

Seeds for Change Partners with L'Arche Daybreak

by Carl MacMillan

Behind Daybreak's historic green barn is an open field that is now the site of a community vegetable garden. On June 21st, the first day of summer, a public media launch took place at Daybreak for a relatively new organization called *Seeds for Change*. Formed in 2011, the mission of *Seeds for Change* is to promote an active, healthy lifestyle through gardening for Canadians across the country. *Seeds for Change* provides community members hands-on education through growing, harvesting, celebrating and sharing locally grown food. *Seeds for Change* garden plots can be found on school grounds, in public parks, and on underutilized spaces of all kinds. L'Arche Daybreak's is the 105th community garden in the *Seeds for Change* gardens in York Region.

Seeds for Change has mounted a 2015 Challenge that coincides with the Pan Am Games to be held in Toronto and the FIFA Women's World Cup, the largest single sports event for women in the world and the first single sports event in Canada to be held from coast to coast. The organizers' aim is to increase athletic participation across the country, and to benefit children, families and other community members while attracting visitors worldwide. *Seeds*



Debbie Dew, Kim Lageer, Mayor of Richmond Hill Dave Barrow, Dr. Helena Jaczek MPP, Marissa Wiltshire, co-founder of *Seeds for Change*, Inspector Russ Bellman, and Lynn Koss, founder of *Seeds for Change*, gather around Daybreak's community garden.

for *Change* has challenged York Region residents and all Canadian communities each to grow 2015 new food gardens by the opening of the Pan Am Games 2015, just two years hence.

Seeds for Change approached the Craft Studio to develop a product that has turned into a lovely partnership with Daybreak. The Craft Studio designed and now produces ceramic garden markers that identify different types of vegetables growing in gardens. The high quality garden markers are sold directly from the Craft Studio, in stores, through Gardenimport's catalogue and at craft fairs around the Greater Toronto area. It's great work for the Craft Studio and

a good fundraising initiative for *Seeds for Change*. The Craft Studio label and card are included with every marker sold, so the product serves as a public awareness tool for L'Arche Daybreak as well a *Seeds for Change*.

The *Seeds for Change* media launch on June 21st, which happened behind the barn right next to L'Arche Daybreak's community garden, was really fun and very well attended, including Richmond Hill's Mayor, Dave Barrow, and Dr. Helena Jaczek, MPP. While *Seeds for Change* was the headline that day, our partnership with them brought Daybreak into the limelight, too. It was a lovely way to kick off the summer! ♣

A Meditation by Henri Nouwen Community: A Deep Sense of Being Gathered by God

It is important to keep ourselves from thinking about community only in terms of living together in one house, or sharing meals and prayers, or doing projects together. These might well be true expressions of community, but community is a much deeper reality. People who live together do not necessarily live in community, and those who live alone do not necessarily live without it. Physical nearness or distance is secondary. The primary quality of community is a deep sense of being gathered by God.

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When Francis Xavier traveled alone across many continents to preach the Gospel, he found strength in the sure knowledge that he belonged to a community that supported him with prayer and brotherly care. And many Christians who show great perseverance in hard and lonely tasks find their strength in the deep bond with the community in whose name they do their work.

Here we touch one of the most critical areas of the Christian life today. Many very generous Christians find themselves increasingly tired and dispirited not so much because



Sue Mosteller takes time for a laugh with her old friend Peter Porter at a Silver Anniversary Tea. Sue received a blessing in celebration of her 80th birthday at the Dayspring on May 3rd.

the work is hard or the success slight, but because they feel isolated, unsupported, and left alone. People who say, "I wonder if anyone cares what I am doing. I wonder if my superior, my friends at home, or the people who sent me ever think about me, ever pray for me, ever consider me part of their lives," are in real spiritual danger. We are able to do many hard things, tolerate many conflicts, overcome many obstacles, and persevere under many pressures, but when we no longer experience ourselves as part of a caring, supporting, praying community, we quickly lose faith. This is because faith in God's compas-

sionate presence can never be separated from experiencing God's presence in the community to which we belong.

The crises in the lives of many caring Christians today are closely connected with deep feelings of not belonging. Without a sense of being sent by a caring community, a compassionate life cannot last long and quickly degenerates into a life marked by numbness and anger. This is not simply psychological observation, but a theological truth, because apart from a vital relationship with a caring community a vital relationship with Christ is not possible. ♣

Community Notes



Amanda Winnington-Ingram stands by her painting that was featured in this year's art show.

