



EVOLVE
2021 San Diego Oasis Annual Report



2021 was the impetus for growth in several key areas, while building a stronger foundation for 2022, during which San Diego Oasis will celebrate its 35th anniversary. We continue to be grateful for the vision of Marylen Mann, our founder, who had the foresight and passion to create cutting-edge environments in which senior adults have thrived for well over three decades.

As an organization of learning and wellness that creates opportunities for engagement, socialization, and community service, San Diego Oasis has thrived despite the challenges presented by the ongoing pandemic.

Our **Bridging the Digital Divide** provided over 700 tablets, training, and internet for older adults allowing them access and connection to family, friends, doctors, and resources that enhance their daily lives. Patricia's story is one of many that conveys the impact this program has in our community.

Our **Rancho Bernardo Expansion** in 2023 will be an intellectual, fitness, creative, and social hub that will bring a wide variety of elements together in a beautiful, safe, and convenient location for our North County members.

Our **Intergenerational Tutoring Program** found new and inventive ways to reach at-risk elementary students challenged by the impact the pandemic had on their education. Online tutoring allowed us to continue investing in these deserving students, and book drives put reading materials in their hands to help prevent "summer slide."

We invite you to read the stories of 2021 and be inspired by the many ways San Diego Oasis is impacting its community for the good.



SIMONA VALANCIUTE

President & CEO | San Diego Oasis

2022 is a milestone year for Oasis as we are celebrating 40 years in operation. 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, it felt as long in some ways in that it was 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. As we ask our friends, funders, partners, and communities to recognize this milestone through giving and sharing our story, 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 demographic population shift that will unfold over the next four decades. United States Census projections anticipate that by 2060 the ratio of adults under 49 to adults over 50 will shift from 70/30 to 50/50, with a 92% increase in adults aged 65 and over. This seismic shift in age distribution of American adults is attributed to decades of lower birthrates, medical advancement, and more attention to the impact of healthier lifestyles. The implications for society, medicine, business, money, and distribution of resources over the next 40 years are staggering. The notion of a roughly 20-year "retirement period" will spark a reconceptualization of what living out the "golden years" looks like.

Oasis is evolving to accommodate these changes. Our technology literacy program includes workforce development for older adults seeking work-from-home opportunities. Our lifelong learning classes will include more practical skill-development and work-like opportunities. Oasis health programs will increasingly be led by Oasis-trained peer-educators focused on active lifestyles and maintaining peak physical function.

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

PLANTING SEEDS OF CONFIDENCE

Highlands Elementary students have a fun way to prevent the notorious “summer slide” in reading thanks to San Diego Oasis’s annual Book Giveaway. This year, San Diego Oasis tutors and staff delivered more than 1,500 books to Highlands students.

Students kicked off summer with a small but mighty personal library of books to give them an opportunity to continue reading at home and maintain the gains they made throughout the school year.

San Diego Oasis and Highlands have been longtime partners in bringing literacy and a love of reading to local students. Oasis tutors are an integral part of Highlands and read with students weekly during the traditional school year.

“Our goal is to have a book giveaway in every one of our partner schools where we have tutors,” says Kristen Amicone, Director of Intergenerational Programs. “This year, we wanted our tutors to have the experience of giving the books to the students and experiencing their excitement. Seeing the students’ faces and their gratitude is so impactful. The feeling in the room when they are choosing books is such happiness and joy.”

Each Highland student was able to choose three books. Kristen points to research that shows when a student chooses their own books, they are more likely to read them.

“Some kids have no books at home at all and lose learning over the summer,” Kristen explains. “When kids have their own reading material that they chose intentionally, they are more likely to read the books and share them.”

Kristen says the books and tutors are more important than ever because the pandemic negatively impacted students’ reading levels across the country. “More students are reading below grade level and that impacts their sense of self. That’s another reason why Oasis tutors are so important. They read with students one on one and create positive relationships, which increases the likelihood of students’ success. It’s lifechanging for both the student and the tutor.”

One success story was with a third grade student who was only reading at the first grade level at the beginning of the school year. After working with an Oasis tutor each week, the student was reading at the ideal third grade level by the end of the school year.

