

Two by Two



L'ARCHE
chicago

L'Arche Welcomes New Members on Board

By: Tim Andriano, L'Arche Board Member

After a six-month process of research and preparation, L'Arche Chicago is prepared to welcome new members to its Board of Directors. The current board, comprised of six members, recognized that for L'Arche Chicago to continue to grow and succeed in its mission, it needed to strengthen its governance and increase the size of the board. The board's goal is to increase its size to ten members in 2011. To accomplish this goal, a nine-member Board Development Committee was formed.

The Committee accomplished the following:

- A **Board Governance Survey** was conducted of current and past board members to assess the board's structure and function.
- A new **Power Point Presentation** was developed for community outreach.
- The organization's **By-Laws** were reviewed and updated.
- A **Board Calendar** of important topics was developed to provide structure for each board meeting.
- A new **Board Manual** was developed to provide critical information about L'Arche and the Board's responsibilities.
- A **Board Orientation DVD** was developed to provide training to new board members.
- An **Organizational Assessment** was developed to measure the organization and board's progress.

- A **Board Profile Survey** was conducted of current board members to assess their professional skills in eleven disciplines most often represented on non-profit, human service boards.
- A **Recruitment Plan** and materials were developed to recruit new members to the board.

The L'Arche Chicago Board requests your help in recruiting new members

Becoming a member of the L'Arche Chicago Board is very personally, spiritually and professionally rewarding. Joe Kohler, who has been a board member for four years, expresses it best.

"Whenever I am in L'Arche company I have a happy and content feeling."

New board members will help strengthen L'Arche Chicago through their leadership in "good governance" which is described as:

- **Vision** - envisioning the future and developing a corporate mission that will be flexible and responsive to possible future challenges and opportunities
- **Direction** - setting goals for the organization
- **Resources** - securing resources to achieve the desired results and realize the organization's vision and goals
- **Monitoring** - periodically reviewing the relationship between the organization's resources and its vision and direction, ensuring that the organizational vehicle is well-maintained and progressing towards its destination

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- **Accountability** - ensuring efficient use of resources and reporting progress and detours to the organization's stakeholders

(From M. Gill, "Governance Do's and Don'ts Lessons from Case Studies on Twenty Canadian Non-Profits", Final Report, June 2001)

Our goal is to recruit a minimum of four new board members in 2011. L'Arche Chicago seeks individuals who are dedicated to improving the quality of life of men and women with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Individuals who believe that women and men with disabilities are valued members of the community.

The findings of the Board Profile Survey helped us determine the following priorities for recruitment.

- **Physician or Nurse Practitioner**
- **Attorney**
- **Professional in Development and Fundraising**
- **Professional in Human Resources**

Although recruitment is targeted to these disciplines, we also welcome nominations of individuals who have other skills and talents.

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If you know of someone who could contribute to the mission and growth of L'Arche Chicago, please nominate them to the board!

The board meets six-times per year. Please forward contact information for nominees and a summary of why you feel he/she would make a good board member to:

Tim Andriano 708.383.5289
taandriano@yahoo.com or
Alexandra Baig 312.226.1273
larchechicago@sbcglobal.net
L'Arche Chicago will personally contact each person who is nominated to ascertain their interest. Thanks so much for helping in our Board Recruitment efforts!

Special thanks to members of the Board Development Committee who have worked diligently to strengthen L'Arche Chicago; Janet Abri, Tim Andriano, Katie Arnold, Alexandra Baig, Mardy Bloch, Carole Hillman, Pete Pohlhammer, Carol Raabe and Maria Zeiman.

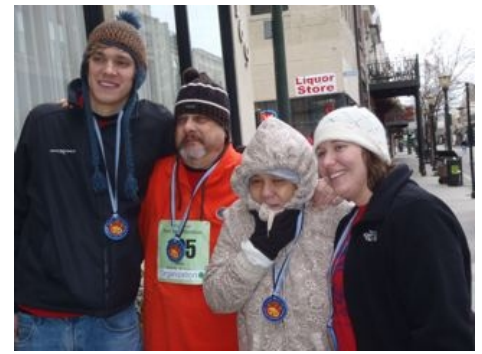
Tim and Lisa Take the Last Long Leg of the Mobile Marathon

For weeks Tim worked with Lisa to get her trained to walk a five mile portion of the marathon that was in Mobile in January. As it worked out, they would walk the last portion of the relay. Tim was a team leader; not only did he leave Lisa in the dust, he made a great time for the L'Arche Team. Core members and assistants from Mobile, Jacksonville, St. Louis and Clinton formed the Central Regional relay team.

