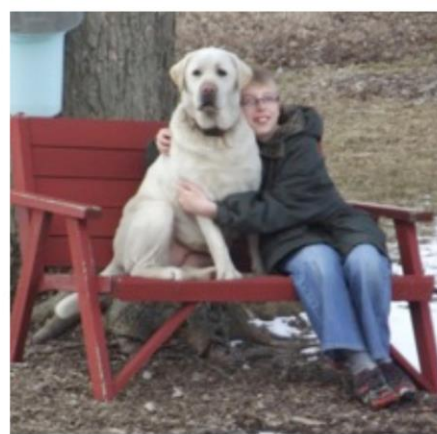




Volunteer Recognition

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Save the Date:

April 11

Voices of Broadway
Show Choir concert.
7:30 pm at First-St.
Andrew's United
Church.

Sept 27

Walk and Roll for
Families. 2pm at
Springbank Park.

Current ELUCO Needs:

Donations to support summer
camp registration.

Contact: Nancy Howard
267 Marconi Blvd
London, ON
Phone: 519-451-3709
eluco@bellnet.ca

ELUCO



East London United Church Outreach

Many thanks to all of the groups and individuals who made the Christmas
Hamper Program such a success!



Notes from Nancy

Despite the long cold winter, we sure did not hibernate. It has been amazing to be part of the whirlwind of activity with our community coming together for so many projects. ELUCO is committed to advocate for and support those who build community amidst challenging circumstances and we sincerely appreciate each and every one who has contributed to make our ministry and mission a reality.

On behalf of ELUCO and the families we serve, thank you to everyone who so generously donated gift cards, gifts or food to our Christmas Share Program. So many individuals, both from our Marconi site and the community at large came forward to volunteer their services in organizing, wrapping and distributing hampers to our families. One of my greatest blessings was to witness the reaction of completely overwhelmed appreciative parents as they received their hampers. We were able to assist 70 families. Your generosity is a gift of

love and hope for our families that extends long after the Christmas season.

We are grateful to Richards Memorial United Church for the use of their bright open kitchen on Mondays during Lent for the ELUCO Cinnamon Buns fundraiser. Members and friends of the ELUCO Board, together with members of the Marconi community create a baking frenzy, all the while laughing and kibitzing. No one can resist that delicious aroma and cinnamon buns sell even before they come out of the oven! Thank you.

Gently used children's items have generated income at First-St. Andrew's United Church's Family Love and Share Event in the fall and again at our **Rummage Sale April 25th 2015** to bring the Growing Chefs to Marconi. Our 12-15 year olds are inspired by the contagious energy as professional chefs teach and share their love of cooking healthy choices. What an

awesome opportunity for our youth as they learn this valuable life skill, and sit down together to enjoy the fruits of their labour.

The students at Stoneybrook Public School have adopted our Marconi community students. What a wonderful outreach partnership. At Christmas time, each classroom adopted a child here providing gifts, making a card and beautifully wrapping the package to deliver to the home of one of our less fortunate children. They didn't stop there. A recent book drive brought a car load of books to the Marconi site for use in our programs and for distribution to families. Our children had so much fun during March break selecting their very own books to take home with them.

Not everyone takes a break during the March Break. Eight youth attended a full day session at the unit to develop babysitting knowledge and first aid skills for the Babysitter's Certificate

Program. All of our young leaders earned their certificate and are hoping to find some jobs providing childcare for families at our complex.

The highlight by far of March Break was our annual family trip to the Sugar Bush. It's hard to tell who has the most fun, the adults or children, but for sure it is just what the doctor ordered. Everyone forgets their problems and joins in on fun at the farm.

There's sausage and pancakes with fresh syrup to eat, a kitchen crammed with people in lively conversation, books and toys to occupy children waiting for others to finish their lunch, a playground and wide open spaces to run, several puddles and mud enticing little ones to wade in with toys, wandering in the woods with a bucket to collect sap, learning how to tap a tree and how the perfect syrup

is boiled, and of course the unanimous favourite activity for all- fast bumpy rides on the four wheeler. No one wanted to go home, and some had their hearts set on returning tomorrow. A huge thank you is extended to the many volunteers who made this trip possible and to Carol and Don Langford for the warm welcome at their farm.

With love and gratitude,
Nancy



Interning at ELUCO

It's hard to believe that my internship is almost over. It seems like just yesterday I was pulling into the parking lot at Marconi Blvd. and wondering what's next. I've learned a great deal working in the communities of ELUCO and met a lot of new people and heard a lot of stories.

When I tell people that my internship is split between two small rural churches and working at ELUCO the comment I usually hear is "Wow that must be so

different!" And I admit I thought it would be that way too but there are a lot of surprising similarities.

The Marconi community is a lot like the rural communities that I serve in because while they are a very diverse community they really are a tight knit community. They support each other and look out for each other. This was really noticeable in a recent Community Kitchen event. Seven ladies from the community pitched in together and produced 40 slow cooker meals for their families. The laughter, noise and friendship was wonderful to witness. It is also visible when you see the kids helping each other out and playing together. Beyond the people I also see similarities in the difficulties experienced in the ELUCO communities and in the rural communities. There are problems of poverty, hunger and health concerns everywhere not just in the east end of London. Interning at ELUCO has given me new tools and ideas that I can transfer to any community in which I work, though admittedly at a much different scale.

I have learned a great deal from ELUCO and can never repay this organization for all they have given me but I'll try! I will do my best to continue to support this organization by helping out whenever I can and certainly promoting the work of ELUCO everywhere I go. Thank you again for this experience and may God continue to bless the work of ELUCO and those it serves.

