



L'Arche News

Fall/Winter 2024

A New Chapter for L'Arche

On September 20th we celebrated the grand opening of our new building with many friends, community members, and local dignitaries. The day began with a news conference featuring representatives from the three tiers of government, alongside Roman Catholic Archbishop J. Michael Miller.



L'Arche friends Melissa Jugdeo and Conrad Der speaking at the Grand Opening

The Hon. Raj Chouhan, MLA for Burnaby-South, recalled his long history with L'Arche and one important friendship, "My association with L'Arche has given me lots and lots of good memories. I remember my dear friend Ken Milne who was a resident here for so many years. He would come and volunteer in my office every Friday, and I would come here (the old building) and have tea together.... when we say we are celebrating L'Arche, we are celebrating community."

FeiFei Peng, our Community Leader/Executive Director, talked about the long journey that brought us to this day. "We knew that the old building, which stood on this property for over 50 years, no longer met our needs. We needed a new home for L'Arche that was accessible and allowed us to grow.

"We could have simply replaced what we had – three homes for adults with developmental disabilities, two community inclusion programs, meeting rooms, and offices. But we were encouraged to dream big – and so, we did. We shaped this dream together through conversations with the community and key stakeholders. After years of planning, fundraising, building, and even in moments of doubt, here we are today, standing in this beautiful courtyard, surrounded by three L'Arche homes, two community inclusion programs, ten homes for adults with developmental disabilities who can live more independently, and 29 rental units for others who want to be part of this community."



Burnaby Mayor Mike Hurley and L'Arche President Jim Lattimer

Just before the ribbon-cutting ceremony, Archbishop Miller offered a blessing to the L'Arche community and everyone who will work and live in the building. "May this be a place where everyone is valued, every dignity is acknowledged, and whose unique gifts will contribute to the good of all. We pray that through participation in an intentional community, everyone will share their gifts and enjoy their full potential of living in a stable, secure, and loving environment."



New Homes- New Names Willow, Oak, Cypress, and Cedar

With our new building came new names for our L'Arche homes. The inspiration for names came from Isaiah 41:17-20 and our West Coast trees.

The poor and needy search for water, but there is none; their tongues are parched with thirst.

But I the Lord will answer them; I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them.

I will make rivers flow on barren heights, and springs within the valleys.

I will turn the desert into pools of water, and the parched ground into springs.

I will put in the desert the cedar and the acacia, the myrtle and the olive.

I will set junipers in the wasteland, the fir and the cypress together,

so that people may see and know, may consider and understand,

that the hand of the Lord has done this, that the Holy One of Israel has created it.



Oak House Thanksgiving dinner

Semi-Independent Living

At the very beginning of planning our new building an opportunity to serve more people immediately stood out.

We wanted to provide apartments for adults with developmental disabilities who could live more independently with a little support. Within a short time, we have welcomed ten semi-independent living individuals in our community. Here are three people who now have new homes at L'Arche.

Bobby

It was Bobby who decided the Second Floor Amenity Room needed to be called "*The Friendship Room*" and that's where he can often be found working on a jig-saw puzzle. He also likes playing games, talking, and watching movies with others. So far his favourite movie has been "Soul Surfer".

The best thing about living at L'Arche so far? "*This is my first apartment. I'm getting to know more people and making new friends.*"



Field trip to the Pumpkin Patch



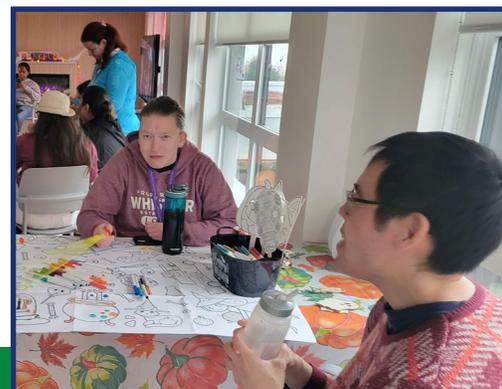
Richard with other SIL members carving pumpkins

Richard

Richard works at the Salvation Army in Vancouver. In his spare time, he likes to watch and play sports, especially floor hockey. He's looking forward to cooking and pumpkin carving with the other semi-independent living folks. He says that the best thing about living at L'Arche is that he's meeting new people and living more independently.

Simone

Simone lived with her parents until she moved into her new suite at L'Arche. Since this is the first time she's lived on her own, she has appreciated how helpful and friendly everyone is here. She was glad she knew some friends from Special Olympics who had also moved into the new building. She works part-time at Save on Foods and volunteers with L'Arche's Neighbours Helping Neighbours program once a month.



