

59 Mill Street, Paterson, NJ 07501 • 973.881.8307 • www.OASISNJ.org

Oasis is dedicated to feeding and clothing needy women and children and to offering them educational resources and skills to obtain meaningful employment and to break the cycle of poverty. Oasis offers these services in a safe, compassionate, nurturing environment. We are committed to fostering healthy family relationships, and we seek to preserve the dignity of people and their cultures.

WINTER 2014

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

MESSAGE FROM  
SISTER GLORIA

10TH ANNUAL OKTOBERFEST

THANKSGIVING

UPCOMING OASIS EVENTS

CHRISTMAS

PATERSON YOUTH  
PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT

LUNCHES WITH LOVE



Volunteer Ginny Sniatkowski (left) demonstrates how to use one of the two approved calculators for the GED test with Oasis student Vivian; Ginny's nephew created the poster especially for her class.

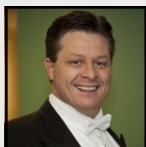
**SAVE THE DATES**

**"A NIGHT AT THE RACES"  
BEEFSTEAK**

Wednesday,  
February 5  
6:30 PM



DETAILS  
INSIDE



**ANTHONY  
KEARNS  
CONCERT**

Sunday, March 2  
2:00 PM  
DETAILS INSIDE

**18TH ANNUAL  
DINNER DANCE**

Friday, April 4  
6:00 PM  
DETAILS INSIDE



**GOLF OUTING**  
Monday, June 9 — 11:00 AM

**A GED SEMESTER OF SUCCESS**

In recent years, Oasis has built a highly successful GED program for women from many educational backgrounds. In the past two-and-a-half years, we have seen more than 30 students achieve their GED; in the last semester alone, nine women passed the exam.

We offer three levels of classes on the road to the GED: 1) an adult basic education class for those women whose education was minimal or who dropped out of school at an early age; 2) a pre-GED class for those who have some reading and writing skills; and 3) a GED class which prepares the most academically advanced women to take the test.

Instruction is both one-on-one and in groups, utilizing computers and providing multi-media education. The students, teachers and volunteers meet for three hours daily, focusing on the five subject areas which appear on the test – Reading, Writing, Social Studies, Science, and Mathematics. Additionally, students who are moms can register their preschool children in one of our two on-site day care centers, knowing that while they study, their youngsters are in a caring, educational environment.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Agnes Varis Trust, the GED program has purchased 16 laptop computers and hired full-time English and Mathematics teachers as well as a computer specialist. This assistance is especially important this year, as the 2014 GED is a computerized exam. Our 12 volunteer teachers support the professional staff, bringing their own extensive life experiences to the classroom.

One of the goals of education is employment, and a high school diploma is an enormous benefit when job hunting or interning. We have received great news on this front from many of our graduates, as ten have found permanent employment and two are currently serving as interns at Oasis. We also love hearing from former students as they continue to pursue educational opportunities. Three former students are attending college while one has already completed beauty school. We look forward to continued success in 2014!

**CHANGING LIVES ONE WOMAN AND CHILD AT A TIME**

## MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SISTER GLORIA PEREZ

Dear Friends of Oasis,

In this issue of our newsletter, you can see all the wonderful holiday events that took place here at Oasis. The joy that filled our halls was overwhelming. So many of our women received food and gifts for their holiday celebrations, and the sound of laughter from our children filled our hearts. None of this could have been possible without your most generous help. We are blessed by your many volunteer hours and generous donations that enable us to continue “*changing lives one woman and child at a time.*”

My wish for you this New Year is peace, good health and love. God bless you.

With warm regards,  
Sister Gloria



Virginia Almeida & Sadia Mendez of McGraw Communications presenting Sister Gloria Perez with toys and a \$1000 donation to the toy drive. CEO Frank Ahearn was a student at St. Nicholas of Tolentine in the Bronx when Sister Gloria was Dean of Discipline.

## 10TH ANNUAL OKTOBERFEST !

A DECADE OF SUPPORT FROM MARKET BASKET AND THE CHERNALIS FAMILY

The Big Tent at McBride Field in Franklin Lakes was packed with over 600 people on Friday, October 18, 2013 for the tenth annual celebration that included authentic German food and drink, an Oompa Band, and a late-night performance by Lori Heffernan, Andrew Karaty and Big Convention. Due to the generosity of corporations, foundations, and individuals, the 10th Annual Oktoberfest raised over \$150,000 for the women and children of Oasis.

