Oasis Intergenerational Tutoring
Paul Weiss, PhD

The “dual-outcome” power of intergenerational programs

Purpose + Social Impact
What is Oasis?

- Lifelong Learning
- Active Lifestyles
- Volunteer Engagement
Where is Oasis?

The Oasis Network
22 States | 41 Cities

Oasis Lifelong Adventure

Oasis center
Partner City
December 2017
Oasis impact in 2017

- 40 cities
- 700+ partners
- 6,100 volunteers
- 23,000 classes
- 31,000 adults + 22,000 children =
  - 53,000 people impacted
  - 132,000 class enrollments
  - 383,500 volunteer hours
Purpose and Oasis

Oasis provides several opportunities for purposeful volunteerism

- Meaningful volunteer opportunities
  - Oasis Intergenerational Tutoring
  - Teaching lifelong learning classes
  - Community Health Worker training and teaching
  - Capacity-building
Purpose and Oasis

What do we observe in adults who participate?

• Improved outlook; self-reported experiences of joy, efficacy, and more life engagement

• Better health outcomes; improved self-care

• Reduction in social isolation; the new relationship with the tutored child, the school, and new stories to tell about the experience
“It was hard for me to get up and down the stairs. I’ll never forget when Chelsea said to me, ‘Can I hold your hand?’ I encouraged her and she encouraged me. We formed such a wonderful friendship.”
“One of the other tutors convinced me to try tutoring even though I didn’t think I could. It was so great it gave me confidence to pursue something else I always wanted to do but was afraid to try – teaching Sunday School.”
Next Steps for Oasis Intergenerational Tutoring

1. Expand programming and volunteer opportunities to additional locations

2. Explore ways to encourage more volunteers to participate: evidence is energy

3. Engage with donors around the multiplicity of positive outcomes we achieve multi-generationally through tutoring

4. Storytelling: Intergenerational programs lead to amazing stories of impact and connection
• Break into groups of 4 or 5 people
• Pick a social impact that fits these criteria:
  o Outside of the aging and older adult “issue and service universe”
  o Relatively high visibility as a social impact need
  o Addressing this social impact need requires interpersonal engagement
• Define how older adults could accomplish this social impact through intergenerational engagement (and could be uniquely effective!)