



L'Arche Greater Washington, D.C.

P.O. Box 21471 | Washington, D.C. 20009

202.232.4539 | www.larche-gwdc.org



HOME *matters*

**BUILDING COMMUNITIES OF FAITH
AND LIFELONG HOMES WITH PEOPLE
WHO HAVE INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES**

Summer 2011

Thank you!

**OVER THE PAST YEAR, THE FOLLOWING SCHOOLS,
BUSINESSES, CHURCHES, AND FOUNDATIONS CONTRIBUTED TO L'ARCHE.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!**

Altrusa International
Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church
Brian A. Taylor Photography
Campaign for Youth Justice
Capital Group Companies Charitable Foundation
Catalogue for Philanthropy
Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle
Catholic Diocese of Lansing
Charles Engelhard Foundation
Clark-Winchcole Foundation
Claude Moore Charitable Foundation
Community Foundation for the National Capital Region
Deborah Justice Editing
Dulin United Methodist Church

Eighth Day Faith Community
Elsa L. Leonard Revocable Trust
Feinstein Family Fund
Festival Church
Gannett Company
GE Foundation
Hatcher Design Office
Jubilee Church
Leonard Neale House
Lewinsville Presbyterian Church
LLC Raytheon Technical Services Company
Loyola University in Maryland
Mary and Daniel Loughran Foundation
Merrill Lynch Trust Company
Network for Good
The Order of Malta, Federal Association—USA

Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church
Pascal Lamb, Co.
Potomac Community Resources, Inc.
Roca Dental
Sacred Heart Friary
St. Agnes Catholic Church
St. Elizabeth Catholic School
Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament
Special Friends Foundation
United Way of the National Capital Area
University of Notre Dame
Washington Forrest Foundation
World Bank Community Connections Fund



One of the Best!

**Catalogue For Philanthropy
Names L'Arche
“ONE OF THE BEST”**

L'Arche is one of seventy outstanding nonprofits to be featured in the 2011–2012 *Catalogue for Philanthropy: Greater Washington*. L'Arche was selected from a pool of 270 applicants to receive the stamp of approval telling donors they can invest with confidence.

BECOME AN ASSISTANT

Living in L'Arche is an adventure in community living and a chance to discover the depth of the human spirit. L'Arche accepts applications for assistants in the Washington, D.C., and Arlington, Virginia, homes on a rolling basis. Find out more and watch our video about being an assistant at www.larche-gwdc.org.

CONTACT US

General Inquiries

Michelle Wirth

202.232.4539

info@larche-gwdc.org

Recruitment

Melissa Javier-Barry

202.580.5638

join@larche-gwdc.org

Operations

Steve Keener

202.232.8477

SteveKeener@larche-gwdc.org

Programs

Barbara Ryan (D.C.)

202.489.6523

BarbaraRyan@larche-gwdc.org

Caroline McGraw (Virginia)

202.380.6264

CarolineMcGraw@larche-gwdc.org

Community Life

Dorothy Copps

202.365.4561

DorothyCopp@larche-gwdc.org

Communications & Development

Bethany Keener

202.507.1328

BethanyKeener@larche-gwdc.org

Mailing Address

L'Arche Greater Washington, D.C.

P.O. Box 21471

Washington, D.C. 20009

*Elizabeth Wolleben and Hazel Pulliam check out the monuments—and the skateboarders—from atop a double-decker bus.
Photo by Elizabeth Wolleben*

The Realities of Getting Things Done

BY ELIZABETH WOLLEBEN



As assistants, we are legally bound to our housemates with disabilities to “get things done.” We do things for them as necessary, seeing to their physical needs, helping them bathe or dress themselves when they need it. We attempt to provide a variety of healthy lifestyle options, offering nutritious meals and an array of activities.

We are also legally bound to help them work toward the goals that they set for themselves. According to our state governments, we must follow the Individualized Support Plan (ISP) determined by each core member and a team of supporters, which might include L'Arche, family, workplace supervisors, a case manager or support coordinator, and any number of medical support professionals.

In Virginia, we are lucky to work in a system that believes that the ISP should be based on what is called “person-centered” goal setting: the person who is being supported sets the goals for his or her own life. This is a novel idea in some circles. In Highland house, we have been doing person-centered goal setting since our formation in 2006 through the creation of a map, an annual plan for working toward a person's goals.

