

## Assistants needed:

L'Arche Greater Washington, D.C., is looking for dedicated people to share a daily life of work, prayer, and holy leisure in our L'Arche community. Room, board, stipend, benefits, spiritual formation, and trainings provided. Contact

Melissa Javier-Barry at 202-580-5638, or email [join@larche-gwdc.org](mailto:join@larche-gwdc.org).

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## Morning lessons from Walton

by Allison McGinley

I will always cherish morning routine with Walton Schofield. When I was an assistant in Ontario House, I would enter his room in the morning, and he would already be awake. It amazed me how he would lie in his bed, his eyes wide open, looking at the world and bathing in the morning sun. He looked at peace and in no hurry to be anywhere but exactly where he was. Of course, Walton's physical disabilities make it difficult for him to move himself from his bed. If he wanted to jump out of bed and start each morning by meticulously organizing the blocks he's had since childhood, he simply couldn't. Still, it intrigued me how every morning he seemed content to lie in the sun and wait. Each morning I spent with Walton I thought, *Be still, and know that I am God*.

Walton loves classical music and grew up listening to his parents play instruments in their living room. Each morning I would ask Walton if he wanted to listen to music, and each morning he ignored my terrible attempts at Spanish and answered, "Sí."

Walton's constant yes to music made me feel instantly connected to him. I, too, cannot imagine a day without music. Walton's every move seems to be in time to a hidden symphony. He moves each block with such care and grace and meaning, as if in tempo. He folds paper rhythmically and with intense concentration. When he throws back his head to "purr," he does so with gusto, as if minding some invisible cue.

Every morning before I helped Walton over to his table where his blocks were waiting, I put on his music. As the soft plucking of the cello strings filled Walton's room, I imagined the first rays of sunlight reaching into Walton's bay window in perfect synchronization.

Marriage and all of its adventures have taken me away from my beloved home at L'Arche in Washington, D.C. I still often long for the quiet, peaceful moments I used to spend with Walton, but I take his gift of peace with me wherever I go.

Last year, I moved back home to Wisconsin for a few months to take care of my grandmother. Many mornings as I helped Nana prepare for her day, I played the gentle cello music from Walton's CD. The sweet yearning of the cello calmed us both and helped us prepare our hearts and minds for the uncertainties that lay

ahead. As I helped Nana put on her shoes each morning, I was reminded of kneeling in the very same way at the side of Walton's bed, and my heart was filled with peace.

Later when my husband and I moved to Colorado, I was hired as a barista at a coffee shop that employs people with disabilities. The first morning I opened the coffee shop by myself I was nervous. When I got there at quarter to six, it was dark and freezing inside. I turned on all the lights but couldn't shake the uneasy feeling I had from being completely alone in an unfamiliar place. Suddenly, I remembered the CD player in the corner of the shop. I attached my iPod and scrolled to the play list titled "Walton's Cello CD." As the first notes of the familiar music filled the room, I took a deep breath and remembered the feeling of sunlight coming through Walton's window and touching my face. I asked God to bring me grace. Finally at peace, I readied the coffee shop for the day.

I will always be grateful for all Walton has taught me, especially how to start my day by resting in the peaceful, silent grace of God, no matter what lies ahead.



*Walton spends many hours in his room organizing the alphabet blocks he's had since childhood.  
Photo by Allison McGinley*



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## Searching for something, finding celebration

by Caitlin Booth

Visiting L'Arche homes around the world was a consistent joy among all the many things I did and experienced while at the University of Notre Dame. While studying abroad in Uganda for a semester and then while attending service-learning spring-break trips in Washington, D.C., I made sure to locate the local L'Arche home.

Upon arriving at L'Arche Uganda, I was immediately invited inside where the Valentine's Day celebrations were just beginning. Laughter, drumming and singing, paper-heart decorations, and a dessert table in the corner set the festive mood for thirty-some partygoers milling about the large living room.

During my first visit to the D.C. community in 2007, we celebrated Sonny Clarke's birthday. Celebration nights are a chance for the entire L'Arche community to gather and affirm a community member. That night, about twenty-five people crammed into the small Ontario Road living room to wish Sonny a happy birthday. Sonny's confidence and six-foot-four-inch stature filled the room. To celebrate Sonny's life we were told to write something we liked about Sonny on a construction-paper cutout of a horse, which we then presented to him.

