

oasis
FREE CLINICS

FY 2019 / 2020 ANNUAL REPORT 



Our Donors

We are so grateful for the hundreds of individuals, businesses, religious organizations, local governments, and foundations that support the work we do. Thank you for trusting us with your financial resources so that Oasis can continue to be here, changing lives and strengthening community.

As careful stewards of our organization's finances as well as our donors' contributions, we have chosen not to print our donors' names in our Annual Report. This allows Oasis to put the thousands of extra dollars required to print hundreds of names toward direct patient care. Instead, we invite you to visit our new website—oasisfreeclinics.org—to see a full listing of all of our donors.

Oasis would not exist without the generosity of so many. Thank you.

“As a retired nurse I know the importance of being able to access dental and medical care. If people cannot afford to go for regular routine care often health and dental problems only become worse and harder to treat. That's why I support Oasis.”

Why I Give
CYNDY BUSH
OASIS SUPPORTER

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FOUNDER

25 Years of Oasis Free Clinics

Honoring our **Past**,
Navigating our
Present, Positioning
our **Future**

In 1995, driven by a strong desire to care for his neighbors and the realization that his community was in dire need of no-cost, high-quality health care, Dr. Peter McGuire opened the doors to Oasis Free Clinics.

Over the years, Oasis has expanded from a one night per week walk-in clinic to a full-time, full-service primary care practice, a prescription assistance clinic providing close to \$1 million in free medications each year, and dental clinic that serves hundreds of people who lack access to dental care. Today, 25 years later, we are now the largest free clinic in the state.

From its inception, Oasis has been able to adapt to the changing needs of its community. This milestone anniversary year has been no different. Faced with a global pandemic, forced shutdowns, and increased patient need, it has been a different kind of year and a different kind of anniversary altogether.

On March 16, 2020, we closed our medical clinic to in-person visits. However, our staff and volunteers continued to come to the office every day to answer the phones, speak with patients, and keep our administrative and clinical operations running. Our staff and volunteer medical providers spoke with patients about their health issues, eased their worries about the virus, and refilled over 500 prescriptions. Our volunteer social worker provided virtual counseling—critical in these stressful times. For patients who receive their medications directly from our dispensary at the clinic, volunteer nurses and doctors came to the clinic to count out pills and label bottles, while staff met patients in the parking lot, (socially distanced, of course!), to make sure that they had the critical medications they needed. We continued to

provide MaineCare navigation over the phone as well as connecting patients with pharmaceutical companies' free care programs. We called all of our patients to check in, (over 600 calls!), and let them know that we were here for them if they needed help.

We closed our dental clinic on March 18, 2020, and because of the aerosolized nature of dentistry, it remained closed until September 8th. Our dental director, Dr. Rick Elsaesser, spent months speaking with local dentists, researching the latest guidelines, and following national organizations to identify the safest way for us to re-open. We have renovated the dental suites, adding air scrubbers to remove aerosolized particles, purchased sufficient personal protective equipment, and created a respiratory protection plan to assure the health and safety of our staff, volunteers and patients. For the first month, our newly hired staff dentist was our only provider. We hope to bring back volunteers one day each week in October, and will continue to do so assuming the COVID-19 rates remain stable. In January, we hope to bring back our 8-hour per week staff hygienist and resume our bi-weekly evening clinics with volunteer dentists.

We have had the opportunity to reflect on our administrative and clinical operations during this situation and have discovered there are different ways in which we can both operate our non-profit and deliver care. This includes telework and telehealth. We are now routinely offering telehealth appointments as an option for eligibility screenings, as well as for medical and counseling appointments when appropriate.

“At Oasis, I am able to provide truly patient centered care. I love being able to meet patients where they are and tailor care to their personal needs.”

Why I Serve
MICHELLE BARBER, FNP
 OASIS LEAD CLINICIAN

Closing the medical clinic for COVID-19 combined with MaineCare expansion has impacted the number of patients we served this year. With high unemployment rates and the ongoing pandemic, we are certain the need for our services will remain steady—and likely increase—in the year to come.

