



Refresh 2012 Information Sheet

Hello from Toronto! We just finished Refresh 2011 and had a great time. Now we are looking ahead to 2012 and cannot wait for all of you to come join us. We believe that God is going to do amazing things in the city of Toronto through each of you next summer. Hearts and homes are already being prepared. Our city will never be the same.

We are sending you this Information Sheet to hopefully answer some of the questions you may have as you begin to consider joining us for this historic event. We hope this answers all of your questions. If you have more, feel free to contact us and we will provide the answers.

On Site Cost Breakdown:

Let's start with the financial information since many of the questions are usually connected to the onsite costs: What does the registration fee cover? What is the breakdown of expenses? Will we have to pay for any additional costs not covered in the registration fee? Etc. To help answer as many questions as we can, we will provide both financial numbers and commentary for each part of the budget.

1. Lodging

The Refresh program days are Monday, July 9, through Friday, July 13. We have set our fees assuming groups will arrive on Sunday night, July 8, and leave on Saturday morning, July 14. This includes six nights of accommodations. To that end we have been negotiating with a number of hotels and continue to do so. As it stands today, the best price we have been able to negotiate is \$99.99 a night plus tax, for a total of \$112.99. Sleeping four in a room, the cost for six nights is \$170.00 per person.

If a group wants to come in a day early or stay a day later in the hotels, that will be at the district expense and will not be covered by our registration fee. However, our group rates will still apply.

2. Food

One of the exciting things about Refresh is the opportunity to eat lunch with your host family during the work day. Since we will be working in some of the most culturally diverse communities in the world this lunch will likely be a time when you will experience this diversity in an obvious way. This is always a highlight. And since this meal is provided by the host family, there is no cost for workday lunches included in your registration fee. The final day of refresh will be a celebration day rather than a work day. The cost of lunch this day is included in the registration fee.

Regarding breakfasts, all of the hotels we are currently negotiating with include the cost of breakfast in the room fees. This also saves on the food costs.

The remaining food cost is for the evening meal. Due to the size of the Refresh 2012 group, we will be catering this meal each night. Based on the quotes we have received, we are budgeting \$20 a night for the five evening meals.

Therefore, the cost for the five evening meals, the final day lunch, and the contingency for host families not providing lunch comes to \$120 per person.

3. Work Materials

Like every work and witness project, the Refresh registration fee includes the cost of work materials. We are fortunate to have strong partners in this area that provide our paint and other supplies at a significant discount. Based on our cost history from the past few years, we have set the cost for work materials at \$100 per person. This covers the costs of paint, brushes, rollers, drop clothes, painters tape, step ladders, extensions poles, t-shirts, nametags, and all other work related costs for four days of work.

4. Entertainment

As a balance for all of the work and relational ministry we will be involved in during the week of Refresh 2012, we are building recreation and entertainment into the schedule. The exact details of this will be discussed and worked out in the Regional Meeting this October in Toronto. But we anticipate two evenings of free time and a celebration event on Friday night. To put this cost in perspective, to purchase a transit pass for every Refresh participant to facilitate transportation to a variety of entertainment options through the week is \$36 per person (2011 price, 2012 prices have not been announced as yet). Therefore, the Refresh 2012 registration fee currently includes \$50 per person for entertainment.

5. Administration

We are fortunate to have World Vision Canada as one of our partners for Ephraim's Place Community Centre. In Canada, they train charitable organizations like ours to run efficiently and effectively. For instance, they have helped us develop policies from risk management, to volunteer recruitment, to resource development, etc. according to industry standards. Administration is one of these areas. For all of our programs, we designate 15% of the program costs for administration expenses. These include website costs, insurance costs, and office administration costs, including staff. In an effort to keep the Refresh 2012 expenses to a minimum, we anticipate being able to deliver the administrative costs for only 8%. Therefore, the Refresh 2012 registration fee includes \$40 per person for administration fees.