Stephen Petruccelli participated in the Winter Special Olympics in Seoul, Korea from January 14th to February 6th. Stephen is a champion downhill skier.

The Walk for Hope, which took place on May 4th, raised over \$25,000. Jean Vanier Catholic High School brought many new participants to this year's Walk.

Warren Pot, after many years as Daybreak's Assistants Coordinator, will begin a new role this fall as Daybreak's Manager of Digital Communications.

Lori Vaanholt has taken on the role of Assistants Coordinator at Daybreak. Lori has a long history with L'Arche and Daybreak going back to 1990. She just served as the Interim Vice Regional Leader.

Becoming Human is the name of a new Saturday morning retreat series at the Dayspring beginning on November 16th. The first retreat in the series will be centered on celebrating life at the time of a person's death. Daybreak's rich experience in this area will nurture a morning that will both inspire and inform. More information, including registration details, will be included with the October Daybreak Newsbreak.

Artists in Motion, in addition to the Spirit Movers' 20th Anniversary dance performance on stage, included a colourful art show of works by core members and an exhibition of black and white portraits of community members by Warren Pot. The exhibition ran for the month of April at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts. Many of the featured pieces are now hanging in the Big House.

Associate Members Colette Halferty and Deiren Masterson received a blessing at the Dayspring on May 10th. Colette, who has a 20 year history in L'Arche, is Daybreak's Director of Development. Deiren, now a filmmaker, is a former assistant and now long-time friend at the New House.

Confirmed Members Clara Frascchetti, Chris Jarvis, Agnieszka Mlynarczyk, and Warren Pot received a blessing at the Dayspring on June 14th. Clara founded Daybreak's student retreat program where she remains active in leading retreats. Chris is the Dayspring Coordinator. Agnieszka is the Homes Coordinator. Warren is a long-time member of the Leadership Team. Each of these new Confirmed Members has over fifteen years of experience in L'Arche.

Community Wish List

Tablecloths	\$100
Dawyck Purple Beech tree.....	\$150
Art supplies	\$500
Pots and Pans	\$500
Gardening supplies.....	\$500
Barbeque	\$650
Tree shredder.....	\$2,000
Sun shade for the Day Program	\$3,000
Couches.....	\$3,000
Fireplace insert/liner	\$6,000
Stairlift	\$7,000
Grounds equipment.....	\$10,000
Mini-van	\$35,000

For more information, please call Colette Halferty at L'Arche Daybreak's Development Office (905) 884-3454 ext. 230.

L'Arche Canada Launches Servant Leadership by Amy Demoulin



Stacy Gilchrist (left) and Amy Demoulin attended the L'Arche Canada General Assembly in Vancouver.

Leadership has been identified as the most important issue that will affect the continued growth and stability of L'Arche in the future. Good leadership will help us stay true to our identity and live our mission with wisdom and courage. Everyone involved in L'Arche is called to grow in leadership towards our mission; each one of us has a leadership gift to give, a gift that is important for the well-being of the community.

L'Arche Canada's way of investing in leadership is through the *Growing as Servant Leaders Program* that was launched in April 2012. This program is a broad effort to design and implement improvements that will develop the future leadership of L'Arche. It is more than a series of changes. It is about building organizational capacity so L'Arche can achieve the powerful mission outcomes to which we are called.

Change is envisioned along seven dimensions that are being phased in over the next three years:

- 1. The L'Arche Servant Leadership Model** – a detailed tool that translates the Identity and Mission into day-to-day actions in community has been developed over the last year, including input from hundreds of individuals and all 29 communities.
- 2. Recruiting** – the program will raise L'Arche's profile as a distinct place to grow as a servant leader, attract best-fit assistants to L'Arche.
- 3. Best Practice People Processes** – mutually reinforcing human resource tools and practices to support the growth of assistants from the start. Improved role descriptions,

for example, are currently being tested throughout the country.

- 4. Continuous Learning Culture** – a stronger learning culture with coaching and learning a day-to-day reality and source of inspiration and growth.
- 5. Training and Formation** – a distinctive curriculum based on the Servant Leadership model for all roles.
- 6. Individual Leader Focus** – identifying how to inspire, provide growth opportunities and connect with those assistants who have an interest in continuing their leadership growth journey at L'Arche.
- 7. Alumni Engagement** – connecting with, engaging, and drawing on the many alumni who carry the spirit of servant leadership in their current roles and relationships beyond L'Arche. The 50th Anniversary of L'Arche will provide an excellent opportunity to re-connect with the many individuals who have lost touch with L'Arche.

