




oasiscenter

Where Youth Grow, Thrive, and Create Positive Change

2014 Annual Report



“Oasis continues to lead and advocate by changing public policy, impacting education, and raising awareness for issues affecting youth and their families.”

Tom Ward
CEO, The Oasis Center

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.

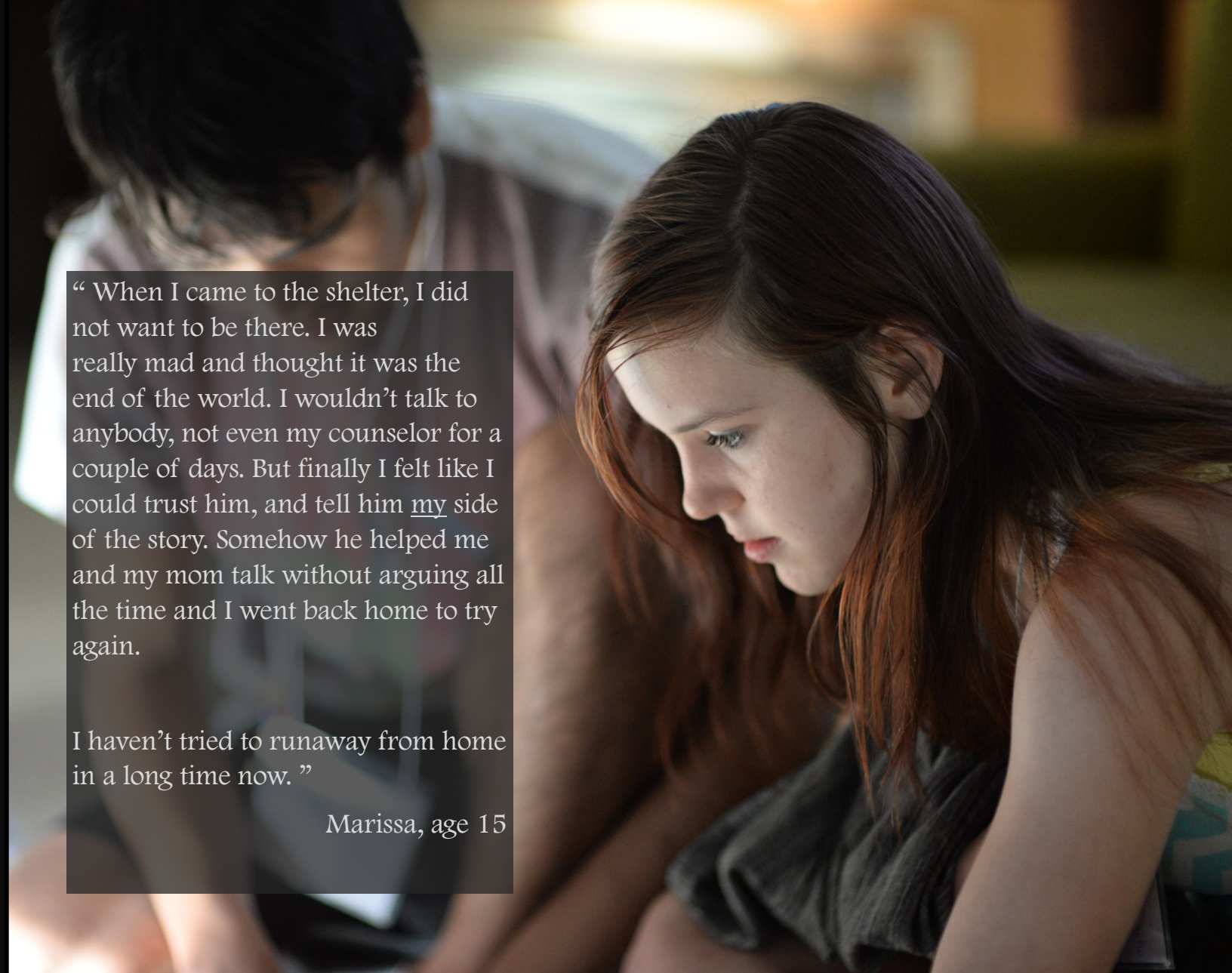
Thanks to your support and the indomitable spirit of our youth, Nashville's future is in good hands. We hope you enjoy the 2014 annual report.