6. Contingency

A project on the scale of Refresh 2012 comes with some risk to our organization and some unknowns. To help us address these unknowns and provide Ephraim's Place with some financial insurance, we have included a Contingency fee of \$20 per person in the Refresh 2012 registration fee. One of our biggest areas of concern in this category is the exchange rate between the US and Canadian dollar. All prices above are actually quoted in Canadian dollars. When we first published the registration fee of \$500 the two currencies were functionally the same and had been so for some time. However, with the current weakness of the US economy and how that compares to the strength of the Canadian economy, the exchange rate between the two dollars has changed significantly. Based on the exchange rate today, it would cost us \$23 per person to cover the difference, thus using up the whole contingency budget. Having said that, there is speculation that if the current debt crisis in the US is satisfactorily resolved, the exchange rate could return to where it was a few months ago. But that remains to be seen. Anyway, this issue illustrates the need for a contingency fee as part of the registration fee.

7. Summary

The sum of all the above expenses is as follows:

Lodging	\$170.00
Food.....	\$120.00
Work Materials.....	\$100.00
Entertainment	\$50.00
Administration.....	\$40.00
Contingency.....	\$20.00
TOTAL.....	\$500.00

Transportation Costs:

As you know, transportation to and from Toronto is not included in the above cost breakdown. However, on site transportation is an issue we need to address. In past years, all of our mission teams have used their busses/vans during the week of Refresh to get to and from their work sites. It has recently come to our attention that this may not be the case for some of the groups coming to Toronto since many will be using charter busses. This will create a bit of a challenge. Many of our sites are accessible via the Toronto public transportation system (TTC). The passes we will be purchasing to facilitate the evening entertainment are unlimited passes and can be used to get to and from the work sites as well. However, we do have some sites that are not accessible via the TTC. We plan, therefore, to assign those who travelled via charter busses to the sites available with the TTC. Any groups travelling in a bus or van to which they have access throughout the Refresh week will be assigned to non-TTC accessible sites. If there is still a need for additional transportation beyond this plan, we have begun negotiating with a local transportation company that could be able to provide school buses available to us for between \$25-35 per person for the week. This is fairly reasonable by Toronto standards but is not currently included in the registration fee.

Worship

A few of the evenings have been designated for worship. We want to take the opportunity to gather together and celebrate what God is doing in our lives and in the city of Toronto. We hope to partner with Olivet in this to help provide the music.

Orientation

On Sunday night, July 8, 2012, Refresh 2012 will kick off with an orientation session (and possibly one of our worship services). The time of this session will be announced at a later time. The session will include orientation to Toronto, introduction to Ephraim's Place Community Centre, an overview of Refresh, cross-cultural training, and some basic painting tips. It will be important for everyone to be there to ensure an efficient and effective launch of the Refresh program.

Age Limits

Refresh does not set an age limit for participants. However, keeping in mind the work involved for the week and the level of interaction with residents, we ask that you bring only those who are able to contribute to the work and do not need to be constantly supervised. We plan the work based on the number of volunteers. Any team with members that are not able to fully contribute will make the work that much harder for the rest of their team.

Skill Prerequisites

Really, the only prerequisite is a flexible mindset and a willingness to work. We train every volunteer with basic painting tips. We also schedule the work to allow adequate time to get the work done while still providing significant time for relationship building with your host family.

Cultural Diversity

Toronto is considered by many to be the most culturally diverse city in the world. And, you will be working in some of the most diverse neighbourhoods in our city. For instance, one of the teams from Refresh 2011 painted four different homes during the week of Refresh. The host families were from Ghana, Syria, Kenya, and Somalia. This is fairly typical. Please come ready to step outside your comfort zone and represent Christ to the world. Openness and flexibility are extremely important.

Handyman Opportunities?

Every year we are asked if there will be opportunities besides painting during Refresh. For 2012 there are two answers to this. First, the reason we focus on painting is that this is all the local union allows us to do. They are required to do all of the other prep and maintenance work. However, it is not unusual, once we are in a house and build relationships with the host family to find there is some small repair work that could be done on the spur of the moment. We do not plan for these but are willing to respond to these opportunities to serve as they present themselves. Second, we are discussing with at least one of our sites for 2012 about the possibility of incorporating other elements to the program (landscaping, installing new toilets, installing flooring, etc). We will keep you informed as this develops.