

ELUCO

East London United Church Outreach

Winter Newsletter, 2019



ELUCO Food Cupboard

ELUCO is glad to offer the residents of the Northeast London community access to a Food Cupboard twice a week. The ELUCO Food Cupboard is located at 1461 Huron St. The Food Cupboard is run by a dedicated group of volunteers, and is located in Gethsemane Gardens. It is open on Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9:30 am until 12 noon.

Community members can come once a month to access the Food Cupboard. We have non-perishable foods as well as toiletries. In winter we also have mitts, scarves and hats knit by volunteers. We are very proud to have served 584 families in 2018, including 1050 adults and 372 children. Clients must live in the area and show ID with name and address on it. All donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you for your support!



Clients take what they need from this table of toiletries.



Clients choose two specialty items



Four sets of groceries that are bagged and ready for pick up by clients

Donations can be delivered to:

Gethsemane Gardens
1461 Huron St.
London ON

Wednesdays and Fridays
9:30 am-12:00 pm

Nancy's Notes

After the hustle and bustle of the Christmas Holiday Season I was blessed with the opportunity to travel with my sister to Southeast Asia to visit our family overseas. It was a time of rejuvenation, adventures and spiritual moments. And there simply are no words to capture the absolute love and joy that filled our hearts spending time with our family.

A month is a long time to be away but modern technology allows for some connectedness as I leave behind family and friends at home. I am able to relax and enjoy knowing that our Marconi Community has been left in good hands with ELUCO Board Chair, Carol Langford checking in. Our dedicated Community Volunteers ensure there is no disruption to our School Lunch Program. Many thanks for stepping up to the plate, making it easier for me to let go.

Weather has sometimes been unforgiving for travel and I've had a few days off, but it feels good to be back to normal, at home in the company of our Marconi families. I missed everyone.

We are thrilled to welcome back "Growing Chefs Ontario!" to share their love of healthy cooking and teach our 8 to 12-year-old group. Our lead Chef Anna Carroll was a helper the first year we partnered and has since graduated from Chef School in Stratford. What an amazing role model for our youth! This is one of our most anticipated and loved programs. Thank you, Chefs!

Looking forward, our programs are under review for springtime additions. As well, plans are underway for March Break activities, including our ever-popular Family Sugar Bush Trip. Let's hope the weather cooperates.

Blessings,

Nancy



Urgent Funding Request



"Camp is a place of magic." These are the words that begin the Capital Campaign section of the Camp Kee-Mo-Kee website. Words can never capture the experience but this may be the best description that resonates with the anecdotes I hear all year from the children and youth we send to camp.



It's the United Church of Canada reaching out and welcoming all. It's about love and nurturing. It's about communing with nature and God. It's making new friends and learning new things. Really, it's all about having fun! Rooted in a week at camp our children are building confidence, developing teamwork and leadership skills.

We need your help to provide this opportunity for our ELUCO families. Registration is already under way. Please make a donation to our Camp Sponsorship Fund to assist with the rising cost of camp registration.





Christmas is Love

It seems like so long ago, but our hearts still swell with the love of Christmas. We extend our gratitude to those who contributed to our Christmas Share Program: First-St. Andrew's United Church, Siloam United Church and Rose Birrell group, Richards Memorial United Church and U.C.W., Thorndale U.C.W., Jansen Kids Christmas Toy Drive, several families and individuals. Every year I am completely overwhelmed with the lovely gifts and food donated to assist our ELUCO families with the extra expenses of the holiday season. This program is a huge undertaking and would not be possible without the generous time of those organizing at the various churches and groups, our

gift wrappers and delivery team. When I see faces lit up, tears of joy, and heartfelt thanks from our families it makes all the hard work worthwhile.

A highlight of the Season was our Annual Family Christmas Party we celebrated in the welcoming space at Royal View Church. Board Members and Community Volunteers came together to make this event possible. It was a whirlwind of activity and joyful noise, as we shared a meal, crafts and activities, and of course a visit from Santa. How marvelous to share love as we celebrated together in community.



Soup and Song Concert

A Soup and Song Concert was held on Jan. 25, 2019 at First-St. Andrew's United Church in support of ELUCO. The evening started with delicious home made soup, created by women from First- St. Andrew's and the ELUCO Board of Directors. Then we enjoyed the beautiful music provided by Marty Kolls and Jenny Berkel. It was a fabulous evening on a cold winter's night appreciated by all . Thanks to all who helped organize as well as attend this warm and wonderful event.



ELUCO Donation Card

An ELUCO Donation Card has recently been designed and produced by one of our new Board of Directors, Ann MacPhail.

These cards can be purchased for any amount that you would like to donate to ELUCO. They are perfect for memorial donations to commemorate the passing of a loved one or as a gift card enclosure for Christmas, birthdays, Easter a thank you note or really to recognize any special event in your lives.

These donation cards can be obtained from any ELUCO Board member or by contacting Janice Elliott, 519-859-7183 or janiceelliott04@gmail.com.

Charitable donation receipts are available.



The **East London United Church Outreach program (ELUCO)** is an incorporated, Mission & Services ministry of the United Church, London Region, Ontario. For more than 20 years, this program has consistently provided support, assistance and hope to individuals, families and children (within a low-income housing community in east London, Ontario) who find themselves in very challenging life circumstances. A full-time Community Outreach Worker (Nancy Howard) offers the following:

- Advocacy (e.g. Children's Aid, London Hydro)
- Teaching life skills (e.g. cooking programs)
- Developing self-reliance (e.g. education scholarships; individual counseling)
- Building a sustainable community (e.g. lunch program; after-school homework group, Christmas food hampers and gifts)
- Supports Wednesday Hospitality Lunch Program, and ELUCO Food Cupboard.



ELUCO could not exist without individual support/donations to continue this important mission and services ministry. **By providing you with this donation card, ELUCO is happy to inform you that**

has made a donation to ELUCO, on your behalf for the following occasion

Thank you for your generous donation and supporting

To contact us:

Nancy Howard
Community Outreach Worker
267 Marconi Blvd
London, ON
Phone: 519-451-3709
Email: eluco@bellnet.ca

To make a donation:

Donations are accepted by cheque made out to "ELUCO". Donations can be mailed to:

ELUCO
P.O. Box 32013
London ON
N5V 5K4