For the past three years, Hazel has expressed in her map meetings a desire to ride a double-decker bus. We have worked toward this goal in increments together, first helping her learn how to get up and down stairs. When she first successfully mounted the twelve steps leading up to our own home, many of us were moved. Because of her progress, this year, for the first time, her goal of riding a double-decker bus was put into her ISP. We were thus legally bound to help Hazel do this, and, for the first time, doing this was reasonably achievable.

Sometimes a little bit of a push is all we need to get things done. And for me my community nudged me to move on

Hazel's goal. Our friends and housemates kept coming up to Hazel, asking, “Have you ridden the bus yet?” and “Are you going to ride the bus?” Their excitement for their friend pushed me to finally walk with Hazel to Union Station, buy our tickets, and help Hazel up to the top level of that bus.

Hazel's simple act of climbing those steps was so meaningful, such an achievement, that you wouldn't be remiss to ask if she was overcome by emotion upon realizing her goal. It's funny, but sometimes something that to an outsider seems to be imbued with so much meaning is to Hazel really just another day. The act of going up stairs is nothing to her. The tour of D.C. was insignificant. When I explained that Barack Obama lives at the White House, as we passed it, Hazel looked at me as if I were lying to her. None of the memorials to presidents or wars meant anything to her. Why would they? She can't interact with the people of the past.

But the skateboarders? They were something else. Imagine Hazel cheering them on: “Hoo! Yeh, boy, yeh!”

Hazel's favorite part of the ride was watching a little boy chase a duck on the side of the Tidal Basin.

I found myself trying to look past the history and social impact of the town we were touring and instead see what Hazel was seeing. And that's when I got to see the world through Hazel's eyes—when I stopped pointing out the “important” things.

Often, I find, when we housemates complete these huge goals together, goals that we have been talking about for years, the completion is less important than the experience of meeting each other from a new perspective.

✱ Elizabeth Wolleben and Hazel Pulliam have been housemates for nearly three years. Their first stair-climbing adventure was in their own home when Hazel left her wheelchair downstairs and had the chance to see the upstairs for the first time.



Gene Sampson and Megan Herron look for dolphins on their vacation to Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. Photo by Kristen Collins

In Sickness and in Health

BY BETH QUILL

Taped to Gene Sampson's apartment door at the Ontario house is a homemade sign colored with markers that reads in bright, bold letters, "Welcome home, Gene-o!" The sign celebrates Gene's return from the hospital, but it symbolizes something much more. It serves as a continuing, poignant reminder of the support the L'Arche community provides during times of illness.

Appointments, referrals, medications, paperwork—L'Arche community members who provide assistance to core people have those details covered, and that is no small feat. Still, the support goes much deeper.

"WE'RE NOT JUST PRESENT TO PROVIDE NEEDED PHYSICAL CARE," SAID MEGAN HERRON, THE HOME-LIFE COORDINATOR AT THE ONTARIO HOUSE. "WE ARE BEING EMOTIONALLY PRESENT."

Gene has had health troubles before: He has battled cancer, pulmonary disease, and the pain of arthritis. In March 2010 Gene suffered a stroke and spent four weeks in the hospital. During that time, the house was different. There was an empty seat at the table, said Jonathan McGraw, who supports Gene in managing life's details. Gene's room, in the most active part of the home, was empty. His birds, Molly and Holly, called insistently for him, wondering where he was.

People at the Ontario house reacted as any other family members would. They told stories about Gene, they prayed, they visited him—even throwing an eightieth birthday party for him at the hospital.

When something happens to a community member, Jonathan says, people are worried and concerned. "I'm not just working with Gene," he says; "we share a house and life together."

Jonathan and other accompaniers also take on the role of advocates. When it comes to the health of core people, the rest of the community knows what is going on and makes sure doctors are taking concerns seriously.

Most doctors, Jonathan says, tend to be impressed by the attention that core people receive and the competence of the accompaniers.

"When a L'Arche patient comes in, it is very clear what is going on," says Dr. Donna Chacko, one of Gene's physicians. Core peoples' accompaniers, she says, offer information and a degree of consistency that is rare among other patients. And it makes all the difference in the world. L'Arche patients tend to have better control of chronic medical problems, get more exercise, and have more reliable diets.

"It is impressive to watch the amount of care and how it is adjusted over time," Dr. Chacko says.

One huge advantage of having an accompanier go to doctors'

appointments with core people is that the accompanier knows what is normal, Jonathan says. On the night Gene had his stroke, for instance, he had trouble talking and was off balance, changes that might have gone unnoticed by someone who didn't know Gene as well.