Sonny loves horses, explained an assistant, and the horses would make a nice addition to his bedroom-wall decoration. Sonny smiled and nodded excitedly at the description of his birthday gift; it was not fancy or expensive but pleasantly simple. Exactly because of Sonny's positive energy, for the first time at the party, my new-person-in-the-group uneasiness faded, my nerves were calmed, and I cracked a smile.

L'Arche Washington, D.C., and Uganda have each given me opportunities to celebrate the value of others and to slowly discover my own value. My experience in these two L'Arche communities has been of seeking something and finding celebration. The spirit and life in L'Arche has shown me, and continues to reveal, many reasons to be joyous and to celebrate life.

*Caitlin Booth joined L'Arche as an assistant at Euclid House in August 2009. She plans to stay on with L'Arche as a home-life coordinator at L'Arche's newest home in Virginia.*

## Daniel Zündorf brings a new perspective to Highland House

by Bethany Keener

Daniel Zündorf decided a long time ago that he didn't want to carry a weapon.

When it came time for him to either enter Germany's compulsory military service or find an alternative, he chose L'Arche Greater Washington, D.C., and in January became L'Arche's newest assistant at Highland House.

Prior to making the trip to L'Arche from Meldorf, Germany, Daniel took a weeklong class with thirty other young men who were training for alternative-service assignments working with people who have disabilities. Each trainee spent a day using a wheelchair and having one of their classmates assist them with eating, brushing their teeth, and navigating the supermarket.

"You gain a sensitivity because you understand what it means to let someone into your privacy," Daniel said. He noticed that people did look at him differently when he was using the wheelchair, but they moved out of the way or asked if they could help.

Caroline McGraw, L'Arche's Virginia program director, charged with Daniel's three-month training and orientation, said that Daniel is "learning about L'Arche in his second language, but he's smart and perceptive and unafraid to ask for clarification if he needs it." For Caroline, finding ways to explain words like *seizure* and *hyperthyroidism* in more basic terms has been a fun challenge, and a bit of an education.

"Our community benefits when we have people from other cultures live with us," said Melissa Javier-Barry, recruitment coordinator at L'Arche. "It helps us grow in our appreciation of the world outside our borders and allows us to get to know someone from a country where we have many sister communities."

Melissa spent time in L'Arche communities in New Zealand and the Philippines where immersion in a new culture taught her one of the fundamental gifts of L'Arche—that one's presence, not what one can or can't do, is what matters most.

That gift was one Daniel noticed immediately. Though he left his home and friends in Germany, Highland House has warmly welcomed him. "I was greeted nicely by everyone, and it was like a new family," he said.



*Daniel Zündorf received a warm welcome from L'Arche amid a blizzard with record-breaking snowfall.*

*Photo by Liz Wolleben*



*Summer is in full swing when Daniel Zündorf and Hazel Pulliam hit the batting cage.*

*Photo courtesy of Daniel Zündorf*





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## Renewal in France

by Terrence Zecha

Last summer I had the opportunity to attend a four-week formation in Trosly, France. There we discussed and meditated on membership, mission and identity, the spirituality and theology of L'Arche, and living L'Arche over the long term. Our time together was renewing—a welcome but brief glimpse into the experience of the universal L'Arche—and included a weeklong retreat with Jean Vanier and another week during which each of us lived with a L'Arche community. I spent my week with the community of Beauvaisis, about an hour northeast of Trosly.

The many conversations I shared with leaders from L'Arche International and from the French Zone were a blessing. I particularly value the ideas exchanged with Christine McGrievy, cochair of L'Arche International, and with George Durner, who headed the international mission-and-identity process.

*Terrence has been the community leader in Arlington for the past three years. He stepped down from this position when his commitment ended in April. He and his new bride, Elizabeth, will be moving to the Netherlands where she will be stationed with the U.S. Embassy at the Hague.*

## Brothers reunite in Florida

by Bob Jacobs

While Mo Higgs lived in Forest Haven in D.C., his half-brother, Jerry, was born to and grew up with their mother and Mo's stepfather in Orlando. Over his adult life, Mo's frequent visits to Florida and stays with his brother, Melvin, had created strong ties with that part of his family.

In 2008, Mo received an unexpected call. His half-brother Jerry called to ask if they could reconnect. The request came as a wonderful surprise. That July, Mo and Jerry enjoyed a great introductory visit. Because Mo was on some tricky meds at that time, I got to accompany him on the trip and got to know Jerry, his wife Jenny, Mo's sister-in-law Caroline, and Mo's niece and nephew. After that, in 2009, Mo was able to head back for a more intimate solo visit with Jerry and Jenny. Family is the thing Mo cherishes in his life—and his riches continue to multiply.

