



signs of hope



BACK GROUNDER:

North America's First L'Arche Community Began in Richmond Hill

*Canadian **Jean Vanier** founded L'Arche in France in 1964. In the small French village of Trosly-Breuil, Jean invited two men from a local institution for people with intellectual disabilities to create home with him. They called their home "L'Arche", the French word for "The Ark". Today L'Arche is an international federation of 136 communities in over 30 countries around the world. Jean Vanier has become one of the most celebrated social visionaries of our time. Vanier's strong belief in the important social contributions of people with intellectual disabilities is recognized around the world.*

L'Arche Daybreak, the first L'Arche community in Canada, was founded by Steve and Ann Newroth in 1969. Today the L'Arche Daybreak community includes:

- ***eight homes***
- ***five work and day activity programs***
- ***the Dayspring spiritual centre***

L'Arche Daybreak is a dynamic example of how people of different intellectual capacity, social origin, religion and culture can live and learn together.

*As more and more people with intellectual disabilities graduate from high school, there is a scarcity of day programs to welcome them. **In York Region alone, over 400 people are on waiting lists for day programs.** Within four years, that number is projected to double.*

*L'Arche Daybreak seeks to **expand and welcome many more local people from York Region** which will begin to address this critical need.*

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