

REIMAGINE



AGING



2019 Annual Report

GREETINGS FROM OASIS

As we look to the future, we reflect on the past. In 2019 every Oasis center experienced expansion in one way or another—class additions, tutoring growth, physical space, new participants, new partnerships, and new opportunities. Entering 2020 with significant momentum, seeds planted in 2019 were turning into green shoots. In March, COVID-19 changed everything, and Oasis swiftly pivoted in response.

When Oasis began shifting programs from in-person to online and via phone, participants quickly made the shift with us. Rather than conforming to stereotypes of older adults being averse to new technologies and change, I saw the exact opposite—Oasis participants embraced it, and we have been inspired by their resilience.

As we navigate the “new normal” in the thick of a global pandemic, we beg the question, “what happens next?” We are compelled to reprioritize and express our mission differently to meet unanticipated needs. Experts paint an altered picture of how life-as-we-know-it will look post-pandemic. How will voluntary social distancing—or lack thereof—affect the lives of older adults? How can we protect the health of aging communities while simultaneously avoiding the adverse effects of social isolation?

Older adults are most at risk of severe complications from COVID-19. But, the dangers of loneliness are not new; our aging family members and neighbors were more likely to experience social isolation before the pandemic and will do so well after.

Let's unite and reimagine aging in a new climate with both new risks and new opportunities. Whether for yourself or an aging loved one or friend—Oasis' mission applies to all of us. Aging is inevitable. The choices we make influence HOW we age, and the Oasis community learns, expands, moves, and adapts as we grow older. Although we can't be together in person for

the time being, we hope to connect with you through our virtual programs and volunteer opportunities.

Every tomorrow is in the future, and with it a new opportunity to learn, build confidence, and grow. We at Oasis are here for you. Let's reimagine aging together.

Paul Weiss, PhD
President, Oasis Institute



EXPANDING OUR FOOTPRINT

Diane White is the manager at The Pavilion at Lemay, a partner of Oasis. She was encouraged by how effective the classes were in helping participants. **“When Oasis contacted me at The Pavilion at Lemay in 2018, I already knew I**

wanted to find a way to bring their programs and workshops to the community.”

Diane believes it is important to offer Oasis programs at The Pavilion because it supports their mission to provide high quality educational and recreational programs to enhance the lives of members and guests. **“Partnering with Oasis allows The Pavilion to offer**



classes on a wide range of subjects and interests, providing participants a way to stay socially engaged while learning at the same time.”

Brenda Cummings Smith participated with Oasis in another new location. She first learned of Oasis more than six years ago, after receiving promotional materials in the mail and hearing peers give stellar reviews of the classes. She registered for an Oasis photography class held in Crestwood. **“I was impressed with the variety of classes and events offered through Oasis,”** Brenda says. At that time, programs were not easily accessible in North St. Louis County where she lived. Although Brenda didn’t mind traveling the distance to attend classes, she thought was a deterrent to friends and family who could benefit from the programs.

At the time, Brenda was beginning her retirement journey and wanted to explore new means for self-improvement and entertainment during this phase of life. “I found that I was not alone in this quest and decided to form a group of like-minded individuals. **We became On The Move (OTM). I later contacted Oasis to see if we could have an exercise class and other activities for our group, pending an available location in North St. Louis County,”** Brenda recalls. It was not long before Oasis received a phone call from Christ Our Redeemer Church, the location she found. **After meeting with the church’s team, Oasis realized this was the perfect partner to expand programs to the North St. Louis County area. From there, a beautiful partnership formed.**

“With the additional years all of us have been blessed with over the last century, we are more aware than ever that there is purpose in all lives, no matter the chronological age. As quoted in the curriculum for the Oasis Aging Mastery Program, ‘Longevity is a gift,’” affirms Brenda. **“We must learn to appreciate it and use it wisely as a benefit—not only to those who possess the longevity, but all who benefit from it.”**

