



With Oasis, growing older is all about

GROWING

OASIS FRIENDS,

Sally Coleman just wrapped up her first year as an Oasis tutor. When she discovered that Oasis also offers a wide variety of lifelong learning classes, she signed up right away.

“You have to have that ‘what’s next?’ kind of attitude,” she says. “People who are the most successful are those who are willing to try new things. Oasis is a door for me. I could be with Oasis for the rest of my life.”

Sally’s sentiments reveal a lot about how she perceives herself and the world. At 77, she’s looking ahead with hope and excitement. By volunteering and taking classes with Oasis, she meets people who share her “what’s next?” approach to life, and she inspires others to think about their own purpose.

In the nonprofit sector, we tend to focus a lot on the “populations we serve.” The number of Americans age 65 and older is projected to double to 98 million by 2060. It’s a big number, one that gets a lot more interesting and exciting if we follow Sally’s lead and start using language that shifts the narrative from problem-laden to possibility-driven.

I’m proud of the work we do to help thousands of older adults nationwide find purpose that improves the quality of their lives. The results of this work are transformational.



Warmly,
Paul Weiss, PhD
President,
The Oasis Institute

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Paul Weiss".

Oasis has always encouraged older adults to look more closely at the growing part of growing older. I’m excited to report that as a national organization, we’re poised for growth.

We’re making strategic changes that will increase the number of people who look to Oasis as a resource and source of inspiration for healthy aging. Centers across the network are forging new partnerships and seeking opportunities to reach the many older adults who have yet to discover all that we offer for them personally and for their communities.

Much of the foundation for this exciting growth is starting in St. Louis. By broadening our footprint here, we set the stage for strategies that can be modeled nationwide. Plans are well underway to expand into new Metro St. Louis communities and we’ve launched efforts to bring Oasis Tutoring to more school districts, with our sights set on rural communities where the need is great.

Watching this expansion unfold and knowing the impact we will continue to have is an important story to share with those who support Oasis. We’re grateful to the more than 6,000 volunteers nationwide who make Oasis special. And we are very thankful to our generous donors and partners, many of whom have been supporting our work year after year. Your support keeps our mission achievable. We’re growing and it’s exciting to see what’s next.

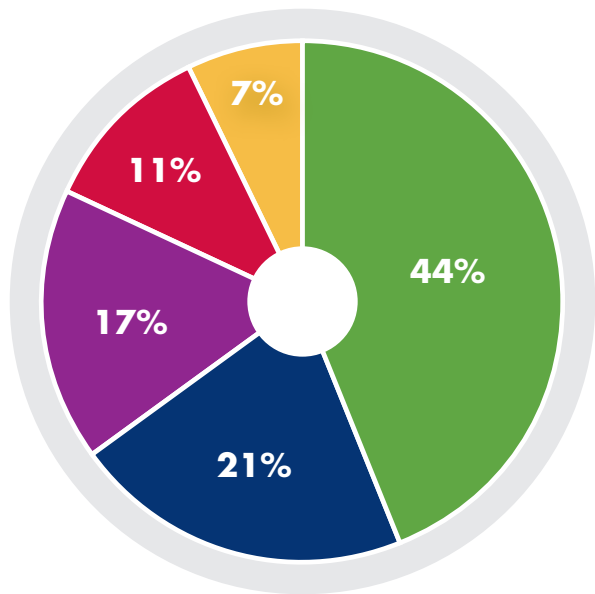


With gratitude,
Matthew W. Geekie
Chairman of the Board,
The Oasis Institute

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Matthew W. Geekie".

