





2021 marked 30 years in operation at Albuquerque Oasis! We are grateful to two entities who helped Oasis establish its roots here – the St. Joseph's Healthcare System and the May Company (Macy's/Foley's) department store at Coronado Mall. The Oasis center lived in a small back corner on the second floor at Macy's/Foley's from 1991 through 2014. In 2014, Oasis moved to our current location at Menaul and Carlisle, allowing for more flexibility, classes, and volunteer tutors.

As 2021 began, who would have guessed the pandemic would continue throughout the year, with all the associated challenges? Albuquerque morphed, pivoted, and evolved in all sorts of ways to be able to offer our educational and volunteer programs. We said goodbye to Jane Ellen in May 2021, although her classes now live on through Zoom—what a wonderful silver lining to the pandemic.

The tutoring program went solely online as the 2020–21 school year began with 125 committed volunteers and returned to in-person (although masked) tutoring in the fall of 2021. When elementary schoolchildren needed our volunteers more than ever, we had a dedicated group that stepped forward to help these kids with their reading skills.



Bravo to them! 2021 had its challenges, but we evolved and continue our mission to serve older adults.

## KATHLEEN RASKOB

Executive Director | Albuquerque Oasis

2022 is a milestone year for Oasis as we are celebrating 40 years. As we reflect on Oasis' work last year through our 2021 annual report, we do so through the lens of the global pandemic and how it has affected all of us. While two years is a short time compared to 40, the last two years were possibly the most challenging. It makes us appreciate our roots, the journey to get here, and our impact over these first 40 years that much more. It's even more important to consider what the NEXT 40 years of Oasis will look like. The United States is on the cusp of an unprecedented population shift. By 2060, United States Census projections anticipate that half the population will be over 50, with a 92% increase in adults aged 65 and over. This shift in age distribution is attributed to decades of lower birthrates, medical advancement, and more attention to the impact of healthier lifestyles. Longer retirement periods spark a reconceptualization of what living out the "golden years" looks like. Oasis is evolving to accommodate these changes for a world in which adults are working and living longer. We



hope that you, and new generations of older adults, will join us on this transformational journey over the next 40 years!

PAUL WEISS, PHD President | Oasis Institute

### **CONNECTING TO HOME**

Lois and Tom Ruby have lived all over the country but landed in Albuquerque, NM, where they lived for 17 years. Most of those years were spent immersed in a wide variety of Oasis classes.

Tom says he signed up for 35–40 Oasis classes a year, which sometimes amounted to two classes a day, three to four times a week. His classes included music, philosophy and religion, legal issues, history, science and astronomy among others. The retired clinical psychologist is passionate about continued learning about his many interests.

"I loved when the Oasis course catalog came," Tom says. "I felt like a kid in a candy shop. My biggest frustration was when two classes I wanted to attend were at the same time. How do I decide? I always sat in the front row in classes and was noted for asking questions." Lois also enjoyed the classes, especially literary topics.

Without an inkling of what was to come in 2020, the couple moved to Cincinnati, to be closer to family on March 1—just six days before the pandemic shut–downs began around the world.

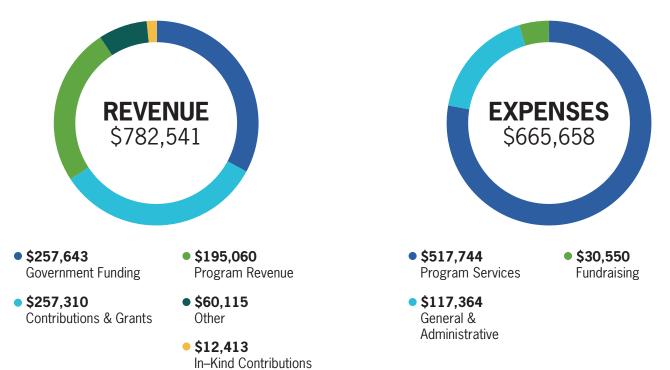
"We went into immediate hibernation and were being very careful because of COVID-19," Tom says. "These delayed opportunities to meet other people or see many places in our new city. It was an odd feeling."

Leaving their active social life and regular Oasis classes in Albuquerque to be isolated in Cincinnati was challenging. "It was a loss," Tom says. "I missed all aspects of Oasis, especially the camaraderie with others in the classes. Oasis was an integral part of our life in Albuquerque. We thought we could find an equivalent to Oasis in Cincinnati, but we didn't find it. So, we did the next best thing and discovered online classes in Albuquerque."

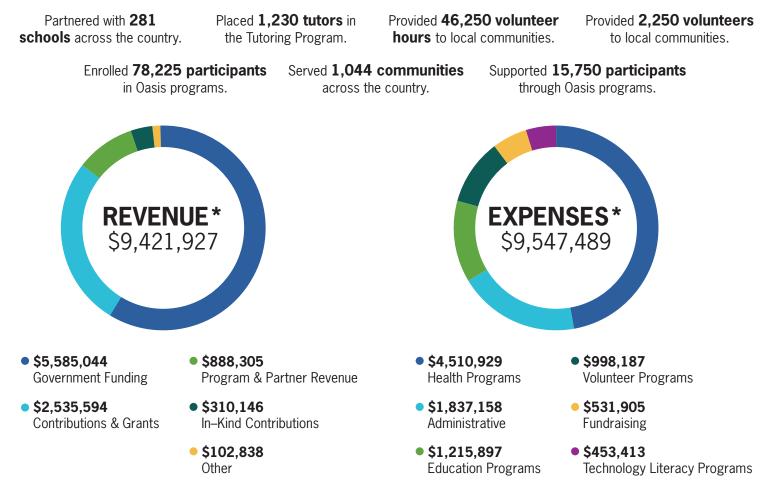
"With virtual classes, I like the idea that we don't have to drive, find parking or worry about overcrowded classes. At home, I always have a front row seat and can dress casually." With his psychology background, Tom understood both personally and professionally the importance of social interactions during the pandemic. That's why he appreciated the value of his ties to Albuquerque Oasis even more. "Coming to a new city was difficult but taking classes through Albuquerque Oasis was a welcome connection to familiar people, places and memories," he says. "It eased the loneliness and isolation and was very therapeutic."

"My mouth is watering again for all the classes," Tom says. "It seems like the course catalog has gotten bigger with more class topics than ever!"

# **ALBUQUERQUE OASIS FINANCIALS**



### NATIONAL IMPACT



\*Source: 2021 Consolidated Financial Statement Audit

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