The intimate knowledge of core-person behavior also allows community members to take preventative measures. "We give so much one-on-one care that it is also our responsibility to anticipate needs," Megan says. If she sees that a core person has a rash or that someone has stomach trouble, the problem is discussed and a nurse is consulted right away. She and the other community members also know how core people behave and express themselves. Some don't talk much about their pain, and others have trouble remembering doctors' instructions.

As for Gene, he says he doesn't like all his medications, but he is happy to be back at home with his two birds. And he is glad to have the support of people like Megan, Jonathan, Dr. Chacko, and the entire L'Arche community.

Megan continues to be impressed by Gene. "He is an endlessly strong man, truly the father of our community."

✠ Beth Quill is an editor at Science News Magazine and volunteer writer for L'Arche.



Gene Sampson celebrates his eightieth birthday with Kathleen Kang. Photo by Keira Klein



Mary Ann Carmody knows love can cure our deepest wounds and lighten our burdens. Photo by Brian A. Taylor Photography

What Love Can Cure

BY MARY ANN CARMODY

I once was preparing for a mapping—an annual meeting we set up with each core member to review his or her goals and wishes, attended by everyone who loves and supports that core member—family, assistants, housemates, and so on.

You might think that these mappings would center on things like better hygiene, getting dressed alone, cleaning up one's room, or the like, but that's not the case at L'Arche. Rather, these meetings are about each core member's vision for his or her life—hopes, dreams, struggles, and desires—and how the community can support them in achieving their vision.

As I walked into the meeting, I asked myself a rhetorical question: Does love cure all?

Could the love that I see in action in the L'Arche homes I have gone to lift an individual's depression, help one walk better, cure her speech difficulties?

At this particular mapping, will the love of the group gathered cure all of the challenges this core member in particular was facing?

The answer is not as obvious as you would think. I believe that the love of the L'Arche family can fill the heart of each individual so that the challenges that individual faces are more manageable, less distracting.

As for my rhetorical question—Does love cure all?—of course we all know the answer is no, that the love of L'Arche cannot cure depression, make legs move more easily, or take away difficulties with speech; but it can fill up hearts that once were full of feelings of worthlessness and emptiness.

So what makes L'Arche different? My take on it is that every person in a L'Arche home, every core member, every assistant, is treated and nurtured and loved as an individual. Every issue, big or small, is important and an opportunity for growth. That is how L'Arche operates.

I KNOW THIS TO BE TRUE BECAUSE MY OWN INVOLVEMENT AT L'ARCHE HAS OPENED MY HEART TO RECEIVE THIS GIFT OF LOVE.

Visit L'Arche and you will be welcomed with joy and love; you will feel the optimism that abounds in each home. There is room for all of us to come in, and, when we leave, we are the richer for it. There is joy at the heart of L'Arche, and it is contagious.

✠ Mary Ann Carmody, RN, BSN, AASECT-certified sexuality educator, has worked with L'Arche core people and assistants on social and sexual issues for many years. She gave the talk *What Love Can Cure* at the annual Heart of L'Arche breakfast on May 3, 2011, where L'Arche raised more than \$95,000 in new pledges and gifts.

Holding Francene's Hand

BY PIERRE SANDERS

One night I was lying in my bed thinking about all the things that Francene needed to get done. Things such as going to see a new dentist, making sure all of her shot records were in order, making sure she has enough money to buy whatever she needs.

As her accompanier these are all things that usually keep me up at 3 A.M., but last night something else crossed my mind. I started to think about the number of times I hold Francene's hand.

Anybody who knows Francene might notice how she likes to reach out for your hand. Sometimes she reaches for your hand when she wants to introduce herself to you, or she might reach out for your hand when she wants to dance with you. She might even reach for your hand when she gets really excited about something, like getting change from the cashier at Harris Teeter.

As her accompanier I think about all the times she has reached for my hand. Like when we are at a doctor appointment and she is scared so she squeezes my hand very tightly, or when we take walks together.

MY FAVORITE MOMENT IS WHEN WE ARE SITTING ON THE COUCH AND FOR NO REASON WHATSOEVER SHE GRABS MY HAND AND SAYS, "I LOVE YOU, PIERRE." THAT MOMENT MAKES EVERYTHING THAT COULD BE GOING WRONG IN MY LIFE DISAPPEAR, AND I JUST SIT THERE HOLDING FRANCENE'S HAND.

✠ Pierre Sanders and Francene Short joined the L'Arche community when the 6th Street home opened in Arlington, Virginia, in August 2010.