*Bob Jacobs accompanied Mo for two years. Bob is now the home-life coordinator at Euclid House.*

## Kevin Belford and Anne Proctor join L'Arche board

by Bethany Keener

In January and March the L'Arche board voted unanimously to welcome Kevin Belford and Anne Proctor as its thirteenth and fourteenth members.

Over five years ago mutual friends introduced Kevin to the community, and the friendship has grown since then.

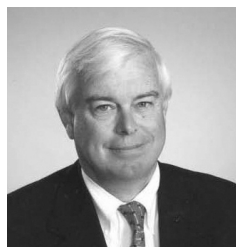
Kevin has practiced law for almost thirty-five years and is general counsel for the American Gas Association, a trade coalition representing local distributors of natural gas and their sixty million customers. He does pro bono work for a number of organizations dedicated to helping the poor, sick, and underserved primarily in the Washington area, and he recently completed ten years of service on the Jesuit Volunteers International board.

Kevin and his wife, Jane, have one son, Patrick, who graduated from Georgetown University in May and who's been a volunteer at the Washington Jesuit Academy since his junior year in high school. Jane is also an attorney and has been chancellor of the Catholic Archdiocese of Washington for the past ten years. When the busy family spends time together, they enjoy sailing, snow skiing, trips to the beach, and travel.

Anne is pro bono counsel at Covington & Burling, LLP, where she develops pro bono opportunities for the firm's 750 attorneys in five offices nationwide.

She holds a bachelor's degree from Stanford University and received her Juris Doctor from Georgetown University Law Center where she was on the *Tax Law Review* and taught Know Your Rights classes to D.C. inmates.

Anne and Alan, her husband of nearly thirty-four years, have four adult sons: Chris, Haley, Devon, and Doug. As a family they enjoy bareboating in remote parts of the world. Anne is an avid biker and enjoys tennis and mountain climbing.



Kevin Belford  
Photo courtesy of American Gas Association



Anne Proctor  
Photo courtesy of Covington & Burling, LLP

## Assistants reflect on commitment to L'Arche

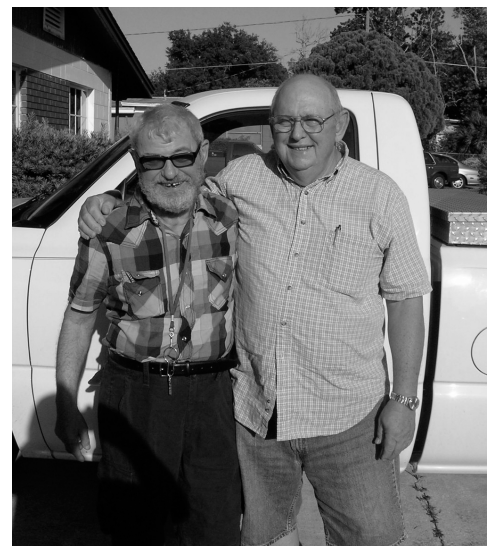
by Megan Herron

At the end of September 2009, Jesse Yoder and I traveled to Mexico City where we participated in a bilingual interzone retreat. Over six days, we joined twenty-two community leaders, home-life coordinators, and assistants from L'Arche Canada, L'Arche U.S.A., and El Arca Latinoamerica (L'Arche Latin America) in reflection on *mi compromiso* (my commitment).

Richard Bower, pastoral minister for L'Arche U.S.A., and Robert Larouche, founder of L'Arche Haiti and current community leader in L'Arche Amos, reflected on their extensive experience living in community. Then we broke into small groups, where we reflected on and celebrated each member's time shared at L'Arche and their dedication to their community. The retreat culminated in a lively visit to Mexico City, where we were overwhelmed by the welcome and hospitality of El Arca Distrito Federal, L'Arche Greater Washington, D.C.'s very own sister community. It was a joyous close to a meaningful week.

Sharing the different realities of our communities in prayer and celebration, each of us in attendance was challenged to deepen our commitment to L'Arche.