Pictured: Top, Brenda Smith; Bottom, Rick Hopkins attending a Fitness Event at The Pavilion at Lemay

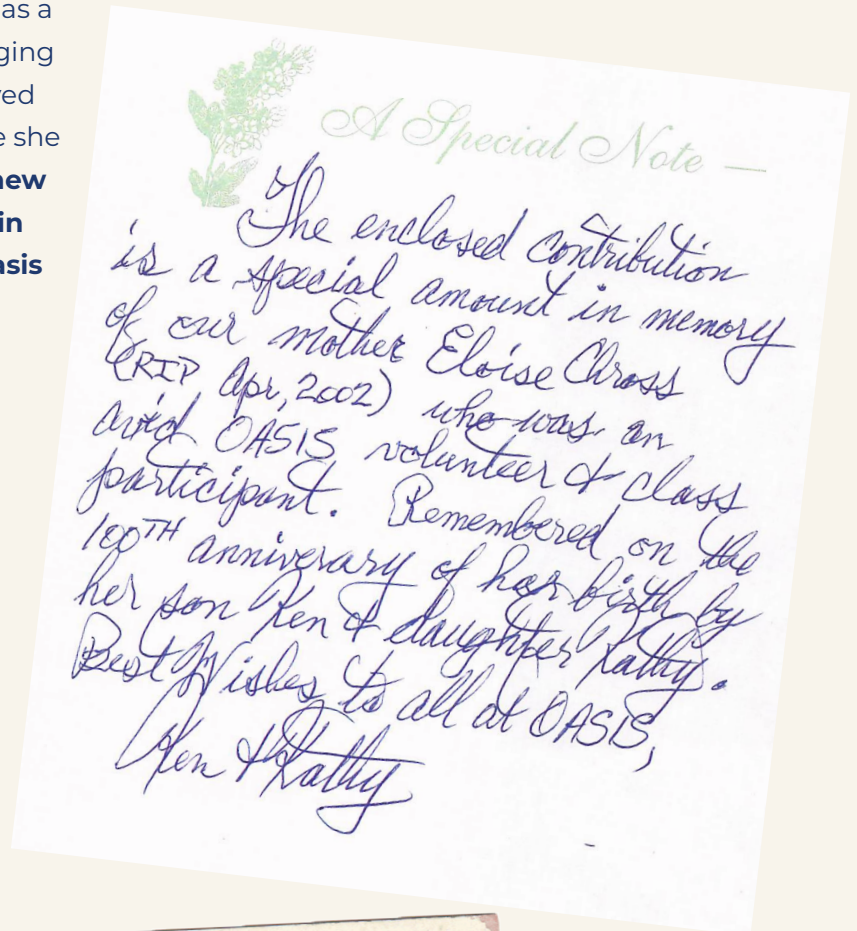
LOVE AND A LEGACY

Tribute gifts are a great way to honor life events or remember someone special. Siblings Ken Ashford and Kathy Greenhill have made tribute gifts to Oasis in honor of their mother since 2002. **This year would have marked their mother, Eloise's 100th birthday.** Eloise Chross was retired from the Missouri Employment Department in St. Louis, after starting her career as a hair stylist, having her own shop, and later managing a large department store beauty salon. She enjoyed working with people, and she enjoyed the people she met at Oasis. **Eloise loved learning and seeing new things in Oasis classes, along with taking part in Oasis bus trips. She volunteered at the local Oasis help desk whenever she could.**

By supporting Oasis with annual tribute gifts, Ken and Kathy can continue their mother's legacy and her love for Oasis.

If you would like to make a gift to Oasis in honor or memory of a loved one, please contact us at 314.862.2933 ext.235 or make a tribute donation at oasisnet.org/donate. **Your tribute gift will help Oasis support its mission to promote healthy aging.** Tribute recipients or their families will receive an acknowledgment card, without reference to amount, to notify them of your gift.

