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"The secret of L'Arche is relationship: meeting people, not through the filter of certitude ideologies, idealism or judgments but heart to heart; listening to people with their pain, their joy, their hope, their history; listening to their hearts beat."

Jean Vanier

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L'Arche Halifax Board of Directors 2011-2012

Chair: Brian Hebert
Past Chair: Nancy Gilbert
Vice-Chair: Carol Evans
Secretary: Sarah Rahr
Nabiha Atallah
Barb Campbell
Rev. Dianne Parker
Barry Shea

Keith and Marcel – A journey in L'Arche

Keith Smith and I came to L'Arche within 3 months of each other. Our reasons for coming were different: I came looking for a community to serve with, and Keith came mostly because it was time. He was on a list, Community Service's priority being to find him a new home to spend his adulthood. His is one of many similar stories here in L'Arche Halifax, when it became time to step out more fully into adulthood, leaving behind a beloved home and family to become part of a new home.

Keith's transition from home wasn't an easy one. Small and sort of hidden ways like this, Keith committed to staying in this new home. When his words told everyone that he needed to "leave right now", his action said "okay, I'll sleep here again tonight". At different times, especially in my own first months in L'Arche, I found myself saying similar things; committing in my heart to what I knew I could do, which at times was only the next day or two.

And here both of us are, roughly a year into our respective L'Arche experiences. In that time, we've gone for walks together, road trips together, stared at construction sites together, argued together, stared confused at a broken computer together, planted tomato seeds together, watered them together, picked them together, and...did I mention argue together? We share a fascination with the ways that machines work, and we both seem to feel that when it comes to words, less is usually more.

To say that we understand each other would be a stretch, for sure. I'm sure we could know one another for a lifetime and still not have each other sorted out. And that, I realize, puts us in company with...anyone who's ever been in relationship. Realizing that the relationship between Keith and I, core



Marcel, Keith & Mark

member and assistant, looks more and more like the rest of my relationships tells me we're doing something right. I've known from reading Jean Vanier's books that genuine relationship is at the core of what we're doing here. But knowing from experiencing has been the blessing that makes L'Arche come alive for me. It's what makes it easier to commit--even necessary to commit--in the ways that I can to Keith and to the community of L'Arche Halifax.

Are we friends? Keith answers that with an emphatic "no". Whatever our relationship is defined as, whatever language is used and whatever it becomes in the future, it'll become that on our terms, unforced and at the necessary pace. If we're friends in forty years, I suppose it'll be because we've both been willing to commit, in the ways we know and at the pace we know, to being in relationship.



From Kelly's Desk



My L'Arche journey started in 1991, when I was a student at the University College of Cape Breton, now Cape Breton University. I was originally studying to be a Clinical Psychologist but after spending a summer at L'Arche Cape Breton, I realized that I wanted a career with people with developmental disabilities. After spending two summers with L'Arche I graduated and decided to go back for a year to learn more about relationships, community and myself. I left over five and a half years later. During that time, I lived in L'Arche Cape Breton, L'Arche Inverness in Scotland and L'Arche DayBreak in Richmond Hill, Ontario. In April 2001, I moved back to Halifax to be closer to family and friends. I missed L'Arche and was happy to join the group that was forming to bring

L'Arche to Halifax.

During those years I got to know the members of our community and they got to know me. I fell in love with Alex, got married and had my beautiful son, Bobby. Bobby was just five days old when he attended his first Sunday gathering. L'Arche Halifax joined together and gave my family a blessing that day. It was a moment I will always cherish.

I feel blessed to be given this opportunity to continue on my L'Arche journey in this new role and look forward to being part of the future of L'Arche Halifax.

Kelly Geddes, Executive Director

The United Way Campaign is a great way to support L'Arche Halifax!

L'Arche Halifax Needs!

- Bedding for single beds
- Photo albums
- Wheelchair van
- Towels and washcloths
- Tools
- Gardening tools and supplies
- Arts and crafts supplies
- Spiritual books, CD's
- Good set of knives
- Big stewpot
- Friend with cottage for L'Arche vacations!

Faces of L'Arche Halifax



L'Arche Atlantic Regional Gathering 2011

The L'Arche Atlantic Regional Gathering took place in May at the Gaelic College in Cape Breton and was attended by most members from the five communities that make up our region. The theme for the weekend gathering was "Well Worn Paths", referring to the paths we wear down travelling among the communities in our region, growing new friendships, nurturing old ones and learning what it means to belong to L'Arche. The theme song written for the gathering by two members of L'Arche Cape Breton, Haley Zavo and Gray Gillies was a highlight, with the chorus:-

"Take my hand and hold on tight, we're in this together through wind and rain and sun we'll walk these well worn paths."

