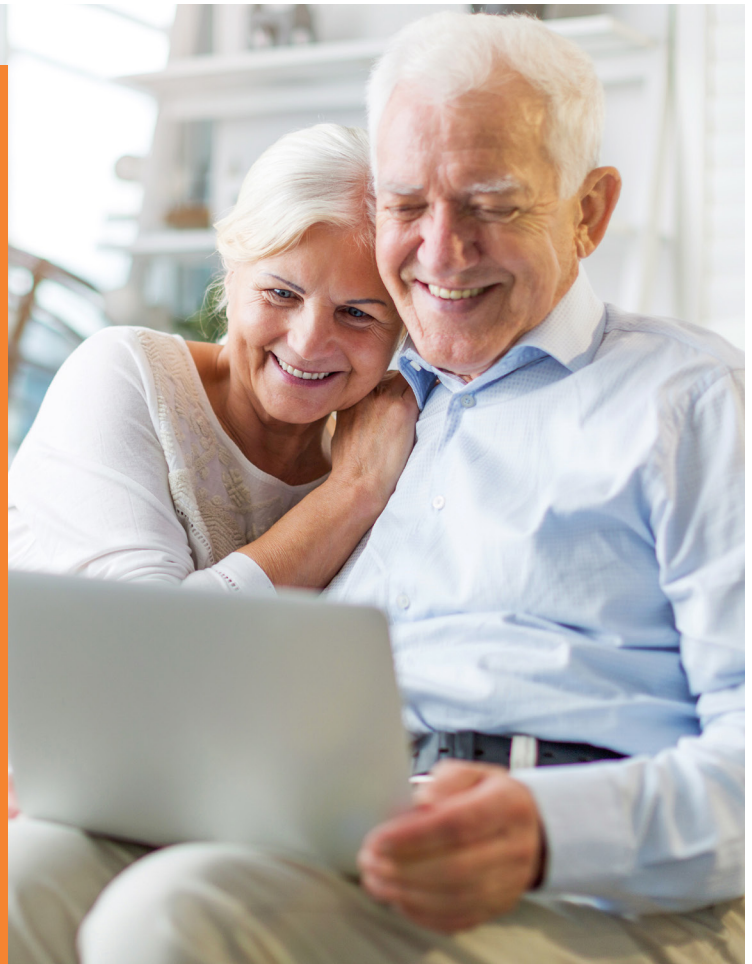


St. Louis Oasis served over 4,245 older adults in St. Louis in 2020 through health, lifelong learning, and volunteer programs.

Despite being in a pandemic for the majority of 2020, **we engaged thousands of older adults virtually and via the telephone** and are continuing to do so in 2021, while also developing a plan for a return to in-person engagement as the risk of the pandemic recedes later this year.



### **EXPANDING OUR INTERGENERATIONAL TUTORING PROGRAM TO NEW LOCATIONS**

Not only have we converted our tutoring program to virtual delivery and a Postal Pals (pen-pal) program, but we have also made significant progress on our tutoring expansion efforts. In Fall 2020, Oasis expanded our program to Chillicothe, MO (Livingston County). Additionally, Oasis was recently awarded three additional grants through the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), to provide tutoring in Audrain (Mexico), Franklin (Washington), and Linn (Brookfield) Counties in Missouri. This brings us to a total of seven grants from CNCS to support our tutoring program statewide. Continuing to grow our tutoring reach through support from CNCS is part of our broader expansion strategy for Oasis Intergenerational Tutoring.

### **BROADENING OUR VIRTUAL LIFELONG LEARNING AND HEALTH PROGRAM OFFERINGS**

All programs continue to be held as live, interactive sessions, either virtually or over the phone. We know social isolation is a real physical and emotional health risk for older adults, and that Oasis programs are important to our participants. St. Louis Oasis trained over 60 instructors to use Zoom to teach their classes virtually. We continue to offer a free How-to-Use Zoom class for participants who wants to learn how to take virtual classes with Oasis. Through our new educational platform, Oasis Everywhere ([oasiseverywhere.org](https://oasiseverywhere.org)), we frequently add a broad range of new lifelong learning and health and exercise classes so older adults can stay connected with each other, continue to learn, have their voices heard and remain healthy and fit. Oasis Everywhere classes are available to older adults nationwide, allowing us to expand our geographic reach and impact.

## ENGAGING OLDER ADULTS ON DIGITAL SAFETY

Technology literacy is essential for older adults to access services and stay connected with family and friends. Oasis has been offering technology literacy classes for 21 years. Over the past year, this work has been more important than ever. Live technology literacy and online safety classes are offered routinely on Oasis Everywhere. Oasis publishes blog posts on our website, which are also shared through mass emails, to help older adults navigate digital safety topics, such as how to avoid hackers and robocalls, how to create secure passwords, and what to do if you are “Zoom-bombed”. More information can be found on our Connections blog on our website: [connections.oasisnet.org/blog/](https://connections.oasisnet.org/blog/). In addition, Oasis has produced a free Guide to Online Safety course, which features 19 lessons about how one can avoid becoming a target of a cybercriminal. The course covers how to minimize your risk, protect your assets, and safeguard your identification. Anyone can take the course at: [connections.oasisnet.org/oasis-connections-guide-to-online-safety/](https://connections.oasisnet.org/oasis-connections-guide-to-online-safety/).

## GROWING OUR CONVERSATIONS THAT COUNT PROGRAM

Oasis is expanding the reach of our popular Conversations that Count program by partnering with the St. Louis County Library to offer this program to older adult library patrons. Conversations that Count is a telephone-based program that helps older adults cope with life’s transitions, reconnect with community, and combat social isolation by increasing connectedness through group conference calls several times per week. This program is designed to increase socialization among older adults by improving communication and engagement through building confidence, relationships, and growing social networks. For participants who like to read, we are adding an optional book discussion group, with the support of the St. Louis County Library.

## MOBILIZING OASIS VOLUNTEERS TO HELP SCHEDULE VACCINE APPOINTMENTS FOR OLDER ADULTS

Oasis volunteers, family, friends, partners, and staff recently completed over 1,000 calls to help register older adults for the COVID-19 vaccine in collaboration with the St. Louis County Department of Public Health. This was a very quick mobilization and call to action. Volunteers and staff have been busy making weekly calls and recruiting family and friends to help.



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