Oasis also presented the *Patricia McLaughlin Spirit of Oasis Award* to Debbie Duffy, member of the Oasis Board of Directors and Nurturing Center volunteer. The award was renamed this year in honor of former Oasis Board Member Pat McLaughlin, who passed away in July 2013, and whose generous and fun spirit was felt throughout the evening. “We can’t thank Debbie enough for all that she does for Oasis,” said Executive Director Sister Gloria Perez. “Pat was certainly smiling down as we celebrated her friend, as both Debbie and her husband Tom are incredibly generous with their time, talent, and treasure.”

This event could not have happened without the generosity of Tony and Phyllis Chernalis of the Market Basket, who host the event and donate everything from the tent to the table linens, the food to the drink. Additional special thanks to Susan Buchanan, main event organizer, for the most amazing Oktoberfest yet!



L-R: Debbie & Tom Duffy, Sister Gloria Perez, Kathleen Long, Susan Buchanan, Jen Brady, & Paul Onderdonk—Board Members & Staff of Oasis

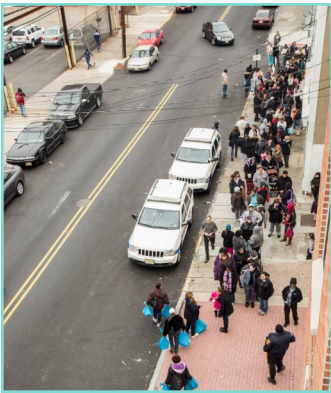


Our volunteers helped us sell close to \$40,000 in raffle tickets for the Super 50/50!

**Left to right:**  
Tony Chernalis and Susan Buchanan; Debbie Duffy accepts the *Patricia McLaughlin Spirit of Oasis Award*; Dianne and Brian McAleese; Alice Gleason, John Gleason, Tom Critelli and Mary Critelli



# THANKSGIVING AT OASIS



© Martina von Rettig

Oasis hosted its annual Thanksgiving meal and turkey giveaway on Tuesday, November 26, 2013. Close to 1,000 meals were served to the Oasis adult education students, as well as members of the Paterson community. The turkey-and-fixings meal was donated by The Market Basket.

Additionally, over 1200 turkeys were distributed, donated from various organizations such as St. Francis Food Pantries – NYC, UPS – Wayne, St. Elizabeth’s Church and Eisenhower Middle School – Wyckoff.

Corporate volunteers from UPS and BD, along with staff, board members, and individual supporters of Oasis distributed turkeys and served lunch.

Special servers and visitors included State Senator Nellie Pou, Department of Human Services Commissioner Jennifer Velez; Assemblyman Benjie Wimberly; Judith Fenusus and Marilyn Frierson, Office of Assemblywoman Shavonda Sumter; and Paterson City Council President Andre Sayegh.



© Martina von Rettig



© Martina von Rettig



© Martina von Rettig



© Martina von Rettig

*Top row, left:* The line for a meal stretched down Mill Street. *Top row, right:* We had volunteers of all ages! *Row 2:* Over 50 volunteers from BD served throughout the day. *Row 3, left:* Employees from the Wayne office of UPS brought food bags and turkeys for distribution. *Row 3, right:* Commissioner Jennifer Velez from the New Jersey Department of Human Services joined us plating food. *Row 4:* Oasis Board Member Aleta Taylor was joined by Paterson City Council President Andre Sayegh in serving the less fortunate.

**Special thanks to Paterson Youth Photography Program volunteer Martina Von Rettig for serving as Oasis’ official photographer at so many of our events!**

# 2ND ANNUAL A NIGHT AT THE RACES BEEFSTEAK



THE BROWNSTONE — 351 WEST BROADWAY, PATERSON, NJ  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2014 — 6:30PM  
\$60 PER PERSON  
INCLUDES: BEEFSTEAK DINNER, WINE, BEER, SODA  
AND VIRTUAL HORSE RACING

