

oasiscenter

2012/2013 Annual Report



Where 2,985 youth found a place to grow,
thrive and create positive change!

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Dear Friends,

On behalf of our staff and the 2,985 youth we served in 2012-2013, thank you for supporting Oasis Center.

As I wrap up my first full year at Oasis, one word comes to mind: **Strength**. President John F. Kennedy said, "Do not pray for easier lives; pray to be stronger." For Oasis, fiscal year 2012-2013 was about remembering, testing, and increasing our strength as an agency. I am proud to say that today, as it has been for the last forty-five years, Oasis Center remains a strong, bright ray of light shining for the youth of Nashville.



This year, we faced unprecedented opportunities for growth. Some initially presented themselves as difficult challenges, but all proved to be absolutely invaluable for us. In the face of ever-changing federal funding, we came together to ensure that not only would we continue our current services without interruption, we would also rise above the temporary challenges and face the bigger need of evaluating and strengthening our role in the community. Thanks to our dedicated staff and your support, we managed to successfully overcome our challenges and finished the year a stronger, more cohesive agency.

Thank you for believing in the power of Oasis Center to be just that for the youth of Nashville-the oasis where they can count on finding the care, the support, and the opportunities they deserve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas J. Ward".

Tom Ward, CEO

Clinical & Residential Services

*Oasis Center's Clinical & Residential Services provide support for Nashville's most vulnerable youth and their families through three main areas of service: **Counseling, The Emergency Shelter, and Transitional Living Services.** 1,128 individuals were served through these three programs in 2012-2013.*

Emergency Shelter

1,121 Calls
to our
24 Hour Crisis Hot-Line

788 Youth
Received support through
Counseling Services

150 Youth
found safety & support in
our Emergency Shelter

98% of Youth
in the Emergency Shelter
program successfully
returned to their family

638
Teens and families received
therapeutic counseling

\$3,157,853
Savings to the community

Cost of state custody:
\$3,867,300
vs
Cost of Emergency Shelter:
\$709,447

I have been staying at the Oasis Center for a week. The first person I met when I walked in there was Karwan. It didn't take me a week to realize what an amazing person he is.

He is one of the most kind & caring person at the Oasis Center. His personality is the kind to brighten up your mood, your tears can turn into laughter because of him. His kindness is one of a kind, the way he treats you, talks to you and comforts you makes you realize so much things.

When I came to the Oasis center my plan wasn't to stay. I walked in there careless... I didn't want help, but his words changed my mind, the way I felt, and the way I was thinking at the at the moment.

Clinical & Residential Services

Through *Transitional Living Services*, Oasis Center works with Nashville's most vulnerable youth to break the cycle homelessness and poverty. Transitional Living Services encompasses three programs: *Street Outreach*, *Street Outreach Center*, and *Harwell Lofts*.

Street Outreach & Harwell Lofts

156 Youth

interacted with Street Outreach for the 1st time

Memorial Foundation
Street Outreach
Center had

2,018 total visits

29 Youth

Took part in the
Harwell Loft Program

2/3 of youth

leaving Harwell Lofts
had a safe place to go,
were employed and/or
were pursuing
educational goals

\$648,274

Savings to the community

Cost of homelessness:

\$1,657,344

vs

Cost of Transitional

Living Services:

\$1,009,070

Isn't amazing how words
from a complete stranger can turn
your life around? In a good way
of course. A stranger that's who
Harwan was to me, now he's
one of the greatest person I have
come across, a blessing, someone
I needed to realize what a bright
future I could have if I start doing
all the right things & leave the
wrong things alone.

He make the impossible, possible.
I'm not afraid to say I'd like to
be like him one day. He's someone
I can look up to, someone who
inspires me to never give up and
make all my dreams come true
no matter the challenges that
comes in between.

November 27, 2013
Candy

Youth Engagement & Action

Nashville Middle Schools & High Schools

*Through a strong connection to community and leadership opportunities, young people who are part of our **Youth Engagement & Action** programs find opportunities to thrive and grow into healthy young adults. YEA incorporates the TOP ® model of care throughout its programming.*



Oasis believes that every young person has the ability and capacity to create positive change. By building strong relationships with caring adults, and engaging in service learning opportunities, YEA youth realize and embrace their ability to create change in their lives and in their community.

Youth who participate in YEA programming are likely to greatly reduce the chances of early drug and alcohol abuse as well as lower the risk of teen pregnancy. Through early engagement in college preparation and leadership opportunities, youth are empowered to connect to resources that will lead them toward productive and healthy adulthood.

Hi. My name is [REDACTED] It was maybe 6 years ago that I saw you at Oasis. I can't remember exactly when I saw you, or for how long, but I know I was in high school.

