



## L'Arche Named Not-for-Profit Organization of the Year

L'Arche Greater Vancouver has been named the "Not-for-Profit Organization of the Year" by the City of Burnaby and the Burnaby Board of Trade. The award, presented at the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Burnaby Business Excellence Awards Gala on November 6, 2008, recognized the not-for-profit organization that has made an outstanding contribution to the Burnaby community and its citizens and in doing so has made Burnaby a better place to live, work and play.

In her acceptance speech Executive Director Denise Haskett acknowledged the importance of the award. "Through this award you haven't just recognized an organization; you are recognizing those who often have great difficulty finding their place in society. You are telling them that they are welcome...that they have friends in this community. Society is richer when everyone, regardless of race, religion, culture, ability or disability, can find a place and reveal their gifts. L'Arche strives to be such a place, and the City of Burnaby is a place where we can share those gifts and they are welco-

med. Together we are stronger."

We are grateful to former City Councillor Gary Begin for sponsoring the nomination and to Laurie Duke and 'Nita Venter of GigaLuma Technologies, Antonia Beck of South Burnaby Neighbourhood House and family-member Judy Carter-Smith who wrote letters of support.

L'Arche is eager to see how this recognition will help them develop new relationships in the City of Burnaby.



Denise Haskett receives the Award from Dirk Odenwald of ABC Recycling (sponsors of the Not-for-Profit Category).

## Annette's Journey to L'Arche

Annette Kuhn arrived in L'Arche Greater Vancouver on September 7, 1997 from Filderstadt, Germany. She had lived in a L'Arche community in Switzerland for four months and thought that experience was quite incredible.

She had assisted people with developmental disabilities before, but she was unprepared for the level of care required at Creation House. Later she moved to Nazirah where she would later



Annette with Ken, one of her housemates.

become House Leader and Director of Residential Programs.

It was during a challenging morning routine her stay at Creation House that Annette felt God speaking to her. She remembers how frustrated she was with having to wash bedding yet again and trying to rush someone along so she could get everything done.

"I was waiting in the hallway when I felt God telling me 'But he's beautiful to me, Annette. I love him.' This realization changed something in me. In God's eyes this person is beautiful, even when he yells at people or wets his bed."

Annette continues to learn about love and acceptance. "I became aware of how conditional my love was and how easy it is to love someone who is pleasant and kind. It's harder when you don't necessarily get anything in return. I learned and am still learning to accept other people's weaknesses and recognize my own."

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### The Mission of L'Arche is to:

*Make known the gifts of people with developmental disabilities, revealed through mutually transforming relationships.*

*Foster an environment in community that responds to the changing needs of our members, while being faithful to the core values of our founding story.*

*Engage in our diverse cultures, working together toward a more human society.*

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## From Denise's Desk: Growing in Remarkable and Unexpected Ways

As I reflect on the past year, I am filled with a deep gratitude for all of the people who have been part our community and shared so generously of their gifts. I am thankful for the Mission of L'Arche which calls us to reach out and be a welcoming presence and a sign of hope in the larger community. We have grown in some remarkable and unexpected ways in the living out of our mission this year.

Inspired by the mandate, our community theme this year was "Trusting in God, may be light for the world". One part of this mandate is "to increase public awareness of L'Arche and its mission." Circumstances challenged us to focus our energies and take new steps in this area!

In 2007 L'Arche received a much needed increase from Community Living BC, our primary funder, to address years of chronic underfunding of our homes and day programs. However, later that year we were notified that

this funding could not be sustained and would cease within months. We began our mandate believing we were moving towards financial stability but that changed suddenly and dramatically.

We decided to take action by telling our story to churches, community groups and the media. We initiated a letter writing campaign that resulted in meetings with all three levels of government. Although it has been very challenging at times to put ourselves in the spot light, I believe this process has already borne much fruit. L'Arche is now better known in the larger community and we have made many new friends.

Being named "Not-for-profit Organization of the Year" by the City of Burnaby and the Burnaby Board of Trade emphasizes that it has been a year of building stronger relationships in our community. To receive this award has been a very humbling experience and was beyond our wildest dreams a year ago.

I am so grateful to each person that is part of this community, for the unique gift they

are in this journey together. It has been a blessing to work with the leadership team and the Board. Their wisdom and faithfulness have been a tremendous support to me and the whole community. We are being asked to grow and change in so many ways and I believe that God is leading us and lighting our path.

Let us move into a new year with hope!

*Denise Haskett*

Denise Haskett,  
Community Leader/ Executive Director



## Outreach - Welcoming the Burnaby Business Community

On August 28, 2008 L'Arche Greater Vancouver did something new...we welcomed over 100 people from the Burnaby Board of Trade for a Member's Reception. We planned to hold the event in our courtyard with everyone working tirelessly to get everything in order. However, the weather did not oblige and instead we hosted inside the building.

Community Leader Denise Haskett pointed out the importance of the event by stating "This was a wonderful way to show our larger community who we are and build new relationships. As stated in our mandate, we were able to further our mission by increasing public awareness of L'Arche."



Our friends from Cobs Bread with Sig Stark of L'Arche (centre).

The evening's activities included Board Members' networking, and an opportunity to tour our meeting areas, two of our houses and our day programs. There was also a short PowerPoint presentation in which people could learn more about our life together. Community members mingled as greeters, served refreshments and offered tours.

The Burnaby Board of Trade later reported the event on their website stating "Warm and welcoming was the atmosphere at the Members' Reception last week. Despite the rain, L'Arche hosted a record turn-out with notable attendance from City of Burnaby politicians including Councillor Gary Begin and MLA Raj Chouhan. The free event was a-buzz with smiling volunteers, new members, and Board representatives."

We gained many new friends, some of whom have shown interest in participating as Board Members and possible donors. We continue to hear how meaningful and inspiring the evening was to those who attended.



