



Dear Friends and Supporters of San Antonio Oasis,

My name is Cynthia Cardenas, and I am pleased to introduce myself as the new Executive Director of San Antonio Oasis. I am both honored and excited to be part of a **mission-driven community dedicated to promoting healthy aging** through lifelong learning, active lifestyles, and volunteer engagement. As an affiliate of The Oasis Institute national office, we have **provided services for older adults in San Antonio for 34 years**. Volunteerism is a focal point of Oasis. Our members remain engaged through various programs such as Intergenerational Tutoring, the Silver Connect chat line, and by serving as office volunteers and on calling committees.

**In 2024 San Antonio Oasis held over 1,414 educational classes at 19 locations. Our membership now exceeds 29,510 members with over 247 older adult volunteers.**

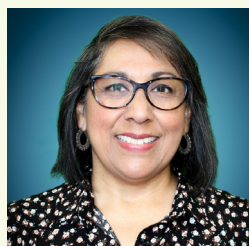
As we all know the importance of social connection, and its impact on our overall health, we were pleased to **send a group of members abroad in 2024 to England, Wales, and Scotland**, our first trip abroad since the pandemic. Fifty-two people were able to enjoy sights, history and experience an amazing time with each other. Additionally, the **Silver Connect Chat Line**, a phone service dedicated to receiving calls from individuals operated by Oasis volunteers, has **exceeded expectations by doubling the number of callers** seeking emotional support, reassurance, and resources!

Looking into the future, our team is dedicated to advocacy for older adults through building community collaborations and understanding the needs of the community. We anticipate working toward creative ways to generate resources and market our organization. **The members call San Antonio Oasis “the best kept secret”**. There are so many great opportunities ahead to share what we do, and we want YOU to join us in those efforts.

With gratitude,

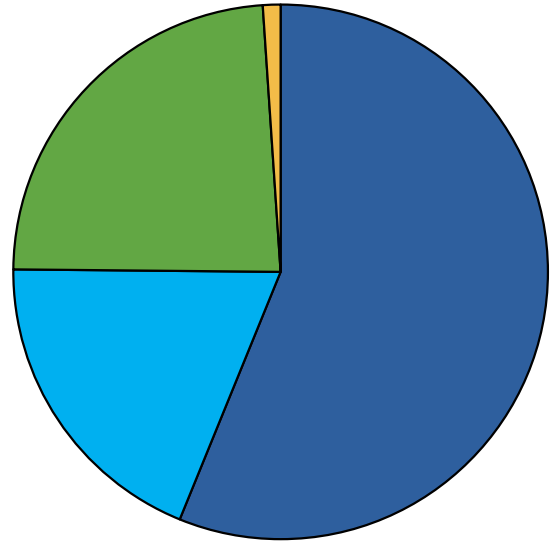
**Cynthia Cardenas, MEd.**

Executive Director  
San Antonio Oasis



## 2024 San Antonio Oasis Financials

\*Source: 2024 Financial Review



### Revenue | \$1,052,050

• \$590,837

Grants & Other Contributions

• \$199,754

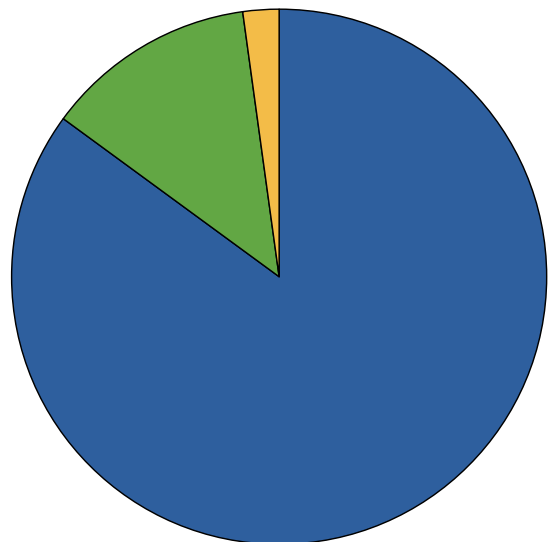
Program Revenue

• \$250,231

In-kind Contributions

• \$11,228

Other



### Expenses | \$1,070,143

• \$910,241

Program Expenses

• \$136,602

General & Administrative

• \$23,300

Fundraising

# Making A Difference in the Lives of Children and Community: Gloria's Story

88 years goes by fast, and for Gloria Jennings, who recently celebrated 31 years of service to Oasis, time went by quickly in a very meaningful way.

The San Antonio Oasis Intergenerational Tutoring Program has been a mainstay in the San Antonio school districts for 32 years. **Gloria's service to the San Antonio Oasis tutoring program is measured by the number of students and tutors she has impacted.** Serving Alamo Heights, San Antonio, and Northside school districts, the lives of many children, as well as older adults, have changed—for the better.

Gloria has led a varied life, including a background in civil service at Kelly AFB in San Antonio for 38 years, as well as raising her own four sons. **Her passion for service led her to Oasis, where she served as a tutor for 31 years and on staff as the Intergenerational Tutoring Coordinator overseeing and expanding the program for 23 years.** Gloria continues to use her years of experience in the program, currently training incoming tutor recruits and promoting tutoring as a means of making a difference in the lives of at-risk students. By doing so, Gloria still contributes to an avenue for older adults to feel connected with their community as they work one-on-one with a student in need of the attention of a caring adult.

## **The Oasis Intergenerational Tutoring Program pairs older adults with at-risk children in grades 1–3.**

Volunteer tutors work one-on-one with students in the schools each week throughout the school year. While the program focuses on increased reading skills and enrichment, it also emphasizes the child as a whole, focusing on self-esteem. Many students experience tremendous adversity in their lives—including poverty, health challenges, community violence, and difficult family circumstances—that make it tough for them to take advantage of the opportunity to learn and succeed in school. Many children who miss 15 or more days of school are at greater and more serious risk of falling behind.



Oasis tutors provide one-on-one support, assist with reading comprehension, and engage children in meaningful conversations about books. **By fostering a love for reading, the Oasis tutoring program can contribute to improved literacy rates, enhanced communication skills, and increased academic achievement,** creating advancement of self-confidence and the skills needed to have and provide a better quality of life now and in the future. For the Oasis tutor, volunteering provides meaningful time spent with a child and an opportunity for great connection with students and other tutors, improving their quality of life.

Additionally, social isolation continues to impact our older adults, leading to various declines in health both physically and emotionally. Volunteering is a great way to rejoin society and feel a sense of purpose and accomplishment. **For older adults, volunteering can significantly boost psychological well-being.** Oasis provides that opportunity through the tutoring program. The tutoring program continues to be a success with approximately 115 tutors serving over 200 children.

It is people like Gloria who have made a difference in so many lives. **Gloria says, “It is not the years in the service, but the service in the years that truly matter.”** She is grateful that she was able to make such an impact. Gloria also continues to make a difference at Oasis by teaching a variety of classes on various subjects at San Antonio Oasis.

It is her passion for Oasis and her four granddaughters, one grandson, and marriage of 32 years that keep her going. **Gloria's story is an inspiration to us all.**

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City of San Antonio

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WellMed Charitable Foundation

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