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.





“ 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 runaway 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

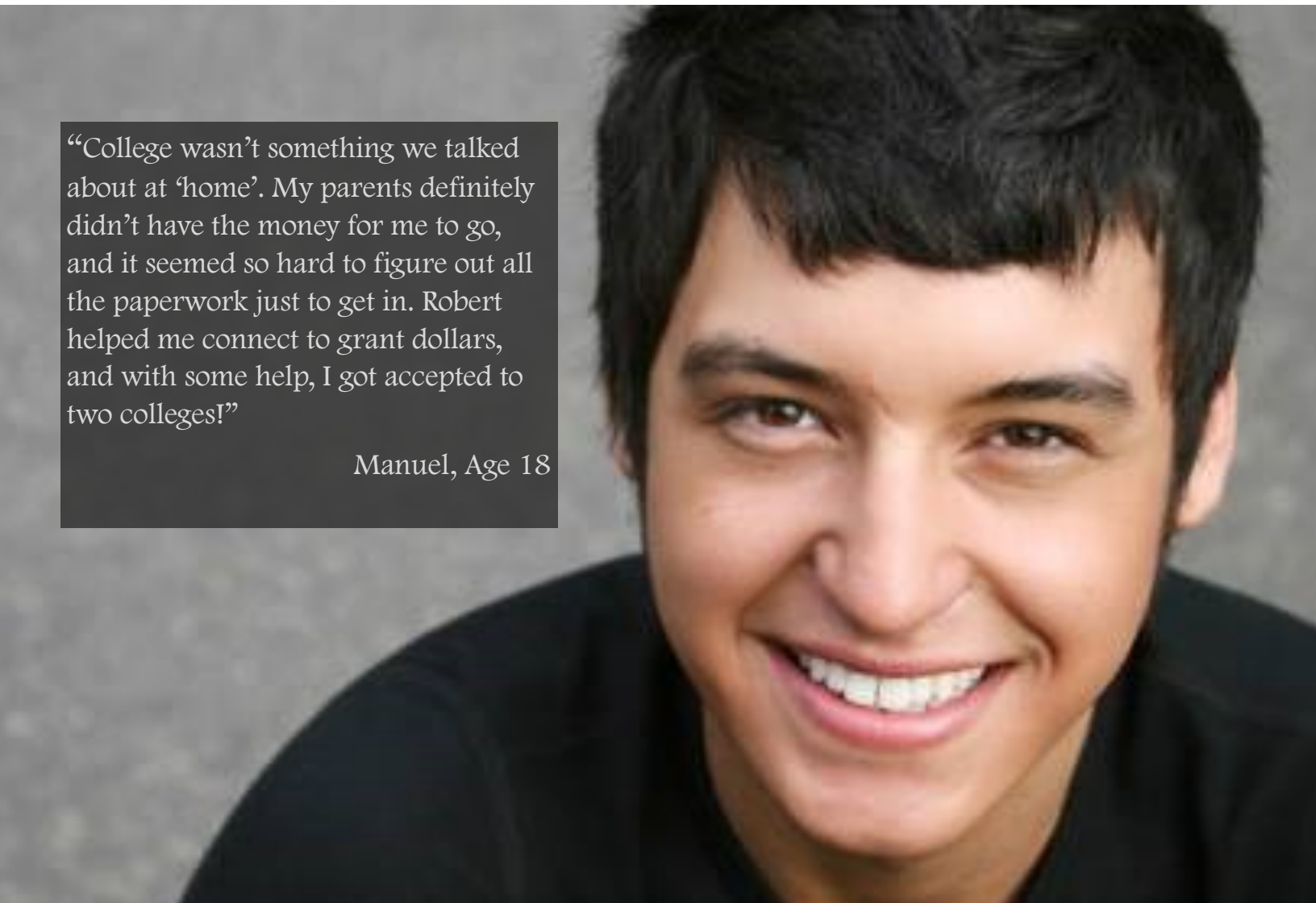
Youth Councils teach youth to use their voice for positive change

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

\$20,000 +

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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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with cameras to document the value public transportation.



