

You've Helped Carol Move Full Circle

A Story of Her Resilience and Your Support



Your support did more than help Carol earn her GED. You helped her restore her family, protect her children, and offer them a better future.

Carol is a 33-year-old mother of three and Oasis GED graduate. Today, she's studying to earn her associate's degree in human services and serving as a social work intern at Oasis—the place that helped her rebuild her life.

Carol left high school at the age of 16. She realizes now, as an adult, that she has learning disabilities, and did not receive appropriate support.

When she was 19, she had her first child and spent years in an abusive relationship. She struggled with severe mental health issues, leading to self-harm.

At 28, she attempted suicide. Her three children were taken and put into foster care.

While in care, her son's foster parents neglected his health, leaving the child hospitalized and close to dying. This was Carol's wake-up call.

Carol realized how much her children needed her.

"I needed to put myself together. I knew the GED would be my ticket. I had no time to waste." And so, she came to Oasis.

Carol entered the Oasis GED program in 2018 and earned her diploma in 2019. (She finished faster than most, a testament to her intelligence and determination.) She plans to complete her associate's degree and move on to a bachelor's and then a master's degree in social work, with a focus on child advocacy.

Carol is determined to use her degree to help others. Reflecting on her own high school experience, she says, "I can help ensure that dropping out doesn't happen to someone else."

"Oasis was life-changing for me. It was a place where I could walk into a room and feel like I wasn't being judged. I had taken GED classes at other places but could never succeed.

Low-income women
face depression rates up to four times
higher than the general population. This
crisis intensifies when combined with
domestic abuse. With your help, Oasis
supports women as they rebuild their
lives and care for their children.

"This place," she says with certainty, "changed my life."

You gave Carol a chance to earn her diploma and move forward. And you changed her children's future: They have been returned to her, and today she is working hard to support them. Thank you.

A Message from Executive Director Jennifer Brady

Dear Friend of Oasis,

Your generosity opens doors and restores human dignity.

Edie, Leo, and Carol, whose stories you read here, have all struggled with seemingly insurmountable challenges. The difficulties they have faced are the same difficulties the women and children of Oasis struggle to surmount every day. Mental health issues, lack of education and housing are routine challenges, all compounded by, and often caused by, financial instability.

A hot meal, free classes, and emotional support don't just answer basic human needs. They offer human dignity to people who too often feel invisible and disrespected.

It's been a difficult start to the new year. The women and children Oasis serves fear for their families. Oasis itself is threatened with a loss of government funding.

Through it all, you—friends of Oasis—have remained steadfast.

I am profoundly grateful for your generosity.

With deepest gratitude,



Jennifer Brady
Executive Director

Your Compassion at Work: A Safe Haven for Edie



Women experiencing homelessness often arrive at Oasis carrying their possessions in a plastic bag.

This is a different kind of story. Most Oasis stories are about transformation: A woman overcomes unthinkable barriers to make life better for herself and her children.

This story is not about transformation. It's a more complex story about living in poverty. It is about Edie, a 53-year-old woman experiencing homelessness, who comes to Oasis every day. **Your support has a profound impact on her life.**

Edie wakes up every day at five and goes to a nearby restaurant where the owner gives her a few dollars for cleaning. She comes to Oasis for breakfast and lunch, goes to a recovery center, and sometimes visits other nonprofits.

They treat me like a person here, at Oasis. The Oasis staff know Edie by name, and this recognition gives her dignity otherwise absent in her life. Besides two hot meals, Oasis supplies Edie with clothing; dry shoes when rain has soaked through the ones she's wearing; and food she can take with her to sustain her through the night.

Edie's life has been one of relentless trauma, reaching back to her childhood. Most of her family members struggle with addiction. She has little contact with her five adult children. Last January, her partner died, and she lost the apartment they lived in.

Oasis makes me stronger. Edie has no income. She feels lucky to have Medicaid, which gives her access to Suboxone to stay clean. Right now, Edie sleeps in the basement of a senior housing complex.

