

L'Arche is Called to Growth

by Carl MacMillan

“Growth” has been a key word in the L'Arche lexicon since its very early days. *Community and Growth* is the title of the L'Arche classic by Jean Vanier, a book that remains a guiding text for many communities striving to share life together. Our hope in L'Arche is that our communities are places where people can experience inner growth, where they can become more fully human. Jean Vanier reminds us of this very beautifully in his speech accepting the Templeton Prize: “Community is a place of belonging where a person can grow to become more fully him or herself. It is belonging for becoming.”

Today Jean Vanier also calls us to “enlarge the tent” of L'Arche — to expand its mission so that it continues to respond to the needs of people with intellectual disabilities in the world today. At our recent Regional Gathering, the delegates from the nine L'Arche communities of Ontario ratified a new regional mandate. We join L'Arche at every structural level of the organization — local, regional, national and international — in committing ourselves to extending the reach of L'Arche and to be open to doing so in new ways.

At Daybreak, we have worked hard in recent years to build the capacity of our daytime programs of work, recreation



Jason Clinker and Carl MacMillan enjoy a meal in the Seneca College dining hall at this year's L'Arche Ontario Regional Gathering which took place from June 16-18. 250 delegates attended.

and creativity. That has meant creating new physical space so we have room to welcome new people. It has also meant building program teams to accommodate new people well. Our growth has always been incremental, but it has been steady. Over time, the growth in our overall capacity has become significant. In Ontario, we are fortunate to be living at a time when the provincial government recognizes how important it is to support people of all abilities to participate in the life of their neighbourhoods and local communities. The Woodery, the Craft Studio, the Day Program, the Club, the

Spirit Movers and the Movers & Shakers are all places of belonging where people can grow towards human fulfillment.

Today we are also looking at new ways to expand our horizons. It's important for us to remember that what are sometimes considered “traditional” L'Arche homes and programs not so long ago were revolutionary new models. One of L'Arche's great strengths is that it has been open to adapting to different cultures, new trends and new challenges. Together with L'Arche communities throughout the world, Daybreak will consider new possibilities for growth. ♦

Jean Vanier Receives the Templeton Prize

Jean Vanier has been awarded the 2015 Templeton Prize. The award honours a living person who has made an exceptional contribution to affirming life's spiritual dimension. Jean Vanier received the award on May 18th at the 2015 Templeton Prize Ceremony at St. Martin-in-the-Fields Church in London, England. The paragraphs that follow are excerpts from the remarks he made at the ceremony.

“Thank you for this magnificent award that you have given in recognition of the beauty and the value of people with intellectual disabilities. This beauty has been revealed as we have lived together in L'Arche and accompanied each other in Faith and Light. People with intellectual disabilities are the ones who are the heart of our communities. They are the ones who have revealed to so many people — families, assistants and friends — their human and spiritual gifts, and they are the ones who have inspired the fruitful growth of Faith and Light and L'Arche throughout the world. It is to them this prize will be given, so that many more people with intellectual disabilities throughout the world may grow in greater inner freedom, discover their fundamental value as human beings and children of God. They in turn will be able to help many so called “nor-



Jean Vanier takes part in a celebratory feast at the close of the 2015 Templeton Prize Ceremony on May 18th in London, England. Many members of L'Arche participated in the celebration.

mal” people, imprisoned by our cultures orientated towards power, winning, and individual success, to discover what it means to be human...

“Community is a place of *belonging* where each person can grow to *become* fully him or herself. It is belonging for becoming. We belong to each other so that each member can become more human, more loving, more free, more open to others, particularly those who are different. When each member can develop their unique gifts and help others to develop theirs, members are no longer in competition but in collaboration, in cooperation and in mutual support. To become is not to

prove that I am better than you, but rather supporting together each other in opening up our hearts. Thus, community is a place of transformation. Community is a place of belonging where each one can be transformed and find fulfillment...

“Community then is not a closed group but a way of life that helps each person to grow to human fulfillment. The two key elements of community are *mission* and *mutual caring* for each one. We come together for a purpose that is the mission, and also to be a sign of love or rather to grow in love for each other. It is a mission that defines why we are together, and being together we learn to love one another.” ♦

Community Notes



The elegant theatre at the new Aga Khan Museum in Toronto was a glittering venue for the gala event of the L'Arche Ontario Regional Gathering on the evening of June 17th.