Guests mingle at the Burnaby Board of Trade Member's Reception hosted by L'Arche Greater Vancouver



We gratefully acknowledge the sponsors who made the evening possible:

- Winspeer International**
- Dussa's Ham and Cheese**
- Metrotown Save on Foods**
- Cactus Club**
- Dinners Ready**
- Patricia Sereno - Harpist**
- Nettwerk Music Group**



### Kolkata 2008

Every three years representatives from L'Arche communities around the globe gather for the L'Arche International Federation Meetings. In October L'Arche Greater Vancouver sent two representatives to Kolkata, India to be informed of the activities of other L'Arche communities and to share our experiences. The following excerpt is taken from the report given by the International Coordinators and President to the General Assembly at that event.

We live in a rapidly changing world and over the last three years our communities have been confronted with a number of new challenges coming from both within, with the new and developing needs of our

members, and without, under the impact of new government legislation, and a changing economic and political climate... We remain a pilgrim people, searching the way to fully live out our identity and mission. We hear again and again stories of new life, of old lives transformed.

As a pilgrim people we are called to continue to share our stories, to witness God's faithfulness in our journey and the life we receive from one another. We are called to give thanks for the good in our lives, and there is so much.

We want to give thanks for the gift of daily life in our communities; for the faithfulness of so many of our members and the continued arrival of new people who find new meaning

give thanks for the quality of the people who hold leadership roles throughout the Federation.

We want to give thanks to Jean Vanier who took the risk to say yes to Jesus' call, to say yes to Père Thomas, Raphael and Philippe and who is saying yes today to a new stage in his life, a new mission, "gaining a new way to live".

Our communities are not and should never be self-sufficient; we rely on those who join us in our journey, in our mission: as friends to individuals or communities, as fundraisers or those who respond to their invitation by giving money, as 'spiritual members' praying faithfully for us in their monasteries or homes. For all these people we want to give thanks.



Jean Vanier and friends in Kolkata, India. October 2008.



Canadian L'Arche representatives in India (L to R) Peggy Loescher, Rachael Reynolds, Denise Haskett and Hollee Card.

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Currently Annette is putting her teaching degree to good use as the Coordinator of Quality Assurance and Training. She works in the Administration office but still lives a few blocks away at Nazirah House.

"My housemates at Nazirah really are my friends. They prayed for me when my Grandmother was sick and grieved with me when she died. They ask about my parents, they make sure I have had lunch and that I get out of my office."

"In community you don't have a choice of who is in community with you, you have to learn to trust and support each other".

When asked what advice she would give new assistants she replied "Stay longer – it just gets better."

### Tribute Giving

L'Arche Greater Vancouver gratefully acknowledges the gifts made in celebration of the following individuals:

**Sr. Normande Bedard**

**Deidre Lane**

**Sr. Noreen O'Neill**

If you would like to honour someone with a gift to L'Arche Greater Vancouver, please contact Sig Stark at 604.435.9544 x.35.



### Major Blessings

Summer/Fall 2008

\$20,000

**Newalta**

\$18,000

**Saint Mary's Health Foundation**

### Help us by Supporting L'Arche Greater Vancouver's Activities

We invite our friends and donors to participate in the work of L'Arche Greater Vancouver by supporting our current needs.

#### Transportation Fund

- Our current vehicles need to be put to rest – help us purchase new (or good quality used) vehicles

#### Neighbours Helping Neighbours Day Program

- Shed for equipment storage
- Gardening equipment

#### Holiday Fund

- Transportation and accommodation
- Daytime holiday activities

#### Accessibility Fund

- To purchase specialized equipment and/or renovate facilities to make them more accessible to meet the needs of our members.

For more information on how you can support specific L'Arche activities, please call our Director of Development, Sig Stark at 604.435.9544 x.35 or e-mail her at [stark@larchevancouver.org](mailto:stark@larchevancouver.org)

### Drink Coffee & Support L'Arche

We're selling Blenz coffees with the option of organic, fair trade and bird friendly as well as organic loose leaf tea to raise funds for our community. All profits go to L'Arche and all purchases are tax deductible. Great selections for your home or office! For more info visit our website.

Purchase online at [www.BlenzCares.com](http://www.BlenzCares.com) (indicate L'Arche Greater Vancouver as your charity of choice) OR place an order directly with us at 604.435.9544 x.33 or [development\\_assistant@larchevancouver.org](mailto:development_assistant@larchevancouver.org)



L to R: Trudi Shaw, Sue Allen, Sig Stark and Denise Haskett of L'Arche Greater Vancouver at the 9th Annual Burnaby Business Excellence Awards. November 6, 2008.

**L'Arche was named Not-for-Profit Organization of the Year.**

We invite you to share our message by passing along your copy of this newsletter to someone else.

<p><b>Here is my gift of:</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$ 500   <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 250   <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 100   <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 50   <input type="checkbox"/> Other: \$ _____</p> <p>Name: Mr. Mrs. Ms. _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>City: _____ Postal Code: _____</p> <p>Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____</p> <p>Please make cheques or money orders payable to the <b>L'Arche Foundation of Greater Vancouver</b>. Charitable Registration #137648671-RR0001.</p> <p>I would like more information on:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> L'Arche Greater Vancouver   <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteering</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Planned Giving   <input type="checkbox"/> Receiving the Newsletter</p> <p>I hereby give my permission for my name to be published on our donor recognition list.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes   <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>Make this \$ _____ donation a monthly gift.</p> <p>Please charge my gift to my:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> VISA   <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard</p> <p>Name on Card _____</p> <p>Credit Card No. _____</p> <p>Expiry Date (y/m) _____</p> <p>Signature _____</p> <p>Telephone: _____</p>
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