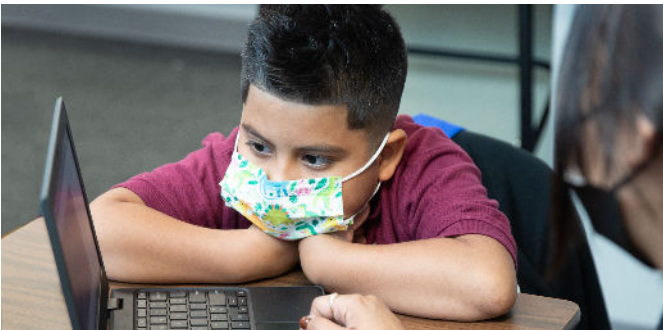


## Bigger, Better, More Beautiful! And You Made it Happen!

The Oasis Building Expansion project, begun in November 2020, is now complete! In addition to a retail store, an expanded childcare room, and multiple new classrooms, the expansion provides:



Before the building expansion, there was no space large enough to accommodate large group activities.



The tutoring rooms you've given ensure there is a place where women and children can get individual attention.



Fourth-graders in the After-School Academy take a break after playing in the rooftop garden.

### Wellness Center

This 1,500 sq ft room gives the after-school children what feels like a limitless space to jump and play at recess. The teens (boys and girls together) have gathered here to Zoom with a NASA scientist and participate in health information sessions led by nurses. It's a place where women learn yoga and where the financial advisor holds monthly financial workshops.

### Tutoring Rooms

At Oasis, each woman and child is an individual whose needs are met one-by-one. The new tutoring rooms give women and children a place for personalized instruction. In these rooms, GED volunteers will tutor women individually and in small groups. A specialized math tutor will target instruction to individual children. And volunteers will practice interview skills with citizenship students.

### Rooftop Garden

The rooftop garden is a place of peace where Oasis students and clients can enjoy a quiet moment, far from the noise of the street. But it's more than that. The garden will serve as an outdoor classroom, a site for children's science projects, and a place for community gatherings.

## A Message from Executive Director Jennifer Brady

Dear Friend,

Happy new year to you and your loved ones!

This year, 2022, marks the 25th year of Oasis and, together we're celebrating with the opening of an expanded building. What a way to mark Oasis' silver anniversary!

It seems like the worse things get in the world, the more depressing the news, the more you respond with gifts and offers of support.

You are an amazing group of donors and supporters!

Your steadfast commitment to women and children in need is proof that, together, we really can make a difference.

Please come visit and tour our beautiful expanded building, to see what your gifts have accomplished. To schedule a visit, contact Laetitia at [laetitiacairolino@oasisnj.org](mailto:laetitiacairolino@oasisnj.org).

I'm looking forward to working with you in 2022, as we help women and children break the cycle of poverty.

In gratitude,



Jennifer Brady  
Executive Director



Oasis  
has been  
more than  
a  
blessing.

Cynthia interns in the Oasis clothing room as she prepares to return to the workforce. The programs you support are helping her move forward.

## With Your Support A Mother Moves Forward

Until a few years ago, Cynthia was a chef in a local restaurant. She loved her job.

She was forced to stop working when her son entered preschool. Antonio, now nine years old, has autism and attention deficit disorder. "Either the teacher or the babysitter was calling me at work every day. They couldn't manage him. I had to leave the job."

Devastated to lose her work, and shaken from having fled a violent partner, Cynthia found Oasis. "When I first came here, my goal was just to find someone to talk to. But I have other goals now."

Cynthia found support in the Oasis domestic violence survivors' group and learned about entrepreneurship in Oasis computer and job training courses. She started a small jewelry sales business.

"Today, I have a five-year plan," she says. "I see myself in a full-

time job, with a house, a car, and a son who is independent."

She's taking steps to get there. Cynthia interns at Oasis while Antonio is in school. She sells her handmade jewelry and helps her son overcome his challenges.

"When I came to Oasis, I was lost," says Cynthia. "But I held on to hope, because Jennie [an Oasis social worker] kept telling me there was something out there for me."

Like so many single mothers, the burden of childcare (especially difficult with a special needs child) forced Cynthia out of the workforce. With her strength and spirituality, she's found a way forward. She is dedicated to helping her son succeed in life.