*Megan Herron is the home-life coordinator at Ontario House. Jesse Yoder is an assistant at 6th Street House.*



Mo Higgs and his brother Jerry reunite in Florida.  
Photo by Jenny Ragazinski



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## L'Arche artists show their colors

by Bethany Keener

On September 19, 2009, the Potter's House on Columbia Road closed the Color from the Heart of L'Arche art show with a recognition ceremony. Our artists included two weavers and eight painters.

Two of the artists exhibited work they had completed at Woodmont Weavers, located in the Ballston Common Mall in Arlington, Virginia. Hazel Pulliam displayed a scarf and bag, and Linda Garcia showed a purse.

Artists Debora Green, Gene Sampson, Sonny Clarke, Walton Schofield, Johnny Schofield, Michael Schaff, Eileen Schofield, and Mo Higgs use paint as a medium and continue take a class hosted by the Sitar Arts Center on Friday afternoons. They each showcased a variety of works at the Potter's House gallery and were recognized during the ceremony by their teachers for each of their unique artistic styles.

"I paint a lot, and I love to dance, too," artist Eileen told the audience at Potter's House. She and community members Michael, Sonny, and Mo also paint for Art Enables, a studio and gallery for artists with intellectual disabilities.

"You can paint and draw and make money, and that feels good," Michael is quoted on Art Enables's Web site.

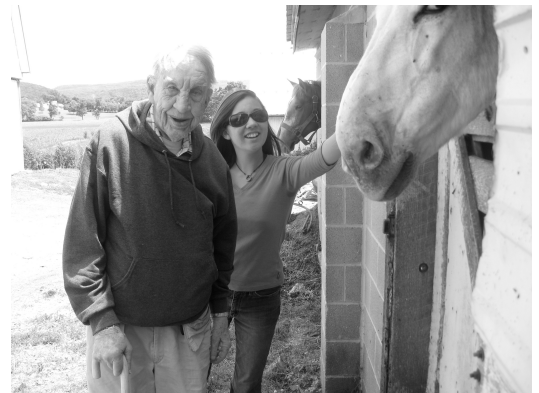
To view and purchase L'Arche art, visit Woodmont Weavers ([www.stcoletta.org](http://www.stcoletta.org)) and Art Enables ([www.art-enables.org](http://www.art-enables.org)).



Calvin "Sonny" Clarke shows off his artwork.  
Photo courtesy of Art Enables



Fritz Schloss and Jesse Yoder paddle on the Potomac.  
Photo courtesy of Daniel Zindorf



Gene Sampson and Kathleen Kang visit a farm during community vacation.  
Photo by Keira Klein

## Solidarity Night raises \$2,014

"I love you and I encourage you. I wish I could send ya'll some flowers." This is the message Eileen Schofield wants to send her L'Arche counterparts in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Eileen won't be sending flowers, but she did help raise \$2,014 as an emcee at Solidarity Night, L'Arche Greater Washington, D.C.'s annual talent show and fundraiser.

The March 6 event, held at the Falls Church in Virginia, showcased L'Arche talent including kazoo renditions by Bob Jacobs and Eileen Schofield, a mother-son duet by Emmy Lu Daly and Fritz Schloss, presidential trivia "Stump Schaff" by Michael Schaff, and a passel of barnyard animals singing "Old McDonald."

Funds raised through a raffle and other donations will benefit L'Arche communities in Latin America and the Caribbean, particularly L'Arche Haiti, which suffered severe damage from the January 12 earthquake.





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## Heart of L'Arche breakfast raises pledges, gifts

**Multiple-year giving society** expands, creating a sustainable financial future

The second annual Heart of L'Arche breakfast, held April 20 at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C., brought together more than 380 people whose multiple-year pledges and one-time gifts totaled over \$250,000.

The Heart of L'Arche Society, a group of donors who pledge \$1,000 or more per year for five years, grew from thirty-one to forty-eight members.

*Miss the breakfast? Check out the new L'Arche video at [www.LarcheWashingtonDC.org](http://www.LarcheWashingtonDC.org). To learn how you can join the Heart of L'Arche Society, contact Mary Ruppert at 202-232-4539 or [MaryRuppert@larche-gwdc.org](mailto:MaryRuppert@larche-gwdc.org) with questions.*

## L'Arche's fourth home nears completion

Almost ten years ago L'Arche began to dream about doubling our size by opening two homes in Arlington. In 2006, renovations on the Highland home were complete. This summer the dream will be fully realized as we prepare to open our newest home just around the corner from Highland House.

