

# NON-PROFIT Spotlight

The CADILLAC NEWS and these SPONSORS Salute All NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS SERVING the Greater Cadillac Area



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## Oasis helps domestic violence survivors get back on their feet

**CADILLAC** — The Cadillac Oasis Area Family Resource Center has had a busy year.

In the last year, more than 160 women and children have stayed in Oasis' emergency shelter. The shelter provides 3,721 nights of emergency shelter for women, men and children. The average length of stay is 136 days.

Oasis provides 24-hour emergency shelter, advocacy and counseling, transitional housing for domestic violence and sexual survivors and their children. No family turned away for money and all counseling and services are provided for free.

The services are needed because people can't move forward when they are not safe. Oasis knows that people stay in violent relationships for varied and complex reasons. When they are ready, Oasis is there for them, providing a trauma-informed and non-judgmental approach. Oasis uses an empowerment-based philosophy to work toward ending domestic and sexual violence. The self-determination and empowerment of survivors are promoted, with each individual given respect and encouragement to take control of their life.

Last year, Oasis advocacy and counseling answered 877 Crisis Hotline calls, 439 survivors were provided 5,507 hours of advocacy, advocates responded to 18 emergency response calls to local emergency rooms, and 761 hours of counseling were provided.

In the two-year transitional housing program, 23 adults and



CADILLAC NEWS FILE PHOTO

On a crisp autumn evening, people gathered for an annual candlelight vigil to shed light on the darkness of domestic violence and sexual abuse and to show support for victims and survivors of these acts.

42 children used it, and 1,297 hours of advocacy were used for transitional housing. Five families found permanent housing through the program.

A survivor called the Oasis emergency crisis line, needing to flee her dangerous situation. She and her children were accepted into the emergency shelter. While staying at the temporary emergency shelter, Oasis helped her obtain a personal protection order and provided her with direction on how to move forward with parenting time.

While at the emergency

shelter, the survivor was able to enroll her children in school. She was also able to secure a safe and affordable apartment through Oasis. She utilized Oasis advocacy services and said she was grateful for the help. Her name cannot be used because of her and her children's situation.

With all of the services provided and its 24/7 nature, Oasis needs donations of goods, services and dollars. All donations are welcome and appreciated.

Financial donations can be given online at <https://cadillacoasis.networkforgood.com/projects/168951-support-oasis> or by mail.

For volunteer opportunities, please stop in, call (231) 775-7299 or email [mandy.sikkema@cadillacoasis-frc.org](mailto:mandy.sikkema@cadillacoasis-frc.org) or [carla.filkins@cadillacoasis-frc.org](mailto:carla.filkins@cadillacoasis-frc.org). Donations may be dropped off at 118 S. Mitchell St., Cadillac. You can visit the Oasis website at: <https://cadillacoasis-frc.org/>.

Oasis's long- and short-term goals and priorities include fundraising and development, volunteer programs, program development and organizational development. To best serve the community, Oasis plans to continue to grow strong, collaborative relationships with other non-profits.

Carla Filkins is the interim Executive Director. The board includes Tiyi Schippers as chair, Matt Seward as secretary, Julie Rushing as treasurer, Sarah Meek Girardot, Lisa Jacobson, Nate Karnes, Kris Knaggs and Helen Kiomento.



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