

We would like to express our tremendous appreciation to DialAmerica for providing our printing for us free of charge, including this edition of *The Nest*!

On Saturday, September 25, Oasis will be hosting our **1st Annual Health Fair** for community women and children and Oasis clients. Many local health-related groups will be represented, including one of our biggest supporters, **St. Joseph's Healthcare Systems**.

Oasis will be hosting a table at **St. Joseph's 2nd Annual Women's Health Conference** on October 9. For more information, please call Angela Harris at St. Joseph's for a conference brochure: 973-754-2868.

OASIS
Oktoberfest
October 15, 2010

Our 7th Annual **Oktoberfest** promises to be as lively as ever! Enjoy German food, wine and beer, a live German band, and authentic costumes and dancing. Andrew Karaty's Band "Big Convention" featuring Lori Heffernan will be playing as well.

At the same time, you will be helping to provide food, clothing and education for the women and children served by Oasis.

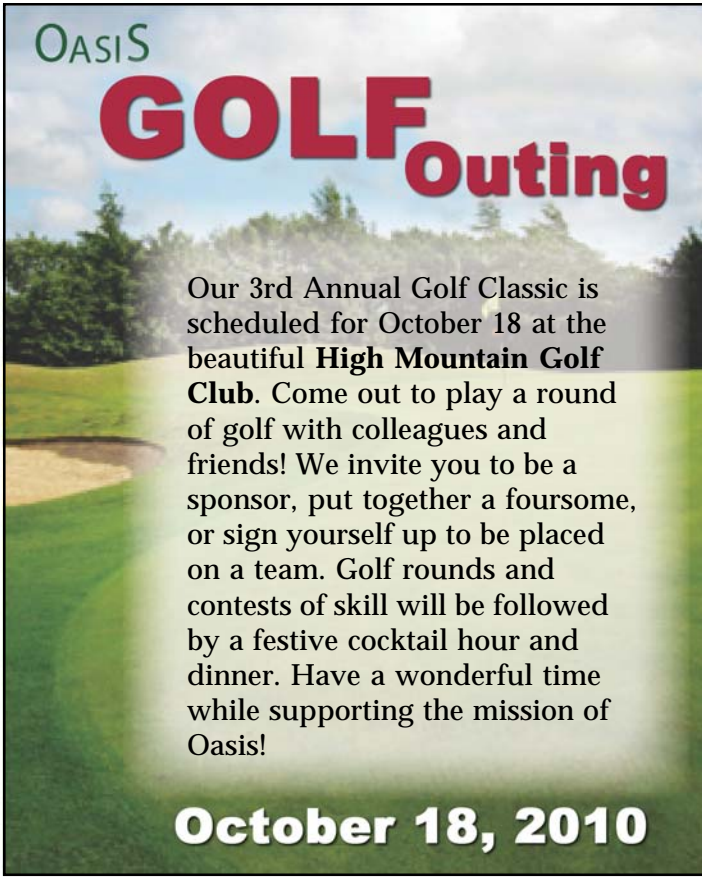
There will be a 50/50 cash raffle for a chance to win up to \$25,000! (Actual prize amount to be determined by the number of tickets sold.)

ABC #11000598 Municipal RL #440 ID #378-4-35803



OASIS
GOLF Outing
October 18, 2010

Our 3rd Annual Golf Classic is scheduled for October 18 at the beautiful **High Mountain Golf Club**. Come out to play a round of golf with colleagues and friends! We invite you to be a sponsor, put together a foursome, or sign yourself up to be placed on a team. Golf rounds and contests of skill will be followed by a festive cocktail hour and dinner. Have a wonderful time while supporting the mission of Oasis!




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Mission Statement

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.

Vision Statement

To be an empowered community of women and children who have reached their fullest potential.

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Visit our new site!
www.oasisnj.org

Changing Lives One Woman and Child at a Time

Summer at the Y...

Summertime for a typical kid in Paterson does not evoke the sense of fun and relaxation that it evokes for most of us. Summer in Paterson means long, boring days with no school to go to and nothing much to do. There is little available for children other than exposure to gangs, violence and drugs.