As we did in 1995, we continue to believe that health care is a human right for all, not a privilege for a few. Everyone should have access to high-quality care regardless of their insurance status or ability to pay—money should never be an obstacle to living a healthy life. Oasis has been able to do this for our community for 25 years because of the service, support, and dedication of more than 80 volunteer physicians, dentists, nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and licensed mental health professionals as well as healthcare partners, donors, and exceptional staff. We have never received state or federal funding and have never charged patients for their care.

Despite this unusual year, we have supported our patients throughout, and we have also taken a close look at our ourselves—spending some important time to position Oasis for the next 25 years of service to our community. ■



19 / 20 BY THE NUMBERS
Medical Clinic

“All humans deserve quality healthcare provided with dignity. Oasis allows me to better my community by striving towards this goal and it is an honor to work for an organization that has done so much for our community for so long.”

Why I Serve
MATTHEW KANWIT
 OASIS BOARD PRESIDENT

The Oasis Purpose & Impact

Mission, Vision, and Values

Twenty-five years ago, Oasis was created by our founders with a belief that everyone in our community should have access to high-quality health care, provided with dignity, compassion and respect. Our founders also believed in the power of service—that sharing your time, expertise and skills is the purest form of giving. These continue to be an integral part of our work at Oasis as we look to the future and to meeting the emerging medical and dental needs of our patients.

Our Mission

This year the Oasis Board chose to re-examine its mission statement to get at the heart of why the organization exists. We care for our neighbors in need because everyone deserves access to high-quality health care regardless of insurance status or ability to pay. But we also do it because we believe that improving the health of those in our community improves our community as a whole. Good public health improves entire communities and saves community resources. We all benefit when our friends and neighbors are healthy and safe. In this way and with a steadfast commitment to service, Oasis is changing lives and building a stronger community for all.

Changing Lives, Strengthening Community



“I was intrigued to work at Oasis because I feel we share the same vision and philosophy, which is to put the needs and interest of our patients first, be sensitive to their needs, and provide them with the best quality care possible. I fully enjoy personalizing patients' treatment in an effort to educate and motivate them to be successful in achieving and maintaining optimal dental health. Oasis creates an environment for all of us to be able to accomplish these goals.”

Why I Serve

LISA SPRAGUE, RDH
DENTAL HYGIENIST

MISSION STATEMENT

At Oasis Free Clinics, we strengthen our community by providing no-cost medical, dental and prescription assistance services to our uninsured neighbors in need.

OUR VISION

A thriving community that cares for all of its members.

OUR VALUES

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

We believe access to basic health care is a human right, and that it is our role to serve those who fall through the cracks of traditional health systems.

RESPECTFUL, CARING RELATIONSHIPS

We value relationships characterized by respect, dignity and compassion between and among patients, caregivers, volunteers and staff.

SERVICE

We value the service of our volunteers and employees. We believe that it is important to share our talent and time to serve others and the greater good.

ADAPTABILITY

The healthcare needs of our patients and community evolve with changes in legislation, the economy, the availability of other social services, and many other factors. To be most effective at serving those who need us, we must be flexible and adapt our service offerings.

COMMUNITY

Oasis offers its services in the context of a complex web of community systems and social determinants of health. We value collaboration with individuals, other social service agencies, places of worship, community leaders, policy makers, governments and all members of the community we serve and seek to enhance.

Care, Support, & Respect

An Oasis Patient Story

If Blake didn't have access to Oasis Free Clinics' health services, they wouldn't go to the doctor or seek any help when needed. "I don't know what I would do. I don't have money to seek out care or to buy insurance."

A patient since 2017, Blake has used Oasis Free Clinics' medical, dental, counseling and prescription assistance services off and on over the past several years when health insurance wasn't available to them.

"I wish that everyone had health insurance and didn't have to worry about where they got medical care. I'm lucky to be a patient at Oasis," they said. "Everyone who works here is just so nice!"

