guidance counselor, she applied to college and was admitted to the local community college. She's begun her first year and has a clear goal: She plans to complete her associate's degree and then transfer to a four-year university to study engineering, leveraging her gift for math.

**"Oasis gave me the key to the door I needed to open," she says. "I came here every day and people pushed me forward. This place is amazing."**

# YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



## The Challenge

All over the world, low-income children face greater academic challenges than their wealthier peers. Paterson’s children, whose families struggle to make ends meet, score far below the state average in math and reading. Chronic absenteeism, low graduation rates, and the devastating impact of COVID-19 on learning all plague the children of this city. Without help, these children will be left behind, their potential untapped.

## The Oasis Response

Oasis helps children and teenagers overcome these unfair hurdles. Oasis after-school programs provide children and teens with a healthy dinner, tutoring, and trauma-informed emotional support. Oasis employs professional teachers to teach children in age-appropriate classrooms and embeds professional social workers in its youth programs. This holistic support gives youth the tools to thrive in school and life.



## OASIS PROGRAMS



### The Michael Wagner After-School Academy

provides a safe, structured environment for children in kindergarten through Grade 7 every weekday after school. Children receive 200 hours of personalized academic support over the school year.

129 CHILDREN EDUCATED



### Oasis Teen Program

is led by social workers who provide academic and socio-emotional support to youth. A professional guidance counselor also offers teens college and career assistance.

129 TEENAGERS SUPPORTED



### Rise and Shine Saturday Program

offers enrichment classes including creative arts, literacy, and academic writing to boost children’s skills and broaden their learning.

224 CHILDREN TAUGHT



### Carl’s Kids Summer Camp

hosts a traditional summer camp for children and a “First Jobs” initiative that employs low-income teens in paid camp counselor positions.

146 CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS PARTICIPATED



### Full-Service Community School Partnerships

between Oasis and two Paterson public schools allow Oasis to lead programs in local schools. Oasis provides in-school, after-school, and Saturday programs in Paterson Public School #2 and #16.

125 CHILDREN SERVED



## SUCCESS STORY John\*

John’s parents work full-time to make ends meet and the cost of daily after-school care is far beyond their budget. They’re grateful to Oasis for guiding John throughout his elementary school years. Oasis, they say, has boosted John’s confidence and has helped him mature.

A sixth grader today, John says: “I love coming to Oasis...We celebrate holidays, and they always make sure to celebrate my birthday.

Last year, Oasis gave out winter coats and that helped me a lot because I didn’t have one. And they always give me a bookbag with school supplies that I need. They give me food after school and time to play with my friends. They help me with my math homework which is always hard for me.

Oasis explains and teaches me how to do the work without other kids making fun of me. Schoolwork is hard for me, and Oasis helps me with all of it.”

\*Name has been changed to respect his privacy.

# SOCIAL SERVICES



## The Challenge

Families facing economic hardship confront multiple challenges: hunger, household violence, unsafe streets, chronic stress, and the health issues that so often result. Mothers raising children on their own feel these burdens the most. Women working to support their families often need help to take the steps necessary to improve life for themselves and their children.

## The Oasis Response

Oasis provides an extensive range of support services for families facing difficult times. Four Oasis social workers help women and children address serious issues like domestic violence, mental health, and substance abuse. Our trauma-informed care model ensures every client receives compassionate, respectful support, helping them build resilience, long-term healing, and self-sufficiency. Oasis creates a safe, supportive environment where women and children can rebuild their lives with dignity.



## OASIS PROGRAMS



**Childcare** provides infants and toddlers with loving care while their mothers attend classes. Through this program, Oasis helps mothers pursue education confident their little ones are being nurtured and supervised.

**59 INFANTS AND TODDLERS CARED FOR**



**Psychosocial Assessments**, conducted by Oasis social workers, help identify mental health needs and shape supportive intervention strategies, nurturing women's overall well-being.

**685 WOMEN ASSESSED**



**Individual and Group Counseling** sessions, facilitated by Oasis social workers, provide a supportive environment to address mental health challenges, fostering empowerment and healing for those affected by issues such as domestic violence.

**744 WOMEN COUNSELED**



**Referrals** connect clients with over 50 partner agencies. Oasis social workers refer clients to trusted partners to ensure they receive the best possible support for their unique needs.



