

L'Arche Lethbridge Planned Giving

by Sandra Riddell, Chair Fund-Raising Committee

Those who need money and those who can give money meet on the common ground of God's love – Henri Nouwen

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of people with developmental disabilities.

Your generosity makes it possible to provide a standard of living in our homes beyond the minimum. Because of you, we are able to provide our people with a quality of life that most of us take for granted. For example, our dream of a new wheelchair accessible van for Chinook House (now on order) would not have been possible without the ongoing support of people like you. We are deeply grateful.

In return, we have something to offer you – friendship, community, belonging, prayer, and love. We want you to get to know us; we invite you to attend L'Arche Lethbridge's Tuesday evening Prayer Nights. Since the pandemic, Prayer Nights have been held on Zoom. Contact Vanessa Clarke, our Community Life Coordinator, at vclarke@larchelethbridge.org to receive the Zoom link via email.

Because we know you care, here are some of the ways you can make a gift with a lasting impact.

- Leave a gift to L'Arche Lethbridge in your will in the form of a bequest or stocks and bonds.
- Take out a life insurance policy naming L'Arche Lethbridge as a beneficiary.
- Add L'Arche Lethbridge as the beneficiary of the balance of a RRSP or RRIF

Would you consider being part of the L'Arche Lethbridge legacy?

No matter the size, every gift helps to realize our shared vision of a world where everyone belongs. The majority of people who give to L'Arche Lethbridge donate upwards of \$100/year. Here is a snapshot of donations, either funds or in kind, made by individuals or corporations from 2019 –2021.

Dollar Amount	\$1-100	\$101-499	\$500-999	\$1000-4999	\$5000+
Number of Donors	243	85	27	30	8

Like a tiny mustard seed that grows into a large, vigorous plant, even a small act of generosity can grow into something far beyond what we could ask or imagine (Ephesians 3:20). We invite you to become part of the L'Arche Vision of inclusion, a way of peace, and a sign of hope for our world.

Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much – Helen Keller



Your Way to Help L'Arche Lethbridge Transform Lives

I'd like to provide a special gift to support L'Arche Lethbridge's work:

\$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 Other _____

Find my cheque enclosed / Charge my credit card: Visa MasterCard American Express

My gift is to go to: Area of greatest need A specific need

I heard about L'Arche from: Newsletter Social Media Friends/Family Other _____

Card Number: _____ Expiry Date: _____ CSV Number: _____

Signature: _____ Name on Card: _____

Email: _____ Telephone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

L'Arche Lethbridge Office | 403.328.3735 | office@larchelethbridge.org

Canada Revenue Agency www.cra-arc.gc.ca/charities Canadian Charitable Organization: Registration No: 13716 4968 RR0001



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New Directions

by Tim Wiebe

Summer has come to an end. The evenings are growing shorter, there is a hint of autumn in the mornings and the leaves are beginning to turn. It was good to slow down and have a change of rhythm over the summer. While many of us took vacations over the summer COVID did not, it continues to affect all of us and L'Arche is no exception. COVID cases in Alberta continue to climb as we enter the fourth wave of the pandemic; the uncertainty this brings continues to be a weight on our community.

As I reflect on the meaning of the pandemic and what it might mean for me and for L'Arche I came across this reading from Thomas Merton:

"Whatever new direction God opens up for me. My job is to press forward, to grow interiorly, to pray, to break away from attachments and to defy fears, to grow in faith, which has its own solitude, to seek an entirely new perspective and new dimension in my life. To open up new horizons at any cost. To desire this and let the Holy Spirit take care of the rest."

Perhaps this is part of what we are being called to today.

But new directions can, as Merton alludes to, give rise to fear in us. This fear, if not transformed into life giving energy, can cause us to react in strange ways and to lash out at people around us. An example of this for me is the strong feelings some have about wearing masks in public places or choosing to be vaccinated or not.

The Buddhist nun, Pema Chodron, in her book *The Places That Scare You*, says that, "feeling emotional upheaval...is the place where (we) learn compassion." These moments when fear or anger rise in us are invitations to reflect on what is happening and begin to learn how to open our hearts with tenderness toward ourselves and others.

We live these tensions in our L'Arche community just as any other group and our whole global human family. As we continue to live this time of uncertainty together let us trust in the Holy Spirit and that we may be able to accept any emotional upheaval as an invitation to grow in compassion and care for each other.

My Experience in the Rogers Run for L'Arche

by Declan Sander, Member of the PR Committee

It started with a text from my brother. That is all it took- a photo of the event [Rogers Run for L'Arche] and a "Do you want me to sign you up?" message that had me hooked. I knew I was going to try my best to raise as much money as possible for this amazing community and its mission. After organizing the details for the event and figuring out a marketing strategy, I sprang into action. Relatively new to this type of fundraising, I set two goals for myself. The first was to raise awareness of L'Arche, and the second was to raise funds. For the next two weeks, I consistently thought of different ways to raise money; from calling family members to contacting news stations and local businesses. I wanted to do as much outreach as possible. Half-expecting no response, I was very excited to hear back from Radio-Canada and I did an interview for the French radio station. I was then even more excited to be sponsored by our locally owned and operated Gas King [Stations]. Even during such a difficult time, the community of Lethbridge was coming through and supporting one another.