Pictured: Eloise Chross



TAKING TUTORING TO NEW PLACES

The tutoring program continues to expand as more school districts realize the positive influence community volunteers have on students and people look for purposeful avenues to share their wealth of experience and knowledge. **In 2019, Oasis tutoring expanded to schools in East St. Louis, Illinois, and Jefferson and Scotland Counties in Missouri.** Margret Carey, a school liaison for Officer Elementary School in East St. Louis, Illinois, learned of Oasis through her district facilitator. She shared that Oasis tutors have positively impacted students in need of intervention and notes the additional help greatly improved their reading and writing skills. She also loves that the students developed trusting relationships with their tutor and get excited about the lessons.

Flossie Hunt, an Oasis tutor working in East St. Louis School District 189, heard about Oasis through an informational session held at Greater New Hope Baptist Church. **She was eager to help students and teachers alike. She finds tutoring most rewarding when she sees a child overcome doubt and gain confidence.**

Alice Menne serves as district facilitator for Dunklin School District in Pevely, Missouri, where there is a large rural community of low-income families with children in need of one-on-one attention that they may not always get at home. When asked if she has noticed a difference in the students receiving tutoring she replied, **“Absolutely, students are confident and love the attention they receive from their tutor.”** She says it’s clear the tutors benefit from the services as well, “it gives them a sense of purpose and a reason to get out of bed.” Alice enjoys working with the volunteers as much as she enjoys watching the children grow.

Bill and Brenda Rigel learned of Oasis through their church. Both enjoy working with children, so they leapt at the chance to become tutors in the Dunklin School District through Oasis. They say that the school liaison is very supportive, checking in often, and offering assistance where needed, including helpful tips on working with children. **“Oasis gives my wife and I something to look forward to, and I think others like us would benefit as well.”**