*Want to help furnish the home? Check out our wish list on page 6.*



*Terrence Zecha and Calcutta, India's community leader, Bagaram, find friendship at the renewal retreat in France. Photo courtesy of Terrence Zecha*

## Community notes

Back in June of 2009, long-time community member **Dottie Bockstiegel** celebrated her eightieth birthday, and **Hazel Pulliam** blew out fifty candles on her birthday cake. **Linda Garcia** became eligible for Denny's senior discount when she turned fifty-five in August and plans to make good use of it. Then, in September and December, respectively, **Eileen Schofield** and **Johnny Schofield** each celebrated twenty years living at L'Arche. Life is good for L'Arche community members, and on September 13 **Jonathan McGraw** and **Caroline Fischer** were married after having met and courted while assistants at Ontario House. Caroline is now the program director in Virginia, and Jonathan continues in his role as an assistant. The New Year brought many occasions to celebrate: After completing a six-month sabbatical that took him to India and elsewhere, **John Cook** returned to resume his leadership role. The following month **Terrence Zecha** and Elizabeth Brady married at Dahlgren Chapel at Georgetown University on February 13. In March **Gene Sampson**, our community's patriarch, celebrated his eightieth birthday. The annual **Heart of L'Arche breakfast**, held April 20, brought together more than 380 friends of L'Arche.

## Heart of L'Arche tours

Join us for an hour-long tour of one of our L'Arche homes in Adams Morgan or Arlington to hear stories about the people and mission of L'Arche. Tours are typically held the first Thursday and Saturday of the month; check our Web site for specific dates, or call Mary Ruppert at 202-232-4539 if you or someone you know is interested in participating.

## Thanks to KOVAR

The Knights of Columbus of Virginia awarded a \$16,250 grant to L'Arche to purchase bedroom, living room, and dining room furniture for L'Arche's newest home.



*L'Arche's fourth home, located on South 6<sup>th</sup> Street in Arlington, is slated to open this summer. Photo by Don Kelly*

## Request a speaker

We love opportunities to share about the mission of L'Arche. Contact Mary Ruppert at 202-232-4539 to set up a presentation tailored to your faith community, civic organization, school, or workplace.

## Remember L'Arche in your will

Consider adding a bequest to L'Arche Greater Washington, D.C., next time you update your will. Contact Bethany Keener at 202-507-1328 or [BethanyKeener@larche-gwdc.org](mailto:BethanyKeener@larche-gwdc.org) with questions.



Toni Modungo and Hazel Pulliam brave the cold to participate in the Help the Homeless walkathon.  
Photo by Steve Keener

## Wish list

- An office-quality paper shredder
- Art supplies – markers, colored paper, tempera paints, glue
- Food processor\*
- Funding for new mattresses\*
- Gift certificates for restaurants
- Household items for the new home\* can be purchased through Bed, Bath & Beyond's gift registry, listed under Caitlin Booth, Housewarming, June 1, 2010
- Large flat-screen TV\*
- Passes to movies, ballet, or sporting events for core people and assistants
- Sturdy wooden benches with storage for porches
- Plastic storage bins

\* Items with highest priority

Please call the L'Arche office (202-232-4539) for delivery or drop-off locations and times.

## Poet's corner

### Summer Evening Memory

by Mark Jacobina

*On thinking that I have seen an evening like this before.*

*For John and his mother*

Summer shadows lengthen across the true green grass,  
this shadow on this lawn is unique and unrepeat—  
yet in my mind's web its image is interwoven with hundreds,  
thousands of summers, lawns, evenings of warm golden light.

Memories, like cord wood, stacked neat, in crisscrossed rows out back—  
yet this store of fuel goes in reverse;  
out of the fire of youth and the furnace of trials come the formed split logs of memories, multiplied and stacked,  
layer on layer, row on row,  
eventually thrown onto the pile and unsplit, fused into greenwood, become trees,  
rooted in these lush Allegheny hills that rise up and form great rugged Olympian mountains.

Memories. I am filled with memory, and not mine only, but deeply rooted, the earth's own memory:  
tree reaches down to foundation red rock and even deeper, rock itself fossilized memories of some ancient seabed, even the memory of the atoms there—  
born, before me, before the true green summer, before the earth herself,

in the fire of stars

*Mark Jacobina recently left his position as home-life coordinator at Euclid House to be closer to family in Pittsburgh. You can follow his blog at [bonbu.blogspot.com](http://bonbu.blogspot.com).*

### Unexpected

by Caroline McGraw

You cast your candle to me slightly, slowly,  
across the table, after prayer with such solemnity.

