



## Home Run for L'Arche! : The Canada Life Softball Tournament

Although it's been a few months, we are still smiling about the friends we made and the fun we had at the 2012 Canada Life Charity Tournament. Hip Hip Hooray for:

- Our Ark Angels ball team and Cheer Team!
- Our volunteers who worked at the various stations and made sure everyone had a good time.
- Everyone who contributed to the Silent Auction and donated prizes for the activities.
- Our sponsors, donors and friends who made sure we would meet our goal.
- Canada Life for putting on an amazing day and making sure everyone was well taken care of!

Together with the money we raised and Canada Life's matching gift we have **\$39,455 for a new vehicle.** We look forward to inviting our friends from Canada Life to L'Arche to say thanks and show them the new vehicle.

The Ark Angel cheerleaders!



Everyone in front of our Canada Life van



We invite you to share your copy of this newsletter.

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I would like to become an Ark Builder  
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**HERE IS MY GIFT OF:**

\$500  \$250  \$100  \$50  Other \_\_\_\_\_

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**METHOD OF PAYMENT:**  
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Privacy Policy: L'Arche adheres to and respects the Personal Information and Privacy Act. We do not sell, trade or rent our mailing list.

## Upcoming Events

**Ten Thousand Villages Sale for L'Arche**  
 Shop with love on Sunday, December 9 at the Ten Thousand Villages on Commercial Drive where 15% of the day's proceeds will be donated to L'Arche.

Sunday, December 9th, 10am – 8pm  
 1204 Commercial Drive, Vancouver

**The 4th Annual Art of Being Together**  
 Our signature event featuring community-themed art.

Saturday, March 9th, 2013 1pm – 5pm  
 Nikkei Museum and Heritage Centre  
 6688 Southoaks Crescent, Burnaby

**Public Talk with Ruth Patterson**  
 Mark this event in your calendar! Join us as we welcome the first woman to be ordained to the ministry of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and author of "A Farther Shore" based on her passion for peace and reconciliation. Ruth is regular presenter with Jean Vanier in Trosly France.

Friday, May 24th, 2013 7pm  
 Old Music Hall at UBC  
 6361 Memorial Road, Vancouver BC



## Winter 2012 NEWSLETTER

### A Parent's Perspective By Diane Bruce

I recently addressed the Ark Builder's Brunch from my perspective as a parent whose daughter lives at L'Arche. I began by describing the typical days of two different young adults.

The first young person awakens with the alarm, gets ready for work, grabs her cell phone and backpack, and hurries off to catch the bus. She



Diane Bruce speaking to the guests at the Ark Builders Brunch

puts in the required hours at her part time job and then heads home, mindful of her commitment to go to exercise class or to have coffee with a friend. She looks forward to a vacation she's going on with her housemates. When she gets home she tumbles into the hubbub of the household's day to day life, secure in the knowledge that she's where she belongs.

Contrast this with another young person's typical experience. Her mom wakes her up. She'd rather stay in bed, but turns on the TV and plunks down in front of it. Her mom pesters her to have breakfast and hovers around, asking what the plan is for that day. Mom has a date with friends but they're not her daughter's friends. The daughter tells her mom that she just wants to stay home by herself. She might walk over to the mall. She could take a bus somewhere, but really, there's no place to go.



Christina Bruce introducing her mother

She remembers that it's Friday and her mom has registered her for an evening social programme at the community centre. It's sort of fun, but she never sees the other participants except at the programme. She's kind of anxious when she meets new people - usually it just feels safer to stay home. Her day passes much like many others.

The first of these typical days reflects a day in my daughter Christina's life. The second is a composite of the day to day experiences of the adult children of several long-time friends. Christina lives at L'Arche; the others still live at home.

All of these people have Down Syndrome. They grew up in loving families that advocated for inclusion in school and in the community. They have attended special education college programmes. They all learned to travel independently on the bus and can read. They have many gifts, abilities, strengths and weaknesses. They need meaningful work and challenges, opportunities for fun with friends and for authentic relationships with people outside of their families. They want a chance to be independent. If their needs are chronically not met they are vulnerable to depression and emotional distress.

Christina has lived at L'Arche for the last nine years. She lives a very full life. Her gifts are valued, her talents are nurtured and her shortcomings are accepted. She is challenged to accept responsibility and to take risks. She is involved in the planning of community activities, and her opinions and ideas are important. She has a wide circle of friends and acquaintances and a social life that is independent of her family. Without L'Arche, Christina's experience would have been quite different. I will be forever grateful that L'Arche and all it stands for came into our lives.



