

From Factory Worker to Vice President Women Move Mountains with Your Support



Oasis GED graduate Nancy Gonzalez with Oasis GED Supervisor, Merry Kennedy. You made Nancy's success possible.

Nancy, 36 years old, is the second eldest of six siblings. She came to the US alone at the age of 16. "It was the only option," she says. Her father was ill. Her family needed money.

She arrived first in New York and then found a job in a packaging factory in New Jersey. Eventually, she married, had two daughters, and settled in Paterson. She found Oasis when her daughter was struggling in school and enrolled her in the After-School Academy. Then, she learned about Oasis English classes.

Even after working in a factory here for ten years, Nancy couldn't speak English. In Mexico, she had attended school only until the sixth grade. She spent three years at Oasis studying English and then moved into the GED program, working nights in the factory all the while.

"At first, I joined the GED classes to improve my English," she says. "I never thought I could earn a high school diploma. I was so afraid at the beginning—all the other ladies in the class were from this country. They spoke English."

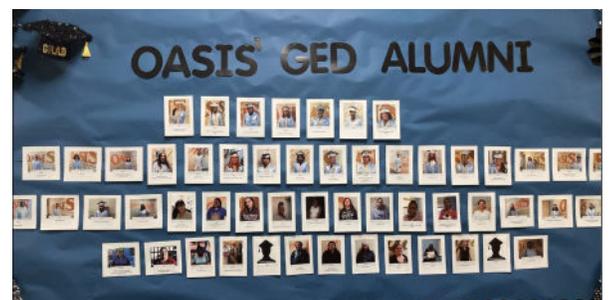
But, Nancy is smart and hard-working. At Oasis, she earned her high school diploma within two years.

The week she completed her GED, Nancy started work full-time at a janitorial services company. She quickly advanced to a position supervising staff throughout North Jersey and then rose to state-level supervisor.

This past January, Nancy was promoted to vice president of building services at the company where she works.

"For the rest of my life, I'll be thankful to Oasis," says Nancy. "This all started with Oasis ESL classes. I am 100 percent sure I wouldn't be here if Oasis didn't help me earn the GED. Oasis changed my life."

The thanks belong to you, Oasis supporters, who helped make Nancy's amazing rise possible.



Oasis fourth-floor bulletin boards. The Wall of Fame.

A Message from Executive Director Jennifer Brady

Dear Friend,

July is the start of a new fiscal year for Oasis! You have contributed so much to *improve the lives of women and children* over this past school year!

You've helped *hundreds* of women learn English, earn a GED, and improve their computer skills. You've given women a safe space and the counseling they need to free themselves of domestic abuse. You've helped children overcome the devastating academic impact of the pandemic.

I hope some of the stories in this newsletter show you the real impact of your amazing support!

The past year has not been without its challenges, as the pandemic has continued to impact Paterson and the nation.

I look back on the past fiscal year with gratitude for you and the difference you've made in so many lives.

Let's work together to change even more lives in the coming school year, in our expanded building!

We simply can't do this without you.

In gratitude,



Jennifer Brady
Executive Director



Oasis campers learn to swim at the Wyckoff YMCA. You support a summer camp program for children whose families cannot afford camp.

A 20-Year Partnership Getting Kids into the Great Outdoors

For two decades, Oasis summer campers have participated in the Wyckoff YMCA summer camp free of charge.

Says Joy Vottero, Wyckoff YMCA Executive Director, "Our members feel joy about being able to offer this program to children who wouldn't otherwise have a chance to participate."

The Oasis campers play on the expansive YMCA lawns, participate in sports and arts activities, and learn to swim.

Children in Paterson lack access

to safe and healthy spaces to play. Attending the Y camp gives the children a chance to play outside and connect with nature. They learn essential life skills, like swimming, that are not available in their own communities.

"Kids are kids," says Ms. Vottero. "The children are all wonderful with one another."

We are grateful to the Wyckoff YMCA for this gift and to you for your support of the Oasis summer camp, which changes children's lives.

Please Join Us!