Her progress wouldn't be possible without your support of crucial Oasis programs.

Thank you for standing with Cynthia and Antonio.

# Grandmother Becomes Dental Radiologist: Possible With Your Support



With your help, Janet Rodriguez completed her GED and earned the certifications needed to become a dental radiologist.

Janet Rodriguez is a 45-year-old grandmother of two preschoolers. She was given custody of each child at birth because her daughter was unable to care for them.

When she took custody, Janet was struggling with multiple illnesses and living on meager disability payments. Faced with this new and immense responsibility, she reached out to Oasis.

Janet was determined to make life better for her grandchildren, but she needed a high school diploma to do so.

At Oasis, Janet placed the children in childcare and registered for the Oasis GED program. "It would have been impossible for me to attend class every day if Oasis didn't have childcare," she says.

Today, more women than ever are being left with the care of their grandchildren. Women who are raising grandchildren are likely to be poor and to have their own unmet economic or social service needs.

Janet was committed to completing her GED and passed all five exams after two years of daily attendance. "The day I got my GED was the best day of my life," she says. With the diploma in hand, she applied for an Oasis scholarship and was awarded donor funds to complete a certificate in dental radiology.

Today, Janet works full-time as a dental radiologist, a job she loves. Her daughter has re-taken custody of the children, although Janet continues to care for them on weekends.

"At Oasis," she says, "I went from the back of the class to the front. That's how amazing the teachers are. I will be forever thankful to them. Without Oasis, none of this would be possible."

Janet's strength and persistence let her overcome a situation many would have found impossible. You provided the teachers, the classes, the social workers, the childcare, and the scholarship, that helped Janet change the course of her life. Thank you.



Children receive care while their moms are in class.



## Did you know?

You can include Oasis in your estate plans with a bequest, trust, life insurance, or real estate. And, you can donate stock to Oasis easily.

For more information, please contact Laetitia at

973-881-8307 x 105/[laetitiacairoli@oasisnj.org](mailto:laetitiacairoli@oasisnj.org).



## Save the date!

*The 25th Anniversary Oasis Gala of Hope*

Friday, April 8, 2022



The Gala of Hope is a joyful celebration. But it's more than that. In past years, the Gala has raised close to one-third of Oasis' annual revenue. (Sadly, we were forced to cancel the Gala in 2020 and 2021.)

Gala fundraising supports Oasis children's programs, including the Carl's Kids Summer Camp and the Michael Wagner After-School Academy.

To purchase tickets or learn more about how you can support this important event, go to [oasisnj.org/gala](https://oasisnj.org/gala) or contact Anthony Durso, Events Manager, at 973-881-8307 ext. 127 or [anthonydurso@oasisnj.org](mailto:anthonydurso@oasisnj.org).

We hope to see you there in this silver anniversary year!

## Oasis Teens Need Guidance

With fewer than 40 guidance counselors serving over 5,000 high school students in Paterson, teens here rarely get the help they need to apply to college.

The typical teenager Oasis serves has parents who did not attend college and who very possibly cannot speak English. This teen has no one to guide her through the onerous college admissions process. This teen risks leaving high school with no solid plans for the future.

But you can help!

Oasis Guidance Consultant Maria Herrera supports teenagers through the college application process. "Some of the teens I'm working with live in families

that earn less than \$30,000 a year," she says. "These young people have worked so hard through high school. They deserve a chance to go to college."

It costs an average of \$66 a month to serve a teenager in the Oasis College Readiness initiative. Would you consider a gift?



Teens like Michelle rely on your support for college guidance.

Yes, I'd like to help a low-income teenager apply for college and I will support all the critical antipoverty programs and services Oasis provides.

- \$33 Provides Oasis College Readiness support to one teen for two weeks.
- \$66 Provides Oasis College Readiness support to one teen for one month.
- \$297 Provides Oasis College Readiness support to one teen for half a school year.
- \$594 Provides Oasis College Readiness support to one teen for the school year.
- My best gift \_\_\_\_\_.

Please use the enclosed envelope or give at [oasisnj.org/winter](https://oasisnj.org/winter). Thank you.