



H(ARK)!

A Sign of Hope in a Broken World

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A Huge Reservoir of LOVE

Jo Anne Horstmann
Central US Regional
Coordinator

While I was Community Leader of the L'Arche community in Clinton, IA, I would use the following quote from Community and Growth by Jean Vanier especially at the end of visits by college student groups and other groups who spent several days with us:

One of the signs of life in a community is the creation of links with others. An inward-looking community will die of suffocation. Living communities are linked to others, making up a huge reservoir of love for the world.

Another quote from Community and Growth that is important when we think of creating a huge reservoir of love is:

Welcome is one of the signs that a community is alive. To invite others to live



Laura Magistro Wells, Board of Directors Vice President watches the gorillas at the zoo with her daughter Julia and her new friend from the Bobby Dodd Institute.

with us is a sign that we aren't afraid, that we have a treasure of truth and of peace to share.

Wouldn't we all desire to be a part of a reservoir of love? Being a part of the founding of a L'Arche community in Atlanta can bring you right smack dab into the middle of that reser-

voir! All of us in the Central U.S. Region (communities located in Jacksonville, FL; Mobile, AL; Chicago, IL; Clinton, IA and Kansas City, KS) welcome all the new links with individuals and groups from the Atlanta area.



PLEASE JOIN US
May 10th
for the second
Friends of L'Arche Atlanta
Inclusive Coffee House
and Open Mic at 6:30 p.m.
at St. Paul UMC in Grant Park

Music, diverse talent, fun, coffee and desserts will be on the menu. If you have a talent or if you like watching people who have a talent, we hope you will join us as different acts take the stage during this coffee house fundraiser. We will also share a short slide show and presentation about L'Arche. For more information, contact Talley Wells at 404-627-6756 or talleywells@alumni.duke.edu.



Board & Committee members spending time with friends in the community



IDENTITY OF L'ARCHE
We are people, with and without developmental disabilities, sharing life in communities of faith. Mutual relationships and trust in God are at the heart of our life together. We seek to build a world that recognizes the unique value of every person and our need of one another.

The MISSION OF L'ARCHE is
To make known the gifts of people with developmental disabilities, revealed through mutually transforming relationships; To engage in our diverse cultures, working together toward a more human society; To foster community that is inspired by the core values in our founding story and responds to the changing needs of our members.

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PO Box 923451
Norcross, GA 30010-3451
404.725.2689
info@larcheatlanta.org
www.larcheatlanta.org

A sign of hope in a broken world...



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Fundraising Update:

First Coffee House Fund-raiser Huge Success!

“That was amazing!” was the common refrain spoken throughout the packed fellowship hall after each musician or group finished at the first Friends of L’Arche coffee house and open mic night. The event held April 5th at Oakhurst Presbyterian Church was a resounding success. We had over 80 people in attendance, we raised a lot of money, and we had new volunteers sign up to help make our L’Arche vision a reality. During the event, Friends of L’Arche Vice-President Laura Magistro Wells gave a ten-minute presentation about our vision to open a L’Arche community by 2010.

We plan to continue to have coffee houses and open mic nights in the coming months. Please contact Talley Wells at talleywells@alumni.duke.edu or 404-627-6756 if your church would like to host, perform at or attend an event.

Friends of L’Arche Atlanta Receives Grant

The Friends of L’Arche Atlanta Fundraising Committee is pleased to announce that Central Congregational UCC gave Friends of L’Arche Atlanta a grant of \$1700 to pay for promotional materials that we will use to share our vision for a L’Arche community in Atlanta. We are extremely grateful to Central UCC, which has been a huge supporter of Friends of L’Arche since our inception. We have already put these funds to work printing this newsletter, welcome packets flyers for our upcoming coffee house. Thank you Central Congregational UCC!

Talley Wells
Fundraising Chairperson

Meet Our Board

Each newsletter, we are going to highlight a member of our Board of Directors. We want you to learn a little about who they are and what they are bringing to our community.

