

# Oasis Mentoring Programs

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# Oasis: Who We Are

Founded in 1982, Oasis is a non-profit educational organization that empowers thousands of older adults nationwide to pursue healthy, productive, and meaningful lives.



# Mentoring

# Activity

1. Pair up with another person. Preferably someone you do not know.
2. Think about someone in your life you consider to have been a mentor. Identify
  - the roles that person played
  - qualities and characteristics he or she embodied
3. Listen carefully. You'll share your partner's experience with the group.
4. Share your stories.



# What is Mentoring?

- The act or process of helping and guiding another person to support their personal development
- Healthy relationships that provide motivation and support
- Becoming a role model, supporter, advocate and friend



# Why Mentor?

## Mentee Benefits

- Increased school attendance and graduation rates
- Healthier relationships and lifestyle choices
- Enhanced self-esteem and self-confidence
- Improved behavior
- Improved interpersonal skills
- Decreased likelihood of initiating drug and alcohol use



# Why Mentor?

## Mentor Benefits

- Increased self-esteem
- A sense of accomplishment and purpose
- A sense of belonging to a new community
- Insight into a different generation's experiences



# Mentoring Topics

## Stages of a Mentoring Relationship

- Beginning – developing rapport, building trust
- Middle – growing, working on goals
- Ending – celebrating, creating closure





# Mentoring Topics

## Expectations

- Identifying expectations
- The benefits of having realistic expectations

## Setting Healthy Boundaries

- Physical boundaries and emotional boundaries
- Meeting the child where they are at rather than their situation



# Mentoring Topics

## Cultural Competence

- Appreciate your mentee for exactly who they are—just as they are.
- Focus on your mentee's strengths.
- Be open minded.
- Be nonjudgmental.
- Be self-aware.
- Be yourself.



# Our Mentoring Programs



# Oasis Tutoring

Oasis Intergenerational Tutoring is a **VOLUNTEER PROGRAM** that **PAIRS OLDER ADULTS WITH STUDENTS** in k-3 to work one-on-one as their tutors, mentors and **FRIENDS**.

Oasis tutors use a six-step approach to literacy that emphasizes **IMPROVED READING**, speaking, listening and writing.

Oasis tutors create a connection with the child that forms a **MENTORING** relationship.