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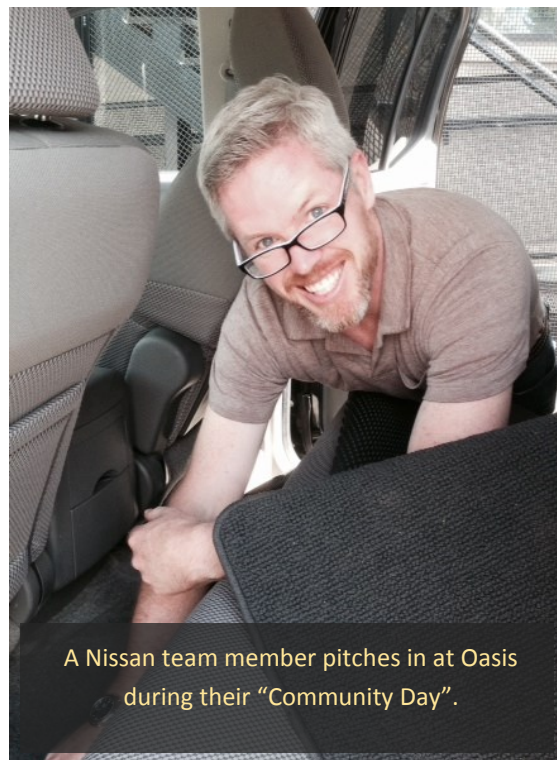
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A Nissan team member pitches in at Oasis during their "Community Day".

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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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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.

Volunteers

Amanda Adams	Michael Centi	Bill Fisher	Jasmine Hunter
Kevonte Anderson	Malia Chamness	Mackenzie Fox	Chenoa Jacobs
Kaitlyn Asher	Jimmy Cleveland	Erin Gagnon	Robert Jaffee
Marilyn Bell	Nadine Cloute	Susan Gardner	Barbara James
Robert Benshoof	Andrea Collins	Derek Gibson	Ron Jones
Kaleigh Black	Decinda Condrey	Alena Gizdic	Catherine Kearney
Lacey Bowles Shell	Emma Cook	Jaclyn Goldman	Sinclair Kelly
Elizabeth Bradbury	William Cooper	Sarah Goodrich	Michelle Kistenmacher
Kelly Broderick	Kristen Crittle	Jenny Gray	Brianna Kourajian
Charles Burgess	Jackson Crossley	Alexander Hall	Ann Krafft
Karl Butler	Jessica Curry	Samuel Halleen	Austin Lanser
Joseph Buzzelli	Jeff Danley	Benjamin Hartel	Nabilah Lari
Jeannie Camarillo	Chris Deline	Katelyn Hellige	Susan Leath
Harmony Cannon	Debra Dickey	Connor Henderson	Bethany Liles
Mychael Carney	Jackie Donovan	Jill Heyman	Eric Magas
Adams Carroll	Sandra Douglass	Mary Hinton	Jeffrey Malone
CAT Financial	Andrew Doyle	Natalie Hoffmann	
John Cate	Dan Dumont	Acea Holland	
Rolanda Cayton	David Farris	James Huff	



