

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS TO FUNDERS AND DONORS

Belfast City Council

Belfast Education Library Board

Belfast Health and Social Care Trust

Belfast Regeneration Office

Big Lottery Fund

Building the Community-Pharmacy  
Partnership

Christian Fellowship Church, Belfast

Playboard

Public Health Agency

Service Level Agreements with Upper Springfield Development Trust and GEMS NI.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Angus Beck– Chair

Richard Gardiner– Treasurer

Heather Kennedy– Secretary

Sammy Douglas– Voluntary Advisor

Ronnie Baird

Hugh Jervis

Helen Kyle



102-108 Castlereagh Street,  
Belfast,  
BT5 4NJ

Telephone: 028 9087 2277  
Web: [www.oasis-ni.org](http://www.oasis-ni.org)  
Email: [info@oasis-ni.org](mailto:info@oasis-ni.org)

Accepted as a charity by the Inland Revenue under Reference no: XR 17280

The logo for OASIS CARING IN ACTION features the word "OASIS" in a large, bold, green sans-serif font. To the right of "OASIS" is a stylized green plant with two leaves. Below "OASIS" is the phrase "CARING IN ACTION" in a smaller, grey, sans-serif font.

**OASIS**  
CARING IN ACTION

## ANNUAL REPORT

### 2010

Transformed Lives, Transformed Communities



## A WORD FROM THE CHAIRMAN

If you were to add up all of the people we have an impact on during the year, of all ages, stages of life, states of well being, levels of educational achievements, it would total the high hundreds. For every one, there is a change in their life that has happened because they have crossed our threshold.

I would love to have the time to talk to lots of them, and hear more of how they are transforming their lives, with our help. Those encounters certainly lift your day! I only get opportunity to hear from a very few. In each case during the year, I listened to stories of personal growth, breakthrough and increased confidence. I don't really remember the detail of the stories now, but I do remember the love people expressed for the Oasis staff they connected with. Our success doesn't just come from "what we do", it comes from the passion, integrity and quality of the people who do it.

On behalf of the board, I want to thank staff and volunteers not just for "what you do", but "how you do it".

## A WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

If last year was one of opportunity and challenge this was a year to see those opportunities becoming a reality.

In April we opened our third coffee shop, in the Crescent Arts Centre on University Road. This will give us the opportunity to expand the EAT Etc brand and be able to fund a few of the charity's activities ourselves. In September we went into partnership with a local school and moved our Playgroup and Afterschools programme to a building on their site. This gave many more opportunities for connecting with parents and it also allows us to expand our Day Care provision in the vacated space.

As with any major expansion it did create cash flow challenges and I would like to pay tribute to the finance department for keeping us on an even keel. In addition I would like to thank all the staff and the Oasis board for their continuing commitment over the past year to our vision of "Transformed lives, Transformed communities".

**Cliff Kennedy, Executive Director**



## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	2009 Total Funds (£)	2010 Total Funds (£)
<b>Income and Expenditure</b>		
Income Resources		
Grant Income	238 632	224 870
Income Generated	223 111	284 251
Donations	45 663	43 320
Total Incoming Resources	507 406	552 443
<b>Resources Expended</b>		
Support costs in the furtherance of the objects of the charity	546 297	577 899
Management and administration	4 540	4 550
Net incoming resources/net income for the year	(43 431)	(30 006)
*N.B. 2010 accounts are draft figures		
<b>Accountants:</b>	<b>Bankers:</b>	
Goldblatt McGuigan	Ulster Bank	
Alfred House	Arches Retail Park	
Belfast	Belfast	
BT2 8EQ	BT5 4AF	

**Oasis exists as a practical demonstration of God's love within our community of East Belfast**

**By support, training and resources we wish to see people empowered within their personal, family and community lives.**

Oasis Mission Statement



## SOCIAL ECONOMY

### EAT ETC

Due to the unfortunate circumstances of a fire at our premises on the Belmont Rd, Eat Etc was forced to temporarily relocate to the old Grace N Grove premises on the Belmont Road, in order to continue to serve our loyal customers. Following refurbishments of the premises, Eat Etc re-opened its doors in September and welcomed a new Shop Manager Anne Louise Elliot (a.k.a. Annie!) to the team.