\_\_\_ TABLE(S) FOR 10 AT \$600 TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_ # OF SINGLE TICKET(S) AT \$60 PER PERSON TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Return by January 31st or you can purchase your tickets  
online at [www.OASISNJ.ORG](http://www.OASISNJ.ORG).  
For more information please contact  
Lynn McCormack at [lynnmccormack@oasisnj.org](mailto:lynnmccormack@oasisnj.org) or  
(973) 881-8307 ext 108.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ COMPANY NAME/ORG: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY/ST/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

ENCLOSED IS MY CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO OASIS — A HAVEN FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN  
 CREDIT CARD NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ SEC. #: \_\_\_\_\_  
PLEASE CIRCLE:      VISA      MASTERCARD      AMERICAN EXPRESS      DISCOVER

Name of Card Holder: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## A CONCERT BY IRISH TENOR ANTHONY KEARNS

Immaculate Heart Academy  
Patricia Sollitto Performing Arts Center  
500 Van Emburgh Avenue  
Washington Township, NJ 07676

**SUNDAY, MARCH 2, 2014 — 2PM**  
**\$35 FOR GENERAL ADMISSION**  
**\$100 VIP TICKET**

which includes the concert and admission to a catered cocktail  
reception and meet-and-greet with Anthony Kearns immediately  
following the performance.

*Group Discount Ticket Price \$25 -  
applied at check-out for purchases of  
5 or more concert tickets*

To purchase your tickets please visit  
[www.oasisnj.tix.com](http://www.oasisnj.tix.com).

All proceeds to benefit  
Oasis - A Haven for Women and Children and  
Immaculate Heart Academy

OASIS & IHA Present  
An Afternoon With Ireland's Finest Tenor  
**Anthony Kearns**  
Sunday, March 2, 2014  
2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.



# 18TH ANNUAL DINNER DANCE

HONORING  
**PAUL AND MARIA ONDERDONK AND FAMILY**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2013**

6:00PM

THE VENETIAN

546 RIVER DRIVE, GARFIELD, NJ

*Cocktail Attire*

### SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- \_\_\_ EVENT SPONSOR - \$50,000
- \_\_\_ COCKTAIL SPONSOR - \$25,000
- \_\_\_ JOURNAL SPONSOR - \$15,000
- \_\_\_ WINE SPONSOR - \$10,000
- \_\_\_ AUCTION SPONSOR - \$10,000
- \_\_\_ DESSERT SPONSOR - \$10,000

### TABLE RESERVATIONS

- \_\_\_ LEADERSHIP TABLE(S) FOR 10 @ \$10,000
- \_\_\_ BENEFACTOR TABLE(S) FOR 10 @ \$7,500
- \_\_\_ VISIONARY TABLE(S) FOR 10 @ \$5,000
- \_\_\_ PATRON TABLE(S) FOR 10 AT \$3,500
- \_\_\_ TICKETS AT \$350 EACH

### ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES • AD JOURNAL • GOODY BAG

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| ___ OUTSIDE BACK COVER @ \$5,000 - COLOR AD    | ___ BRONZE FULL PAGE AD @ \$1,000 - 8"W x 10"H |
| ___ INSIDE FRONT COVER @ \$3,500 - COLOR AD    | ___ HALF PAGE AD @ \$500—8"W x 5"H             |
| ___ INSIDE BACK COVER @ \$2,500 - COLOR AD     | ___ QUARTER PAGE AD @ \$250— 4"W x 5"H         |
| ___ GOLD FULL PAGE AD @ \$2,000 - 8"W x 10"H   | ___ GOODY BAG LISTING @ \$1,000                |
| ___ SILVER FULL PAGE AD @ \$1,500 - 8"W x 10"H |  |

I CANNOT ATTEND, BUT WOULD LIKE TO DONATE \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

CELL PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check made payable to Oasis—A Haven for Women and Children

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Sec. #: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE CIRCLE:    VISA    MASTERCARD    AMERICAN EXPRESS    DISCOVER

Name of Card Holder: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please mail back to Oasis by March 14, 2014.*

## THE OASIS COMMUNITY CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS

The holiday season can be especially difficult for needy children, but not for the children of Oasis, due to the generosity of hundreds of friends and donors!

Santa visited the children of our Nurturing Center and Children’s Center while their moms and grandmothers were able to “shop” in our toy room. The children of the Michael Wagner After-School Program enjoyed their own celebration with Santa hosted by Frank Politano (Kohler Distributing Company) and his friends from City Santa.