Mary Saxon has been an Oasis tutor since 2010 at Highlands Elementary. She is happy to share her love of reading with students to help them succeed.

“I have always loved to read—it opened doors for me,” she says. “When I tutor, a student has my full attention. We read books together, talk about it, and then write about it so it’s full circle.”

She was overwhelmed with emotion when she saw the students faces as they chose books. “When we told the students they could choose three books, they were so surprised and excited,” she says. “I helped one little boy find a “Pete the Cat” book that he desperately wanted. He was thrilled and I was on a high all day from that.”

Kristen is grateful for the dedication of tutors like Mary. “Our tutors are the best people in the world. They take initiative with students and keep going even when it’s challenging. I’m inspired by them every single day. When even one child makes progress, it changes the classroom and positively affects all the students.”

Mary is excited to continue tutoring and making a difference. “I enjoy being a tutor because I feel like I’m part of something important,” she says. “I love seeing the progress students make and their confidence grow. As tutors, we’re planting seeds.”



OPENING NEW WORLDS THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

After recognizing a gap in tech tools, funding and services for lower-income older adults—made even more obvious during the pandemic—San Diego Oasis took action to fill the need.

The result was the San Diego Oasis Digital Divide program, designed to keep people from being isolated by equipping them with technology and training.

Eligible low-income older adults receive a technology package that includes a specially configured tablet to keep, internet connectivity for 12 months, training to use the tablet, and vouchers for free Oasis classes.

So far, San Diego Oasis has provided 700 tablets to older adults since the program began in the middle of the pandemic.

David Beevers spearheads the Oasis Digital Divide program. “We work with lower-income older adults who don’t have the technology necessary to even text or email,” he says. “During the pandemic, they had no ability to stay connected to their family and friends and it was extremely difficult and isolating for them. In addition, many older adults have mobility issues and can’t get out as much.”

Thanks to grants from generous partners, more older adults now have access to the technology they need—along with essential training. Significant funders include the San Diego Foundation, San Diego Gas & Electric, The David C. Copley Foundation, the Gary and Mary West Foundation, the North County Recovery Fund, and San Diego Rotary 33.

Through the Digital Divide program, San Diego Oasis assists residents at Catholic Charities, St. Paul’s Place, Trinity Place, Lion’s Manor and Community Housing Works and several other residences that serve lower-income adults.

David is responsible for configuring the tablets and training older adults to use them. “You can’t just hand them a tablet—they need training so it doesn’t become a dust collector,” he explains. “We make it as simple as possible for the users and create training around their needs at the time. We create a Gmail account for them and teach them how to check email and order groceries online, among other things. We also download key apps for them and set up an Oasis account.”

His in-depth training includes how to access sites such as YouTube, how to use Zoom, how to use their Oasis online account and even how to take photos with a tablet. “I try to find as many resources to benefit them without overwhelming them,” David says. “And I leave them with step-by-step directions.”

He typically conducts training with groups of five so everyone receives one-on-one time and can ask questions. Sometimes he returns for second and third trainings to serve as a refresher. “Taking the classes together builds camaraderie,” David says. “I teach the basics to get them started and then they continue to learn as they play with it.”

David says the ability to use technology is life-changing for older adults. “Everything today is app or technology based. Even some laundry mats now require apps to use the washer and dryer. And to get back in the job market, you have to be able to apply online. They may be scared at first to use the technology but as they learn, it’s rewarding to see them smiling, communicating with family and their doctors, and Googling things. Learning to use technology opens a whole new world for people who had been left in the dark.”

