



L'ARCHE
Portland

People with and without intellectual disabilities sharing life together

Nehalem News

Summer 2016

Inside this issue:

- The Long Road: Building Capacity for Lifetimes of Sharing 2
- An Unfiltered Love The Legacy Corner 3
- Core Member Interview: Adam Richards and Moss Kane 4

— THE MUTUALITY OF PARTNERSHIPS —

By Andrew Noethe, Executive Director | Community Leader

One of great gifts of L'Arche is how it repeatedly teaches us our mutual need for one another. We witness this in how core members and assistants blossom and grow in their shared life together; we witness this in the friends and volunteers who have made long-term commitments to relationships within L'Arche Portland; and we witness this in our partnerships with other communities and organizations.

This past month we honored St. Andrew Catholic Church with our Spirit of L'Arche Award. This public presentation was made to recognize how important our communities are to one another in supporting our common members and common values. We are on a journey together of mutual need and support, and our hope is for this to become a model for how we will engage more and more faith communities throughout Portland.



Mary Lou Betzing, Cheryl Kuehl, Corrine Montana, Frances Sexton and Paul Wood share community at the REX spring picnic.

We also have important partnerships with schools, universities and young adult volunteer programs. Through the *L'Arche Presents* Speaker Series, assistants and core members are given the opportunity to engage with students at service-focused schools such as LaSalle Prep and Jesuit High School, reflecting on the gifts they receive from sharing life together and demonstrating what living a faithful and intentional life can look like for a young adult. With the University of Portland, we engage in challenging community discussions about what *Becoming Human* means in our common efforts to provide formation to students, faculty, staff and members of the wider community. With InVia (a German-based program), Quaker Voluntary Service and Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest, we stretch and grow because of the diversity of experience that these young leaders bring to, and take from, our community. In fact, our new Jesuit Volunteer role will allow us to better support core members' goals for inclusion while providing more mentoring and leadership opportunities for current assistants who have established relationships in our homes.

Ultimately, we are called to open our hearts and our community to our need for one another. If we can do that, and trust in that, I believe our lives, communities and the world will be much more peaceful and just.



JOIN US! Community Picnic
Saturday, July 9 at Montavilla Park
RSVP: 503-251-6901 or at www.larche-portland.org

— THE LONG ROAD: PLANNING FOR LIFETIMES OF SHARING —

by Amy Geoffroy, Director of Development

One of L'Arche Portland's goals is to support people in community over generations. Twenty-nine years into our work, a new generation of volunteers, donors and friends is establishing its own relationship with L'Arche Portland. Some of these young adults (the Weisensee clan) were raised alongside this community; some found us by reading and listening to Jean Vanier and Krista Tippett. Over the past few years, partnerships with several foundations have helped us share our mission and vision more widely in the Portland region and engage new generations while also continuing to provide supports to core members, assistants, donors and volunteers.

Our current project with Meyer Memorial Trust builds capacity by better engaging major donors, creating a legacy giving program, and addressing new goals for monthly sustainers, board and volunteer involvement, communications, grant writing, outreach, and special events. A year into the project, we have:

- Launched the Heart of L'Arche Society. We now have 28 commitments for this major donor circle, and we continue to seek new opportunities.
- Sought specialized legacy giving training and began outreach;
- Secured a \$20,000 matching grant from the Hedinger Family Foundation for new or increased donations of \$2,000 or more;
- Cultivated new major and monthly donors;
- Engaged with the wider community through *L'Arche Presents*, Dessert with L'Arche, and our first-ever Retreat with L'Arche;
- Developed an online and a social media presence that engages people on a variety of platforms;
- Shared assistant, core member, and volunteer voices reflecting on the impact of L'Arche Portland on their lives.

We are grateful for this opportunity to build, sustain, and nurture our community of supporters -- a community that continues to enter into relationship and walk alongside us on the journey of life. We invite you to share your own journey and learn about the ways you can be transformed with L'Arche.



The Dazer family with supporters Bernie Herberholt, Kyle Eilenfeldt and Katie Robar.



Howard Hedinger (far right) helped announce a matching grant at the Spring Social.

— PARTNER WITH US BY BECOMING A MONTHLY SUSTAINER —

Our journey together is one of sustaining each other. Our loyal donors help provide valuable supports and services to the men and women of L'Arche Portland who share daily life. **Become a monthly sustainer today!** Your recurring gift is easy to set up and will directly impact the lives of core members and assistants, volunteers, friends, and faith communities who engage with us. Transform lives today by making a gift in friendship and accompaniment. Mail in your monthly contribution today or donate online at www.larche-portland.org/give-monthly.