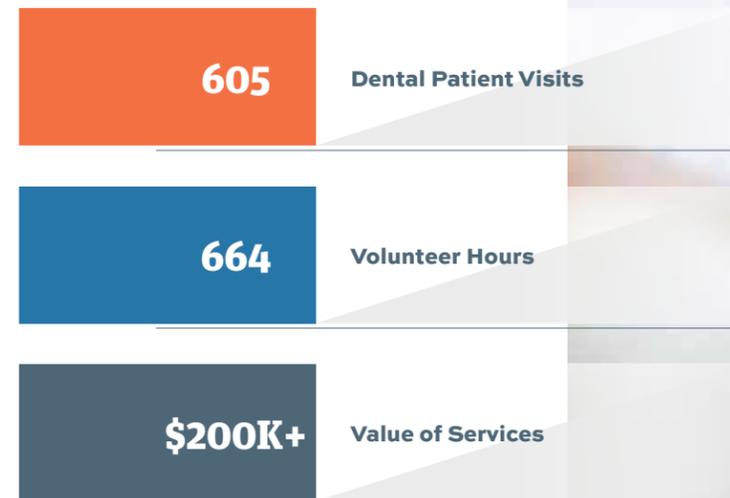
Blake, a Brunswick resident, currently works forty hours a week at a position that does not provide health insurance. In addition to working full time, they are taking classes at Southern Maine Community College to earn a degree in psychology. "I have been in counseling for a long time, and it has really helped me. I want to help people in the way I've been helped," they said of pursuing the degree.

While thankful for the services Oasis has provided, Blake is even more grateful for the care, support and respect they receive when there. Different from provider offices they had visited in the past that felt sterile and made them feel like an annoyance when calling, Oasis is a welcoming and friendly resource.

"I am so glad that I come to Oasis," they said. "I can call anytime and know someone friendly will answer the phone. I know that the staff care about me and really want to be here to take care of their patients." ■



Blake, Brunswick resident and Oasis patient, knows Oasis is there for them when health insurance isn't an option through their employer.



▲
19 / 20 BY THE NUMBERS
Dental Clinic

"After a career in dentistry in our community, I have found the Oasis Dental clinic a perfect format to try to give back. There I have found an environment where compassionate care is delivered without question to our neighbors. Oasis has helped me grow into a more empathetic person."

Why I Serve
RICK ELSAESSER, DDS
VOLUNTEER DENTAL DIRECTOR

Our Volunteers

Volunteers are the heart and soul of Oasis. They give hundreds of hours of their time each year to help our patients and staff, and we could not do our work without them. Thank you!

Volunteer Directors

Frederick Elsaesser, DDS
Dental Director
Jeffrey Maher, MD
Medical Director

Medical Providers

Andree Appel, PA-C
Mackenzie Hofford, MD
David Inger, MD
Susan Kamin, CNM
Betty Kennedy, MD
Jeffrey Maher, MD
Amber Shepherd, FNP
Paul Vinsel, MD
Thomas White, PA-C
Cleo Wolf, MTOM

Dental Providers

Lawrence Bossong, DDS
David Bukala, DMD
John Caruso, DMD
Chadd Cockrell, DMD
Ronald Davis, DDS
Frederick Elsaesser, DDS
Walter Higgins, DMD
Per Houmann, DDS
Randolph Howell, DDS
Robert McVety, DMD
Todd Mellin, DMD
Curtis Obrey, DMD
James Oshetski, DDS
Ronald Sawyer, DMD
Greg Sprague, DDS
Howard Sprague, DDS
Robert Swan, DMD
Joseph Wetherhold, DMD
Kathleen Winn, DMD
Christopher Wnek, DMD

Mental Health Providers

Sarah Arnold, PhD
Elizabeth Bailey, MSN, APRN
Caroline Feely, LCSW
Allen Northup, LCPC
Leora Rabin, MD

