

## Oasis Doors Re-Open to Onsite Learning Your Gifts Give Hope to Hundreds of Women and Children

On Monday, September 13, Oasis relaunched all classes and programs onsite. With big smiles and great hope, hundreds of women and children came through the Oasis doors, eager to reconnect and move forward with their education.

This could not have happened without you.

Since March of 2020, we've been oscillating between onsite and remote learning and serving grab-and-go meals, as COVID has flared and waned.

As this school year starts, the dining room is open so women and children can share their meals onsite. Hundreds of women are enrolled in onsite classes to learn English, complete their high school diploma, and learn computer and job skills. Many more children and teens are enrolled in Oasis after-school programs.

All this in a building enlarged by the recent (nearly complete!) expansion project. Thank you for your investment in this community.



Thanks to you, Adam's mom can attend ESL classes while he plays in the newly expanded nurturing center.

## Changing a Life One Woman at a Time

Laverne has an open spirit and radiates a quiet kind of happiness. Her life today is a testament to her strength and resilience.

Laverne's mother left early in her life. Her father did his best to raise her but he lost their home while she was a young teenager. She was homeless throughout her teen years.

"I was living from pillar to post," she says. "With nowhere to sleep each night, I couldn't keep up in high school." She dropped out.

The Oasis relaunch offers her a chance to restart her life. Laverne is pursuing her high school diploma so she can enroll in nursing school.

Nowadays, other than singing in her church choir, Laverne's only focus now is completing the GED.

Her determination and your support are what make her journey possible. She is incredibly grateful.



The GED program you support provides Laverne a path to success.

## From the Director

Dear Friend,

I'd like to share with you some of the joy I'm feeling as the school year gets underway!



Your support has been overwhelming and your gifts have launched another school year full of hope for women and children in this community.

We've re-opened with an expanded childcare room, a wellness center, and a rooftop garden. The fourth floor addition will be complete in time for the holidays.

This building expansion has been funded by you, our donors. This expanded space means that 2,500 more women and children will benefit from programs and services that help them rise out of poverty in the coming year, and in years to come.

Even as this pandemic wears on, Oasis is moving forward, offering food, education, clothing, and support to impoverished families seeking a better future.

Nothing is possible without you.

In gratitude,

*Jennifer Brady*

Jennifer Brady  
Executive Director

## "Oasis Saved Me" From Tutor to EMT



Shareek is an important role model for the Oasis after-school students. With donor support, he is pursuing his dream of becoming an EMT.

Nineteen-year-old Shareek graduated from Paterson's JFK high school in 2020, overcoming many challenges. His dream was to become an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). He had no one to help him achieve his goal and no way of funding the training.

But now, Shareek has Oasis by his side.

Shareek started with Oasis as a volunteer in the After-School Academy. "I'm good with kids because I was always the babysitter in my house. I babysat my cousins—and everyone."

He later became an Oasis tutor and camp counselor. He now assists with maintenance and operations.

"I can honestly say Oasis saved me from becoming a bad person," he says. "Let's just say I had options: I could come to Oasis to work from 3 to 6, or I could chill with my friends. And my friends weren't always the best people."

"I can be myself at Oasis."

Shareek is on his way to greater things. With financial help from Oasis donors, he'll begin EMT training in January.

By the coming June, Shareek will be an EMT, serving his community. Passing it forward.

Life has presented Shareek with many obstacles. He continues to smile, work hard, and overcome.

Thank you, donors, for helping a gifted young man move forward in life.

**For the sixth consecutive year, Oasis has been awarded a coveted 4-star rating from Charity Navigator. This is the highest possible rating, indicating Oasis' financial accountability and transparency.**



# The Thrift Store Opens!

## "The Nest" Offers Women a Path out of Poverty

**It starts with you:** You donate gently used clothing to Oasis.

This clothing is sold at thrift-store prices to local families, who shop for their clothing needs with dignity.

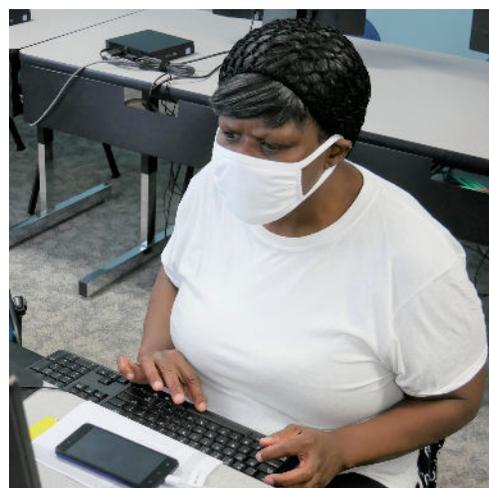
Revenue from clothing sales funds the Oasis Jobs Program.

Through the Jobs Program, motivated women earn money as paid interns at The Nest.

With the support of the Jobs Program, the interns learn real-world job skills.

They move on to real-world employment.

With employment, these women improve their own lives and the lives of their children, with real potential to break the cycle of poverty.



**The Oasis Thrift Store, The Nest, opens in late October:  
Tuesday through Saturday  
10:00 am until 4:00 pm**

**Donations of clean, gently used, in-season clothing  
for women and children  
can be brought to Oasis at  
59 Mill St., Paterson, NJ  
Monday through Friday  
8:00 am until 11:00 am and  
1:00 pm until 3:00 pm**

**Please bring your donations to  
the Oasis reception desk in the front  
of the building.**

**(Please do not leave clothing at the front door.)**

Find us online at [oasisnj.org](http://oasisnj.org)

# When Summer Camp Leads a Family to Safety

## Your Support Truly Changes Lives

*Below is an email about this year's summer camp, sent from an Oasis staff member to Jennifer Brady.*

This summer felt so different. We had children who had lost parents, teachers, and other family members due to COVID. We had families trying to recuperate from COVID's impact.

Many of our students came to camp without the proper attire. The parents came asking for information about rental assistance and later, for help with getting school uniforms.

I'll never forget Jamie. His mom had been struggling with domestic violence for several years. Things became more difficult financially for her this past year, and she needed her husband's help with the rent. (He is her abuser.)

He refused to give her money unless she allowed him back into the house, so she let him stay. Jamie and his siblings saw a lot of fighting.

For Jamie, the summer program was a time to play safely and be a child. He said it was his best summer ever. He said he'd always remember walking across the Great Falls Bridge with his friends.

For Jamie's mom, the summer was a time to organize her affairs and work out a safe exit plan.

On the last day of camp, mom thanked me. She told me she was moving the children out of



Oasis campers, like Jaime, visited the Paterson Falls. The programs you fund quite literally change the lives of the children and families served.

state where they'd all be safe. I helped her with her transfer documents and provided her a few items for the children. She was so grateful.

The mom could not emphasize enough how much being at camp had helped Jamie. And how much camp had helped her.

I feel so blessed that I could be part of helping this family.

I thank anyone who supports Oasis programs because these are programs that truly change lives.

And there are so many families in need.

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### Will you help a family like Jaime's, who lives with violence, instability, and poverty?

**Yes, I will help! Please use my gift to provide life-changing services and support all the work of Oasis. I am enclosing:**

\$50     \$100     \$250     \$500     \$750     \$1,000     \$\_\_\_My best gift

You can pay by check or credit card using the enclosed envelope. Or you can give securely online at [oasisnj.org/fall](http://oasisnj.org/fall).

Checks payable to Oasis — A Haven for Women and Children

Oasis — A Haven for Women and Children  
59 Mill St / Paterson NJ / 07501  
(973) 881-8307