

TORONTO'S REFUGE

20 Years, Where Has the Time Gone?

Chris Ortiz, Executive Director, reflects on his time at Oasis:

As Oasis Celebrates 20 years of ministry in West-Toronto, I am amazed at the number of lives that have been transformed at the centre.

I started working at Oasis in 2003, in the Oasis Food Bank and in my 11 years at Oasis I have been so blessed by the people who have come through the doors. I have learned much about resilience, hope, desperation, pain and have seen the effects of crisis in so many people's lives. I began working at Oasis, because I wanted to help and give back; I am motivated to be at Oasis by the transformed lives we see daily.

At Oasis, I have seen loss and grief, as well as growth and positive change, and I can say that through it all I have seen God at work in so many lives. As we celebrate 20 years of ministry, I want to personally thank you for your support over the years. Whether you are a volunteer, financial or prayer supporter, or a friend who gave encouragement

through difficult times, thank you for being a part of tremendous change in the lives of so many people.

Please join us on Saturday September 27, 2014, at 1pm 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) 536-3197

In this issue...

- ◆ **Director's Reflections**
- ◆ Oasis Spring Run Recap
- ◆ Doug Dixon: Running Everyday for 10 years!
- ◆ Oasis Celebrates 20 years

Oasis Dufferin
Community Centre
HOURS OF SERVICE
Monday - Thursday
9:30 am - 3:30 pm
FOOD BANK
Wednesday
10:30 am

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

OASIS SPRING RUN 2014 RECAP

On Saturday May 24th, 2014, the 6th Annual Oasis Spring Run took place on the West Toronto Rail Path. Over 100 participants registered to run in the 4 km or 8 km distances. MP, Andrew Cash and MPP, Jonah Shein were present for pre-race festivities and City Councillor, Ana Bailao officiated over the start of the race.

As of May 27th, over \$8,000 was raised, which is much appreciated and will be put to good use. Top Fundraiser was seven year old Tom Clarry raising over \$1,000!

4km Finishing Times:

Women:

- 1st – Megan Hyland – 15:52
- 2nd – Ingrid Martinez – 16:52
- 3rd – Olivia Ness – 17:09

Men:

- 1st – Peter Chng – 14:06
- 2nd – Leslie Bellack – 14:12
- 3rd – Gianni Casati – 15:10



[And it] ...will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.” - Martin Luther King

Oasis would also like to thank everyone who made this event possible: the countless volunteers involved in set-up, planning, promotion, registration and marshalling. A special thanks to all who ran and also those who raised pledges through sponsors!

SEE YOU IN 2015, AT THE NEXT OASIS SPRING RUN!

Note: Top three finishers in each distance won free entry into the Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon.

8km Finishing Times:

Men:

- 1st – Tsegaye Bekele – 27:04
- 2nd – Dibaba Merdasa – 27:07
- 3rd – Gerbremadhin Legesse – 27:08

Women:

- 1st – Fentaye Genemo – 30:45
- 2nd – Judy Wolever – 41:37
- 3rd – Dione Mason – 43:02



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



Congrats Doug on 10
years of Running!

[And it] ...will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.” - Martin Luther King

Running Everyday for 10 Years!

Doug Dixon, (pictured centre on opposite pg.) made a commitment to run everyday. That commitment was reached exactly 10 years on May 24, 2014, which is why Doug chose to celebrate by running in the Oasis Spring Run.

3,650 days of running, are a lot of runs! Everyone at the Oasis Spring Run who heard about Doug's achievement was in awe and amazement.

Determination, that is what best describes Doug's journey. To run everyday is a special

achievement, and for that, everyone at Oasis Dufferin Community Centre commends Doug for completing such a daunting task.

Doug was joined at the Oasis Spring Run by his family and friends and it was such a special day to see Doug supported by his loved ones.

All the best Doug, we hope others are encouraged and motivated by your story of triumph and determination!

Oasis Spring Run: A Family Affair



The Oasis Spring Run has become a competitive local run with high caliber athletes as is evident by the top finishing times, yet the run is also a family friendly event.

This year, countless father – son duos ran as a way to give back to their community. So many other families entered the run including Pat Ness (Left) and her five daughters pictured above. They ran together and dressed to impress

bringing a fun and cheerful atmosphere to the run.

13 year old Olivia Ness (right) had fun with her family at the run and she was very competitive finishing 3rd in the 4km Run with a time of 17:09.

Congratulations to the Ness family and all the other families represented at the 2014 Oasis Spring Run!

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

Churches and Volunteers make an impact in grass roots ministry in unique ways.

Kingsway Baptist Church (KBC) has always been a great supporter of the work at Oasis, and for this we are grateful. Several people from Kingsway participated in this year's Oasis Spring Run and an excerpt from Kingsway's Newsletter explains why:

"The annual Oasis Dufferin Community Centre Walk/Run can count on Tim and Nathan McCoy and Dan Clarry to put their best feet forward year after year but a new KBC runner joined them in

2014. Tom Clarry, age 7, ran the 4 km option. He also was the top fundraiser of the 100 plus participants of both the 4 km and 8 km distances, raising over \$1,000. and winning a pair of tickets to a Maple Leafs game."

Tom Clarry was a hit at the Run by thanking all the runners for the "strong competition" while accepting his top fundraiser prize.



[And it] ...will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.” - Martin Luther King

Ramona and Greg Matthews from KBC have also been amazing supporters of Oasis and again this year they were key in providing leadership in registration and with race logistics. Thanks Kingsway Baptist Church for demonstrating your faith in action!

Over the years, various churches and mission teams have sent volunteers to help with the Oasis Spring Run. This Year, Oasis was blessed to welcome a team of volunteers from Operation Mobilization, who in partnership with the Peoples Church, spent a week in Toronto. So many churches have been a great support and it was so special to see people from various churches and denominations running for Oasis.

It is hard to mention by name all the amazing stories of success and inspirational examples of achievement, but we hope these few stories provide a glimpse into the inspiring lives of those who “sweat” for Oasis.

**Thank you all so much
for taking on this challenge
to run for a local charity!**

Oasis is a place of hope for many people in West-Toronto. It offers support for newcomers through a food bank, counselling, job skills training and much more. If you would like to learn more about Oasis please visit our website and be sure to read our latest Annual Report also available on-line.



Jacqueline Salomon, with her son and daughter; the two youngest Run participants enjoyed the 4km distance while their father, James ran his first race completing the 8km run.

You are invited to **share**
remember **and**
celebrate

The Oasis Dufferin Community Centre's

20th Anniversary



**OPEN
HOUSE**

**September
27, 2014**

1 PM



**1219 Dufferin St.,
Toronto, On M6H 4C2
Phone: 416-536-4431**

E-mail: oasisdufferin@rogers.com

WWW.OASISDUFFERIN.ORG