

“Oasis Dufferin Community Centre, as a Christian not for profit faith community and,

... reflecting that all peoples are made in God’s image,

... recognizing their value and dignity in a multicultural society and city,

... understanding that prejudice is only overcome through relationship,

Oasis seeks to create community for clients by **demonstrating God’s love and care in such ways as to help them attain their fullest potential.”**



Phyllis, Scott, Erika and Chris at the 15th Anniversary Celebration of Oasis.

DIRECTOR'S REFLECTIONS

In 2009, I officially took over as Executive Director of Oasis Dufferin Community Centre. As I look back at what was entrusted to me as well as my motives for doing this type of work, I can think of two words: Vision and Injustice.

The founder of Oasis, my mother Phyllis, has a passion for serving one's neighbour and she followed God and laid a strong foundation for the work at Oasis. As she imparted the leadership to me she left with these words:

"As George Barna has said in his book The Power of Vision:

'We must find God's vision and share it with our people. It will transform and empower the ministry God has chosen us to be a part of.'

This is the task then that falls to Chris, the Oasis staff and Board; with the Spirit guiding them they will find God's vision and will share it with those who come along side them."

I believe Oasis has found and is following God's vision and as we endeavour to share that with others I think about injustice. To see others suffer by being oppressed or denied



Oasis Food Bank Intake Workers assist clients with various needs.

simple rights, I am motivated not by a thirst for justice, but by love, a love for God and for our neighbours.

It is something that has moved me greatly in my life; understating the fullness of God's word. How can we do nothing when others are suffering? Or even worse, how can we participate in actions or systems that exploit our brothers and sisters around the world? I am reminded of Jesus' words to the Rich Young Ruler who asked: "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?" and Jesus answered him: "Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in Heaven, and come follow me." Luke 18:22

However you understand that verse, what jumps out at me is the radical test of the young ruler's concern for others. How do we treat others? I am far from perfect, but understand that our love for God must be shown in our love for our neighbours, whoever they might be.

That is the vision at Oasis: *To be an intercultural, missional community – a place of Christian faith where the marginalized will be embraced. Oasis will be a training ground for urban ministry and release others to a Kingdom harvest. Oasis will help to facilitate replicable urban mission models. The Oasis vision includes the development of an English speaking community of believers.*

To me that means being compelled by Christ's love to treat everyone with grace, humility and care regardless of

DID YOU KNOW?

- In 2009, over 11,200 visitors received food at Oasis .
- In 2009, Over 105 students took part in Banking, cashier training courses and the Oasis ESL café.
- In 15 years, Oasis has welcomed approximately 70,000 people through its doors.

their race, sex, political affiliation, religious beliefs etc. And to do so will mean to sacrifice one's own interests to attend to the needs of one's neighbour.

I have been blessed to be given this time to share and learn from the Oasis community and I love what I do, especially the moments that don't show up in annual reports, the moments you have to live to fully understand.

As Shane Claiborne once said:

"Watch out, God is getting ready to do something very small."



Chris Ortiz

Executive Director

“When I first arrived in Canada I was so scared I didn’t speak a word of English. My welfare worker told me that if I did volunteer work I would get a metro pass each month. I heard about this place Oasis where I could do volunteer work. I arrived over an hour early for my interview and they offered my daughter and I soup while I waited. At first I kindly declined but we really were hungry. The staff sat and chatted with us as we ate. We felt so welcomed. Eventually I was accepted as a volunteer and then heard about the E.S.L. class. I was overjoyed! The class was offered in the mornings so I could drop off my daughter at JK then come quickly to join the class. I am slowly learning English and am happy to be volunteering at a place where I can help other newcomers as they come to Toronto.”

This story represents many of the people that have been part of the Oasis E.S.L.

Café. Students often express their gratitude at having a place to study English where they feel welcome. We begin each class with coffee, tea and treats and on cold winter mornings this is more than appreciated. We now have students that have been attending our program since 2008 going through all of the levels we offer.

One student of Korean descent commented on how she recently obtained a part time job in the afternoons in a clothing store. She is so glad to be able to come to the class in the morning as she still wants to improve her English.

Seeing people build the confidence to enter the workforce as they settle in Canada brings such delight to the dedicated Oasis teachers.

We look forward to continue being a part of the lives of these students as they teach us much about gratitude and resilience as they face many challenges settling in this city.



E.S.L. students and teachers.

Counselling

2009 was an eventful year in the counselling program for Erika Abele and Carole Ann Stephen. They traveled to Bolivia to present counselling and family relationship seminars to Seminary students and faculty, pastors and community workers. The openness, receptivity and gracious nature of the Bolivian people made it possible for them to develop rapport quickly. Many participants shared readily from their life circumstances, while others shared in private counselling sessions. So much was learned and Erika and Carole Ann were truly blessed by God in this first venture.

Carole Ann Explains:

“Earlier in the year we enjoyed several weeks at Oasis sharing and teaching with a group of Latin American immigrant women. Each week we saw the women increasingly support each other as they shared the difficulties of adjusting to such a different life here in Canada. We were able to affirm their strength and gifting and were delighted to watch their interdependence flourish. At the last class we celebrated by sharing a potluck meal of all our favourite foods.

