

FINDING PURPOSE AND CONNECTIONS

To Our Oasis Family,

Many aspects of our lives continue to change. **But there is one thing that has not changed:** Oasis's commitment to inspiring, educating, informing, and connecting with you through high-quality programs and engagement opportunities. **Oasis is here for you.**

Although we'd prefer to be together in person, our biggest priority is to support you and keep you safe. Until we can be together again in person, Oasis continues to offer a variety of programs and volunteer opportunities via computer and phone. **As a leading organization focused on social isolation reduction for older adults, we have found new ways for you to find purpose and connection.** But don't just take our word for it. Read on to hear from Wayne, Nila, Jill, and Lois about their virtual and phone experiences with Oasis.

"I had never heard of Zoom before COVID-19, and let me tell you, it's a great thing. I hope these virtual classes don't go away. I've been able to connect my computer to my TV screen so I can project my lectures to my TV. It's easier now for me to see the slides than when I was sitting in a classroom. **It's also nice because I don't have to worry about driving anywhere; I can continue to learn without having to leave my house.**" —Wayne Meyers, Participant in Virtual Oasis Classes



"Participating in this program has made me feel like I am not alone. **I like that it's something I can count on, and that I dare not have anything else scheduled at that time so I can talk to my friends.** Our group facilitator lives in New York and the rest of us are spread out in communities across Missouri and Illinois. And here we are, getting together every week by the phone and talking about things that are important to us. It's pretty incredible how diverse our group is!" —Lois Holthaus, Conversations that Count Participant

"When I would tutor in-person, we would often go to the library at the school to pick a book. But sometimes the book we wanted; someone had already checked it out. **With virtual tutoring, it was nice to know that we didn't have to wait to get a book that we wanted** because the books were already there in the system." —Nila Gupta, Oasis Tutor





"I learned many new skills while participating in the virtual tutoring program. The training that was offered by Oasis was super helpful. We learned things such as how to share our screens, and then we would pair off with another tutor and practice everything we learned before we started our first tutoring session. **If we can still do this program in a virtual setting, it's a way for us to continue to help kids boost their self-esteem and become more confident in their reading skills.**" —*Jill Svejkosky, Oasis Tutor*

St. Louis Oasis has continued to engage members like Nila, Jill, Wayne and Lois in our educational opportunities at home. But **we need your help** to reach more older adults who are now, more than ever, in need of our services to keep their mind and body active during this period of isolation.

Will you support St. Louis Oasis during this unprecedented time with a gift that is meaningful to you?

Your support will allow us to build and scale our virtual tutoring and pen-pal program, increase our virtual class offerings, and grow our social connection opportunities so we can continue to serve you now and in-person once we are able to resume our face-to-face classes and volunteer opportunities.

Thank you for your support and belief in our mission to help older adults in the St. Louis community pursue vibrant, healthy, productive and meaningful lives.

In the meantime, if you are interested in learning more about our digital delivery options, please call us at 314-862-2933x24 and leave a message or visit us online at www.st-louis.oasisnet.org

With gratitude,

Paul Weiss, Sharon Hales, Allison Woodworth, Tina Duckett, Terri Kern, and Julianna Fellows
The St. Louis Oasis Staff

Conversations that Count
314.862.4859 ext. 24



oasiseverywhere.org



tutoring.oasisnet.org
314.995.950



St. Louis Oasis | 50 Gay Avenue | Saint Louis, MO 63105