



Volume 4 Number 3

## FOLA Community Update

As hopefully you all know by now, we are blessed to have our first L'Arche home in lovely Decatur! The summer months have been full of meetings with architects and contractors and plans have been approved. We plan to begin renovations in November 2010 and expect it will be 3-4 months before they are completed. We will be having regular volunteer workdays on the house as well, so please email us if you can help! Next spring and summer will be dedicated to obtaining the necessary state and government licensure for our L'Arche community. It is our prayer that we will open our doors to our first core members by the end of 2011. As you know, we are steadily building community through monthly events as well as raising both money and awareness about L'Arche. Come join us on the journey as we need many volunteers to make it happen.

## Living the Gospel

Written by  
**Jo Anne Horstmann,**  
L'Arche Central  
U.S. Regional Coordinator,  
from Clinton, Iowa

In April of this year I was speaking with Curt and he told me about the first Contra Dance that was recently held as one of Friends of L'Arche Atlanta's fourth Saturday social events for people of all abilities. As this was something new to me, my first question was, "What is a contra dance?" From Curt's description, I pictured a Country Line Dance but with callers as you would hear in a Square Dance. Curt continued by telling me everyone was able to participate – young, old and of all ability levels.

While planning my visit to Atlanta in late August, I was happy to find out that I



would be able to attend the next scheduled Contra Dance. So on August 28<sup>th</sup>, I eagerly walked into Oakhurst Baptist Church to join in the fun. Like almost all L'Arche events it began with a warm welcome, prayer, and a "potluck" meal. The band started playing, everyone (young and old and of all abilities) got in line, the caller started giving directions and the dance began. The expression on every face was one of "joy"! In that moment, joy filled the whole room.

**Then he said to the host who invited him, "When you hold a lunch or a**

**dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or your wealthy neighbors, in case they may invite you back and you have repayment. Rather, when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous. Luke 14**

I found it interesting that the Contra Dance was Saturday, August 28<sup>th</sup> and this was the Gospel for Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup>. The Gos-

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A Sign of Hope in a Broken World

Summer 2010

## Gospel Through Contra Dance (continued from page 1)

claimed the night before not by word but by action. As Saint Francis is known for saying, “*Preach the Gospel and if you must, use words.*” L’Arche is proclaiming the Gospel not through words but by action. And as we follow Jesus’ invitation to invite the vulnerable into the heart of our lives, we are all blessed in so many ways. We find the Kingdom, with its challenges, it’s fullness of life, and its great joy.

It was a blessing for me to see how L’Arche is being lived in Atlanta before a L’Arche home is opened. If you have not attended a Contra Dance and if you are looking for a Gospel experience, find out when the next one is and attend!



### Upcoming Community Events—Come Join Us!

Please join us for our last 2 Community Gatherings of the year. We’ve had an average of 80 people attend these 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday social events for people with and without disabilities. We are most grateful for our partnership with St. Bartholomew’s Episcopal Church that has made these events possible. And we are excited to be building community with all of you. For more information, contact Curt Armstrong at [Curt.Armstrong@friendsoflarcheatlanta.org](mailto:Curt.Armstrong@friendsoflarcheatlanta.org) or 678/446-5790.

**Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> 6:30-8:00 pm** Campfire and Sing-along at St. Bartholomew’s Episcopal Church 1790 Lavista Road, Atlanta, GA 30329

**Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup> 6-8pm** Family Contra Dance and Dessert.

### **Second Annual Friends of L’Arche Atlanta Golf Tournament a Huge Success!**

On September 17th, Peachtree Golf Club was the home to the 2nd annual golf outing benefiting Friends of L’Arche Atlanta. The outing raised approximately \$13,000, and a lot of fun was had raising awareness and funds for Friends of L’Arche Atlanta. Special thanks goes to Peachtree Golf Club member John Chapman, who allowed Friends of L’Arche Atlanta access to the course, and to Trey Miller and Mark Daker who organized the event for FOLA.

**We need volunteers!!** If you are interested in helping plan, organize or assist with any of our upcoming community events please email us at [info@friendsoflarcheatlanta.org](mailto:info@friendsoflarcheatlanta.org). We will also begin monthly workdays to renovate our new L’Arche home so if you can help, please let us know.

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*A sign of hope in a broken world*

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**The Mission of Friends of L'Arche Atlanta** is to be a sign of hope to the greater Atlanta community by choosing to embrace the mission of L'Arche International and open a few small, family-like homes here in Atlanta to bring together people, some with developmental disabilities and some without, who choose to share their lives by living together in a faith-based community.

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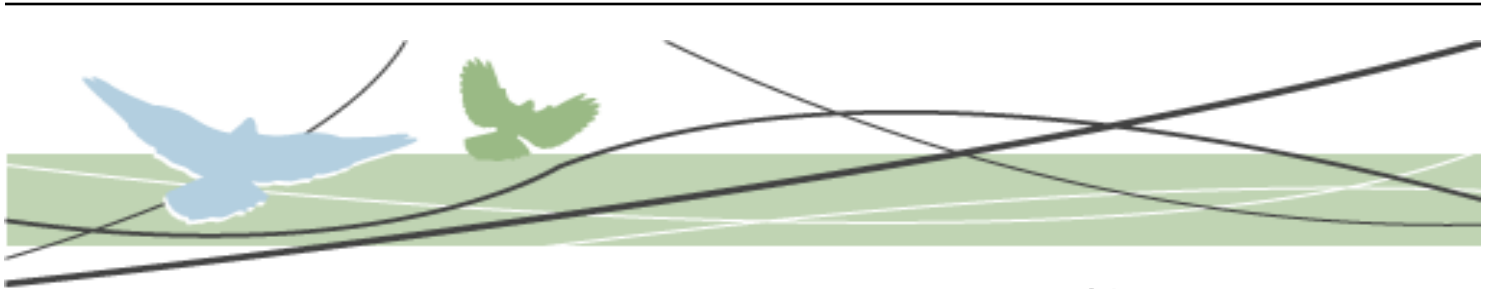
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You can now donate online at our website [www.friendsoflarcheatlanta.org](http://www.friendsoflarcheatlanta.org) and/or sign up to receive the email version of this newsletter!



## ***Celebrate with Friends of L'Arche Atlanta!***

### **A Night on Nouwen**

Friday, October 15th  
6-9 p.m.

#### **Please RSVP**

to [larcheatlantaevents@gmail.com](mailto:larcheatlantaevents@gmail.com)  
or 404-627-6756 by Tuesday, October 12th.

***Please feel free to invite your friends!***



**C**ome celebrate **Friends of L'Arche Atlanta** with an evening of music, wine, appetizers and appreciation of Henri Nouwen. Nouwen, an internationally renowned Priest and prolific

writer, shared a passion for the L'Arche vision of people with and without disabilities sharing life together in community. Three guest speakers will read their favorite Henri Nouwen passage and share about why the philosophy of L'Arche resonates with them personally, much like it did with Nouwen. We look forward to seeing you!

*This event is to broaden awareness of Friends of L'Arche Atlanta and ways you may support us.*

*There is no cost, but donations will be gratefully accepted at the event.*

