



## Oasis Actually Saves Lives

Here at Oasis we like to think that we have an impact on people's lives by providing food to the hungry, help to the homeless and near homeless and a safe environment for people to enhance relationships and significance. But last Friday one of our volunteers received an award from the Toronto Professional Firefighters Association for literally saving the life of one of our community members. It happened during our Christmas turkey dinner when Mary (not her real name) choked to the point she could not breath. Peter Graves, an off duty fire fighter, stepped in and calmly administered the Heimlich allowing Mary to resume breathing. Peter assured us that he and his colleagues are coming again this Christmas.



## Walkathon, Family Photo Treasure Hunt & Talent Show

**Saturday June 3, 2017**

**10:00 am to noon**

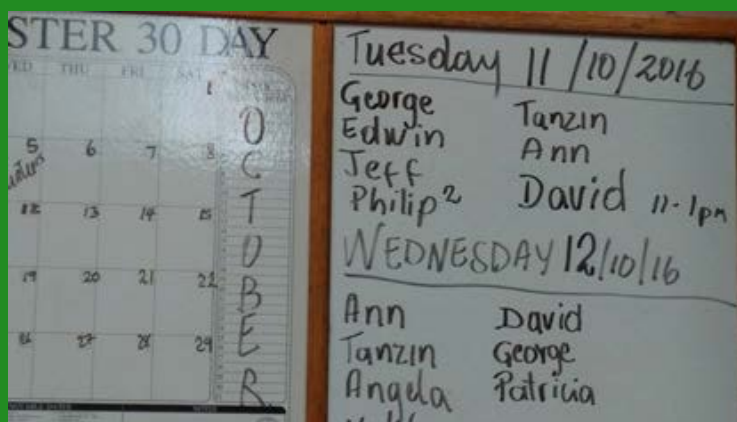
**1219 Dufferin Street (at Oasis)**

- Go on a guided treasure hunt of seven local "holy sites"
  - Leaves 10:00 am sharp
- Take pictures that answers riddles
- Watch or take part in a Talent Show (e.g. Spoken Word poetry)
- See our 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Protestant Reformation display
  - Do the fun fact quiz
- Play in (or watch) the children's activity centre
- Tour the Oasis site
- Meet Oasis staff and volunteers
- Receive the coveted Oasis shopping bag



## Moving from Success to Significance

Oasis has received a grant to promote the benefits of volunteerism. We have developed and tested an interesting presentation that covers the benefits, barriers and blessings of volunteerism. While the presentation is suitable for any age, it specifically challenges Baby Boomers who are looking forward to (or who have started) their retirement as to enrich their lives and their faith by volunteering. If your church, women's, men's, or missions group or club has an opening for a speaker (at no cost) contact Richard at [rsteinecke@sympatico.ca](mailto:rsteinecke@sympatico.ca).



## Lots Happenin'

We've never been busier. In addition to full houses at our Tuesday Drop-in and Dinner and our Wednesday Food Bank, we have the following events coming up:

- April 15 Galleria Shopping Mall Easter Food Bank Drive
- April 18-19 High School students visiting
- April 22 Volunteer Trades rebuilding food storage room
- April 26 Volunteer recognition luncheon
- May speaking to at three churches



## Check Out the Oasis Blog

Our Blog "What I Have Learned So Far" now has more than 100 entries posted on the Oasis website at: <http://www.oasisdufferin.org/index.php/blog/category/5>. It chronicles the discoveries made by Richard Steinecke as he volunteers with this fantastic organization. For example, our March 17, 2017 post entitled "Finishing Half an Hour Late" reads:

*Lanark, Perth and Smith Falls are towns a little west of Ottawa. Close to a dozen of their youth, many of whom live on farms, chose to spend their March Break in Toronto. Their main mission was to do ESL tutoring for new Canadian children. However, they helped out at Oasis for three days this past week. Most of the youth had never helped at a food bank or community dinner before. Volunteering in large, multicultural inner-city was new to them. When they arrived on Tuesday for our drop-in and community dinner time I emphasized that the most important thing they could do was talk with our community members rather than just "helping out". They took me seriously. A few of them ended up in an intense conversation with one of slower-eating community members as he had seconds and thirds of the meal. It took half an hour more than usual to close up because of the ongoing discussion. As our community member left he expressed gratitude to me for the willingness of the young people to talk with him. That was a half-hour well spent.*



**Our volunteers are our greatest assets.**

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



*Click on picture to donate now.*

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