



The Best is Yet to Come

2015 Annual Report Summary

Our annual report shows how new beginnings can happen at any age

From the President

A wonderful shift has taken place in what it means to retire. When we see people embracing their retirement years with excitement, it is a reminder that for many of us, the best is yet to come.

For 34 years, OASIS has helped thousands of people discover how aging can be less about limitations and more about possibilities. We are dedicated to enriching lives through lifelong learning, wellness and volunteer opportunities. This comprehensive approach promotes social engagement and healthy aging.

This summary of the 2015 annual report of The OASIS Institute offers a glimpse at how people are knocking down barriers and making new connections through OASIS across the country.



Marcia Kerz
President

From the Chairman

The efforts of dedicated volunteers are critical to solving some of today's most perplexing problems: under-resourced education and costly healthcare. We simply need more people willing and able to tackle these challenges. OASIS has a solution with potential for long-term impact.

Today OASIS touches the lives of more than 50,000 individuals, many who are generous with their time and their financial resources. We are grateful to our participants, volunteers and our wonderful donors who give year after year to ensure that OASIS is financially strong.



Matt Geekie
Chairman

See the full OASIS Institute annual report online at www.oasisnet.org/annualreport



Top-notch teachers and engaged learners are discovering together

OASIS lifelong learning classes are led by seasoned instructors who foster discussion and development of interests and skills. They provide the kind of exploration that keeps people coming back for more.

“We’re social creatures and something happens when we gather,” says Peter Bolland, a philosophy professor, writer, musician and mainstay at San Diego OASIS. Our discussions get really exciting because these students bring with them a lifetime of insight that is thrilling for me.”



“I point out personal things,” says Robert Torrez, the former New Mexico State Historian, who leads tours of national historic districts with Albuquerque OASIS. We see weaving, dyeing wool and old railroad yards.”

“So many people think of retirement as winding down, but it’s actually the beginning of a new life,” says volunteer Jerry Pruzan, who tutors and leads tours of the Supreme Court and Library of Congress for Washington Metro OASIS.



“We’ve all had some kind of experience with an attempt at fraud,” says retired economics professor Dick Waits of San Antonio, a volunteer leader for Fraud Fighters, a project to prevent scams supported by Wells Fargo Advisors.

Changing lifetime habits to manage and improve health



Emelda Harris of St. Louis has a long-term goal – to get in the best possible shape and manage her diabetes. She knows there is no quick fix. She’s making headway after participating in Better Choices, Better Health®-Diabetes, a program supported by Bristol Myers Squibb and BJC HealthCare.

“By setting weekly goals in the class I have been really successful,” she says.

“Once I started eating healthier, I began to feel better,” says Annabelle Faverson, who shares her enthusiasm with kids in the Bronx through CATCH Healthy Habits, a project nationally supported by Anthem Foundation. Getting better was a long time coming after a car accident. Where medicines did not help, a better lifestyle has.



Finding new beginnings through volunteering



“OASIS has made a new career for me,” says Wendy Davenport of Syracuse. “I always anticipated that I would do something when I retired, but it didn’t look like this!” Wendy teaches literature classes, facilitates a popular book group and serves on a team of volunteer leaders that manages key day-to-day operations at Upstate Oasis.

“Tutoring has been a way to reconnect”

says Karen Schneider. She and her sister Margie Hittle have met their match with twins in second grade who are benefiting from a high intensity model of OASIS Tutoring in Indianapolis. The program expanded with support from the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust.



“Before I retired, people asked what I planned to do,”

Tom Weaver says. “I half-jokingly said, ‘Maybe I can teach seniors about computers.’” A cancer survivor, Tom encourages students in his San Antonio OASIS Connections classes to practice their skills by sending encouraging email messages to cancer patients. The classes are supported by AT&T.

“For many, isolation starts as a matter of privacy. They think they should handle things on their own,”

says Brenda Kirkland, who facilitates Peers for Productive Aging discussions in Indianapolis. “But when we let stuff stay inside, it begins to feed on us.” The program served more than 750 people in Indianapolis during 2015 with support from Central Indiana Community Foundation Senior Fund.



“I build everything around my OASIS activities,”

says Chuck Lundeen. He is applying 10 years of experience teaching, learning and volunteering at Rochester OASIS to help others build a playbook for aging well through the Aging Mastery Program®.

“Now I can do whatever I find interesting,”

says Pat Terrell of Los Angeles, who volunteers, takes classes and keeps herself in good shape in dance classes. She is embracing the essence of the OASIS approach to healthy aging. “Some people who are retired just stay home. Then isolation and depression can set in. With OASIS, that doesn’t happen. There is always something to do.”



See the full story at oasisnet.org/annualreport



Our impact in 2015



50
cities



757
partners



6,500
volunteers



24,600
classes



28,000
adults



25,000
children



131,900
class enrollments



395,000
volunteer hours

Who makes it happen

OASIS is possible through the generous support of our donors, partners, grantors and volunteers. Major financial support was provided in 2015 by AARP Medicare Supplement Plans insured by United Healthcare Insurance Company, Administration for Community Living, Anthem Foundation, AstraZeneca HealthCare Foundation, AT&T, Baptist Health Foundation of San Antonio, Barnes Jewish Hospital Foundation, BJC HealthCare, Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation, Central Indiana Community Foundation, City of San Antonio, Crawford Taylor Foundation, CTA Foundation, Corporation for National and Community Service, Dollar General Literacy Foundation, Emerson, Episcopal Presbyterian Health Trust, Express Scripts Foundation, Dana Brown Charitable Trust, Daughters of Charity Foundation, Lifetime Care, Los Angeles Department of Aging, Macy's, the May and Stanley Smith Charitable Trust, Missouri Foundation for Health, Monroe County Office for the Aging, Monsanto Fund, National Council on Aging, Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust, San Diego County Aging and Independence Services, Solon E. Summerfield Foundation, S. Mark Taper Foundation, Upstate Medical University, WellMed Charitable Foundation and Wells Fargo Advisors.

Here's what a few of our donors have to say about why they give:

"OASIS was such a significant part of our mother's life. We want to make sure it is around for others," says Gilbert Garcia, who together with his sisters, Gina and Gilda, chose to celebrate the memory of their mother, Carmen, with a gift to San Antonio OASIS.



"I donate twice a year because I love OASIS," says Joyce Siegel, who volunteers at Washington Metro OASIS. "I see how phenomenally the programs have grown and I want the momentum to continue."

"Every time a new catalog comes out, there are new things I'd like to try," says Ricki Milne of Los Angeles. **"I started thinking about my giving to OASIS and realized through monthly giving, I could donate a little more."**



"OASIS adds a lot of good things to the community, and there are many people who need these vital programs and services," says Dick Priest. Dick and his wife Karen have left an indelible imprint in the St. Louis community with more than 30 years of combined volunteer service, and have included OASIS in their wills to ensure the work continues.

Thank you to all of our donors and supporters!

Please visit oasisnet.org/annualreport for a list of 2015 supporters and the 2015 OASIS Institute Financial Statements.