

The Good News

L'Arche Sudbury Annual Newsletter



Living the welcoming experience at Jericho house

By Marianella

We welcomed two Core Members in the past few months, Shannon and Colleen H who are teaching us about embracing our values and differences to show our best version of ourselves.

Shannon arrived last November to our home. For us, it has been a beautiful journey to learn about her gifts. She has given us so much love and good energy that has brought tons of laughs to all. She has an incredible positive attitude under any bad situation. Shannon has taught us to be resilient and brave individuals. She has shown immense strength throughout her health concerns, and doesn't let that get in the way of helping people. Last month, Shannon participated in a swimming competition for the SSO and is currently training for a walk competition. Go Shannon!

Colleen H is our youngest Core Member, turning 20 last month, it has been a blessing taking in a new generation! Colleen arrived to our home in January uncertain of what life would be like in L'Arche. Colleen is a fun and clever individual, she likes crafts such as making bracelets and necklaces, likes listening to music, loves to spend time with her family, and LOVES pretzels! Colleen is excited to live in a L'Arche home and make new friends, as previously her circle was quite limited. We are grateful to have her here with us at Jericho house!



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A message from the Community Leader/ Executive Director

By Jennifer McCauley

In 2021, members of L'Arche Sudbury worked together to develop the strategic priorities we wanted to focus on over a 4-year term. It is with great pride that I share the successes thus far and ask for your continued support as we embark on the final year of our Strategic Plan.

"Go Deeper" - We have invested in the development of individuals through skills assessments and training. We introduced a community wide program to teach the Core Values to all. We proudly participated with Tamarack Institute on Asset Mapping and Community Engagement. One of our Core Members was chosen as a Youth Leader representative for L'Arche Canada and received training on advocacy and leadership through King's College. Another member represented us as a delegate on Parliament Hill, speaking to affordable housing needs for people with intellectual disabilities. We will continue to focus our efforts on investing in the members of our community in the year ahead.

"Go Out" - We have strengthened partnerships with our government officials, fellow sister agencies, individuals, and families in the city. Through the support of Petryna Advertising, we had a very successful awareness campaign "L'Arche is Home," where we spread information about the mission of L'Arche and have seen greater recognition of our community.

We have seen increased donations, hosted wonderful fundraising events, recruited more staff and volunteers, and have expanded our number of Board Members.

"Go Within" - We successfully renovated the property rented from Guardian Angel at 1173 Rideau Street and the home "Jericho" is running smoothly. We have welcomed 2 young individuals into alternative residential living spaces, one who lives in their own place in the city and one who lives in the apartment in the basement of Bethany. We continue to listen to the voices of our Community Participation Supports Program and look for different activities offered in house and in the wider city for people to participate in. We also continue to work tirelessly to try and make the dream of "L'Arche Sudbury Place" a multi-use building to be constructed on the property we own in Minnow Lake a reality. Much work has been done at the Local, Provincial and National levels of government to secure the funding needed and we continue to work towards our goals.

Join us in making a difference

The search is still on for additional volunteers around the community! From helpers at our Annual Gala to volunteers that can assist with our new Delta Charity Bingo endeavour, we have a great need for volunteers of all ages within the community. At L'Arche Sudbury, every helping hand makes a world of difference. Whether you're eager to connect with new friends, or simply looking to give back to the community, there's a place for you here.

Volunteers play a crucial role in our mission of fostering inclusion. Your time and dedication help create a warm, welcoming community where everyone belongs. If you, a friend, or family member are interested in volunteering, please reach out to volunteer.coordinator@larchesudbury.org to learn more about how you can make a difference.



Desjardins "Good Spark Fund" donation

By Jennifer Cawley-Caruso

In L'Arche, relationships are key to most things we do. Whether we are entering a restaurant and need some help with the door, meeting a new assistant, or asking for financial support we benefit from connections made with smiles and generosity. On October 12, 2023 we celebrated a very generous donation of \$500,000 from the Desjardins Good Spark Fund which evolved from several positive relationships.

I was lucky to encounter a former colleague of mine, Louise Gervais, one morning. Once we exchanged news of our retirement passions, I let her know that I was looking for funds for our L'Arche Sudbury Place project. As a Desjardins board member, she encouraged me to contact Sophie Gingras who coordinates the work of the Desjardins Good Spark Fund. Sophie is the daughter of Daniel Gingras who has spearheaded capital campaigns for several important Sudbury organizations. He has worked closely with Gerry Loughheed who co-chairs the L'Arche Sudbury Place Capital Campaign.

Relationships were a good kick-start however, Sophie Gingras, carefully did her due diligence ensuring that our proposal was a responsible one which merited the attention of the Desjardins executive and board.

She guided us to refine our request and to provide the answers to the questions which were asked of us. In June 2023 we were informed that the Desjardins Good Spark Fund would support the development and delivery of our Community Participation Services in L'Arche Sudbury Place. We are very grateful to Desjardins for the generous donation and for their ongoing support as our Caisse/Bank. The funds they have donated will be issued as we reach the milestones we have agreed upon. In this way, we will continue to grow and nurture our relationships.



Welcoming a new House Leader

My name is Sylvia, and I'm the new House Leader at Bethany. Originally hailing from Ottawa, I bring with me a blend of Canadian and Salvadoran heritage, as my parents immigrated from El Salvador. My cultural background has enriched my perspective and added layers of diversity to my experiences. Professionally, my journey took a beautiful turn on March 4th, 2024, when I embarked on a new chapter by joining L'Arche. The warmth and hospitality extended to me by the community has been overwhelming, and I am grateful to have been embraced with open hearts. My time here has been nothing short of transformative, as I've had the privilege of connecting with the Core Members and individuals from the wider community. Meeting the Core Members and witnessing their resilience, kindness, and unique perspectives has truly touched my heart.

Each interaction has been a reminder of the beauty in diversity and the power of genuine human connections. As I continue to settle into my role at L'Arche, I am eager to contribute to the community in meaningful ways and to foster an environment of inclusion, compassion, and understanding.

