

# The Added Value of L'Arche



## UNIQUE MODEL OF CARING

L'Arche began in France in 1964 with the inspiration of Canadian humanitarian and social visionary Jean Vanier. It was his concern for people with developmental disabilities that prompted him to invite two men from a local institution to live with him.

This simple act of welcome and compassion inspired a global movement that has changed the lives of thousands. Today there are 154 L'Arche communities in 38 countries around the world.

L'Arche is a unique model of support for people with developmental disabilities. Central to the identity of L'Arche is the shared commitment to recognize the unique value of every person and the belief that difference is not only welcomed, it is celebrated. A governing philosophy of L'Arche communities is Vanier's belief that people with disabilities are teachers and have a contribution to offer society.

L'Arche's mission statement includes *"to make known the gifts of people with developmental disabilities revealed through mutually transforming relationships."* These relationships celebrate the unique value of every person and recognize our need for one another. Together in intentional community, we discover our shared humanity and need to belong.

**L'ARCHE**<sup>®</sup>  
GREATER VANCOUVER

"One of the marvelous things about community is that it enables us to welcome and help people in a way we couldn't as individuals."

—Jean Vanier, Founder of L'Arche

**WE ALL  
BELONG**  
CAMPAIGN







## TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCE

Unique to the L'Arche model are the assistants who live, work and participate in the daily life of the community, building meaningful, mutual relationships with people with developmental disabilities. During their stay of one or more years, many come to recognize and embrace their responsibility to create a better world. Often, they report that the values they learned while living at L'Arche had a significant and lasting impact on their career choices and family life.

## INTENTIONAL COMMUNITY

In a large city where many people often feel isolated and alone, L'Arche is a valuable asset that offers community. We recognize that many individuals, not only those with a disability, are challenged with isolation and loneliness. It is recognized that isolation and loneliness are the most disabling conditions in society today. Our commitment to intentional community deepens relationships, strengthens belonging and invites the contribution of everyone.



## AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Our project enhances and expands the features that have served us well. L'Arche will continue to provide homes and community inclusion programs where people with and without developmental disabilities share life together in community. Unique to this project is the addition of 10 units for those who can live more independently with support, and 29 units of affordable housing. This creates opportunities for individuals, couples and families to experience the nourishment of community and the transformative power of relationships with a diverse group of people.



### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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