

Youth Oasis

If your **DOOR** closes,
ours **OPENS.**

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2005

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YOUTH OASIS MISSION STATEMENT:

Youth Oasis is a non-profit agency dedicated to providing necessary resources and support services to at-risk youth ages 10-21 in order that they may become successful citizens of our community.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome!

On the following pages is the Annual Report. As you read the report, you will read the story of "Mary" a runaway and "Jane" a transitioning youth, both experienced through Youth Oasis the opportunity to build self-esteem. At Youth Oasis they found both healthy messages and structure. They were able to strengthen relationships with adult role models, develop literacy skills competence, work readiness and social skills. Because the organization emphasizes positive youth development, these young people are not "becoming not just "problem free" but "fully prepared" to engage constructively in their communities and in our society."

On behalf of Youth Oasis, the Board of Directors and its constituency, I express gratitude to all who have contributed to the success of this organization. I want to especially thank Ethel Harris because it was ten years ago that she established a vision and set a strategy that caused the vision to become a reality. A part of the strategy to make this "idea" work is our funding sources, donors and contributors, community partners, members of The Alliance, an exceptional staff including the initial staff who developed and stabilized the programs, the interim staff who maintained the programs and our current staff who are continuing to ensure that "when a door closes, our door is open" for the youth of Greater Baton Rouge. We sincerely thank each of you!

Erma J. Borskey,

Chair

RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH

According to the Runaway Switchboard Hotline, every day, between 1.3 and 2.8 million runaway and homeless youth live on the streets of America. One out of every seven children will run away before the age of 18. For youth ages 10 to 17, Youth Oasis offers shelter, food and support to the youth who, for some reason, can no longer live safely at home. For those youth 16 to 21 who have no place to live, Youth Oasis provides a place where the youth can learn the skills necessary for independent living. The Youth Oasis Annual Report for 2005 shows what we are doing to meet the needs of these most vulnerable youth.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

To the Board, the Alliance, our Funders and our friends,

In 2005, in order to better serve the runaway and homeless youth in our community, Youth Oasis has focused on becoming better known in the Greater Baton Rouge Area. This year, around our Open House in November, we have had more exposure on television, radio and newspaper than we ever have before. This year, we established collaboration with the Pediatric Unit of Earl K. Long Medical Center, as they provide medical care for our youth. Though Hurricane Katrina brought great disruption to us all, for Youth Oasis, it brought new collaborations with the Tulane Medical Center and with Covenant House of New Orleans. Most importantly, our positive reputation with our many referring individuals and agencies is growing. Parents have talked about how helpful we have been in their beginning to renew the relationship with their children. OCS has sung our praises through our willingness to accept every referral from them during the Katrina crisis. OCS, OYD and CAHSD all have expressed how impressed they are in the sensitive, respectful way that our staff works with their youth. In 2005, we also continued, formal Youth Counselor training all staff. We ended the year with a flood of financial support from a large variety of sources, showing belief in the carrying out of our mission. As Youth Oasis positions itself for the future, on December 29, we purchased the adjoining property at 224 South Acadian Thruway. We will use this property for future programs.

As 2005 was a great, rebuilding year for Youth Oasis, 2006 promises much growth and development in our service to the community. We will send our Youth Counselor Supervisor to a national training to be certified as a trainer in the Management of Aggressive Behavior Program, so she will be able to teach and supervise each existing and new staff member in the effective, respectful ways of working with a youth in crisis. In 2006, we also plan to secure the funding and implement the Baton Rouge Safe Place Project. Though we did not receive the complete, initial funding from the Junior League, we did receive a commitment from the Junior League to play a major role in the implementation of the program when it begins. Also, in 2006, Youth Oasis will be utilizing the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). On January 12, 2006, five staff members received formal training for the system that is being implemented nationally. HMIS will greatly help us as we prepare the many reports required of our operations. As Youth Oasis continues to grow in its service to our youth, we will refine and retool our programs and services to carry us where we need to be in the future.

In conclusion, I offer my heartfelt thanks to the founding board members of Youth Oasis for their dedication to the mission of Youth Oasis and for their drive to persevere through difficult times. Each founding board member has a deep concern for the homeless and runaway youth whom we now serve. I especially want to thank Ethyl Harris for her vision for Youth Oasis and for her dedication to bringing the Alliance together to turn her dream into a reality. Ethyl, your passion for our youth is the reason we are here. Thank you for that passion, and I look forward to working with you in the future on our newly formed Emeritus Advisory Committee.

For 15 months, I have had the privilege of leading Youth Oasis. Thanks to the Board, the Alliance, our individual donors, the many supportive foundations, and to our friends for your support, advice and encouragement, as we provide and continue to improve our services to the runaway and homeless youth of our community.