They say the age of miracles is past,  
God, to them, has long since left.

No hope  
or reason in the fast flow of days and hours,  
only time, and loss of lightening; only pain-pooled tears, the dross of darkness, here.

Yet toward me you cast your candle, to my hand you nudge this light—and the miracle of Michael fills all this house, tonight.

*Caroline McGraw is the L'Arche program director for Virginia. She accompanied Michael Schaff from 2007 to 2008 and then went on to become home-life coordinator at Ontario House until 2009. Michael very much enjoys poofing out a candle after prayer every night; it's very rare for him to give his candle to another person.*



Caroline and Jonathan McGraw celebrate their marriage with Michael Schaff.  
Photo by Kevin Fischer



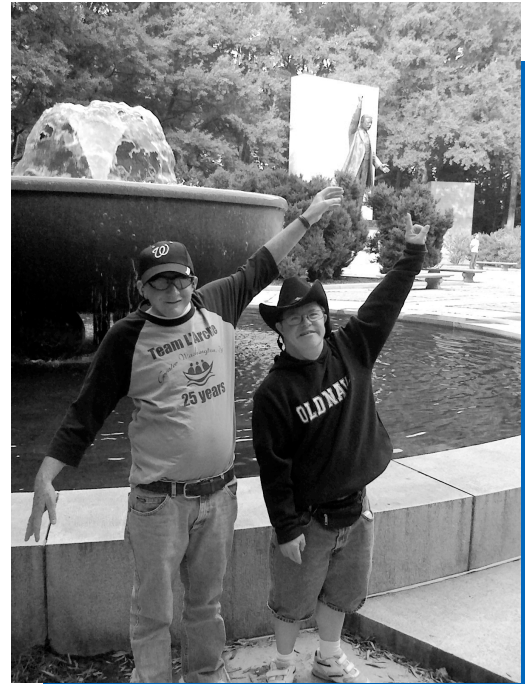


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## Thank you

Over the past year, the following schools, businesses, churches, and foundations contributed to L'Arche. Thank you for your generous support!

The Abell Foundation	Little Brothers & Sisters of the Eucharist
America's Charities	Loyola University Maryland
AeroJet	LS&K Family Trust
Altrusa International	Merrill Lynch Trust Company
Bank of America	Monument Title Company, Inc. Real Estate
Catalogue for Philanthropy	Settlement Services
Chapman Foundation	National Baptist Memorial Church
Charles Englehard Foundation	Our Lady of Victory Church
Christ House	Our Lady Queen of Peace Church
Clark-Winchcole Foundation	The Paschal Lamb, Co.
The Community Foundation for the National	Potter's House Church
Capital Region	Robert Bensen Meyer Jr. Foundation
Dulin United Methodist Church	Saint Frances of Assisi Church
Eighth Day Faith Community	Seekers Church
Festival Church	Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament
Gannett Company	Special Friends Foundation
GE Foundation	St. Irenaeus Church
Good Search	St. Peter's at the Light
Holy Trinity Catholic Church	United Way of the National Capital Area
Jewish Communal Fund	University of Notre Dame
Jubilee Church	Washington Forrest Foundation
KOVAR	Washington Management Corporation
Leonard Neale House	Foundation
Lewinsville Presbyterian Church	World Bank Community Connections Fund



*Eric Arntson and Fritz Schloss strike a presidential pose on Roosevelt Island.*

*Photo by David Genders*

To donate, go to [www.larchewashingtondc.org/donate](http://www.larchewashingtondc.org/donate)

Founded in 1983, L'Arche Greater Washington, D.C., is a community of faith where people with and without intellectual disabilities live together and create homes through sharing daily life.

L'Arche Greater Washington, D.C. is a member of the International Federation of L'Arche Communities. Founded in France in 1964 by Jean Vanier and praised by individuals and organizations as diverse as the American Association on Mental Retardation and theologian Henri Nouwen, L'Arche consists of over 130 communities worldwide.

Like other L'Arche communities, L'Arche Greater Washington, D.C., aims to provide loving, nurturing, and lifelong homes to its members. L'Arche Greater Washington, D.C., is a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit organization. We are funded by government contract and tax-deductible donations.

United Way #8388, Combined Federal Campaign #73532, Combined Virginia Campaign # 8191.



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