

# Oasis Youth Center

## Congregational Update

### September 2011

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**Please pray for us, and  
thank you for your  
continued support!**

Our first summer program proved extremely successful for Oasis! We met a lot of new kids, and got to watch some of the others grow (and grow up) and prepare for their next year of school. All total, we met 19 *new* kids in our summer session, including many younger children who are just old enough to be in Oasis, and will hopefully be able to participate for many years. We also had a few new volunteers this summer, as Pastor Rockhoff of Friedens and Pastor Italiano of St. Luke's also volunteered a few times. Final statistics for the summer session show that we averaged nine youth/session over summer, and our attendance was as high as 15/session (which it was 3 times) and as low as 4 kids/session, which compared to other local youth centers and what we have heard from them is very good attendance. We thank God for this blessing!

This summer was also a learning summer for Oasis. We learned that during the summer months (mostly June & July), kids aren't around as much to join us at Oasis. Between their family vacations, use of public pools, Great America outings, and other fun 'summer' things to do with their friends, their time for Oasis isn't as available as it is during the school year. But we know the kids enjoy Oasis and its ministry, even when they are not there. One afternoon this July, Pastor Neumann of Mt Zion was walking from the parsonage to the church office when he noticed 3 young boys sitting out under the tree in the Mt Zion parking lot drinking their slushies with their bikes laying next to them. He recognized at least one of the boys from Oasis, and the boy recognized him as being associated with Oasis' Board. And he went on to relate to Pastor that Oasis was closed from the heat, because it was so hot; but that they love the program – they just wish it had air conditioning on those really hot days!

Our Star Reward Program has proven VERY successful in helping encourage consistent good behavior at Oasis. The kids understand and obey the rules more because of the visual reminder of the stars on the chart, and our staff is noticing that reading/homework time is happening with little to no issues now since we've implemented it. We've developed a schedule that works with the kids and helps to keep things moving along well. Snacks and drinks have been donated from MANY of our church members; our thanks to all who have been so generous! With everything we've learned in our first year of Oasis, we have no doubt there will be more to learn this coming school year, and we look forward to it.

One final note of correction. Last month, it was reported that we would like to thank local church members Janis Buchholz and Marge Macht for donating the food for the Italian Night that Oasis had over summer. That note should have read LuAnn Macht instead of Marge. Our apologies for that mistake, and our heart-felt thanks for your donation, LuAnn!





## Oasis Staff Contact Information:

Pastor Scott Bergemann (Interim Director) – 262-308-4615

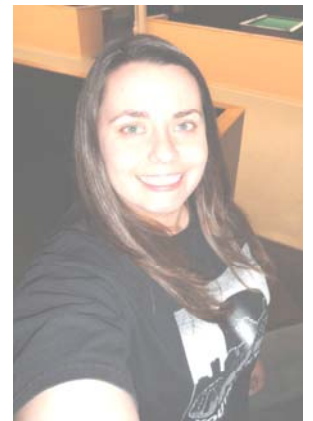
Amy Haun (Assistant Director) – 262-909-7579

Tim Knautz (Board of Directors President) – 262-883-4277

## Meet our NEW Assistant Director!

No doubt you have seen her face before. She's been a volunteer since Oasis opened. She served as Interim Assistant Director. She's been Mt. Zion's church secretary for 5-1/2 years, keeping her pastors "on track." At our August Board Meeting, Amy Haun was hired as the Assistant Director of Oasis; we welcome her as our fulltime Assistant Director! In addition to passion, organizational skills, and great relationships with many of the Oasis youth already (a couple of which were actually talking about boycotting Oasis if Amy didn't get the gig, we found out later! We think they love her so much because she's the same height as they are ☺), Amy brings to Oasis 3 marketing degrees which we hope to leverage as we continue to make a name for Oasis and to connect our ministry with more and more youth and their families.

Amy's Oasis duties will be to be in attendance whenever Oasis is in session, and to above all, get to know all of the kids and interact with them while they are at Oasis, by helping them with their homework, playing games with them, and talking to them about their day and their lives. Building relationships is a key to sharing Jesus and His love; and so this aspect of Amy's work is vital, and we ask for your prayers for her as she does it. Amy will also serve behind the scenes to keep Oasis records and statistics up for the Board, to support the Director as needed (running for supplies, making copies of worksheets, etc.), to manage Oasis' presence on Facebook, and to help us work up presentations on Oasis which can be made in our churches, with foundations and individual donors, and the like.



Our thanks to everyone who showed interest in the Assistant Director Position at Oasis. We anticipate that there may be other opportunities for service in the Oasis ministry in the near future; and we would love to see more of our church members come over to Oasis when we are in session and to get involved with this urban outreach ministry to youth and their families. Once you do, you will be hooked, just like Amy was!

## Odds and Ends

- In order to take advantage of some local business funding and community connections, the volleyball tournament fundraiser that was going to be held for Oasis in November is being re-planned for next spring. Look for more information after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year.
- The Fundraising Committee for Oasis is looking for a few more people interested in serving, as they have lost a member, since Amy Haun has now become Assistant Director. The fundraising committee is looking at coordinating 2 annual events (spring and fall) for Oasis in the future; so this committee will not require a ton of time on your part. The 1<sup>st</sup> event we are considering is in fact a cooking contest – a soup cook-off - this winter! If you are interested, please speak with Dan Krueger or Rick Kopp who are working with the fundraising committee.
- Oasis has passed stage one to be approved for a 2012 Kenosha Block Grant! This past week, our representatives attended the Kenosha Common Council meeting where we found that out; and there were a lot of local organizations that did not get approved there, we also found out – so we are truly thankful for this blessing!