Thursday 9/29

Sporting Clays Classic / Andover, NJ

Tuesday 10/11

Lobs for Love / Allendale, NJ

Friday 10/14

Oktoberfest / Franklin Lakes, NJ

For more information,
contact Anthony,
Events Manager, at
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or
973-881-8307 x 127



oasisnj.org/events

You Offer Opportunity And You Won't Believe the Results!

The women Oasis serves possess intelligence, perseverance, and admirable resilience. What they so often lack is opportunity. Your generosity—your support of Oasis programs—provides them opportunities they have otherwise been denied. Here's how they succeed, when given a chance:

Artoneil struggled to find work without a high school diploma. She enrolled in the Oasis online GED courses amid the pandemic. She worked diligently on Zoom, often with her baby daughter sitting on her lap, and earned her diploma within six months. She entered trade school and is now on track to become a certified electrician by March 2023. "I love what I'm doing," she says. Artoneil would not likely be where she is today without your support for Oasis online GED classes. "What I liked most about Oasis," she says, "is the teachers. They are so supportive."



Artoneil



Mayra lived with a violent partner who put her and her children in danger. She freed herself and her children from their batterer by attending Oasis domestic violence support groups. "Listening to other women helped me a lot. The others gave me confidence," says Mayra. "In the Oasis groups, we learn ways to better ourselves." In addition to domestic violence support, Mayra completed the yearlong course to earn her Childhood Development Associate credential (a course offered at Oasis). She is now preparing for a career in childcare. "This is not just for myself. I want my children to get educated and have a better life," says Mayra.

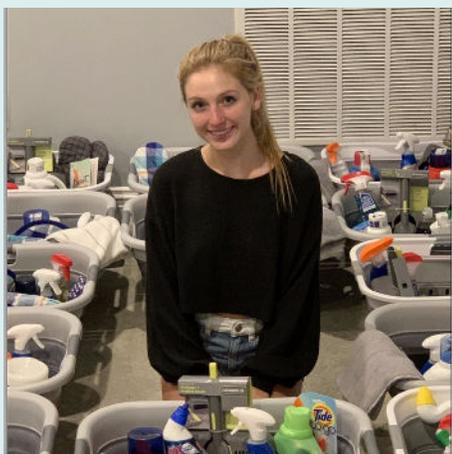
Thirty-two-year-old Anastasia left Eastside High School with an infant daughter when she was 16 years old. In 2019, she came to Oasis to earn her GED so she could find a better job—but even more—to set an example for her teenage daughters. "I wanted my girls to see me earn the diploma and say, 'I can do that too.'" She's now enrolled in a program to become a licensed massage therapist, which she'll complete by September 2022. The Oasis GED made a viable career in the medical field possible for Anastasia, and helped her show her daughters the importance of an education.



Anastasia

Your loyal support gives these women a chance to succeed. They seized the opportunity you offered, and they've made life better for themselves and their children. Each woman here is breaking the cycle of poverty, with your help.

There are so many ways to give. What will you think of next?



A high school student filled 35 laundry baskets with cleaning supplies she collected for Oasis to distribute to women in need. With this project, she earned school service credits and eased the financial burden of families in need.



A teenager preparing for her bat mitzvah assembled boxes full of personal hygiene items. These gifts were given to women at Oasis on Mother's Day. This teen showed compassion and helped repair the world with this mitzvah project.

A Woman's Club collected hundreds of small gifts—jewelry, scarves, purses—and organized a shopping event where Oasis after-school children could "buy" gifts for their loved ones (free of cost) for Mother's Day.



A family gave each child in the Oasis After-School Academy a present to celebrate the end of Ramadan. Charitable giving is a pillar of Islam. The Oasis children were overjoyed to receive a surprise toy at the end of April!

So many of you give creatively. Your gifts-in-kind mean that families struggling financially receive immediate help: an emergency food bag, laundry detergent, shampoo, soap, toothpaste, and more.

These families feel the fellowship, the kindness, and the love your gifts communicate.

What's more, your gifts-in-kind free up Oasis resources so they can be spent on something else—magnifying the impact of cash gifts.

Do you want to help?

- organize a drive?
- conduct a service project?
- brainstorm ways to contribute
- from home?



Please contact Andrea, Volunteer Coordinator, at andreajohnston@oasisnj.org or 973-881-8307 x 121 for information.