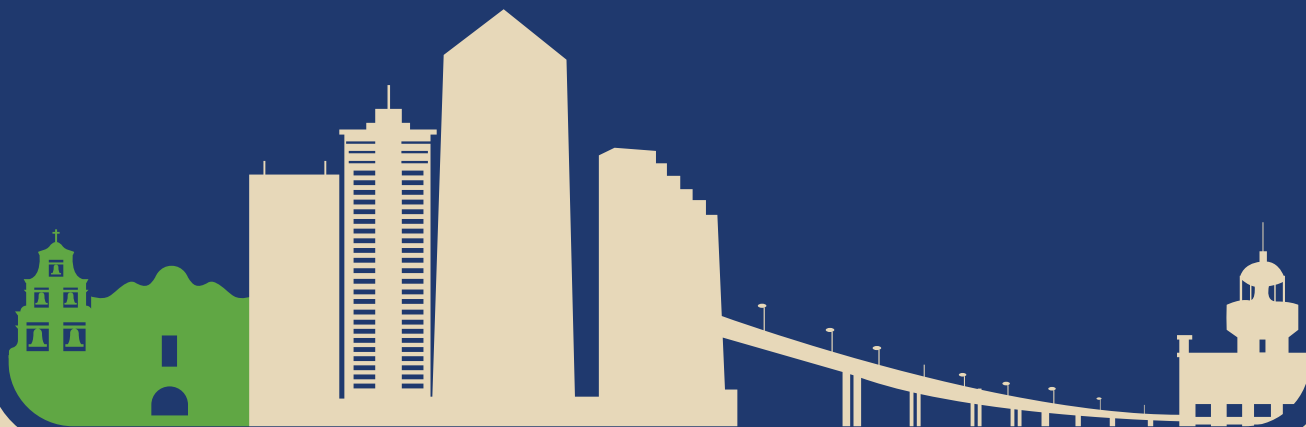


REIMAGINE



AGING



2019 Annual Report

GREETINGS FROM OASIS

In 2019, we hosted our largest event ever, “Get Connected: Technology Fair for the 50+” with over 1,200 attendees. Little did we know how important our technology would be in 2020!

On the day we closed our physical doors, Friday, March 13, 2020, we knew we needed to serve our older adult population to prevent isolation and loneliness, as we sheltered at home. We completely reimaged Oasis over a weekend! The following Monday, we were offering virtual classes. Oasis has been building momentum ever since—offering at least 200 virtual classes per month. Older adults are joining us from all over California and beyond.

Our Intergenerational Tutoring program has also risen to the challenge of continuing to educate students at home. We created virtual tutoring. Oasis tutors engage with at-risk, low income elementary school students online, allowing them to feel connected to their very own mentor who makes a remarkable difference!

The need for connection and engagement is more important than ever. We do not know what the future holds, but one thing is for sure: San Diego Oasis continues to innovate and adapt, bringing new programs to meet the needs of our older adults and at-risk children. It is crucial that we have your support—as a champion and a donor—to ensure that older adults do not fall through the cracks, but instead continue to be a vital part of our community. Older adults are

a treasure to be nurtured and tapped for wisdom, knowledge and willingness to help. Join us!



Simona Valanciute

President & CEO
San Diego 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, neighbor, 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, The Oasis Institute

WHERE BOOKS AND CHILDREN COME TO MEET

“We were in a meeting about four years ago, talking about ‘what can we do to keep in touch with students over the summer’ and that’s how it all started,” says Oasis tutor Linda Pusker. Linda started volunteering as a tutor with Oasis four years ago after retiring from 35 years of teaching. **Together, she and John Dunnicliff, San Diego Tutoring Coordinator, have grown a book drive that started out with only 375 books to a group of third graders in 2016, to a couple thousand books delivered across grades k-5 in 2019.** These books are delivered to students over the summer in districts served by Oasis tutors. “The children are happy because they get to go home with a couple of books over the summer,” says John. **“I still remember a student who came up to me during the book drive who was 6 and asked for a book for his 1-year old brother because he wanted to teach his brother how to read.”**

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit and schools closed for the remainder of spring, **San Diego Oasis ramped up efforts to continue serving students through the book giveaway program** to address the summer slide. Through a \$20,000 project, Oasis will provide several books for each student in grades 1-4 at schools in the

San Diego Unified School District where Oasis tutoring is present. All the participating schools in the district are considered free and reduced lunch sites. **“It’s been so nice to see district professionals, partners, and other organizations come together to help these kids learn; I’m so proud of our community and seeing our tutors rally around this,**” says Kristen Amicone, Director of Intergenerational Programs at San Diego Oasis.