Despite these difficulties over 2010 Eat Etc continued to offer a full range of freshly made gourmet sandwiches & panini's, homemade soups, salads and daily specials. Freshly baked scones were also available daily including everyone's favourite- the cinnamon scone! We've also freshened up our outside catering menu- which now includes a range of hot food, tasty salad boxes and mixed finger buffets

### EAT ETC @ CAC!

2010 saw an exciting opportunity for Eat Etc, with the opening of a new coffee shop based in the Crescent Arts Centre on Mon 19th April. Lots of visitors came to sample the range of food & drinks on offer in the new look Centre. The café has proved to be a hub for the centre, providing visitors with a selection of freshly baked scones, tray bakes, gourmet sandwiches, salads and a range of daily specials.

This new venue will provide an excellent opportunity for Eat Etc to expand its customer base across Belfast, thus raising the name & profile of Oasis Caring in Action, and enable us to fund a few of the charity's activities ourselves.



### OASIS CAFÉ

The Oasis Café continues to be the hub of activity in the centre, open from Mon-Fri 9am-5pm. The Café not only offers catering services but serves as a training ground for volunteers and provides a social focus for the local community. The central location allows the local community to engage with the centre and has proved popular with visitors, staff and course participants. Visitors are able to explore and engage with the work of the centre and this development of relationships facilitates the ability of the centre to connect with people in the area. By strengthening these relationships the impact the centre has on the local community is greatly increased. Additionally the lure of delicious food and appealing coffee attracts people who may not have had previous experience of the centre.

We hope that the year ahead will see continued development and growth of the services offered by the Oasis Café, and furthermore that it will continue to facilitate



## EARLY YEARS

Oasis Early Years offers child care for all children aged 6 weeks-11 years old. The Summer Scheme also runs for 2 weeks each July for primary school aged children. Our aim is to offer flexible affordable care, allowing parents to return to work or training. This year saw our Early Years Department gain new premises at Avoniel Primary School for our Playgroup and Senior Afterschools Group. In doing this we have been able to expand our Day Care and offer more places to families in the area.

We now offer 116 places each day spread across three sites: the Oasis Centre, St Clements and

### OASIS CENTRE

Our Nursery Unit for 0-2 years is located in the main Oasis Centre, where the children follow a different theme each month. This year we have seen the nursery unit re-decorated into one bright open space for the children. They continue to enjoy a variety of activities including sand, water, painting, playdough, arts



### AVONIEL

In September we acquired a new Unit in the premises of Avoniel Primary, where our Playgroup and Senior Afterschools group are now based. Both staff and children are excited by the possibilities offered by the new premises, including access to a large outdoor play area and the use of the school facilities. We hope this partnership with Avoniel will

### ST CLEMENTS

This year our Day Care has expanded and we were able to offer more Day Care places for children up to school age. We now offer 32 places for children aged 2-4, who play and learn following the Early Years Foundation stage curriculum.

Our Junior Afterschools Club continued to offer fun and varied activities for P1-P3's.



### SUMMER SCHEME

This year the theme of our Summer Scheme was 'Pyramid Rock, where the children learnt about the story of Joseph through a variety of activities. We had around 50 children attending for the 2 weeks; there was never a free moment as they all took part in a variety of games, crafts, workshops, and trips. This year we were excited to be joined once again by our Canadian team led by Carla Buckingham, which was a great asset to the Scheme. We want to pay a big thanks to the team of 25 volunteers who gave up their time to make a difference in the lives of the children. We also want to thank Gillian Thom who coordinated and lead the

## IMAGO

The last year saw Imago continue to grow and develop as a service. We saw some very positive developments in our work with clients during the year- people overcoming health problems to start rebuilding a life that had more meaning and purpose.

The staff again produced a 10 week activity/ Personal development group called 'The Tree Of Life'. The use of creative outlets such as writing and art (amongst other things!) encouraged individuals to express themselves, build hope, confidence and self-esteem. This culminated in a Presentation Ceremony in which two clients spoke of how they had been helped by the group. It was a very moving morning.

The Thursday Drop-in continued this year to be a useful resource where past clients are able to encourage and support new clients as they move forward.

