

# TORONTO'S REFUGE

Winter - 2007

Oasis Dufferin Community Centre

Volume 4, Issue 1

**WHEN:** SATURDAY, MAY 26, 2007 AT 10:00 A.M.

**WHERE:** NEW HORIZONS TOWER, 1140 BLOOR ST. AT DUFFERIN

## THE

## GREAT

## STAIR



## CHALLENGE

The Oasis Dufferin Community Centre challenges you to climb 136 flights of stairs (same height as the CN Tower).

For more information or to register, contact:

Chris Ortiz at:

(416) 536-3197

or

[chrisortiz@rogers.com](mailto:chrisortiz@rogers.com)

All proceeds go to support the

Oasis Dufferin Community Centre.

### In this issue...

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*“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly more than we ask or think...”*

## What to Look for at Oasis

### Job Skills Training

- Cashier Training
- Bank Teller Training
- Computer Courses  
(Basic & MS/Word)

All courses are offered throughout the winter and spring semesters at a minimal cost. Please call for dates and times of courses.

### ALPHA IS BACK AT OASIS!

Starting February 15, every Thursday morning for ten weeks, groups will meet to discuss such topics as the meaning of life.

**Have you ever wondered what the meaning of life is?**

Join us as we explore this topic and more in an open and casual classroom setting.

**All are welcome, and the course is FREE!**

**CONFIRM YOUR PARTICIPATION AT:**

(416) 536-3197 OR (416) 536-4431

By E-mail: oasisdufferin@rogers.com

## OASIS CHRISTMAS PARTY

From Left: Erika Abele translating for Elmer Manzo



Once again another great Christmas celebration was held at Oasis. A delicious dinner, inspiring words and recognition of the work done by the Board, staff and volunteers were all elegantly carried out.

It is an excellent opportunity for Oasis volunteers and supporters from across Ontario to spend time together and learn about how their efforts are impacting the Oasis Community. Thanks to all who attended and especially to those who helped make it possible. See you all again next Christmas!

## OASIS WALKATHON – OCTOBER 14, 2006

The eleventh Annual Walkathon was held last October and was a complete success. First and foremost, participants were able to visit community landmarks and pray for the specific neighbourhood needs. Secondly, a sunny fall day made for a fun and energetic walk and allowed Oasis supporters to meet some new Oasis faces. Lastly, over \$6,000 was raised to help support the various Oasis programmes. Thanks to all you walkers and also to those who sponsored them.



**Walkathon participants gather together to pray for the community at the intersection of Bloor and Ossington.**

*“...to God be the glory... forever and ever, Amen.” Ephesians 3:20,21*

## Christmas Toy and Adult Gift Distribution

What is the greatest gift for someone at Christmas? Ask a child and he or she might say a tricycle or a Barbie. Ask an adult the same question and the answer would probably be much different; perhaps a vacation or the latest iPod.

At Oasis we recognize and try to share the greatest gift any of us could receive and that is the gift from God for man's redemption; His son Jesus Christ. At the same time, Oasis understands the physical and emotional needs during the holiday season. To that end, the purpose of the children's toy and adult gift distribution is to brighten up someone's day and give a gift to those that may not receive any other present during this time of year.

No child really needs a G.I. Joe special commando set that includes



**Mother and son are grateful for the gift they received.**

army camouflage and special extraction equipment. Yet knowing someone cares enough about us to give a gift does go a long way in showing God's love and how He cares about all of us and gave us the best gift of all, our Saviour.

In 2006, Oasis was able to give over 125 adults a gift bag that included items such as scarves, gloves, toiletries and also a tract that presented the Gospel. At the same time, over 86 families received toys for their children. A special thank you goes to the volunteers and staff who helped prepare these gift packages and all those who donated the toys and money.



**Judy and Lisa Shung prepare children's toys.**



**E.S.L.  
CAFÉ**

Oasis is offering its second semester of ESL conversation class during the spring. The E.S.L. Café provides an opportunity for newcomers to practice their English conversation skills in an informal setting.

If you or someone you know would like to assist in teaching this dynamic and practical class please contact Erika or Lisa at: (416) 536-3197.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS



# TORONTO'S REFUGE

## Volunteering: Why Would Anyone Bother?

### Why do people volunteer?

At Oasis, many people support the work of the centre by volunteering. The types of jobs carried out by these volunteers are wide-ranging. From cooks to teachers or volunteer Board members, the work that is done at Oasis relies heavily on volunteers.

Why would anyone devote more than ten years of his life to direct Board meetings, participate in events, and cook turkeys at Oasis? The belief in the value of what is being done at Oasis and the needs of the community together with one's personal need to help others could be some reasons. Or, the calling by God to serve in various capacities could be motivation for someone to volunteer.

Heeding God's call to become missionaries, many interns from the Liebenzell Mission of Canada volunteer to learn about service in a Christian, urban and multicultural setting. Gaining practical experience in providing emergency food relief or tutoring and mentoring young children of the community is rewarding, but the reason for doing such work could come from the need to share God's love with others through actions.

Another reason many people volunteer initially at Oasis is because they are in a situation where they can benefit from volunteering. When on Ontario Works (social assistance), people have the option to volunteer in the community and in doing so receive additional assistance from the government to cover their transportation expenses (\$100 per month). Many who volunteer have just come



**Sister Sandy and Martha prepare desserts for the Oasis Christmas Dinner.**



**Didik and Saeed both have volunteered at Oasis with Chris (right).**

to Canada; some are studying English while others are looking for work. By volunteering they gain experience, practice English and at the same time find a home away from home at Oasis.

Volunteering is unpaid work, yet by sacrificing a few hours of our time we can receive payment by seeing someone else's life greatly improved. Putting others first before one's self interest should be seen as the most worthwhile reason for volunteering.



[www.oasisdufferin.org](http://www.oasisdufferin.org)

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