May 22nd was a special date for two long-term community members, Wendy Lywood and Kathy Kelly. It was the 25th anniversary of Wendy's ordination to the priesthood, and it was Kathy's 70th birthday and the beginning of her retirement. We celebrated both Wendy and Kathy that Friday night at Dayspring and gave them our blessing during the service.

Carmen Ellis has retired after over 40 years in L'Arche. We celebrated Carmen at a special luncheon at the Meeting Hall on April 29th. Carmen was an assistant at the original L'Arche community in Trosly, France, then at La Merci, also in France. She had been with Daybreak for over 35 years. Carmen and her husband Steve have moved to London where their children and grandchildren now live.

David Harmon broke his hip this winter. After surgery, he was in rehab at Mackenzie Health in Richmond Hill. Now he's back at the Green House and tooling around very nicely with a walker. David just accompanied his sister Marilyn on a trip to Indiana.

Amanda Winnington-Ingram had spinal surgery in May at Sunnybrook Hospital in Toronto. Amanda then moved to the Lyndhurst Centre for Rehabilitation where she is enjoying a very active program, gaining strength every day. Amanda will return to the Red House.

Lori Vaanholt, who has been the Assistants Coordinator for the past two years, has taken a new role with L'Arche Canada. Lori and Guillaume Richard in Montreal share the role of Growth Coordinator for L'Arche in Canada. Lori will remain a member of Daybreak.

Carlene Danes is the new Assistants Coordinator. Carlene has many years of leadership experience in the field, most recently in Community Living Oshawa Clarington and Reena. She is very excited to be part of L'Arche.

The Walk with Hope brought in \$66,509 — well over the goal. Over 400 walkers participated in the Walk on May 2nd including the Minister of Community & Social Services, the Honourable Dr. Helena Jaczek who spoke at the start, and who walked the whole way. The Walk began at Jean Vanier Catholic High School and ended at the Daybreak property where everyone enjoyed a hamburger picnic and some fun summer games on the lawn. A large group of high school student volunteers contributed to the very festive spirit!

Community Wish List

Pillows.....	\$50
Blanket.....	\$75
Tablecloths.....	\$100
Red Obelisk Beech tree.....	\$200
Art supplies.....	\$500
Pots and pans.....	\$500
Barbeque.....	\$650
Compact upright piano.....	\$2,000
Tree shredder.....	\$2,000
Sun shade for the Day Program.....	\$3,000
Sectional sofa.....	\$4,000
Stairlift.....	\$7,000
Grounds equipment.....	\$10,000
Mid-size car.....	\$25,000

For more information, please call Warren Pot at L'Arche Daybreak's Development Office (905) 884-3454 ext. 285.

Where There's a Will, There's a Way! Everyone Benefits by Estate Planning



Caroline York and Stephanie Mirtic make candles at the Craft Studio. A generous planned gift became the cornerstone funding for the Craft Studio expansion which doubled its floor space.

Everyone Benefits by Having a Will

Many people think that their estate is not large enough to justify a will — but that's actually not true at all. Whether your estate is large or small, a will is an important and helpful document. A thoughtful and well-planned will is critical to ensuring that your intentions are carried out. If you don't take the opportunity to make clear your wishes, the government will do it for you — and the government's formula for the distribution of your assets may not be what you want. No matter what your family situation or circumstance, you are the only one who knows how you want your estate to be distributed. Your will is the document that can make your wishes clear — and that clarity is in itself a great gift to your family and friends.

Consider L'Arche Daybreak in Your Will

If you want to support the mission of a charitable organization like L'Arche Daybreak, a will may be the key instrument for making what could be your most generous charitable gift. Making a "percentage bequest" can be a thoughtful way to consider planning your estate. For example, you can make a charitable bequest by stating that a percentage of the estate — say 10 percent — for the specific charity you want to support. It's also possible to direct a particular asset or a specific amount to a charity through a will.

Some people choose to name a charity as the beneficiary of their life insurance. Others find it attractive to make a gift of stocks or other negotiable securities.

If you die with an RRSP, it is important to recognize that the entire value of the RRSP will be treated for tax purposes as part of your income in the year of your death, unless your spouse or your common-law partner or your dependent child or grandchild is named as beneficiary. Making a planned gift from your RRSP can bring significant tax savings. A lawyer can help you to create an estate plan in a way that best responds to your needs and circumstances. And if your estate is modest, a simple will should not be a major expense. It's really a sound investment.