**Outreach Programs** which bring outside agencies into Oasis, enhance the quality of life for those we serve. Oasis hosts a variety of programs, including parenting workshops, health screenings, and legal assistance.



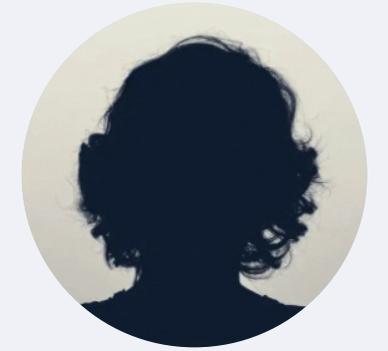
**Children's Programs** embed youth social workers in our after-school programs to provide critical support, helping children and teens navigate the emotional impact of challenging life experiences.

**129 CHILDREN SUPPORTED**



**The ECO Program** is carried out in collaboration with two local agencies. Through ECO, Oasis provides safe, supportive housing for women and children who are survivors of domestic violence.

**21 WOMEN AND CHILDREN HOUSED**



## SUCCESS STORY Katie\*

Katie fled her abusive partner with her 8-year-old autistic daughter, fearing for both their lives. Multiple restraining orders proved her fears were real. Her husband's reputation was so terrifying that everyone she knew refused to help, afraid of his wrath.

Katie arrived at Oasis hopeless. Her daughter was plagued by nightmares, crying through the night. Oasis' social worker immediately crafted a safety plan and offered the mother and child crucial services—hot meals, food bags, and clothing.

In the days that followed, Katie and her daughter became regulars at Oasis, coming for Soup Kitchen meals. Oasis connected Katie with legal aid, helped her secure a final restraining order, helped her settle into a domestic violence shelter, and transferred her daughter to a new school.

With Oasis' help, Katie and her daughter felt safe, for the first time in many years.

**“Women come to Oasis with nothing but a determination to survive, and it's our job to help them find a way forward,” says Jennie Vega, Oasis Social Services Manager.**

\*Name has been changed to respect her privacy.

# BASIC NEEDS



## The Challenge

In the city of Paterson, nearly one in four women and one in three children lives at or below the federal poverty line—on a household income of \$31,200 or less annually for a family of four. These families struggle to afford necessities like food and rent. Post-pandemic inflation has exacerbated hardships for low-income families, making daily life a constant struggle.

## The Oasis Response

Oasis addresses families’ most urgent needs through a variety of essential services. Our Soup Kitchen, emergency food distribution, and thrift store provide critical resources to families facing hunger and financial instability. Many women first come to Oasis seeking a hot meal. In the Oasis Soup Kitchen, they learn about the many services Oasis offers. By focusing on immediate needs first, Oasis helps stabilize families, creating a solid foundation for future growth and independence.



## OASIS PROGRAMS



**Soup Kitchen** serves free, hot breakfast and lunch every weekday, providing a lifeline for women and children who might otherwise go hungry.

90,891 MEALS SERVED



**The Oasis Thrift Store** is open every weekday and offers high-quality clothing at affordable prices to support the needs of low-income families. The store also provides internship opportunities helping women gain valuable retail skills.

24,258 CLOTHING UNITS SOLD



**Emergency Food Bags** provide critical support to families in need, each containing a three-day supply of nutritious groceries for a family of four.

6,084 FOOD BAGS DISTRIBUTED



**Supplies Distribution** provides families with essential items such as personal hygiene products, baby formula, diapers, essential baby equipment, and other necessities.

112,775 DIAPERS,  
1,879 BAGS OF HYGIENE ITEMS,  
208 BAGS OF BABY SUPPLIES  
DISTRIBUTED



## SUCCESS STORY Stephanie

Stephanie is a 31-year-old single mother supporting her four children and her elderly mother. She works at a coffee shop and, at night, she’s studying to become a nurse. Here’s what she says about Oasis:

“I have about \$100 a week to spend on food for the family. At least once a month, I don’t have enough money to buy food. I buy the cheapest food we can get.

When I run out of money for food, I first go through the cupboards. I cook pasta Ramen noodles for the kids. Sometimes I’m still hungry, and sometimes the kids are still hungry. That is just how it is.

