

OASIS DUFFERIN
COMMUNITY
CENTRE

ANNUAL REPORT

2010



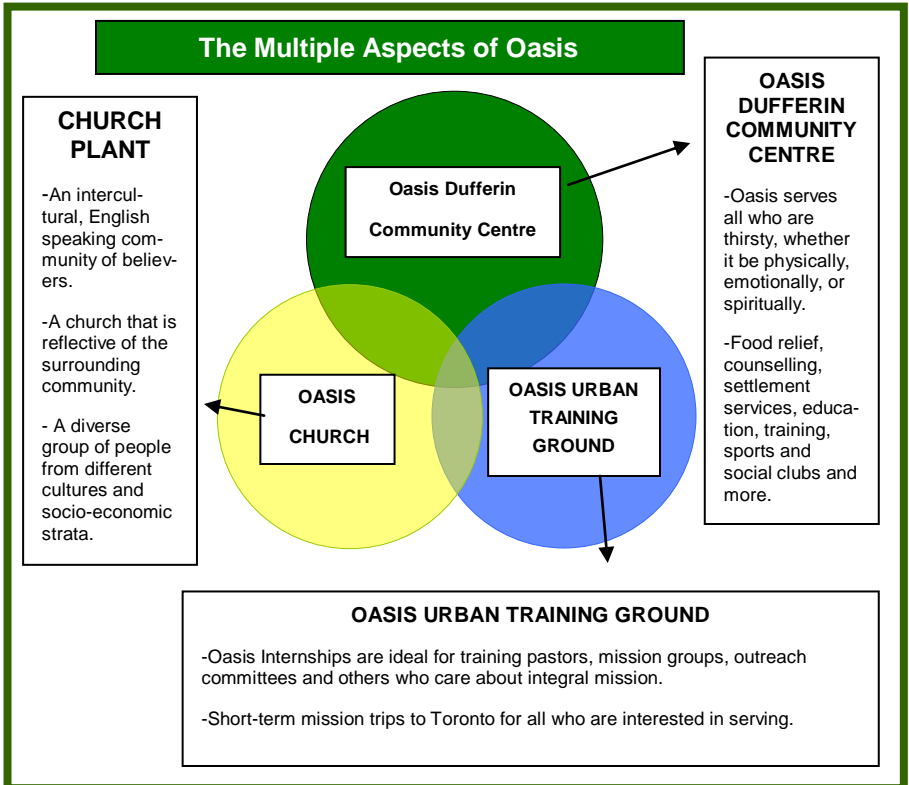
DIRECTOR'S REFLECTIONS

As I consider everything that took place in 2010 at Oasis, I wonder how best to assess the results from operating a community centre such as ours. Many metrics can be used, both qualitatively and quantitatively, but what should they be measured against? The reason this question becomes difficult is that Oasis is not your run-of-the-mill community centre. Oasis has changed in different ways over the past 16 years, but more than that, Oasis as a whole is a centre that resembles few if any others.

WHAT IS OASIS DUFFERIN COMMUNITY CENTRE?

The place to start is to identify what it is you are evaluating. Oasis is a centre that is not easily classified into normal or traditional definitions. Consider:

- **Recreation centre or food bank?**
Oasis offers many community pro-



grams such as food relief and sports programs but Oasis is not just a rec. centre nor is it just a food pantry.

- **Traditional Church?** Oasis shares the Good News of Jesus through “Word and Deed”. It has Bible study groups and fellowship, yet Oasis is not a traditional church.
- **School?** Oasis trains and equips leaders in the area of mission yet Oasis is not solely an educational institution.

Given all that then, which metric should be used: number of food bank clients served, number of Baptisms, number of missionaries trained?

To me, Oasis is fulfilling the original intent that God has for his people: to live together in community while sharing His love with one another. Oasis *is* the *church* and is one example of what church can look like in an urban, multicultural context.

Basically, Oasis equips and empowers people in the community, by addressing needs with love and care, developing relationships, journeying with people through many aspects of life, and sharing this experience with others.