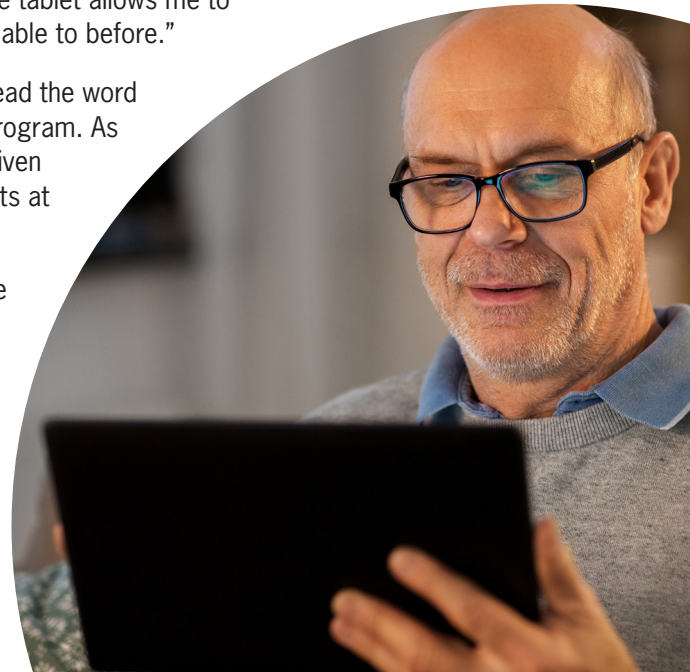
Patricia “Tish” Flemming, a resident of Lion’s Manor, received her tablet in the middle of the pandemic. “When we had to stay home, I had no one to interact with,” she says. “I had been involved in lots of organizations and had lots of friends before but I couldn’t see them or talk to them during the pandemic. So when I received a tablet, it was a lifesaver for me.”

Once she was up to speed on how to use her tablet, she quickly signed up for virtual exercise classes and other Oasis classes. She also used the tablet for telehealth visits with her doctor. And since libraries were closed during part of the pandemic, she was able to use a cloud library to get e-books.

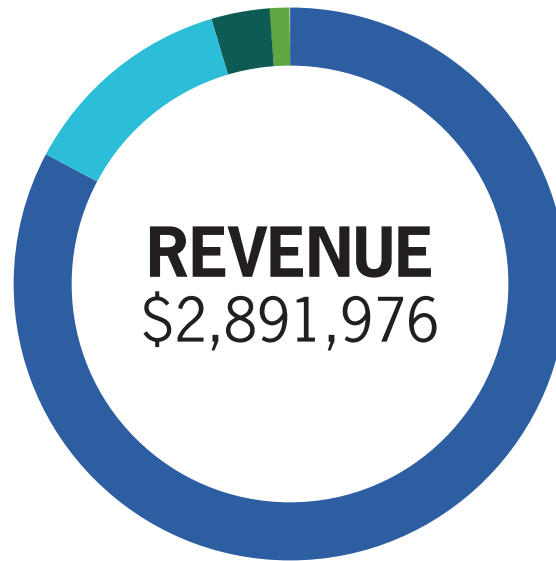
“This tablet is a lifeline,” Tish says. “It’s an incredible gift. We need to be online to get through the world today. The tablet allows me to communicate in ways I was not able to before.”

David says Tish has helped spread the word about the Oasis Digital Divide program. As a result, San Diego Oasis has given more than 30 tablets to residents at Lion’s Manor.

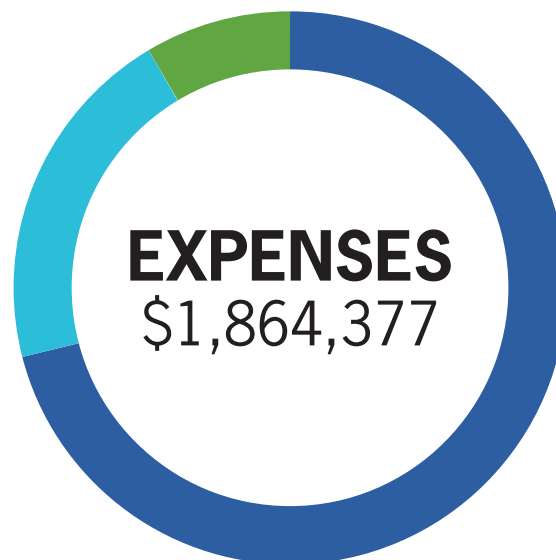
“I’m hopeful we can continue the program through the kindness of our partners and community members,” David says. “Our goal is to keep the community engaged no matter how big their wallet is.”