Pierre Sanders and Francene Short walk together in the annual Help the Homeless Walkathon on the National Mall. Photo by Bethany Keener

A Tale of Two Turkeys

BY JOHN BRINJAK

We in L’Arche are not perfect, and we come together imperfectly, but in spite of this—because of this—we have much to be thankful for. My Thanksgiving Day in L’Arche neatly wrapped up this perfectly imperfect notion (with all the trimmings). I felt imperfection acutely on Thanksgiving Day because I was to prepare the turkeys for a crowd of about thirty.

At first, I was excited to embark on the labor of love as a proud Baster of Birds, the Roaster of the Roost, the Frying Friar of Fowl. Anxiety built, however, as Turkey Day approached. Then, suffering from the distinct discomfort that comes from crowds of famished guests ushered into a holiday home without any main dish, I realized I was being held accountable to Murphy’s Law.

EVERYTHING HAD GONE SO WELL, UNTIL IT DAWNED ON ME THAT I WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO SERVE ANYONE THE MOST ICONIC AMERICAN HOLIDAY FOOD AS WAS RAVENOUSLY EXPECTED OF ME.

So much went well. Life Skills Center and the L’Arche homes in Arlington generously donated our two turkeys, delivered by Eva and Jen. We could all reflect on our life of abundance even as so many have so little. Even the cooking process itself was going deliciously as planned. One bird destined for a classic roast was brining overnight, and I was excited to break up an otherwise monotonous evening of sleeping by tending to it. The other bird was set up for an Italian treatment—a pancetta-sage recipe was its destiny. Megan and Enrique from D.C.’s Ontario house, Ignatius of Euclid house, and my lovely girlfriend, Mattie, all chipped in to help get the poultry into the ovens on time.

Or so I thought.

The turkeys were going to be ready promptly at six o’clock. However, I was the only one of the dozens of guests planning on a six o’clock dinner; others were expecting a four o’clock dinner, which I learned as I was putting the first turkey in to roast. I then uttered a few seasonal words and proceeded to hide myself from the crowds.

It was through this shortcoming that the best aspect of L’Arche wafted pleasantly into the room. I was thoroughly reassured while the turkeys were cooking. When the birds finally did come out, they were consumed not begrudgingly but enthusiastically. I was so surprised by the magnanimity shown to me, and honored to serve, however imperfectly. To top it all off, I received several requests for recipes, witnessed mounds of food convert into empty plates, and even heard “perfect” a few times.

I am so grateful for imperfection.

⌘ John Brinjak came to Euclid house in 2010. His favorite word is “neuroplasticity.”



Eva Hernandez and Caitlin Booth, housemates at 6th Street, take the lane at their favorite bowling alley. Photo by Brian A. Taylor Photography

Miracle on South 6th Street

BY BETHANY KEENER

Just months before the opening of the new L’Arche home in Arlington, it looked like it would take a miracle in Congress for Eva Hernandez to be able to move in.

Eva’s current living situation was unsustainable. Since her father’s death in 2006, Eva had lived with her sister Maria Gillen and Maria’s husband, Bill. With full-time jobs and two young daughters, it wasn’t easy for Maria and Bill to meet all of Eva’s medical, emotional, and social needs. Eva frequently stayed at a respite center, but the sisters felt a strain on their relationship.

Something needed to change.

Despite her trepidation about group homes, Maria began to search. At first, she was discouraged. It seemed that so many of the group homes were just places for “adult-sitting.”

“I WAS LOOKING FOR A PLACE THAT SHARED MY BELIEF THAT EVERY HUMAN—NO MATTER THEIR LIMITATIONS—HAS TREMENDOUS VALUE AND POTENTIAL,” MARIA SAID. “WHEN I WAS INTRODUCED TO L’ARCHE, I FELT THIS IMMEDIATELY.”

Eva was a perfect candidate for the new L’Arche home except for one thing. Along with thousands of other Virginians, she was waiting for Medicaid-waiver funding that was frozen due to state budget cuts. (All L’Arche core people receive Medicaid funding to help cover living expenses.)

Thanks to advocacy efforts by L’Arche and other organizations like the Arc of Northern Virginia, the state government agreed to provide 250 new waivers slots—if Congress extended the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage funding.

The outlook was grim. The House failed to pass the extension. Weeks ticked by while Eva and the L’Arche welcome committee waited for the Senate vote.

Then the miracle came—not in the form of a vote but a vacated waiver slot. Within days a letter from L’Arche arrived, inviting Eva to join the community.

