



## ELUCO ANNUAL REPORT 2018

East London United Church Outreach ( ELUCO) celebrated many blessings in 2018. It is truly inspiring to see the success of some our Marconi families and individuals. A special thanks to Nancy Howard our Community worker for offering the programs, support and love that allows people to grow and blossom.

### **Celebrating the Marconi Community**

In early June, Nancy Howard and I were invited to attend the Spring Convocation at Brock University for Samantha Powless (the daughter of the late Michelle Bloomfield, a long-time resident and volunteer in the Marconi community as well as a Director on the ELUCO board). Sam graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree (with distinction). She has enrolled in a Masters program in Political Science at Brock and is presently completing her course work. She hopes to write her major research paper this summer. This past fall she applied across Canada for a PhD candidate position and on completion of her doctoral studies hopes to secure a position as a university professor. Nancy and I couldn't have been prouder as we watched Sam receive her degree. Over the last 20 years we have watched Sam grow and expand her horizons. We knew she was destined for a success-filled future!

Makahaila Wright, another Marconi resident, deserves accolades as well. Makhaila graduated from Fanshawe College with a Leisure and Recreation Diploma. She is an awesome basketball player –named Rookie of the Year her first season. She is now back at Fanshawe taking a Business Computer course and of course playing basketball. Prior to this she had been studying at Brock!

Nancy attended the high school graduation of Jessica Graham. Jessica was a member of the Haiti mission group and also did several placements with Nancy. Jessica, although not an ardent fan of school, was awarded the Home and School Committee Award for Compassion and Community Support.

This fall several other young people were able to begin their studies at Fanshawe. We provide some financial support to these young people through our scholarship fund. The amounts are not huge but help to pay for books. It also lets them know we believe in them.

In late October Bonita Wright, a Marconi Community member was the keynote speaker for the Division of Mission and Outreach (DMO) Fall Connections Event –Housing Initiatives for People with Intellectual Disabilities, Indigenous People, Local Needs/Solutions. Bonita shared her story – outlining her experiences with Housing and the steps she had taken not only to improve her situation but also to advocate for others. She sparked a great deal of interest with her presentation - setting the tone for the event and answering many subsequent questions.

As in summers past, Nancy registered a number of children for camp- Stevenson Children's Camp (25), Camp Kee-mo-kee (18) and Social Skills Camp (9). As well, one child attended Vacation Bible School at First-St. Andrew's UC and three were enrolled in the Go Project Camp which focused on the environment and social justice. Unfortunately some children were not able to attend their desired camp as the necessary funds arrived after the camps were filled. We also celebrate Samantha Powless as an assistant program Director at Kee-Mo-Kee, two councillors from Marconi (one male, one female) and two leaders-in training. A young woman graduate from our Social Skills Camp was hired on as a Junior Leader for this year's Social Skills Camp. She hopes to do the LIT program at Kee-Mo\_Kee next year. As we had hoped, our sponsorship of camping experiences is helping to build and expand our youth's self-confidence and leadership abilities!

### **ELUCO Food Cupboard**

The Food Cupboard continues to be open at Gethsemane Gardens, 1461 Huron Street, on Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9:30am until 12 noon. There continue to be new clients. Some people are so appreciative. One lady had to hug everyone, saying what a blessing it was for her that we are able to help her. She had tears in her eyes.

We provide non-perishables as well as toiletries. The Friday group knit scarves, mitts and dish clothes that people are always looking for. We collect plastic bags to pack groceries and one pound margarine containers for laundry soap.

In 2018 we served:

Families: 584 (comprised of)

Adults: 1050

Children: 372

In 2017 we served:

Families: 604 (comprised of)

Adults: 1066

Children: 409

Rowntree United has been very supportive of ELUCO. Food and other items are collected the first Sunday of the month and delivered to the food cupboard by Heather and Bryan Smith.

These programs could not happen without your generous support. ELUCO is truly blessed by your participation. All donations are greatly appreciated!

Submitted by Judy White

### **Welcome Wednesday**

Rev. Susan Eagle and Lynn William's (Agape Fellowship) inspiration in 2008 is still going strong. Last year Welcome Wednesday hosted and served weekly nutritious lunches to an average of 70 low income mostly adult men and women at the Huron Street Salvation Army Citadel. At our annual end of June and Christmas dinners, over 110 were served. The weekly lunches are prepared on a rotating basis by

Salvation Army, ELUCO/ Rowntree United, Siloam United and Valleyview Mennonite churches. We are so thankful for the many volunteers who make this program a huge success, especially those from the recipient community who are there every week to set up tables, serve pre-lunch snacks and do dishes.

Submitted by Sharon Ashton

### **Fundraising**

We had a very successful fundraising year. In January ELUCO tried a new event – a Jazz Cabaret at First-St. Andrew's with the Sonja Gustafson Quintet. This was a very successful event and plans are afoot for a similar event in 2019. We extend many thanks to Sonja and her fellow musicians and First- St. Andrew's for making this event possible.

In March we had a very successful Voices of Broadway Concert at Siloam United Church. We are so thankful for the support of both Voices and Siloam in helping us with our fundraising endeavours.

On the last Sunday in September we tied up our running shoes and headed out for our annual "Walk and Roll for Families" at Springbank Park. We had our most successful walk ever –raising almost \$7300.00! Thank you to all our sponsors and walkers.

### **The Board**

The ELUCO Board of Directors was pleased to welcome three new members: Rev Sandra Bendall replacing Eva Archibald due to health issues (both Sandra and Eva were appointed by UCW Presbyterial), Ann McPhail replacing Linda Badke after 23 years of dedicated service and Ruth Campbell. We welcome our new members to the Board and thank them for their commitment. Long serving directors are Sharon Ashton, Janice Elliott, Elma Johnston, Linda Petronis, Gerry Pickett, Frieda Owen and Judy White. Thank you for your dedication and commitment. In early November we received word of the passing of Eva Archibald and Jean Knowles (a true friend and supporter of ELUCO). We were blessed to have them as a part of the ELUCO family.

ELUCO could not operate without the financial and volunteer support of many organisations and individuals. Thank you so much for your efforts and I hope that you feel a part of the blessings that ELUCO celebrated this past year!

Carol Langford - Board Chairperson.