This summer Oasis was able to provide 130 of these children with a four-week summer camp experience. Through our Carl's Kids Camp, we offered two four-week sessions – one in July and one in August – each with 65 children!

Because of the **Wyckoff YMCA**, the kids have had an especially fun-filled summer. In the past, the Y has hosted the Oasis kids for two days a week during each session – all **completely free of charge**. This summer, our kids got to spend **three** days enjoying the Y's summer camp activities, including swimming in their fabulous lake.

One of the kids' all-time favorite activities was private swimming lessons provided each Tuesday and Wednesday by the Y's Sharks Swim Team. Because of the Y, our campers had the opportunity to learn how to swim. "The kids **love** the swimming lessons!" said Head Counselor **Audrey Grier**. "They always ask about them at the beginning of the session."



Ready for a swim

But by no means does the fun end there! Each year the Y summer camp has a theme. The overall theme this year was "We are the world." Among the weekly themes were North America (specifically, Native American tribes), Antarctica, Africa, South America and Europe. Activities engaging spirit, mind and body were planned according to each theme. Highlights included: A Taste of Europe, including kielbasa, scones, and cristini; an African version of Simon Says and animal puppets; and Japanese dolls and Origami watercolor.

The activities back at Oasis reflected the overall themes of the Y. During South American week, for example, campers made piñatas and learned about ziggurats while at Oasis. During the Native American themed week, making dream catchers was one of the activities here.



The Color Wars is a much-anticipated event each year at the Y. This year's Wars had a Native American theme, with three "tribes": Chippewa (red), Walapai (blue) and Comanche (Green). Using the banners and totem poles they had made, the kids exuberantly competed in sports and games all week.

Our deepest gratitude goes out to the Y for making the world of the children at Oasis a whole lot bigger this summer!

Fun at the lake

...and Summer in the City!

Meanwhile, back at Oasis...

Thanks to the creativity and hard work of our teams of volunteers and counselors, days spent at Oasis were packed with fun-filled activities in the midst of the bustling city of Paterson.

Balloon toss!



Campers with therapy dog

Australia Week: Painting didgeridoos



Volunteer **Jean Gaviglio** approached **Dr. Louis Moore, Ramapo High School's** principal, to see if he would allow her to recruit students to volunteer at Oasis this summer. The principal responded enthusiastically, more than happy to promote the idea of community service. Jean distributed flyers and broadcast this great opportunity; soon over 60 students volunteered from **Ramapo, Indian Hills, Don Bosco and Immaculate Heart Academy High Schools**. Some helped Head Counselor **Audrey Grier**; others, like high school student **Scott Peters**, planned their own activities. Scott took on Junior Olympics Day, planning, organizing and staffing this great event!

Oasis' volunteers had so much fun playing and interacting with the children at Carl's Kids Camp that some called Jean to ask if they could sign up for more dates. We are hoping to see these students return to Oasis this Fall, continuing to volunteer in our programs.

Our own Camp counselors, **Amanda Cepeda, Anna Whiteman** and Counselor in Training **Jennifer Lindo**, took on a major event: the fabulous Talent Show! They choreographed dance routines and organized two great shows for our campers to shine in.

Magician **Great Scott** and his talking parrot, organized by volunteers **Sue Buchanan** and **Tara Roberts**, delighted our young campers with his feats of magic. The Buchanan and Roberts families also donated goody bags for each child to take home.

Jim "Santa" Nardi provided campers with a visit from Santa in the Summer, bearing toys for the enchanted children!

And what camp experience would be complete without a color war? We had that, too! The Ramapo High School volunteers participated in Olympic Day and divided the campers into blue, red and green teams which featured relays, Frisbee throwing and water balloon fights.

Other activities and events organized by volunteers included a therapy dog presentation, baking cupcakes, making piñatas and mural painting. Many volunteers also stayed to help serve lunch.



Face painting day



End Of Year Empowerment Celebration

The highlight of the Oasis school year is our End of Year Empowerment Celebration held each June. We honored the achievements of over 165 students this year. The Celebration marked each student's successful completion of a year of adult education classes.