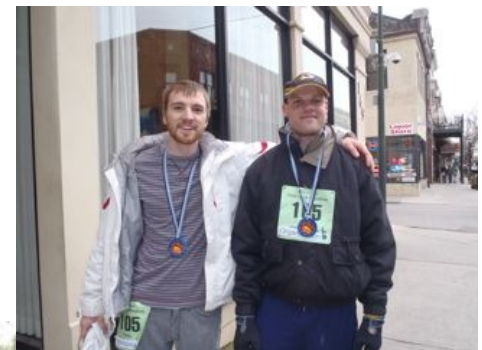


Marathon participants received metallic blankets to ward off unseasonably chilly Mobile temperatures

lively and entertained with jokes about being lost. Tim wanted to knock on wealthy subdivision doors to get help (and possibly some strange looks). We told Tim that the wealthy might not understand what we were doing there. Tim said they needed to know L'Arche. So there we were, in the muddy dark waters, looking for home and together we found our way.
~Lisa Sinnott, Assistant



Central Regional Team Members proudly display their medals



As always the L'Arche community rekindled friendships and enjoyed each other's smiles. Tim actually said it was easy to walk. After the walk/run, there were some photos and celebration. People were tired but happy to be a part of something helpful for our extended community.

The trip down to Mobile was an experience, too. Ask Tim about the new van's name, VV. We were lost in some muddy territory and it was a desolate place away from the city. We were searching for our camp that housed us in Mobile. Lisa kept us



Lisa, Tim and team members wait to begin the start of the last leg

"Yay! We can finally start now. See y'all at the finish line..."

5th Annual Valentine's Brunch

Long time L'Arche Chicago supporter, **Marguerite (Mardy) Bloch** hosted her 5th Annual Valentine Brunch fund-raiser at Concordia University. The brunch raised nearly \$5000 for L'Arche Chicago. Guests entered to music performed by **Maureen Jeffries**, on piano, and **Carol Kryfan**, on harp.



Mardy Bloch welcomes L'Arche friends and supporters



The wife of Concordia University President Dr. John Johnson, Ruth Ann Johnson, speaks of the cooperation between L'Arche and the University.



Core member Jean greets guests with enthusiasm

Ruth Ann Johnson, the wife of Concordia's President, **Dr. John F. Johnson**, welcomed the 100 guests. Mrs. Johnson spoke about the partnership between Concordia and L'Arche and how the relationship enriches both organizations. L'Arche Assistant, **Lisa Sinnott**, gave a very moving prayer which thanked God for the special gifts of each L'Arche Core Member and Assistant.

Everyone enjoyed the raffle drawing and prizes. **The St. Mary's Quilters** received special thanks for their annual donation of decorative, homemade quilts.

Mardy would like to thank the Brunch Committee for their help; **Donn and Carol Raabe, Jill and Larry Moore, Dave Grayson and Tim Andriano.**

The afternoon was photographed by L'Arche Core Member, **Elbert Lott.** Core Members **Tim Stone** and **Mike Marino** helped with the raffle.



Core members' families enjoyed the opportunity to celebrate with L'Arche.

Raffle winner rushes to claim coveted quilt, handmade by St. Mary's quilters.



Director's Desk

L'Arche has its own vocabulary. Members with disabilities are the "core members" of our community, derived from the French "Coeur" or "heart." Those who share life with them are "assistants." People with administrative responsibilities have the role of "coordinator" preceded by a modifier. I might be the director to the outside world; in L'Arche I am the community leader.

At all levels of the Federation, national, regional and local L'Arche operates under "mandates," a term that is specific to L'Arche. At each level of congregation, L'Arche members work to create, maintain and develop a shared vision of how they want to live out the Identity and Mission of L'Arche at that level. The mandate enunciates the goals that the community, the region, the nation or the federation hopes to reach over the next four year period in order to further actualize that vision.

L'Arche Chicago is in the process of discerning and writing down our mandate for the 2011-2014 period. The process is more than one of discussion and planning; it specifically includes prayer and reflection and it involves all the people who are a significant part of our presence in Chicago and Oak Park and who have a vested interest in what our presence

here means and whose support and efforts will nurture that presence.

The core members, the assistants and community leader and the members of the board first took a thoughtful look at how the community has been living the identity of L'Arche, which is:

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

and the mission of L'Arche, which 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*

We Looked through the lens of a document called *The Key Elements of a L'Arche Community*, which covers: the value of the core persons, life sharing, mutuality, faith community,

leadership, management structures and human resources and the integration of our community into society. It was helpful that we could answer the communal question of how we are doing in each of these areas from the very different perspectives of each distinct group of stakeholders. That was the first step.

In the second step, the core members, assistants, board members, long term friends, volunteers and supporters were asked to review the 2007-2011 mandate and answer three simple questions: which elements of this mandate have we accomplished, which elements do we need to carry forward into the next mandate and what are the new elements that we need to add. The discernment team, which includes a core member, an assistant, a board member and a community friend under the facilitation of the Central Regional Coordinator sat down together, processed all the responses. Based on those responses, the team created a draft of the new mandate as the third step. The draft will be sent back to the community and the members will be asked to question and comment before having the opportunity to vote on the final version.

L'Arche is grounded in mutual relationship, acknowledging the gifts of each member and the practice of doing *with* rather than doing *for*. The mandate process is a good example of this. The core members, assistants, board members, administrative members, supporters and friends all have the opportunity to offer insights and raise challenges from her or his particular perspective and influence, in a meaningful way, the direction the community will take over the next four years.

~ Alexandra Baig

Our Identity

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 for one another.

For more information contact:

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