# oasis center

2012/2013 Annual Report



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

#### 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,

Tom Ward, CEO

Thomas J. Hung



# 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

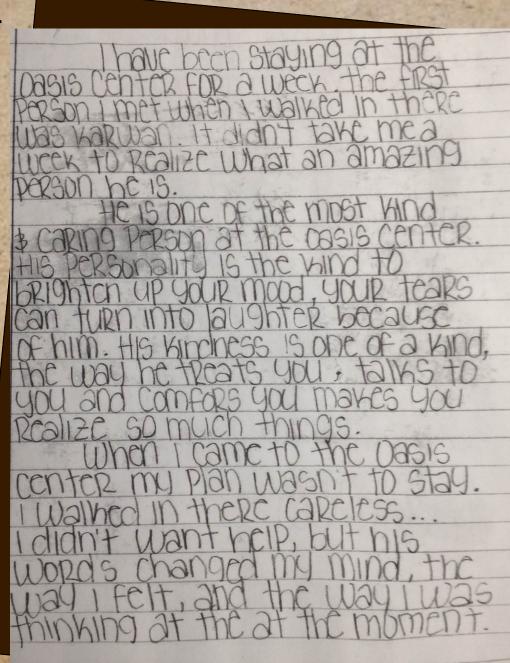
\$3,157,853

Savings to the community

Cost of state custody: \$3,867,300

VS

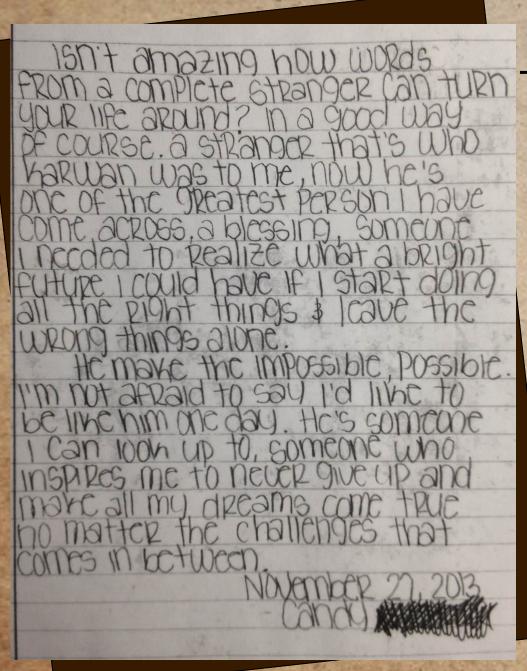
Cost of Emergency Shelter: \$709,447





# 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



# 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.



Hi. My name is the dt was maybe 6 years ago that I saw you at casis. I want remember exactly when I saw you, or for how long, but I know I was in chigh school.

The few visito it had with you were more helpful than the social worker that it knew all through middle and high school. You helped me to whange my view or myself and my mother it used to HATE my mother. The hate literally consumed and ran my life it used to HATE myself. You helped me to see outside of the box. Is 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.

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 or my wist and you told me to snap it every time I thought a bad thing about myself. Hat one activity made me realize just how often I thought negative thing about myself. He are activity made me realize just how often I thought negative thing 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 rollege Junior majoring in Jocial Work. It is was not for you, I would not have gotten this for I vally, 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.



when I first entered this play, I was feeling Dear everyone of casis, nothing but sadruss. But you guys? You gave me my smile back. You helped me to laugh and enjoy life again. Each courselor 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-neartedness and just pure gocarness. You brought back so much motivation and just pure hope in my life. I coulant have made it without any of you! You've all been my anovaer to cry on, my dance buddy, and someone to laugh with no langer do I for like I'm in a dark tunnel, no. Instead I see a bright light for me and my puture. Thank-you so much for bringing me back my confidence and my love for myself. I'll never forget I wish oasis the best of luck! I love you guys,

oasis/center

# 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.



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

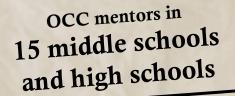
839 Youth engaged in TOP®

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.



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



# 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

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

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 who made me feel right at home. I stayed at her booth for over an hour.

After the college fair, I visited 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 and with 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 to find out my options. Once again, he worked 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,



## 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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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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#### Heather Steele

Assistant Vice President/Product Manager First Bank

#### Junior League Representative:

**Kristin Shorter** 

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

	Carlotte Control of the Control of t	
	<u>Expenses</u>	At sec
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	
	<u>Revenue</u>	
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	





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.

Oasis Center 1704 Charlotte Avenue, Suite 200 Nashville, TN 37203

615.327.4455/1.866.975.3733 www.oasiscenter.org