The program is being designed and implemented over the next three years using a piloted approach – a small number of communities to start, others to follow. A large amount of consultation is important throughout all steps, so that communities' desires and concerns will be built into the proposed solutions. L'Arche Canada will ensure that adequate resources are allocated to this new program and that once implemented, these improvements will continue to benefit communities on an ongoing basis. ♣

Amy Demoulin and Janet Maclaren have spearheaded L'Arche Canada's Servant Leadership. Amy is a member of L'Arche Toronto. Janet is a seasoned management consultant.

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.

L'ARCHE

L'Arche is an international movement of over 130 communities where people with intellectual disabilities and those who care for them live, work and learn together. Canadian Jean Vanier founded L'Arche in France in 1964.

L'ARCHE MISSION STATEMENT

- *To make known the gifts of people with intellectual disabilities revealed through mutually transforming relationships.*
- *To engage in our diverse cultures, working together towards a more human society.*
- *To foster an environment in communities that is inspired by the core values of our founding story, and that responds to the changing needs of our members.*



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The Spirit Movers Celebrate 20 Years by Kathy Kelly

Artists in Motion, the Spirit Movers' 20th Anniversary celebratory performance, took place on Monday evening, April 15th, at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts. The first documented performance of the Spirit Movers was at the Daybreak Carol Service in 1993. Marcie Taylor, an assistant with considerable dance experience, founded the Spirit Movers as a way for core members and assistants to share the message

of L'Arche through dance. Dancers in the early years included Michael Barrett, Linda Slinger, Janet Munro, Siobhan Keogh, Paula Kilcoyne and Stephanie, Jessica and Rachel Vorstermans. Their performances were mainly in churches and schools, but there were special performances in venues such as the Winter Garden Theatre, the George Weston Recital Hall, the Air Canada Centre, and the welcome ceremony for Pope John

Elisabeth Ridder Dances With Joy by Bonnie Parsons

Elisabeth Ridder, who has lived at the Corner House since 2002, joined the Spirit Movers when she retired from her job at a daycare centre where she had worked for 20 years. Many people make plans for retirement that carry a ring of frivolity and 'freedom 55' about them. Not many of those plans include joining a dance troupe.

Yet Elisabeth has made a great contribution to the Spirit Movers as she has grown in her role as a dancer. In partnering with Michael Barrett, she has brought leadership to the much loved African Dance. She takes her role as a member of the troupe very seriously both in performance and during rehearsal.

Even when Elisabeth is relaxing with a deck of cards, her ear is always cocked for anyone that needs



Elisabeth Ridder is pictured here dancing with her fellow Spirit Mover, Michael Barrett.

encouragement. She does natural check-ins with everyone – possessing a real spirit of hospitality. While serious about the matters at hand, she doesn't take herself too seriously and has a great sense of humour with a

Paul II at World Youth Day in 2002. Since Marcie Taylor left Daybreak, the leadership of the Spirit Movers has passed to a series of capable and empathetic dancers: Paula Kilcoyne, Siobhan Keogh, Kathy Kelly, Eunji Kim, Anna MacLean, and now Bonnie Parsons.

In the early years, assistants and core members scheduled rehearsals and performances in their spare time. The Spirit Movers became a dedicated Daybreak program in 1999, the year the current Dayspring opened. The Spiritual Life Committee invited the Spirit Movers to be a part of the Dayspring ministries. Later, the Spirit Movers were invited to lead student retreats at the Dayspring. This retreat ministry continues to be an integral part of the Spirit Movers' mission.

The first 20 years of the Spirit Movers have included many memorable moments. At one performance, Jean Vanier hesitated to sit on stage by himself while the Spirit Movers danced around him to give him a blessing. Linda Slinger solved the problem by grabbing his hand saying "Don't worry, Jean, I'm here with you." May the Spirit Movers continue to move the hearts of their audiences for many years to come! ♣

positively infectious laugh. She has a wonderful confidence and love of letting the Spirit move her body in the joyful expression of faith – the unspeakable joy of life lived together. She is a natural dancer! ♣