



The Oasis GED program serves over 50 women and men this school year. (Men participate in Saturday and evening classes.)

Your Impact: Two Women, Two Lives Transformed

Melissa left high school at 17 when her army medic mother was injured at work and couldn't pay the rent. "She says. "She went to court to fight for compensation, but you still need to eat when you're in litigation. It was just me and my mom. So, I went to work."

For years, Melissa worked, as a cashier, bartender, and in warehouses—covering the rent but barely making it. She attempted to earn a GED several times but could never afford to finish a program.

When she was laid off at the age of 34, she came to Oasis. "I was receiving just \$300 monthly in unemployment, but I hung on this time and earned my GED this past July. My mom had passed away, so I'm completely alone now."

Today, she's enrolled in trade school and an apprenticeship program. In January 2027, she'll be a certified plumber.

"I needed a GED to enter trade school. I couldn't have done it without you guys. You've helped me tremendously. I felt alone, because my mom was gone, and you helped me."

"I loved it here. God bless you."

Joyce left high school at 14, moving out of her mother's house to live with a man who was ten years her senior. "My mother didn't try to stop me."

Since leaving home, she's worked in low-paying jobs—waitressing and cashier work. She's felt people judged her because she had no diploma.

At 41, during the pandemic, she came to Oasis and earned her GED. She then found work as a preschool teacher's aide but couldn't advance beyond that level. So, she returned to Oasis and completed the Child Development Certification course.

This September, she was promoted from aide to head teacher at a preschool. She's enrolled in her first college course and, she says, "I'm now working towards a bachelor's degree."

She loves working with children—something particularly meaningful to her since she wasn't able to have her own.

"The teachers here pushed me through," she says. "I was constantly second guessing myself. They gave me the confidence I needed."

"I couldn't have done it without your help."

A Message from Executive Director Jennifer Brady

Dear Friend,

Your generosity continues to inspire me every single day.

Because of your steadfast support, women like Melissa and Joyce have found real pathways to work and independence. Both women feel they simply couldn't have achieved their goals without your support.

But your investment is not measured only by individual success stories. Your support stabilizes families and sets children up for future success. As you'll read here, you help mothers inspire a love of reading in their youngest children—bolstering their future academic success. You support a financial navigator, who provides crucial counseling to families seeking to reduce their debt and build financial stability.

The spirit of family that Gerri, our dedicated volunteer, describes exists here because of your compassion and commitment.

As we move into the holiday season, your support will be needed more than ever.

Thank you.

With my deepest gratitude,



Jennifer Brady
Executive Director

A Fire Drill Helped Her See Why Children Feel Safe at Oasis

Gerri Boland has been volunteering at Oasis for almost ten years. Today, she volunteers in the kitchen every Friday and tutors young children on Saturday mornings.

Volunteering here is an extension of who I am—a teacher,” says Gerri.



But volunteering at Oasis has changed her.

"There's something different about Oasis. I fell in love with the kids here."

An incident that occurred on a recent Saturday really made Gerri think about what Oasis means. "I was tutoring some very little kids with another volunteer and there was a fire drill.

"We could see the children were frightened and we kept telling them it was just a drill, like they have at school. We quickly got the kids out of the building, and as we exited the other volunteer started singing to the children, to make them feel safe.

"In that moment, it struck me: Children truly feel safe here. The kids I tutor tell me things. When I ask them how their school week went they'll answer honestly. They'll say, 'I didn't do well.' They're not afraid to tell me.

"There's a real spirit of family here. There's the feeling that people will take care of each other. Everyone who comes in here feels it.

Oasis is important to this community. It's a community within the community. A place where people know they belong."

*Would you like to be part
of the Oasis community?*

Serve as an Oasis Volunteer!

For more information, please contact:
Nahdira Artis, Oasis Volunteer Coordinator,
at nahdiraartis@oasisnj.org.

You're Supporting These Programs Too (And They're Amazing!)

These smaller initiatives have been changing lives for years at Oasis, although you don't often hear about them.



