

ANNUAL REPORT

2023

I am a
refugee,
and...



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From the Desk of Travis Pierce

A letter from the Executive Director of Oasis International



2023 was a year of incredible impact.

What an opportunity we have!

In Acts 8, the Bible describes a time in the first century where great persecution broke out on the budding church in Jerusalem. Those first followers of Jesus were forced to flee Jerusalem for their lives and in Acts 8:4 it says, "Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went." God allowed the evil of persecution to happen to the followers of Jesus in the first century for the spread of the gospel, the growth of His Kingdom, and for His Glory. The same God is at work today!

In Genesis 50:20, Joseph tells his brothers who sold him into slavery, "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives." God is Sovereign, and even today He allows evil such as war and persecution to move many people from countries that are completely closed to the gospel, or that are very difficult to get the gospel into, and he's bringing them to places like St. Louis where they can hear the gospel in freedom, many for the first time.

This Annual Report reflects how God has used Oasis through your prayers, your time, your talent, and your treasure for the spread of the gospel, the growth of His Kingdom, and for His Glory!

Travis Pierce

Travis Pierce
Executive Director, Oasis International

We're all multi-dimensional and made in the image of God

Have you ever been labeled? Most of the time—even if the label was technically accurate—it likely felt insufficient.

For example, Joani and I are the founders of Oasis International, but we're also spouses, parents, grandparents, Cardinals fans, and so much more. The same is true of you and the refugees arriving here in our great city.

From the refugees who walk through our doors to the volunteers who tirelessly serve to the financial partners who give generously, we're all multi-dimensional people made in the image of God.

No single label is wholly sufficient.

I am a refugee, and...

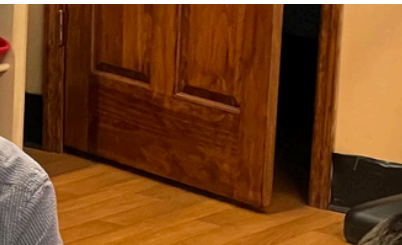
I am a donor, and...

I am a volunteer, and...

We invite you to reflect on all we've accomplished together, and notice the intentional emphasis placed on "and".

We hope it inspires you to see the God-infused humanity in the many roles we all play.





Meet a Few of Our Friends





Meet Key

*He's a refugee, student,
and Gospel singer.*

In 2013, Key Mung left Myanmar with his family and arrived in St. Louis with his mom and 4 siblings. At the age of 17, he began a brand new life that opened a path for U.S. citizenship and greater opportunities. Soon, he'll graduate from UMSL with a degree in cyber security. Through Oasis, you helped provide resettlement support, college books, and even a laptop for his studies.

Key is also an award-winning Gospel singer with a heart for his homeland. Early in his 20s, he's already raising funds and giving back to families in his home country of Myanmar so they can receive essentials like rice, oil, and clothes.

Thank you for helping jumpstart Key's journey and new life here in St. Louis.



Myanmar

Nestled in Southeast Asia, the people of Myanmar (formerly Burma) have endured political insecurity, persecution, and so much more.

With many Burmese families here in St. Louis, Oasis has personally helped more than 34 families from Myanmar just like Key Mung throughout the years resettle and make our city feel like home.

Together in 2023, we...



Hosted a Citizenship Celebration Party for all the refugees who became U.S. citizens in the past several years.



Collaborated with 10 local churches to deliver Thanksgiving meals to 125 families during the holidays.



Kept 500 refugees warm with new coats as they adjusted to our winter weather.

Meet Sage

*She's a refugee,
survivor, wife, mom, **and**
community access worker.*

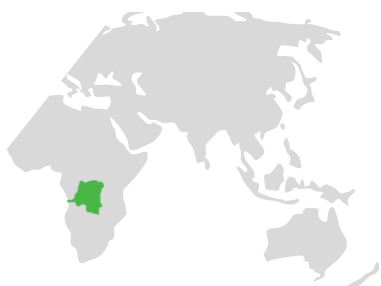


Sage Lungele fled the war-torn Congo with her mother, father, and 5 siblings. While running for their lives, they escaped from tribal rebels to Kenya. In the process, Sage, her father, and her siblings were separated from her mom and have sadly not been reunited to this day. After several traumatic years in Kenya, they finally resettled here in the Gateway City.

Upon arrival, thanks to you, we provided clothing, furniture, and more. Due to her sheer tenacity, Sage continued her education, graduating from Roosevelt High School, Forest Park Community College, and Harris Stowe State College.

Today Sage is an American citizen, wife, and mom of 2. Oasis staff and volunteers also had the honor of hosting Sage's first baby shower! As a community access worker, Sage is now providing fellow refugees with the same kind of support she once received.

Your generosity was the catalyst for Sage's fresh start.



Congo

Located in Central Africa, it's estimated there have been more than 6 million deaths in the Congo due to conflict since the late 1990s. This ongoing unrest has caused many families, like Sage's, to resettle across Africa, Europe, and the U.S.

Oasis International has personally helped at least 276 Congolese families just like Sage's. Thank you for helping us welcome them to St. Louis in the name of Jesus.

Together in 2023, we...



