Dear Friends of Oasis,

On behalf of our staff and the youth we serve, thank you for supporting the Oasis Center.

Robert Fulghum wrote: “The grass is not, in fact, always greener on the other side of the fence. No, not at all. Fences have nothing to do with it. The grass is greenest where it is watered. When crossing over fences, carry water with you and tend the grass wherever you may be.”

The year 2014 was an extraordinary one for Oasis. There were significant programmatic changes, physical space transitions and the addition of several new opportunities to impact the lives of young people. In total, our programs serviced nearly 2700 youth and trained youth service providers across the state of Tennessee.

Oasis continues to lead and advocate by changing public policy, impacting education, and raising awareness for issues affecting youth and their families. The Oasis staff helped direct a shift in state policy with regard to the care and safety of the LGBT population. Community partnerships were strengthened through a significant work force development initiative and a more strategic plan for eliminating youth homelessness. Work in juvenile justice and education expanded to the national level with our participation in the PASSAGE project.

I chose Robert Fulghum’s quote because it describes us best. The very talented and committed staff at Oasis continues to recognize need and provide the appropriate services for youth. Your generosity and continuous support demonstrate the confidence you place in our work and honors Oasis’ efforts to water the grass, wherever it is found.

Thank you for believing in us and for caring so deeply for the youth of our city.

Sincerely,

Tom Ward
In 2014, 2,665 youth engaged with one or more of Oasis Center’s twenty programs. Ranging in age from 13-21, Oasis youth come from all walks of life and a variety of zip codes. Each young person brings a unique set of skills, challenges, and life experiences. Whether they are breaking ties to a violent past, experiencing homelessness, exploring higher education possibilities or leading service projects, they represent our city’s future.

Thanks to your support and the indomitable spirit of our youth, Nashville’s future is in good hands. We hope you enjoy the 2014 annual report.

Our primary goal remains to provide opportunity for youth to grow, thrive and create positive change.

International Teen Outreach Program (ITOP) team members take the stage just prior to “Celebrate Nashville”, 2014.
HOPE
When I came to the shelter, I did not want to be there. I was really mad and thought it was the end of the world. I wouldn’t talk to anybody, not even my counselor for a couple of days. But finally I felt like I could trust him, and tell him my side of the story. Somehow he helped me and my mom talk without arguing all the time and I went back home to try again.

I haven’t tried to run away from home in a long time now.”

Marissa, age 15

Clinical and Residential Services

Through Oasis Center’s Clinical and Residential Services, youth and their families have access to counselors who can help them rebuild lines of communication and understanding. The Emergency Shelter provides respite for the most critical situations when families need a break to allow the healing to begin. And through Street Outreach and the Street Outreach Center, youth struggling with homelessness have access to emergency services both short term and long term. Monday-Friday, young people living on the street can get a hot lunch, talk with the on-site counselors, and gain information about jobs and housing.

In 2014:

158 youth found respite in the Oasis Emergency Shelter
98% of those youth were able to safely re-unite with their family
551 youth and family members were actively involved in counseling
317 un-duplicated youth experiencing homelessness had contact with our Street Outreach team
More than 2700 individual visits were made to our Street Outreach Center
Youth break down communication barriers at Camp Anytown, 2014. Camp Anytown is part of the Building Bridges Program.
Youth Engagement & Action

We believe that each young person has the capacity to create positive change for themselves and our community. Often times, the first step these youth take in recognizing their full potential is through service learning and community involvement. These opportunities are prime for increasing self esteem, self confidence and leadership skills. In turn, what these youth experience are lower truancy rates in schools, decreased drop-out rates and lower risk of teen pregnancy, all of which are shown to be indicators of poverty. By addressing these issues early on, youth are empowered to break the cycle of generational poverty.

By connecting with and engaging disparate segments of the youth population, YEA programming reaches deep into the seams of the issues that affect our youth.

In 2014:

679 young people connected to our community in positive & empowering ways through service learning.

284 youth leaders came together to learn how to overcome biases and prejudices without sacrificing individual identity characteristics, such as faith, culture and gender.

88% of YEA youth were involved in college prep activities.

96% of youth referred from the juvenile court system did not re-offend.

Just Us is committed to equality and connects with youth who identify on the LGBT spectrum

The R.E.A.L. Program works with youth offenders to break the cycle of violence and imprisonment

The Oasis Bike Workshop empowers youth through learning a valued skill and encourages healthy activity

Building Bridges engages and develops youth leaders by overcoming barriers

Transitions provides workforce development training, mentoring and job opportunities

Youth Councils teach youth to use their voice for positive change

TOP/ITOP focus on service learning and community engagement for middle school youth and encourage youth to embrace their cultural heritage

The Oasis Underground Art Studio provides opportunity for youth to communicate and heal through art

Young artists from the Oasis Underground Art Studio paint one of the bollards outside the entrance to the Frist Center For The Visual Arts. Their design was one of five chosen for the project.
“College wasn’t something we talked about at ‘home’. My parents definitely didn’t have the money for me to go, and it seemed so hard to figure out all the paperwork just to get in. Robert helped me connect to grant dollars, and with some help, I got accepted to two colleges!”

Manuel, Age 18

Oasis College Connection

For all of the youth Oasis serves, post-secondary education is a viable option through Oasis College Connection. Low-income and first generation college hopefuls have access to mentors in 12 Nashville high schools where they provide one-on-one, comprehensive counseling. The result is more youth than ever are taking the college path or finding degree programs that help them develop the skills that will help them be successful after high school.