Sincerely,

Alvin F. Smith, LCSW

Executive Director



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Erma Borskey - *Chairperson*, Professor Southern University Department of Social Work

Andrew Sellers - *Vice Chair*, Attorney: Powers, Willard and Hightower

Gloria Ethridge - *Secretary*, Regional Director Gulf Coast Teaching Family Services

Warren Birkett - *Treasurer*, Wybirk & Associates

Kyle Carmouche - Business Entrepreneur

David Cresson - OLOL Foundation

Rev. Jeff Day - Federation of Churches and Synagogues

Cristy Delahaye - Delahaye and Associates Insurance

Honorable Ernestine Gray - Judge Orleans Parish Juvenile Court

Ethyl Harris - Retired Director, Casey Family Programs

David Henry - Vice President, Regions Bank

Elaine McClay - Program Director Family Services

Jane Shank - President and CEO Volunteers of America

Frances Williams - Educational Consultant

ADVISORS & ALLIANCE MEMBERS

Advisory Committee

Lori Bertman Mary Durusau Willie Johnson

Kris Kirkpatrick Donna Saurage

Alliance Members

Gulf Coast Teaching Family Services

Department of Social Services /

Office of Community Services

Office of Youth Services

Volunteers of America, Greater Baton Rouge

Family Services of Greater Baton Rouge

Louisiana Rehabilitative Services

Capital Area Human Services District

Louisiana State University School of Social Work

Southern University Department of Social Work

SLU D!scovery Family Resource Project

YOUTH OASIS STAFF MEMBERS

Administrative Staff

Alvin F. Smith, LCSW	Executive Director
Therese Y. Hill	Executive Assistant/Office Manager
Armand Bertin	Development Consultant
Jan Gremillion, GSW	Kaleidoscope Program Manager
Elizabeth Anne Brown, GSW	Kaleidoscope Social Worker
Vickie Watts, MA	Passages Program Manager
Shelia Hatch	Housing Coordinator
Schielanda Morgan, MSW	Passages Social Worker
Rasheda Terry, BS	Youth Counselor Supervisor
James Papillion, BA	Youth Development Specialist
Monique Brooks	Social Work Intern

Youth Counselor Staff

Wilbert Ausbon	Danielle Buffington	Thalan Burris	Uletta Carter
Ashley Cullins	Karen Duff	Samuel Dwomoh-Mensah	Nancy S. Foy
Lori Green	Karen Ann Harris	Odester Harris	Terrence Iles
Dedra C. Johnson	Evelyn Johnson	Kenisha L. Keener	Laura McCray
Samantha Moore	Jerome Moorehouse	Stephen D. Precciely	Katharine Shemela
Tarneisha Smith	Kelli Turner	Cathy White	Brady Williams

GRANTS AND DONATIONS FOR 2005

FEDERAL GRANTS

Family and Youth Services Bureau
HUD Supportive Housing Program
HUD Emergency Shelter Program
FEMA Emergency Food and
Shelter Program

STATE/PRIVATE CONTRACTS

Office of Community Services
Office of Youth Development
Capital Area Human Services
District
Baton Rouge Marine Institute

FOUNDATIONS (\$153,500)

Pennington Foundation
Marguerite Casey Foundation
Huey and Angelina Wilson Foundation
Baton Rouge Area Foundation
Woman's Hospital Foundation
Powell Group Fund
Corporate Properties Development Corporation
Community Advancement Fund
Robert Martin Maillet Memorial Fund
Vision 21 Foundation
Fore! Kids Foundation
B R & R Foundation
Capital Region Builders Foundation
Michael T. Delahaye Fund
RG and Herman Moyse Family Fund

BUSINESS AND INDIVIDUAL DONORS (\$87,939)

BUSINESSES

Antioch Family Church
First United Methodist Women
Robinson Circle

Mid-South Transportation
Nesbitt Graphics, Inc.
Office Depot
Regions Financial Corporation

INDIVIDUALS

Marilyn Barbier
Julie Barfield
Joan F. Branstetter
Erma Borskey
Casey Family Program Employees
Stephanie Cave
Jim Crane
David Cresson
Jeff Day
Rebecca Day
Cristy Delahaye
Linda DiSimone
Judge Robert Downing
East Baton Rouge Parish Library Employees
Gloria Ethridge
Mrs. Harvey Hall
Ethel Harris
Jeremy Hendricks
David Henry
Lorna Kardatzke
Andrew Sellers
Jane Shank
Donna M. Saurage
Alvin Smith
Eula Smith
Kathy Smith

IN-KIND DONATIONS (\$32,000)

Albertson's
Andrew Sellers
Annabelle Armstrong

Catholic Community Services
Catholic Daughters of America
Ashley Cullins
Baton Rouge Magnet High School
Big Buddy Program
Chase Bank
Chick-Fil-a
Cici's Pizza
Circle Bowl
Circle-K
Coca Cola of Baton Rouge
David Carlock
Deana
Domino's Pizza Government Street
Elizabeth Stafford
Episcopal High School
Ferdie's Printing Service
First Presbyterian Church Circle 6
First Presbyterian Church Young Adults
Hibernia National Bank
Holiday Inn Express
James Papillion
Jan Gremillion
Jerome Morehouse
Jesse McClellan
John Delahaye
Judy Powers
Junior League of Baton Rouge
Karen Herring
Kevin Diez-Chef KD
Laura MCCoy
LSU Athletics
Mary Arceneaux
McDonald's Corporation
Monitetra King
Mr. & Mrs. Robert C. Pace
Myriam's House