We sing this song often and it reminds us that our community is so much larger than the people who live and work in our homes.



L'Arche Halifax Core Members & Assistants

L'Arche Halifax 2011 Golf Tournament

In September we held our third annual golf tournament for L'Arche Halifax. It was a great success with \$35,000 being raised to assist the running of our L'Arche home on Sullivan Street in Halifax.

The success was made possible in a large part due to the generous donation of Richard Homburg, (Homburg Charitable Foundation). We hold the tournament at the Sherwood Golf & Country Club and Mr. Homburg has given us the use of the facilities including golf carts free of charge for five years. I would like to thank the pleasant and knowledgeable staff of Sherwood for their efforts in guiding us through the maze of running a golf tournament. A thank you also to our Honourary Chair, Sean O'Regan, who has been a friend of L'Arche for many years.

It could not happen without the support of the community in putting in teams and their kind donations of prizes and items for the auction. We had a car (O'Regans's), a boat (Assante Wealth Management), bonds (RBC) and trips for those lucky to get a hole in one. We had enough donations that everyone won something. With that type of support the players had fun while supporting a great cause.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of the Golf Committee. I have served on a lot of volunteer committees and quite frankly it has been my experience that one or two people end up doing all the work and it becomes a frustrating agony to keep it going. This committee has been outstanding and it has been more than a pleasure working with them. Everyone carried the load and we had fun doing it.

Thank you all.

David Banks – Chair, Golf Committee



Team Invesco Trimark
Mike Langille, Kevin Cochrane,
Jennifer Crouse, David Banks

Meet the Board of Directors for L'Arche Halifax!

Save the Date!



L'Arche Halifax Monthly Gatherings at St. Agnes Church Hall

January 8, 2012

February 12, 2012

March 11, 2012

June 10, 2012

Times: 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

No gatherings in April & May

2nd Annual Art Show

April 20-22, 2012

St. Agnes Church Hall

More info to follow

L'Arche Halifax

Open House

5512 Sullivan St., Halifax

Saturday May 12, 2012

2pm – 4pm

4th Annual Golf

Tournament

September 6, 2012

Sherwood Golf & Country

Club, Chester, NS

Contact: David Banks

dbanks@assante.com

PLEASE KEEP US UP TO DATE!

Please inform us about any change of address!

Would you prefer to receive the newsletter by email?

Let us know by emailing:

office@larchehalifax.org

My job as Chairman of the Board is the easiest one in L'Arche Halifax thanks to an active and dedicated Board of Directors. Let me introduce them. Carol Evans is our Vice Chair and a member of the Human Resources committee. She has worked hard to keep L'Arche organized over the past few years. Sarah Rahr is one of our newest members and serves as our secretary. As a sister of one of our Core Members she brings a unique perspective to the Board. Nancy Gilbert is our longest serving board member and sits on our Executive Committee as Past President and is on our Fundraising committee as well. Nancy has worked tirelessly to establish L'Arche in Halifax for more years than anyone else can remember. Rev. Diane Parker has been on our Board for several terms. She graciously hosts our monthly meetings and is our unofficial spiritual advisor. Nabihah Atallah is also a veteran Board member. She shares her wisdom regularly at Board meetings and is our immigration advisor. Barb Ross-Campbell is on her second term and she now

heads up our Annual Art Show Committee. Last but not least Barry Shea is in his first term as a Board member and sits on our Fundraising committee bringing invaluable communications experience to the Board.

The Board of Directors was excited to participate in the development of the first Community Mandate which, once adopted, will guide the future growth and focus of the community. The Board looks forward to working with Kelly Geddes, our executive director, and our hundreds of L'Arche supporters to carry out the Community Mandate which will call for more homes to meet the needs of the many people with intellectual disabilities and their families in our area. This will not be an easy task in light of current government policies. It will take a lot of work by a dedicated board. Luckily for L'Arche Halifax we have just that. Lucky for me too since our Past President wasn't allowed to step down until our first house was built! So thank you fellow Board members. I'm counting on you.

Brian J. Hebert

You're Invited!!!!

Friends of L'Arche Christmas Gathering



Sunday, December 11, 2011

1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

St. Agnes Church Hall

Sandwiches and sweets gratefully accepted.

Please bring a non-perishable donation for the Food Bank

I WANT TO HELP L'ARCHE HALIFAX!

Please send me information on how to:

() Become a L'Arche Halifax Assistant () Become a Volunteer at L'Arche Halifax

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____ Phone _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!