“I am very happy,” Eva told Maria the night they received news of Eva’s funding.

Eva moved into her brand new bedroom—painted lavender and decorated with photos of family and friends—in August 2010. According to Maria, L’Arche is like an extension of their family and has given the sisters a chance to rebuild their close bond.

COO/General Counsel to Oversee L’Arche Operations, Advocacy

BY BETHANY KEENER

People are drawn to the deep spirituality found in L’Arche—the sense of belonging and peace that holds the community together and leaves visitors with a lingering sense of awe that such a place of unfettered love exists.

But there is a flip side that doesn’t get talked about much: the legal and operational bulwarks that provide structure, regulation, and a good deal of funding that support the heart of the organization. As a licensed provider of residential and support services in the District of Columbia and Arlington, Virginia, L’Arche is eligible for Medicaid contracts that cover nearly three quarters of the organization’s annual operating budget. As such, L’Arche is required to adhere to government guidelines, including meticulous training of assistants, locking up medications, and allowing inspectors to scrutinize data sheets.

L’Arche has seen rapid expansion, doubling in size from two homes to four and from nine core people to seventeen in just five years. Steve Keener, who joined L’Arche as chief operating officer/general counsel in July 2011, is tasked with overseeing L’Arche’s “contract enterprise”—the piece of the pie that includes mortgages, insurance, Medicaid billing, and compliance with regulations in two separate jurisdictions. In addition, Steve will continue L’Arche’s advocacy efforts within D.C., Virginia, and federal legal systems to improve funding and access to integration for people who have intellectual disabilities.

“PEOPLE AND AGENCIES LOOK TO L’ARCHE AS A MODEL FOR HOW TO INCLUDE PEOPLE WHO HAVE INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES IN A COMMUNITY-BASED SETTING,” Steve said. He notes that the Department of Justice and the Virginia government are currently in negotiations to determine how Virginia should move from an institution-based model to a community-based model that fulfills people’s human rights. “I anticipate that L’Arche will have some sort of role in helping Virginia decide what to do next.”

Steve initially heard of L’Arche through Henri Nouwen’s writings, which inspired him to spend a year sharing a home with two men who have intellectual disabilities at Mennonite Disabilities Committee (now Goldenrod) in Goshen, Indiana, with his wife, Bethany.

“My first personal experience with L’Arche was two years ago when I came to visit on a community night,” Steve recalls. “It was Eric Arntson’s first anniversary in L’Arche, and I felt an immediate sense of belonging and welcome from the community.”

Steve came to L’Arche from King & Spalding, LLP, where he had been practicing law on the international-trade team since graduating from Notre Dame Law School in 2008. His pro bono practice included representation of unaccompanied children in immigration proceedings and human-rights research for the United Nations Assistance to the Khmer Rouge Trials. Steve has already established a pro bono relationship between L’Arche and King & Spalding, which he anticipates developing further in his new role.

⌘ Steve and his wife, Bethany, have two sons, Tristan (4) and Seth (1). They live at “Ivy house,” just around the corner from the two L’Arche homes in Arlington, Virginia. If you’d like to be an advocate for L’Arche, contact Steve at SteveKeener@larche-gwdc.org or 202.232.8477.

Bob Jacobs and Eileen Schofield don their disco duds and boogie down as Solidarity Night emcees. Photo by Bethany Keener

Solidarity Night: Local Talent Raises Global Awareness, Funds

BY BETH QUILL

Pink flames and red sequins bedazzled this year’s Solidarity Night at The Falls Church in Virginia on March 5, 2011. More than 150 people showed up to celebrate the talent in the L’Arche community while raising money for L’Arche’s sister communities around the globe.

Emcees Bob Jacobs and Eileen Schofield donned their best disco duds to show their moves and introduce the evening’s acts. Bob borrowed a tan suit with pink flames sewn onto it for the event. When asked about her red sequin flapper dress with black fringe, Eileen shrugged: “I just had it.”

By the end of the night, \$1,528 had been collected. A raffle of gift certificates and handcrafted

jewelry brought in \$426 for the L’Arche Haiti Fund, and general donations to the Solidarity Fund totaled \$1,102.

Megan Herron, who chairs the Solidarity Committee and helped organize and prepare for the event, says the Solidarity Fund supports L’Arche communities around the world and funds are distributed based on the greatest need. Many of the communities receive no government funding and rely on the Solidarity Fund to function on a daily basis.