The few visits I had with you were more helpful than the social worker that I knew all through middle and high school. You helped me to change my view on myself and my mother. I used to HATE my mother. The hate literally consumed and ran my life. I used to HATE myself. You helped me to see outside of the box. To look at my mother in a different way. Our relationship is not perfect now but the only reason it has gotten to where it is now is the help you gave me years ago.

I also want to thank you for helping me change my views on myself. I had NO self-esteem and could not even think ONE nice thing about myself. I can still remember when you made me wear the rubber band on my wrist and you told me to snap it every time I thought a bad thing about myself. That one activity made me realize just how often I thought negative things about myself. It changed my life. You changed my life.

I got back on track in high school and graduated in the top 20 of my class with a 3.6 GPA. I am now a college Junior majoring in Social Work. If it was not for you, I would not have gotten this far. I really, really, **REALLY** want to say THANK YOU. Thank you for everything.

Youth Engagement & Action

Youth Opportunity Center

Oasis Center continually seeks ways to enhance the potential and opportunities for youth in our community. The Mayor's Youth Council, Building Bridges, Just Us, The R.E.A.L. Program, The Oasis Bike Workshop, the Underground Art Studio, and MTA Youth Action Team each provide unique opportunities to empower youth in a safe way so they practice meaningful and life-changing experiences that will carry them successfully to young adulthood.



**852 Youth
participants**

5,067 Service Hours

A connection to the
community & increased
self esteem

88% Grade Advancement
broadening future
opportunities

**71% engaged in
College Counseling!**
Breaking the cycle
of poverty



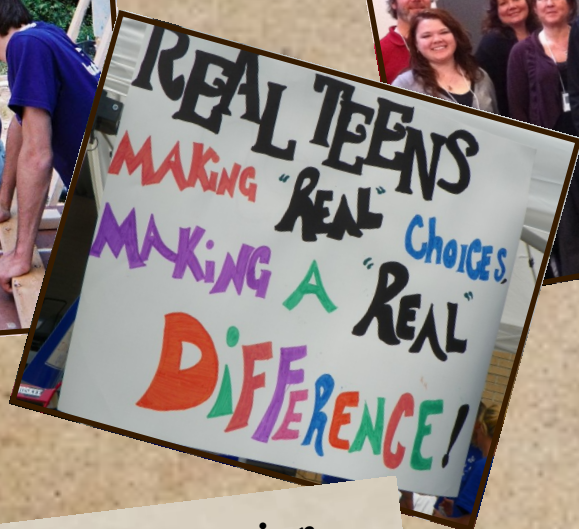

oasiscenter

Dear everyone at oasis,
when I first entered this place, I was feeling
nothing but sadness. But you guys? You gave
me my smile back. You helped me to laugh
and enjoy life again. Each counselor has such
a unique personality of their own! You all
bring something amazing to the table. You
are all such an inspiration to me! Your
hearts are all filled with warm-heartedness
and just pure goodness. You brought back
so much motivation and just pure hope
in my life. I couldn't have made it
without any of you! You've all been my
shoulder to cry on, my dance buddy, and
someone to laugh with. No longer do I
feel like I'm in a dark tunnel, no. Instead
I see a bright light for me and
my future. Thank-you so much for
bringing me back my confidence and
my love for myself. I'll never forget
any of you...
I wish oasis the best of luck!

I love you guys,

Youth Development Learning Collaborative

*The Youth Development Learning Collaborative is a partnership with the University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center of Excellence and the Department of Children's Services. The "YDLC" team trains foster care providers state-wide in the TOP® (Teen Outreach Program) model of care. The TOP® model focuses on 3 core areas in order to improve outcomes for this segment of the youth population: **Promote healthy behaviors, improve life skills, increase sense of purpose.***



**After one year of implementation,
TOP® foster care providers are seeing
evidence of success!**

**Early indicators reveal a reduction in
crime, violence and overall
incidences by the youth they care for.**

56% lower school suspension rate

64% lowered risk of grade failure

48% lower risk of teen pregnancy

**9 Sites & 43
Providers Trained
in the TOP® model**

**839 Youth
engaged in TOP®**

**4,526 Service Hours
performed**

Oasis College Connection

The key to breaking the cycle of generational poverty is education. OCC provides one-on-one college mentoring and financial aid counseling to first generation college students. An extension of OCC, the Oasis Resource Center at Nashville State Community College ensures young people have the support they need to stay in college.

OCC mentors in
**15 middle schools
and high schools**

One-on-one college
counseling & financial aid
assistance with
1,777 youth

85% retention rate
for students engaged with the
Oasis Resource Center at
Nashville State Community College



OASIS COLLEGE CONNECTION



Dear friends at Oasis,

I often felt like I was the only one of my "kind" at school. You see, I'm the oldest of four children adopted by a single mother. Our neighborhood was full of poverty and violence. No one ever talked about going to college, and certainly nobody had been.