Adam Richards and Andrew Davidson at a Blazers game this spring

- **\$25/month** feeds 4 core members and 4 assistants for a week
- **\$50/month** heats one of our homes for most of the winter
- **\$75/month** provides spiritual formation and accompaniment for one assistant
- **\$150/month** provides direct inclusion support services for one core member for a year

— AN UNFILTERED LOVE —

by Sophia Markwordt, University of Portland student intern for L’Arche Portland

When I first visited L’Arche Portland, I was nervous because I had never interacted with someone with intellectual disabilities before. However, I kept reminding myself why I chose L’Arche for my community work study. Looking through the list of places to volunteer and reading what L’Arche was all about, I knew it was the place where I wanted to devote my time. A life of simplicity, community, and togetherness was the general gist that I picked up.



Joni Smith and Sophia Markwordt at the REX spring picnic.

As I walked into Nehalem House, my nerves gradually went away. I was warmly welcomed by community members. I could see the message of L’Arche come alive as everyone sat around a table checking in with each other. Over the next few months, I became more comfortable, and for some weeks going to L’Arche was the best part of my week. The Nehalem community would get used to me, and I felt more part of community each time I came. One of my favorite things about L’Arche is that the core members will give a person they’ve known for just a few weeks the same love they’ve known a person for years. The first time I met Joni, she reached out for my

hand, and every time I walked in the house, Adam would greet me with a nice pat on the back. Everyone welcomed me with no question. This unfiltered love has inspired me and I hope to give it as freely as the members of L’Arche Portland one day.

When I would start my day at L’Arche, I really wanted to do my part to help. I felt the need to constantly be doing something. I live such a fast paced life at school, constantly thinking about what I have to do, and I carried that mental state with me. Once I was able to stop thinking this way, I found I enjoyed slowing down and taking time to just be present. I learned that there is never a reason to not love and accept somebody completely as they are, and that it is essential to stop your chaotic life and be present in the moment to appreciate those around you.

— THE LEGACY CORNER —

With Jerry Deas, Board Member and Tamara Yates, Director of Philanthropy

Have you considered leaving a gift to L’Arche Portland in your will?

Tamara Yates spoke with long-term community and Board member Jerry Deas about the legacy he intends to leave in our community.

Tamara: How did you come to decide to leave a gift to L’Arche Portland in your will?

Jerry: We realized that we needed to redo the rudimentary will we had made 20 years earlier. There have been so many changes in our lives since then, and we knew it was important to take the time to clarify our estate plans. When we met with our attorney, he asked us if there were organizations we’d like to leave bequests to and L’Arche Portland was at the top of both of our lists. L’Arche is my passion.



Jerry Deas, center, with Board President Beth Barsotti (left) and Pat Boose

Tamara: Why is leaving this legacy to our community important to you?

Jerry: The reason is to ensure the continuation of L’Arche Portland after we’re gone. This work needs to carry on. Life in the community is so important, and the growth of the community is so important. And we’re going to need legacy gifts for that growth to occur. What we’re leaving isn’t millions, but it’s something

that, when combined with other people’s gifts, can really make a difference.

Would you like to learn more about leaving a gift in your will for L’Arche Portland? Contact Tamara at 503-381-4281 or email her at tamara@larche-portland.org.



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People With and Without
Intellectual Disabilities
Sharing Life Together

— CORE MEMBER INTERVIEW: ADAM RICHARDS WITH MOSS KANE —

Moss: Hey Adam. Anything you want to share with our friends? Anything you're excited about?

Adam: (Points to people pictured in a newsletter; points to an assistant, Keeley)

Moss: Do you have fun hanging out with Keeley?

Adam: Yes.

Moss: Adam, what do you like to do for fun?

Adam: Sleep. Sleepy, sleepy.

Moss: Do you like to watch sports? What team are you going to see soon? The Pickles?

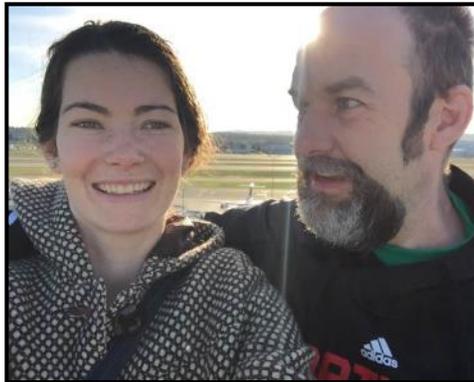
Adam: Yuck. I hate pickles.

Moss: That's the baseball team you're going to see!

Adam: Oh, yeah!

Moss: Who is going with you?

Adam: (Points) Here [Ben], here [Ilana], and this guy [Michael], Oh! Here! [Robin]



Adam Richards and Moss Kane at the airport.

Moss: Why do you like the games?

Adam: Cause they're fun. (Points to his own picture) Me!

Moss: What do you like to do there?

Adam: Catch the ball.

Moss: Yeah. I heard you're going to bike to the game.

Adam: Yep. Yay! Know what I'm gonna buy? Shirt.

Moss: A shirt? Do you like to buy shirts at games?

Adam: Yeah.

Moss: Is there anything else you're looking forward to? What about going to see the goats?

Adam: Funny.

Moss: They are funny? Did you pet and feed them?

Adam: Yeah. You?

Moss: I haven't seen the goats but would love to go.

Adam: Alright.