If that is what Oasis is, my measure for success is to see if Oasis is following its mission and vision. This is exhibited in many people’s lives that have been transformed by God’s grace: people who may have used the Oasis Food Bank, then become a volunteer, then are disciplined through small group Bible Studies, then lead and equip students about missions. I see these people every day at Oasis and it is their transformed lives that indicate to me that Oasis is meeting its mandate. Not everyone’s story can be included here, but in the pages that follow I hope you are able to get a glimpse of the lives that are touched by God in the happenings at Oasis.



CHRIS ORTIZ

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Church Plant & Oasis Life Group

Oasis Life Group Showing Signs of Growth

This has been a year of transition for the Oasis Church small group. Not only did Scott take over its leadership, but the group also changed its meeting day and time from Thursday mornings to Tuesday nights at 6:30p.m. Our hope was to offer a study at a time when more people in the community could attend. Many people work or look for work during the day and can't attend group in the mornings. Since the change the small group has had a number of new participants: two people have joined the group regularly, Felix and Yvonne. They have both shown interest in being baptized and joining the church.

The small group completed numerous different trainings and studies including the following:

- **Exchanged Life Series – Helping believers understand their identity in Christ.**
- **Prayer Journeys Training - Taking Prayer to the Streets through prayer-walking.**
- **Experiencing God – Knowing and Doing the Will of God.**
- **Soul Cravings – Our need for intimacy, meaning, and destiny point to the existence of God and our need for Him.**
- **The Life of Jesus – A systematic study of the book of Luke.**



Church Development

The summer's major outreaches in the community and internal leadership training led us to find more likeminded families in the community to add to our core group. Our existing leaders have started to stretch themselves outside of their comfort zones and minister alongside mission teams and volunteers. I've involved them more and more in missions and prayer journeys in the community. They are beginning to see God use them in small ways and it's exciting to witness their confidence growing.

Trust with those at the food bank is being built and we are starting to see more food bank clients visit our Tuesday night services. The most recent example is "Tom". He is a recovering alcoholic who, after months of being reached out to, decided to attend a Tuesday night small group. There are other clients who are being ministered to on Wednesdays and are beginning to open up to their need for Christ and a community of believers. This is a positive development and hopefully a sign that our hard work is starting to bear fruit.

I continued to build relationships with churches and businesses in the community. I met with local area pastors and discovered ways we can join together to reach the people of our community. I regularly meet with Pastor Arc of Dovercourt Baptist Church and Doug Hammond of the Salvation Army. These meetings have resulted in Oasis Church joining the soccer league and running a soccer/VBS camp during the summer.



Oasis Church takes shape...

In 2010, five mission teams helped out with the church plant and the community centre. The following includes what these teams were able to accomplish.

Spring Break-Out Mission - March - Oasis Church had a mission team of 13 from Indiana State and a team of eight from Illinois do servant evangelism and prayer-walking in the city. They handed

Toronto Challenge Mission - July - Operation Mobilization joined us for a week long mission this year. Their mission promoted our summer day camp in the community through prayer-walking, hanging signs in community and inviting families to camp. They also prepared for the summer camp by painting the basement space (the basement and two rooms) so it would be fresh.



out 1500 free granola bars on the U of T campus. It was well received and created a positive buzz through text messages all over campus. This servant evangelism test project went well. Our goal is to brand ourselves in the city as a positive, giving church by doing similar servant evangelism projects throughout the summer. As a result of this mission, Illinois Baptist is sending three mission teams to work with the church plant in 2011.

Summer Soccer Day Camp Mission - July - Oasis Church held its first week-long day camp outreach ending with a block party. The goal was to develop some lasting relationships with families in hopes of bringing them into our core group.

Bon Air Annual Mission - September - Bon Air Baptist Church from Richmond, VA came to help Oasis promote a special back-to-school block party (held on Sept. 12) and a new Oasis Life Group meeting. Over two days, they handed out over 250 free granola bars with invitations to our

Summer VBS and Children's Soccer

small group. The outreach was well received by the community. The team also helped promote Oasis training classes by hanging up Cashier/ESL fliers on poles. The group prayer-walked the Oasis community on two different occasions.