Bequests Make a Difference

A generous estate gift can expand Daybreak's horizons in ways that have a significant impact. A few years ago, a long-time donor and friend died and left a bequest to Daybreak. She wanted to support the growth of the community's daytime programs of work, recreation and creativity. Her gift became the cornerstone funding for a major addition to Daybreak's Craft Studio that made possible the creation of its paper studio. This kind of facility growth has enabled the Craft Studio to welcome many new people.

For purposes of a will, "L'Arche Daybreak" is the legal name of the L'Arche Daybreak community in Richmond Hill, Ontario. L'Arche Daybreak is a registered charitable organization in Canada and in the United States. If you have questions about making a planned gift, please contact Warren Pot, Director of Development, at 905-884-3454 ext. 285 or wpot@larchedaybreak.com. ♣

L'ARCHE DAYBREAK

The first L'Arche community in North America, L'Arche Daybreak began in 1969 and now includes eight homes in Richmond Hill, as well as *The Woodery* wood-working shop, *The Craft Studio*, and the *Dayspring* spiritual centre. The L'Arche Daybreak community is a dynamic example of how people of different intellectual capacity, social origin, religion, and culture can live and learn together.

WORSHIP SERVICES

Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings at 8:30 at Dayspring.

Friday evenings at 7:30 at Dayspring.

DAYSPRING CLOSED

Friday, November 6, Community Wknd.

Friday, December 25, Christmas Day

L'ARCHE

L'Arche is an international movement of nearly 150 communities around the world where people with intellectual disabilities and those who care for them share life together. Canadian Jean Vanier founded L'Arche in France in 1964.

"Can we reasonably have a dream of a world where people, whatever their race, religion, culture, abilities or disabilities, whatever their education or economic situation, whatever their age or gender, can find a place and reveal their gifts?"

-Jean Vanier



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Ontario Regional Gathering Raises L'Arche Profile

Over 250 people gathered on the Toronto campus of Seneca College from June 16-18 for the Ontario Regional Gathering. Mary Jo Leddy, founder of Romero House, a home for refugees in Toronto, gave the opening plenary session. Mary Jo spoke about the centrality of relationship in building community. Meredith Allen and Celine Tremblay from the Able Network, an Aurora-based organization committed to employment and community participation for people of all abilities, gave the second engaging plenary session. Every delegate participated in small workshops centered on a specific subject or craft. There were also celebratory meals, as well as the affirmation of a new Ontario Mandate and new Regional Leaders — and the L'Arche Ontario soccer match — the Formosi Cup! L'Arche Arnprior was the winning team this year and took the Formosi Cup home with them.

The Gala event at the Regional Gathering took place in the theatre of the stunning new Aga Khan Museum in Toronto. Karima Panjwani, the Stephenson House assistant who had



The pinnacle event of the L'Arche Ontario Regional Gathering was an on-stage gala featuring theatre, dance, film, music and song that played to an audience of 350 people.

forged the connection with the Museum, gave a beautiful opening prayer of welcome to begin the evening. The Honourable Dr. Helena Jaczek, Minister of Community & Social Services, brought greetings and congratulations from the government of Ontario. The Spirit Movers danced, members of L'Arche Toronto's theatre troupe Sol Express performed and shared some incredibly funny short films, and musicians from our community and the *Anyone Can Sing Choir* brought soul-filled music and song.

The Regional Gathering is a special time of recognizing that each of us belongs to something much bigger than our local L'Arche community. We are part of the movement of L'Arche which is alive and growing and always in some way becoming new. The Gathering also became a vibrant forum for engagement and collaboration that connected L'Arche communities with the extraordinary work of other people and organizations — a great way to raise the profile of L'Arche Ontario while learning with others. ♣

John Guido is Honoured After 12 Years as L'Arche Ontario Leader



John Guido looks on as the table is set with beautiful gifts from the nine communities of L'Arche across Ontario, including eight stunning plates from Daybreak's Craft Studio.

The Regional Gathering was an ideal time to celebrate John Guido who has just completed his final term as the L'Arche Ontario Regional Leader. Daybreak was John's first L'Arche community, and he remains dear to many people here. John has always loved the ritual of the table, so the Regional Council planned a "thank you" gift for John by setting the table for him with gifts from all nine L'Arche communities in Ontario. Mary Anne Larcina, Linda Martin and Lori Vaanholt laid eight exquisite plates and several serving pieces. All were made at the Craft Studio and decorated with the art of people close to John, including a plate incised with Bill Van Buren's drawing of people around the table. John was deeply moved. Many people commented on the striking pottery from the Craft Studio. ♣