



Beneficiary Spotlight: OASIS

Northeast Oklahoma OASIS Provides a Safe Haven to Those in Need

by Julie A. Bowers, ODF staff

By definition, an Oasis is a fertile or green spot in a desert or wasteland, made so by the presence of water—a place of refuge and relief to weary travelers. Did you know there are at least two Oases in Northeastern Oklahoma? Not the location where you would typically picture an oasis; however, they each provide daily refuge, relief, a pleasant contrast, and a safe haven to those in need.

OASIS (Oklahoma Adult Services and Interfaith Sharing) is a nonprofit affordable adult daycare program. It was established in 1995 following a need discovered by the Northeast Area of Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Oklahoma. OASIS provides a homelike environment for cognitively or physically impaired adults age 18 and older. This service offers a positive alternative to placement in a long-term facility, allowing participants to remain independent as long as possible.

"These individuals and seniors need our genuine care in a fun, happy, loving environment," explained OASIS Executive Director Lisa Watkins. "It's our time to take care of this generation who has given so much. And, it's an opportunity to provide respite care and assistance to the caregiver and family."

The original care center was located on the campus of the former South Side Christian Church on South Lewis in Tulsa. Following the sale of the church and its property in 2011, OASIS later relocated to its current remodeled facility near 51st and Yale, across from LaFortune Park. A second facility is located in a renovated Presbyterian Church building on East Lee in Sapulpa. Long-term goals include opening a facility in Owasso and another in Broken Arrow. According to Watkins and Phil Burch, Chairman of the Board, the Owasso location is very promising as land and a building have been offered if

OASIS can come up with the funding for staff, equipment, supplies and furnishings.

OASIS is a local community-based, interfaith program endorsed by the Northeast area of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) within Oklahoma—NEACCO. With insight toward the future, NEACCO established an ongoing endowment fund with the Oklahoma Disciples Foundation to assist in the mission of loving, engaging

care for cognitively and physically impaired adults. OASIS is a not-for-profit organization which charges a \$65 daily fee for participants. Distributions from the endowment help provide financial assistance to those who cannot afford the services. Endowment funds also help defray the cost of food, staffing, and materials.

As with any nonprofit organization, continuous funding and spreading the word out about their services remains a challenge. According to Watkins, most of their clients come

via "word of mouth" or from referrals from a few local health care agencies aware of their program. The small staff and volunteer Board of Directors do what they can to facilitate new donors and funds, as well as recruit additional board members and referral providers. However, their main task and focus is providing quality daily care and support to their clients and caregivers.

OASIS is much more than a daycare center. Professional nursing consultation and a devoted staff provide individualized care through planned daily activities including various forms of recreational, music and specialized art therapy. Activities are designed to meet the emotional, spiritual, physical and psychological needs of each participant. Full-service grooming is available as well as occupational, physical and speech therapy. In addition, medications can be administered, special diets accommodated, and health monitored. Clients are individually assessed twice yearly to see that their needs are being met.

The "Navigators Program" is targeted toward young, early onset dementia participants, typically age 65 and younger. It is a specialized program utilizing what Watkins refers to as "Neuro-aerobics"—activities to stimulate and keep the mind active. This program offers participants their own entrance and group activity room. Twice weekly a group of 10 to 12 individuals meet to engage in brain-teaser activities and group discussions/memory building, as well as participate in mobility activities like Tai Chi for balance and coordination. The program also invites the family/caregiver to participate in the activities and support group discussions.

The OASIS staff consists of Registered Nurses, Program Aids, Administrative Personnel, and Activity Directors. In addition, several health care training groups offer occasional support staff on a rotating basis—OU Physicians, AARP, Northeastern State University Social Services, area nursing programs/technical centers, and the University of Oklahoma Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy and Human Resources programs.

In 2012, OASIS was a finalist for the Oklahoma Nonprofit Excellence (ONE) Award in the senior category. According to the Oklahoma Center for Nonprofits, "OASIS Adult Day Services is certainly a leader among Oklahoma nonprofits and is a luminous example of effectiveness and efficiency that has garnered respect throughout the state."

An OASIS participant caregiver wrote, "The OASIS angels have demonstrated love, patience and a true enjoyment of our loved ones. Their gentleness and smiles are contagious to us who are worn and weary. I give thanks daily for our extended family at OASIS."





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'Tis the Season of Thanksgiving And Giving

According to Wikipedia, charity is the practice of voluntary giving of help to those in need. It is a humanitarian act of temporal principle. Several studies have found that charitable giving is correlated with better overall health and happiness of individuals. Evidence strongly suggests that giving money to a good cause awakens a pleasure center in the brain which releases feelings of overall emotional well-being. Can you recall your feelings the last time you gave voluntarily? (Watch for future articles on this subject.)



This holiday season, please consider making a special gift to the Foundation to benefit a fund you are passionate about. Or, consider the "health" and tax

benefits of establishing a more permanent fund to support a need, a passion or a mission within your church. Visit our website at www.okdfdn.org to see a current list of the permanent endowment funds which benefit the

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Oklahoma. Call us to discuss your wishes or join us in praying for the Foundation and the lives we touch.

How can you help ensure the long term survival of the greater church and its missions? Find out ways and means at "Endowing the Future" presentation—Leadership Training 1.31.2015 in OKC. —

Eric S. Gray



OKLAHOMA DISCIPLES FOUNDATION
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Every effort was made to ensure the accuracy and completeness of this publication. We sincerely apologize if the name of any party was omitted, misspelled or incorrectly identified. Please contact Julie Bowers (jabowers@okdfdn.org) at the Foundation office to advise of any errors, changes, or leave your email information.

Thank you!

On the Seminar Scene

Mark Your Calendars for Saturday, February 28, 2015!

Who: Open to all adults of any gender, race, or religion.

What: "Women in Philanthropy" – A presentation of philanthropic trends; the role of women and wealth; women as donors and why they give; and creating a culture of giving.

When: Saturday, February 28, 2015, 8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Morning coffee and lunch provided by the Foundation at no cost to registrants.*

Where: First Christian Church in Oklahoma City, 3700 N. Walker Ave.

Host Presenter: Lesly Bosch Annen, Nazareth, TX, is an independent philanthropic advisor with 20 years of experience in advancement, strategic planning and communications in the nonprofit arena. In addition to many volunteer positions, Ms. Annen has served on several councils and boards for philanthropy in Dallas and North Texas. Her credentials include: Certified Fund Raiser Executive (CFRE) and Chartered Advisor in Philanthropy (CAP).

*Registration required online at www.okdfdn.org or by phone at 405.525.6530.



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