



BUILDING A WORLD  
WHERE

EVERYONE  
BELONGS



FALL 2022

## We All Belong Event

Living Change Together and  
Creating Unity for the Future

People at L'Arche have lived through a great deal of change in the last two years. There was the isolation felt during the pandemic, leaving a building that contained almost 50 years of memories, settling into a temporary location while imagining what life would be like in our new building.

Our **"We All Belong"** event was a way for us to address these concerns that were also an important aspect of our 2021 Community Mandate. In the mandate we committed ourselves to **"be resilient in times of change and challenge and renew, rebuild relationships, and ways of living community."**

With these goals in mind, we set aside two days to gather, hear the findings of our COVID healing

sessions facilitated by Cynthia Richardson, and reflect on the changes and challenges we experienced in the last two years. **We explored our collective past by writing memories of our past and naming the joys, excitement, fears, and anxiety experienced with all these unprecedented changes.**

From there, small groups gathered to explore where L'Arche is today, "The Here and Now". **A community timeline was created starting from the oldest community member to the most recent.**

During this exercise, people shared stories, feelings, and thoughts about being present in the community today through stories, roles, and the legacy of the community.



*Arthur, the oldest member of our community, poses with Jitu, who arrived at L'Arche the day before this event.*

The final activity was to explore together the vision for community life in the new building. People wrote their dreams, concerns, and challenges on leaves that were placed on a Vision Tree.

The themes that evolved through this exercise included welcoming new people, building relationships, getting to know each other, accessibility, inclusion, continuing our traditions in a new space, and celebrations.

In reflecting about the event L'Arche's Community Leader and Executive Director Tracey Brezovski commented, **"L'Arche is built on relationships and community.** This meant that people in L'Arche experienced a feeling of loss when they were not able to meet in person. Our **"We All Belong"** day made it possible for new people to experience the community when it is gathered and, for those who have missed their friends, **it felt like a family reunion."**



*Here we are - gathered at last!*

# L'Arche For Every Season 2023 Calendar

Your 2023 L'Arche Calendar  
is waiting for you!

The calendar features original artwork created by artists with and without developmental disabilities who are part of the L'Arche Greater Vancouver community. Our 2023 artists were inspired by this year's theme:

**"L'Arche for Every Season."**

These unique calendars can be purchased by sending an email to [development@larchevancouver.org](mailto:development@larchevancouver.org) or calling **604-435-9544 ext 102**

To view all of the paintings from this year, go to [larchevancouver.org/image-gallery/](http://larchevancouver.org/image-gallery/)



# Fall Community Retreat

This year's theme was **"Have Courage to Step into the Unknown"** with mother/daughter keynote speakers Sandra and Tiana Kirkegaard. Sandra and Tiana shared stories of pivotal events in their lives with a special focus on what helped them navigate those events.



Keynote speakers Tiana and Sandra Kirkegaard. Photo credit Warren Pot

Tiana spoke about her experiences of discrimination and how her dreams were dashed after she graduated from high school. Sandra talked about the influences that led to adoption and an encounter and a lesson learned from Henri Nouwen.

Together they hoped that people would see the importance of faith during the times of "unknowns" and the important role of continuing to do what makes us well during those times.

## Our Big Numbers

Here are the **BIG** numbers that each of our homes and community inclusion programs submitted for our 2021-222 Annual report.

### Emmaus Community Inclusion Program

Baked 20 Birthday cakes  
Delivered 360 Meals on Wheels

### Neighbours Helping Neighbours

Cut 169 Lawns  
Served 22 Customers

### Creation House

Celebrated 5 BIG Birthdays -  
70, 75, 80, and 85  
Served 315 hamburgers during our  
summer BBQ's

### Emily House

Walked 450,000 meters in our  
neighbourhood  
Shared 730 meals together

### Nazirah House

Welcomed 100 guests  
Went on 110 outings

### Crossing House

Watched 55 movies together  
Welcomed 2 new assistants and said  
goodbye to 4 assistants



# Linda's Toques

In mid-2020, L'Arche's Community Inclusion Programs (Emmaus and Neighbours Helping Neighbours) made the difficult decision to close due to the global Covid-19 pandemic. Linda, who attended an outside day program before the pandemic, was now at home but happily joined her housemates in several activities. It was soon discovered that Linda had amazing knitting skills and that she wanted to make toques for the homeless. With the arrival of Fall 2020, Linda had made over 30 beautiful toques which were given to the St. Andrew's Wesley's Stitching Group for distribution to those in need.



Today, Linda continues to knit her toques at the Emmaus Day Program. It makes her so proud to be able to do something for others.

Now she wants others to enjoy the toques and scarves, she creates. Linda has been hard at work at making a huge variety of toques and has even designed her own label. Along with continued donations to the homeless, Linda hopes to sell some of her creations through L'Arche to the wider community.



At last count, Linda has made over 50 toques this year and is well on her way to having a stunning and varied collection for sale in time for winter.

To view and order one of Linda's toques contact Peter McKinley at [236-455-0893](tel:236-455-0893) or the Emmaus Team at [emmaus@larchevancouver.org](mailto:emmaus@larchevancouver.org)

## Summer and Fall with L'Arche

### L'Arche in Every Season

Every summer our community inclusion programs close for a week or two so that we can enjoy day trips and a few days of vacation together. We've travelled, seen new sights, had times of reflection, and become closer to each other. Bring on the fall and all it's beauty!



# Supporting Organizations

We gratefully acknowledge the following organizations for their financial support (March to September 2022)

Agape Catholic Charities Fund held at Vancouver Foundation

Burnaby Firefighters Charitable Society Ltd

Celtic Cross Charitable Foundation

Columbia-Bowell Funeral Chapel

D & D Reesor Family Holdings Inc.

First Christian Reformed Church of New Westminster

Highcrest Investments

J & G Servant Foundation

Kiwanis Vancouver Welfare Foundation

Knights of Columbus Council No. 8853

Knights of Columbus Fraser Valley Council, No. 2552

L'Arche Canada

Living Hope Fellowship

McGuire Family Foundation

Mount Pleasant War Memorial Community Cooperative Association

Project Advance Fund at the Archdioceses of Vancouver

Provincial Employees Community Services Fund

St. John's Anglican Church ACW

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Sault Ste. Marie

Tina Hubert Architect Inc.

VanCity, South Burnaby Community Branch

# Tributes

The following people were honoured/remembered with a tribute gift to the L'Arche Foundation (March to September 2022)

## In Memory

Joseph Deli

Bill Downton

James Kidd

Evelyn Lattimer

Jillian McIntosh

Ken Milne

Paul Mosca

Elisabeth and Joseph Staudacher

Gerry Staudacher

Kathleen Telford

Sherrill Weeks

Elsa Zavarise

## In Honour

Philip Beeby

Christina Bruce

Paul Kierans

A heartfelt thank you to the many individuals and families who wish to remain anonymous. We could not be L'Arche without your support!

## WAYS TO SUPPORT L'ARCHE GREATER VANCOUVER

**Mail:** Send your cheque to the address below

**Phone:** 604.435.9544 ext 120

**Online:** [www.larchevancouver.org/donate](http://www.larchevancouver.org/donate)

Charitable Registration No. 1376468671-RR0001



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