

Women and Children Rising

2024/2025 Annual Report



Dear Friend,

As I write this, I feel overwhelming gratitude for the love and support you've shown for the women and children of Oasis over this past year.

You have changed countless lives.

2024/2025 was a difficult year for the community Oasis serves. Rising costs, decreased government benefits, and political uncertainties strained families already struggling to make ends meet.

You—Oasis donors, volunteers, and partners—responded. You provided the resources needed to carry out the Oasis mission: To help women and children secure their basic human needs *and* to provide them with opportunities for education.

Highlights of the year include the growth of a retail internship program and other job

training programs for women; expanded Saturday courses reaching over 400 men, women, and children; and new systems to measure program effectiveness. These initiatives ultimately provide more women and children with greater access to both basic needs and opportunity.

The future looks bright with several new initiatives outlined in these pages—each made possible by supporters like you.

Nothing is possible without your loyal support. I am forever grateful.

Jennifer Brady
Executive Director



2024/2025 Highlights

Youth Impact

80 teens
received college
counseling;
40 enrolled in college

734 children
participated in
out-of-school
programs

128 children
received 200+ hours of
after-school academic
support

Economic Empowerment

23 adults
became US citizens

767 adults
participated in
education programs

53 women
received one-on-one
job counseling

Family Support

1,582 women
served by
social workers

86,000 hot meals
served

7,500 food bags
distributed (3-day
supply for families)

Community Development

900 supporters
volunteered their
service

**447 parents
and children**
participated in Saturday
educational programs

\$57,000 in Thrift Store
revenue directed to
programs

Measuring What Matters

I really don't have words to thank you enough... Oasis is a place of help and support. It provides us the strength to continue to move forward.

In 2024-2025, Oasis launched a program evaluation initiative, surveying over 500 women and children to better measure program effectiveness.

The results were overwhelmingly positive:

- **96-99% of participants** reported high satisfaction and believe Oasis is improving their lives
- **94-96%** of women feel happier, more connected, and more hopeful about their futures thanks to Oasis
- **90-99%** of women in the Oasis soup kitchen feel nourished and less stressed about food security
- **100%** of parents believe the After-School Academy provides a safe environment where children thrive academically.

Thanks to this program, my children perform well at school...Thank you for that.



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.

What's Next: Opportunity Rising

A MAJOR MILESTONE: Oasis has purchased a building across the street! We'll use the space for workforce training programs that help women build better futures. We're planning programs with corporate partners and colleges.



NURTURING THE NEXT GENERATION: We'll establish two home-based family childcare centers within our supportive housing program—giving nurturing care for children whose mothers are working to rebuild their lives.



CHARTING THE COURSE: As our current strategic plan reaches completion in June 2026, we're creating a new three-year roadmap to deepen our impact. Stay tuned!



Improving the Wellbeing of Our Youth



I first came to Oasis because some of my friends recommended it. I didn't have high hopes. But when I came in here.... Right away, I felt like I was at home. Even better because home isn't always the best place to be.

My dad died last year, and I stopped going to school. I was losing my way. But then when I came here in the afternoon, they would ask me if I was going to school, and I said no, I could see that they were genuinely concerned about me. But I didn't feel judged. I felt comforted.

I've changed a lot since coming to Oasis. My grades are higher. My attendance is better. I'm not skipping school so much. People say my entire vibe is different. The way I talk to people is different... Now I have all my friends here.

Next year, I'll finish my senior year. I wanted to drop out of school. Now I'm not going to drop out. I want to go to trade school.

Challenge

Paterson's teens face complex challenges that undermine their mental health: Unstable housing, food insecurity, and early trauma increase the risk of depression and anxiety, which 50% of local teens experience. Few services exist for youth needing psychosocial support, leaving them vulnerable during a critical life stage.

Response

Oasis offers youth a safe, healing-centered space where they receive intensive support from youth social workers. Teens participate in a range of activities including art therapy, tutoring, field trips, and college tours. Weekly workshops reinforce healthy relationships, financial literacy, college readiness, and more. The Oasis Teen program offers youth the support they need to steer clear of high-risk behaviors and forge a better future.

Program Features

College Guidance

College Tours

After-School Programming

Field Trips

Mentoring

Counseling

Life Skills Workshops

Tutoring

Scholarship Assistance

First Jobs

Empowering Women Through Work



I came to Oasis six years ago. I spoke very little English. I have two children and we lived with my husband who was violent.

