

You Gave Daesha the Key to Her Future: A Story of Her Resilience and Your Support



Your support of the Oasis GED program paves a path to a better future for bright young women like Daesha.

She was a top student with a promising future. An A student and on the honor roll since kindergarten, she was taking four AP courses at a competitive Newark charter school. She was a star basketball player. Her parents saw her as “the responsible child.” (She had always been a caretaker at home.) She knew people expected a lot from her.

But in her junior year of high school, things went wrong. “I fell apart mentally,” she says.

In January of 11th grade, Daesha dropped out of high school. She stayed home for months and then enrolled in a nearby public school. The school was chaotic and disorganized and she couldn’t stand the atmosphere, so she left there too.

For several years, she worked at jobs that didn’t require a high school diploma. She worked in warehouses. The jobs paid little and they didn’t move her forward. She knew she needed something better but didn’t know how or where to find it.

Then she found Oasis. She enrolled in the GED program and earned her GED within three months. She then turned to the Oasis guidance counselor and with her help, applied to college.

She was admitted to Essex County Community College where she’ll start in the fall. She then plans to transfer to NJIT to study engineering. Daesha is gifted in math.



"Oasis gave me the key to the door I needed to open. Oasis helped me make that GED happen. I came here every day and people here pushed me forward. This place is amazing."

Thank you for giving this very promising young woman the key to open the door to a very bright future.

A Message from Executive Director Jennifer Brady

Dear Friend,

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Wyckoff YMCA as the Oasis Summer Camp begins. For over two decades, the Wyckoff YMCA has invited Oasis campers to Camp Wydaca (the Y's summer camp program). Thanks to the Y, thousands of Paterson's children have experienced the joy of summer camp.

With the close of the 2023-2024 school year, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for YOU—loyal Oasis donors.

Thanks to you, Oasis has offered ESL, GED, computer courses, and workplace counseling that have empowered hundreds of women. Your support has created a nurturing environment for children, giving them the support of high-quality, professional teachers after school all year long.

Your compassion and generosity drive the achievements of hundreds of women and children—some of whose stories we share here. Without you, none of this would have been possible.

In gratitude,



Jennifer Brady
Executive Director

Your Gifts, One Boy's Future: How You Made College Possible for a Deserving Student

Sultan is the youngest of five children raised by his widowed mother. When he entered high school, he had no sense of academic direction and didn't understand the college application process. He had no family or friends who could help him with any of this.

You provided everything Sultan needed through the Oasis Teen Boys Program.

Michael Cairo, the program coordinator, became Sultan's mentor. Cairo helped Sultan excel academically and discover a love for learning:

"Cairo had a big impact on me," Sultan shared. "He taught me to love math. Because of Cairo, I began to enjoy school. He was always there for me. He pushed me forward."

With Cairo's support, Sultan thrived in high school. This past June, he graduated in the top 5 percent of his class (ranked 33 out of 750 students).

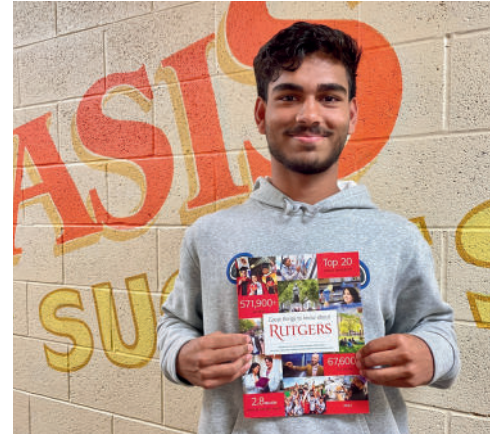
Sultan faced another roadblock in his high school years: The difficulty of navigating the world of college applications and financial aid.

The Oasis guidance counselor you support worked tirelessly with Sultan, helping him complete the FAFSA (federal financial aid forms) and secure college scholarships. **"Without her, I wouldn't have completed the FAFSA. Without Oasis, I would not have gone to college."**

Sultan was admitted to the Rutgers University School of Engineering and is set to begin in the fall. The Oasis guidance counselor helped him identify all the financial aid he needed. (Sultan was admitted everywhere he applied, including Dartmouth College.)

Sultan would not have been able to attend college without your support of the Oasis Teen Program. That would have been a great loss to him, his family, and this community.

Thank you.



You made college possible for this young man.

Your 20-Year Commitment:

How You've Sustained a Family Facing a Child's Illness



With your support over two decades, Delia has moved from ESL student to childcare professional, all while caring for her sons.

You've helped Delia and her sons learn English, you've supported her through the trauma of a child's illness, and you've helped her find a career as an early childhood development specialist.

Delia's journey with Oasis began 20 years ago when she enrolled as an ESL student while her sons attended the After-School Academy. "Oasis helped my children with their homework when I couldn't," she recalls.

