



L'Arche News

Spring/Summer 2024

L'Arche Turns 50!

Our Early Years

The following thoughts are from a letter that Judie Leckie, our first Community Leader/Executive Director, wrote eight years after the community was founded.



Judie speaking at our 40th Anniversary in 2014

In January 1974, the United Church turned the house at 7401 Sussex over to L'Arche for one dollar per year for the first two years. They left the furniture, equipment, and even food so that literally all we had to buy was a lawnmower.

There were only two of us in the house, and a dream was to bring together a group of men and women, some of whom would be

handicapped, to form a L'Arche Community.

Kirk was one of the first people to come, although he wasn't sure that he really wanted to live with us. Iris came and struggled with the first big decision she ever had to make. Jane faced the same struggle. Arthur, who was living at Riverview, was another early friend, as were Kenneth, Richard, and Barbara, who came to several of our early coffee houses to check us out. Guy would come and have coffee with us.



Judie and Gwenda

We had heard of Gwenda, Eileen, Gerry, and Bill, whose parents were sick or had passed away. There was Craig, whose mum wanted him to join us. Melina came to visit and requested to live here.

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An Historic Gift

L'Arche gratefully announces that we have received a second major donation from the same family foundation. In 2019, shortly after L'Arche launched its redevelopment campaign, the **Morris and Helen Belkin Foundation** donated \$500,000 to start the campaign. This donation was the largest L'Arche had ever received. On May 1, 2024, **they added a second gift of \$500,000 for a total donation of one million dollars** towards the campaign goal of six million dollars.



L'Arche Board President, Jim Lattimer, Margaret Corbett and L'Arche's Community Leader/Executive Director, FeiFei Peng

"We were struck by the passion of the people and the heart of L'Arche Greater Vancouver," says Margaret Corbett, representing the Morris and Helen Belkin Foundation.

"L'Arche and its supportive and productive programs allow community members to do a lot for themselves and for the community."

The redevelopment project has a projected total cost of 36 million dollars. To date, three levels of government have made provisional commitments of 13.6 million dollars. With the Morris and Helen Belkin Foundation's latest donation and long-term financing, the We All Belong campaign goal still needs \$900,000 to reach its six-million-dollar fundraising goal.

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Our Early Years

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There was Gail, who was part of our community for several years but, sadly, left to go to Woodlands. Her departure left us with the wrenching awareness that not everybody would be able to live with us, that we, however much we wanted to, didn't have the capacity

The early years were difficult but awfully good in so many ways. We were blessed with all we needed, and though we often failed to meet each other's expectations, **there was a willingness to hope.**

A willingness to learn, a desire to love, and to die to our own selfishness. **Building community costs** - but if we are willing to pay the price, it is a healing, growing, freeing life. If there was one absolute to our sense of community, if there was only one thing to be considered, it would be that Jesus must be the center of our life. We must cast all our trust on Him, and keep our eyes on Him.

It was good to look at our community life each year. We tried to do that—to say, "Where are we going? Are we what we should be? Are we seeing God's will in all our decisions?" If we did that, and as we did that, the community became what it should be.

I must emphasize that we failed in so many ways and often lacked vision—but perhaps that must always be so. **We can only build on what has gone before.** I pray that all succeeding community members will understand that they owe a great debt, a depth of respect, and a recognition of dignity to those early members who came and remained.

A deep thank you for being faithful and resilient.



An Historic Gift

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"We are honoured and humbled to receive this generous gift. This donation helps L'Arche **expand its mission to serve more people with disabilities and build community,**" says FeiFei Peng, L'Arche's Community Leader/Executive Director. "With the help of the Morris and Helen Belkin Foundation and the generosity of others, our dream is becoming reality."

The Morris and Helen Belkin Foundation hopes that this gift will inspire others to support this worthy project. If you are inspired by this gift or the work of L'Arche, consider making a donation to L'Arche.

L'Arche Achieves Another Successful CARF Accreditation

We are proud to announce that L'Arche was recently re-accredited by **CARF**, the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, for a period of three years. This latest accreditation is the sixth consecutive three-year accreditation, **the highest rating level that can be given to an organization**. Here are some of the strengths the surveyors noted in their review:

The leadership asks for a great deal of input that helps establish values, outcomes, and corporate responsibility. Every week, participants talk about what they should start, what they should stop, and what they should keep doing. Input from the core members, employees, and other stakeholders helped the organization develop its mission, vision, and values.

It is easy to see that L'Arche does not "operate in silos," as the departments work well together. This ability to work together and produce exceptional results is to the benefit of the core members. **Knowing that their input is used provides a sense of freedom and encouragement to provide even more input.**

The day programs are actively engaged in their community. Core members are supported and encouraged to actively participate in choosing and designing their daily schedules and personal goals.

L'Arche employs warm, competent, and respectful staff members who are passionate and committed to the organization and its core members. **Staff members were observed displaying compassion, patience, enthusiasm, and pride in the support they provided.**

CARF is an independent, non-profit accreditor of health and human services, enhancing the lives of persons served worldwide.



Simone, Garth, Erol, and Claudio

Construction Progress



Our New Building is almost ready!

July

3 L'Arche Homes, our programs and admin team move in

August

We start welcoming new friends into the building

September

We celebrate with a grand opening/media event

WE ALL
BELONG

Supporting Organizations

We gratefully acknowledge the following Organizations for their support from Nov 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024

Agape Catholic Charities Fund held at Vancouver Foundation	Raymond James Foundation
Andrew Mahon Foundation	Royal Bank of Canada Foundation
Catholic Women's League - Immaculate Conception Parish	Saint Anthony of Padua Fraternity, S.F.O.
Celtic Cross Charitable Fnd	Saint Anthony of Padua Parish
CitySpaces Consulting	Saint Francis de Sales CWL
Columbia-Bowell Funeral Chapel	Saint Mary's CWL Council 3093
Digitally Hip Corporation	Saint Mary's Health Fnd
First Christian Reformed Church of New Westminster	Saint Nicholas Parish CWL
Giustra Foundation	Schmidt Brothers Mechanical Ltd.
J & G Servant Foundation	Szocs Foundation
Jubilee United Church Women	The Foundation Office
Kiwanis Vancouver Welfare Fnd	The Sisters of Instruction of the Child Jesus
L'Arche Canada	The Sisters of St. Joseph of Sault St Marie
M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust	Tundra Sales Inc.
Mackin Creek Farm	Virginia's Arc Private Foundation
Matrix Design Graphics	
Prov. Employees Com-Serv. Fund	
Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Vancouver	

Tributes

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

In Honor of

Sue Allen	Leonard Hiebert
Alex Dick	Luke Naysmith
Francis and Judy D'Souza	Malti Abhyankar
Lawrence Atwater	Philip Beeby

In Memory of

Patrick Byron	Delinda Perry
Gwenda Dunlop	Adam Santorelli
Thea Hoffman	Gerry Staudacher
Grady Killam	Jim Watson
John (Jean) Massot	Sherrill Weeks
Ken Milne	Dr. Johan Wouterloot
Dave Mundie	

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



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