

TORONTO'S REFUGE

"Thank you for the past 10 years, my Friend"

One of the things that we seem to have gotten used to at Oasis, oddly enough is change. It often feels as if we are about to start a new program, volunteers are leaving and we are commenting about transitions that are soon to come.

Well, in this case we are saying good-bye to the person who usually, in some way, is preparing us for all these changes ...Chris.

Regarding changes in life, an author says the following: "*Certain things, they should stay the way they are. You ought to be able to stick them in one of those big glass cases and just leave them alone.*" And perhaps in a way some of us feel this way about things that are happening at Oasis.

We also will bid farewell to Terrance Allott who has been coordinating the Food Bank for the past 10 years. Terry will be starting school in the fall in social work and will also take some courses at a Baptist Seminary. It was during our good- bye lunch that Terry turned to Chris and said "*Thank you for the past 10 years, my friend.*"

At the same time, we are quite pleased to welcome our new Assistant Director, Sofia Pazmino. She has been on staff at Oasis for the past year and a half as Administrative Specialist. She has been involved in several Oasis programs and has been supervising the food bank intake. She brings both compassion and strong admin support to her work at Oasis.



- Chris and Terry -
Back to School
after several years at Oasis

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- ◆ Oasis 20th Anniversary
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- ◆ Oasis Benefit Concert

"I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: ...

As we approach Fall.....

We are quite excited that our core programs will continue.

The women's counseling program will run its support group for Hispanic women beginning in September. In partnership with Public Health and a local Women's Shelter, they will be giving workshops on women's health issues, communication, and information for newcomer women in violence prevention. Women will also have access to individual counseling as the need arises.

The Community Kitchen continues under the leadership of Joe Abbey- Colborne. Joe was asked about how one would measure "success" in such a program. His response was emphatic, "Participation!" One of the unique aspects of the Community Kitchen is that everyone is invited to help set up, prepare and clean up after the meal. As people go from being mere observers to active participants, a sense of ownership and community begins to grow.

The Oasis food bank will also continue to operate on Wednesdays. We are very thankful for ongoing training that the Daily Bread Food Bank has provided to our intake workers and volunteers. This training will equip us to serve our food bank clients better as we provide assistance and support around several issues such as housing, health, and education. Our new food bank coordinator, Louise, is very enthusiastic about this training.

Oasis is celebrating 20 years of Ministry!

Please Join us on Saturday **September 27, 2014** at 1:00pm at Oasis, as we enjoy a special day to Share, Remember and Celebrate the 20 years of Oasis.



Part of our celebration will include sharing food together. We would welcome you to bring a small dish of appetizers or a light dessert. If you would like to bring food please be in touch with Erika Abele at erikaoasis@rogers.com or (416) 536-4431

“What a privilege it is to continue serving at Oasis!”

Wednesday mornings have always been a very special time for me at the Oasis food bank, but now I am even more excited to be a part of this time with clients from the community who come from diverse backgrounds. Now that my active role in the food bank has been reduced, I have more time to sit and listen to clients’ stories, banter with them, and give them a word “in due season”. “Peter”, “Philip”, and “Fred” all come from Caribbean Islands- Peter” and “Phillip” come from Jamaica, and “Fred” from St. Martins. I often sit enthralled to hear them recount stories from their childhood, especially their close ties with “Mom”. ”Peter’s” Mom made him recite the rosary each day and a close relative walked beside him up a beautiful mountain so they could spend time alone with God. And as I listen with rapt attention to these stories, I try to bring the story back to the time when “Peter’s” faith was childlike at “Mom’s” knees and I encourage him to re-kindle his faith in God. “Phillip” talks about his three teenage children and how important it is to be a good “Dad” even though since he is divorced, this can only happen on week-ends. My roles on Wednesdays are to be a “listener”, an “encourager” and a “sounding board” to help clients work out some issues that need resolving.



Not only is Wednesday an amazing time to be Jesus’ hands, feet, and ears, but also being the Seniors’ Coordinator of a thriving Spanish speaking group brings great rewards. This group has been meeting for almost 15 years. Love, laughter and life-changing encounters are what this group is all about. Approximately 20-25 women and men from various countries in South and Central America meet at least once a month for fun, fellowship and spiritual refreshment. During the first half of the year, they have participated in various activities, such as workshops on depression and mentoring, a historical tour, and a picnic. Each month, the group also tune in with their spiritual ears to a devotional which usually is the highlight of the meeting. When I asked, “Why do you come to the Oasis Seniors Group?” their reply inevitably was, “We want to learn more about God,” and **“the food at Oasis is good”!!**

-Phyllis Ortiz-



Oasis Dufferin Community Centre Presents...

A Musical Treat at the 3rd Annual



Fall Benefit Concert

Join us for a night filled with musical performances to benefit the Oasis Community.

Saturday, November 1, 2014

Time : 7:30pm

Location: Ossington Baptist Church

720 Ossington Avenue, Toronto, ON M6G 3T7 (Ossington Ave./Bloor St.)

Free Admission – Offering During Program

Info: 416-536-4431

www.oasisdufferin.org

