

Q. What is L'Arche?

L'Arche is a global network of communities centered on the needs and gifts of people with intellectual disabilities. Founded by Canadian Jean Vanier in 1964, L'Arche has become an international movement that now includes 136 communities in over 30 countries. The vision of L'Arche is grounded in the belief that every human life is sacred, has intrinsic value and is irreplaceable. L'Arche recognizes and celebrates the gifts of each person – for creativity, transparency and the capacity for joy. In a world that has become increasingly fragmented and divided, L'Arche is a dynamic example of how people of different intellectual capacity, social origin, religion and culture can live and learn together.

Q. What is meant by the terms 'core member' and 'assistant'?

Core members are people with an intellectual disability who are at the heart of our community and the reason why Jean Vanier began L'Arche. Assistants are those who choose to share life with our core members in the context of community. Some core members live and work together with assistants, the caregivers who are also L'Arche community members. Other core members come to us from their homes in the wider community. A fundamental principle of L'Arche is that we are all people with handicaps and gifts, and that our lives are enriched when we dare to live and work with people of difference.

Q. Why expand programs now?

As more and more people with intellectual disabilities graduate from school programs, there is a scarcity of day programs to welcome them. In York Region alone, more than 400 people are on waiting lists for day programs. Within four years, that number is projected to double to more than 800 people with no meaningful daytime activity.

Q. How will this campaign benefit people with intellectual disabilities?

This campaign will expand L'Arche Daybreak's overall day program capacity by over 50%, allowing us to welcome more people from York Region. These are people who presently sit at home with no access to meaningful daytime activities, and are often in the care of aging parents. L'Arche Daybreak wants to be part of the response to this critical need by offering more opportunities within our programs.

Q. What are the priorities in the 'Signs of Hope' campaign?

This campaign is based on a three-phased plan of capital expansion to increase L'Arche Daybreak's capacity in two key areas: day programs for people with intellectual disabilities in York Region who are still living with their families, and retreats for high school students. Our priority is centered on program expansion in the areas identified and in order of:

- Completion of the Craft Studio expansion
- A small addition to 'The Club'
- Restoration of the Big House

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Q. Are there other benefits that will come from this?

L'Arche Daybreak works closely with school boards in the Greater Toronto Area in welcoming 2000 high school students to one-day retreats at our Dayspring centre every year. The focus of these retreats is to have students reflect on the issues of power and powerlessness in society, a topic which generates much discussion and has a strong impact on both the students and their teachers. 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.

Q. Who will be approached to support this campaign?

The campaign is reaching into all sectors – Daybreak community members and their families, individuals, foundations, corporations, local businesses, service clubs and religious organizations.

Q. Why should I contribute to the campaign?

In making this campaign a success, *you* will make a difference. Jean Vanier says: “A society can function well only if those within are concerned, not only with their own needs or the needs of those who immediately surround them, but by the needs of all, that is to say, by the common good and the family of nations.”

Q. How can I support the campaign?

Contributions may take one or more of the following forms:

- A pledge over a period of time, up to three years
- A one-time payment made by cheque or credit card
- Securities such as stocks, bonds, life insurance

Q. Will my gift qualify as a charitable donation for my income tax?

Yes. As a donor you will receive an official tax receipt for your gift.

Q. Will I be recognized for my gift?

Yes. We plan to have a donor recognition wall created by our artisans. There will be additional opportunities for donor recognition in buildings that are part of the campaign.