



Changing lives, one woman and child at a time

Summer 2020

Donors Fund Massive Pandemic Relief Operation Your Gifts Feed Thousands of Desperate Families

On Monday, March 16, the city of Paterson came to a halt. Shops and schools were shuttered. Jobs evaporated—waitresses, cashiers, cleaning people—all no longer needed.

Overnight, these low-income workers, most with little savings, lost their paychecks. (One quarter of low-income Americans have no savings and close to 40 percent have less than \$500 in the bank.) In a city where infection rates were soaring, many were without health insurance. Stores were overcrowded and under-stocked.

Empty pantries. Hungry children. Desperate mothers. A city in crisis.

Then you stepped in to help.

You, and hundreds of donors like you, have funded a massive pandemic relief operation that has fed thousands of families—like Marta's—since March 16.

Since March 16, you have given over 8,000 bags of food to hungry families.

With your support, Oasis kitchen staff cooked and packaged as many as 2,000 hot grab-and-go meals daily (at the height of the crisis). We typically serve some 130 hot lunches a day.

Several donor groups pooled funds and purchased restaurant meals that we then distributed as grab-and-go meals. This donated restaurant food represented at least one-half of grab-and-go meals distributed, significantly reducing pressure on our kitchen workers.

Since March 16, you have helped distribute over 70,000 hot meals to needy families.

Every donation—of cash or goods—has helped Marta, her children, and thousands like them. Every gift has made a difference in the life of a woman, a child, a family.



Marta's daughters attend the Michael Wagner After-School Academy. Her husband—their father—abandoned the family years ago. A single mother, she kept the children fed with part-time jobs in restaurants and local shops—until late March when she was dismissed without warning. She had no savings, no one to turn to, and two children to feed.

On their behalf, we thank you.



As donors delivered canned goods, cereals, pasta, to 59 Mill Street, the Oasis dining room became a food storage and packaging site.

A Message from Executive Director Jennifer Brady

Dear Oasis Friends,

"There is, within human nature, an amazing potential for goodness." I have thought about this Martin Luther King quote so many times over the past several months, as I have witnessed your generosity and kindness. At times, it has brought me to tears.

And we are moving forward! On September 3, we plan to re-launch our educational and social service programs in both on-site and virtual formats! Please be on the lookout for new successes—with your support!

Thank you for making these miracles happen.

In Gratitude,



Jennifer Brady



When the Pandemic Hit...

We suspended our onsite programs and then quickly re-launched virtually, connecting Oasis to women and children through Zoom, Google Classroom, and cell phone. Some virtual activities have included:

Michael Wagner After-School Academy

Many children had no access to a computer so our teachers used cell phones to provide individualized homework help after school. Oasis teachers delivered food bags and meals, school supplies, and baby items to children and their families. They served as liaisons between children and the district teachers.



Adult ESL

Our ESL teachers launched their courses on Zoom. Since March 16, three Citizenship students have become American citizens. Volunteers conducted the English Café via Zoom.

Teen Program

Oasis staff kept in close contact with teen program participants, initially with twice-weekly zoom sessions. We delivered laptops (loaners) to 30 teens and children who had none. In late June, Oasis hosted a graduation party celebrating our three seniors who earned scholarships to Monmouth University, Montclair State University, and the University of Rochester.



Virtual Summer Camp

Through the month of July, four teachers and our School 2 Coordinator have met virtually with 41 elementary-school children each weekday. They do art and science projects, have occasional onsite field trips, and enjoy reading and math activities that keep them connected socially and academically.

Oasis Donors Stock Food Pantry Thousands of Food Bags Filled

Oasis supporter Greg Larson launched a food pantry program that has helped provide over 10,000 food bags to hungry families since late March.

How did he initiate and carry out such a massive logistical operation in so short a time?

"In March, when the pandemic struck, I was sitting home feeling sorry for myself. The stock market was tanking, and my 401K didn't look good," says Larson. "Then, I heard about what was happening in Paterson: catastrophic job loss, store shelves emptied by shoppers hoarding food, people desperate to put dinner on the table. I needed to put my problems in perspective. I thought about what I could do.

"I figured, let's pool our resources. Instead of each one of us going individually to the food store, searching for cans of soup or jars of peanut butter, let's kick in and buy in bulk. I sent a text to 150 friends and ended up with 85 families participating. Together, we raised over \$105K."

But it wasn't just about raising the funds. In late March, when Larson began, store shelves were stripped bare and he was unable to buy food in bulk. After making more than 24 runs to individual food stores in early April, he worked with store managers to secure bulk shipments.

"My crew—12 guys who are also donors—come with me to Oasis once or twice weekly. We deliver the food, do inventory, clean up the pallets, restock and organize the dining room.

"This really puts things in perspective. We are feeding people and helping them get through a really tough time."



Larson (far right) and the crew



Larson and 85 families helped stock the food pantry.

Since March 16, you have provided:

- ✓ **Hot Meals: 70,949**
- ✓ **Pampers: 108,633**
- ✓ **Bags of Food: 8,358**
- ✓ **Bags of Fresh Produce: 2,095**
- ✓ **Bags of Bakery Items: 7,987**
- ✓ **Easter Baskets: 1,251**
- ✓ **Bags of Hygiene Items: 3,446**
- ✓ **Bags of Baby Needs: 2,100**

Oasis Delivers Food to Homebound Families

Oasis delivered some of the food you donated to families unable to leave their homes due to extraordinary circumstances. We worked together with the Passaic County Pandemic Partnership (six area nonprofits) to get food and supplies to 200 very vulnerable families each week. These clients included individuals recently released from St. Joseph's hospital and one little boy from our After-School Academy, whose mother died from the Coronavirus in May and whose father and brother suffered deeply.

This weekly food delivery was literally life-saving for these families.

We could not have done this without your donations.



Your gifts change the world!