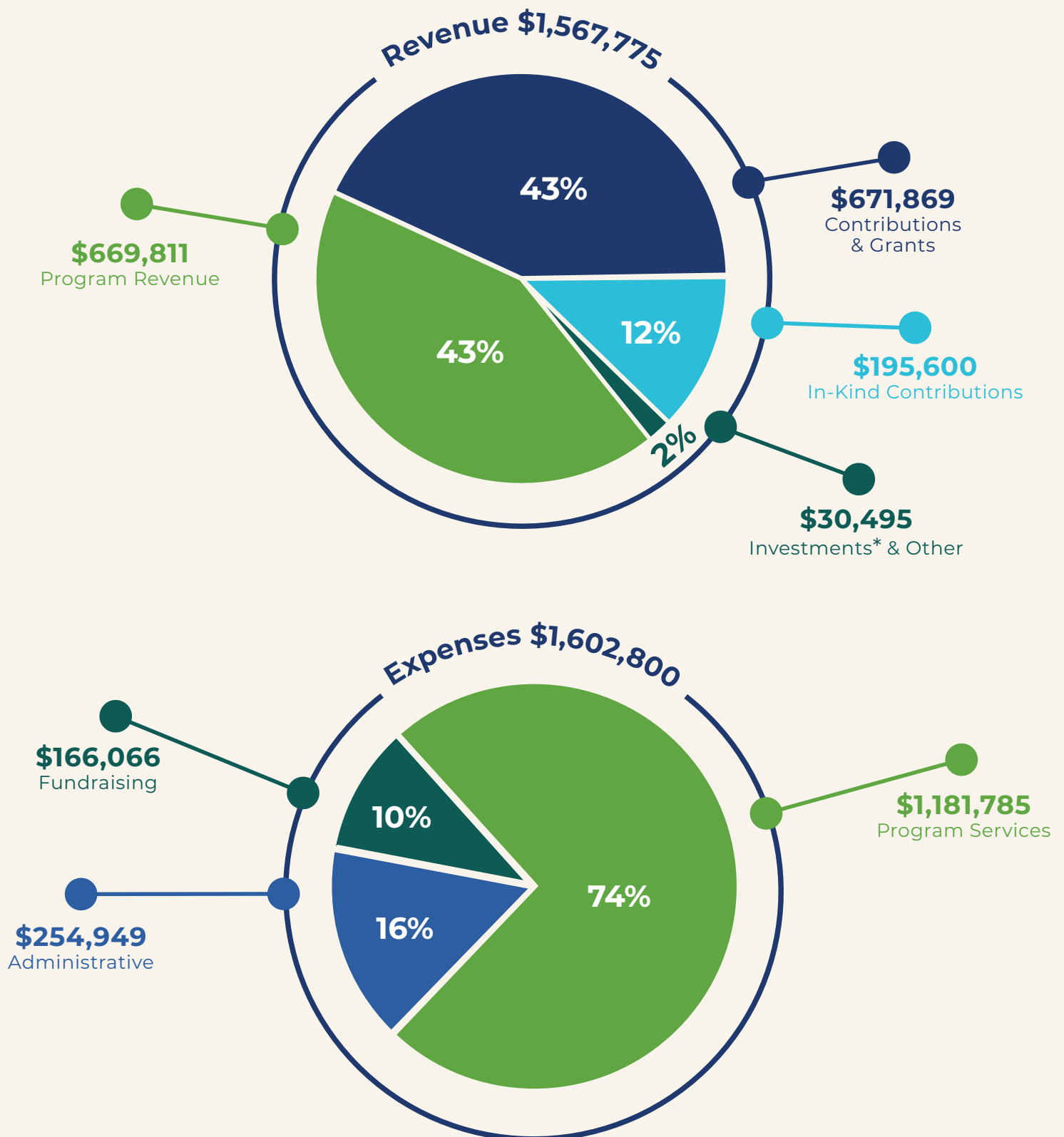
The program has provided Linda and other tutors the opportunity to stay involved with the Oasis tutoring program despite the pandemic.