Nancy Foy
Neal Boris
Neese Industries, Inc.
Nesbitt Graphics
Odester Ann Harris
On the Border
Our Lady of Mercy School
Outback Steak House
Perry Franklin
Piccadilly
Rasheda Terry
Rave Motion Pictures
Romano's Macaroni Grill
Sally Meyers (Woodfin Circle)
Samuel Dwomeh-Mensah
Sherwin Williams Perkins Road
St. George Catholic Church
St. Vincent de Paul
The Advocate
Therese Y. Hill
United Methodist Hope Ministries
Vickie Watts
VolunTeens
Wal-Mart College Drive
Wal-Mart Port Allen
Willie Cole

YOUTH OASIS STATISTICS JANUARY 1–DECEMBER 31, 2005

Kaleidoscope

135 youth served (37% male, 63% female)
 73%—reunited with family or placed in a
 stable living environment
 11%—ran from the Shelter
 3%—transitioned to Passages
 6%—required hospitalization
 7%—remained in Shelter at the end of
 2005

Passages

37 youth lived in the supervised apartments
 9 youth transitioned from the apartments and to
 scattered sites.
 200 ‘brief contacts’ and referrals by staff

FINANCIAL REPORT 2005

INCOME SOURCES

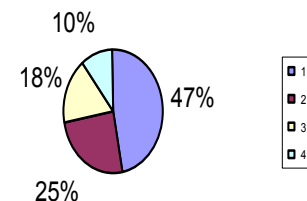
Federal Grants (47%)	\$393,540
State Contracts (25%)	\$210,543
Foundation Grants (18%)	\$147,000
Donations (10%)	<u>\$ 87,939</u>
TOTAL INCOME FOR 2005	\$839,022

EXPENSES

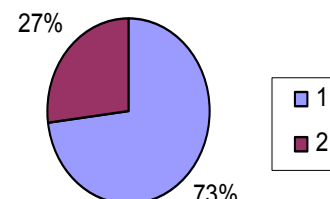
Salaries & Benefits (73%)	\$541,306
Other Operations(27%)	<u>\$201,516</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES FOR 2005	\$742,822

INCOME FOR PROGRAM EXPANSION **\$ 96,200**

Income Sources 2005



Expenses 2005



STORIES OF OUR YOUTH

Kaleidoscope, Basic Center Story

Early in 2005, “Mary “ was initially admitted to the shelter as a runaway. We worked with “Mary” and her family toward reunification during her initial stay at the shelter. Things did not go well, once “Mary” returned home. Subsequently, “Mary” was admitted to the shelter four more times and we provided safety, counseling, and support. Once she reached the appropriate age, “Mary” was referred and accepted into our independent living program where she is working her case plan to transition successfully into adulthood.



Passages, TLP Story

“Jane” and her toddler son were admitted to Passages early in January, 2005. With the support of Youth Oasis staff and through “Jane’s” determination and hard work, she managed to secure employment and her GED. Louisiana Rehabilitation Services, an Alliance Member, determined her eligible for services which include job training and job placement assistance. Since that time, “Jane” has transitioned from Passages’ supervised apartment into a scattered site apartment. Through a collaborative partnership with Youth Oasis and Catholic Community Services’ Family First Program, “Jane” receives child-care assistance. Her future plans are to attend Louisiana Technical College in Early Childhood Development to improve her employment potential. She is currently doing well in her transition process.



NEW ACQUISITION ANTICIPATES GROWTH

At the end of 2005, the Board agreed to purchase the house and lot at 224 S. Acadian Thruway which adjoins the Youth Oasis property to the north. The Board determined that the investment would allow for future expansion for the Youth Oasis’ programs. By closing on the house before the end of the year, the owner was able to make a significant donation of the appraised value of the house to Youth Oasis. All aspects of the purchase, including title search, inspection, appraisal and loan approval was completed in the last week and a half of the year. The closing documents were signed at 4:00 PM on December 29, 2005. The immediate plan is to rent the house on a temporary basis with the rent covering the mortgage and maintenance expenses. The house will be readily available for the anticipated growth of Youth Oasis’ programs. Thanks to Jeremy Hendricks for his generous donation of \$20,000 of the appraised value.



MEMORIAL TO DEBBIE PENNY

A Memorial Fund at Youth Oasis has been established in honor of Debbie Penny who, during the last year of her life, gave all the energy she could to develop a media presence for Youth Oasis. During that year, the results of her work included a major newspaper article, numerous radio appearances for Youth Oasis staff, and numerous television appearances for the Executive Director. Debbie’s pioneering work helped significantly to move Youth Oasis toward becoming commonly known in the greater Baton Rouge area. From the beginning of her work with Youth Oasis, Debbie possessed a burning commitment to help the youth whom we serve. Though she never personally met even one of the youth in the programs, her work has already had a significant impact on every youth who was sheltered here during 2005 and will have an impact on every youth who will be here in the years to come.

