



ELUCO ANNUAL REPORT 2013

“I want to be a fire fighter!” After spending three weeks at the neighbourhood fire station as part of the Social Skills Camp program a number of children decided this would be their career goal. It was a phenomenal experience for these 7 and 8 year olds to share meals and stories and be mentored by the local male and female fire fighters. The experience was so positive that the fire fighters have agreed to host another camp in 2014!

Summer is a busy time for Nancy Howard, our community outreach worker, as she finds placements for the many children who otherwise wouldn't have the opportunity to attend camp. This year 54 children attended either Camp Kee-Mo-Kee or Stevenson Children's camp. This is only possible thanks to you, our ELUCO donors.

For the families and singles in the Marconi community the struggles are never-ending. Nancy provides a non-judgemental listening ear as well as moral support to help folks face the issues which are dragging them down. Not only does she refer them to appropriate agencies, many times she will take them to appointments where she can hear what is being said or advocate for and with them. With input from the community Nancy has set up a number of programs for children and adults alike. The goals of the programs are to build community, develop life and social skills and of course have fun. As well as the Wednesday Lunch Program, there is a Breakfast Social two mornings a week, after school programs with assistance from Royal View Pentecostal Church, Moms and Tots program, cooking classes and craft programs as well as many seasonal activities. “I am blessed to share the journey with those who confide in me.” One of her greatest blessings was to be present at the birth of a beautiful healthy baby girl, Lorecia!

The ELUCO Food Cupboard, temporarily and graciously housed by Rowntree Memorial United Church, was able to move into its new permanent home at Gethsemane Gardens at the end of October. Sturdy shelves, thanks to Mike Westmorland of First- St. Andrew's United Church,

were stocked with food by volunteers, while Nancy and members of the Marconi community moved the remaining equipment. Reverend Judith Gilliland blessed our new home. Thank you to the many volunteers who made this move seamless for the members of the community utilizing this service. Thank you also for the generous donations of money and food that enabled us to keep our shelves filled. This past year we served 651 families which included 1122 adults and 648 children down by 16% from 2012.

The Welcome Wednesday Hospitality Lunch at the Huron Street Salvation Army Citadel continues to be well attended. Volunteers from ELUCO, Knollwood Baptist, Rowntree Memorial United, Siloam United and Valleyview Mennonite churches prepare and serve a hot lunch to the 80 to 100 clients who show up each Wednesday. Over 100 enjoyed a hot turkey dinner with all the trimmings a week before Christmas.

ELUCO Fundraising was two pronged this year. In early February, under the capable direction of board member Elma Johnston, volunteers from various churches and the Marconi community along with board members set about making, baking and packaging cinnamon buns. The Richards Memorial kitchen was a hive of activity with laughter and conversation adding to the buzz. In total, 213 dozen buns were sold (several more dozen snacked on) to help replenish the ELUCO coffers. Our annual **Walk and Roll for Families** was held in Springbank Park on the last Sunday in September. Although it was cloudy, the rain held off till the walkers had completed their course. Many thanks to our walkers and their pledgers who enabled us to deposit over \$6500.00 into the ELUCO account.

OUR NEW LOGO! We are thrilled to be able to incorporate our new logo into this annual report. We want to express our thanks to **Abe Kelledjian** for designing and donating this to us. This clean, modern design symbolizes ELUCO's dedication to remaining relevant and open to new ideas while encouraging strength and well-rooted community engagement.

While Nancy and ELUCO's focus appears to be on the everyday needs of the Marconi community, these initiatives and activities are based on the long-range objective of addressing and changing the unjust barriers faced by the residents of this community. To this end, Nancy participated in the UCC Social Justice event Turning Over Tables, Uncovering Hope in Quebec this fall and was inspired by this experience. While social and economic transformation seems slow and tedious, ELUCO is committed to continue this aspect of our mission. We invite you to join us!

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Langford

Chair, East London United Church Outreach (ELUCO)