# Oasis' Furthest Reaching Volunteer Program

## Pre-Pandemic Stats

- + 630 Schools
- + 82 School Districts
- + 20 Cities
- + 4,000+ tutors per week

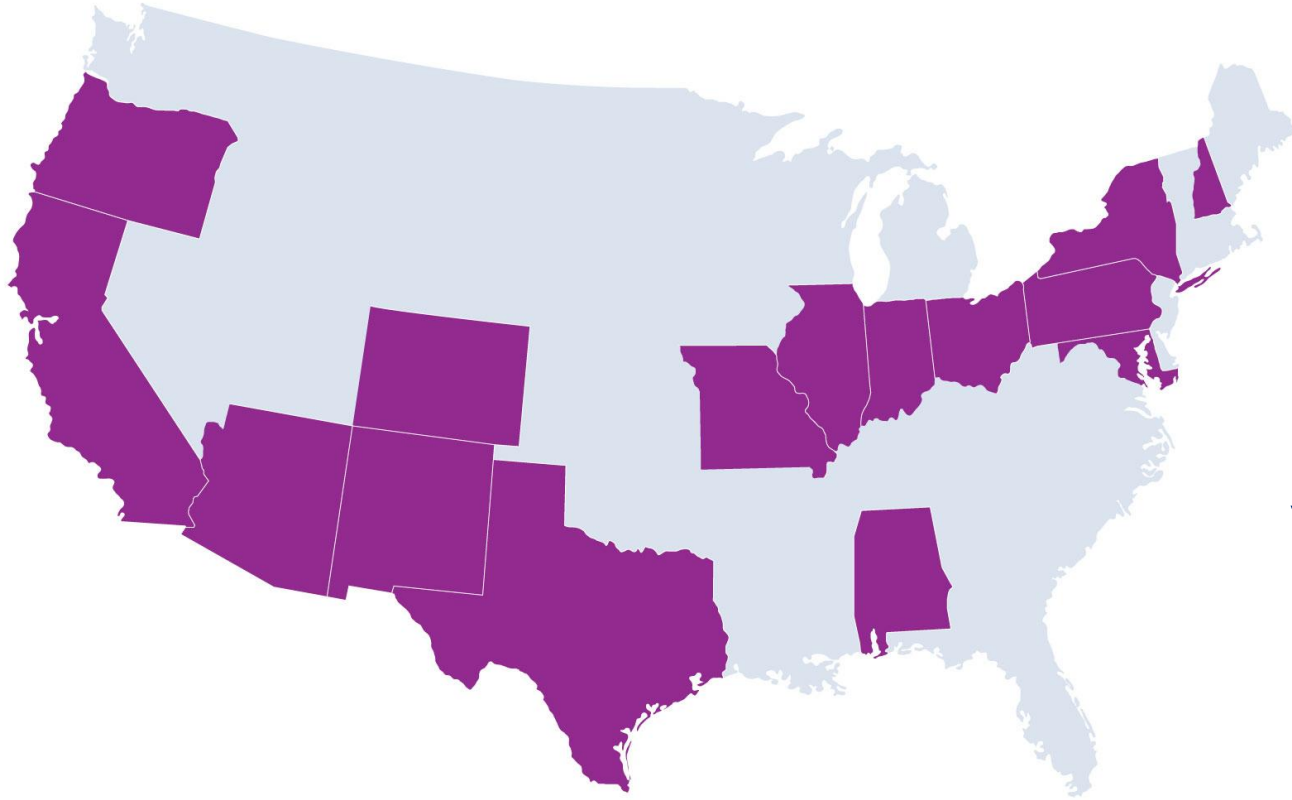
## 2022-2023

- + 412 Schools
- + 76 School Districts
- + 20 Cities
- + 2,000+ tutors per week

## 2023-2024 (projected)

- + 441 Schools
- + 84 School Districts
- + 22 Cities
- + 2,700+ tutors per week





More than  
2,000 Oasis Tutors  
volunteer in  
15 different states  
in over 23 cities.



# Local Districts

## St. Louis City

St. Louis City Public Schools  
Lift for Life Academy  
Northside Community School

## St. Louis County

Clayton  
Ladue  
Rockwood  
Parkway School District  
Bayless School District  
Mehlville School District  
Lindbergh School District  
Ferguson Florissant School District  
Pattonville School District  
Webster Groves  
St. Simon School  
Valley Park

## Jefferson County

DeSoto  
Dunklin  
Fox  
Fox  
Grandview  
Hillsboro  
Northwest  
Festus R-7  
Jefferson County R7  
Sunrise School District

## St. Charles County

City of St. Charles School District  
Orchard Farm

## Franklin County

Meramec Valley R-3

## St. Clair County, IL

O'Fallon Public Library



# A National Need

- 2 out of every 10 children in the U.S. enter kindergarten with skills two to three years lower than their grade level.
- Students who start behind typically make only one years progress each grade level.
- Some 34% of U.S. students are below the proficient reading level by grade 4.
- Students who are behind when they start kindergarten make up the largest portion of school dropouts and have a less than 12% chance of attending higher education.







# Oasis Intergenerational Tutoring

Match students in grades K-3 with trained, adult volunteer tutors.

Tutors meet with the same child each week during the school year.

# Goals for Students is to Build...

- + Motivation
- + Feelings of Success
- + Enjoyment of Reading,  
Writing, and Oral  
Communication



Don't Just Take Our Word for It...



# Oasis Grand Champions

## Purpose and Mission



 **Oasis** Grand  
Champions



# A National Need

- (2024) 369,000 children were in foster care
- Neglect was the top reason children were removed from their homes
- Only half of those children will go on to graduate and less than 5% pursue higher learning
- Children in foster care are at increased risk for chronic illness, mental health disorders, behavioral issues, and drug abuse



# Missouri Statistics

**12,972 children and youth are in Missouri foster care**

**4,971 Licensed Foster Homes**



# Oasis Grand Champions: Program Design

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- Strength based mentoring
- Provide a model for a healthy trusting relationship through clear communication and appropriate boundaries
- Engage in planned activities designed to foster connection and learning with the mentee
- Offer support and encouragement to the mentee





## Oasis Grand Champions

Work with children 14-18 who are getting ready to exit foster care

Tutors meet with the same child each week for 12 months



# Goals for children are to Build...

Life skills

Self confidence and  
Self-esteem

Improved behaviors and  
engagement with peers





# Your Commitment

One Year

One Hour a Week  
Consistently



# Your Responsibilities

*Commit* to meet your assigned child weekly for one full year

*Attend* initial training and ongoing training sessions offered by Oasis and our partners

*Communicate* with the child and family any changes in schedule

*Plan and hold* sessions utilizing the materials provided



# Oasis Supports for Volunteers

# Training

- Oasis Tutoring and Oasis Grand Champions provides an initial training that covers program specifics and practical application
- Ongoing training is provided in the form of professional development and social gatherings designed to build community



# Materials

- Oasis tutors are provided with:
  - Workbooks
  - Books with guided session plans to make planning easy
  - Tutor handbook that has resources included
  - Online resources such as Tutor Power that provide access to hundreds of session plans for titles



# Materials

- Oasis Grand Champions are provided with:
  - Workbooks that include activities centered around life skills, social and emotional learning, and self-regulation
  - Activity supplies such as craft paper, craft supplies, notebooks
  - Enrichment activities such as coloring pages, UNO, conversation cards



# Staff Support

- Oasis Tutoring has a coordinator responsible for direct management of each school district
- National Tutoring Director is able to provide support for both programs
- Chief Purpose Officer is available to help manage programming when needed





Don't Just Take Our Word for It...



# Our Stats

- 98% of tutors reported that they felt Oasis Tutoring added a sense of purpose to their lives
- 97% of students working with an Oasis Tutor showed an academic growth of 2 or more levels in Reading
- 87% retention rate for volunteers
- 2 Foster agency partners are working to pair Grand Champions with children
- 35 prospective volunteers have shown interest in Grand Champions so far



Questions?