

**Oasis Outreach Opportunity, Inc.** has been in existence since August of 2005, when we began as an urban mission out of St. John/St. Paul Lutheran Church in downtown Akron, Ohio. We developed creative worship and spiritual activities for hundreds of youth who often attended church twice a week. In 2013 we moved 100 Oasis participants to the east side of Akron, where we bought our own 25,000 square foot building with full basketball court, kitchen, sanctuary and a 6 bedroom house. We met 500 new youth within the first year. Because of the deep need for youth outreach in the neighborhood, within three years we learned that we needed to collaborate by partnering with young adult leaders in the community who want to give back to the city. We have now created a multi-cultural community center with a hip hop dance team, girls mentoring group, basketball training, a Pentecostal church, bilingual day care, ballet group, a therapeutic school-based counseling program and a non-residential Street Outreach Services for homeless youth in the adjacent house next door. In addition, six young adults live in two additional student houses.

However, the “core” Oasis community, many who are now young adults, are needing the opportunity to gather together for ongoing spiritual and community development in a safe area. The concept and need for the Oasis Healing House developed. So, Oasis has purchased a six-bedroom house in a safer neighborhood on the north side of town. With over four acres of land surrounded by woods, we will have opportunities to play and camp out. There is an indoor movie theater in the basement where young adults can gather for movie nights. A spiritual space on the main floor will be open for individual and small group meditation, study, and reflection.

As a foundational framework for the Healing House, six adults will live in community together. Two older adults will join four other young adults, ages 20 to 23, as they learn how to share household responsibilities, group spirituality, and meals. Together they will create hospitality and creative/spiritual content for weekly large group gatherings on Sunday afternoons, camping experiences, and retreats. Together, with a community of young adult leaders alongside other multi-generational leaders, we are in the process of creating The Oasis Healing House, an incubating environment for economically disadvantaged 18-26 year olds to gain healing, strength, and purpose in order to transform their own lives, their neighborhoods, and the city of Akron.