Nurses and Medical Assistants

Patricia Burrell, RN
Peg Johnson, RN
Laura Labbe, RN
Cassandra Marcisso, RN

Dental Hygienists

Eden Cianciolo, RDH
Judi Jones, RDH

Dental Assistants

Samantha Garceau
Faith Kitchen
Dawn Omo
Deena Reeber

Technical Advisors

William Heinz, MD
Ron Lessard

Administrative Volunteers

Rachel Guthrie
Connie Jones
Kathleen Kenny

Helen Maher
William Maher
Virginia Oliver
Carol Proctor
Calla Ruff
Zella Ruff
Marcie Ruskin
Annee Tara

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Chadd Cockrell, DMD
Meghann Dombroski,
DMD, MPH
Frederick Elsaesser, DDS
Alyne Heslin
Walter Higgins, DMD
Curtis Obrey, DMD
James Oshetski, DDS
Kathleen Winn, DMD

Students

Bowdoin College

Ashlynn Autrey
Kevin Chi
Eskedar Girmash
Sarah Brigid Konefal
Andrew Moore
Ilana Olin
Mary Nzeyimana
Maggie Savage
Julie Scholes
Ridhika Tripathy
Audrey Tsai
Felicia Wang

Tufts University School of Medicine

Nathaniel Meyer

“I chose to serve Oasis because I realize our healthcare system is not meeting the needs of our communities, and that all people deserve to benefit from a healthcare system that works for them. I know Oasis is improving peoples' lives and bettering our communities.”

Why I Serve

BRETT JENSEN
OASIS BOARD MEMBER

Called to Serve

An Oasis Volunteer Story

For Dr. David Inger and Dr. Leora Rabin, volunteering and giving back to community is a way of life. The couple lives in Yarmouth with their three kids, and although Dr. Inger has a busy practice as a primary care provider and Dr. Rabin as a psychiatrist, they make time to lend their skills and compassion to Oasis Free Clinics regularly.

“In Judaism there is a phrase ‘tikkun olam’ which means giving back to others,” said Dr. Rabin whose parents made volunteerism a part of her upbringing, and she and her husband have made it a central part of their family dynamic. With such a strong connection to giving back, it should come as no surprise that Dr. Inger and Dr. Rabin volunteered together at a free clinic in Seattle, Washington.

Since then, their charity has continued, from Dr. Rabin lending her time and skills to Portland’s Preble Street Shelter, Wayside Soup Kitchen and at the family’s synagogue to Dr. Inger’s community focused participation as a soccer coach and assisting in the creation of the Yarmouth Clam Festival clam shack.

“Volunteering under a license though comes with some responsibility and is different,” said Dr. Inger of wanting to give back professionally in addition to within their community. “It’s more rewarding.”