When there’s really nothing left, I come here to Oasis. Sometimes friends or people at my work will give me food, and I’m so, so grateful.

I’ve been coming to Oasis for breakfast and lunch with the kids this summer. And I get Oasis food bags, sometimes every two weeks. Oasis really helps. The food goes a long way. There’s peanut butter and jelly for the kids, vegetables, rice, and pasta. It gets us through.

I rely on Oasis today. But not forever. When I become a nurse, I’ll rely on myself.”

## OASIS ADDRESSES FAMILIES’ MOST URGENT NEEDS THROUGH A VARIETY OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES.

# PARTNERSHIPS



## ECO: Eva's Village, CUMAC and Oasis



Since 2021, this collaboration between three Paterson nonprofits provides six apartments for single mother and children facing adversity (most survivors of domestic violence). Through empowering supportive programming, these women work towards financial independence and increased life choices. The women pay a modest monthly fee instead of rent. They are provided with a range of holistic services, including job search support, money management workshops, goal setting, and additional programs. This approach provides time for the women to focus on their futures while building skills and fostering long-term independence.



## Building Healthier More Equitable Communities (BHEC)

Supported by The Reinvestment Fund and backed by funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, BHEC is a state-wide initiative aimed at addressing the social determinants of health and enhancing the quality of life for marginalized communities in Asbury Park, Camden, Newark, and Paterson. In Paterson, the BHEC team's focus is on developing a built environment with affordable, supportive housing for single moms, and a high-quality Early Childhood Education Center onsite.

### The Paterson BHEC team includes:

- CUMAC
- Eva's Village
- Health Coalition of Passaic County
- New Jersey Community Development Corporation (NJCDC)
- Oasis—A Haven for Women and Children
- Passaic County Habitat for Humanity
- St. Joseph's Health
- United Way of Passaic County



## The Wyckoff YMCA

For 23 years, the Wyckoff Y has partnered with Oasis, generously hosting children from Oasis' Carl's Kids Camp on their beautiful campus at no cost, three days a week each summer. Oasis campers fully engage in Camp Wydaca activities, including swimming lessons, theater arts programs, and literacy initiatives. This longstanding collaboration has benefited thousands of Paterson children, enriching their summers and broadening their experiences.



## Passaic County Community College (PCCC)

**Child Development Associate Programs (through The Henry and Marilyn Taub Foundation)**  
PCCC's Child Development Associate (CDA) program at Oasis provides training to women whose goal is to work in early childhood education. The program, based on core competency standards, teaches women to nurture the emotional, intellectual, and physical development of children from birth to age five. Upon completing this training, women can apply for the CDA credential, qualifying them to work in a childcare setting. Credits can be transferred to an early childhood education (ECE) certificate and/or an associate's degree, paving the way for continued professional growth.

### Home Literacy Link

The Home Literacy Link program aims to introduce the joy of reading to Paterson's most vulnerable children, including families with limited English proficiency. Women enrolled in Oasis ESL classes participate in weekly training sessions that guide them through early literacy activities, available in English, Spanish, and Arabic. Parents receive take-home books and activity bags so they can actively contribute to developing their child's early literacy skills.



## Pony Power

Pony Power offers at-risk children from Oasis therapeutic programs that connect them to the wonder of horses, farming, and nature. At Pony Power, Oasis kids ride and care for horses and participate in farm and nature activities. Four Oasis teens engage in paid Farm Internships, where they learn about agriculture and gain job skills. The fruits of their labor—freshly picked vegetables—are brought back to Oasis for use in the Soup Kitchen. Pony Power provides Oasis children with enriching experiences they might otherwise never encounter.



## Paterson Public School District (School #2 and School #16)

Oasis partners with the Paterson Public School District to help operate Full-Service Community School (FSCS) programs at Paterson Public School #2 and Paterson Public School #16. The FSCS programs housed within these public schools provide after-school programs, parent and family workshops, enrichment activities, educational support, access to social services, and school-based health clinics. This partnership extends Oasis' reach, serving more families with holistic programming.



