

Elim Village Voice

A newsletter by the residents and for the residents of Elim Village —
a Christian retirement community

April 2010

Volume 10 Issue 4

Busy Hands Stitch Love and Hope

The sound of clicking needles signifies busy hands transforming yarn into gifts of love and hope. Sometimes the Emerald women meet as a group on Monday afternoons or they work diligently in their own suites. All the knitters in the Emerald met one afternoon in March for a "Donation Presentation". Collectively they showed their work and then donated the items to charity. Over 108 hats, 80 dish cloths and an array of other items filled the display tables.

Naphalie, a staff worker in the local Monarch Place transition home, came to accept dish cloths, toques, socks and slippers. She thanked the knitting group for its love and explained how clients coming through the home appreciate the encouragement shown to them in the form of

handmade gifts.

Kevin, well-known to Elim residents as part of the maintenance staff, regularly travels to Lusaka, Zambia to live at the "House of Moses" orphanage and work on a construction project. After returning from a one-month trip there last July, Kevin challenged the knitting women to make toques for the babies in the orphanage. Residents responded and presented a table full of tiny hats, colorful face cloths and warm blankets, which Kevin will take with him when he leaves for Africa in April for a year-long commitment.

Both Naphalie and Kevin expressed appreciation for the enthusiasm with which the ladies knit their gifts for people they will never meet. Whether locally or halfway around the world, many will benefit from the loving hearts and busy hands of the Emerald knitters.



Naphalie (left) is just learning how to knit so she appreciates the work residents like Mary (right) put into their crafts.



With the help of heartwarming pictures, Kevin entralls residents with stories about where their hand knit hats and blankets end up in Africa.

But Wait, There's More

A second set of steady knitters has been meeting once a month for over eight years. This group of twelve residents also functions as a support to each other and some residents just come to visit or drink tea. The list of projects they have been involved in over the years is a long one. For their latest venture they are knitting dish cloths for "Doctors Without Borders" and in the past month alone, over 40 dish cloths have been needled into existence.

These women too use their skills to benefit those nearby and far away. Their dedication and passion are continuing examples of how Elim residents never retire from helping others.

Knitting Group Schedules

Emerald Knitters:

Meet every Monday at 2 p.m. in the lower lounge of the Emerald.

Independent Living Knitters:

Meet the first Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. in the second floor lounge of the Bowron.

Both groups welcome everyone.

"Then they came to Elim where there were twelve springs of water and seventy palm trees, so they camped there by the waters." Exodus 15:27 (NKJ)

If Only...

If only the newsletter were still eight pages, you could read about the recent penpal letter exchange between the grade three class of Surrey Christian School and the Elim Creative Writing Class. Both groups met in the Oasis one morning for a fantastic intergenerational experience.

 <p>Elim Village A newsletter by the residents and for the residents of the Elim retirement community. Number 2010</p> <p>Students and Seniors Share Elim residents met with students from Surrey Christian School for an intergenerational experience. The students shared their writing with the residents and the residents shared their stories with the students. Other pairs included such as a grade 3 student and a resident who were working on their own grandparent stories. Resident shared the story and got the student's feedback. The student got some reading practice and saw how the story was shared. Both the student and the resident had a great time and will see each other again soon.</p> <p>Got a Pen? Here's the Challenge... In January one of the grade three classes from Surrey Christian School visited Elim. The students and residents shared their writing. The students shared their writing with the residents and the residents shared their stories with the students. Other pairs included such as a grade 3 student and a resident who were working on their own grandparent stories. Resident shared the story and got the student's feedback. The student got some reading practice and saw how the story was shared. Both the student and the resident had a great time and will see each other again soon.</p> <p><i>"Thank you again to the students who visited Elim."</i></p>	<p><i>We get asked all the time, but so sorry, the other half of the newsletter is gone forever!</i></p>
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And you could read about the pastoral care volunteer appreciation luncheon honoring the 197 people that contribute to this ministry. Who rolled up their sleeves to organize, set up, serve and clean up the event? Volunteers, of course.

And you could read about another volunteer appreciation tea to honor those who generously give time to Emerald and Harrison residents.

And you could read about the huge surprise birthday party that ended up not being a surprise but still a smashing success.

And you could read about which residents won the Elimpic balcony decorating contest.

If only the newsletter were still eight pages...

Elim Rests In Good Hands

By George Goertzen
Chair of Residents' Council

As a relatively new chair of Residents' Council, it's been my privilege to have been invited to attend two recent meetings of the Board of Directors of Elim Housing Society.

My first impression was that this group of men and women has a wide assortment of gifts and a varied range of skills from many different professions. They take board meetings very seriously. This was soon evidenced by their perceptive comments and suggestions, which resulted in motions and poignant discussions and votes. It was a very collegial meeting.

Board members listen to each other, take notes and obviously use their gifts to inform, advise and guide the group toward promoting the vision of Elim Village. Even though their educational and business backgrounds are quite varied, they are all united regarding the goal and vision of Elim Village. I was very impressed.

From someone who is a resident at Elim and has put the remainder of his residential life, so to speak, in the hands of this board, these facts are most reassuring. I left the meetings feeling grateful that we, as residents of Elim Village, at every level are privileged and blessed to live here and can rest assured that the Elim Board of Directors is dedicated to giving Elim Village long term consistent management and leadership.

From Elim Housing Society

The trailer for the marketing office has been moved to the gravel parking lot to make room for the construction of building "K". The timing for hooking up the water, electricity and sewer is uncertain, so the marketing office is temporarily located in the family room on the lower level in the Oasis and will be moved back to the trailer sometime in April or May. Meanwhile the telephone number stays the same at 604-582-5579.



In Short ...

Grief & Loss Support Group

This newly formed group sponsored through Elim's pastoral care ministry, meets from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays of every month in the Multi-purpose Room of the Emerald. All residents, staff and the general public are welcome.

Therapeutic Garden

The Garden Committee has adjusted the Harrison therapeutic garden fundraising goal to \$15,000. (When matched by the Elim foundation, this will provide a \$30,000 budget.) To date, over \$12,000 has already been raised. (Elim residents: see insert letter from the Garden Committee for more detail.)

Elim Garage Sale

Friday and Saturday, June 4 & 5

Upcoming Concerts In the Oasis

The Vancouver Trio

Saturday, April 3 at 7 p.m.

John Knox Christian School

Friday, April 9 at 10:30 a.m.

Note this special daytime concert. Let's come out to show our support for these young people.

Blazing Fiddles

Wednesday, April 28 at 7 p.m.

In Loving Memory

The Emerald:

Marilyn Johnston: 1944 - 2010

Emmilien Davis: 1908 - 2010

Beryl Ward: 1919 - 2010