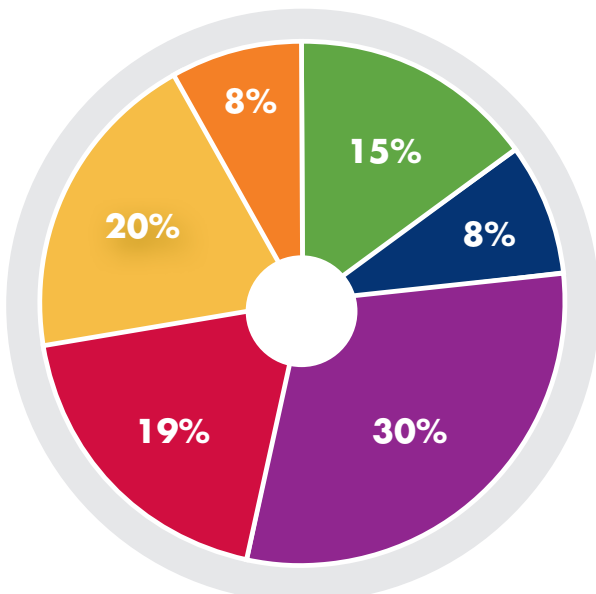
2017 Oasis Institute Statement of Activities

Support & Revenue: \$7.93 million



- Contributions & Grants
- Program Revenue
- In-kind Contributions
- Government Grants
- Other Revenue & Gains

Expenses: \$7.86 million



- Volunteer Service Programs
- Technology Literacy Programs
- Health Programs
- Education Programs
- General & Administrative
- Fundraising



Exciting changes in Los Angeles

In 2017, WISE & Healthy Aging became the sponsoring organization for Pacific Region Oasis. Programs are now offered under a new name, **Los Angeles Oasis**. WISE & Healthy Aging, a social services organization headquartered in Santa Monica, California, has been providing Los Angeles communities with high-quality, comprehensive programs for older adults for more than four decades. Welcome aboard!

See the full report at oasisnet.org/annualreport

growing through lifelong

LEARNING

■ Stimulating classes, enduring friendship



“We realized early on that we were coming to the same classes,” says **Elizabeth Stem**, who met her friend, **Becca Soutar**, by taking so many classes at **Washington Metropolitan Oasis**, in Bethesda,

Maryland. Elizabeth has taken 1,042 classes and Becca, a total of 770, since the two met nine years ago. They both love exploring history, geography, music and local politics. The two even agree on what makes the Oasis classes so special. “Our instructors bring it to life,” says Becca. “We have retired diplomats, university professors, professional musicians and artists. The classes really stimulate my thinking and keep me focused on what’s happening in the world.”

■ Time to do what interests you

“The longer you continue to learn, the healthier and more vibrant you’ll be,” says **Elinor Smith**, who teaches a class in Gentle Strength Training at **San Diego Oasis**, where she recently tried tap dancing for the first time and has also taken Spanish lessons. “Oasis has so many offerings. I love the lectures on history and opera, and the music classes. My problem is trying not to take too many classes because my plate is so full!”



■ Good health, new friendships and a fresh outlook



When a friend told **Mady Rubenstein** about the wide array of activities offered at **Upstate Oasis**, in Syracuse, New York, she couldn’t wait to check it out. That was 14 years, 521 classes and three bouts of cancer ago. She credits her survival in part to the community she found at Oasis, where she takes about three classes a week.

“Oasis has filled my life,” she says. “I like taking classes on topics I know nothing about.” Mady’s course list bears witness to a curious mind. From history about the presidents, global politics and ancient societies, to classes on travel, the science of natural disasters and classic Hollywood movies, Mady is amazed with the quality and variety of lifelong learning offerings

available through Oasis. “I am never disappointed,” she says. “I want to walk out knowing about something I would never have learned on my own.”



23,000
classes



135,000
enrollments

growing through the development of

NEW SKILLS



■ Keeping up with a fast-paced world

When she was in her 50s, **Virginia Hope** embarked on a new career in nursing. At 85, when the rooms in her home needed to be painted, she just did it herself. And at 99, she's learned how to do a number of new things on her iPhone, including texting, sharing photos with friends and family and using a ride-hailing app. To master these new skills, she turned to Oasis Connections, a digital literacy program that helps older adults improve their technology skills. "I like learning new things," she says. "The world keeps moving right along, and I just want to keep up with it."