# FINANCIALS

## 84%

of donations go directly to program support

## \$1.015M

gift-in-kind donated and distributed



4/4 rating from Charity Navigator—the highest possible score

### FY 2024 REVENUE

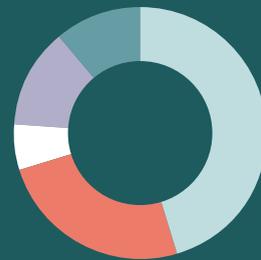
Donations/Grants	\$3,514,422
Events	\$1,933,432
Interest/Other	\$464,770
In-Kind	\$1,015,085
Employee Retention Tax Credit Receivable (ERTCR)	\$767,874

**TOTAL REVENUE** **\$7,695,583**

### FY 2024 EXPENSES

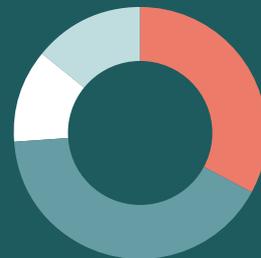
Adult Education	\$1,076,429
Meal Program	\$874,167
Social Services	\$1,695,372
Youth Programs	\$2,076,967
Management	\$352,337
Fundraising	\$763,711

**TOTAL EXPENSES** **\$6,838,983**



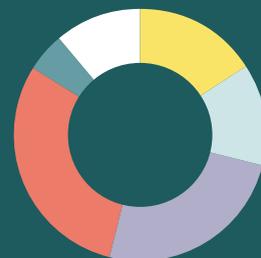
FY 2024 REVENUE

- 46% Donations/Grants
- 25% Events
- 13% In-Kind
- 10% ERTCR
- 6% Interest/Other



REVENUE SOURCES

- 41% Foundations
- 33% Individuals
- 14% Government
- 12% Corporations



FY 2024 EXPENSES

- 30% Youth Programs
- 25% Social Services
- 16% Adult Education
- 13% Meal Program
- 11% Fundraising
- 5% Management

# WAYS TO GIVE

Will you help women and children rise higher? Please consider a gift to help women and children rise to even greater heights. All donations to Oasis—A Haven for Women and Children are tax deductible.

### BY CHECK

Checks are payable to Oasis—A Haven for Women and Children and mailed to: Oasis—A Haven for Women and Children, 59 Mill Street, Paterson, NJ 07501

### ONLINE

**By Credit Card, Venmo, Apple Pay, or Google Pay.** Online donations can be made securely at [oasisnj.org/donate](https://oasisnj.org/donate). You can arrange monthly payments online as well, to provide Oasis with ongoing, foundational support.

### APPRECIATED SECURITIES

You can securely make a gift of stocks, bonds, or other appreciated securities at [oasisnj.org/givebetter](https://oasisnj.org/givebetter). For more information, or to make a gift of securities by phone, please contact the Oasis Development Director at 973-881-8307 ext. 105.

### DONOR ADVISED FUNDS (DAF)

You can make a gift directly to Oasis using your DAF login through our secure DAF form at [oasisnj.org/givebetter](https://oasisnj.org/givebetter). For more information, or to make a gift of securities by phone, please contact the Oasis Development Director at 973-881-8307 ext. 105.

### CRYPTOCURRENCY

You can securely give cryptocurrency to Oasis at [oasisnj.org/givebetter](https://oasisnj.org/givebetter). Oasis accepts over 50 cryptocurrencies, including Bitcoin (BTC), Ethereum (ETH), and Tether (USDT). We use The Giving Block and Gemini to process cryptocurrencies. Through The Giving Block, Oasis immediately transfers all cryptocurrency into US dollars. Cryptocurrency is never held.

### PLANNED GIFTS

You will change lives far into the future with a gift in your will or any other type of planned gift. Leaving a gift in your will is so easy! Simply share this sentence with your attorney or financial planner: I bequeath \$ \_\_\_ or \_\_\_ % of my estate to Oasis—A Haven for Women and Children, 59 Mill Street, Paterson, NJ 07501.

Please contact the Oasis Development Director at 973-881-8307 ext. 105 for more information.

### MATCHING GIFTS

You can significantly increase the amount and impact of your gift by taking advantage of your employer's matching gift program. Please contact your employer to help even more women and children in need.





**HELP WOMEN AND CHILDREN  
RISE EVEN HIGHER**

Give today at [oasisnj.org/donate](https://oasisnj.org/donate)

59 Mill Street, Paterson, NJ 07501  
973-881-8307

**[oasisnj.org](https://oasisnj.org)**