I took English classes at Oasis—I passed through all four levels. And with this English, I could go to the courts. I got protection for me and my two children.

When my English was strong enough, I took the Oasis citizenship class. I became a U.S. citizen. My citizenship was very important—after this, I found work as a home health aide. I work every day.

This September, I came back to Oasis. I joined the Retail Internship Program. I want to get more experience, to make my resume better, so I can get more work.

My children are part of Oasis. My son goes to the after-school program here. My daughter is in nursing school at Rutgers. Oasis helped her to apply to college and now she's almost finished.

I love Oasis.

Challenge

Unemployment rates are high in Paterson, and they are highest among women of color. Women struggling to find steady wage work face many barriers: limited formal education, restrictive childcare responsibilities, and an uneven work history. These women need help preparing to enter the workforce and finding employment.

Response

Oasis helps low-income women find pathways to employment through a myriad of services: individualized job counseling, basic computer training, business English classes, internships, and more. Women seeking services first meet with the Oasis Job Specialist, who tailors her approach to meet the individual woman's needs. By meeting each woman where she is, Oasis helps women move from unemployment and under-employment to sustainable work.

Program Features

Retail Internships

Food Safety Certification Courses

Childcare Certification Courses

Computer Training

Business English Courses

Individual Job Counseling

Career Readiness Workshops

GED Test Prep Courses

Responding to Rising Hunger



I have three children ages 8, 6, and 4. I have been coming to Oasis for two years to learn English, to get a job.

Food prices are too high.

Sometimes, we don't have enough money. It's very bad on the weeks my husband can't find work. Then, we don't have enough to buy food.

So I go to different food programs around the city. But it can be hard. Sometimes you need paperwork, or you need to register. I signed up for one food bank in November, and they couldn't give me an appointment until February. I can't get food until then.

But even the food programs can't help me with my son. My middle son has autism, and he can only eat certain foods. He needs gluten free food, and I have to buy foods that are organic. The food for him is really expensive. This makes it harder.

This is why Oasis helps me so much. At Oasis, I can get a bag of food when we need it.

I am so thankful for Oasis.

Challenge

This past year saw a sharp rise in the number of families experiencing hunger across America, and low-income families have been severely impacted. With high food costs, reduced governmental aid, and recent SNAP cuts, too many women and children in Paterson go hungry. Mothers skip meals and are forced to rely on cheap junk food to feed their children.

Response

Oasis serves a nutritious breakfast and lunch, free to women and children every weekday and on Saturdays. Children and teens receive a hot dinner after school and snacks to take home. Oasis summer campers are fed breakfast and lunch. Families in urgent need are provided with bags full of groceries. Oasis regularly distributes bread and other foods donated by local merchants and other supporters.

Program Features

Daily Hot Breakfast & Lunch

Emergency Food Bags

Hot Dinner for Children and Teens
After School

Thanksgiving Turkeys & Fixings
Holiday Meals

2024/2025 Financials

85 %

of donations go directly
to program support

\$901,163

gifts-in-kind donated
and distributed



4/4

rating from
Charity Navigator—
the highest score possible

Expenditures

Adult Education	\$ 1,220,977
Meal Programs	\$ 884,826
Social Services	\$ 1,384,516
Youth Programs	\$2,430,915
Mngmt/Fundraising	\$1,009,844
Total Expenses	\$6,931,078



18% Adult Education
13% Meal Programs
20% Social Services
35% Youth Programs
14% Mangmt/Fundraising

Revenue

Donations/Grants	\$3,621,964
Events	\$1,956,246
Interest/Other	\$558,798
In-Kind	\$901,163
Total Revenue	\$7,038,171



51% Donations/Grants
28% Events
8% Interest/Other
13% In-Kind

Revenue Sources

Individuals	\$1,421,722
Foundations	\$2,656,606
Corporations	\$1,079,915
Government	\$712,187



25% Individuals
45% Foundations
18% Corporations
12% Government

To our partners, volunteers,
donors, and all supporters:

Thank you.

None of this is possible
without your support.



You can help women and children rise even higher.

Make a cash gift at **oasisnj.org/donate**.

Have you considered a gift in your will?

Learn about planned giving at **oasisnj.org/givebetter**.

