



Community News and Events

Our Shared Humanity in a Pandemic

By Luke Smith, Executive Director and Community Leader

Last Christmas, I had to confront a healthcare team at a local hospital who were lax and resistant in providing needed care to a core member. This is all too often the case for people with intellectual disabilities who enter our healthcare systems. L'Arche often finds ourselves being the voice of change in our systems. We see the impacts of systematic exclusion, and we navigate a system that isn't able to see people.



Eric and Luke (right). Photo by Brian Taylor

You can imagine the fear that I have for the community at this time, as COVID numbers increase, healthcare resources are again being rationed, and news reported by the New York Times that [people with intellectual disabilities and developmental disorders are three times more likely to die of Covid-19](#) than the general public. Health disparities are impacting the lives of people with intellectual disabilities across the world. L'Arche as a federation lives with this reality daily. The pandemic has brought this into focus for others to understand and [listen to the experiences of people with intellectual disabilities](#).

But I and L'Arche are not overwhelmed by this fear, rather we are empowered to live more fully into our mission, and be a voice and sign for change.

[Read the full piece here](#)

Today at 2pm - Johnny's Art Show!

PROFESSION

JOHNNY
SCHOFIELD



Johnny is so excited to invite you to his
Virtual Art Exhibition this
SATURDAY 11/21/20 at 2PM!

He titled his art show: **PROFESSION**
because he believes his profession is to
help others. Thus, all proceeds will go to
Friends of Caritas Cuba, an organization
specially selected by Johnny.

His collection features 24 paintings like
the 24 hours of a day.
The order of the paintings moves through
the seasons of the year.

We hope to see you there to watch a
guided tour of Johnny's exhibition,
showcasing his hard work and talent.

[Learn More](#)

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Giving Tuesday Campaign

Join us on social media from
December 1st (Giving Tuesday) to
December 3rd (International Day of
Persons with Disabilities)!

We'll be sharing stories, raising
money toward our goal of \$10,000,
and even going Live on Facebook.
Your generosity enables us to
continue providing high quality care
during this pandemic.

We'd love it if **you could forward this email on to one person** and help us grow our circle of friends!



Give Now

Creating Meaning in Our Days

Written by Alice Felker, Assistant and Home Life Leader

With the loss of day programming for our core family members, L'Arche was met with a growing need to provide a meaningful and COVID-safe alternative during the day. Overnight, we became a 24-hour care provider. L'Arche GWDC is not structured for day programming, and our homes do not necessarily receive additional funding to provide daytime support.

Given my interest in day programming, I asked to be a part of whatever solution was feasible for meeting this newly encountered need in our Virginia homes. With the help of Maggie and Lauren (leaders in the Virginia community), the idea for activity day came together. Essentially, it was what I had always dreamed of: the opportunity to create day programming with people with disabilities.

[Read more about activity days here](#)



Alice and Hazel pick berries together during one of their weekly activity days.

(Photo by John O'Connor)

We're Hiring: Development Coordinator

L'Arche GWDC is looking to hire a passionate person to steward donor relationships with integrity and admiration for the people of L'Arche.

The Development Coordinator will hold a wide range of fundraising responsibilities including annual fundraising, donor stewardship and cultivation, grant writing, and event planning.

Applicants should submit a resume and cover letter to join@larche-gwdc.org by December 11, 2020.



L'Arche GWDC Development team members last year on a day filled with the color yellow.

See the job description and apply

L'Arche GWDC in the News

DC-region group homes with at-risk residents looking forward to coronavirus vaccine availability



Dick Uliano
November 16, 2020, 8:55 PM



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"We're bracing ourselves for what's to come, in terms of the challenges of making sure the vaccine is accessible to us all," Smith said."

[Read the article about L'Arche GWDC featured in local news WTOP](#)

Slice of Life: Bagel Making with Euclid!



Andrew and James mix the dough.



Joseph kneads the dough with flour.



Joseph poaches the bagels and scoops them onto a tray to bake.

L'ARCHE GREATER WASHINGTON, D.C.
PO BOX 21471
Washington, DC 20009

DONATE to sustain our work



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