



She Slept on the Floor Until You Gave Her a Bed



As food prices soar, increasing numbers of elderly women, like the client above, rely on Oasis' hot breakfast and lunch. Your contributions mean that vulnerable seniors get a daily hot meal and a place where they feel welcome.

Dolores is one of many elderly women who come to Oasis daily for a meal. Seventy-eight years old, she was abused emotionally and financially by her adult daughter, with whom she lived.

During the pandemic, Dolores's daughter stole her government pandemic check. When Dolores learned her check had been stolen, and after years of abuse, she realized she needed to find safety outside her daughter's home. She turned to Oasis.

Oasis social workers welcomed Dolores into the domestic violence survivors group, where she found support as a survivor. The social work team helped her find a job in a local laundromat, set up a bank account (she had never before had one), and locate a small studio apartment to rent.

Dolores moved into an empty apartment and slept on the floor at first. The Oasis team equipped her with basic furnishings: a new mattress, chairs, a small table, and a coffee pot (all given by donors like you).

While elder abuse occurs within every stratum of society, low-income women with low education levels who depend on family are most vulnerable to such abuse.

Physically abused as a young mother and later abandoned by her husband, Dolores had endured her daughter's abuse for years. Like so many women do, she hid the problem out of shame, fear, and an acceptance of exploitation—Dolores had suffered violence throughout her marriage.

Today, Dolores is living safely in her home for the first time. The Oasis team is helping her search for a better job. They've helped her apply for charity health care. They've even reached out to her daughter seeking reconciliation.

Dolores has no other kin in the area. Without Oasis—and your support—she'd be aging in poverty and isolation. Instead, she has found kindness and community at Oasis.

Thank you for supporting the most vulnerable among us.

A Message from Executive Director Jennifer Brady

Dear Friend,

I've been overwhelmed by your love and generosity throughout this holiday season.

I wish you could have been here in December to see the children's faces as they received your gifts. I hope you can imagine their joy and excitement! Please know that your support changed the holiday season for hundreds of women and children who live in constant need.

It's just one year now since we completed the building expansion. We launched fully on-site programs (post-pandemic) this past September.

We're serving many more women and children today, many of whom come for hot meals and basic needs. Our social workers are seeing a 30% increase in walk-in clients.

The need is greater now than ever. This work is so important, and you make it possible.

I wish you and your families a wonderful new year!

In gratitude,



Jennifer Brady
Executive Director

Women and Children are Rising Because of your generosity...

Twenty-five students completed the Fall Evening GED course online. Five earned their diploma, several others passed multiple required tests, and others will return this spring to complete their GED.



The Oasis Thrift Store is now one year old! The store brought in record-breaking revenue in December by selling your donated clothing at very low prices. All store earnings are used to fund Oasis programs.

Since September, Oasis has served close to 8,000 meals each month—more hot meals than ever before. The meals you fund are a lifeline for families who can't keep up with the rising cost of food.



You Can Change the Future!

Have you considered:

- A gift in your will?
- Beneficiary Designations?
- Qualified Charitable Distributions?

For more information, please contact Laetitia at 973-881-8307 x 105 or laetitiacairolino@oasisnj.org.

Your Gifts Do More Than Just Teach Skills: Your Gifts Set Youngsters on the Right Path



Leonardo Bravo, above left, is the seventh-grade teacher in the Oasis After-School Academy. Your donations support his work as a teacher and mentor for children at risk.

Leonardo Bravo is a 22-year-old man committed to helping children in this community fulfill their potential. He leads the seventh-grade class in the Oasis After-School Academy. He is a DACA recipient.

Leo profoundly believes that children need a safe environment where outside influences—drugs, alcohol, destructive relationships—are limited. “Oasis,” he says, “offers kids this kind of environment.”

His own life-changing experience informs Leo’s beliefs. “For a while,” he says, “I led the life many of these kids think they want to lead: I was hanging with bad people, doing bad things. I put myself in a situation where I met face-to-face with someone who opened fire on me. The bullet grazed me, but I escaped.

“This changed me. It turned me towards God.”

The children Oasis serves live in neighborhoods where disadvantage is concentrated. They are more likely to encounter drugs, violence, or gang activity in or near their homes than their wealthier peers, who are more

protected from such threats. Oasis’ children are at greater risk.

Leo understands this and mentors the children he serves. “I don’t want these kids to go down the path I was on. I want them to understand that when you get in trouble during (or after) high school, you don’t get a slap on the wrist. You get jail time.”

Leo delivers important lessons. “I did a lesson recently on budgeting. The students researched various jobs and living expenses. I wanted them to understand how hard it is for their parents who are working two or three jobs.

“I want them to think about their futures. I’ve told them about my own life and I gave them all my cell number, so they can contact me any time.”

Leo is giving Oasis children the guidance he didn’t receive in adolescence: “My father was a strong influence on me and gave me a good foundation. But he fell into alcoholism and couldn’t be there for me while I was in high school. As an adolescent, I had to learn many things on my own.

“I’ve learned not to live a life of personal indulgence. If these kids could take one lesson from me, that’s what I hope they take away.”

Your support means that children receive not just academic help. Because of you, children receive crucial moral, emotional, and social support from young adults like Leo.

Thank you.

Will You Offer a Hot Meal And Support for Those in Crisis?



Brianna wishes she had a hot plate so she could cook for her three children in their motel room.

A fire in their apartment displaced this family, and they now live in temporary housing provided by the Red Cross. They are safe today, but Brianna worries about how this crisis will impact her children.

There is a close connection between poverty and the risk of fire: Families who live in older, derelict housing with outdated wiring suffer more often from house fire. This includes many minority children, such as those Oasis serves.

Dislocation and chaos caused by such a crisis disrupt children's schooling and put their education at risk.

With your support, Oasis will be there to help.

Your gifts support Oasis staff working directly with this family. With your donations, Oasis can supply them with clothing, food bags, and hot meals and help them navigate the housing system so they can avoid homelessness.

Your gifts mean Oasis is there to ensure that these children don't lose school time because of a house fire, or any other calamity common to those who already have so little.

Hot plates and cooking are not allowed in the motel, so Brianna can't cook for the children.

Will you help a family facing crisis?

Save the Date!

The Gala of Hope
26th Annual Dinner Dance

Friday, April 21, 2023
The Venetian
Garfield, NJ

For info please contact Anthony at:
973-881-8307 x 127 or
anthonydurso@oasisnj.org
or visit oasisnj.org/gala.

YES, I will help a family in crisis and support all the vital antipoverty programs Oasis provides to women and children in need.

- \$33 can help provide 60 hot meals.
- \$66 can help provide 120 hot meals.
- \$132 can help provide 240 hot meals.
- \$264 can help provide 480 hot meals.
- \$1,056 can help provide 1,920 hot meals.
- My best gift _____

Please use the enclosed envelope or give securely online at oasisnj.org/winter. Thank you for your generosity.