The holiday celebrations culminated in a special meal donated by the Market Basket on Thursday, December 19, 2013. Members of the greater community were also able to shop our toy room on that day, with thankful smiles all around.



*Clockwise from top right:* Santa visited the children of the After-School Program; some of Oasis’ little ones enjoying lunch and waiting for mom to return from Santa’s toy room; the toy room fully stocked; Santa visiting students in our Nurturing Center & Children’s Center; a shopper helps a mom choose three toys for her family; volunteers serving lunch on Dec. 19; City Santa’s Denise Mangome, Frank Politano, Dan Downing and Chris McCrohan.



- Oasis by the numbers:**
- ♥ 946 lunches served for Thanksgiving
  - ♥ 1223 turkeys distributed for Thanksgiving
  - ♥ 602 lunches served for Christmas
  - ♥ Over 5000 toys distributed for Christmas

# ALL ABOARD THE HOLIDAY EXPRESS!



The children and families of the Michael Wagner After-School Program were visited by the Holiday Express on Saturday, December 21. Holiday Express brings professional singers and musicians to visit adults and children in need, including the mentally and physically disabled, the isolated, individuals in addiction and recovery programs, the poor and the homeless, and children with serious illnesses.

Each Holiday Express event comes complete with a visit from the Grinch, Frosty and of course, Santa. While the live music provided by the Holiday Express musicians enlivens the party, many hours behind the scenes make each event a success. Twelve hundred volunteers work in the warehouse sorting donations, packing gift bags, conducting drives, and loading trucks. The children had so much fun and Oasis is very grateful for the visit—and the fun-filled show!

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT— MARY ELLEN VITTI



Each year, nearly two weeks before Christmas, Oasis' own elf, Mary Ellen Vitti, arrives to begin organizing the thousands of toy and children's clothing donations received from companies and individuals for the children of Oasis. During these two weeks, Mary Ellen can be found in one of the two community rooms each day beginning at 7:30am until late in the day, sometimes when the building closes at 6pm. She has organized this collection and distribution for fifteen years, and we don't know what we would do without her. This year, Mary Ellen was joined throughout the two weeks by numerous helper elf volunteers, including staff members of Home Depot in Passaic.

On behalf of the hundreds of adult education students, their children, and members of the community who reap the benefits of your hard work, Oasis thanks you, Mary Ellen!





© Martina von Rettig



## PATERSON YOUTH PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT

The Paterson Youth Photography Project at Oasis (PYPP) is a new program for our young people which looks to introduce them to photography as a means for self-expression. Professional photographers volunteer their time with our students on Saturdays to encourage this new perspective on the world. This first semester culminated in a reception and showcase on December 4, 2013 for students and their families.



© Martina von Rettig



Many thanks to all those who donated or scheduled a "Lunches with Love" during November and December!

- ♥ Sandra Arlington
- ♥ Autobody Jobbers Warehouse
- ♥ Joe & Robin Capozza
- ♥ Debbie & Tom Duffy  
in memory of Pat McLaughlin
- ♥ Debbie & Tom Duffy  
in memory of Raymond Reggio
- ♥ Signe Howard  
in honor of Barbara Howard
- ♥ KPMG
- ♥ Janice & Thomas McCarthy  
in memory of Debbie Spanedda
- ♥ Theresa Salameno  
in honor of Brenda & Peter Hayman
- ♥ St. Anthony's Orthodox Church (two)
- ♥ UPS
- ♥ UPS Store
- ♥ April Wuesthoff  
in honor of Faye Authement

## LUNCHESES WITH LOVE



Early in 2013, we started our "Lunches with Love" Program, which encourages friends of Oasis to make a very tangible difference in the lives of our women and children. **For just \$139**, donors can feed all those visiting Oasis for breakfast and lunch on any given day.

Many people will purchase a "Lunches with Love" in honor of a friend or relative, or even in celebration of a birthday or anniversary. It is especially nice when those connected to the purchase, like the employees of KPMG seen above, visit Oasis to serve lunch on that day. But you can also just purchase a "Lunches with Love" for a day that is meaningful, even if you can't join us.

Let 2014 be your year to join the movement of feeding and serving! Contact Barbara Loscalzo at (973) 881-8307 x133 to schedule yours today!