Pictured: Book Giveaways



SAN DIEGO OASIS

2019 Financial Snapshot



Source: 2019 Financial Audit
*Excludes unrealized gain on investments

FLIPPING TO THE IPHONE

"I've taken Oasis' Conquering Your iPhone Part 1 class three times, Part 2 twice, and Part 3 three times, says Oasis participant Norma Mendenhall. **"Now, my grandkids say, 'Nana, you are pretty good at this'."**

Since enrolling in Oasis iPhone classes, Norma has transitioned from using her flip phone to now FaceTiming daily with her daughter who lives in Rome. "It's been a gift learning how to use my iPhone," says Norma. "I use it getting around town, I can communicate with all three of my kids, and friends, and now with COVID-19, it's been easy to stay in touch with my family and friends. **Everything I can do with my phone, it makes me feel younger; I'm 80 but I feel 50."**

Norma has taken all her iPhone classes with Oasis technology instructor Jacki Montierth. **"I just love Jacki's classes, her first comment to all of us on the first day of class was, 'this is going to be fun; this won't be frustrating, you need to learn how to do this',"** says Norma.

Jacki helped bring Apple technology into her school district in the 1980's when she was a middle and high school teacher. **After retiring from education, she started wiseboomer.com to provide an avenue for older adults who were retired to learn about technology.** Jacki started teaching Apple classes for Oasis three years ago, including classes on iPhone, iMac, iPad, and iCloud. "An 81-year-old man

came to class with a flip phone, and a year later, he's texting me on his iPhone 8," says Jacki.

"My favorite times are when I teach FaceTime with them; I pair them with another person and send them to different locations in the building. They come back to class absolutely thrilled to death, and then they FaceTime their kids across the country. It's pure joy watching them learn."

Jacki says the reason she keeps coming back to teach is for her students. "People can't imagine what something can do for you by the end of the class. Their whole demeanor and their whole lives have changed; they deposit checks on their phone, they shop on their phone, **they are reimagining their life as they leave the class."**

