

## Anesia's L'Arche Journey

Anesia came to L'Arche Greater Vancouver in July 2017. A native of Brampton, she had heard about L'Arche from a friend who lived in one of the L'Arche communities in Ontario. She was intrigued by the idea of an intentional community of people with and without disabilities.



Anesia (left) with some of her L'Arche friends

Anesia came to L'Arche to serve and learn more about this unique way of living. She says she is learning to be compassionate, thinking of others first and making an effort to truly connect with those around her.

As one of 13 children, she grew up in a close-knit family, connecting with each other often. However, she notes that in the past her relationships with neighbours, friends and work colleagues have been less intentional in terms of connecting and spending quality time together.

Anesia likes the fact that, at L'Arche, everyone makes a concerted effort to show up and to check in with each other. For example, at the start of every meeting, each participant shares how they are doing. Now she finds herself building deeper connections with everyone she meets, even outside of L'Arche.

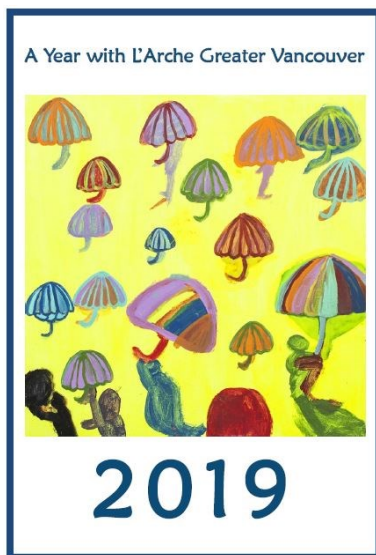
Anesia is excited about L'Arche's plans for the future that will provide an opportunity for the beauty of L'Arche to be shared with the broader community, especially with those who may not have the connections and social supports they need.



Anesia Stephenson

## Announcements

- The 2018 Art Together paintings will be on display at the office of **Janet Routledge, MLA-Burnaby North** from **November 19 to December 14** (1833 Willingdon Ave. Burnaby 604-775-0778).
- **2019 Art Calendars** are available and feature the most recent Art Together paintings. Contact Tricia at L'Arche for more information (604-435-9544) ext 33 [development.assistant@larchevancouver.org](mailto:development.assistant@larchevancouver.org)



## From Denise's Desk

As many of you will know, **L'Arche Greater Vancouver** is about to realize the grandest dream in the history of our community. We have plans for a new building that will offer housing solutions and increased program spaces for people with and without developmental disabilities.

Over the past year we have been finalizing the plan to redevelop our existing Sussex Avenue location, the building we've all known as "Shiloah". In addition to replacing three existing L'Arche homes with fully accessible homes, our plan includes the addition of 10 new units of housing for individuals who can live more independently.

Our plan also includes 29 units of affordable rental

housing that will provide options for individuals, couples and families who want to be part of an intentional community. Our new building will truly be a "place of belonging" with expanded residential capacity and more space for community inclusion programs for adults with developmental disabilities.

An essential element of this plan is our **"We All Belong"** capital campaign to raise a **minimum of \$5 million** towards the cost of constructing the new three-story building. Ideally, our goal is to be mortgage free when we begin occupancy in the summer of 2021. This means securing as much as \$15 million in total financial support.

I look forward to sharing more details of our dream with you in the coming months.



### Encounter L'Arche and Art Show

**On September 13th**, Archbishop Michael Miller hosted an **Encounter L'Arche** evening at the Archdiocese Pastoral Centre. Invited guests were introduced to L'Arche at a pre-dinner reception where L'Arche members presented their original works of art. The 18 paintings were created by small groups of two or three artists with and within developmental disabilities from the L'Arche community. A total of 40 artists took part in this year's show. Each painting was inspired by our "We All Belong" Campaign theme. *(continued on pg. 3)*

# Board Spotlight

Dan Kirkegaard,  
Vice President  
L'Arche Greater  
Vancouver Board



My involvement with L'Arche spans 30 years, during which time I have held many positions: Volunteer, Live-in Assistant, Day Program Support Staff, Pastoral Presence, Retreat Leadership, Community Leader and Board Member.