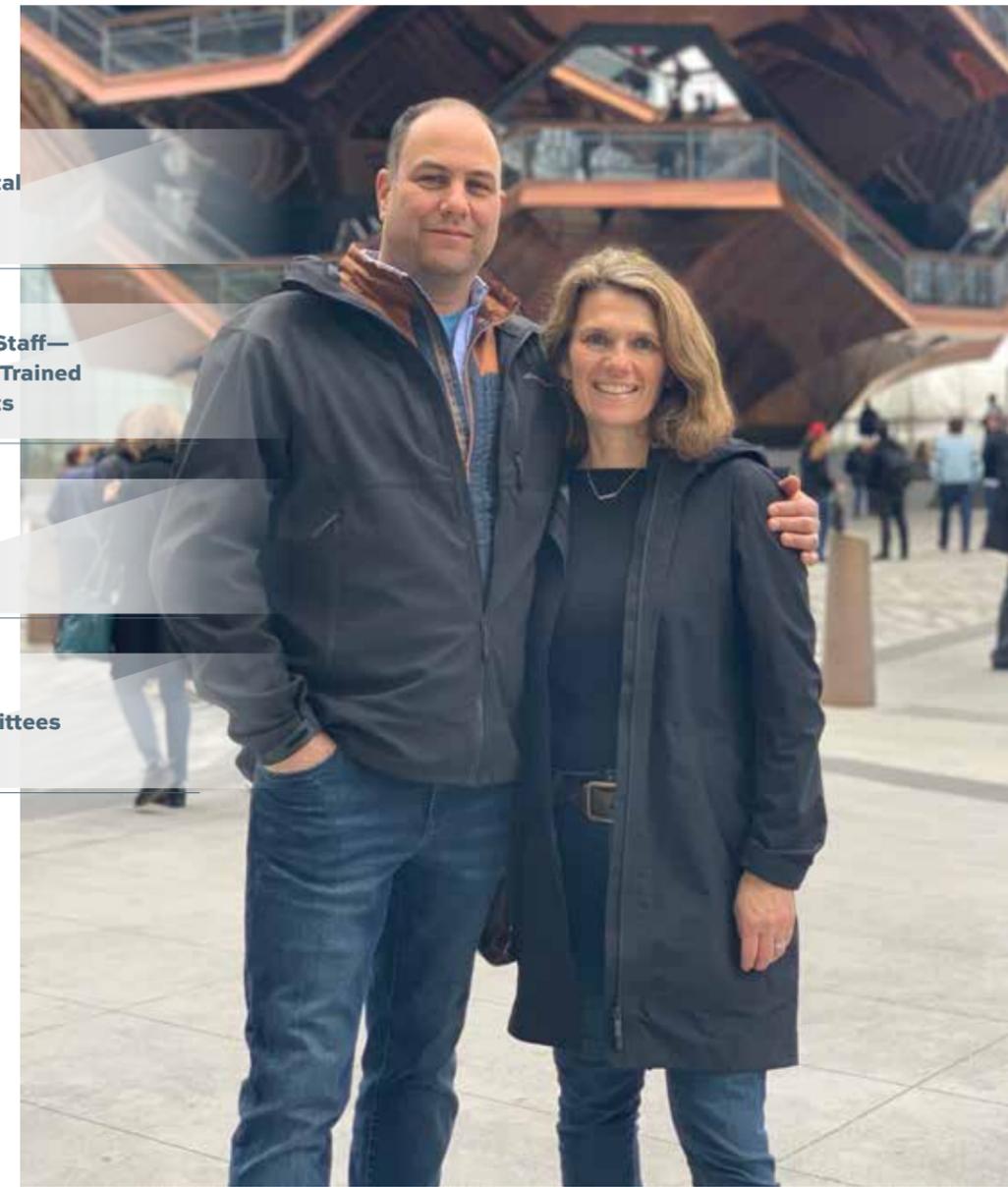
Dr. Inger first became involved with Oasis Free Clinics after being inspired by recent political happenings, eventually making his way to the Board of Directors.

“With David being on the board, I kept hearing about Oasis and I knew there was a shortage of mental health providers and psychiatrists,” said



▲ 19 / 20 BY THE NUMBERS Total Volunteer Hours

For doctors David Inger and Leora Rabin, volunteerism is ingrained in faith and family, and offers a rewarding way to connect with and serve community.