Bloor Central Soccer League and Oasis Day Camp

In an effort to connect with community, the Oasis Church joined a local soccer league called the Bloor Central Soccer League. The league consists of 10 community churches who offer affordable soccer to the marginalized in the Dufferin Bloor area. Scott and Soji coached a team of 14 children for the summer. They were in the championship finals, but finished in second place during a shootout.

Soccer League Banquet - The BCS banquet was held at Dovercourt Baptist Church on September 12. With over 200 people in attendance, Scott had the privilege of shar-

ing the Gospel to everyone through a short presentation before the awards ceremony.

To help bridge the league to the participating churches, the Oasis church held a week long Summer Day Camp that taught biblical truths and helped build children's character and self-esteem through the sport of soccer. The BCS league got behind this camp and allowed Scott to promote the camp among their players. More than half of those who attended the camp were from the soccer league.

In July 2010, Oasis Church held the FREE week-long Summer Soccer Day Camp for 60 children in the Oasis community. At the end of the camp the church had a community block party for the kids, volunteers and the participants' families. Through the camp, 6 children accepted Christ at the camp and were followed up for baptism. The children were Stanley, Roshan, Giselle, Mable, Alan, Christopher.



Oasis Food Bank and Advocacy

The recession was felt everywhere in Toronto, but nowhere was it felt more than for those who are of low income. The services offered at Oasis were much needed this year. Sometimes at the Oasis Food Bank food items ran low due to overwhelming demand.

A mother visited the Oasis Food Bank and commented to Terrance, the Oasis Food Bank Supervisor, that:

“With the high price of food, if Oasis did not exist, I wouldn’t be able to give my child cereal in the morning.”

There are many similar stories from other Oasis clients. The downturn in the economy has affected many people. But with your support and God’s blessing, Oasis was able to meet the needs of the clients.

Thank you for your support, and prayers.

God bless you,

Terrance Allott



Terrance Allott - Food Bank Supervisor
and Beatriz Hernandez - Intake Worker

DID YOU KNOW?

- **IN 2010, OVER 11,400 VISITORS RECEIVED FOOD AT OASIS .**
- **IN 2010, OVER 58 PEOPLE VOLUNTEERED IN THE VARIOUS OASIS PROGRAMS.**
- **IN 16 YEARS, OASIS HAS WELCOMED APPROXIMATELY 82,000 PEOPLE THROUGH ITS DOORS.**

Oasis Volunteer Placement Program

Oasis is privileged to have an amazing group of volunteers who continue to keep the Oasis “wheels well oiled”. If it were not for the dedication of this group of men and women from countries all over the world, Oasis could not offer such varied programs. During 2010, the countries represented on the volunteer staff were: Hungary, Peru, Ecuador, Mexico, Colombia, Cuba, El Salvador, China and Canada.

During 2010, approximately 28 people served at many different times of the week. The total number of volunteers who served in 2010 was about 58. They came on Tuesdays to unload the trucks from Daily Bread Food Bank and Second Harvest. This task is an arduous one since the boxes are heavy and the food not only needs to be unloaded, but then unpacked, sorted and placed on the food room shelves. This group of men, under the leadership of Food Bank Supervisor, Terry Allot, also prepares Oasis to receive the clients the following day. Chairs are arranged, advocacy materials organized, kitchen supplies readied and the entire basement area is setup for the following day’s activities.

The Wednesday volunteers work in the intake department, hamper room, food delivery area, and the reception desk. They are also involved in ushering clients into the intake department, answering the telephone and providing advocacy services, cooking a delicious lunch, repackaging and

handing out the perishable food, and cleaning the Centre after the food bank activities.

Other volunteer tasks that are essential during the routine Oasis programs are seniors’ support workers for the monthly program. Lunches are prepared with the tables tastefully decorated and prepared for



the seniors’ arrival. Also, volunteer tutors for the ESL Café program have served well as conversation facilitators during the English classes on Monday mornings.

When reflecting on the volunteers’ contribution at Oasis, it is rewarding to note that there are two ex-Oasis volunteers who served with such dedication for years and now are part of the Oasis staff. This fact has encouraged the Oasis staff that sees this as a reward for those who have so diligently served the Centre.