Through my fundraising, I was able to see how the relationships and connections I have made throughout Lethbridge have created a network of support. After doing a presentation at Catholic Central High School, School Council and Student Council, I was able to secure the support of



Declan and his older brothers, Iain and Sean.

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My Experience in the Rogers Run... (continued)

by Declan Sander, Member of the PR Committee

several staff members as well as fellow students. Then at the City of Lethbridge Youth Advisory Council, I obtained the support of some of the city councillors, and youth members. I enjoyed sharing L'Arche's mission, and its vital role within our community with interested listeners.

On the day of the race, Saturday, March 27th, my two older brothers and I ran the Rogers Run for L'Arche. With our small crowd of spectators that consisted of my mother and grandparents, we ran the race. At the finish line lay our reward

of my grandparent's famous chutney sandwiches. It was an amazing experience, where I was able to appreciate how a community can come together to support each other. Without these generous donors, we would have never raised \$1770.00 for L'Arche Lethbridge, and more importantly, awareness of this beautiful community. I would like to extend my thanks to all the donors and to L'Arche Calgary for organizing this yearly event. I hope to see you there next year!

30th Anniversary Events

by Aidan Sander and Van Clarke

L'Arche Lethbridge's 30th Anniversary is now in full swing! Our latest event was the July 31st Drive-by Parade and a pizza party. Thank you all who came out to celebrate with us, whether it had been through cheering on the streets or riding along in the parade. Over fifty people participated in the event, including some very special guests from Haeremai House who travelled all the way from Calgary to celebrate our anniversary with us. There is nothing like friends coming together to celebrate each other's important milestones. Thank you, L'Arche Calgary!

The drive-by parade was a massive success. With stomachs

full of delicious pizza, our expert judges carefully selected three stunningly decorated vehicles to receive prizes ranging from \$50 to \$100! The grand prize winner may be seen in the picture below. Many consolation prizes were also given to the great competitors in the parade. As all the vehicles were very well decorated, the competition was very stiff. The event also marked the unveiling of our new L'Arche Lethbridge mascot, Ricky the Raccoon.

We also had some very important news to share. Guess who is pregnant? Yes, Van is pregnant! Congratulations, Van and Scott!



30th Anniversary Events (continued)

by Aidan Sander and Van Clarke



Upcoming 30th Anniversary Event

Our next Anniversary event is a Spiritual Celebration with Speaking Engagement to be held on November 6, 2021; tentative date. Due to the uncertainties of Covid-19 protocols, we will host this event virtually. The time frame will be announced in the coming weeks. This event will feature speakers who will share their expertise and wisdom on universal topics such as compassion, peace, among others.

Who they are will be a surprise! A celebratory meal and cake will conclude this occasion. For more information, please contact Van at vclarke@larchelethbridge.org or 403-328-3735 ext. 6.

Stay tuned for more updates from the 30th Anniversary Committee!

Message from the Board

by Sharon Yanicki, Vice Chair and PR Committee Chair

I am pleased to provide an update on behalf of the board. Some changes have occurred in the board during the year, and others will occur this fall. Lew Dennis completed his term as treasurer in December 2020 after many years of service. Annette Kerpel joined the board in the fall of 2020, and she capably assumed the role of treasurer in December. Annette holds degrees in Management and Public Health and we greatly appreciate her willingness to take on the role of treasurer.

Cliff Lobe will be completing his term as Board Chair in October. Cliff has had the challenge of guiding the L'Arche Lethbridge board during the COVID-19 pandemic. These have been unprecedented times, and Cliff has provided calm and steady leadership, while always demonstrating a humble and generous spirit. Thank you, Cliff, for your many years of leadership and your support of L'Arche.

We are pleased to be welcoming two new board members in October. **If you are interested in joining the L'Arche Board, please contact Tim Wiebe (TWiebe@larchelethbridge.org).**

The board would also like to thank our Community Leader, the Leadership Team, Assistants, Respite workers and Core

Members for your efforts to support each other and to sustain a strong sense of community during the pandemic. My thanks for the commitment and generosity of each of our board members, and our Fundraising, Public Relations (PR), and 30th Anniversary Committee members. I'd also like to thank Declan and Aidan Sander, our student volunteers, for your many contributions; best wishes for your postsecondary studies this fall.

Finally, our special thanks go to our donors and community members; your support for L'Arche this year has truly made a difference. Despite pandemic restrictions, it has been inspiring to see the success of our virtual Benefit Dinner in partnership with Umami in February (to support the purchase of a wheel chair accessible van) and great participation in the 30th Anniversary Drive-By-Parade in July.

We look forward to sharing the successes and challenges of this past year with you at the L'Arche Association of Lethbridge Annual General Meeting (AGM). **We invite you to attend the AGM Oct. 13 at 7:00 pm on Zoom.** Contact Donette Groves to receive the Zoom link via email (DGroves@larchelethbridge.org).

