



Who we are...

East London United Church Outreach (ELUCO) is a United Church ministry founded in 1984 that advocates for and supports people to build community in the midst of challenging circumstances. ELUCO's annual budget is approximately \$100,000. ELUCO needs your support with our fundraising efforts to help meet our needs. Funds generated from the Walk and Roll for Families on September 30, 2018 go directly to the work of our community worker, Nancy Howard, and Wednesday hospitality lunch program.

Our one paid full-time Community Outreach Worker develops programs to assist those in need to become more self-reliant.

- To support family needs
- To teach life skills
- To increase self-esteem
- To build community

This ministry primarily serves the Marconi community of south-east London, but also includes the ELUCO Food Cupboard at Gethsemane Gardens and the Welcome Wednesday Hospitality Lunch program in the Huron East corridor of north-east London.

After-school programs encompass:

- Reading buddies
- Homework help
- Cooperative games
- Crafts
- Cooking through a partnership with Growing Chefs Ontario



Healthy lifestyles programs focus on:

- Music
- Exercise
- Exploring healthy choices
- Coping skills
- Mental health
- Budget planning
- Employment readiness
- Conservation
- Opportunities to discuss relevant issues of concern and brainstorm solutions to effect change
- Collective Kitchen providing social time, team work in meal planning and preparation, and an opportunity to learn about other cultures
- Moms and Tots facilitates short term themed programs to learn and grow
- Sponsored day trips and camp registration to give families the opportunities they would not otherwise experience
- Ready for School to help ease children beginning Jr. Kindergarten into school activities
- Provide backpacks, school supplies and snacks for back-to-school
- Post-secondary education scholarship fund to assist students in their first year with books and tuition
- Love and hope to families through hampers of food and gifts at Christmas as well as a lunch and party for families and other activities during March Break and holidays.

Nancy is also available for counselling and support for individuals and families. She is an advocate at schools, court, Children’s Aid Society, Ontario Works, Ontario Disability Support Program, London Middlesex Housing Corporation, Housing Access Centre, Housing Stability Bank, Union Gas and London Hydro. She works with colleagues in the Advocates Group to lobby for social justice for low-income families and is able to make referrals to various agencies to support families.

Thank you for your continuing support!



Volunteer Recognition

We gratefully honour these volunteers for their commitment of time and caring to the families ELUCO seeks to support.



Bonita Wright

Bonita moved to Marconi in 2008 and has been a vital part of the community ever since. Having previously worked in classrooms and at a School Breakfast program, she fit right in and became a valued member of the ELUCO School Lunch Program team and volunteered with After School Programs and Special Events. Bonita has a visual and organized mind. She could always figure out and instruct the angles to move furniture around tight corners and make use of every available inch in packing the back of a pickup truck. Before, during and after the move of the unit to its current location, Bonita organized and packed dishes, books and craft supplies.

She is always the first to volunteer to help with ELUCO fundraisers and is often a friendly greeter at concerts and a welcome addition to

the Cinnamon Bun baking crew. She is my right hand in dividing and distributing fruits and vegetables from our London Food Coalition program for use in our programs or to give to families. Bonita has a huge heart and an amazing work ethic to go with it. With concern, she often tells me it's time to go home when I've put in a long day. Still you'll find Bonita right there assisting and especially during the Christmas rush, she refuses to quit until I do. A loving mother and grandmother, Bonita is the sounding board and a friend to many in the community because she listens and gives freely of her love. Words cannot measure and I surely appreciate Bonita as a volunteer, but even more so I am truly blessed with the friendship grown in our years together. Thank you for being part of our ELUCO team.

Tim Mailloux and Elizabeth Fluhrer

As one of the many coordinators of the Welcome Wednesday Hospitality lunch, I can't say enough about how valuable Tim and Elizabeth are to the success of our program. Tim was one of the original patrons. He volunteered to do our dishes very early on, and little did he know it would become a full-time job. I can't remember a time when he wasn't there.

Elizabeth came to us later and helps with the dishes by lifting those very heavy racks of clean dishes out of the dishwasher. It takes a strong person to do this as I found out, and Elizabeth manages this with ease.

We are just so grateful to have these two dependable persons every week from September to the end of June. They have become good friends of mine, the rest of the volunteers, and the patrons who attend the Lunch.



