



From Foster Care to College Because of Your Support



Garcy, Oasis Teen Boys Program Assistant Coordinator, is grateful for the warmth and support he's received at Oasis.

Garcy grew up in a series of households.

"I was nine and a half when I entered the foster care system," he says. "My father was gone suddenly, leaving my older sister and me alone...I moved from home to home. Sometimes I was at a place for five months, sometimes four, sometimes just one month. I lived in Georgia and Pennsylvania."

At first, Garcy and his sister believed their father had abandoned them. Only two years ago, after they learned of his death, did they understand that he had been deported.

Through the years and the cycle of foster homes, Garcy was supported by CASA, an organization that serves children in foster care.

And he always found warmth and kindness at Oasis.

"I started coming here to volunteer with my sister when I was twelve," he says. At Oasis, Garcy washed dining room chairs and helped in maintenance. He found friends and protectors. Wanda (Oasis gift-in-kind coordinator) gave him dinner and food to take home when his foster families left him hungry. She gave him clothing the families often didn't provide.

"Wanda and Jennie (Oasis social worker) are like mothers to me."

Throughout his childhood, Garcy fought to be placed near his older sister. At seventeen, "They tried to send me to New York, but I didn't want to go." Despite the threat of homelessness, he chose to leave foster care to stay close to his sister in Paterson.

He was hired as an Oasis after-school tutor. He's now risen to the position of Assistant Coordinator.

Through the years and a seemingly endless cycle of strangers' homes, Garcy has been part of the Oasis community.

"I've always loved coming to Oasis. People here have given me food, clothing, things I need but could never afford.

"I've known the people at Oasis longer than anyone else my whole life. Except for my sister."

Garcy is an amazingly resilient young man. He's smart. He's a student at Passaic County Community College and plans to complete his associate's degree by next May.

"I want to do something to help the community," he says.

By supporting Oasis, you've given this admirable young man a community helping him move forward into adulthood. We know he will repay your gifts tenfold.

Thank you for supporting Garcy and so many other teenagers at Oasis.

A Message from Executive Director Jennifer Brady

Dear Friend,

Your gifts support low-income children from cradle to college!

First, we care for infants and toddlers while their moms attend classes.

The Oasis After-School Academy reaches 129 low-income children from kindergarten through seventh grade. In eighth grade, these kids can enter the Oasis teen program.

A professional staff of teachers, tutors, a guidance counselor, and two certified social workers guide Oasis children from elementary school into college and careers.

Oasis provides teenagers graduating from the program with jobs as tutors and program staff, keeping these teens engaged and supported into adulthood.

You give children born into impoverished families the opportunity to become successful, productive, and well-adjusted citizens.

You are changing lives and changing the future.

Thank you for your gifts.

In gratitude,



Jennifer Brady
Executive Director

Because You Care about Teens Oasis Gives Teens Guidance:

Yariel has been accepted to a trade school to become a plumber. But he dreams of pursuing fashion design. He's now applied to a two-year design program at Bergen Community College and has begun to attend the Oasis Saturday sewing classes. This young man has options because you support a Guidance Counselor at Oasis. What will the future bring for Yariel: Will he be a craftsman or a designer?



Anthony knows a career in information technology (IT) is his ticket to a secure future. He has been accepted to a program at Lincoln Tech, but the price is high. He's now applied to Passaic County Community College and plans to complete an associate's degree in information technology there, leaving him with little debt. Because of your support of the Oasis Guidance Counselor, Anthony has found a path to becoming an IT professional.

Claudia has been with Oasis since she was six years old. She's a powerful young woman who has helped her mom care for her three younger brothers throughout childhood. Claudia is determined to become something more than a mother to her brothers: She dreams of becoming a psychologist. Working with our guidance counselor, Claudia is now choosing between six four-year college acceptances.



By Supporting the Oasis After-School Academy:



The fourth-grade students love being part of this program! Thank you.

You help children left behind.

When Liana entered the fourth grade, she couldn't read, even at a kindergarten level. "Liana was hiding and pretending when the year began," says her Oasis teacher, Miss Dana. "When the class read silently, she held a book and pretended to read. She was ashamed and embarrassed."

Liana has been working with the Oasis reading specialist, and individually with Miss Dana, using flashcards and phonics worksheets.

Today, she's reading at a solid kindergarten level and advancing fast. "I've tried to build her confidence," says Miss Dana. "She's not hiding anymore."

Children who don't learn to read early are at high risk for school failure. Your gifts are life-changing for children left behind.



With your support, Jeremiah has matured emotionally this year.

You help kids overcome trauma.

Twelve-year-old Sara has already experienced a lifetime of trauma. Soon after she lost her mother to drugs, her father abandoned her. She then went to live with her elderly grandmother and uncle. Recently, her uncle committed suicide, leaving them without support.

At Oasis, Sara's teacher spends time with her and is present for her in ways others have not been.

The presence of a stable, caring adult—like Sara's Oasis teacher— is the most critical factor in helping children with trauma. Your gifts help fragile children like Sara heal and build resilience so they can succeed.



Your gifts give children individual attention.

You help kids develop character.

Jeremiah exhibited behavior problems when he entered fifth grade. But this year at Oasis has changed him.

Jeremiah's teacher asked him to help a new classmate who had arrived speaking no English, and Jeremiah stepped up to the task. He embraced the new boy and became his translator. Jeremiah took his new role seriously, and his teacher came to rely upon him. Jeremiah even helped other students become more serious as well.

"This experience has shifted something in Jeremiah," says his teacher. "His behavior has improved and he's more responsible. He's a different boy."

You support programs that teach children social skills and help them develop morally and emotionally.

Will You Help a Child After School?



After-school programs are invaluable to low-income children like Sara, Garcy, Liana, and many others. Yet affordable, high-quality programs aren't widely available in Paterson.

That's why your support of Oasis youth programs is so important. You support 129 elementary-age children, 50 teenagers, and many after-school youth tutors and program assistants. **Without your help, these children:**

- are likely to be left unsupervised and at risk of getting involved in drugs, gangs, and premature sexual activity.
- won't benefit from enrichment activities such as art and STEM wealthier families can afford.
- are unlikely to get the homework help they need, leaving them at risk of school failure.
- might go to bed hungry, without dinner.

Your support helps shape the next generation. Please give.

 YES, I'll help keep a child or teenager safe after school, and give them a hot meal, homework help, and the care of loving adults. And, I'll support all the vital antipoverty programs Oasis provides to women and children in need.

- \$50 help care for a child for one week.
- \$100 help care for a child for two weeks.
- \$200 help care for a child for one month.
- \$997 help care for a child for one semester.
- \$1,995 help care for a child for one school year.
- My best gift: _____

3 Smart Giving Tips!

Smart tip #1

You can leave a legacy and change the future by giving a gift in your will or a charitable gift annuity.

Smart tip #2

Naming Oasis as a beneficiary for part of your IRA or 401(K) is a smart way to give because it avoids paying income taxes on this money.

Smart tip #3

Giving appreciated assets like stocks and real estate can create a double tax benefit: Tax deduction + Avoidance of capital gains tax.

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the
Date**

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