Oasis Spanish-Speaking Seniors Group



The Oasis seniors program has been in operation now for over 10 years. In 2010, this group grew and matured in many aspects.

On the third Thursday of each month the Spanish-speaking group of approximately 20 men and women meet to participate in a session of workshops/group dynamics, and a delicious lunch followed by an inspirational talk.

Towards the end of 2010, we were delighted to receive funding from Human Resources and Skills Develop-

ment Canada - The New Horizons for Seniors Program - and this has enabled the Oasis seniors program to experience a renewed vitality and apply creative ideas delivered by a variety of resource personnel. A retired health-care professional spoke about winter illnesses, their prevention, and how to more fully enjoy the Canadian seasons with healthier bodies. On another occasion, an Oasis volunteer, who has ample knowledge, gave a workshop on specific services that seniors, who are newcomers, can access as they adjust to the Canadian culture.

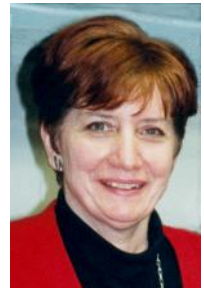
“Oasis Combats Loneliness”



Not only did the group acquire new knowledge about Canadian life, but furthermore, Oasis organized outreach activities to visit shut-ins and those who participated took food and gifts to encourage the shut-ins since they are unable to enjoy the amenities of the outside life. This also facilitated the cohesiveness of the seniors group.

The new seniors program that is offered has the focus: “Oasis Combats Loneliness,” and this has been reiterated many times by those who attend the meetings. As one dear elderly lady stated, “What I learn and experience in these meetings encour-

ages me and gives me hope until we meet again. Thank you for caring for us. You have made us feel important and loved.”



PHYLLIS ORTIZ
OASIS FOUNDER

Oasis E.S.L. Café

For the past several years, Oasis has been privileged to assist newcomers with their English skills. In 2010, Oasis volunteers and staff ministered to 22 pupils from Serbia, France, Russia, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, El Salvador, Vietnam, Turkey, Brazil, Sri Lanka, and Japan. Mrs. Lynda Wilson, from Dovercourt Baptist Church, has been an invaluable support for this program. Her wisdom, commitment and compassionate service have contributed greatly to assist the pupils in their gaining of better language skills.

Upon arrival at Oasis, the students are greeted with coffee, tea, and a table filled with delicious goodies prepared and donated by the staff and volunteers. After enjoying these refreshments, the pupils are arranged into three groups according to their knowledge of English - basic, intermediate or advanced.

They are seated informally around small tables and it is not unusual to see the

pupils holding a coffee mug in their hands as they converse about the subject of the day. Much care is taken by the tutors to sensitively guide the discussion and give correct English structures when deemed appropriate. Errors are discussed and a grammar lesson may follow the conversation class. The discussions revolve around themes such as weather, Canadian holidays, typical Canadian food and customs, the pupils' customs and cultures of their countries of origin, and many other topics of interest to them. Often the conversations lead the tutors to discuss faith issues and these times are special for both pupils and tutors.

Following the seven-week course, the pupils who have attended faithfully, are awarded a certificate and also are given a meaningful gift that often presents a Christian message to the recipients.

These classes are a very positive way of assisting newcomers as they adjust to Canada, and of also helping them form close and lasting relationships with people from many countries. One student has attended consistently over the past three years and she says, "Oasis has become my family. My teachers and the other pupils are very special to me. These classes have made me feel right at home in Canada. Not only have I improved my English, but I have learned much about this country and its customs."



ERIKA ABELE—DIRECTOR OF WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Counselling

Support Group

During the first week of the support group the discussion seemed to revolve around food. The women were eager to share stories about how food preparation had been such an important part of their lives growing up. This topic seemed to connect the women and gave them a safe space to talk with one another. In weeks following, the conversations became far more intense with some women sharing difficult stories that included domestic violence and child abuse. As each woman spoke, others listened intently and offered encouragement and warmth. As the sessions drew to a close there was a real sense of belonging and friendship amongst the women. It was a delight to see as the women found a place where they felt that they could be understood. It is hard to believe that spending one hour talking about tamales (a Latin American dish) can lead to such depth and healing.



vors of child abuse. However, one thing they seem to have in common is a resilient disposition despite the many challenges they face.

