

## Oasis Celebrates!

### Oasis Donors Create a Holiday Wonderland at 59 Mill St.



Danilo shows off the presents he picked out for his family at the Cath McDonough Holiday Shop.



Anyella smiles with her new jewelry making kit at a Christmas party hosted by Kohler Distributing Co.

The holidays can be a time of terrible anxiety for those who struggle to pay for food, rent, and utilities. Who wants to tell their children they can't afford to buy presents? Or serve a holiday meal? Or buy warm winter clothing?

Oasis donors made sure that all Oasis women and children had good food to eat, gifts to give, warm clothing to wear, and parties to attend!

On November 22, one generous donor served 160 Oasis after-school students and their families a catered Thanksgiving meal and then gave each family a turkey and all the fixings.

The next day, 673 low-income women (with their babies) feasted on a Thanksgiving dinner, and each guest received a turkey and fixings as she left the dining room (all freely given by Oasis donors).

On December 5, after-school students "shopped" for gifts at the Cath McDonough Holiday Shop, where volunteers set up a gift shop in the Oasis dining room, and the children choose items (which volunteers beautifully wrap) to take home as Christmas gifts for beloved family members.

Later in December the children sang carols at the In the Spotlight Dance Studio's holiday performance, participated in "Miss Jolene's" singing activity, and enjoyed Christmas parties hosted by the Sheriff's Department, Quest, Kohler, and the Market Basket. Each and every Oasis after-school child received Christmas presents.

In late December, volunteers created a toy store in our largest classroom. Donated toys were stacked on and below tables—toys were everywhere! Oasis adult students and community women were invited to choose gifts to take home and wrap for their children. Thousands of presents were given—for children who otherwise might have no gifts. Given by Oasis donors. Given free of charge.

The holiday finale was the annual Oasis Holiday Brunch, a beautiful hot meal donated by the Market Basket that Oasis volunteers served to 431 impoverished families seeking solace, friendship, support, and joy at the holidays.

Those are the gifts they received, thanks to you—our very generous donors.

## A Message from Executive Director Jennifer Brady

This holiday season was a time of great joy at Oasis thanks to the overwhelming generosity of our donors.

From late November until the end of December, volunteers, donors, and Oasis supporters filled our halls and classrooms with gifts, food, clothing, and their love to share with those in need.

Each woman and child you touched this season felt the holiday joy.

Thank you donors, for making the holidays truly "the most wonderful time of the year."

We wish you and your families a very happy new year and we look forward to sharing more joy with you in the year ahead!

In gratitude,

Jennifer Brady  
Executive Director



Erin, her husband, and her children load the car with gifts to be delivered.

A major focus for me—and what so many others want—is to get our own kids thinking about how they can help others.

## Oasis Donor Gives Sweet Dreams and Stories

This December, Erin Christman, Wyckoff mother of three, donated 300 unique gifts to Oasis women and children: a set of pajamas and a book, wrapped together in beautiful paper and tied with a bow.

This giving project, which she calls "Sweet Dreams and Stories," is in its fifth year and growing. "I got the idea," she says, "while I was buying books so I could read to my kids. I realized that this—reading to a child—is such a wonderful way of expressing love. I wanted to share it with others."

The first year, Erin reached out to friends and family, and together they gave book and pajama sets to all 60 children babies and toddlers in the Oasis childcare center.

Since then, the project has grown. This year, she partnered with the Lady Savant Foundation and the Wyckoff Reformed Church, and together they gave gifts to Oasis babies and toddlers, their mothers, and to all the 124 elementary-age children and the 60 teens participating in Oasis after-school programs.

Erin has already begun to plan for next year.

Each year, Erin takes her own children to shop for the gifts and takes them out of school to deliver them. On delivery day, the family serves lunch in the soup kitchen (and funds a "Lunches with Love").

The first time Erin and her children served lunch, the Oasis client leading the meal prayer prayed for Erin's family. "I was so moved to think that women struggling with poverty, with so many of their own problems, would pray for me and my kids. I am moved to think of it, even now."

We are moved by Erin's gifts and by the generosity of Oasis donors.

## Where Are They Now?

### Just a Few of our Many Alumnae Success Stories



#### Janielle | Class of 2013

Janielle earned her high school diploma at Oasis in 2013. Afterwards, she enrolled at Rutgers University-Newark where she earned her undergraduate degree. Today, she is working to complete a Masters of Social Work. She hopes to mend broken families and help end intergenerational poverty.

#### Rosemary | Class of 2014

Rosemary earned her high school diploma at Oasis in 2014. Upon graduation, she completed a program with The United Brotherhood of Carpenters and works full-time as a certified carpenter. She is also currently working toward an associates degree in education and plans to teach carpentry.



#### Suad | Class of 2015

Suad earned her high school diploma at Oasis in 2015. A mother of eight, she chose to explore her passion for cooking after graduation. She enrolled in culinary school at Eva's Village and now works as a chef at a restaurant in Jersey City.

#### Susan | Class of 2019

Susan earned her high school diploma at Oasis in 2019. Her caring nature led her to pursue a career in the medical field. She has recently completed the course required to become a Patient Care Technician and is now seeking work in a hospital.



#### Night at the Races Beefsteak Dinner

Join us for a night of virtual horse racing, great tricky-tray prizes, and a delicious beefsteak dinner!

February 6, 2020, at 6:00pm  
The Brownstone  
351 W Broadway  
Paterson, NJ



Visit [www.oasisnj.org/events](http://www.oasisnj.org/events) to learn more!

### Save the dates!

#### 24th Annual Gala of Hope

Enjoy a magical night honoring the Stadler Family for their transformational support of Oasis.

April 3, 2020, at 6:00pm  
The Venetian  
546 River Dr, Garfield, NJ

CHANGING LIVES, ONE WOMAN AND CHILD AT A TIME.

**Thanks to all who made our holiday season bright!**



Oasis social worker, Jennie, poses with new coats donated by Burlington Coat Factory.



Kohler Distributing Co. brings presents for every child in our after-school program.



The regional manager of TD Bank brought toys collected by local branches.



Employees from State Farm drop off Thanksgiving food donations.



Volunteers Leonela & Ali distribute bags of fixings for a Thanksgiving meal.



The Fields family collected toys in lieu of presents for their daughter Natalie's first birthday.



UPS employees distributed hundreds of turkeys at our Thanksgiving luncheon.



Seeger Weiss LLP brought toys and made gingerbread houses with our after-school kids.



Our kids picked out presents for their families at the Cath McDonough Holiday Shop.

## Poverty Doesn't Take a Vacation

Oasis needs your support every day, every week, and every month of the year.

Become a monthly donor and help keep our doors open all year long.

Here is what your monthly contribution can do over just one year:

- \$15 a month=10 weeks of childcare for an infant or toddler whose mom is in class.
- \$25 a month=4 weeks of intensive after-school tutoring for an impoverished child.
- \$50=12 weeks of after-school college prep activities for an at-risk teen.
- \$100=8 weeks of summer camp for an inner-city child.



**Give Monthly at [OasisNJ.org/Monthly](http://OasisNJ.org/Monthly)**