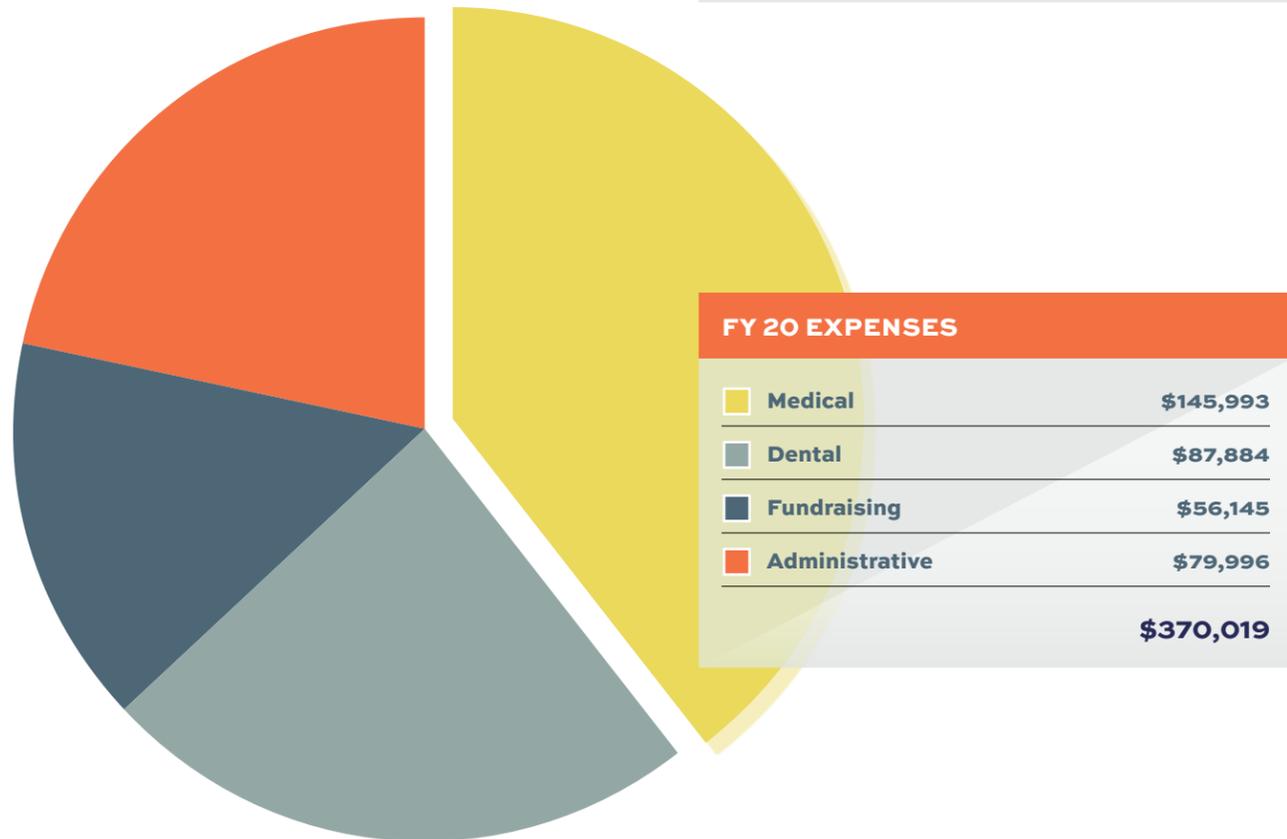
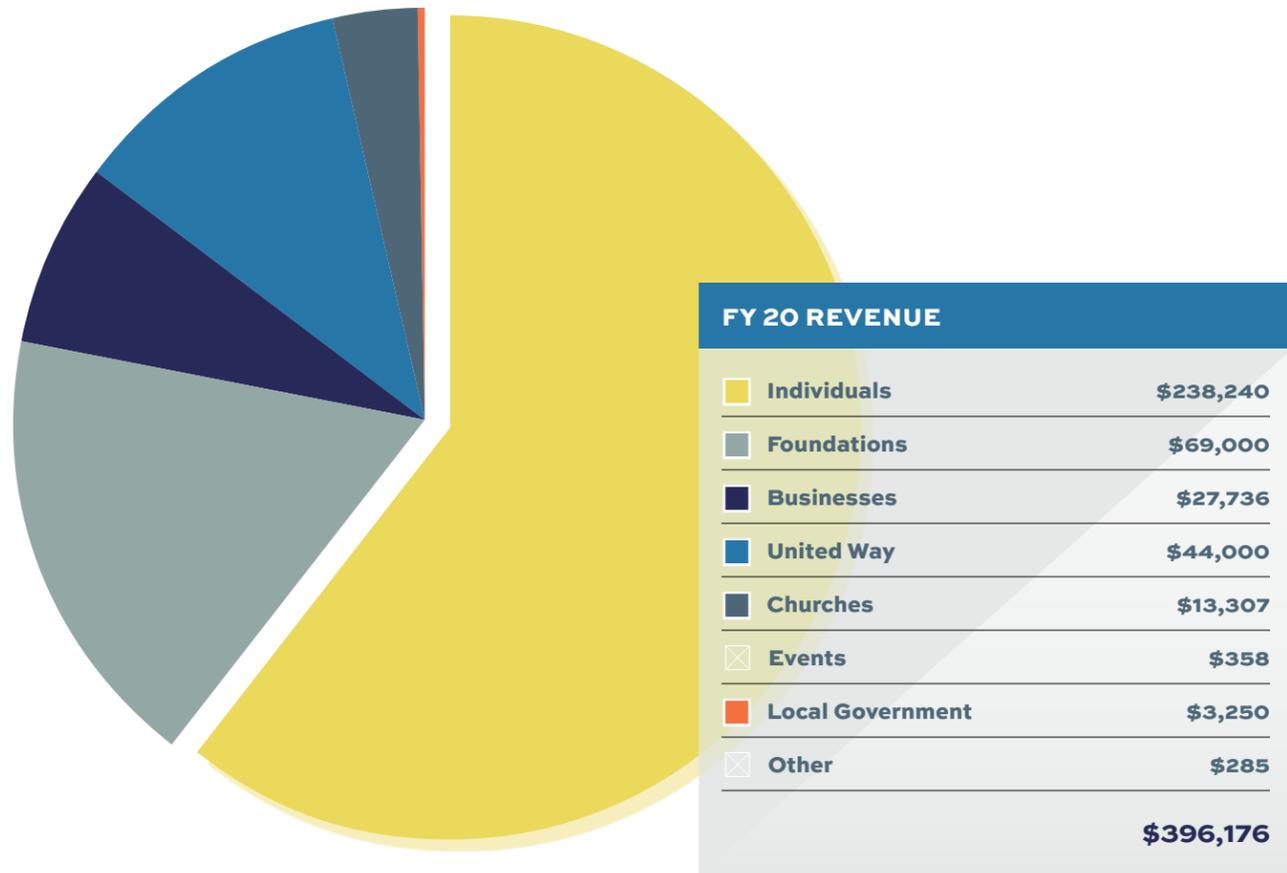


