



Twins Alex and Angelo gained more than reading skills this year.

Twins Transformed by One-On-One Tutoring Your Support Means Love and Nurture

When twins Alex and Angelo entered our second-grade classroom in September, they scored below kindergarten-level in reading. They spoke very little and were afraid of their teachers and classmates. By year's end, both boys' reading level had increased by more than one grade level. But as important, perhaps, the boys made friends with their classmates. They became less timid.

This change, their teacher is certain, is due to the intensive one-on-one attention the children received from Oasis tutors and volunteers. One-on-one tutors read to the boys, helped with their homework, and guided each child in peer interactions.

"The tutors taught these children how to behave in school—something they had not yet learned," says their teacher.

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"All kids love one-on-one attention but for these two it seems different. The one-on-one attention has been so powerful—it has really transformed these little boys."

Being read to was particularly effective for them, the teacher notes, "The one-on-one reading aloud was something very new to them." Many parents in Paterson lack the literacy skills to read to their children in English (and often in their home language as well).

"It's the nurturing they received here that made the difference," says their teacher. "I am sure of that."

The love and nurturing these boys received would not have been there, but for our generous donors.

Thank you.

A Message from Executive Director Jennifer Brady

The school year has ended, and I hope this newsletter gives you a glance of what great things your donations have accomplished! All this has been made possible because of your loyal and loving support.

And what a year it has been! Hillary learned English. She learned her colors and numbers—and perhaps most important—she learned to share! Valerie earned her high school equivalency diploma and has begun to explore a new life as a veterinary technician. Her daughter became a fluent reader, reading far above her grade level. Alex and Angelo have advanced more than one grade level in reading. Just as important, they have felt safe, secure, and loved.

As we head into summer, I thank all those who have given so generously to change the lives of women and children in need.

Have a happy summer!



Hillary learned English thanks to donors like you.

Hillary Learned English This Year Thanks to Donor Support

Two-year-old Hillary learned English this year while her mother took ESL and computer classes to gain workplace skills. The family speaks Spanish and Hilary had no opportunity—outside Oasis—to learn English so early. Thank you, donors, for giving Hilary the preschool preparation she needs.

Hilary is somewhat famous here, as the infant who cried mercilessly when her mother left her in the Nurturing Center at three months of age. That was more than two years ago. In September, she moved into the toddler room speaking only a few words of English.

Today, she converses cheerfully, in English, with her teachers and the other children.

Today is Monday. The month is June. Our letter today is Y.

Thus begins the day on June 3, for eight two- and three-year-olds in the Oasis Childcare center. Hilary listens carefully. When the teacher points to a yellow flower and asks, “What color is this?” Hilary joyfully shouts, “Yellow!” She knows her colors, she can count and recognizes numbers, and she is a whiz at putting together puzzles. She also knows how to share toys—a social skill she gained this year.

The mastery of these skills predicts her future school success. Learning English early will benefit Hillary for the rest of her life. Neuroscientists have established that learning two languages during the infant-toddler years has positive effects on later cognitive ability. Without donor support, Hilary would have had little chance to gain language skills as a toddler.

The next step, her teachers say, is for her to learn her manners. Sometimes she forgets to say “please” and “thank you.”

So, we thank you, donors, for giving Hillary an educational advantage that will last throughout her lifetime.

CHANGING LIVES, ONE WOMAN AND CHILD AT A TIME.



Mother-Daughter Success Story

Valerie left high school in her freshman year. She gave birth to a daughter, who is now six years old, but was never able to return to school. With your support, she completed her high school equivalency diploma in April after eight short—but challenging—months of study in our GED program. She now plans to study to become a veterinary technician. Your support has made this dream reachable.

Valerie left high school at the age of 16, when she became pregnant. The pregnancy was high-risk, and she was put on bed rest for the full nine months. She lost her freshman year. Once

her daughter was born, she returned to school, but clinical depression got in the way.

“I stopped caring,” Valerie says. She had struggled with depression when still a child, and now she was diagnosed as bipolar. She stayed home with her daughter, both living with her mother.

Valerie knew about Oasis because she had come to the Oasis soup kitchen as a child. When she began the GED program this past September, she was ready to change her life: “I came back because I didn’t want my daughter to ever question me. If she knows I completed my degree, she won’t drop out of high school. She won’t have any excuses.”

Your support has impacted not only Valerie—but her six-year-old daughter as well. “I brought my daughter to Saturday tutoring this year,” Valerie says. “She is in kindergarten, but they tell me she is reading at a second-grade level now.” This Valerie said with great pride.

Valerie on her way to vet tech training. Her daughter reading far above grade level. Lives forever changed. This is what your donation made possible.

Will You Help Other Women Earn Their GED? Funding Needed for Evening GED Course to Launch in September

With her GED, Valerie has a chance to earn \$10,000 more each year than a typical high school dropout. This sum would go far towards caring for her daughter—and moving them both out of poverty.

Oasis is set to launch an evening GED course in September to give the working poor a chance to earn a high school diploma by taking courses at night—after they have worked all day.

Your gift will provide impoverished working individuals an opportunity to earn a living wage and work their way out of poverty.

Yes! I will help the working poor earn their diploma, and help in all the other ways that Oasis makes a difference in the lives of impoverished families.

- \$1,000 ten weeks of classes for one student
- \$500 five weeks of classes for one student
- \$300 three weeks of classes for one student
- \$100 a week of classes for one student
- \$50 a night of classes for one student
- My best offer

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STUDENTS
NEED YOUR
HELP!**

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