Diane and Christina at the Ark Builders Brunch

### Our Mission 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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Editor: Sig Stark



## From Denise's Desk:



### Our 2013 Community Theme

In reflecting and praying about a theme for the year, I found myself both looking back with much gratitude for all that has been, and looking forward with hopeful expectation at the exciting possibilities in the year to come...in my reflections the scripture that kept coming to me is in

Paul's letter to the Ephesians **"Glory to God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God, from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, forever and ever, Amen."**

The words of this little prayer resonate deeply with me on a personal level, when I think of my own life's unfolding and in particular **my vocation in L'Arche which indeed has been more than I could have asked or imagined.** They are words from which I take great hope when I think about the future of this community and of L'Arche around the world. This prayer is an invitation to trust in God's timing and transforming power as we strive to live out the mission of L'Arche. It is a reminder that our God is a God of infinite possibility and a God of relationship who desires to work in and through each one of us to create a better world for all, and especially for those who are on the margins or excluded. It reminds us that over the generations God has always been there and will continue to be there into the future.

I believe L'Arche is an example of God's creative power working in Jean Vanier, and in so many who have joined L'Arche to bring incredibly diverse peoples together in community as a sign of hope in our world.

When Jean, a devout Roman Catholic man, founded that first L'Arche home in 1964 in France, he did not have a plan to start an international federation of intentional communities that would become ecumenical and interfaith. He did not have this plan, but I believe God did. **L'Arche has become more than Jean could have asked or imagined.**

Two summers ago we were approached by a local church that was sponsoring a family from Iraq consisting of two elderly parents and their daughter with Down Syndrome. The church wanted to know if L'Arche could be a resource for this family's daughter. After many visits, and much dialogue (with translators helping) we were able to respond to this family's urgent need. In January we welcomed Aly'a into our Emmaus Day program. Aly'a is a young Sunni Muslim woman, whose limited speech is mostly in Arabic. When I asked her father how they would feel about her participating in morning prayer at Emmaus he exclaimed that would be fine...and that we all pray to the same God! I was really moved by what he said.

It has been both a challenge and a delight to welcome Aly'a who brings so much life to the program. She is coming two mornings a week now, supported by an Arabic speaking volunteer and as she leaves she often turns and with a big smile says to everyone "I'll be back". This time last year we had no idea that we would be welcoming and building relationship with a young Muslim woman... **Glory to God whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine...**

*Denise Haskett*

## L'Arche Art Cards and Calendars are now available!

These designs were created by people at the Emmaus Day Program. This year, there are 4 Christmas card designs to choose from..

A



B



C



D



Our new 2013 calendars feature paintings by people with and without developmental disabilities in the L'Arche community.

To read more about the story behind each painting visit our blog at [larchevancouver.wordpress.com](http://larchevancouver.wordpress.com)

**Calendars \$10.00 ea**

**Christmas Cards are \$2.00 ea**



**To order L'Arche Christmas Cards or Art Calendar contact us at 604 435 9544 ext 33 or [development\\_assistant@larchevancouver.org](mailto:development_assistant@larchevancouver.org)**



## Ark Builders Brunch

Each fall we welcome people to an Ark Builders brunch at L'Arche. Even though we may not see them throughout the year we think of them often and always with gratitude.

Ark Builders are generous donors who give significantly to keep our particular "ark" afloat. This brunch is our chance to say thanks in person, let them know what's been happening and our plans for the coming year. We also offer them a tour so they can see how their gifts are being used.

This year our Ark Builders were the first to hear about our 2013 theme from Denise Haskett and then from Diane Bruce whose talk is featured in this edition's cover story.



*The thank-you banner made by members of the Emmaus Centre*

We're also grateful to Lily, Helena, Joyie and Zwaantje who served breakfast and to Starbucks for providing the coffee.



If you'd like to know how you can join the Ark Builder's Circle call Sig Stark at 604-435-9544 ex 35 or email at [sstark@larchevancouver.org](mailto:ssstark@larchevancouver.org)

*Our donors and community members enjoying brunch together*

## 2012—2013 Board of Directors

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## Tribute Giving

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

*Edmund Byron  
Adam Hackett  
Ivo Lambin  
Raymond McVie  
Gisele Sykes  
Barrie Thomson  
Gord Thomson*

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

*Betty Campbell*

## L'Arche Greater Vancouver receives the highest level of CARF accreditation !

We are delighted to announce that L'Arche Greater Vancouver has once again been awarded a CARF three-year accreditation for our Community Housing and Community Integration programs. The three-year accreditation is a reflection of L'Arche's dedication and commitment to provide the highest quality of life for the people we serve and to continue to make improvements in a variety of aspects of the organization.