Our time at Oasis served well to prepare us for Bolivia, giving us a greater understanding of the needs and problems of families in Latin America. On the other hand, our time in Bolivia, in relationship with such welcoming people, allowed us to experience the culture in a very personal

way as we chatted, shared meals and were welcomed into homes and lives. Each experience contributed to the other. We could see God’s hand in so many small and large ways. We have much to think about as we plan for the future.”

Carole Ann spent an extra week in Bolivia teaching in the jungle area and listening to pastors and church workers share the needs of people who live in small villages difficult to access. After her time in Bolivia, Erika had the opportunity to travel to Argentina and spend time with Renee Padilla the founder of “Kairos” an ecumenical partnership working to promote human rights, justice and peace, viable human development, and ecological justice.

“This year we are continuing to process all these experiences as we share, pray and seek the wisdom of others in leadership. We sense so many opportunities and are grateful to God for allowing us to have a role in bringing His healing to others. We thank all who have supported us in such an exciting year.” – Erika.



Erika Abele—DIRECTOR OF WOMEN’S MINISTRIES

Carole Ann Stephen—Counselor

DEVELOPING AN ENGLISH SPEAKING COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS.

The new Church Planting Pastor, Scott Rourk, and his family moved from the United States to Toronto in June to join the Oasis team. For six months he has been here and has started to adjust to his new role well. Some of the accomplishments over the first 6 months are:

In addition to our weekly small groups, the Oasis church plant has been meeting for worship service on Saturdays since mid-October. These worship services are averaging 15 people in attendance each week.

We had three believers publicly profess their faith in Jesus Christ and were baptized on December 5th 2010. Two people were from the Oasis Life Group (Terry Allott and Janet Brown) and one child from our Kaleidoscope Children's Ministry, Pastor Scott Rourk's son, Ethan. Dovercourt Baptist Church was kind enough to let us use their baptismal for our service and we are very thankful to pastor Arc.

We spiritually mapped three of the major neighbourhoods around Oasis: Wallace-Emerson, Dovercourt Park & Christie Pits. This is part of the demographic study of the community. A special thank you goes out to our mission teams who helped us prayerwalk and map these areas including Kanata

Baptist Church in Ottawa, Bon Air Baptist Church in Virginia, and Operation Mobilization.

Scott has been leading the church planting strategy team to help develop the strategy for the Oasis Church Plant.

Members of the Bon Air Baptist Church Team.



The Dufferin Chapel before and after.



Oasis Life Groups

In October, Scott Rourk assumed leadership of the Oasis small group. He also started two additional small groups in the community. The average attendance of all three small groups was 12 people per week. The small groups have been taken through basic theological and Christian Identity training. They will begin leadership training next year.

In our effort to minister to the marginalized over the Christmas holidays, we served a hot and delicious lunch to the Dufferin-Bloor community. Led by Robin Carroll, members of our Life Groups came together and cooked a

turkey stew. We served a hot meal to 170 to 200 people in the Oasis Dufferin community. Other members from our small groups took off work and joined in helping with the event. Marvin stood on the street corner and guided people to the tent while Lee welcomed everyone by playing Christmas carols on his guitar.

We scheduled the free meal after the food bank to focus on people who really needed a helping hand this Christmas season. We're already looking ahead to next year and hope to make this meal an annual event.

Christmas Gifts for Adults

Erika and two volunteers assembled 160 gift bags to be given to people who visit the Oasis Food Bank. The gift bags were larger than in the past because we received a lot more donations from various churches this year. A special thank you goes out to all the churches who contributed items for the gift bags this year. The gift bags also included hats, mittens and scarves that were donated by a generous company. Grade three Students from Dovernort Junior School helped give out the gifts

during the food bank on December 16.



Rev. Scott Rourk
Church Planter

Statement of Income and Changes in Fund Balance

Year Ended December 31

	2009	2008
Revenue		
Individuals	\$ 31,538	\$ 22,359
Churches and groups	27,035	23,463
Foundations and grants	107,116	98,487
Government Grants	13,377	-
Events and sales	8,301	19,186
Lessons and fees	830	3,815
Interest and miscellaneous	301	1,710
	188,498	169,020
Expenditures		
Mission service (schedule 1)	161,229	144,151
Office and general (schedule 2)	45,221	40,007
	206,450	184,158
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures	(17,952)	(15,138)
Fund balance, beginning of year	29,692	44,830
Fund balance, end of year	\$ 11,740	\$ 29,692

Notes: Audit performed by PKF Hill Chartered Accountants. For full audited statement contact Director, Oasis Dufferin Community Centre.

The Oasis Founder's salary is not included in the financial statement, but is paid for by the Baptist Women of Ontario and Quebec. Thank You!

Oasis Dufferin Community Centre is a registered Canadian not-for-profit organization.

