



Four Christmas Choices from Oasis

Oasis is holding four, count them, four special events this Christmas season. Check out which one(s) appeal to you.

1. **Christmas Celebration and Volunteer Recognition. Friday, December 1st, 2017. 6:00 pm** is the Spanish Cultural Exposition Preview. **6:30 is a light supper. 7:00 pm is our program.** An annual favourite, don't miss this opportunity to start off the Christmas season celebrating what God has done at Oasis. Theme: Jesus as a Volunteer. Meeting at New Horizons Tower Auditorium (not the Oasis building), 1140 Bloor Street West, right beside the Dufferin Street subway for easier access. See: [Invitation](#).
2. **Recruiting Volunteers Conference. Friday, December 1, 2017, 9:30 am - 1:00 pm.** Hear front line workers and volunteers share their experiences in the joys and travails of recruiting volunteers. Perfect for volunteer coordinators. Free registration. Also at 1140 Bloor Street West. See: [Brochure](#).
3. **Spanish Cultural Exposition. Saturday, December 1, 2017, 11:00 am - 2:00 pm.** See our Oasis Spanish seniors group and their friends demonstrate their artistic, musical and dancing abilities. Also at 1140 Bloor Street West. Where beauty meets wisdom.
4. **Cantate.** Listen to heavening music in the sublime sanctuary of Saint Anne's Anglican Church while raising funds for Oasis. Divine. **Sunday, December 10, 2017 at 3:30 pm** at 270 Gladstone Ave. See: [Cantate Information](#).

Christmas truly is the most wondrous (and busy) time of the year.



Student Blessings

Oasis was blessed to have seven students helping this summer. Not only did they work hard in transporting, sorting, storing and distributing food, they also raised awareness on issues of food insecurity (i.e., the inability of people to obtain adequate, affordable, nutritious food) and brought cheer and artistry to their work. The summer finale was the Art Fair they organized and put on by themselves that touched our community. Here is a magnificent painting by an 18-year old friend of one of our students called "Out of Reach".



Put Oasis on Your Shopping List

One of my very best Christmas memories took place when my daughters were teenagers. We had seen a moving presentation about the work done by a charity for teenage women. Our daughters were devastated by the need and challenged by the lack of resources. After some discussion we all agreed to forego all but one small present that year and donate what we would have spent to the charity. I secretly wrote to the spokesperson about what we were doing and asked her to write a note for my daughters. She wrote an absolutely amazing and touching personal note. Come Christmas morning there was a little feeling of letdown as the present-opening time was over in under five minutes. However, that feeling changed to deep joy as they read the surprise note from the spokesperson. About ten years later we met the spokesperson at a conference; we introduced ourselves and thanked her for her note. To our surprise, she remembered what we had done. I too will never forget the generosity of our daughters.

Check Out the Oasis Blog

Our Blog "What I Have Learned So Far" is found on the Oasis website at:

<http://www.oasisdufferin.org/index.php/blog/category/5>. It chronicles the discoveries made each week by Richard Steinecke as he observes the Oasis journey. For example, our September 28, 2017 post entitled "The Award" reads:

- *Day in and day out we work hard. We [our staff and volunteers] work late setting up and we get up early to set up some more. We negotiate different perspectives on how to serve our community. We accept the gratitude of most of our community members and the "suggestions for improvements" by others. We fill in gaps when someone is unable to come the last minute. We try to greet everyone with a smile and a friendly word. It becomes a routine.*
- *So when the Daily Bread Food Bank nominated us for their Best in Class award for enhancing the dignity of our community members and involving them in our processes we were surprised. When we won the award we were shocked. All of our efforts had been noticed by someone we respected. And everything the Daily Bread Food Bank noticed was because we listened to our volunteers and community members. In our acceptance speech we thanked our volunteers. They are the ones that earned this award for us.*





Our volunteers are our greatest assets.

Please forward this email to anyone else you think might be interested.



Click on picture to donate now.