



ANNUAL REPORT 2017

oasis
THERE'S MORE TO YOUTH

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A message from Tom Ward

Friends of Oasis,

Let me begin by thanking you for so generously supporting our work in 2017. It was a year of significant growth and opportunity to intervene in the lives of youth and their families.

Last year was a year of plenty! Plenty of need for housing, plenty of need for advice, plenty of need for the tangible things that so many of us take for granted. It would be so easy to define the work we do at Oasis in those terms. "Providing stuff to those who do not have stuff." While that is extremely important, it would be far too shallow and far too simple.

Last year a beautiful story written by R. J. Palacio called *Wonder* was brought to film. In the story, there is a teacher who teaches through the use of precepts (a command or principle intended especially as a general rule of action), or simply put, words to live by. He believed that in responding to precepts we find deeper meaning for direction in our lives.

As we confront the issues brought to us by the youth and families we serve, we are challenged to do more than simply respond to need. We must have a driving belief about those whom we encounter.

"We carry within us the wonders we seek around us."

We believe that every person we confront and engage has value and untapped potential. Although they sometimes are the last to believe that about themselves, it is our unanxious expectation that causes us to push for more lasting impact.

As you support Oasis, you support the ideal that inside all of us, no matter the circumstance or condition that exists, there is a life capable of contribution and wonder!

Thank you for giving and supporting the ideals and values we carry.



BE THE CHANGE THAT
YOU WANT TO SEE
IN THE WORLD.

MOHANDAS GANDHI

ABOUT OASIS

Located in Nashville, Oasis Center is a nationally-recognized organization on a mission to help young people in Middle Tennessee move into a happy, healthy, and productive adulthood.

Our philosophy is simple: Rather than viewing youth as passive recipients, we see them as full stakeholders who hold the keys to addressing some of the most challenging problems facing our city, including violence reduction, improved graduation rates, bullying prevention, discrimination, intolerance, and more.

WHERE YOUTH GROW, THRIVE AND CREATE POSITIVE CHANGE

In 1969, a group of young lawyers came together to establish the "Rap House," a simple community center for runaway teens and youth struggling with addictions. Nearly 50 years later, the "Rap House" has evolved into Oasis Center, where over 3,000 youth and their families turn for help and direct support every year. Oasis Center provides a wide range of opportunities that reflect the diverse needs of youth and their families, from crisis intervention to youth leadership and community engagement to college and career access. Our nearly 20 programs and services are based on the foundation of four areas for youth success - **Safety, Belonging, Empowerment, and Generosity**. All of our work is also firmly rooted in the evidence-based principles of Positive Youth Development and Trauma-Informed Care.



WE ACHIEVED GREAT THINGS BECAUSE OF YOU



"If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else."
Booker T. Washington

This past year, **3,679** young people and their families received services in these areas.



Youth Engagement & Action



Youth Engagement & Action

programs including the Bike Workshop, Building Bridges, Just Us, R.E.A.L., Teen outreach Program (TOP), Statewide TOP Training, Underground Art Studio and Youth Action Council **empowered 668** young people, ages 11-18, to be catalysts for change. Each YEA program, while diverse in scope, provides young people with **leadership opportunities, life skills development, and meaningful community engagement experiences**. Each of these programs is ultimately designed to build a **positive sense of self** and allow **freedom to express their individuality** as they learn to **channel their passion and become advocates for their future**.



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT & ACTION

Highlights from 2017



Our Just Us program just keeps growing! We provided 147 LGBTQ young people with a safe and supportive space -- up from 37 in 2013, the project's first year.



Let's get REAL! In partnership with Juvenile Court, our **REAL** program provided 72 youth an alternative from the traditional court system. Since completing the program, 92% of last year's program graduates have not reoffended.



Ride on! 812! That's how many miles our young people in our **Bike Workshop** rode! We had 113 youth complete our 6-week program and build a bike from frame to finish.



Postsecondary Access & Success



Postsecondary Access & Success initiatives focus on helping disadvantaged youth access college, vocational, and career opportunities that lead to long-term employability and self-sufficiency. **Oasis College Connection** helps over 1,500 at-risk students each year with the **college-going process**. **Oasis Transitions** supplements these efforts by providing **case management**, **educational interventions** (e.g., tutoring, credit recovery), **career readiness training**, and **paid work experiences** for youth facing particularly significant barriers (e.g., court involvement, extreme poverty, etc.). Our newest initiative, **Oasis Venture** immerses teens into Nashville's thriving **entrepreneurial** community and the world of start-ups as youth cohorts learn to master foundational business concepts and network with local entrepreneurs.



POSTSECONDARY ACCESS & SUCCESS

Highlights from 2017



Getting connected! Oasis College Connection provided 1-on-1 college access and success support for 1,293 students across 14 Metro Nashville high schools, middle schools, and Nashville State Community College.



Getting ready! Oasis Transitions engaged 210 youth in career readiness programming, including 87 youth through the city's Opportunity NOW summer jobs initiative. 97% of all youth in the program gained work experience.



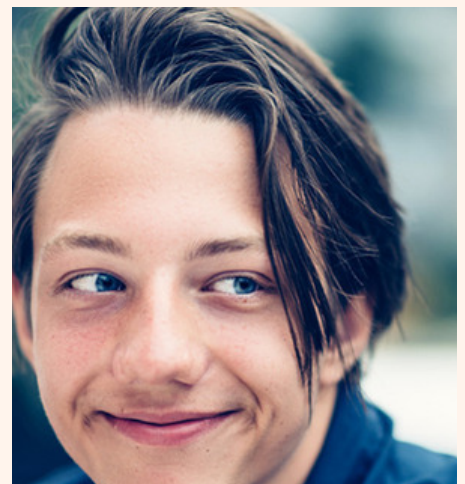
Getting experience! 16 young entrepreneurs completed Venture's cohort experience, with 4 young people pitching their ideas to investors and community members during our Pitch Day Event.