Linda Badke

Recently retired from the ELUCO Board of Directors after 23 years of dedicated service, Linda will never be able to separate herself as her name and face have become synonymous with ELUCO. Linda has participated as a Board Member in many capacities including Chair of the Board. With passion Linda continues to be a vocal advocate for ELUCO and our ministry everywhere she goes. She has written many successful grant applications on our behalf and participated in all of our fundraisers including our Annual Walk and Roll for Families, Cinnamon Buns, Voices of Broadway Concert and our Jazz Cabaret with the Sonja Gustafson Quintet. Linda is well-known to our families. She is the always the first to offer her services as volunteer driver to summer camp and special events. She's been at the unit sharing her leadership and teaching skills in our Reading Buddies, Ready for School and Tutoring programs. Linda was part of our Incorporated Ministries Committee and has represented ELUCO with the Display Board at London Conference and Presbytery. She's been a wonderful support as a member of my M&P Committee. I'd say Linda will be greatly missed, and that is true as a Member of our Board of Directors, but we know her heart is still with us and she continues as always to volunteer and support ELUCO. From the bottom of our hearts, we give thanks to you Linda, Volunteer Extraordinaire!



Congratulation Samantha Powless!

Carol Langford and I were absolutely thrilled to attend the Spring Convocation Ceremony at Brock University as Samantha Powless received her Bachelor of Arts (Honours) with First Class Standing! Samantha was a recipient of our ELUCO Post-Secondary Education Scholarship Fund. Daughter of the late Michelle Bloomfield who was a long-time resident, leader and friend at the Marconi complex and recent member of the ELUCO Board of Directors, we've been blessed to watch Samantha grow into such an amazing young lady. We wish your Mom could have been there too, and we certainly could not be any prouder!



Many children will have been lucky enough to spend time with our Sam, better known as "Peaches" at Camp Kee-Mo-Kee where she was the Program Director this summer. Her favourite parts of camp include low ropes, mud pit, campfire and vespers. Sam has been working with her Co-Assistant Director since 2013 when they did their LIT training together. "Its amazing to have both of us grow so much in our roles over the years at camp." Sam always finds her way back because "Kee-Mo-Kee is home and it's a place I feel safe. I get to work with youth. I'd like to be in Education and I get to work with people of all ages and teach them new skills, in so many capacities."

Currently Sam is back at Brock working on her MA in Political Science. She is taking six courses now and will spend the summer writing her MRP (Major Research Paper). In the next four months she will be applying for PhD programs all across Canada (Ontario, British Columbia and Quebec). Ever-humble, she says "Hopefully I'm accepted and can complete my PhD and be a Professor!" How fortunate for those who will be challenged and influenced by Sam in her teaching capacity.

Nancy's Notes

My goodness the summer just flew by! Packed with outdoor fun, it is one of my favourite times of the year. Without a doubt summer camps are the highlight for our Marconi community.

Through the generosity of our sponsors we were able to send 18 children to Camp Kee-Mo-Kee and 25 children to Stevenson Children's Camp. One of our youth participated in the Counsellor in Training program, and we had two Counsellors from our ELUCO families at Camp Kee-Mo-Kee. As well, the Program Director grew up with us! It brings great joy to watch these children grow and develop the skills that lead to successful futures. Children love attending our month-long Social Skills Camp where they work hard learning ten skills necessary for success in society. Three Staff and a Jr. Leader provided lots of opportunities to practice these skills in fun group activities. The children's faces beam with pride at the Graduation Ceremony when the staff present them with a photo plaque and share their story of successful learning. An important aspect of this camp is building relationships, so there are tears shed with goodbyes at the end of the month. Parents and teachers both reported noticing a difference in these children. The success of the Social Skills Camp program is over 25 years running.

We sponsored 3 children to attend the Go Project at First-St. Andrew's United Church. This program allows children/youth to really explore their faith and to participate in Mission and Service. Visits to several local organizations provided this team with a better understanding of the needs in our own community and how we can make a difference. *[Cont'd page 6]*



Camp photos thanks to the Camp Kee-Mo-Kee website.

Thank You Camp Sponsors!