Pictured: Jacki Montierth



NATIONAL IMPACT

2019 *Basis Institute*

5,900
Volunteers

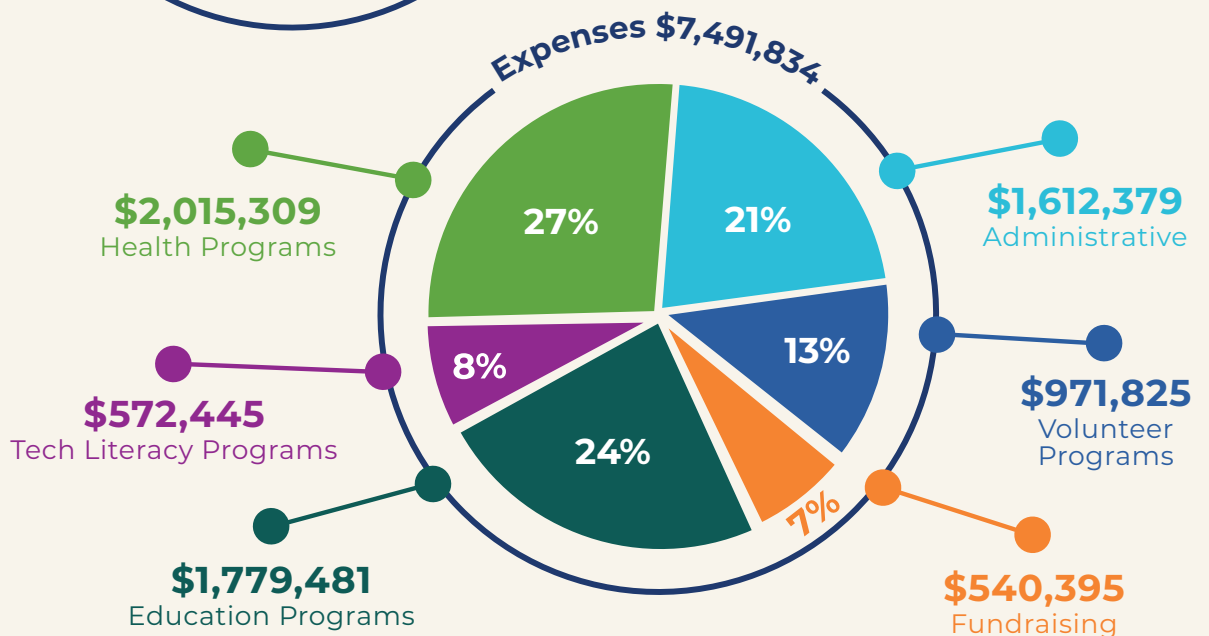
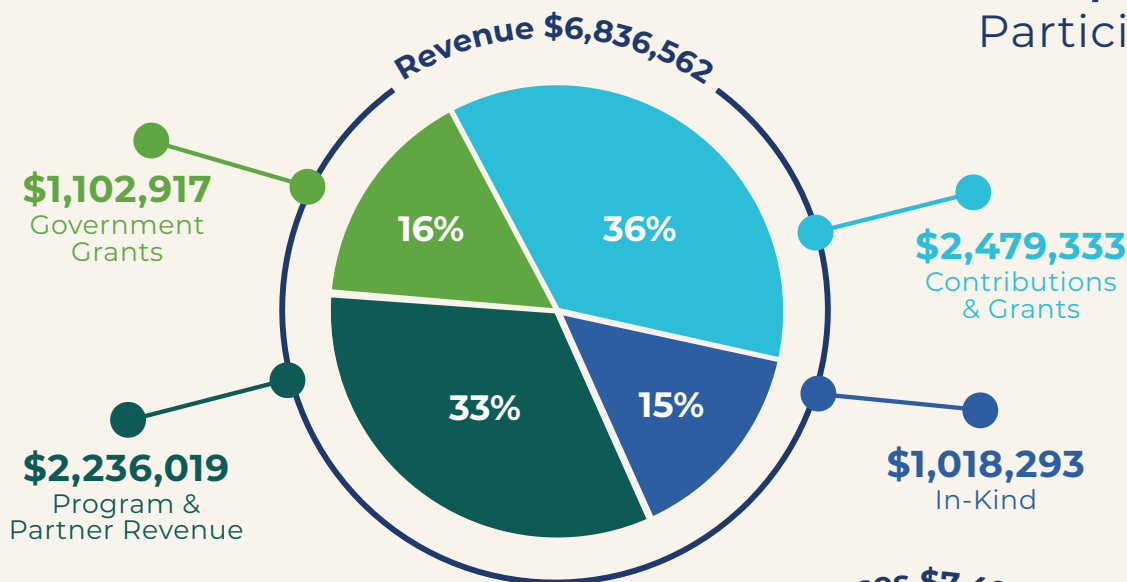
147,500
Class Enrollments

643
Schools

408,000
Volunteer Hours

4,500
Tutors

49,400
Participants



Source: 2019
Consolidated
Financial Audit

FRIDAY REFLECTIONS

Friday Reflections classes, led by Peter Bolland, a professor of Philosophy and Humanities at Southwestern College, is the most popular class that San Diego Oasis has had recently. **Friday Reflections invites people go deeper to reveal the wisdom hidden just beneath the surface of our everyday lives, and included new themes, questions, and readings every week.**

"When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, we started brainstorming ways we could continue to 'check-in' with our members in a more informal way, and so instead of doing my normal two-hour lecture classes, I now have weekly 30-min Friday Reflections classes that are hosted on Zoom," says Peter.

"It's an opportunity to get below the surface level of our everyday lives and get deep about issues that are happening locally. Then, see if there is a tool that we can use to help provide a lens of understanding. For example, in one of the sessions, we talked about Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs and how it connects to structural racism."

Peter has been teaching with Oasis for ten years and has a taught of variety of subjects related to philosophy and religious studies, and even poetry workshops. He even sometimes has concerts where he plays the guitar!

"I'm 61 years old, I was one of those veteran teachers that has never taught online before; those first few weeks were a

brutal learning curve, but we are all learning and adapting," says Peter. **"There have been so many wonderful connections that get made from the topics we are discussing; the chat feature is always very popular on the Zoom calls."**

Peter believes that Friday Reflections will be something that continues even after the pandemic, and that there will now always be a hunger to continue these Zoom classes. "We aren't here to amass more knowledge or to give them more information, what we are really after isn't the facts, it's the feeling of being alive. **When you feel your heart and mind opening, that's a thrill,**" says Peter. "What we want for our participants is an education experience that is life-changing."

Pictured: Peter Bolland

Photo Credit: Thom Vollenweider



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