Charitable Number: 14074 1414 RR0001

PARTNERS LIKE YOU MAKE IT POSSIBLE

Each year many foundations, churches, groups and individuals give their time, resources and also support Oasis financially and prayerfully. The names are too many to list but our thanks to you is truly heartfelt.

CHURCHES AND FAITH GROUPS INCLUDE:

Aylmer Baptist Church	Ossington Baptist Church Women's Group	BAPTIST WOMEN OF ONTARIO AND QUE- BEC (BWOQ)
Agincourt Baptist Women's Association	Renforth Baptist Church	CANADIAN BAPTIST MINISTRIES (CBM)
Atlantic Baptist Women	Shiloh Baptist Church	CANADIAN NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVEN- TION
Beaver Bible Class	Toronto Area Association of Baptist Women	THE LIEBENZELL MISSION OF CANADA
Bon Air Baptist Church, Virginia, USA	Villa Nova Mission Circle	SERVING IN MISSION (SIM)
Dovercourt Baptist Church	Woodford Baptist Church	
First Baptist Church Ottawa	Woman's Chirstian Temperance Union	
Grand Bay Baptist Church	Yorkminster Park Baptist Church and Women's Group	
Heron Park Baptist Church		
Immanuel Baptist Church		
Kingsway Baptist Church		
Martin Grove Baptist Church		
Osgoode Baptist Church Mission Circle		

Oasis receives food from Daily Bread Food Bank and Second Harvest for which we are truly grateful.

Oasis Staff

- Chris Ortiz - Executive Director
- Phyllis Ortiz - Founder
- Erika Abele - Director of Women's Ministries
- Rev. Scott Rourk - Church Planter
- Genoveva Ibarra - Intake Worker

Oasis Board of Directors

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| ●Richard Steinecke -
Interim Chair, | ●Mary Cowan |
| ●Richard Kvistbo -
Treasurer, | ●Cecelia Hamlin |
| ●Pablo Caballero | ●Sigfrido Ortiz |
| ●Gladys Castro | ●Brian Seim |
| | ●Nashwa Tawfiq |

Senior's Club

This opportunity to work with a group of seniors, that meets once a month at Oasis, has seemed like a gift



from God. The group comes together for fun, fellowship, food, and teaching from God's word. Those who attend look forward to receiving nourishment for their spiritual growth.

One lady recently commented that the monthly devotionals provide strength for her life as she struggles with feelings of inadequacy and low self-esteem. Another senior shared with the group that she feels isolated and only with the friends that she has met at Oasis is she able to confront and deal with the issue of loneliness.

"Hortensia", who had been suffering from depression, broke down sobbing when she said farewell to the Oasis Senior's Group just before her return to El Salvador. Oasis had become her family.

A wonderful Argentinean gentleman,

Jorge Cairoli, has made a valuable contribution to this group, and under his wise leadership the attendance has grown to approximately 25. This 76-year old gentleman faithfully communicates to the

seniors every month reminding them of the meetings and he also leads in a group dynamic exercise upon their arrival at the Centre.

The Oasis Senior's Group is an effective way of connecting with the lonely, those who are depressed, and the elderly who are continuing to adapt to Canada. It fulfills an integral roll in the Oasis Ministry as those who attend the program are accepted, helped, and ministered to on a monthly basis.



Phyllis Ortiz
Oasis Founder

Walk, Run or Play

There are some days when even the most disciplined runner may not feel like training. Yet the prospect of achieving one's goals can often be enough incentive to push through. In some ways training for a run can be similar to urban ministry. There may be days when we feel challenged by the task before us. Yet, the reward of seeing lives transformed can often be enough to compel us to continue.

New in 2009, was to put together three events into one: the Prayer Walk, A 5KM and 10KM Run and a soccer game to showcase the new Oasis soccer team. Due to the weather conditions, the run and soccer game had to be cancelled. Although it rained, 26 people participated in the annual prayer walk. Scott Rourk led the Prayer Walk portion of the event this year and made few changes. One change that made a big difference was that the route was shortened to better accommodate the seniors who have trouble walking long distances. The walk was just under a mile in distance and the participants appreciated this considering the inclement weather.

This fundraiser was unique in that the funds from the run would also support an international endeavour that Oasis was taking on that year. A few days after the run two Oasis staff, Erika Abele and Carole Ann Stephen, headed off to Bolivia to teach basic counselling skills to community leaders and pastors in Cochabamba. We were able to raise \$ 4,900 and this event made the Bolivia trip possible. We would like to thank all of you who contributed toward the run and especially those that spent weeks training for it.



Back from left: Gerald, Mehmet, Benadict, Pepito, Chris Ortiz, Matt, Chris Clarke, and Jerome.
Front from left: Jon, Ally, Abraham, Soji, Nelson and Joachim. Not Pictured: Marco and Daniel.



Oasis Vision for 2009 and beyond:

Oasis Dufferin Community Centre will be an intercultural, missional community – a place of Christian faith where the marginalized will be embraced.

Oasis will be a training ground for urban ministry and release others to a Kingdom harvest.

Oasis will help to facilitate replicable urban mission models.

The Oasis vision includes the development of an English speaking community of believers.



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