Crisis & Residential Services



Crisis & Residential Services represents a spectrum of programs and services exclusively for youth who are homeless, have run away, and/or are experiencing familial crisis to the brink of family fracture. Crisis and Residential Services provide an essential community safety net, helping transform the life trajectory of over 550 runaway and homeless young people, ages 13-24, each year. Programs include: the **Oasis Emergency Shelter** (serving youth, ages 13-17, and their families in crisis), **Street Outreach Program** and **Drop-In Center** (serving youth, ages 18-24, experiencing homelessness). We also engage approximately 600 youth and families annually through **Clinical Counseling Services**.



CRISIS & RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

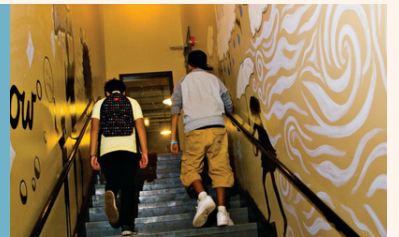
Highlights from 2017



Reunited. The **Emergency Shelter** provided crisis intervention and residential therapeutic support for 156 youth and their families. 96% of our young people were safely reunited and avoided placement in foster care.



A safe space. Through **street-based services**, the **Outreach Center**, and a **warming shelter**, 272 youth received services. In a new partnership with Urban Housing Solutions, 6 youth were placed in permanent housing and provided case management.



Support. 780 youth and family members, including 355 in our Shelter and 425 through community-based counseling were provided free family **counseling services**.



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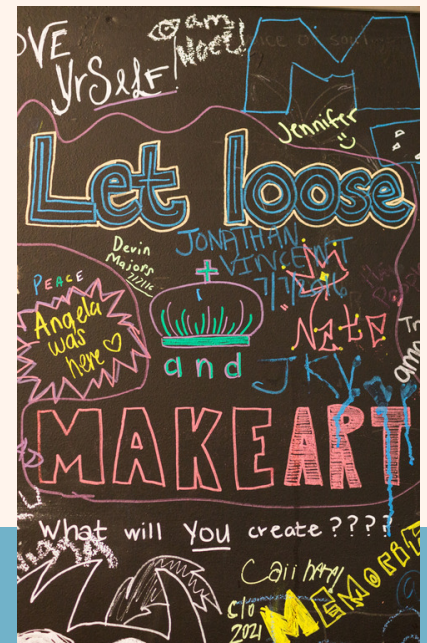
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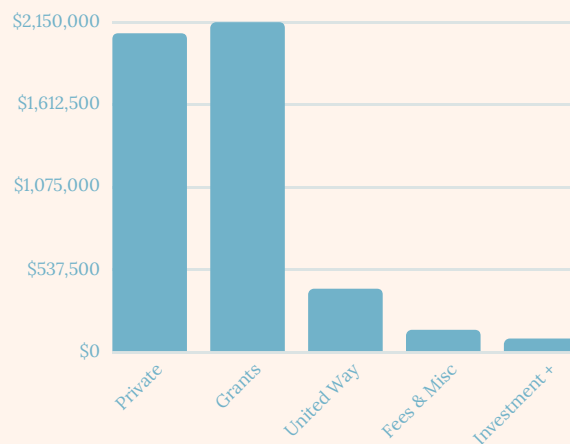
Thank you!

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FISCAL YEAR 2017

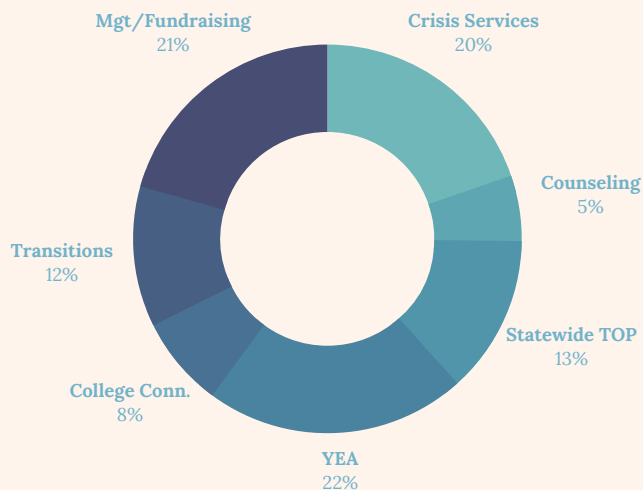
Revenue and Other Support

Private Contributions	\$2,072,485
Federal & State Grants	2,144,717
United Way	406,564
Program Fees and Misc.	169,917
Investment Gain	81,689
TOTAL	\$4,875,372



Expenses

Crisis & Residential Services	\$972,484
Counseling	268,675
Statewide TOP	648,057
Youth Engagement & Action	1,072,668
Oasis College Connection	372,417
Transitions	576,617
Management General & Fundraising	1,017,413
TOTAL	\$4,928,331



3,679

number of youth and family members Oasis Center served in 2017

We carry within us
the wonders we seek
around us.

oasis
THERE'S MORE TO YOUTH

1704 Charlotte Ave. Suite 200
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615.327.4455

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“youth can walk
around trouble

if there is some
place to walk to
and someone to walk with”

Tito, Former Gang Member