Middlesex-London Optimist Club
 Byron United Church
 Rowntree Memorial United Church
 Individuals

First-St. Andrew's UCW
 Rowntree Memorial UCW
 White Oaks UCW
 Richards Memorial UCW



During that time, one sibling enjoyed the Vacation Bible Camp for an exciting week of fellowship and activity. Thank you, FSA, for your continued support and partnership.

A program of London Middlesex Housing in cooperation with the London Police Association and London Majors, many of our children play in the Rookie Ball League. I love to go watch the finals at Labatt Park with the parents. Our team consisting of children from Alan Rush and the Marconi complex showed sportsmanship and athletic ability as they won the Championship in a close game where until the announcement was made, we were not sure who was the winning team.

Ten young ladies spent two full days at the unit learning about safety, First Aid and child care in the Babysitting Course. Parents can feel comfortable leaving their children in the hands of youth with a Babysitting Course Certificate. Adults got involved in fun activities for the whole family with our Annual Fun at the Farm event. We enjoyed a Barbeque, swimming and picnic activities including water games, three-legged and potato sack races. It's rare to get out of the city for many of our families and the beauty and peacefulness of the country is a real treat. You won't find more welcoming hosts than Carol and Don Langford. Thank you so much from all of us!

Thanks to Rowntree Memorial United Church Outreach, our children were able to go back to school in style with backpacks and school supplies. Our "Lunch Ladies" miss everyone dearly so our School Lunch Program was back up and running on the second day of school. Other fall programs will be added as we determine the needs of our community.

I am truly blessed to have a job where I can share the lives and support of so many amazing people. With love in my heart, thank you all.



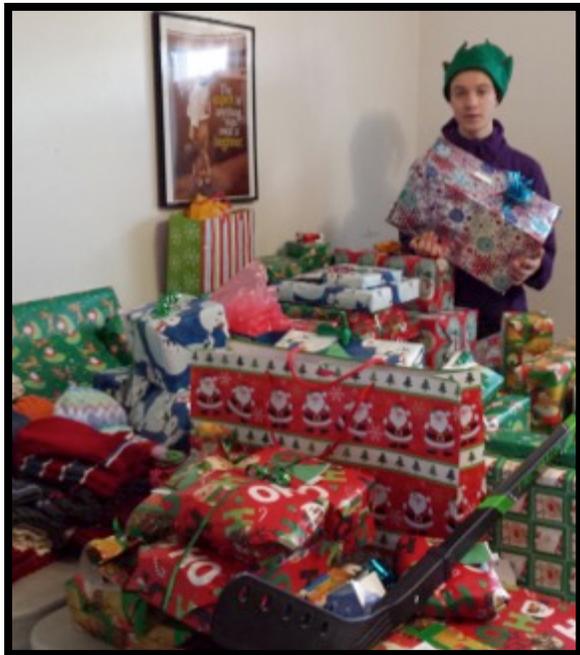
Savannah Shines!

Savannah is a born leader and children are drawn to her. Even as a small child she loved to be the helper in the programs she participated in, and took initiative to suggest and instruct new activities. Familiar with the program as a graduate of Social Skills Camp, looked up to and loved by neighbourhood children, Savannah was a natural choice for our Social Skills Camp Junior Leader.

From day one, Savannah jumped right in, going above and beyond the expectations of a Jr. Leader. With her contagious energy and good rapport, she was able to encourage participation, ensuring a positive experience for the young campers. Many times, I witnessed Savannah in teachable moments reinforcing the social skills being taught. Sometimes she had the responsibility of the Lead Staff and I told her that's because she is so awesome!

For a long time now, Savannah has known she wants to be a Camp Counsellor. Next summer she will apply for the Counsellor in Training program at Camp Kee-Mo-Kee and hopefully be able to work there sharing with children the joy she has found at camp. What lucky children who will be in Savannah's cabin!





Christmas Help Needed

I know. I know. We are barely out of summer and we are talking about Christmas. There's so much organization to provide our Christmas Share program that we need to start now. We cannot provide this program without your generosity. Please consider sponsoring a family, or providing a gift or gift card to supplement Christmas celebrations for our families. We are blessed

Mark your Calendars:

Sept. 28, 2018

**Walk and Roll for Families
Springbank Park**

November – December 2018

Christmas Share Donations

March 2nd 2019

**Voices of Broadway Show Choir Concert
Siloam United Church**

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