Simone and Richard

Our Donor Wall

One of the features of our new building that we're particularly proud to show off is the donor wall at the front entrance. This is where we recognize the people and organizations who made the new building possible.

The stones at the tree's base recognize the donors who laid the groundwork for this project and inspired others to join in its success. One of the rocks pays tribute to the donors who wished to stay anonymous. These generous contributions made a significant difference to L'Arche and the completion of this building.

The stream is a tribute to "Shiloah," the name of our original building that refers to the healing waters in the Bible. For nearly 50 years, our "Shiloah" was a haven for people with developmental disabilities who needed safe and stable homes. It was where many young people from around the world came to assist and share life with the people in our homes and programs. The flowing stream reminds us that the mission of L'Arche will continue to flow through this new building.

The three people in the tree trunk remind us that we are stronger together. They represent the care and strength needed to uphold a community. Reminiscent of the L'Arche logo, which has three people in a boat, they are a faithful reminder of our need for one another. The community will continue to be upheld and flourish when each person is given the opportunity to use their unique gifts.

The leaves on our donor tree represent the individuals, families, and organizations that generously supported L'Arche's new home in many ways. We remain deeply grateful to everyone who helped create and sustain this community.



Remembering Paul Kierans



Our friend Paul Kierans suffered a stroke in spring and died a short while later. We will miss him. Here are some thoughts from his sister, Mae Kierans.

Paul was born into the Kierans family, gifted with Down's syndrome, which enabled him to be the most loving and intuitive of us all. He has always been our shining north star.

There were few supports for special children when Paul was born, so his resourceful mother created them including a nursery school and a support group for parents. Paul was loved and admired by his many aunts and uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews, and grandnieces and nephews, and house mates. Paul ignored the "no double superlatives" rule in English: everyone was his "best sister," "best brother," or "best friend."

Paul was very prayerful. His life calling was to show how to "Love your neighbour" and how he excelled! He also showed us how to live life to the fullest. He loved to work, especially helping in his home at Crossing House, where Céline, the L'Arche House Leader who had known Paul and all his Kierans family for twenty-five years, was his "best house nurse." In her words, Paul was kind and generous and brought a sense of calm and gentle presence to his home, where he was a silent pillar of strength; he brought people together wherever he went.



Céline and Paul

Supporting Organizations

We gratefully acknowledge the following Organizations for their support from May 1, 2024 to October 31, 2024

Agape Catholic Charities Fund
held at Vancouver Foundation

Alongside You

Anglican Diocese of New
Westminster

Estate of Barbara Der

Estate of Kathleen Telford

First Christian Reformed Church
of New Westminster

J & G Servant Foundation

Hawthorne Charitable
Foundation

Knights of Columbus Council No.
8853

Knights of Columbus, Holy Cross
Council, No. 5423

McGuire Family Foundation

M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust

Morris and Helen Belkin
Foundation

Mount Pleasant War
Memorial Community
Cooperative Association

Patrick and Elizabeth Hill
Charitable Fund

Provincial Employees
Community Services Fund

Royal Bank of Canada

Ross Sullivan
Communications

Saint John's Anglican
Church ACW

Sisters of Charity of St.
Vincent de Paul

Sisters of St. Joseph of
Sault St Marie

Tina Hubert Architect Inc.

TL Housing Solutions

Triskelion Fund

West Coast Seeds

Tributes

The following were honoured or remembered with a tribute gift to L'Arche

In Honour of

Jack and Geraldine Campbell

Tiana Kirkegaard

Luke Naysmith

David and Diane Reesor

In Memory of

Rev. Doug Graves

Thea Hoffman

Paul Kierans

Reinhold Lucke

Daniel Manulak

Amanda Todd

Adrianus (Art) vander Zalm

Serena Vermeersch

WAYS TO SUPPORT L'ARCHE GREATER VANCOUVER

Mail: Mail your donation to L'Arche in the postage paid envelope provided

Online: www.larchevancouver.org/donate

E-Transfer: giving@larchevancouver.org
Add your name and address in the message box along with any special instructions

Phone: 604-435-9544 ext 120

Charitable Registration No. 1376468671-RR0001



L'ARCHE FOUNDATION OF GREATER VANCOUVER

100-7415 Sussex Avenue | Burnaby, BC V5J 0K1
604-435-9544

E: development@larchevancouver.org | W: www.larchevancouver.org