Julie Dotterweich Gunby's initiation into L'Arche came when she



spent her first two years after college as a full-time live-in assistant and resident manager at L'Arche Tahoma Hope in Tacoma, WA. There she fell in love with both the core members and the vision of L'Arche. When Julie left that community to pursue a Master's in Theological Studies degree at Duke Divinity School, she chose to write her thesis as a grief group curriculum for persons with developmental disabilities. That tool is currently in use in a number of L'Arche communities. Julie now holds a Fuld Fellowship at the Emory School of Nursing, which provides funding for students to become master's prepared nurses and

nurse practitioners who will work with underserved populations. She lives in Midtown with her husband, Joe Gunby who serves as the pastor of Tenth Street United Methodist Church.

We give thanks to and pray for our recent donors:

Henry & Cheryl Berlon
John Paul Berlon
Lila Black
Chris Cavin
Central Congregational Church
Maro Cooper
Mike & Pat Coughlin
Ben Cubitt
Austin Dickson

In Honor of:

Bob Berlon
Susanna Miller
Steve Rasor

In Memory of:

Sam Willis

Karen Hastings
David Herbster
David & Marja Hilfiker
Dale & Elaine LaLonde
Chuck and Judy Miller
Diane Prosser
Marie Selby
Linda & Charles Wells
Talley & Laura Magistro Wells

Given by:

Kevin & Mary Jo Berlon
Hazel Calvet
Susanna Miller

Given by:

Susanna Miller

How I Celebrated Earth Day...

Susannah Davis
Committee Member

Lions and tigers andturtles, oh my! What a wonderful time we had at the Zoo on Tuesday morning--folks from Friends of L'Arche Atlanta and folks from the Bobby Dodd Institute met at the Atlanta Zoo to spend time together enjoying amazing animal watching and wonderful conversation. The elephants were a big hit eating hay, swishing their tails, and glancing up at us every now and then. And the goats and lambs were so fuzzy and fun to pet.

And then there was the baby panda--oh so cute. None of us was in a hurry--just good easy time--with each other and all of God's creatures. I have to say though, that maybe the biggest attraction was little Julia Wells (Laura and Talley's daughter!). Some of us got to push her in her stroller, and almost all of us got to hold her for a minute--what a brave little creature she was!

We ended our time together with a picnic in Atlanta's historic Grant Park--



Susannah Davis, Vision & Mission committee member, walks and talks with her new buddy from the Bobby Dodd Institute.

plenty of sandwiches and two juices for everyone.

What a great crowd--good times and good people. What a way to celebrate God's goodness all around us--it was the best Earth Day ever. Thanks be to God!

from *The Clowns of God* by Morris West

The author attributes these words to Jesus who was asked for a sign to affirm who He is to a group somewhat akin to the disciples in the upper room. They think he will “cure” a little girl with Downs Syndrome in their midst as the sign. This is Jesus’ reply:

“I gave this mite a gift I denied to all of you—eternal innocence. To you she looks imperfect—but to me she is flawless...She will never offend me, as all of you have done. She will never pervert or destroy the work of my Father’s hands. She is necessary to you. She will evoke the kindness that will keep you human. Her infirmity will prompt you to gratitude for your own good fortune....More! She will remind you every day that I am who I am, that my ways are not yours, and that the smallest dust mote whirled in darkest space does not fall out of my hand...This little one is my sign to you. Treasure her!” (p. 336)

WANTED

Are you asking yourself, what can I do to help make L'Arche a reality in Atlanta? Here are a few ways that you can give to Friends of L'Arche Atlanta. If you would like to donate an in-kind gift, a monetary gift, or your time, please email us at info@larcheatlanta.org.

We need donations of...

- office space
- a projection screen
- sound equipment use for our coffee houses
- Microsoft Access
- Microsoft Publisher
- wireless USB card
- cardstock
- 8 1/2 X 11 paper
- 8 1/2 X 14 paper
- First class stamps

We need people...

- who will Event/Party plan
- with development experience
- with accounting experience
- with government agency experience (mental health, mental retardation, addictive disorders)
- with PR experience

In order to make our goal of opening a home a reality in the next three years, we have to raise between \$250,000 & \$500,000. Our goal is to raise between \$40,000 and \$60,000 this year, and then to double that amount each year over the next three years. This money will help us obtain a house, hire an executive director, and get our project off the ground. We are confident we can do this, but we need your help! We welcome your donation. We would be pleased to talk with anyone you think might want to help us.