We’ve learned that getting into college is one thing, but staying in college is another. The Oasis Resource Center at Nashville State Community College provides support for youth who need a champion! In the Resource Center, students can get tutoring, help with managing priorities, and camaraderie that encourages accountability and success.

In 2014:

- College Connection mentors had one-on-one conversations about college with 1,106 students
- Nearly 100 youth were part of SAT/ACT Prep Sessions
- 65 students participated in college tours
- 80 college students accessed the Resource Center at Nashville State
- 635 tutoring sessions
- 82% of youth working with the Resource Center re-enrolled in subsequent semesters
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“The interior joy we feel when we have done a good deed is the nourishment the soul requires.”

Albert Schweitzer
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Through the Oasis Bike Workshop, youth develop skills and build self-confidence by recognizing their value in our community.
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A Nissan team member pitches in at Oasis during their “Community Day”.

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Oasis staff members take a break during the “Ka-Boom” playground build at a local school.
R.E.A.L. Program young people find a creative way to express the challenges they face.
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The Kandinsky Exhibit at the Frist Center for the Visual Arts was the inspiration for the bollard designed by Oasis youth.
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Ron Johnson, director of the R.E.A.L. program, spends time with one of the program participants. The R.E.A.L. Program connects with youth who are intent on creating a future for themselves without violence.
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- Ann Krafft
- Austin Lanser
- Nabilah Lari
- Susan Leath
- Bethany Liles
- Eric Magas
- Jeffrey Malone

*A youth volunteer helps a visitor to the Celebrate Nashville event.*
Youth learn to make their own repairs in the Oasis Bike Workshop with the help of a volunteer. Once youth complete the 6-week program, they get to keep the bike they have built, along with a helmet and a bike lock.
Volunteers

Robert Marx
Merritt Mayo
Kevin McFadgen
Anna McFarland
Molly Meinbresse
Mackenzie Mitchell
Bailey Monarch
Susan Morgan
Ndume Olatushani
Alvin Pearman
Joseph Pendergraph
Natalie Pendleton
Carolyn Peters
Hannah Peterson
Carolyn Pippen
Anne Pollock
Ingrid Ransom
Laurel Reeves
Paige Regan
Shawn Reilly
Fransely Robles
Jasmine Rutledge
Annika Schonewill
Damoniek Shelton
Mark Simpson
Denysha Smith
Rebecca Stephens
Nicole Stuart
Kimberly Stubbs
Kurt Taser
Jaclyn Tidwell
Jessica Tillotson
Daniela Torre
Richard Trotter
Amy Turner
Katie Umberg
Jeff Vaden
Nathaniel Van Patten
Vanderbilt Nursing Students
Kelly Walker
Frannie Weaver
Ryan Whipkey
Jeff Williams
Leah Wilson
Stacey Wilson
Claire Winter
Emily Wurz
Bill Yancey
Donna Yancey
Vickie Young
Josiah Zacharias

“Maybe others have had things more serious & hurt-able than mine, & I have to realize that. It’s not that I couldn’t cry dearly about that, but my art allows me to rise above it.”

Lonnie Holley, Guest Artist
Oasis Underground Art Studio
Board of Directors

"We rise by lifting others."

-Robert Ingersoll

Sheryl Rimrodt (President)
Asst. Professor of Pediatrics, Vanderbilt Hospital

Jenny Barker
Director of Public Relations, Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center

Fabian Bedne
Metro Councilman/Organicus Design LLC

Kendra Brown
Human Resources, Cracker Barrel

Dr. Norma Burgess
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, Lipscomb University

Jimmy Bynum
CEO, Alexander & Preston, LLC

Maria Campos
Youth Representative

Roger Cunningham
Advertising and PR, Gish Sherwood & Friends

Collie Daily
Administrative Manager, Hardsworth Construction

Melissa Eads
Community Relations, Kroger

Kent Earls
Executive VP/General Manager, Universal Music Publishing Group, Nashville

Stephanie Ingram
Community Volunteer

Dave Mazur
Vice President- Market Intelligence, Nissan N.A.

Kendall Musgrove (Treasurer)
Senior Director of Program Management, Asurion

Laura E. Proctor
Associate General Counsel, LP Building Products

Bill Purcell
Attorney at Law, Jones, Hawkins & Farmer, PLC

DeShawne Trimble
Youth Representative

Sissy Wilson
Community Volunteer

Dr. Charles Bell
Vice President-Advanced Clinical Applications, HCA

Young Leaders Council Interns

Frank Miles
Miles Real Estate

Meredith Hiester
Howell & Fisher

Junior League Representative

Kristin Torrey
## Financial Statement

**July 1, 2013-June 30, 2014**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crisis and Residential Services</td>
<td>$1,226,025</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counseling</td>
<td>$331,707</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Engagement and Action</td>
<td>$1,241,959</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Connection</td>
<td>$372,969</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transitions (Workforce Development) Initiative</td>
<td>$83,995</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Management and Fundraising</td>
<td>$1,033,425</td>
<td>24%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,290,080</strong></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private Contributions</td>
<td>$1,588,923</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal and State Grants</td>
<td>$1,837,677</td>
<td>44%</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Way</td>
<td>$541,660</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Fees and Miscellaneous</td>
<td>$185,998</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,154,258</strong></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Oasis staffers take an afternoon for a little fun and team building.
Oasis Center is honored to be part of the Bank of America Student Leaders Program. Annually, Bank of America selects community-minded high school students and connects them to non-profit organizations to develop knowledge and skills that make a difference in our community.
Middle school students check out a community garden through “Great Outdoors University”, part of the Teen Outreach Program.