

The Simple Truth

*We all just want to be
Accepted, Respected, Appreciated, Heard and Loved.*

Building Community, Fostering Hope

Ministry Highlights

This Simple Truth sums up concisely what ELUCO is about. Nancy Howard, our Community Outreach Worker and the face of ELUCO in the Marconi Community, feels that the personal care and attention which is offered to the community is what sets ELUCO apart from other agencies. “We come together in community and every one of us contributes to the ties that bind; every one of us contributes to the whole; every one of us matters. No role on our ELUCO team remains exclusive. Our commitment comes from reciprocated Christian love and concern! Obviously, we need funding to support our ministry. Our partners who offer financial assistance through either individual funding or grants for specific programs don’t stop there: They stay connected, network and advocate, offer spiritual support, volunteer and serve on our Board of Directors.”

Although 2023 was a more “normal” year, the previous three years have left an indelible mark on our community. Food security, always an issue, escalated this past year due to ever increasing food prices. Mental health issues continued to plague the community as well as a number of health-related concerns. This is where Nancy stepped in and offered support. Through a grant from the May Court Club of London she was able to offer breakfast snacks and hot lunches to the children of the community. A grant from Middlesex London Health Unit allowed Nancy to distribute Harvest Bucks to our Food Cupboard and Marconi families for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables from local markets. Nutrition resources and group activities to our families as part of this initiative. Congregations, UCW groups, Youth groups and Individuals donated school supplies, toiletries, food and grocery gift cards which were handed out. Each week Cobbs bread, left-overs from Welcome Wednesday and fruits and vegetables from the Food Coalition were available for distribution.

Training opportunities kept Nancy up-to-date with new advances and techniques in managing mental health which she shared with those willing to try new methods. Learning and resources from the training were incorporated into workshops, activities and individual counselling, with a grant from Westminster College Foundation.

Gethsemane Food Cupboard

The Gethsemane Food Cupboard operates out of the Gethsemane Gardens Housing Complex and is open to clientele Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9:30am to noon. The number of clients has gradually increased throughout the year. In 2023 we served 464 families comprised of 806 adults, 331 children plus 5 babies. (In 2022, 400 families: 733 adults, 274 children, 2 babies). Our volunteers noticed this fall that more of the families are coming with refugee status papers.

ELUCO's challenge this year has been to keep the shelves stocked. This has been exacerbated by increasing food costs. We are so thankful to the Sisters of St Joseph for their generous funding and to all the churches and individuals who contribute regularly. Thanks also to our faithful dedicated volunteers who keep the program running.

This year we honoured with recognition, two of our most dedicated volunteers and founders of our Food Cupboard, Helen Picard and Marion Clarke. These ladies put their hearts and souls into serving our community with love and respect. A blessing to us all, we give heartfelt thanks.



ELUCO Board of Directors

We were able to meet on a regular basis at Rowntree United. Two challenges the Board faced were searching for a more reasonably priced accountant and a lawyer to amend our Bylaws to meet ONCA requirements. We were not able to find a cheaper accountant, but thanks to Ann, Sharon and Reed, we were able to find a lawyer and have Bylaws updated. They will be voted on at our upcoming AGM, April 3rd, 2024.

Fundraising was a major initiative again this year. In April, we held our 8th Annual Voices of Broadway Show Choir Concert at Siloam United. Thanks to Siloam for hosting and to the choir for making our fundraising efforts so enjoyable! Our Annual Walk and Roll for Families fundraiser was held at the end of September in Springbank Park. We had excellent response to this event and swelled our coffers by over \$9000.00 In an effort to augment our funding the Board decided to sell Rheo Thompson Mint Smoothies chocolates; A delicious treat to reward your support!

Many thanks to our Board of Directors for your dedicated commitment to our ELUCO Ministry

Sharon Ashton, Rev. Sandra Bendall, Ruth Campbell, Debbie Gillingwater, Elma Johnston, Carol Langford, Reed MacLachlan, Marjorie MacMillan, Ann MacPhail, Freda Owen, Linda Petronis, Judy White, Sara Willems, and Bonita Wright

The task of building community and fostering hope within the Marconi community is a daunting task for the ELUCO Board. Our accomplishments are only possible because of you- our too numerous to mention volunteers, our donors big and small, our member churches, UCWs, our Marconi community who give back with love and support, and of course the glue that holds it all together, Nancy.

Advocacy and Support Advocacy and support are an essential part of Nancy's job. Since COVID many organizations never returned to in-person services causing greater stress and anxiety for our families. They find it difficult to make contact or understand what their workers are requesting. Nancy was able to assist with completing documentation and in communicating with their workers. Housing applications, transfers, maintenance requests and annual reviews, OW and ODSP applications and appeals are just a few of the areas where Nancy can be of service. Accompanying individuals to Doctor and Lawyer appointments or hospital calls and court appearances are part of Nancy's everyday activities.

May ELUCO continue to adhere to this Simple Truth- Accept, Respect, Appreciate, Hear and Love Everyone.



Welcome Wednesday

Our weekly lunch program based out of Rowntree United Church once again returned to inside dining allowing for the pleasure of social time within our community. Over the weeks our numbers have been gradually increasing to serving an average of about 50 per week. This ecumenical effort is grateful to the Food Coalition for its weekly donations of fresh produce and groceries. Participants are able to take some of these items home. Volunteers augment the meal with salads and desserts from the fresh produce. Many thanks to our committed group of volunteers who keep this program running. Many thanks as well to the meal recipients who help with moving tables and chairs back to storage when lunch is finished.

O Lord, give us strength today to show kindness in all that we do. Help us to open our arms to those less fortunate and extend our hands to those who may need it, so that they may see YOU in our words and actions. Amen

Heartfelt Gratitude to Our Funders

Mission and Service, United Church of Canada

United Church Congregations

United Church Women

The May Court Club of London

Sisters of St. Joseph of Canada

Middlesex London Health Unit

Westminster College Foundation

Generous Individuals



THE MAY COURT CLUB OF LONDON
feeding children – nourishing hope



With Special Thanks to our Partner Churches for their love and support

Richards Memorial, Rowntree Memorial, Siloam and First-St. Andrew's United Churches

Many Thanks for Our Program Spaces

London Middlesex Community Housing, Marconi Family Site, 267 Marconi Blvd. 519 451 3709

London Affordable Housing, Gethsemane Gardens, 1461 Huron St. 519 451 0600

Rowntree Memorial United Church, 156 Elliott St.

Gifting Our ELUCO Families

Financial Donations, Grocery Cards, Harvest Bucks

Toiletries, Backpacks and School Supplies, Christmas Share Program

Camp Sponsorship Fund, Post-Secondary Education Scholarship Fund

Volunteer Opportunities



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