



Signs of Hope

SPRING 2024

Our Blossoming Community

As spring arrives and the trees awaken, they unfold their leaves, almost like a gesture of thanks to Mother Nature. Here at L'Arche Calgary, we find ourselves wrapped in a similar spirit of gratitude as we reach out to you. Your kindness, mirrored in every donation -no matter its size- has woven rays of warmth into our lives.

From the Tamarack Day Program, now enriched with new supplies and the joy of our core-members as they venture to and from their outings, to each of our homes blessed with new amenities that provide our core-members with more comfort and extra coziness, your generosity has been the wellspring of these joys. In addition, one of the houses celebrates the reception of a new vehicle, allowing the house to have more freedom and independence. All of these milestones, these moments of happiness, are fruit born from the seed of your generosity. A heartfelt thank you for walking beside us through the years, casting light into our lives and making our journeys brighter.

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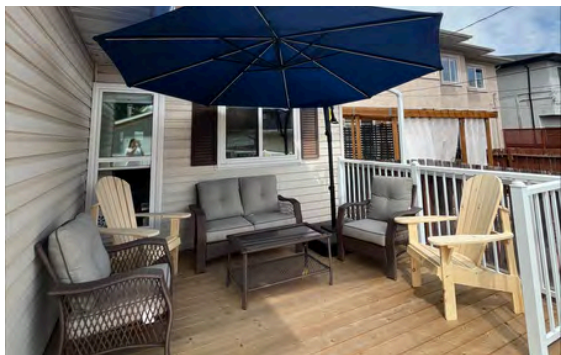
Fundraising update

Due to your generous contributions, we are able to sustain our homes and programs. Your donations have provided Tamarack Day Program with essential supplies and funded our core-members' outings, enabled the installation of new closets at Haeremai and Kichiyak, gardens at Marymount, and facilitated improvements such as the new basement at Annapurna and the deck at Villa Maria. This support has given our core-members the opportunity to participate in outings and allow our community to host numerous events, including retreats, Christmas luncheons, Easter celebrations, and training sessions.



New Furniture for Annapurna

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to St. Isidore of Seville Online School for their successful fundraising campaign in support of Annapurna. Their efforts have enriched Annapurna with a new outdoor living room, barbecue facilities, and a Kitchen Aid mixer, thereby restoring a joyful atmosphere.



A New Van for Kichiyak

A sincere thank you to all donors for contributing to our 50th-Anniversary fundraising event. With the funds raised, a new van was purchased for Kichiyak, granting them back their independence in daily life.



Acera Insurance Run for L'Arche

Our incredible fundraising event, Acera Insurance Run for L'Arche, was a moment of pure magic that raised \$60,000 for our Community! Huge thanks to all the amazing runners and walkers who showed their support, as well as the incredibly generous donors who helped us (smash) our fundraising goal for L'Arche Calgary. Let's not forget our dedicated volunteers who brought so much energy and joy to the event, and of course, a massive shout out to our fantastic sponsors who made it all possible.

Total money raised
\$60,000

Acera
INSURANCE

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MCLENNAN ROSS
LEGAL COUNSEL



A word from Ani our Community Leader

The word “community” has a strange power to it. It conveys a sense of togetherness and positivity. It speaks both of solidarity and homeliness (the quality of being simple or ordinary, but pleasant, in a way that makes you think of home).

By definition a “community” is a group where people are together, live and work towards a common goal; have the same beliefs and help each other out through challenging and hard times.

If I could define community and all the ways that it has shaped my life in the past year, I am not sure if those two definitions could completely define this experience. Living in community has taught me more about life than any textbook ever has! Two of the greatest life lessons I have learned have been the importance of authentic relationships and how it is truly the insignificant and small things in life that matter most. I have always felt blessed for the friendships that I have in this life; it was not until I arrived at L'Arche that I realized how blessed I truly am to have the friends and family that I have.

Someone who has taught me to appreciate the importance of the small moments of a friendship is Basil, he has taught me the importance of pushing that extra mile in order to know the true meaning of being in an authentic relationship.

Basil and I have lots in common, and if you know him well, he can be quite tough and a teaser at times. But this year, Basil truly taught me the importance of being a caring and a loving friend after I lost my father. At one of our weekly prayer nights something was said and in an instant the memory of my father came to my mind, and I could not hold back the tears. I recognized that I was not in a good place in that moment but a simple gesture from a friend made me realize the importance of the small things in life. Basil got up from his chair and without saying a word, he walked across the chapel to get a box of tissues, then he handed me a tissue and he simply said, “I’m sorry” and sat back down. It was exactly what I needed in that moment, his simple gesture of his thoughtfulness made me realize his kindness and care and for that will be forever thankful.

What do we have in this life if we do not have authentic relationships? Or what if we never appreciated the small moments? Well, I guess we would all be sitting around waiting for a perfect life that unfortunately does not exist. I think our best option would be to take the time to see the beauty in life and to realize how blessed we are to live together in a place where authentic relationships are something that may not always come easy, but at the end of the day they are worth pushing that extra mile for.

Thank you, for the support and encouragement that our L'Arche Calgary community receives from our friends, families, volunteers and donors throughout the year. Your generosity allows us to continue our efforts to reveal the gifts of people with developmental disabilities, to live, recognize and cherish those small daily moments.

Thank you,
Ani



Anilynes