

In 1998, L'Arche Daybreak initiated a **high school retreat program for teenagers**. Held in the Dayspring spiritual centre, these retreats are attended by 2000 students each year.

Students from across the Greater Toronto Area are welcomed to have a direct experience with someone with a disability in a context where the person is highly valued and respected. Among the groups in attendance are Grade 12 religion and philosophy classes, student leadership groups, and students with special needs and their educational assistants.

Through the leadership and storytelling of core members, students get a glimpse of how L'Arche communities provide a model for living unity through diversity, and strength through interdependence. Our focus is to reflect on the topic of power and powerlessness, which generates much interest and discussion among young people.

L'Arche Daybreak offers these retreats because it knows that our core members have something to teach young people, and because it is committed to supporting situations that give people with intellectual disabilities the opportunity to be heard. The student retreats are in such demand that schools book them a year in advance.



Students are invited to be critical observers of mainstream culture – its influence upon how we experience our own vulnerability – as well as how we see and treat vulnerable people in our world.

– Liska Stefko, Dayspring Coordinator

MORE HIGH SCHOOL RETREATS • continued >

# HIGH SCHOOL RETREATS

Through 'Signs of Hope,' L'Arche Daybreak will be able to welcome more high school students and can play an important role in shaping the moral imagination of young people.



About a year and a half ago, I attended a retreat at L'Arche Daybreak with my classmates. I had no idea what to expect, and more importantly, I had no idea what impact this retreat would have on me. Now, on Thursday afternoons, I am privileged to be part of something very special.

– Danielle DeCiantis, Craft Studio Volunteer

MORE HIGH SCHOOL RETREATS •

