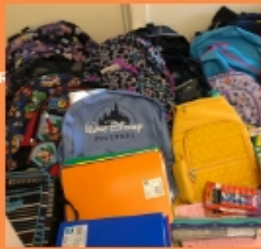


ELUCO

East London United Church Outreach



REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

ELUCO has faced many challenges over the past months but with God's help and guidance we have been able to persevere and overcome!

The pandemic has affected all of us but for some in the Marconi community the isolation and restrictions have been crippling. The Marconi community has seen a steep rise in Depression and Anxiety, Addictions, Criminal Activity and Violence.

Nancy has been able to provide counselling outside at a distance. She says "As the months passed it reinforced my understanding that the most important aspect of my outreach is being present in the community. Living our faith, listening without judgement, encouraging, comforting, challenging and teaching: these are the gifts that I bestowed and what was reciprocated back to me!"

WELCOME WEDNESDAY

The hospitality meals have continued as take out served from the vestibule of Rowntree United Church with no one entering the premises. The number of participants dropped to an average of 30-50 per week. There were absolutely no complaints for the new procedure or the meals that were served! Many thanks to all those individuals that prepared and served food to those who require our support, particularly during a pandemic.

ELUCO FOOD CUPBOARD

As with all our programs, the Food Cupboard was impacted by the pandemic. Health Unit guidelines were followed to ensure that the volunteers and the clients they served were safe. Our clients were grateful for the food they received. Some members dropped off groceries for us. All donations are greatly appreciated. A big thank you to our ELUCO front line workers who made certain that the families in our area had the food they needed!

Our AGM was successfully held outside in Springbank Park in early September. Our annual walkathon was held at the end of September, also in Springbank Park and helped to raise much needed funds for ELUCO's ongoing expenses.

Thank you, Nancy for your tireless efforts to bring hope, love and support to our Marconi community! We couldn't do without you. Many thanks to our generous donors and supporters, you have provided the resources necessary to enable us to carry out the programs and activities which are a lifeline for our communities.

ELUCO can celebrate the many accomplishments achieved. We can build on these experiences and continue to grow our love and support for the ELUCO community members "For what other reason did God put us in this world but to help one another!"

NOTES FROM NANCY

It almost seems normal now, just communicating via phone, email and at outdoor meetings with the different organizations serving our families. Still, it has created additional stress to individuals trying to meet the requests and documentation requirements of London Middlesex Community Housing, Ontario Works, Ontario Disability Support System and CAS. Office hours remain limited, and many of our families have no internet access and limited access for phone calls. This has been an area I've been able to provide both assistance and reassurance.

The longer this pandemic has continued, the more people's well-being is being affected. So many individuals in our community feel isolated and do not have a personal support system. I have continued to meet with individuals and families outside. More often than email or phone conversations, people just call me over when they see me. Being present to listen and offer support has been most appreciated by individuals.

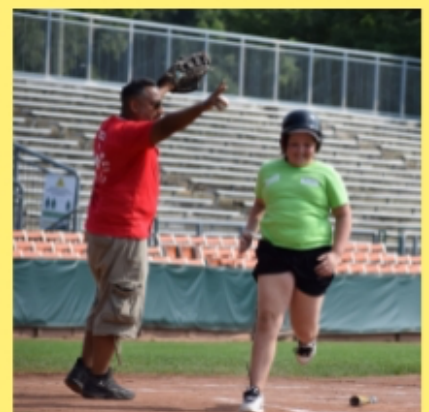
Food distribution continues as always. I distribute Harvest Bucks to purchase local fresh fruits and vegetables at the market. I purchased healthy snacks with funding from the May Court Club of London and give these out as children asked during the day. I've shared the task of food pick-up at Salvation Army Centre of Hope with a volunteer from Valleyview Church. I am so grateful for the assistance from Bonita in the sorting process and delivery of this rescued food. Rowntree has been able to share 5 food boxes provided by LUSO to share in Marconi. These programs are essential to our vulnerable families.

One of our youths was hired as a counsellor for the day camp at Camp Kee-Mo-Kee. We sponsored 2 children to attend a week of this day camp and they loved it! Children were able to participate in an outdoor afternoon day camp with the Boys and Girls Club at our complex.

Together with the London Public Library Outreach I hosted an outdoor workshop one morning with stories, activities and crafts.

I was able to attend the Rookie Ball final game at Labatt Park. (This program is a collaborative effort with LMCH, London Police Association, and London Majors.) Children from Alan Rush and Marconi form a team each year to compete against other complexes. It was an exciting game and fun to cheer on our team as they earned the second-place medal!

We received donations of back packs, school supplies and funding to purchase back to school items to give to our families. We are grateful to The Royal Imperial Sovereign Court of London Ontario, Rowntree United Church and generous individuals for their contributions. Our families were very appreciative when I distributed these and the children were so excited!



HEARTFELT GRATITUDE FOR THE GENEROSITY OF OUR SUPPORTERS!