



2017 ELUCO Annual Report

The Christmas Season busyness is over and it is time to look ahead to a new year and new initiatives. It is also a time to reflect on the events of the past year and to see what can be learned. For ELUCO it was a year of highs and lows for both the Board and the community.

Early 2017 saw the Board busily planning for their first two fundraisers – Cinnamon buns and the annual Voices of Broadway Concert. With Elma Johnston's leadership we were able to gather in the Richards Memorial kitchen for six weeks starting in early February to make and bake over 300 dozen buns. Community members, Board members and friends of ELUCO work side by side to make this such a successful and enjoyable venture. In early March we enjoyed an amazing musical evening with the Voices of Broadway in Siloam's sanctuary. We are so grateful to both Richards and Siloam for the use of their churches for our fundraisers – we couldn't do it without them.

In April Nancy took a well-deserved trip with her sister to visit family in Southeast Asia. It was a privilege for me to be able to step in and help out while Nancy was away. We are so blessed to have Nancy as our community worker. The community truly love and respect her and I know these feelings are mutual. In Nancy's year-end review she stated that one of the highlights of her job is "celebrating the success and growth in individuals of any age. I am especially thrilled when youth share their accomplishments with me. It humbles me when they drop by to share their story or invite me to a school performance, sports event or graduation. I guess it just warms my heart to watch them shine, to find hope for a better future and in some cases to know that our ministry is making a difference." In conjunction with the community, Nancy continues to create and offer programs that provide individuals an opportunity to grow and develop skills that will lead to their future success. The weekly lunch program continues under the guidance of several long-term volunteers and provides youth with a nutritious hot meal. Another food program that has come to the community is Growing Chefs Ontario. This provides the youth with an opportunity to learn to cook nutritious meals and snacks and develop food preparation skills under the guidance of a qualified chef. This has become one of the youths' most favourite and anticipated events.

Summer and Camp are synonymous in the Marconi community. This year 2 families (5 children plus parents) and 26 children attended Camp Kee-Mo-Kee and 30 children attended Stevenson Camp. Two of our older campers were able to do a leader-in-training program. In addition, three previous graduates of this program were hired by Camp Kee-Mo-Kee –two as counsellors and one as a program director of Christian development. These opportunities are only possible because of the generous donations of multiple UCWs, Optimists and individuals. In August twelve youngsters attended Social Skills Camp. This 25-year-old program is a month-long day camp that teaches ten social skills and re-enforces these lessons through play. This enables the youth to achieve success in future camping experiences. This summer the Marconi community and the Board were devastated by the sudden passing of Michelle Bloomfield. Michelle was a long-time resident and valued leader and friend in the Marconi community. She had joined the ELUCO Board just over a year ago. She volunteered in many programs and was the go-to person for everyone. She will be greatly missed.

Another successful walk-a-thon was held at Springbank Park on a very hot September day. Many thanks to all who walked including the youth group from Wesley Knox and to all who supported us with their financial contributions.

The last quarter of the year keeps Nancy busy with preparations for the Christmas Share Program and the community Christmas party, held this year the beginning of December.

The Welcome Wednesday Hospitality Lunch Program begun in 2008 is held every Wednesday from September to June at the Salvation Army-Hillcrest. A group of volunteers from Siloam United Church,



Valleyview Mennonite Church and ELUCO prepare and serve a free nutritious hot lunch to those who attend. The numbers were somewhat lower this year and there were a number of new faces attending. At Christmas time a turkey dinner with all the trimmings is served and at the end of June there is an indoor picnic.

The ELUCO Food Cupboard is located at Gethsemane Gardens – 1461 Huron Street and is open every Wednesday and Friday morning from 9:30am till noon to serve folks living in the area. A small but dedicated group of volunteers work to supply food and toiletries to the individuals and families who are assisted by the food bank. This past year 604 families received assistance and this translates to 968 adults and 461 children. Thanks so much for your dedication! Many thanks to all those individuals and groups who generously support us with food or finances.

We give heartfelt thanks to the Middlesex congregations, United Church Mission and Service, Sisters of St Joseph, MayCourt, Bank of Nova Scotia Donation fund, Canada Helps and the many others who support the ELUCO ministry with their time, talents, and financial assistance. We ask for your prayers as we continue to provide our families with opportunities, love and support.

Respectively submitted;

Carol Langford
Chairperson
East London United Church Outreach (ELUCO)