

Finding Home and Purpose: Juliet

Three years ago, Juliet traveled from Kenya to Vancouver with her cousin Staicy for their Aunt Edith's wedding. Edith had often spoken about her work at L'Arche, so the cousins accepted her invitation to visit the community. At the time, L'Arche was in transition while a new building was under construction, but the warmth of the welcome was unmistakable.

While waiting in the lobby to meet Tao for a tour, Juliet and Staicy met people from Evergreen. Andrew approached Juliet and said, "You smell so nice." Theresa offered her a hug. In those simple, genuine gestures, Juliet felt something unexpected: she felt welcomed and at home.

Juliet had not been looking for a job or planning to leave Kenya. She had a stable career as head of sales at a cheese company and had never worked with people with disabilities. Yet her introduction to L'Arche led her to reconsider her plans. She wrote to her boss that she would return in a year. That was three years ago. With help from Human Resources, Juliet secured a work permit, volunteered in Evergreen, and later supported several L'Arche homes. Stacey stayed as well and continues to work at Cypress House.



Juliet enjoyed her role in Evergreen. "I could be free to be myself. I could have fun with the people around me," she says.

That sense of belonging became especially clear when Juliet was sick. "I never felt so loved," she remembers. "There was a card under my door. There was soup, or Tylenol. They would bring me supper." After leaving home at 18 to study and work, she found herself in a community where everyone cares.

Those bonds now span across the L'Arche community. "I can go to Cypress House or any of the other houses and tell them I'm coming for dinner and feel welcome," Juliet says. She has made some of her best friends at L'Arche, friendships across cultures that she believes will last. Relationships with our core members have deepened through patience. At first, communication could be difficult, but familiarity brought understanding.

Today, Juliet is House Leader at Willow House, where one of her responsibilities is helping core members turn the goals identified in their annual reviews into meaningful experiences. "What I want for them is what they want for themselves," she



Walk With Me - Art Together



Art Together

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our 2026 Art Show and the opening of the Lorne MacDonald Exhibition. It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces and share the afternoon together.

This year's "Walk with Me" Art Show brought together 36 artists, ages four to 82, who created 18 collaborative paintings inspired by their connection to L'Arche. Each artist is part of our community in their own way - from Core Members and day program participants to staff and tenants.

We were also proud to celebrate the work of Lorne MacDonald, who has walked alongside L'Arche for nearly 50 years. His exhibition brings together paintings and collages shaped by his fascination with pattern, repetition, colour and everyday life.

Thank you to all our artists for sharing their creativity and stories, and to everyone who helped make the afternoon so special.

Introducing Kristin

We're excited to welcome Kristin Szilvassy to L'Arche in our new Community Engagement and Semi-Independent Living (SIL) Leader role!

Kristin brings with her a background in sustainable community development, along with several years experience in community events and outreach as well as communications. At Curiko, she supported people with and without disabilities to explore their interests, discover new experiences and build connections.

At L'Arche, Kristin will help create more opportunities for our Core Members to meet others, contribute to community life, and build meaningful relationships. She will also coordinate our SIL support, helping people build independence and pursue the things that matter to them.

We are so happy to have her here!



Juliet

Continued from page 1

explains. The team posts goals on doors, adds them to timelines, and works on them together, often finding creative ways around practical or medical limitations.



For Linda, who loves cats, that meant a visit to a cat café. Yvonne wanted a cat of her own, but the building has a no-pet policy, so Juliet and the team found a lifelike robotic cat that purrs when petted. For Guy, the team created memorable outings to a BC Lions game and on a drive to Squamish.

Juliet's greatest satisfaction comes "when I achieve a goal for someone, and they are really, really happy." A sincere thank-you becomes something she will carry with her.

What began as a wedding visit has become a life-changing vocation and a place of belonging. "It's a community of warmth and joy," she says. "Every moment that I live with them, and our team, we make sure they are having the best of their lives."

L'ARCHE

Christmas Market

Come join us in celebrating the season

November 27, 2026
4-7 pm

Remembering Monika

April 15, 1972 - July 17, 2026



Although Monika moved into L'Arche's Oak House in 2024, she already knew some people through bowling and other community activities. A few days after her passing, friends, housemates, assistants and family gathered to remember the warmth, humour and music she brought into their lives.

Lara, Oak House's House Leader, recalled that she and Monika arrived at L'Arche at the same time. As they adjusted to a new home and new people, they discovered a shared taste in music.

A favourite memory of Ashley's, L'Arche's Home Coordinator, happened during a trip to Emergency. While they waited, Monika asked Ashley to play ABBA - and

insisted she sing along. Soon, everyone in the emergency room became their audience. It was a moment of connection, courage and fun.

Monika's sister, Sonya, thanked the community for helping Monika build authentic friendships. Her friends and housemates remembered her as "a little beam of light" who loved dancing, singing, and having a good time. Keiko said Monika taught her to smile through hard times, even as she neared the end of her life.

In keeping with L'Arche tradition, the gathering included Monika's favourite songs, beginning with ABBA's "I Have a Dream" and ending with "Hakuna Matata" from The Lion King. Thank you for the music, Monika.

Supporting Organizations

We gratefully acknowledge the following Organizations for their support:

J & G Servant Foundation
L'Arche Canada
Nicola Wealth Private Giving Foundation
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Tributes - In Honour

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

The Gives Family
Art Hoffman
David and Diane Reesor

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