SAN DIEGO OASIS FINANCIALS



- **\$2,398,090**
Contributions & Grants
- **\$94,591**
In-Kind Contributions
- **\$363,642**
Program Revenue
- **\$35,653**
Other Income



- **\$1,325,238**
Program Services
- **\$156,617**
Fundraising
- **\$382,522**
Administrative

NATIONAL IMPACT

Partnered with **281 schools** across the country.

Placed **1,230 tutors** in the Tutoring Program.

Provided **2,250 volunteers** to local communities.

Provided **46,250 volunteer hours** to local communities.

Served **1,044 communities** across the country.

Enrolled **78,225 participants** in Oasis programs.

Supported **15,750 participants** through Oasis programs.



- **\$5,585,044**
Government Funding
- **\$2,535,594**
Contributions & Grants
- **\$888,305**
Program & Partner Revenue
- **\$310,146**
In-Kind
- **\$102,838**
Other



- **\$4,510,929**
Health Programs
- **\$1,837,158**
Administrative
- **\$1,215,897**
Education Programs
- **\$998,187**
Volunteer Programs
- **\$531,905**
Fundraising
- **\$453,413**
Technology Literacy Programs

*Source: 2022 Consolidated Financial Audit

CELEBRATING GIFTS FROM THE HEART

San Diego Oasis is dedicated to helping every member live life as vibrantly as possible. A new way Oasis is doing that is with the addition of a new Rancho Bernardo Oasis location that is scheduled to open by mid-year 2023.

This bright, beautiful, convenient facility will be an intellectual, fitness, creative and social hub in the North County area. It will include a demonstration kitchen, a lush garden area, an art studio, a 200-person lecture hall, a gaming center for bridge, a health and wellness center, a coffee cart and an exciting Oasis Innovation Center where members can test out and learn about new technology.

“The incredible remodeled facility with its many amenities is possible because of the generosity of Oasis donors,” says Jolyn Parker, Vice President of External Relations at San Diego Oasis. “We’re grateful for their kind support that benefits the entire community and we’re excited about the possibilities this new location brings to our members.”

San Diego Oasis launched a capital campaign in early 2021 to support the remodel of the Rancho Bernardo location. Two recent gift commitments in particular have advanced the project.

Sandra Nimitz Lawhon, a San Diego Oasis board member, made a generous gift commitment of \$1 million in honor of her mother, Joy Ann.

Sandra’s fond memories of her mother include an image of a hard-working, persevering, generous, kind and brave woman who was ahead of her time. Sandra says Joy Ann was devoted to family, friends and to the country even though women didn’t have the right to vote yet when she was born. Her commitment to service aligns with Oasis’s mission.

“This building is a symbol of all that my mother represented as she continued to reinvent herself and to triumph in a world that did not have a vision for women or seniors,” Sandra says.

She believes her mother would be proud to know that Oasis provides purpose and meaningful engagement to encourage continued learning and community service.

Bonnie and Krishna Arora are also making a difference in the community with a generous gift commitment of \$700,000 to Oasis in honor of their daughter, Shamily Angeli Arora, who passed away in April 2022. Krishna is the Oasis board chair who is passionate about ensuring seniors have a place to relax, learn and socialize. The Arora’s gift will be dedicated to the development of a demonstration kitchen and social space at the Rancho Bernardo location.

Shamily loved to cook and was trained at the California Culinary Academy in San Francisco after earning a bachelor’s degree in social welfare from University of California-Berkeley. As a personal chef who also worked with a number of restaurants throughout San Diego, she kindly donated catering for some Oasis events. Her mini pecan pies were a fan favorite.

“In honor of Shamily’s love for cooking, we will be able to host cooking demonstrations and social gatherings for our Oasis members in our new demonstration kitchen at Rancho Bernardo,” Jolyn says.

Donors are changing the face of Oasis, Jolyn says. “Because of the heartfelt giving from Sandra, Bonnie and Krishna, and a number of other generous donors, Rancho Bernardo will be a warm, welcoming location with unique activities that offer friendship, engagement and fun. Oasis members and others who believe in the mission still have an opportunity to support the North County Oasis expansion and help open the Rancho Bernardo location doors even faster.”



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