



## Summer Students Add to Oasis

Oasis has five summer students who are just finishing their mission. In addition to helping with the Tuesday drop in and community dinner and the Wednesday food bank, the students have helped gather needed information for the Oasis strategic planning process. The students researched the neighbourhood, visited local agencies, interviewed community members, piloted new activities (e.g., cooking class, prayer room, live music), participated in staff meetings and wrote a major report. We wish them well as they return to school and will miss them.



# Oasis Walkathon & Family Treasure Hunt

**Saturday, October 22, 2016 - 10:00-11:45 am.**

**at Oasis Dufferin Community Centre**

**1219 Dufferin Street, two lights north of Bloor Street**

Visit the "Holy Sites" of central-west Toronto in a family-friendly Treasure Hunt. After touring the Oasis premises and taking part in learning activities, a host will lead your group to some of the places where God is working in our community. At each site there will be a riddle requiring a picture of a specific item and quiz questions to answer. Return to Oasis for snacks and debriefing. The program will end with an open Spoken Word poetry slam. This event is perfect for children; adults will like it too.

For more information, check out our Walkathon & Family Treasure Hunt Brochure.



## Facebook Page Adds to the Oasis Blog

We have reactivated the Oasis Facebook with weekly postings on the events and lessons learned at Oasis. Like us at Facebook/Oasis-Dufferin-Community-Centre. Or check out our blog "What I Have Learned So Far" is up and running on the Oasis website at: <http://www.oasisdufferin.org/index.php/blog/category/5>.

A recent Facebook posting reads as follows:

*Isn't that inappropriate? On the hottest day of the year, a volunteer asked me that question about a community member at our food bank who was wearing no shirt and whose underwear was sticking up three inches above his pants. This first-time client had arrived early and was cracking jokes throughout the early morning. (Some were jests that only those who have experienced homelessness have earned the right to make like: "Why are there only homeless people in the winter? Because in summer they are camping.") It never occurred to me that we should make an issue of his shirtlessness. It just did not seem unexpected. Even our Prime Minister walks around without a shirt. Perhaps I am becoming jaded. My story, and I am sticking to it, is that I have become more accepting of all of our community members in all of their expressions of life.*



## May 7th Event Was Special

Our "Be a Food Bank Client for a Morning" event drew in community members, volunteers, staff, supporters, local politicians and curious visitors. Attendees role played a first-time client going through the food bank process. They picked up a number, waited to be called in, underwent intake, picked up dry and fresh food and then participated a nutritional facts discussion. This was followed by observing a women's counselling role-play session and hearing about addictions. Thank you everyone who helped make it happen.



## Thanks Liebenzell

This spring Simone, Jan and Manuel from the German mission agency Liebenzell volunteered at Oasis. They quickly became loved by volunteer and community members alike as they brought a friendly word, music and puzzle-making skills to the Tuesday drop in and community dinner and the Wednesday food bank. They also restarted our Bible Study on Tuesday evenings. Even though they left in late June, many community members still ask about them.







**Our volunteers are our greatest assets.**