■ Gaining tech confidence

Abrehet Yihdego was relying on family to show her how to use her iPhone, but that wasn't always convenient. She and her husband, **Haile**, learned about Connections classes at **St. Louis Oasis** from their son, and decided to give one a try. The result? She's texting and using more apps. "Taking the class helped me become more confident," she says.



■ "Wow" moments with Connections



You never know what type of adventure might happen when someone is trying to learn how to use a new technology tool. Just ask Oasis Connections instructor **Eddie Dextraze**. He comes to his classes

at the Broward County Public Library in Hollywood, Florida, prepared for just about any question his older adult students might have, but a class on Google Maps left him and the rest of the class stunned.

"I looked up and noticed this man in the class who seemed overcome with emotion," Eddie recalls. "He was a veteran of World War II and had been a prisoner of war in Germany. Thanks to learning this new technology, he was able to stand right in front of the place he'd been imprisoned, right there on the street at the front door. Everyone in the class was moved as he shared the moment with us. It was really something."



40
cities



54,000
participants

See the full stories at oasisnet.org/annualreport

growing through improved

FITNESS



■ No gym, just fun

Ed Griffith is one of three Soul Line Dance instructors at **San Diego Oasis**, where he leads packed classes of joyful dancers eager to move to R&B, jazz, Latin and gospel. His students report weight loss as well as improvements in memory and endurance. But it's the stress-relief and camaraderie that keeps them coming back. "Everyone comes and has a good time. They love being around each other and encouraging each other," says Ed.

■ Staying on your feet with Tai Chi



As a Certified Tai Ji Quan: Moving for Better Balance® instructor at **Albuquerque Oasis**, **Ilene Dunn** frequently

hears from her students about instances where they prevented a fall thanks to the balance they've built in class. "Our generation didn't grow up with the mindset of going to the gym after work," Ilene adds. "Tai Chi offers a more gentle approach that yields the same kind of health benefits."

■ The joy of movement

Non-Impact Aerobics classes at **Rochester Oasis** are a whole body approach to fitness that blends elements of dance, martial arts and yoga. Longtime instructor **Rhonda Wright** relishes the growth she sees her students enjoy. "I've seen improvements in balance, strength and flexibility," Rhonda says. "I've seen their



confidence grow as they try new moves. I've heard their laughter as we challenge ourselves. And I've seen friendships grow."

■ Strengthening the core

Former United States Navy trainer and fitness coordinator **Felicia Morales** used to help active duty personnel get back into shape to pass fitness standards. Today, she uses those skills to teach participants at **San Antonio Oasis** how to improve their strength, balance and self-confidence through a variety of fun and rewarding workouts. She joined Oasis a year ago, and one of the first classes she developed was Chair Dynamics: ABmazing Core. The popular class is chair-based and features continuous movement. "I put no limits on anyone," Felicia says. "I try to keep the routines fresh and vary it up to keep it challenging. If someone can't do a certain move, there's always a way to adapt it so that no one feels left out."



growing through engagement as a

VOLUNTEER

■ Tutor, mentor and friend



Gerald Johnson has volunteered as a tutor with **St. Louis Oasis** for five years and is committed to recruiting more men of color to

the program. “The students know they can ask me anything, and I’ll get them an answer. I become more than a reading tutor; I am also a mentor and a friend,” he says.

■ Putting something good into the world



“I love figuring out the mystery of these little people, what motivates them and what they need from me,” says **Kathleen Eicher**, a

tutor with **San Antonio Oasis**. “It seems to me that whenever we have befriended a child, increased their enthusiasm for learning or boosted the kindness quotient, we have put something good into the world.”

■ Making an impact in many ways, for many years



Scott Decker was bright, inquisitive and a mechanical whiz, but teachers and staff at Eagle Creek Elementary in Pike

Township, Indiana, agreed that one-on-one time with the right adult would benefit the second grader greatly. And they knew just the right person for the job: Oasis tutor **Jerry Swinehart**. The two tinkered with magnets, models, small projects to build or take apart and books about architecture.

