

"The ache for home lives in all of us."

— MAYA ANGELOU —

Finding Family

By Jacob Wischoff, Director of Oasis Centers

He had been a hard kid to crack. At least, he would like you to believe he is a hard kid. He was always in defense mode, always feeling he had to prove something to those around him, always yelling, always angry, and he couldn't lose gracefully. Other youth would cower, and volunteers wondered what was going on.



Oasis Centers are often our kids' second homes, places where they can come, share a meal, talk, and be cared for.

Alex* has been rejected by many. He has had little or nowhere to go, no ambition, no one who cared for him. No home. Many years ago his father was deported on domestic violence charges, and his mother is resting in a local cemetery. "Loving Mother, Grandmother and Friend" is written on her tombstone. I know because he took me there. As we stooped down to wipe off her grave, a tear rolled down his cheek. "Say a prayer for me and my mother," he said. I asked him if he wanted to pray, and he said he didn't see himself fit. "You have to," he asked. So I did.

Alex had recently begun coming to the Oasis Center and we connected over many things; silly jokes, stories of what it was

like growing up, football, the Seahawks, and even relationship advice. I invited Alex to come with my family and I to a Seahawks Game Party because I knew that he was a diehard fan. We spent the day together, then watched the Sunday Night game and ate spaghetti. As we drove home, he asked if we could stop by his mother's grave. We spent 15 minutes at the grave talking about his mom, his dad, and his brothers. After I prayed, we left. Since then, I've seen him every day.

It's kind of funny how listening to others and loving them despite difficulties speaks volumes and forges a relationship where there was none before. A hard kid who was angry and loud was in reality hurt, broken and beat up, wanting a friend. He needed love and someone to treat him like family. He found that at the Coffee Oasis. Our family is made up of many like you who support and care for our kids like Alex.

*Name has been changed to protect youth's identity

CALENDAR

Oct-Dec 2014

Friday Oct. 24 - Hit the Hay

Our kids come play games, eat chili, and have a haybale-throwing contest!

Sat. Nov. 15 - Redeeming Beauty Fashion Show

Our girls put on a Fashion Show to declare what it truly means to be beautiful! Come support them and enjoy an awesome evening. Tickets are \$12 and can be bought at www.store.thecoffeeoasis.com

Friday Nov. 21 - Day of Thanksgiving

An evening for our kids and their families to share a Thanksgiving dinner with staff & volunteers

Wednesday Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve

We sing carols, share dinner, open gifts, and celebrate Christmas with our kids and their families

Each of our events is only made successful by the support and participation of our community and volunteers.

Email Jake at jacob.wischoff@thecoffeeoasis.com to see how you can be a part of making a home for the holidays for our kids!

Letter from Dave

October 2014

Home means FAMILY...which for The Coffee Oasis means many different things.

It means providing FAMILY for oodles of young people who have no family. My wife recently asked her students "Tell me about your family," and one student responded "I don't have any family." It is for these young people that our staff and volunteers become big brothers and sisters, surrogate moms and dads and grandparents, supporting and encouraging them in their pursuit of life change.

It means a growing FAMILY of employees...from 7 employees 7 years ago to 47 employees today...and counting! What a privilege to work alongside the gifted and passionate individuals who day after day pour their hearts and energy into serving our community whether through making lattes or working with young people.

It also means a growing FAMILY of community supporters...YOU all who are reading this newsletter and providing us with the encouragement and support to provide FAMILY for young people who so desperately need it. YOU are a blessing! Thank you so much for being OUR FAMILY! Your financial support, notes of encouragement, prayer and volunteering are HUGE in keeping us serving young people who desperately need FAMILY. Thank You!

Dave Frederick, Executive Director

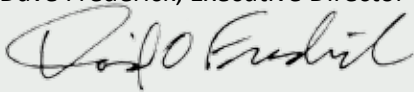


Photo Highlights



This September we held our first annual Coffee Oasis Garden Gala! Elected officials, judges, business owners, and community members came to hear our kids' stories and catch the vision of the Coffee Oasis. Over \$12,000 was raised by the event! (Gala photos courtesy of P5 Photography)



Our fourth annual Oasis Block Party was a smash! Over 500 people came with their families and spent a day eating, enjoying the petting zoo, watching live performances, and just being neighbors.



Our kids made lasting memories at camp this year, including motocross adventures and times at the lake! Thank you for supporting them.

The Heart of the Matter

By Daniel Frederick, Director of Community Development

Since I was a child my parents have always heated our house with a wood stove. The creak of the cast iron door in the morning and the smell of seasoned cedar wood catching flame is a certain sign of the coming season. It is the smell of HOME. The onset of the happy and hurried holidays has made us think again of "our kids" at the Coffee Oasis and what HOME means for them. When they look into the windows of the romantic Thomas Kincaid houses on cards and calendars what do they see? For our kids HOME is nothing more than a fancy fairytale and painful memory.

It might be surprising to find out that the vast majority of kids—"our kids"—do not become homeless by choice. The National Network for Youth (NN4Y) identifies three types of kids who are without a HOME: runaways, throwaways, and homeless. Runaway youth are those under the age of 18 who leave HOME without the permission of their legal guardian. You might ask, "Why would a child runaway?" Reports show that 21-40% of youth who runaway have been sexually abused at HOME. They haven't just left; they have fled the place called

HOME. Throwaways are youth who have been kicked out against their will and no effort was made by their parents to find them once they left HOME. The reason for being kicked out varies (pregnancy, sexual orientation, getting in the way, etc.). They just know they aren't wanted anymore. What we do know is that 42-75% of youth experience physical or sexual abuse after becoming homeless. Homeless youth are those between the age of 18-24 who can find no place to call HOME. To survive, 75% of youth who are homeless trade their bodies for protection or housing. They are looking for a place to call HOME.

For many of our kids the Coffee Oasis is HOME. It's the place they go to celebrate getting a job or

a good grade on a test. They come to cry and to hear the words, "Keep going. We believe in you." On December 24th it is the place they come to sing Christmas carols, hear the Christmas story, and open gifts.

Thanks for being a part of making the Coffee Oasis a HOME to kids who are hurt and looking for a place to belong.

YOUTH WHO HAVE NO

HOME

➤ **21-40%** left home due to suffering sexual abuse

➤ **75%** trade their bodies for protection or housing

➤ **40-50%** struggle with drug addictions

This year's **Combined Federal Campaign** has begun, and The Coffee Oasis is a recipient!

CFC

#36766

Hope for Hurting Kids

RECOGNITIONS

and thanks

The Coffee Oasis is immensely blessed by the support and generosity of the following donors and foundations.

- Grace Church Bainbridge Island
- South Kitsap Rotary
- Bremerton Rotary
- Poulsbo Rotary
- Silverdale Rotary
- Lockheed Martin Employees' Foundation
- Puget Sound Energy
- Satterberg Foundation
- Kitsap Community Foundation
- Port Madison Enterprises
- Soroptimist of Greater North Kitsap
- Bainbridge Community Foundation
- Discuren Charitable Foundation
- Soroptimist International of South Kitsap
- Horizons Foundation
- The Lion Glass Foundation

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THE COFFEE
OASIS

CHRISTMAS IS SPENT WITH FAMILY.

Last year, 150 kids came to our Bremerton shop
to celebrate Christmas.

This Year: **250** kids are coming to **3** shops for Christmas with their family.

Give
\$25

and provide
Christmas
gifts for a
youth!

THE COFFEE
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Give online at www.thecoffeeoasis.com/give or
send a check to 837 4th St, Bremerton, WA 98337