My first Community was L'Arche Homefires in Wolfville, Nova Scotia, where I became a live-in assistant in September 1988 while I pursued my post-secondary studies. What started as a one-year opportunity became a four and a half year full-time vocation, extending to active involvement over three decades.

Ordained to Ministry in the United Church of Canada in 1997, I have served on both the East and West Coasts. This has taken me from Homefires to L'Arche Greater Vancouver to L'Arche Saint John and back to Vancouver again.

My time in L'Arche has been significant in my formation for ministry and creating community. Many of my closest friends I met through L'Arche: my best man when I married my wife Sandra was John McNeil, one of the founding members of Homefires. Arthur Hutchinson from L'Arche Greater Vancouver prayed over me at my ordination.

Those moments, and many others, express the richness of relationship that holds us deeply. I have been blessed through L'Arche and feel immediately at home when walking into any of our communities around the world.

**"We can create a little place of peace  
where we love each other."**

**L'Arche Founder, Jean Vanier**

## Encounter L'Arche and Art Show Continued

The objective of this collaborative art project, which is in its eighth year, is to build relationships and share the gift of L'Arche with the wider community. For those who participated, the process from creating the art, to displaying their work, was very gratifying.



At the dinner that followed the show Archbishop Miller said that L'Arche's "We All Belong" redevelopment plan was "timely and necessary for the local Church and for Greater Vancouver", noting that "the excellent community environment and personal relationships that L'Arche fosters are true reflections of the love and ministry of Jesus."



## Art Together photos (continued)



## Tribute Gifts

### In Honour

*The Jones Family*

*Paul Kierans*

*Harold Palleson*

*David and Diane Reesor*

### In Memory

*Bellusci Family*

*Ming Chih Tu*

*Kirk Huckvale*

*Mary Kierans*

*Malakieh Family*

Check out our blog for updates, stories and more. L'Arche news: [www.larchevancouver.wordpress.com](http://www.larchevancouver.wordpress.com)  
7401 Sussex Avenue, Burnaby BC V5J 3V6 T. 604 435 9544 F. 604 435 9560 [office@larchevancouver.org](mailto:office@larchevancouver.org)

☒ **YES, I would like to support the work of L'Arche locally!**

**Thank You for supporting the work of L'Arche in Greater Vancouver**

If you prefer to donate online go to:  
[www.larchevancouver.org](http://www.larchevancouver.org) and click "Donate Now"

### CONTACT:

FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ INITIAL: \_\_\_\_\_

LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

PROVINCE: \_\_\_\_\_ POSTAL CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE/MOBILE: \_\_\_\_\_

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By providing your email address you are agreeing to receive emails from L'Arche Greater Vancouver.  
This may include e-newsletters, event invites or requests for support.

- ☐ I would like to become an Ark Builder by committing to a gift of \$500 or more a year.  
☐ I would like to receive information about donating securities or leaving a gift in my will.  
☐ I wish to remain anonymous.

Charitable Reg. #137648671-RR0001

### HERE'S MY GIFT OF:

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

- ☐ I have enclosed my cheque payable to  
**L'Arche Foundation of Greater Vancouver.**  
☐ I prefer to use my credit card.  
**PLEASE FILL OUT CREDIT CARD INFO BELOW**

### OR I WILL GIVE MY MONTHLY GIFT OF:

☐ \$20 ☐ \$40 ☐ \$60 ☐ Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Please debit my bank account on the 1st of each month.  
I have enclosed a cheque marked "VOID"  
☐ I prefer to make a monthly contribution by credit card  
**PLEASE FILL OUT CREDIT CARD INFO BELOW**

☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ AMEX

CARD NUMBER

EXPIRY DATE

SIGNATURE

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