“Jerry encouraged Scott and let him know that even though he was a kid, he had a lot to contribute and a lot to learn,” says Scott’s mom, Peggy. “That kept him motivated.” Scott graduated from high school in 2017 and is a student at IVY Tech in the Paramedic and EMT program. He’s still tinkering and Jerry, 81, is still tutoring with **Indianapolis Oasis**. “I’ve tutored 30 youngsters in my 16 years with Oasis,” says Jerry. “Being around young people keeps my outlook and my attitude young. It’s always special to see the impact that tutoring has had on their lives.”

Tutoring is one of many ways to volunteer with Oasis. Participants across the network also serve as volunteer instructors and provide valuable support to center operations. We thank all of our volunteers for making Oasis impactful.



664
schools



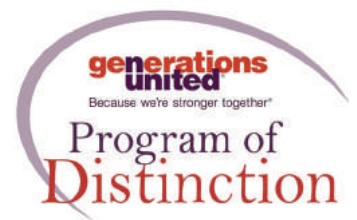
5,000
tutors



21,000
children



341,000
volunteer hours



See the full stories at oasisnet.org/annualreport

growing by generously

GIVING

■ Making a gift to Oasis can be as easy as signing up for classes



When she's not wearing her technology instructor hat, lending a hand as a volunteer on a wide variety of special projects or taking classes, **Barbara Bluiett** finds herself serving as an

ambassador for **Indianapolis Oasis**. "I have become friends with so many people along the way that I might have never met, and it has added pleasure to my life. I want others to experience that feeling, so I am always talking about Oasis wherever I go." Every time she registers for classes, Barbara takes the opportunity to make a registration gift to Oasis.

■ Giving to keep Oasis impact on the community alive and thriving



"Every time we sit down in an Oasis class, there is somebody interesting sitting next to us," says **Tom Stafford**. The classes are only part of the reason that he and his wife, **Ann**, give regularly to

Albuquerque Oasis. Although their travel schedule has kept them from becoming Oasis tutors just yet, they are committed to supporting the program that benefits not only older adults, but also children. "We feel our giving is a good way to ensure that the young people living in our community continue to get the support they need."



6,200
volunteers



700+
partners

■ Sharing the Oasis opportunity with everyone



"Learning new things is like a care package for both body and mind," says **Elinor Spring-Mills**, who has embraced the culture of lifelong learning at **Upstate Oasis** so much that she wants to ensure that

older adults with limited financial resources have the same opportunity. She established the Elinor Spring-Mills, PhD, Educational Endowment Fund. "Oasis has been a source of great happiness for me. I want others to be able to participate now and in the future."

Major financial support was provided in 2017 by the following contributors:

AARP Medicare Supplement Plans insured by United Healthcare Insurance Company, Administration for Community Living, Anthem Foundation, AT&T, Barnes Jewish Hospital Foundation, BJC HealthCare, Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Mexico, Blue Skies of Texas, CBS EcoMedia, Inc./Molina Healthcare, Central Indiana Community Foundation, Central Indiana Senior Fund, City of Los Angeles Department of Aging, City of San Antonio, Consumer Technology Association Foundation, Corporation for National and Community Service, Dollar General Literacy Foundation, Daughters of Charity Foundation, Emerson, Flanner Buchanan, Haverland Carter Lifestyle Group, Hearst Foundations, Hervey Family Foundation at TSDF, Humana Foundation, Lifetime Care, Kaiser Permanente West Los Angeles Medical Center, Macy's, May and Stanley Smith Charitable Trust, Missouri Foundation for Health, Monroe County Office for the Aging, Morningside Ministries, Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust, Parker Foundation, Retirement Research Foundation, San Antonio Area Foundation, San Diego County Aging and Independence Services, San Diego Gas & Electric, Suburban Hospital, SUNY Upstate Medical University, Thrivent Financial, WellMed Charitable Foundation, Westminster Village North, and WISE & Healthy Aging.

For a complete list of partners, visit oasisnet.org/partners.

Support Oasis in your community at oasisnet.org/donate