Sincerely Cheryl Bolton, Intern.

After-School Program

If you show up at the unit on a Wednesday or Thursday afternoon be prepared for lots of wonderful noise and chaos! In January we started a regularly scheduled after school program. As with all new programs we have learned by trial and error. But we've adapted and made changes and learned to be flexible.

We do crafts, play games, play with Lego, dance and once a month we are treated to a movie and popcorn. I have the best job ever, I get to play games and hang out with an amazing group of kids.

– Cheryl





+ Volunteer Recognition

Five long-term volunteers were honoured individually at this years Annual General Meeting for their many years of dedicated service to ELUCO.

LIZ MCNICHOL



Liz has been with us since the very beginning as part of the organizing committee. She shared her passion for ELUCO by serving as a long time Board member and advocate. She was instrumental in helping recruit new Board Members – never an easy task. We could always rely on you to keep the members of Gethsemane United updated on ELUCO happenings.

As a volunteer driver for camp, she was able to put children at ease by telling them that she would come back and pick them up if they weren't happy. If fundraising tickets needed to be sold or pledge sheets had to be signed she was and still remains our go-to person. Each year we know we can enjoy the pleasure of her company at our annual Walk and Roll for Families. Although she is no longer on the Board, she continues to be a major supporter, sharing her passion for the ELUCO ministry! Thanks Liz, we couldn't do it without you!

JAMIE GREEN



Jamie came to us in the early years and stuck with us through thick and thin. As we rode the ups and downs of ELUCO, we had the pleasure of watching his family grow. While meeting the demands of parenthood, he continued his dedicated service to ELUCO. He did not have an easy time as treasurer. Limited financial resources meant he had to decide which bills to pay immediately, how long to delay cheques to the workers and where cuts had to be made. His tough decisions paralleled those of the impoverished families with whom we worked. He actively participated in fundraising events but his work didn't stop there – he would take home the walk-a-thon pledge sheets and cash to balance.

What a nightmare! He is a man of many talents and we at ELUCO were the beneficiaries!

Volunteer Recognition Continued



LISA TUCKER

Lisa – our “little person” brimming with energy, who likes to be involved in all kinds of activities! She is the ideas lady for crafts, Christmas parties and all the seasonal and special events we celebrate. She has been a driver and an organizer extra-ordinaire! Baby food (the date must be current), gifts, supplies, craft items, these are only a few of the things that she has whipped into shape.

She is the most welcoming greeter at the lunch program and a magnet for all of our children. The smile on her face and her loving heart makes everyone young and old fall in love with her. When ELUCO was without a worker, she and Debbie came each week and carried on the lunch program so the children could have a hot meal. She is – “our angel!”



DEBBIE GILLINGWATER

Debbie gives her all to everything she does and there isn't much she won't do! She proudly wears her bright orange ELUCO shirt to other organizations she belongs to so people will ask about us! She is the go-to person for lunch program, special events and camping. As coordinator, cook and police officer of the lunch program, she runs a tight ship. We are pretty sure she would come to the unit every day if we let her. We also know that she would give the shirt off her back if someone needed it. Nancy and Carol have been blessed – she has fed them, cheered them, calmed them down and “tried” to organize them and their workspaces – not an easy task! She has always been there for the community – moving furniture, cutting grass, shoveling snow, carrying Christmas Share boxes - and always with a smile on her face. Debbie is a true friend to the Marconi community and ELUCO!



MARY ELLIOTT

Mary, what do we say about her – someone who has been involved with ELUCO since the very beginning! As part of the organizing group, she shared her vision and then dedicated many years of service to the Board. Her commitment to and love of ELUCO led her to seek out Carol Langford, believing she would be a good fit for the community worker position. There is no end to the diversity of her roles. She has worked on committees, continually advocated for ELUCO at Rowntree Memorial, advocated for and stood with Rev. Susan Eagle when she needed backing, participated in fundraisers and supported community members! She was even a stand-in Grandma for a child's graduation from Skills Camp. Last fall she took a bus to help out at Welcome Wednesday! Is there anything Mary hasn't done for ELUCO?



Choir Concert Fundraiser

ELUCO is thrilled to again present the Voices of Broadway Show Choir at First-St. Andrew's United Church on Saturday, April 11th at 7:30 pm. The Voices of Broadway Show Choir is an amazing, energetic performance choral group that clearly loves to sing Broadway music and we are so excited to welcome them back! All profits will be used to provide outreach programs for those needing assistance in east London. First-St. Andrew's United Church is located at the corner of Queens Ave and Waterloo St. There is plenty of parking on nearby streets, in schoolyards and parking lots. A shuttle vehicle will be available to take you from parking areas to the church. Tickets are \$20.00 and can be purchased at the door or by contacting Janice Elliott at 519-657-7183.



Cinnamon Bun Celebration

These are cinnamon pastries of sugar, flour, yeast, raisins and 15 minutes at 350°F. They are hot and delicious. Our team of four make 2 dozen at a time. Thanks to our Bun Master, Elma Johnston, her volunteers from the Marconi Community, and the ELUCO Board members we produce 25 dozen in a morning! Buy a dozen from your ELUCO representative! Just another fundraising effort in support of our work in the community!



presents

the **voices** of
Broadway
show choir

Saturday, April 11, 2015 - 7:30 pm

First-St. Andrew's United Church
350 Queens Avenue (at Waterloo)

Tickets: \$20

Available at the door, or in advance,
by contacting:

Janice Elliott

519-657-7183