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



“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

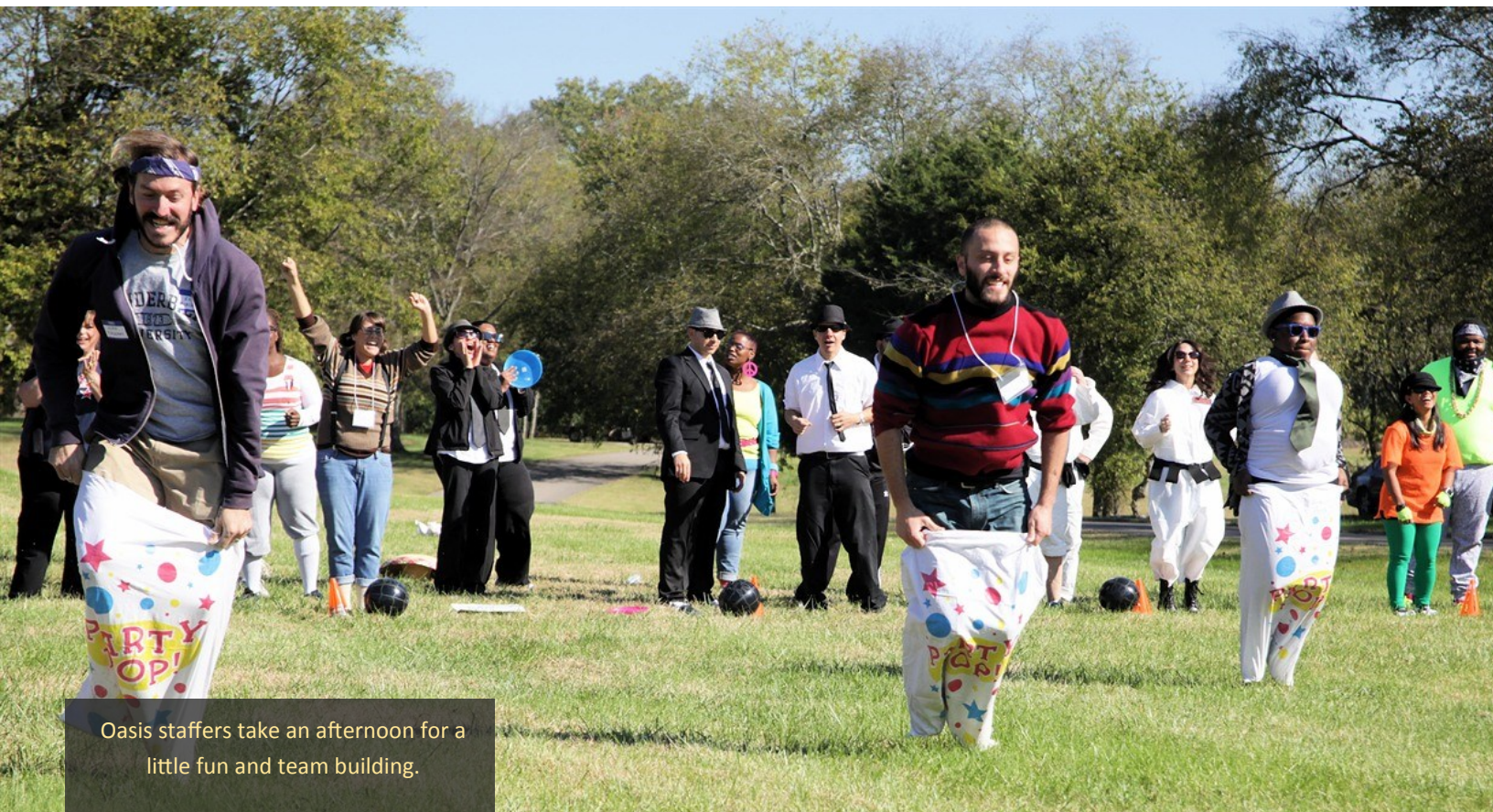
Junior League Representative

Kristin Torrey

Financial Statement

July 1, 2013-June 30, 2014

	Expenses	
Crisis and Residential Services	\$1,226,025	29%
Counseling	\$331,707	8%
Youth Engagement and Action	\$1,241,959	29%
College Connection	\$372,969	9%
Transitions (Workforce Development) Initiative	\$83,995	2%
General Management and Fundraising	\$1,033,425	24%
Total	\$4,290,080	
	Revenue	
Private Contributions	\$1,588,923	38%
Federal and State Grants	\$1,837,677	44%
United Way	\$541,660	13%
Program Fees and Miscellaneous	\$185,998	4%
Total	\$4,154,258	



Oasis staffers take an afternoon for a little fun and team building.



Bank of America Student Leaders, Oasis Center, 2014

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



**oasiscenter**

Where Youth Grow, Thrive, and Create Positive Change

1704 Charlotte Avenue Suite 200

Nashville, TN 37203

www.oasiscenter.org