Our adult education classes in English as a Second Language, GED examination preparation, Computer skills and Workplace Readiness skills are absolutely key to Oasis' mission of giving a hand up out of poverty to the women and children of Paterson.



Mayor Jeffery Jones

Mayor Jeffery Jones was among the guests honoring the women. He received an enthusiastic response from the students as he exhorted them never to rest on their achievements. The Mayor and other speakers spoke before the colorful backdrop of a "Tree of Acknowledgement." Each "leaf" contained a few words expressing each woman's own sense of what she had achieved this year.

Two former Oasis students, Carolyn Smith and Samantha Evans Toor, spoke at the event, inspiring the women to persist in their studies. Carolyn is now a student at Passaic County Community College; Samantha has a part-time job and is seeking a full-time job through the Oasis Workplace Readiness Program. The core of their message to current students was, "If I can do this, you can, too!"

Student Alvita Shockley received a standing ovation for her heartfelt and moving performance of *How I Waited for this Moment*, a song she had written expressing her appreciation to the staff for the opportunities and help she and the other students had received over the course of the year.

Assemblywoman Nellie Pou saw to it that each student was awarded a Citation from the New Jersey State Legislature honoring them for "bringing honor and pride to your family and community... and for perseverance in completing the 2010 Adult Education classes provided at Oasis."

"Oasis feels great pride in the perseverance of these women amidst the daunting difficulties they face every day," says Executive Director Caroline Waterman. "We are very proud of Carolyn and Samantha, and of all the women we serve who are working so hard to improve their lives and the lives of their children."



(l. to r.) Carolyn Smith and Samantha Evans-Toor

Oasis Gets Spiffed Up!

It began when **Seelas' Paint & Wallpaper, Inc.** in Wayne, New Jersey, donated 14 gallons of paint to Oasis in June.

Jen Fox, Director of **Youth Ministries at St. Anthony R.C. Church** in Hawthorne, New Jersey, sent 12 youth volunteers and three supervisors to paint Oasis' dining, hallway and reception areas. They spent five days completing the project.

Incredibly, these volunteers hailed from **Ohio, Michigan, Virginia** and **Texas!** Jen Fox explained how they came to be in Paterson painting Oasis this June.

The **SHINE Program**, based in Houston, Texas, is a youth volunteer program. They have member organizations all over the country, including St. Anthony's. A year ago, the SHINE Program headquarters chose St. Anthony's as one of three central sites volunteers would travel to this summer.

This year, 175 volunteers traveled to St. Anthony's, who chose Oasis as one of the beneficiaries of their efforts.

Carl's Kids Camp Head Counselor **Audrey Grier** treated the volunteers to a tour of The Great Falls of Paterson and its Historic District before they headed off in their bus to further adventures.

The Oasis Staff and the Community women and children who eat here every day thank the SHINE volunteers for their enthusiastic efforts!

A Different Sort of Impact...

Led by a team of high-energy professionals including Cindy Romero Gallagher, Roxana Rodriguez, Susie Bounincontri, Todd Wood, and Rob Rostron, a crew of approximately 15 volunteers from **Deloitte & Touche, LLP, and Deloitte Tax, LLP**, one of the nation's leading Public Accounting firms, arrived at Oasis to present their annual Impact Day to the Oasis students.

Ordinarily, the focus of Deloitte's Impact Day is to provide job-seeking and employment skills workshops such as resume writing, interviewing and job applications. However, Oasis has now put in place its own Workplace Readiness Program curriculum that provides these types of skills.

This year, Deloitte worked with Oasis to come up with an innovative way to serve the students. After a few brainstorming sessions, the result was an event that not only served an unmet need for our students, but was great fun as well: a mock job fair! This gave our students a chance to have a new experience in a low-risk context. The 3rd Floor Community Room buzzed with energy as our students "searched for jobs" and interviewed with "potential employers."

The event's grand finale was Deloitte goody bags, which included a variety of fun and useful items such as Deloitte's calculators, rulers, pens and a Frisbee!

We applaud Deloitte for the creativity and commitment they bring to supporting our students' goals of self-sufficiency.