The befrienders continued to work in a variety of roles to meet the needs of individuals, ranging from simple help to get out and about, to more complex work such as graded exposure for people who had high anxiety and difficulty leaving their houses, and clients who needed help to overcome the restrictions of living with Obsessive Compulsive Disorder.

The team are planning to launch a celebration CD with stories, tips to improve mood and

## INNER EAST LOCAL AREA NETWORK

2010 was a year for Oasis to continue it's work within the Community through a partnership involving 5 areas of East Belfast- Castlereagh, Mount, Ballymac, Woodstock and Short Strand. This partnership was facilitated by the NIHE Community Cohesion Unit and funded under Belfast City Council's Peace III programme. This was a very successful programme and addressed issues around culture, health, PR and media training and environment. As part of the programme activities Oasis was involved in a gardening project which resulted in hanging flower baskets along our streets over the summer months. Staff from the various organisations also attended Media Training with NTV and produced a DVD highlighting the work of Oasis and the other

## RECALL

This year saw the establishment of a new community project- RECALL (Reaching and Engaging with Community Advice and Link Line). The service was launched in September and delivers a free community based support service for older and vulnerable people in South and East Belfast. This vital service helps enable people to remain independent in their own homes. Funded under the Big Lottery's Fund's "Safe and Well" programme, it provides support through a daily Telephone Call Service, a Befriending Service, and an Advice Service.

The befriending programme is based in Oasis Caring in Action, it provides an essential human connection for older and vulnerable people who have become isolated. Not only does this interaction support an individual's independence at home, but it also enables people to re-engage with and make a contribution to their own communities. Furthermore it reduces the fear of crime felt by so many and helps overcome social



## TRAINING

This was a busy year for training with a number of classes running for Literacy, Numeracy and ICT. It was also a very successful year with many learners achieving qualifications in these subjects. In addition we had a number of quilting classes running until May 2010 and many women enjoyed the opportunity to learn new skills in a relaxed and sociable environment.

We continued to receive funding to deliver our popular Personal Development course for women, Healthy Body Healthy Mind and finished the year with some fun creative classes.

During this year the Men's Group has grown and the introduction of regular speakers has been popular.

One of the most exciting projects undertaken this year was the 'Inner East' Photography Project. A series of workshops and fieldtrips encouraged participants to look at their communities in new ways; culminating in the launch of a photographic exhibition. The project not only provided the centre with innovative artwork to decorate the place but positively impacted the lives of those who took part. Participant's not only enjoyed the experience but benefited from learning new skills and gaining greater self-confidence. The Exhibition is still available to view on the Templemore Avenue side of the Oasis building, inside the Coffee Shop, on the railings at Pitt Park and on the railings of Short Strand and inside the community centre.

Our annual Celebration event was held in June 2010 with many learners returning to receive certificates and to celebrate achievements. Some shared their stories of the benefits of improving Maths and English classes and others impacted us with personal reflections on how life had changed for the better because of taking part in courses at Oasis. This time together always renews our passion to continue in our efforts to



## EU PROJECT

We were very excited to hear in 2010 that we had been successful in our Grundtvig application, a European Programme for Lifelong Learning. We are now in a 2 year partnership with Larcentrum Ostersunds Kommun Sverige in Ostersund, Sweden and Stichting Tafelvanzeven in Rotterdam, Netherlands.

The aim of our 'Moving Forward Together' partnership is to exchange ideas and share best practice from each other as we all provide informal and non-formal training to adults. We are also completing a study on motivation; together we want to learn new ways in which we can motivate others and facilitate learning. The funding we have received for the partnership will facilitate people from each of our organisations to travel and visit each other in the different European States.

In October 2010 we hosted the initial partnership meeting in Belfast and had a great time together. We were able to arrange a tour of Belfast City Hall and our guests were given an official welcome to Belfast from the Deputy Lord Mayor. Everyone really enjoyed the experience and left Belfast and Oasis with a very positive impression!

In December 2010 we visited Rotterdam to view their work in training immigrant ladies in hospitality skills. We enjoyed having the opportunity to see a city that had opened its doors to many cultures and being able to