



Notes from Nancy

Welcome Springtime!

I am so thankful for my personal time off to travel with my sister and visit family in Southeast Asia during the month of April. Travelling and experiencing other cultures is a spiritual journey for me and rejuvenates my soul. It is difficult for me to leave my work behind but it eases my mind knowing there are others making themselves available in my absence. Many thanks to Carol Langford for taking up the reins, and to our contact community members Michelle and Mary.

Our children have enjoyed reading and crafts after school. They were especially excited to make cards gifts for their mothers for Mother's Day. We hope Mom enjoyed a relaxing bath with our homemade bath salts, cards and gifts.

Chefs from Growing Chefs Ontario are teaching and inspiring our 9 and 10 years old children with the love of cooking. This program always gets our children excited and I am lucky to have the opportunity to sample their healthy selections. Delicious!

Thank you May Court Club of London for sponsoring our Children's Nutrition programs. Each week school children enjoy a hot healthy meal at the unit. We also offer breakfast to start the day and snacks at programs. This summer we hope to pilot The Fruit Bowl so that children at play can enjoy a fruit snack.

We are thrilled to have received funding from London Life for our joint project of Social Skills Camps. Children aged 7 to 9 will be able to learn and practice social skills while participating in fun activities. The day camp for

Marconi will be held in August.

Everyday children are knocking on the door asking about overnight camps. We hope that you will consider helping to sponsor a child to attend the United Church of Canada's Camp Kee-Mo-Kee in Komoka. What an incredible experience to learn and grow, to meet new friends, and enjoy the great outdoors in a spiritual setting.

Wishing all of you a safe and happy summer.

Blessings,
Nancy

It is not too late to send a child to camp!

Send camp donations to
Nancy Howard,
267 Marconi Blvd
London, ON
Phone: 519-451-3709

Heather and Bryan Smith

Every Sunday for more than thirteen years, Heather and Bryan have checked the ELUCO food donation boxes at Rowntree Memorial United Church. Over the years the items collected have been taken to Gethsemane United Church, to Rowntree Memorial United Church while the food cupboard was being housed there, and now back to Gethsemane Gardens, the present home of the Food Cupboard. They do this task willingly and always with a smile when they drop off the donations.



Jo-Ann Gramlich

Jo-Ann has been volunteering at the ELUCO food cupboard on Friday mornings for more than twelve years. She has also followed the Food Cupboard in its journey from location to location. She always greets the clients with a smile and makes them feel welcome. Jo-Ann is an avid knitter and generously donates dish clothes, hats and mitts that she has made. She always arrives with her arms laden with donations.



Honouring Our Amazing Volunteers

We have many faithful volunteers who contribute to the work of ELUCO and thus help those less fortunate in our community. Your time and talents are greatly appreciated.



Amanda Woods

Amanda, you are a woman of action. We are so pleased that you spent over a year as a member of the ELUCO Board – we just wish that it could have been longer. Your enthusiasm and energy was appreciated. Your greatest legacy to us was the Abuse policy –we couldn't have done it without you. Thanks also for your involvement with the summer farm trip and of course our fundraising events. We wish you well in your new ventures and hope that you will continue to share your skills and expertise.



Martha Elliott

Martha, we were blessed to have you as part of the ELUCO Board for 2 short years. You brought with you a deep understanding of social justice that came in part from your involvement at First- St Andrew's. We appreciated your help with fundraising and your technical skills with producing newsletters. We want to wish you well as you pursue further education and sincerely hope that when it comes time for employment you can find a position that will maximize your high energy and many gifts. (Cont'd)



Volunteer Recognition Continued

Al and Vera Cross

Welcome Wednesday is a hospitality lunch program inspired by Susan Eagle of ELUCO and Lynn Williams of AGAPE Fellowship. It originated in 2009 with the help of funding from the Westminster College Foundation. Al and Vera Cross came on board at the beginning. Members of the Knollwood Baptist Church, they formed part of a team that prepared and served a one-week a month meal. Once Knollwood opted out of the once a month meal, Al and Vera continued to volunteer with our program every week. Our program would not be as successful without this wonderful couple. Their energy and organizational skills are second to none. They are one of the first to arrive and either help or direct the set up, get the 11 o'clock snacks and drinks under control, put the cutlery together and put the dishes away (no one can organize those dishes like Al). They are usually the last to leave making sure everything is in ship shape. Their consistent presence makes them the face of our program.

ELUCO Post-Secondary

Education Fund

Donations to this fund will allow us to support other young people in achieving their dreams. Send your donations to Nancy Howard, 267 Marconi Blvd, London, ON. London, ON .



Proud Moments!

