



Our Mission

To love and care for those seeking refuge from a war torn country with the love of Jesus.

This year Oasis served 363 refugee families from 26 countries.



We gave 197 living room chairs, 219 couches, 193 coffee tables, 163 end tables, 253 lamps, 171 TVs, 163 TV tables, 145 mattresses and box springs, 13 cribs, 253 dressers, 400 sheets and blankets, 127 kitchen tables, 444 kitchen chairs, 132 kitchen boxes, 92 pots and pans, 94 microwaves, 16 washers, 16 dryers and 83 bikes.

We teach English to 57 students twice per week, in 7 different classes, provided by 22 teachers and 6 childcare workers to care for their children. Teachers pick up students and take them home from class. We are very grateful for incredibly caring teachers who love their students! Oasis also provides refugees with additional, much-needed services like tutoring for citizenship tests, drivers training, baby showers, and help with on-line job applications.



Tutoring for citizenship, drivers training, baby showers, and help with on-line job applications are services Oasis lovingly gives.



Monthly BBQ's are held from April through October sponsored by area churches. This is a wonderful time for refugee families to gather together and fellowship. It is a great opportunity for Americans, especially Christians, to connect with the international refugee community.



Through all of these activities, we are helping to change the statistic in St. Louis that says **less than 10% of these refugees will ever have an American friend, much less one from a Christian church.**

Would your church be able to help Oasis with one of these monthly BBQs?

Contact us at Oasis International 5035 Gravois Ave. St. Louis, MO 63116 call 314-353-3800

Would You Be A Part Of The Miracle?

We know many of you pray for Oasis International and we are very grateful for that support. Now, we ask you to consider giving financially to Oasis International to help us to continue building a strong community of refugees who are settled, secure and healed. **The budget for Oasis International Ministries is \$273,000 annually.** This is the amount we need for 2014 to successfully continue to help refugees through their time of need in the St. Louis area.



The annual budget is used for mortgage, utilities, operational costs, staff and office management. We are very grateful for the major volunteer support we receive each month, but the expenses and needs are still there. Financial support is needed so we can continue to provide love and care in the form of picking up and delivering furniture, providing transportation to and from English classes, purchasing office supplies and paying our staff. Every month, we pray that the money will come in to meet our needs so we can meet the needs of the refugee families.

Would you care for refugees in St. Louis through Oasis International Ministries by committing to a monthly financial gift?

You can make your checks to Oasis International and send it to our address listed on the back page or go to our website at www.oasisinternational.info and give through PayPal.

Giving Encouragement – Emotional and Spiritual Support

We hear many heart breaking stories every day from the families that come from a war-torn existence. Biblical counseling is shared for everyday situations the refugees encounter. This brings growth, stability and peace to lives ravaged by war and post-traumatic stress disorder.

Yet... **a loving, American family connecting with a refugee family is one of the greatest and long-lasting healing acts that can happen in their lives.**



You don't have to be an expert or even have any answers – just be willing to be available. We will help you and have materials – a Refugee Visitation packet – to help you with your visit to a refugee family. You will be blessed to meet these families and probably enjoy some coffee, tea or even ethnic foods – and bring healing as you do!





We Need Your Help With A Monthly Gift

Check your pockets, purse or wallet right now. I bet you could find \$1.00 in there. What if you could change someone's world for \$1.00 each day? Can \$1.00 per day really make a difference?

\$1.00 per day helps Oasis International Ministries bring a new language, furniture, clothing, job skills, love, encouragement, and most importantly friendship and hope to a refugee family. **It is the monthly gifts that keep us going with the day to day ministry.**

When Jesus fed the 5,000, He cared about the people because they were hungry and He asked the disciples to become a part of the miracle.

Jesus asked, "What do you have?" They responded by simply giving what they had.

Then, Jesus blessed it, and He gave it back to them many times over to give it away to others in need. We believe that when you give your gift to Oasis, Jesus blesses it, multiplies it and people in need will be helped.

Would you join the work of Oasis International for \$1.00 per day, beginning today?

Make your checks to Oasis International and send to address below or go to our website www.oasisinternational.info and give through PayPal.

United States to Welcome Up to 70,000 Refugees in 2014

Last month the White House announced the President has authorized the admission of up to 70,000 refugees in the United States in Fiscal Year 2014. The refugees could represent some **60 nationalities** from around the world, **many of them will arrive in St. Louis.**



The official allocations are as follows:
Near East / South Asia: 33,000
Africa: 15,000
East Asia: 14,000
Latin America / Caribbean: 5,000
Unallocated Reserve: 2,000
Europe and Central Asia: 1,000

We are excited about 2014. **With your help, Oasis will be there to welcome each family that comes to St. Louis with the love of Jesus.** He is the foundation of what we are doing to love and care for them.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and considering your gift to us.

May God richly bless you and your family!

Sincerely,

Mark & Joani

Rev. Mark & Joani Akers Founders & Directors

Board Members: Andy Bundesen, Paul Douthit, Calvin Williams and Kim Luther

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Dear friends of Oasis International,



"True religion is to visit orphans and widows." James 1:27

I remember the first time I met Hamida about three years ago. One of our refugee friends brought her into Oasis on a cold day in December. He was asking for furniture and especially heaters for her when he began to tell us her story. I remember that Hamida just put her head down and began to cry. Her husband had left her with three beautiful little girls just as they were trying to start a new life here in St. Louis.

With some help from her family in Iraq, this past spring Hamida was able to buy a house, extremely cheap but she told us her house needed "a little work". We went to her home and immediately understood why she got it so cheap. **There was no working bathroom on the main floor; plumbing and**

electrical were non-existent on the second floor of the house; floors were in need of major repair and the roof leaked. After Hamida's story was highlighted in our newsletter, **three churches from three different denominations answered the call** and rolled up their sleeves to minister to this family. This has been an on-going project. So far, the bathroom is completed on the main floor, electricity is working and the roof is fixed. Not only does she have a safe home, but **Hamida has made friendships with the people of God.** When she sees us, she constantly thanks Jesus and us for changing her life for the better. What a joy to see the church truly being the hands and feet of Jesus, loving and serving the refugees of our city!

Ministry By Many In Many Ways

450 volunteers gave 9,500 hours to 363 refugee families from 26 countries.



A Health Fair, Eye Glass Clinic, International Women's Day, Nutrition and Food Safety, Painting, Carpentry, Furniture Moving and Home Visitation are just some of the ways we loved and cared for our new friends in 2013.

