



# WE ALL BELONG

## Where do you feel belonging?

When people in the L'Arche community were asked this question, their answers were simple and straightforward.

### Belonging means:

- You have friends, you have family
- You are loved
- You feel safe
- You can help someone else
- You are happy
- People hug you when you come home

Unfortunately, not everyone experiences that kind of belonging – **especially people with developmental disabilities.**

According to Inclusion BC, adults with developmental disabilities:

- Are living with their aging parents and don't have the resources or support to live outside the family home

- Have aging family caregivers who are worried about the future of their loved ones
- Are placed in nursing homes or other congregate facilities because they cannot access support in the community
- Are over-represented in homeless shelters
- Are four times more likely to be victims of violence and abuse than other British Columbians.

At the **heart of L'Arche is the understanding that we all belong**; that every person is valued and has unique gifts to contribute to society.

Adults with developmental disabilities in the L'Arche community are often **relationship builders**, accepting people as they are. They are the first to welcome a visitor, the first to volunteer, and the first to say thank you. They are not burdens on society; **they are our teachers.**

*"What makes us human is not our mind, but our heart, not our ability to think, but our ability to love."* - **Henri Nouwen**

**Henri Nouwen was a Dutch-born Catholic priest, professor, psychologist and prolific writer. He taught psychology at the University of Notre Dame and pastoral theology at the Divinity Schools of Yale and Harvard before leaving academia to become the pastor at L'Arche Daybreak.**



## The Need

As a society, we have come a long way from the segregated and institutional living of past generations. However, people with developmental disabilities are often still marginalized.

It's common for children with disabilities to be included in our daycares and schools. However, **once they reach adulthood, the opportunity for inclusion in work and social communities is greatly diminished.** It is common for adults with developmental disabilities to become isolated.

As these individuals mature into adulthood, the challenge for many parents is having the physical and emotional strength to continue to support them. Eventually, parents may reach a point where **they are no longer able** to care for their adult children with disabilities.

As well, some young adults with developmental disabilities reach an age where, for their own growth and development, they desire more independence. These young adults want to move out of their family home, but **where can they go?**

**If they want to move out of their family home, where do they go?** With limited quality housing options, it's not uncommon for adults with disabilities to become isolated, and when people become isolated, they are especially vulnerable

## What L'Arche Offers

L'Arche is more than homes and programs. **L'Arche is an intentional community** – a group of people who have chosen to be together in pursuit of a common ideal. It is a place where adults with developmental disabilities, along with those who assist them, **share life together in family-like settings and daytime activities.**

At present, we have four homes in South Burnaby, each with its own name and unique story. Everyone in the home – people with disabilities and those who assist them **work together to make their house a home.** They make meals together and share other tasks. Birthdays, anniversaries, and other special occasions are celebrated together. Our new building will have **three more homes** with the **additional option for people to live semi-independently.**

During the day people in our homes participate in meaningful activities. **Our Neighbours Helping Neighbours crew** are a team of adults with developmental disabilities who provide work, and yard maintenance, for seniors, people with physical disabilities, and other community programs.

The **Emmaus Centre** is a social and recreational program where people create art, welcome guests, prepare meals, and bake together. They also serve the wider community by delivering Meals on Wheels several times a week.

It is in this community that **mutual relationships come to life.** The relationships created in our homes and daytime activities are **essential to everyone's dignity and self-worth.**





## Our Plan

Our dream is becoming reality. Construction has started on our existing Sussex Avenue property.

The **major components** of this innovative new building include:

- Three new, fully accessible **L'Arche** homes for people with developmental disabilities and those who assist them, replacing three existing homes
- **Expanded space for community inclusion programs** to welcome additional people into these programs
- **10 units of housing as new models of support** for adults with developmental disabilities who can live more independently
- **29 units of affordable rental housing** for those who wish to be a part of our intentional community
- **Fully accessible meeting spaces** that can adapt to various groups

## Our Goal

The project's financial projections and financial plan are based on a sound set of assumptions that forecast strong community support and sufficient rental revenues to make the project viable.

Of the total L'Arche Sussex Avenue re-development cost of 36 million, **L'Arche has committed to contributing over 10 million dollars**, almost 30%: 4.3 million in land equity and another 6 million in cash donations.

To date, L'Arche has raised 3.5 million of the 6 million dollars donation commitment. We need another 2.5 million to honor our financial commitment to the project and **ask that you consider helping us achieve this goal.**

We are pleased to announce that **1.4 million dollars** of the 3.5 million raised to date were **contributed by our friends within the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Vancouver.**

We anticipate moving into our new building in the Spring of 2024 to coincide with our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



*The excellent community environment and personal relationships that L'Arche fosters are true reflections of the love and ministry of Jesus, and I am grateful for the presence of this unique ministry in our city. This campaign is timely and necessary, and it is a privilege for our local Church to be able to give tangible support towards securing a bright future for L'Arche Greater Vancouver.*

**J. Michael Miller, CSB Archbishop, Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Vancouver  
Chair, Honourary Campaign Committee**

## A Message from the Executive Director and Board President



FeiFei Peng  
Community Leader/  
Executive Director



Jim Lattimer  
Board President

We believe that "We All Belong" and it has long been L'Arche's dream to create a new community resource in support of this belief. That dream is becoming a reality.

We are committed to responding to the changing needs of our aging members and the growing

need and desire for younger people to be part of our intentional, supportive community.

L'Arche is diversifying the way in which we live our mission. We will support people by providing a broader choice of affordable housing, including semi-independent accessible housing and community inclusion programs.

In a large city where many people feel isolated and alone, L'Arche will continue to have a positive impact on our local neighborhood and the wider community by being a place of belonging and welcome.

Inclusive, accessible, and diverse. This is more than a dream, it is a necessity and the possibilities of what we can accomplish together are endless.

## Honourary Campaign Committee

### The Most Reverend J. Michael Miller, CSB

Archbishop, Roman Catholic  
Archdiocese of Vancouver

### The Most Reverend John Stephens

Archbishop, Diocese of New Westminster  
Anglican Church of Canada

### Richard Cheng

Senior Vice President, BMO Nesbitt Burns

### Kathi Bental

A Founder of the Rivendell Retreat Centre  
Board member, Co:Here Foundation

### Sr. Marie Zarowny

Province Co-leader, Sisters of St. Ann

### Hugh Ker

Architect, Retired

*updated June 2023*

**If you believe that God has a purpose and a place for all of us,  
please support this project today with a donation.**

**Any gift – large or small – makes a difference.**

I would like to support L'Arche Greater Vancouver's "We All Belong Campaign" with a gift of:

☐ \$250    ☐ \$100    ☐ \$50    ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Enclosed is my cheque made payable to **L'Arche Foundation of Greater Vancouver** and mail to:

**L'Arche Foundation of Greater Vancouver, #6 -7541 Conway Ave, Burnaby BC V5E 2P7**

Please charge my credit card    ☐ VISA    ☐ MASTERCARD



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