

Oasis of Hope, Inc.

Oasis of Hope is a holistic community development ministry founded out of Hope Church in 2001 that serves the North Memphis Community. We work to elevate and improve the quality of neighborhood life through empowerment and partnerships.



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OF HOPE
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A Brief History

Since its inception, Hope Presbyterian Church has sought to make a difference in our city. Through the belief that most impact happens through relationships, they have committed to build deep life-on-life relationships over the long-term. The living out of that vision birthed Oasis of Hope.

Few Memphis communities have faced harder times than the Bickford community of North Memphis—the closing of Firestone and International Harvester, high infant mortality rates, struggles in education, employment and other effects of poverty have caused deep-rooted challenges that take years to address and reverse. What began as a relationship with one elementary school, Caldwell Elementary, has blossomed into a full-fledged commitment to work together with neighbors (youth, adults and seniors), schools, non-profits, foundations, government agencies, etc. Partnering with others for the betterment of the community is central to the hope for the future.



Community Development Corporation



Oasis of Hope is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation recognized by the City of Memphis as an official Community Based Development Organization (CBDO) for the more than a decade.

Through the Years...

- **2001:** Began partnership with Caldwell Elementary School by mentoring and serving as classroom sponsors.
- **2002:** Established Oasis of Hope as a 501(c)3 Community Development Corporation.
- **2003:** Began hosting community-wide events such as Back Pack and Turkey Drives, Job Fairs, Easter Egg Hunts, Food Pantry and Clothes Closet, Seasonal Festivals, etc.
- **2007:** Built first house.
- **2009:** Opened Oasis Appliance & Home Furnishings.
- **2008:** Partnered with the Aging Commission, MIFA and City Parks to operate the daily Seniors Program.
- **2007-2019:** Purchased Cedar Courts Apartment complex and developed the new Bearwater Park subdivision.
- **2013:** helped birth our sister organization AngelStreet.
- **2017:** Moved into the back of Bickford Community Center and substantially grew our afterschool programs.

Oasis of Hope is committed to our neighborhood friends of all ages and has programming that seeks to improve life for all. The following data shows some of the differences that have been made in various areas last year and/or since the inception of the organization.



Youth Enrichment Program

We serve 60 to 120 youth daily in our in-school and after-school programs, including sports, arts, character development, field trips, snacks, games and a safe place to belong.

Oasis Youth Empowerment School (OYES)

This summer job program taught the principles of financial literacy, business leadership, and biblical work ethic over the course of 6 weeks. Youth ages 10 - 15 collectively earned \$18,949 and earned between \$700 and \$1400 individually. For most students, it was their first real work experience.

Sports

Our basketball teams and summer baseball teams provide a fun avenue for mentoring to take place.

Hope City Church

Our partnership with Hope City helps provide for those in need through crisis counseling, food outreach, community engagement, as well as, spiritual support.

Oasis Senior Center

Monday-Friday, 8am-1pm our seniors' program offers enriching activities including games, workshops, ceramics, exercise, nutrition classes, health screenings, field trips, Bible studies, computer lab, arts & crafts, and much more!



Last year our seniors received the services below, just to name a few:

- 58 were provided hot lunches daily through MIFA
- 21 received free daily transportation
- 58 attended monthly nutrition classes
- 55 participated in weekly exercise/fitness programs
- 6 benefited from MLGW winterization program
- 12 were provided utility vouchers from MLGW
- 16 enjoyed massage therapy twice a week
- 18 joined in a weekly dance team

angelstreet

AngelStreet mentors and develops girls ages 8-18 by providing musical training in communities with limited access to the arts. AngelStreet allows participants a deeper dive into opportunities to discover their purpose, understand their value as women and become creative leaders. Currently, AngelStreet has an established presence in the Bickford Community Center, sharing space with both Oasis of Hope and Hope City Church. This provides proximity to important resources for students and families allowing it to both focus on direct services to girls through the arts, as well as leverage collaborative organizational power to promote transformative change in the community.

Community Events

In addition to our daily programming, Oasis sponsors multiple events every year that bring the community together to celebrate and build relationships, neighbor-to-neighbor. Annually we host/sponsor Easter Egg Hunts, Vacation Bible Schools, Summer Camps, Fall Festivals, National Night Out, Thanksgiving Drives, a Christmas Toy Store and other events that arise during the year.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

Over the past 14 years our volunteers have helped North Memphis families file 2,225 returns, totaling \$3,900,038 in tax credits, plus the approximate savings of \$437,300 in filing fees. This brings a total of **\$4,337,338** that has been put back in the pockets of our residents to be used where they most need it!

Affordable Housing

The Need:

Our area of North Memphis has had a desperate need of quality affordable housing for decades as can be seen by the following statistics:

- Median household income - \$19,967
- Median home price - \$20,800
- Housing that sits vacant - 29.9%
- Land that sits vacant - 48%



Impact To-Date:

Oasis has worked hard for 14 years addressing this issue. Through this year, Oasis has built 18 new homes and rehabbed 8 blighted properties directly. In addition, other housing non-profits, through varying degrees of partnerships with Oasis have built an additional 105 housing units in the community! According to NAHB, an average new home creates 3.05 jobs and adds \$89,216 in tax revenue.



Bearwater Park:

A huge project of love that began in 2007, with our baseball coach bidding on a dilapidated apartment complex, has now become a beautiful subdivision of 40 homes. We completed the last three designed vacant lots this fall and three of our wonderful seniors now call these beautiful, affordable residences — “home.”



Oasis Appliance & Home Furnishings

Through our appliance store outreach we provide necessary household goods affordably for neighborhood families; in the process we conduct job training and employment for under-employed youth and adults in the community. If you would like to donate, volunteer or shop to help provide these jobs, call 901-577-0013 or visit us online.

Economic Impact Over the Years

As you can imagine all of the above over almost two decades has not only had a social/spiritual/human impact, but also an economic one. According to the Civic Economics Andersonville Study, every dollar spent in a neighborhood business has an indirect impact of an additional \$.68. Therefore, the below direct investments into our North Memphis community has an even greater impact than realized.

Housing	\$6,031,000
Housing Partners	\$20,286,000
Business/Contractors	\$447,000
Oasis Appliance	\$1,773,000
VITA Tax Site	\$4,337,000
Seniors Program	\$803,000
Youth Program	\$547,000
Community Events	\$568,000
Office/Misc.	\$422,000
Total Investment	\$35,214,000

For more information on Oasis, visit oasisofhopememphis.com
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Numbers do not tell half the story, however, it is wonderful people like Pamela Covington and her wonderful children that are what the

ministry is all about. The fact that God allows us to come alongside our friends in some meaningful way is true impact.

Bickford and It's Future

The future of the Bickford Center and its community has a very strong outlook. Our goal is to enhance and grow our existing programming to serve more community residents, introducing new programs and opportunities for youth, young adults, and our senior citizen population.



Strategic Direction and Objectives

Holistic Revitalization of the Community

1. Recruit 200+ school age students into our after-school offerings.
2. Partner with more corporations, businesses, City of Memphis, MIFA, MAM, SCS, KIPP and other programs to enhance the capacity of our community's youth and adults.
3. Offer workshops community wide (cooking classes, fitness classes, financial literacy, etc.)
4. Develop additional sports programs and teams to offer more community youth a chance to learn, develop, and play.
5. Partner with other community organizations and serve as a hub for community needs and information.
6. AngelStreet to provide up to 300 hours of regular engagement opportunities in musical training and mentoring for 60+ young ladies, with at least 60% of them living in the 38107 zip code.