One particular woman initially came to the Oasis Food Bank then enrolled in our ESL program. After several weeks it became clear that she was carrying many burdens, and we were able to refer her to the counselling program for individual support. After a few sessions she expressed that she had come to Oasis for food and had found the courage to deal with several issues that had been affecting her for many years. She noted that she was now feeling much more equipped to handle life as a newcomer to this city.

Individual Counselling

There are so many factors that can lead a person to need counselling. The loss of a job, a failed relationship... the list goes on. The women who come for counselling at Oasis are predominantly newcomers who face many issues as they settle into Toronto. Some of them have experienced domestic violence. Others are adult survi-

Mental health issues and low income levels are often closely related. It is truly a privilege to provide emotional support for people that face a myriad of challenges. Dealing with issues like depression and anxiety as well as assisting with food relief, immigration referrals and literacy enables us to help people as they transition out of poverty.

Oasis Community Events

Oasis Walk, Run or Play

On Saturday May 29, 2010 the Oasis Walk, Run or Play took place and participants were able to raise over \$6,000 for Oasis!

“We are very thankful to the participants for donating time and energy to this event,” explained Chris Ortiz, Director of Oasis Dufferin Community Centre. “In addition to their physical effort, each person generously volunteered their time to raise much needed funds at a time of the year when donations are vital in order to meet the demands of Oasis clients in the summer months.”

In support of the centre’s programs, participants took part in a five- or 10-km walk or run around Brockton Stadium.

After the run, the fun began: Participants and the public cheered on the Oasis



Futbol Club, of the Toronto Services Soccer League, as it displayed its amazing soccer skills against division rival team Liberty. The game ended in a 1-1 draw. At half-time, a fan was chosen to SCORE AND WIN tickets for the Toronto F.C. match.

The day was a great FUN-raiser and participants enjoyed themselves while raising awareness and funds for Oasis.



15th Annual Walkathon “Prayer-Walk”



The 15th Annual Walkathon took place and had a focus on the area west of Dufferin Street. During the walk in the Oasis community, certain programs were highlighted such as the Oasis sports program which offers soccer for children and families in the community. Many clients live in the Oasis community and during the walk participants were able to pray for them. A total of 35 participants took part in the walkathon and enjoyed the beautiful fall day.

The 15th Annual Walkathon was held on Saturday October 16th, 2010.

With your help, over \$5,500 was raised to support Oasis!

THANK YOU ALL!



and friends took part in the Ride for Refuge. This bike riding event takes place across Canada and the USA and helps raise money for organizations working with displaced, vulnerable and exploited

On October 2, 2010, Oasis staff, volunteers

and people. Oasis riders were able to ride over 100kms combined and were excited to participate in this inspiring event.



Celebrating Christmas...



Photo: Quincy

On Friday December 3rd, 2010, the Oasis Christmas Celebration took place. Many Oasis supporters, staff, volunteers and friends joined together to share in a special evening filled with great music, food, an Oasis update and an inspiring Christmas message.



The program included special recognition of outstanding volunteers. Brian Seim was honoured for over 15 years of service on the Oasis Board of Directors. He was grateful for his time at Oasis and mentioned he would miss everyone as he continued on his many new endeavours.

Rev. Anthony Chung, Pastor of Ossington Baptist Church, shared a wonderful message to the diverse and familial group in attendance.

The event incorporated uplifting music and dance performed by Moses Falco and Kaaleen Joseph from Heron Park Baptist Church. Brenda Mann, Executive Director, of the Canadian Baptists of Ontario and Quebec closed the night and reflected on the true meaning of Christmas. Thanks to everyone who participated and to those who made the evening possible.



2nd Annual Christmas Community Meal a Success

On December 22nd, Oasis Church held its second annual Christmas meal for our community. This year the church received 27 turkeys donated from Second Harvest. The church provided a free

Christmas meal to over 100 people in the community, plus another 100 when we donated our leftover food to Landsdowne Christian Fellowship's Soup Kitchen. The church had a band sing Christmas carols while people ate, and then gave away Bibles and invitations to the Oasis Life Group to all the guests on their way out. Any children who came received a Christmas gift. We also collected over 100 toys and donated them to the Toronto Firefighters toy drive.