I told my younger brothers and sister that I would be the first one to go and set an example for them. I promised that we would make it out, but I really didn't know where to start. I was ashamed to ask for help from my school counselors at Hume Fogg. I felt lost.

The summer before my senior year, a group from the neighborhood community center decided to attend the college fair that Oasis College Connection was hosting. I had heard about Oasis College Connection because my little brothers and I participated in the Bike Workshop.

I went with a big smile on my face and talked to every admissions representative at every booth. At the Lipscomb University booth, I met a happy, bright lady named [REDACTED] who made me feel right at home. I stayed at her booth for over an hour.

After the college fair, I visited [REDACTED] at Oasis. In our first meeting, he looked at me and promised that I would be going to college next year. His encouragement gave me faith in myself.

For many months, I worked with [REDACTED] and with [REDACTED]. They helped make sure I had every piece of information I needed in order to be accepted...anytime I needed to fill out an application or form, someone from College Connection was by my side.

The day I received my Lipscomb University acceptance letter was one of the happiest of my life. But that happiness quickly faded when I faced affording the tuition and board. Again I walked down to [REDACTED] to find out my options. Once again, he worked with [REDACTED] at Lipscomb on finding scholarships I would never have found on my own. In the end, I was awarded enough money to afford the tuition and to live on campus.

Oasis Center College Connection has opened so many doors in my life and I will be forever grateful for all your help! Not only did you help me get to college, you helped my younger brother, who is now attending Sewanee. He is a freshman majoring in political science on a paid-in-full four year ride! He is happy, and me, I am enjoying my time here at Lipscomb University. I love it so much and there's no other place I would rather be.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

Volunteers

*One of the most valuable assets to the Oasis Center is our skilled and generous team of volunteers.
It is with their continued support we are able to meet the needs of youth in our community!*

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Donors

*It is through the **generosity of our donors** that we were able to serve over **3000 youth** in Nashville in 2013. Our gratitude is matched only by our desire and dedication to ensuring the youth we serve have a **connection to a caring adult**, a **safe and secure environment**, and **empowerment to make healthy choices** as they move to adulthood.*

\$25,000+

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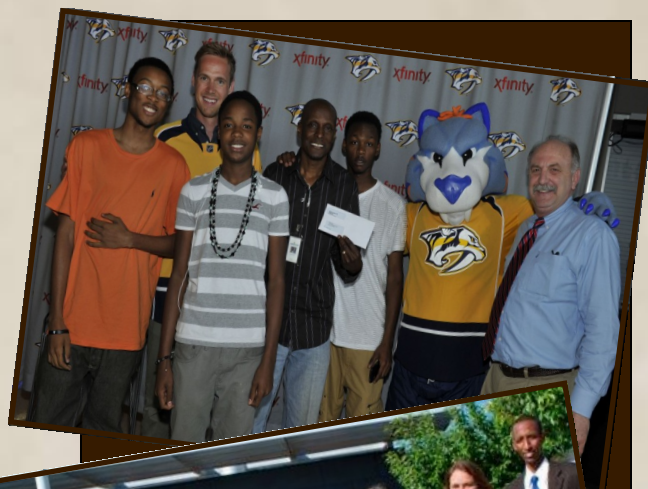
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Heather Steele

*Assistant Vice President/Product Manager
First Bank*

Junior League Representative:

Kristin Shorter

Financials

From 7/1/2012 through 6/30/2013

Expenses

Crisis and Residential Services	\$1,287,674	29%
Counseling Services	\$404,508	9%
Youth Engagement and Action	\$1,150,496	26%
College Connection Services	\$613,235	14%
Mgmt. General & Fundraising	\$948,214	22%
Total	\$4,404,127	

Revenue

Private Contributions	\$1,413,911	34%
Federal and State Grants	\$2,069,233	50%
United Way	\$542,650	13%
Program Fees and Misc.	\$123,414	3%
Total	\$4,149,208	



why oasis!



Because tonight in Nashville approximately **400 young people** will **not have a safe place to sleep.**

Because our College Connection team spent time with **1,777 young people** discussing their possibilities & options for **higher education** last year.

Because our Emergency Shelter helped **147 families** stay together last year through better communication and counseling.

Because in 2012/2013, **311 youth** living on the street came to our **Street Outreach Center** for food, clothing & counseling.

Because **852 youth** were involved in our **Youth Engagement and Action** programs, therefore **changing the odds** toward a better future as they transition into young adulthood.

Because **98 youth** **connected** back to their community through the **R.E.A.L. Program** and found the courage to break their cycle of violence and crime.

Because **1 in 5 youth** in **Davidson County** will find themselves **homeless by the age of 18.**



1704 Charlotte Avenue, Suite 200
Nashville, TN 37203

615.327.4455/1.866.975.3733
www.oasiscenter.org