

Ecumenical Campus Ministry News

Lecture Series and Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal

(Photo credit to Graham Ruttan)



The end of January saw ECM hold the first Cade Community lecture series since before Covid and it was a big success. Erin's talk on the first night began with the presentation of a Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal for her work as chaplain supporting students during the pandemic.



100 Women Who Care

Four times a year the group “100 Women Who Care” meet to hear presentations from three non-profit groups about their work in the community. The women present, who have each donated \$100 then vote on which group will receive the donation. ECM was delighted and honoured to be chosen as the recipient

of the March donation. \$10,600 was donated to support the work of ECM on our two campuses and has already made it possible for us to respond in new ways to the stresses and needs of the students on campus. This incredible gift is already making a big difference in the lives of our students!

Smiles and Snacks

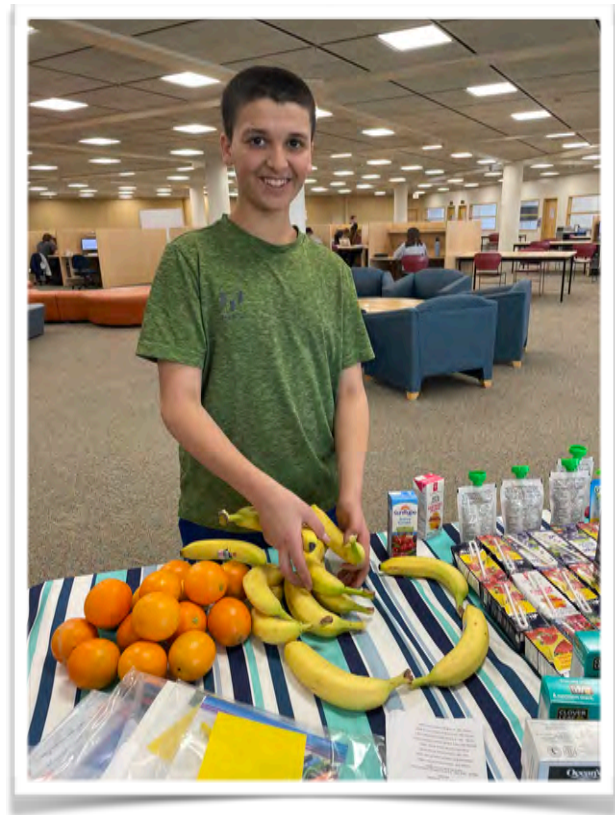
We know food insecurity has been much worse this spring than usual on our campuses and the end of term is always a really high stress time for



students so we were really happy we could offer a little support! Thanks to the generous donation from 100 Women Who Care we were able to provide

snacks to students at both the college and university in April.

Under the auspices of the Kerber Friendship Programme, volunteers



handed out all sorts of snacks to students at two locations, the Rec Room in the Science Commons and the 24 Hour study room in the library. We also had “mental health kits,” bags of arts supplies, lego, or fidget spinners for students to take for a little break. Ten volunteers handed out treats to around 500 students over nine days and received much thanks! At the college Lori Harasem, the Health Promotion Coordinator for Wellness Services had a team of students handing out snacks all over campus. They were a very welcome sight for studying students!

Lori Harasem

**Health Promotion Coordinator,
Wellness Services - Lethbridge
College — "The Food Fairies."**

We have been so fortunate to reach students in a number of different ways, from being stationed in strategic locations to pushing a snack cart around campus. No matter where we go the students find us and are so excited, and often surprised, as we are able to offer them some healthy snacks and some treats. For many, fresh fruit is such a rarity that they get very excited when they see the oranges, apples, and bananas.

We have been able to pair the food up with mental health activities and information on local resources and supports both on campus and in the community, so that we are able to look at the student's mental and physical well-being while providing them with much needed activities and food. The



number of students who tell us stories about not having any money and trying to find jobs so that they are relying on food banks and going

without, is startling. Many have nicknamed us "The Food Fairies."

The gratitude is heard over and over as students thank us and we always respond with the fact that it was donations that made this possible and they often then tell us to thank the donors. We wish you could hear their voices, some even cracking with emotion, as they are given the chance to take what they need. There are many people we see who we would never guess are struggling as much as they are, but instructors tell us of students asking to miss class for an hour so they can go to the food bank before it closes, and we know that food security really is an issue on campus. We have done so much this last month of school to help students because of you. Sincerely, thank you - it is making a difference and providing students with hope....Lori



Wellness Wednesday Breakfast

ECM was delighted to host breakfast for 300+ students at the college on Wellness Wednesday which happened on International Women's Day. ECM board member Dillon Hausauer returned to her alma mater to greet students and reconnect with old friends



Supporting ECM

Ecumenical Campus Ministry relies on the support we receive from our denominational partners, our congregations, and from individuals.

Over the years as our programming and presence on campus has expanded we have come to rely even more on donations from individuals. We can not do what we do without your financial support. We have been encouraged by the response to direct appeals and are delighted when we receive unexpected gifts.

There are two ways you can support ECM. The first is to send a cheque payable to **ECM c/o Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd (2406 11 Ave S, Lethbridge, AB T1K 0K8)**. The second is to contribute online through Canada Helps at <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/ecumenical-campus-ministry/>

To make a regular monthly contribution please contact us at ecm.erin@gmail.com. ECM is a registered charity and issues tax receipts for donations of \$25 and over.

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The University of Lethbridge and
Lethbridge College stand on the
traditional territory of the
Blackfoot Confederacy