The Christmas meal also provided Scott's first big connecting event with families in his immediate neighbourhood. He had 12 families from his children's school cook the turkeys to be served at the Christmas meal. The families then came to the event and their children served the meals to marginalized families in the community. It was well received by those who came and those who volunteered.



Statement of Income and Changes in Fund Balance

Year Ended December 31

	2010	2009
Revenue		
Foundations and grants	\$109,718	\$107,116
Government Grants	24,937	13,377
Individuals	19,069	31,414
Churches and groups	16,127	27,159
Events and sales	16,098	8,301
Lessons and fees	620	830
Interest and miscellaneous	126	301
	186,695	188,498
Expenditures		
Mission service (schedule 1)	154,081	161,229
Office and general (schedule 2)	39,301	45,221
	193,382	206,450
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures	(-6,687)	(-17,952)
Fund balance, beginning of year	11,740	29,692
Fund balance, end of year	\$5,053	\$11,740

Notes: Audit performed by Grant Thornton LLP. Chartered Accountants. For full audited statement contact executive director, Oasis Dufferin Community Centre.

The Oasis Founder's salary is not included in the financial statement, but is paid for by the Baptist Women of Ontario and Quebec. Thank You!

Oasis Dufferin Community Centre is a registered Canadian not-for-profit organization.

Charitable Number: 14074 1414 RR0001

PARTNERS LIKE YOU MAKE IT POSSIBLE

Each year many foundations, churches, groups and individuals give their time, resources and also support Oasis financially and prayerfully. The names are too many to list but our thanks to you is truly heartfelt.

CHURCHES AND FAITH GROUPS INCLUDE:

Aylmer Baptist Church	Dovercourt Baptist Church	Renforth Baptist Church
Beaver Bible Class	First Baptist Church Ottawa	SOS Class Baptist Church
Bethany Baptist Church	Harmony Baptist Women	Toronto Area Association of Baptist Women
Canadian Baptist Women of Ontario and Quebec (CBWOQ)	Heron Park Baptist Church	Toronto Baptist Ministries
Canadian Baptists of Ontario and Quebec (CBOQ)	Immanuel Baptist Church	Villa Nova Mission Circle
Canadian Baptist Ministries (CBM)	King St. Baptist Church	Woman's Christian Temperance Union - Toronto
Canadian National Baptist Convention	Kingsway Baptist Church	Women's Inter - Church Council of Canada
	Olivet Baptist Church	Yorkminster Park Baptist Church and Women's Group
	Osgoode Baptist Church	
	Mission Circle	
	Ossington Baptist Church and Women's Group	

Oasis receives food from Daily Bread Food Bank and Second Harvest for which it is truly grateful.

Oasis Staff

- Chris Ortiz - Executive Director
- Phyllis Ortiz - Founding Director
- Erika Abele - Director of Women's Ministries
- Rev. Scott Rourk - Church Planter
- Genoveva Ibarra / Beatriz Hernandez - Intake Workers
- Terrance Allot - Food Bank Supervisor

Oasis Board of Directors

- Richard Steinecke - Interim Chair,
- Richard Kvistbo - Treasurer,
- Pablo Caballero (Until Aug. 2010)
- Dan Clarry
- Gladys Castro
- Mary Cowan
- Rev. Sigfrido Ortiz
- Brian Seim (Until Dec. 2010)
- Nashwa Tawfiq

"Oasis Dufferin Community Centre, as a Christian not-for-profit faith community and . . . reflecting that all peoples are made in God's image, . . . recognizing their value and dignity in a multicultural society and city, . . . understanding that prejudice is only overcome through relationship, Oasis seeks to create community for clients by demonstrating God's love and care in such ways as to help them attain their fullest potential."



Oasis Dufferin Community Centre

1219 Dufferin Street, Toronto, Ontario M6H 4C2

Tel: (416) 536-3197 & (416) 536-4431 Fax: (416) 536-0122

E-mail: oasisdufferin@rogers.com

www.oasisdufferin.org