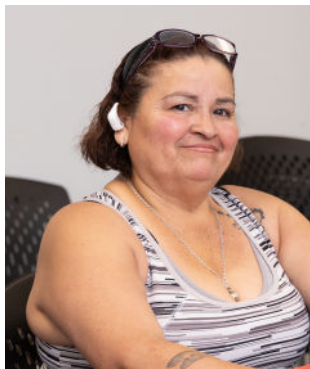
Home School Literacy Link

You support a course that teaches mothers how to help their infants, toddlers, and preschoolers develop basic literacy skills and learn the joy of reading through reading aloud, word games, storytelling, and more.



College Intern Placements

You're training the next generation of social workers: Every year, Oasis trains ten interns. Oasis social workers mentor these college students and provide them with the real-world work experience they need to graduate and become professionals.



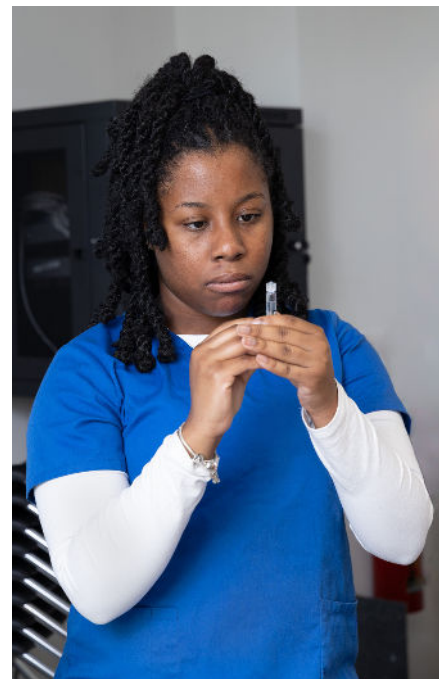
Financial Navigator

An onsite financial counselor helps women reduce family debt, learn how to create savings and build credit, and achieve financial goals and long-term stability.



Supportive Housing

You help fund temporary housing for six women and their children, families who've experienced domestic violence. While housing these women and children, you provide the moms with services they need to find employment, support their children, and rebuild their lives.



Doctors and Nurses on Site

Throughout the year, you support visits from local doctors in training (Hackensack Hospital) and nursing students (Seton Hall, Montclair State, FDU, and more) who provide women with flu shots, blood pressure screening, breast cancer information and nutrition workshops, and more.

*These programs,
which you make
possible, are run in
collaboration with
Oasis's 50 valued
partner organizations.*

From \$224 to \$11 Each Month:

Will you help a woman who can't afford to eat dinner?

An elderly woman—we'll call her Martha—finished her lunch and sat quietly in the Oasis dining room, watching the clock.

At 12:45, the word spread: There was enough food left for seconds. Martha raised her hand for another serving.

When the volunteer approached her with a plate of hot food, Martha pulled a plastic container from her bag. She thanked the volunteer and scooped the meal into her container.

Martha's food stamps have been slashed from \$224 to \$11 per month. **She can no longer afford to eat dinner.**



The seconds she received meant she would eat that night.

Oasis clients are losing crucial government benefits—financial support they need to buy food.

You can help fill the gap. You can make sure that Martha, and others like her, don't go hungry.

Your gift will help purchase food for the Oasis Soup Kitchen and pantry items to fill emergency food bags for women and children who are at risk of hunger.

Donate today to provide emergency hot meals and food assistance to seniors and other women and children facing benefit cuts.

YES! I will make sure that Martha and women like her don't go hungry. And I'll help support Oasis's critical antipoverty services.

- ☐ \$40 will purchase the food for one month of meals for Martha
- ☐ \$80 will purchase the food for two months of meals for Martha
- ☐ \$120 will purchase the food for three months—a daily hot meal until the new year
- ☐ \$480 will purchase meals for Martha for one year
- ☐ \$_____ My best gift to help as many women and children as possible

You can give securely online at oasisnj.org/fall

You can give by check to Oasis – A Haven for Women and Children.

You can give a gift of stocks or through a Donor Advised Fund at oasisnj.org/givebetter