Pictured: Top, Alice Menne; Bottom, Bill and Brenda Rigel



NATIONAL IMPACT

2019 Basis Institute

5,900
Volunteers

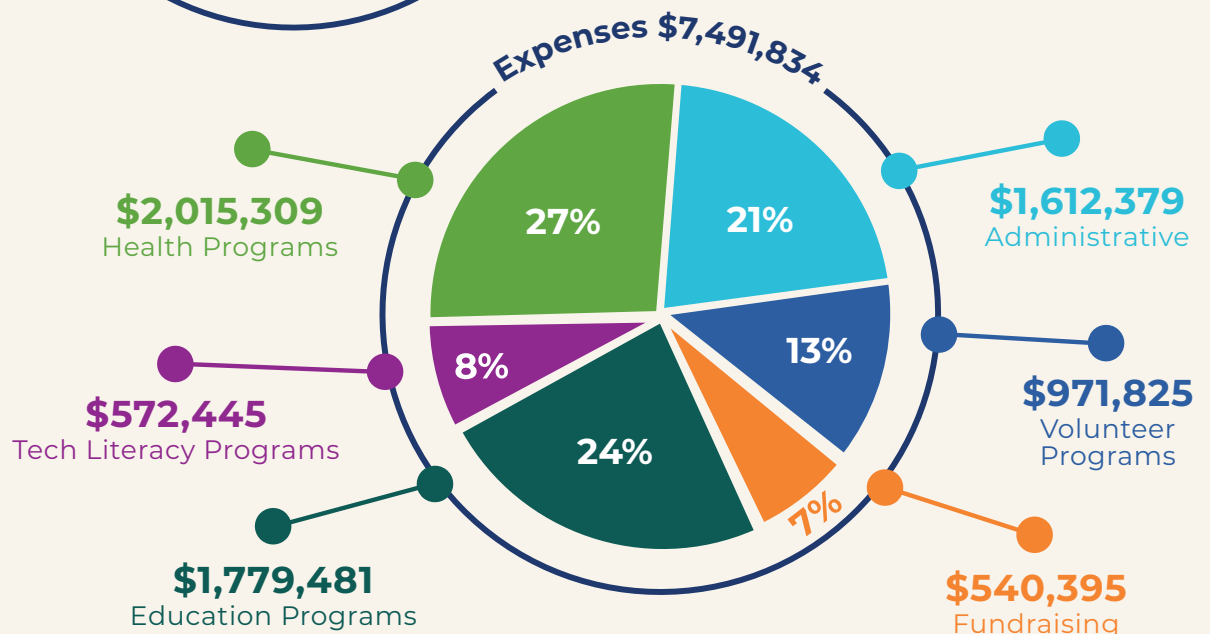
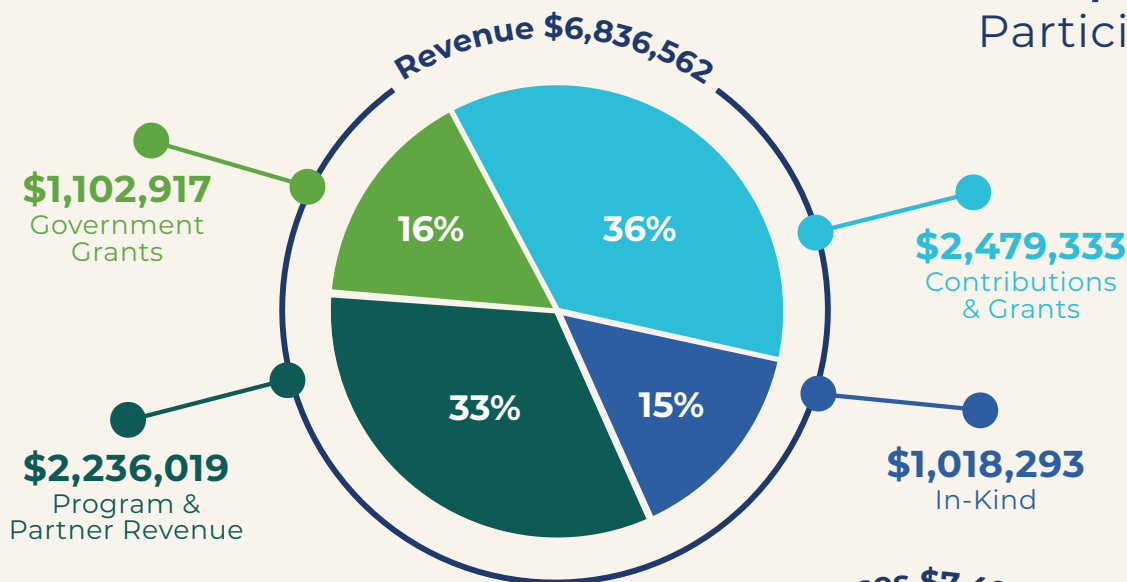
147,500
Class Enrollments

643
Schools

408,000
Volunteer Hours

4,500
Tutors

49,400
Participants



Source: 2019
Consolidated
Financial Audit

TAKING ON TECH

For twenty years, Oasis has been enabling people to stay socially connected, tech-wise and cyber-safe through its Connections technology literacy training program. Today, technology literacy is especially important for people to access services and stay connected to family and friends. However, with increased reliance on technology comes an increased need to have a safe online experience. **Oasis offers a number of resources to help you stay safe online, including classes on cybersecurity topics.**

Martha Bogart, a retired teacher, has been volunteering as an instructor with the Oasis Connections program since 2017. **“For the last 15 years of my career I provided staff development for teachers and other education professionals about how to successfully integrate technology into the classroom.** So volunteering with the Oasis Connections program was right up my alley,” says Martha.

