



Growing in Belonging

Every four years, L'Arche Greater Vancouver enters a time of reflection called the **Mission-in-Action (MAP)** process. It is a community journey of listening and discernment that helps us reflect on who we are, what our community needs, and how we can more faithfully live L'Arche's mission together.

From 2021 to 2025, our community experienced significant changes. We moved from a longtime home, navigated the challenges of a global pandemic, welcomed new members, and began life together in a new building. Each step required courage, patience, and trust.

ways: hosting community events, sharing creative gifts, leading prayers, or simply showing up faithfully for one another. What may have seemed ordinary on the surface quietly strengthened dignity, confidence, and connection.



Through daily life together, we have seen the difference. People feel settled in their homes, are included in decisions that affect them, and more connected to those around them.

Healing and Resilience

Changes also brought challenges. Transitions can bring uncertainty, grief, and tension, and we made space to acknowledge these realities.

We learned that healing cannot be rushed. It requires patience, respect for personal boundaries, and space for each person to find their own sense of belonging. As a new generation of assistants and members joined our community, we came to recognize that relationships at L'Arche may look different than they did in the past.



How Lives Grew

For core members, this season brought real change - and real growth. Some moved into new living arrangements. Others joined redesigned day programs shaped with their voices in mind. With careful preparation, family conversations, and patient accompaniment, transitions became less frightening and more life-giving.

Across the community, gifts blossomed in new

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Care Flows Both Ways at L'Arche

On a sunny morning at L'Arche, Wayne carefully wheels his friend onto the HandyDart bus. "You've got this," he says with a smile. Across the room, Theresa shows another core member how to sign "thank you," then patiently teaches someone else who is learning for the first time. Later, Corey fires up the BBQ for a summer gathering.

These moments may seem ordinary, but they tell a powerful story about life at L'Arche.

Our core members - people with developmental disabilities - are not simply recipients of care. At L'Arche, care flows both ways.

This June, that same spirit will be on full display at our first-ever **L'Arche Neighbourhood Party**. We're opening our doors into David Gray Park and inviting neighbours, friends, and families for a day of music, art, games, and connection.

But here's the part we're most excited about: **our core members will be leading it**. They'll greet guests, help run activities, and share the gifts they've developed through years of living in community. It's not just participation, it's leadership.

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Core members volunteer at Meals on Wheels. Some work part-time jobs. Some help set up every room before an event, arranging tables and chairs with the kind of precision most of us would save for a wedding. Others teach fellow members how to navigate the bus system, chop vegetables safely, or fix a wobbly table. These small acts speak volumes: our core members give as much care as they receive.

One beautiful example of this spirit is our Neighbours Helping Neighbours program. The crew visit seniors and neighbours in Burnaby to offer companionship and practical help – gardening, watering plants, helping with light tasks, or simply spending time in conversation.

In these visits, something powerful happens: people who are often seen as needing support become the ones offering it. Relationships grow. Confidence deepens. And our neighbourhood becomes a little more connected.

Saying Goodbye to Sue

December 12, 1965 to January 28, 2026



Sue had a way of making everyone feel seen and cherished, often calling people "my dear" or "my darling" with her sunny, unforgettable smile. She lived her friendships deeply and knew, in her heart, that she was a gift from Jesus to the world - and she gave that gift freely, every day.

Sue was part of our community for over 40 years, and her bright spirit, warmth, and joy touched everyone who knew her.

She loved everything pink, cheesecakes, chai tea, and sun-dried tomatoes - and she shared herself fully and faithfully with the people around her. Many of us will remember how, when asked to lead grace, she would sing "You Are My Sunshine", filling the room with her light and love.

Peace to you, dear Sue. We love you.

Care Flows Both Ways

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And it will show our neighbours something we see every day: when people with developmental disabilities are given space to grow, contribute, and belong, they enrich the entire community.



Sometimes that impact is big - a meaningful job, a leadership role, a newfound independence. But often it's quieter: someone offering a steady hand on a ramp, helping a friend find the right word, or preparing food simply because they want to care for someone else.

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We are learning to listen more deeply and allowing people the freedom to discover their own meaningful ways of belonging.

Through this slower and more attentive approach, relationships have continued to deepen, and a renewed sense of unity is emerging across our community.

Opening Our Doors Wider

As the new building took shape, our vision expanded. Tenants, SIL (Semi-Independent Living) members, neighbours, and partners stepped into L'Arche not just as visitors, but as contributors to community life. We opened the doors of our café, hosted a Christmas market, strengthened neighbourhood partnerships, and planned gatherings that welcome the wider community.

More people now experience what L'Arche stands for - mutual relationships, spiritual depth, and a welcome that says: You matter. You belong.

Looking Ahead

These past four years remind us that L'Arche is not defined by buildings or plans, but by the way we choose to live together. By remaining rooted in our mission, listening deeply to one another, and nurturing relationships marked by respect and joy, we continue to grow as a community where belonging can flourish.

Thank you for being on this journey.

JUNE 28, 2026 | 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM
DAVID GRAY PARK 7480 MCKAY AVE BURNABY

L'ARCHE

Neighbourhood Party

A free community celebration of inclusion, friendship, and summer fun - welcoming neighbours of all ages and abilities

Enjoy:

- Live Music
- Games & Activities
- Food & Treats
- BBQ from Burnaby Firefighters

 L'ARCHE®
Greater Vancouver

New Monthly E-Newsletter

Starting in May, we'll be sending out a monthly email-only newsletter to keep you up to date on what's happening at L'Arche. It will arrive once per month and highlight community news, upcoming events, and stories from our homes and programs. We will still be sending out our printed Newsletter in the mail on a quarterly basis.

If you're not already on our email list, simply scan the QR code on the right, scroll to the bottom of the page, and **sign up to receive our new monthly e-newsletter.**



Supporting Organizations

We gratefully acknowledge the following Organizations for their support from September 1, 2025 to February 28, 2026

Agape Catholic Charities Fund
held at Vancouver Foundation
Andrew Mahon Foundation
Burnaby Meals on Wheels
Charles and Lucile Flavelle Family Fund
held at Vancouver Foundation
Choi Family Foundation Fund
held at Vancouver Foundation
Dennis and Barbara Wiginton Fund
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J & G Servant Foundation

Jubilee United Church Women's Group
L'Arche Canada
Nelson Avenue Community Church
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Saint Anthony of Padua Parish
Saint Mary's Catholic Women's League Council 3093
Saint Mary's Health Foundation
Saint Peter's Catholic Women's League
The Giustra Foundation
Triskelion Fund
Tundra Sales Inc.
Virginia's Arc Private Foundation

Tributes

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

In Honour of:

Christina Bruce
Bridget Colvin
Eugenie Comin

The Hoffman Family
Daniel Stark
Linda Staudacher

In Memory of:

Philip Beeby
Olga and Bill Carter
Hai Chew Chiang
Rev. Doug Graves
Daniel Manulak

Ken Milne
Speedy
Gerry Staudacher
Liliana Tesan

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:** donations@larchevancouver.org
Add your name and address in the message box along with any special instructions
- Phone:** 604-435-9544 ext 120

Tax receipts issued for donations of \$20 or more

Charitable Registration No. 137648671-RR0001



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