Delia's English improved with Oasis' classes (she's now fluent), her sons thrived in school, and life got much better for the family. The future looked bright.

But this family would continue to need your support.

Nine years ago, Delia gave birth to a son born with an exceptionally rare combination of muscular dystrophy and Klinefelter syndrome.

"When I heard he had both conditions, I thought, 'What am I supposed to do?' The doctors don't even know how to help a child with both conditions. This just doesn't happen. I was devastated," she says.

Delia's son needs an extraordinary amount of care, demanding all her time. Her life revolves around doctor appointments and hospital visits: "All I do is go to doctors' offices. I go to endocrinologists, orthopedists, and cardiologists."

Feeling completely alone, Delia returned to Oasis. "I came back to Oasis as a volunteer," says Delia. "I helped in the food pantry and the kitchen. When I'm doing something for someone else, I feel better." At Oasis, Delia found solace and support.

Last year, Delia enrolled in the Child Development Associate Certification program at Oasis. She's completed the coursework and has begun her internship in a childcare facility. Oasis helped her find this placement, the last step in earning her certification.

Within the coming year, Delia will be certified to work in a preschool or childcare facility. She's eager to launch her new career.

And she's grateful for Oasis, and the role it has played in her life, and the life of her family.

You've held up this family through unimaginable hardship for two decades. You've provided a woman with education, solace, and a career so she can better sustain her family.

Thank you.

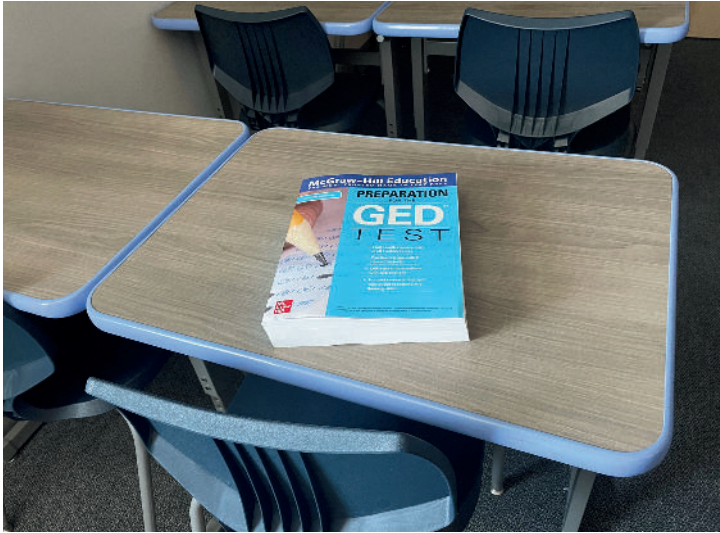
Check it Out!

You can now give
stocks, DAF funds, and
cryptocurrency with just
a few key strokes!

oasisnj.org/other-ways-to-give/

A GED Will Change Her Life

Your Gift Will Help a Woman Break the Cycle



Will you support the Oasis GED program, to offer women in need a chance to improve their lives?

Esther, a young woman in her early twenties, joined the Oasis GED program while renting a bedroom in a local family's apartment.

Esther has lived alone since her teens, when she left her abusive family during high school. Without a home, she dropped out.

This spring, while taking the language arts GED exam, Esther received two devastating text messages. The first announced her immediate eviction: The family's landlord had discovered her subletting and demanded she be removed.

The second message informed her that she was no

longer needed at her restaurant job.

Unable to focus, knowing she was suddenly homeless and jobless, Esther couldn't complete the exam.

Esther has found another room to rent, but she has struggled to find work. She's turned to plasma donations to keep herself fed.

She earned a \$425 bonus after the first five donations. Now, she gives twice weekly. The first weekly donation pays \$30. The second pays \$45. (No more bonus payments are available and she's not permitted to give more than twice a week.) Since she is petite, she earns less from each donation than a larger person would earn.

Esther's situation is not unique among GED students. Others have been known to resort to plasma donations for food.

Esther is determined to complete her GED, because she knows she needs the degree to earn a decent living. There's simply no way she could afford to pay for the necessary courses or exams. She relies on Oasis's support.

Students must pass five GED exams to earn their high school equivalency diploma. Each exam costs \$36.

Will you please donate \$36 to cover testing fees for Esther or a woman like her?

Your gift will change her life.

YES, I will help pay the fees for a woman like Esther to take a GED exam. And I'll support all the vital antipoverty programs Oasis provides to women and children in need.

- ☐ \$36 covers fees for one GED exam.
- ☐ \$72 covers fees for two GED exams.
- ☐ \$108 covers fees for three GED exams.
- ☐ \$144 covers fees for four GED exams.
- ☐ \$180 covers fees for five GED exams
(a student must pass all five to earn the GED).
- ☐ My best gift _____

Please use the enclosed envelope
or give securely online at
oasisnj.org/summer.

Thank you for your generosity.