



“They don’t have anything and they are so happy. My friends have so much and none of them are happy.” This was the insight of one of our ELUCO youth team members in the very early days of our trip to Haiti. What an amazing and life changing adventure it was for the ELUCO youth - whose existence has been in an insulate community often filled with negativity - to broaden their views of the world. During the 10 day excursion they experienced what life is like in Haiti and witnessed the community’s incredible resilience and spiritual connectedness . Working alongside Haitian youth in preparing vegetable gardens for families with a member having a physical disability, painting playground equipment and the pavilion at the Shalom Zone, and participating in recreational activities bonds of friendship were formed that will last a lifetime. While the work projects may seem insignificant, they were greatly appreciated and the positive cross cultural relationships made a huge impact. That was the goal and is what made this such an important outreach effort for both ELUCO and the United Church of Canada. With crops in Haiti destroyed by Hurricane Matthew, this relationship continues with efforts to help provide seed for 500 families.

This was the first project of this magnitude and for sure our Youth Mission Team to Haiti was the highlight of the year in Community Outreach. The regular lunch, afterschool and women’s programs to build social and life skills continued in community with field trips and family events topping the list of favourites. Eleven children participated in Social Skills Day Camp, 25 to Stevenson Children’s Camp and 30 to Camp Kee-Mo-Kee. These are the experiences that inspire and bring joy and growth. Along the way support was offered to families as they faced their everyday challenges. Families are overwhelmed with appreciation for the support received in our Christmas Share Program. Thanks go out to the many individuals and groups who generously donated to make Christmas a reality for 86 families.

The Welcome Wednesday Hospitality Lunch Program commenced in October 2008 from a vision of ELUCO’s Rev Susan Eagle and Lynne Williams of the Agape Fellowship. Start-up costs were funded from a \$13,000 grant from the Westminster College Fund. Each Wednesday from September to July a nutritious free lunch is prepared and served to upwards of 70 persons by members of the Salvation Army- Hillcrest , ELUCO, Siloam United Church and Valleyview Mennonite Church. The June (inside)picnic and Christmas dinner were enjoyed by over 120 persons. This weekly lunch is very gratifying to those who attend and to those who serve. It has become a real community which was Susan and Lynne’s dream. The cost to ELUCO is approximately \$200.00 a month which is covered by donations to the program.

The ELUCO Food Cupboard located at Gethsemane Gardens at 1461 Huron St.

is open every Wednesday and Friday morning from 9:30 am till 12 noon and serves clients living within the area. It is run by faithful volunteers, one group on Wednesdays and a different group on Friday’s. Many thanks go to Sharon Ashton for being our shopper extraordinaire, and for all her other hard work. As well as food, winter knit items and dish clothes are supplied by the Friday group. We also have toiletries that people can choose from.

In 2016 we served 680 families which included 1158 adults and 527 children. The numbers are similar to last year, but the number of children is down from 609 in 2015.

This program is possible because of the many generous people who give financially and/ or through food and other donations.

Your support is greatly appreciated!



Fundraising is one of the main activities of the Board and this year was no exception. For five weeks beginning in early February, members of the Board, members of the Marconi community and volunteers could be found in the kitchen of Richards Memorial United Church whipping up delectable cinnamon buns under the supervision of Elma Johnston. With lots of laughter and fellowship the crew turned out over 300 dozen buns that were sold in a variety of venues to enhance ELUCO's coffers.

In March we held our 3rd Annual Voices of Broadway concert at Siloam United Church. This talented and enthusiastic group wowed the audience with their talent and enthusiasm as they sang and danced to many well-known Broadway musicals.

The sun was shining on the last Sunday in September as we gathered in Springbank Park for the annual "Walk and Roll for Families". This was one of our most successful walk-a-thons to date. Many thanks are extended to all those who walked/rolled and donated. A special thanks to the group of young people from Wesley Knox who walked with us.

The Board unanimously supported Nancy's request to take a group of young people to Haiti but did not feel comfortable committing ELUCO funding to the project. Board members agreed to help with fundraisers to cover the costs for the youth. A bowling and silent auction and a BBQ and car wash were two of the events held. The youth who went also organised a BBQ and car wash in Marconi. Nancy was successful in securing \$3000.00 from the United Church Vision Fund Seed Grant for New Initiatives in Youth and Young Adult Ministry. This combined with generous donations from individuals, groups and businesses covered the costs for the seven youth,

Thanks to the hard work of board member Amanda Woods, the Board was able to approve a new and expanded Abuse Prevention Policy for ELUCO.

In April at the ELUCO annual meeting, Michelle Bloomfield, a member of the Marconi community became a member of the Board. In June the Board said good bye to Martha Elliott who returned to university in Ottawa to pursue post graduate studies. Best wishes were extended for her future endeavours and she was thanked for her contributions to the Board. In October Amanda Woods' resignation was regretfully accepted with best wishes for her new job.

The Board would be remiss if it did not extend a huge thank you to Nancy Howard for the time, energy and LOVE she brings to her position as ELUCO's Outreach Worker. Her dedication and commitment to the community knows no bounds! She continues to support and nurture families and individuals so they can move ahead with confidence and strength to meet the challenges that life has in store for them.. Lastly the Board could not carry out its mandate and commitment to the Marconi and Huron Street communities without the spiritual, financial and physical support of each and every one of you in the past year and years. We are all part of God's family –helping one another!