There's no neat resolution to Edie's story. It may be that her wounds run too deep. But your gifts make a real difference to Edie every day. **Your gifts ease her suffering and preserve her human dignity.** You give Edie a respite, an Oasis, from her daily struggle.

Thank you for keeping Edie safe in a world that cares little for people like her.

You Opened the Door to Leo's Dream: This is How Your Support Changes a Life



Again, again, and again the young man Leo, asked you for help. You gave him what he needed and now he's on his way to becoming a productive member of this community.

Leo first walked through the doors of Oasis three years ago, carrying a dream that seemed out of reach. Leo dreamed of a career in nursing.

At just 17, Leo was on his own, a young man with a fractured family who offered no support. Unable to complete high school through traditional channels, he earned his high school diploma at Paterson's adult school. Despite having a diploma, his English skills were weak. College was a financial impossibility for him. His dream of becoming a nurse felt distant.

Leo stumbled upon a flyer advertising Oasis's free guidance counseling for teens. **That piece of paper changed the trajectory of his life.** He came to Oasis to meet with the Oasis guidance counselor, Maria Herrera. She immediately recognized the young man's determination.

Ms. Herrera recommended he attend Oasis Saturday ESL classes to strengthen his English. For three years, Leo perfected his language skills at Oasis while supporting himself by juggling multiple jobs—as a store clerk and a mechanic. He regularly checked in with Ms. Herrera. He never stopped hoping for more.

Then came another breakthrough: Leo learned about a maintenance position at a local university. He returned to Oasis for Ms. Herrera's help with his resume. He was offered a position on the night shift. And another door opened to him: As a full-time university employee, he became eligible for tuition reimbursement.

Again, he turned to Oasis for help.

Today, Leo has submitted his application to the university's nursing program, with Ms. Herrera's guidance. A dream once seemingly impossible is now within reach.

This is what your support makes possible. Your gifts are not just funding programs—you're opening doors for people like Leo who have the determination but need the tools and guidance to break the cycle of poverty.

Thank you for transforming lives, one dream at a time.

Smart Giving Strategies

- 1 Name Oasis as a beneficiary of your IRA or 401(K). You'll avoid income taxes on this money, and more of it will go to Oasis.
- 2 Donate stocks or real estate that have increased in value. You'll get a tax deduction and avoid capital gains taxes.
- 3 Give a gift to Oasis in your will. You can make a meaningful difference while protecting your financial security.

To learn more, please contact Laetitia at laetitiacairola@oasisnj.org or 973-881-8307 ext. 105.

When Government Funding Falters: Will You Stand Up for Women and Children in Need?

While your gifts (donations from individuals) represent the bulk of Oasis's revenue, the US government contributes some 14 percent of Oasis's funding. Last year, the government provided over \$800,000 to support Oasis programs. This funding is now at risk. Without it, critical Oasis services will be lost with terrible results:

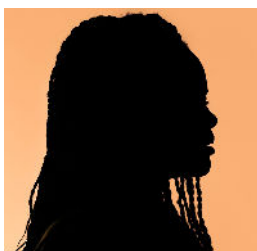
- A child struggling in an overcrowded classroom won't learn to read.
- A mother and her children will remain in an abusive home, with no path out.
- A mother who's lost her job won't be able to feed her baby.

Please give to help us close the gap.

Government cuts threaten these Oasis programs:



Women's Education



Domestic Violence
Support



Hot Meals



College Readiness



Workplace Readiness



Children's Education

URGENT: \$800,000 in government funding is at risk, threatening critical Oasis services. Please give to ensure these programs continue.

- ☐ \$50 Provides a week of after-school care for a struggling child
 - ☐ \$100 Supplies food for hot meals for 100 women and children facing hunger
 - ☐ \$500 Funds crisis counseling for a woman escaping domestic violence
 - ☐ \$1,000 Supports a month of comprehensive services for a mother and child rebuilding their lives
- My best gift _____

85% of your gift goes directly to programs. With government funding at risk, your support has never been more crucial.

You can give securely online at oasisnj.org/springnews