



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## L'Arche Portland Announces First Annual Spirit of L'Arche Award

**Portland, OR, [Thursday, May 29, 2014]**—[L'Arche Portland](#) announced today the inauguration of the ***Spirit of L'Arche Award*** on Wednesday, June 4, at the University of Portland. The local organization, in which people with and without intellectual disabilities create home and build community together, established the award in honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of [L'Arche International](#). The award will be presented annually to "a person or organization in Portland that embodies L'Arche Portland's mission to announce and share the gifts of people with intellectual disabilities."

The first recipient of the Spirit of L'Arche Award will be [PHAME](#). In announcing the award, Frank Normandin, Board Chair at L'Arche Portland, shared, "L'Arche Portland has admired the work that PHAME has been doing in our community for years. Not only does PHAME celebrate the gifts of people with disabilities, but they also make it possible for the larger Portland community to experience and celebrate those gifts. PHAME was an obvious choice for the Spirit of L'Arche Award."

Stephen Marc Beaudoin, executive director of PHAME, added, "PHAME is absolutely thrilled to be selected as the first 'Spirit of L'Arche' award winner. Like L'Arche, we believe in the potential of all people, and that every person on this planet has unique gifts and talents to share with the world. We look forward to continuing to work alongside L'Arche and our other community partners in making Portland a better, more livable, more equitable community - for everyone."

### About PHAME

PHAME is a community where adults with developmental disabilities come to engage, learn and grow in an environment that is supportive and comfortable. Built upon the belief that art is for all and that through the arts students, artists, teachers and the entire community can discover their own inspiration, PHAME brings passion, joy and celebration to arts education and performance. Founded in 1984, PHAME serves over 100 students and an annual audience of more than 10,000 through arts education, performance and community.

[MORE]

*People With and Without Intellectual Disabilities Sharing Life Together*

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## **About L'Arche**

The Portland L'Arche community is part of an international federation, with 146 communities in 40 countries. L'Arche International, founded in 1964 in France, is a global leader in engaging, honoring, and celebrating people with intellectual disabilities. L'Arche differs from conventional group homes in that caregivers live as family with adults with intellectual disabilities. The arrangement creates a culture of equality, founded on a belief in the unique value of every person and our need for one another.

Andrew Noethe, Executive Director of L'Arche Portland, knows the importance of getting out the message that people living with intellectual disabilities can thrive when living in community with other people—people with and without intellectual disabilities. “L'Arche Portland not only shifts perceptions, but changes the lives of people with intellectual disabilities, as well as their families and people throughout our broader communities” says Noethe. “L'Arche is a life-changing organization that truly is a sign of hope to the world.”

L'Arche Portland is proud to have been selected as a winner of the 2012 "Making a Difference Award" by the City of Portland.

There are many [ways to support](#) the work of L'Arche Portland—attend a monthly home tour; make a financial contribution; provide an in-kind donation (*please see online [Wish List](#)*); invite a member of the Speakers Bureau to present at your community group, church or school; volunteer. For more information, please visit <http://www.larche-portland.org> or call L'Arche Portland at 503-251-6901.

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