Dr. Rabin, who believes mental and physical health need to work together in concert for optimal wellbeing. “Not having health insurance puts you at another level of vulnerability, and it’s humbling that people trust us with their stories and their lives.”

Both doctors consider it an honor when patients who come to Oasis share their stories with them. “I had a patient who was seeking asylum in this

country, and I was asked to document his injuries as part of his asylum application. To hear about what he went through to come here—the violence, the pain, the hope—was a privilege,” said Dr. Inger.

“I am honored to be as part of Oasis,” added Dr. Rabin. “I think it is an amazing place.” ■



Financial Snapshot

FY 2019/2020

For FY20, we budgeted \$353,892 for revenue and \$410,021 for expenses with an anticipated net loss of \$56,129. However, revenues exceeded budget by \$42,710, and expenses were \$40,002 less than budget. This resulted in a net income of \$26,583 in FY20. The surplus was caused by: (i) the overwhelming generosity of donors during the second appeal campaign and (ii) lower than expected expenses due to temporary staffing shortages.

We will apply the surplus to assist in the re-opening of our dental clinic during the COVID-19 pandemic, including the hiring of a dentist for eight hours a week in FY21.

“We support Oasis because we believe all of our neighbors should have access to high-quality essential medical and dental care. As small business owners, partnering with Oasis is an integral component of fulfilling our mission to contribute to community vitality. The icing on the cake is that we enjoy the patients, staff, and volunteers at Oasis!”

Why I Give

ANNA AND DR. CHADD COCKRELL, DMD
OWNERS, CASCO BAY DENTAL



oasis

FREE CLINICS

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oasisfreeclinics.org

25 years of incredible patients,
volunteers, and donors.

25 years of Oasis Free Clinics.

**“Oasis serves some of Maine's
most vulnerable citizens. I'm
thankful to have the opportunity
to support that vital mission.”**

Why I Serve

JOHN LACASSE
OASIS BOARD MEMBER



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