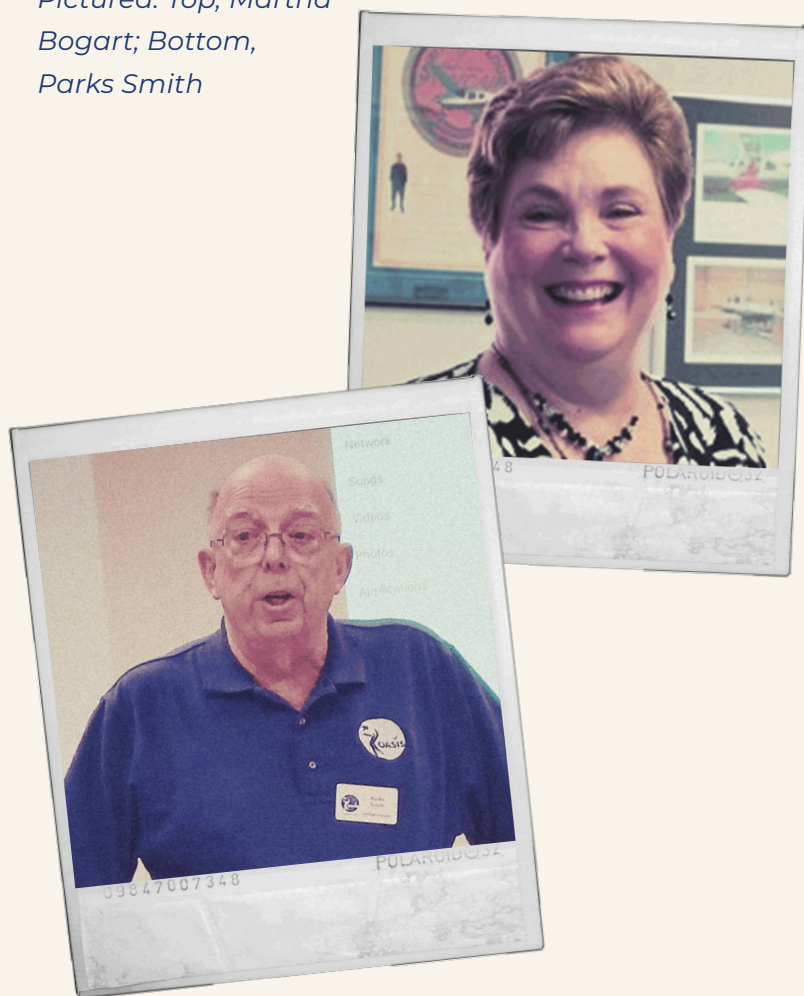
As an Oasis Connections volunteer, Martha has taught classes such as Google, iPhone, and Digital Safety Overview. “I love meeting new people and helping them with all their technology problems and issues,” says Martha. **“The program has provided me with a way to ‘keep my hand in the game,’ so to speak, while doing it at my own pace and time. It is very rewarding for me to be able to help others and see that ‘lightbulb’ of learning go on in their eyes. The students are always a pleasure to work with, and I get as much as I give.”**

The Digital Safety Overview class taught by Martha is just one of seven online safety classes taught by Oasis. Through generous support from the AT&T Foundation, Oasis has recently expanded its online safety and security offerings, including a series of seven videos, with interactive quizzes to test your knowledge.

Volunteer instructor Parks Smith acknowledges that previously his emphasis as an Oasis Connections instructor was on teaching people how to use their devices. In 2019, he began to teach classes about online safety. “People are concerned about online security, as they should be,” says Parks. **“I realized participants in my classes were overwhelmed at times. The Connections materials allowed me to teach about online security and share more detailed information, which gives them comfort.”** Parks says some of the tips he shares with people are to be careful using public Wi-Fi, sign up for alerts for payment card purchases, and frequently check your bank account balance.

These tips are just a few of many that Oasis offers. During the COVID pandemic, Oasis has shifted to online delivery of programs, as well as teaching people how to use Zoom properly. **To check out Oasis classes online, visit oasiseverywhere.org or check out the Oasis Connections website at connections.oasisnet.org**

Pictured: Top, Martha Bogart; Bottom, Parks Smith



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