⌘ Miss Solidarity Night but want to support L’Arche communities around the world? Note “Solidarity fund” in the memo line and send a check to L’Arche GWDC, P.O. Box 21471, Washington, DC 20009



Community Notes

BIRTHDAYS

Charles Clark (6th Street) celebrated his seventy-fifth birthday with a fire truck–themed party, complete with a visit from the Arlington County Fire Department and a blazing fire truck cake.

Avid penny collector **Johnny Schofield** (Ontario) received hundreds of pennies in honor of his seventieth birthday. The next Sunday, Johnny proudly carried most of those pennies to his church, St. Matthew’s Cathedral, and presented them as an offering.

Fritz Schloss (Highland) marked his fiftieth with a big chocolate cake and a brand new hat. Highland house celebrated **Toni Modugno’s** sixtieth birthday with a quiet dinner at home.

BABIES

Bethany (Communications and Development) and **Steve Keener** (COO/General Counsel), along with their son Tristan, welcomed Seth Gabriel on July 28, 2010.

Melissa Javier-Barry (Recruitment) and Andre announced the birth of Elise Rose on November 8, 2010. She joins big brother Aaron.

TRIPS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Walton Schofield (Ontario) took his first trip down a water slide at the community outing to Bull Run Regional Park.

Pilgrims **Eva Hernandez** and **Caitlin Booth** (6th Street) spent a week in Lourdes, France, with the Order of Malta.

Enrique Guzman (Ontario) visited L’Arche Greater Washington, D.C.’s sister community in Mexico City.

Michael Schaff’s visit to California was complete with a presidential library tour.

Eileen Schofield, Gene Sampson, Megan Herron, and **Kristen Collins** (Ontario) vacationed in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. Amid an abundance of seafood meals, ocean views, shopping, and even a dolphin boat ride, the quartet relaxed and enjoyed their time together. As promised by Gene, the trip was so relaxing they didn’t want to come back.

Debora Green (Ontario) and **Mary Ruppert** (Communications and Development) held tight to one another on the shores of Virginia Beach, hoping not to be swept away by the waves.

Caroline McGraw (Virginia program director) completed her book about L’Arche, *A Wish Come Clear* (forthcoming); and published her first e-book, *Your Creed of Care: How to Dig for Treasure in People (Without Getting Buried Alive)*.

John Cook (executive director) is pleased to have his lowest cholesterol levels ever. He and his wife, **Elizabeth Black**, recently moved in to the basement apartment at 6th Street while their home is being demolished and rebuilt.

Hazel Pulliam (Highland) accomplished her goal of seeing D.C.’s sights from the top of a double-decker bus.

Andrew Commisso (Euclid) continued his aquatic adventures at the Wilson pool while housemates **Mo Higgs** and **Sonny Clarke** planned out-of-District vacations.

Congratulations to everyone! Have a great summer!

Photo Album

From left to right, top to bottom

✂ **Sonny Clarke** gets soulful at Melwood Retreat Center. *Photo by George Corbin*

✂ Fire Marshall **Charles Clark** extinguish-es the candles on his fire truck birthday cake. *Photo by Bethany Keener*

✂ **Sonny Clarke** climbs aboard the Arlington County Fire Department truck at Charles Clark’s seventy-fifth birthday party.

✂ **Caitlin Booth** and **Eva Hernandez** join a Dame of Malta on a pilgrimage to Lourdes, France. *Photo by Michele Bowe*

✂ **Mary Ruppert** and **Debora Green** keep each other from washing out to sea on their vacation to Virginia Beach. *Photo courtesy of Mary Ruppert*

✂ **Elizabeth Wolleben** and **Hazel Pulliam** often find ways to leave Hazel’s wheelchair behind. *Photo by Brian A. Taylor Photography*

✂ **Michael Schaff** parts the curtain, ready for Presidential Trivia at Solidarity Night. *Photo by Brian A. Taylor Photography*

✂ **Emmy Lu Daly** smiles proudly at her fifty-year-old son, Fritz Schloss. *Photo by Brian A. Taylor Photography*

✂ **Eva Hernandez** passes the candle during after-dinner prayers at 6th Street. *Photo by Brian A. Taylor Photography*

✂ **Dick Dobbyn** and **Eileen Schofield** make friends with one of Melwood Retreat Center’s horses during a community retreat. *Photo by George Corbin*

✂ **Eileen Schofield** and **Kristen Collins** kick back on vacation in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. *Photo by Megan Herron*