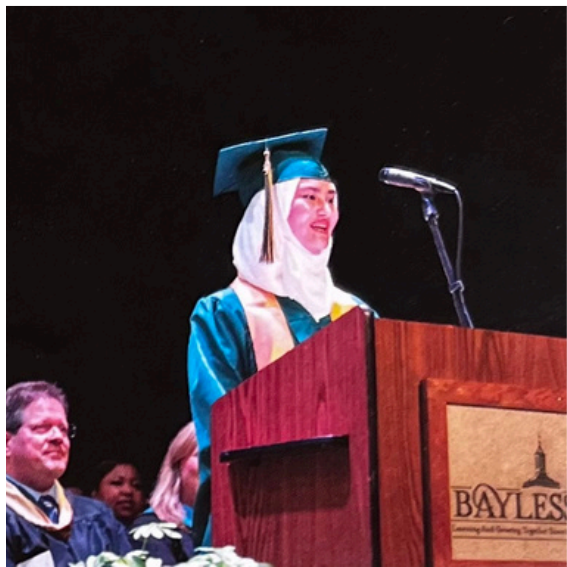
Hosted 19 baby showers for expectant moms from 3 countries.



Gifted 73 moms with diapers for their families (73,000 diapers in all!).



Delivered 200+ backpacks to help school-aged children and their families be ready to head back to school.



Meet Faranaz

*She's a refugee, student,
and dreamer.*

Fleeing Kabul, Faranaz Nasary left Afghanistan (the only home she'd ever known) with her sisters, brother, and mother—after the traumatic loss of her father.

St. Louis became their new home, where they were met with overwhelming kindness, thanks to you. Oasis is the first welcome for so many families like Faranaz's. You were there to provide guidance, practical necessities, and ongoing support to ensure they could resettle and thrive.

Faranaz has gone on to graduate from Bayless High School, spoke during the graduation ceremony, and has aspirations to study medicine.

Your support presented Faranaz and her family a brand new life.



Afghanistan

The people of Afghanistan have endured war and hardship, including the Taliban's return to leadership in 2021. This change also put many families directly in harm's way who assisted the U.S. military over the last several decades.

With this shift, the U.S. has seen a dramatic increase in refugee arrivals, including more than 1,200 here in the St. Louis area. Thanks to you, we've personally helped more than 478 Afghan families just like the Nasarys.

Together in 2023, we...



Handed over the keys to 13 cars for multiple Afghan families who served with the U.S. military and are now resettling here in the Lou.



Gave 319 refugee families from 43 countries over \$191,000 worth of furniture.



Hosted 1,000+ refugees in partnership with 9 local churches at our community BBQ events.

Meet Clair Allyn

*He's an Oasis volunteer,
and retired pilot.*

Clair started volunteering at Oasis in 2014 and now faithfully volunteers weekly. As a retired airline pilot and Navy veteran, he understands the struggles of moving to (and living in) a brand new country.

Volunteering here is an opportunity for him to show the love of Jesus to refugee families moving to St. Louis. He's also a devoted member at his church, Bonhomme Presbyterian, that is also connected to our work here at Oasis.



Meet Mick & Joanie Mullen

They are married, grandparents, and faithful supporters of Oasis International.

In 2006, Mick and Joanie connected with Oasis International. Since that time, they've been dedicated financial partners and volunteers. They are inspired that their involvement here locally still reaches the nations.

In 2023, Oasis partnered with nearly 50 churches and organizations.



**In 2023,
Oasis
International
volunteers and
supporters...**



Taught 28 students in our English and Citizenship Classes.



Helped us distribute food to 990 families in need.



Provided 22,615 hours of service to local refugee families



Hosted volunteer teams from neighboring churches and community groups



Linked arms to host community events for more than 900 families.

Oasis International throughout the years

Founded by Mark & Joani Akers

After spending 2 decades on staff at a local church and delivering aid to thousands across the globe, God opened the eyes of our founders, Mark and Joani Akers, to the many nations living right here in their own backyard.

When visiting a local Ethiopian family who had just resettled, Mark and Joani discovered they were sleeping on the hardwood floors—**and** they knew they had to do something.

That day began a journey **and** a new ministry solely focused on helping refugees resettle and thrive. In 2006, the South St. Louis property was purchased and the doors of Oasis International officially opened.

Since that day, you've come alongside every step of the way in our shared mission to help welcome refugees from more than 50 countries.

See, this isn't just a cause we care about. Our faith compels us to live and welcome our new neighbors with open arms. **And** while the numbers have grown, our mission hasn't changed. Together, we've served more than 52,000 individuals since that first day, **and** it's all thanks to you.

52,233+ refugees/immigrants served

536 students have learned English

152,866 volunteer hours served

\$2.8M+ in furniture given away

\$1,277,771 given as benevolence assistance

2023 Financials



In 2023

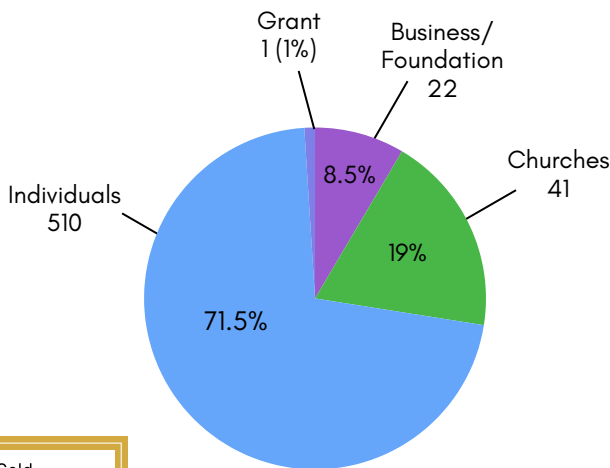
89¢

of every dollar given went directly to our outreach and programs. We worked directly with individuals, families, churches, and businesses to help more newly arrived refugees resettle and thrive.

\$251,500

in Benevolence Giving to Refugee Families.

Operating Budget Revenue



	2022	2023
Total Assets	\$679,514	\$590,571
Total Revenue	\$715,582	\$747,634

Gold Transparency 2023

Candid.



Mark & Joani Akers
Co-founders of Oasis International



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