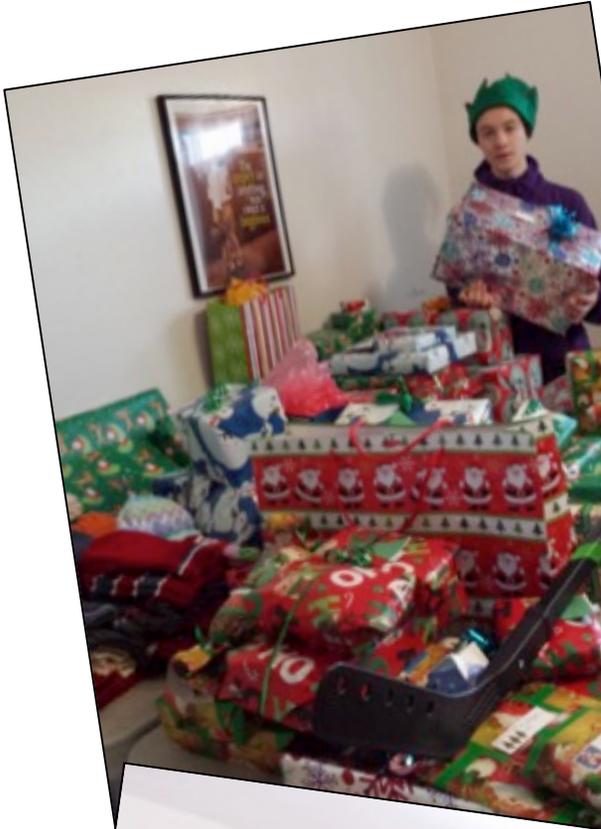
Congratulations Nico Wright! Many years ago, we gave a laptop and a small scholarship from our ELUCO Post-Secondary Education Fund to support Nico but we take no credit for his accomplishments to date. With determination and hard work, Nico pursued his passion with great success.

With help from OSAP and working at McDonald's to fund his way through college, Nico played basketball at Fanshawe College while pursuing his studies in the Recreation and Leisure Program for two years. He earned his diploma in 2014.

Nico went on to Brock University, playing basketball and working in the Central Equipment Room while studying Sports Management for three years. His placements included Managing Intramural Teams at Clarke Road Secondary School, Book Keeping and Marketing at Sports Express, and Manager of Basketball Operations for the London Lightning Basketball Team. Nico is currently volunteering his time to support the Lightning through the Championship games. Nico graduates with his degree in Sports Management this June!

Nico has family here and in Nova Scotia to love and encourage him. He says that his brothers helped to build his love of basketball and attributes his high school coach, Aaron Casella, for developing his skill and passion. A friend pointed him in the direction of Sports Management.

Nico is presently working at the YMCA as Site Director for Basketball Camps, and looking for work as a Sports Manager in basketball. It's been my pleasure knowing Nico and watching him grow into this fine young man with a heart of gold. We could not be any prouder of you Nico! We wish you much happiness and success as you pursue your dreams.



Heartfelt Thank You for a very Merry Christmas!

It seems strange typing about Christmas on a lovely spring day but we wanted to share once again our appreciation. When I run into folks in the community, they are still saying thank you for all the joy we brought to Christmas.

We are so lucky to have so many generous supporters of our ELUCO families in our midst. Richards Memorial provided gifts for 30 children on their angel tree. Metropolitan provided Christmas food hampers for 17 families. Siloam donated 5 turkeys, 5 hams and 2 turkey breasts. First-St. Andrews donated \$3000 in grocery and gift cards. Each classroom at Stoneybrook Public School sponsored a child totaling 20 children. Thorndale UCW, Rose Birrell and several families each sponsored a family with gifts and food. ELUCO sponsored 50 families this year. Many volunteers including some of the families receiving assistance come together for gift wrapping and deliveries. Indeed, there are angels among us.



Stoneybrook and J.P. Robarts School Children Sponsor ELUCO

In the past year, much attention has been drawn to the heart-breaking reality of the number of children living in poverty, even in our own London, Ontario. The Mayor's Poverty Panel produced its findings and many groups collaborated to come up with solutions and to lobby the government to make changes; to do something. In 30 years, really not much has changed; Poverty with all of its ramifications still rears its ugly head.

With the raised awareness and education, people are doing what they are able to help alleviate poverty. Even school children want to do their part. We are grateful for the partnerships we have with Stoneybrook Public School in North London, and J. P. Robarts Public School in our own Marconi neighbourhood. Stoneybrook students sponsored children with gifts in our Christmas Share Program and donated books galore to share in their For the Love of Books Program. Our children were so excited selecting their very own books to take home for the joy of reading. J.P. Robarts students did a canned food drive through their Me-to-We program. These donations are helping to alleviate hunger and sustain our families through some tough times.

Every little bit helps as we take steps to alleviate poverty. Thank you, Students, for your generosity and compassion.



Cinnamon Buns



Under the expert leadership of Elma Johnson, a crew of dedicated bakers met at Richards Memorial United Church each Monday morning during February and March to bake over 250 dozen delicious cinnamon buns! The kitchen buzzed with conversation and the intoxicating scent of cinnamon buns wafted through the church each week. The bakers included Elma, Linda Declercq, June Urquhart as well as members of the ELUCO board and the Marconi community. The sale of these buns raised over \$2000.00, which will be used to support ELUCO programs in the Marconi community of east London. Many thanks to all of you who baked, bought and ate cinnamon buns!



Contact ELUCO at:

East London United Church Outreach (ELUCO)
P.O. Box 32013, London ON, Canada,
N5V 5K4
email: eluco@bellnet.ca website: www.eluco.ca
phone: 519-451-3709

