



**See inside!**  
Special campaign  
announcement



*Celebration of Inclusion*



# CAMPAIGN CHAIR MESSAGE

## SPECIAL CAMPAIGN ANNOUNCEMENT

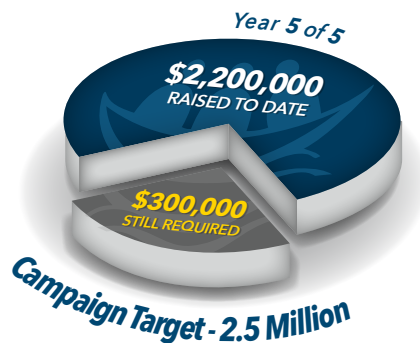
Garry Dodman – Campaign Chair



As you can see from the pictures and articles in this edition of our newsletter, we are a very excited bunch! The Banquet was a big hit and I need to thank everyone who could make it out to celebrate the year that marked the opening of the L'Arche London Gathering Place. The work of establishing new programs has started and we are welcoming new people to L'Arche. All of these accomplishments could only be realized with the strong support of all of you. Thank You!

We have a very dedicated team of staff and volunteers that have at their core the mission of L'Arche. And when you have the mission in your vision and the goal is shared the burden is light. To the team – Thank You!

*At the banquet we announced we had raised \$2.2 million of the \$2.5 campaign goal. Since then, our honorary campaign chairs, Arthur & Sonia Labatt, have stepped up with a matching grant of \$150,000*



*to see us reach our goal. For every dollar we raise this spring and summer, they will match! This is such a blessing and we want to thank Arthur & Sonia for their generosity. The Labatt family has a long history of support for many organizations in London over the years. We see that tradition continue today with this announcement.*

Thank You for your support for the Gathering Place. We ask that you consider Arthur & Sonia's offer to match every dollar you give to help us finish this campaign so that the work and vision of Jean Vanier will continue to be shared here in London through the L'Arche London Gathering Place.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE HONORARY CHAIRS ARTHUR AND SONIA LABATT



Since the commencement of the Gathering Place campaign, we have been proud to serve as Honorary Chairs of this important journey with you. We have witnessed how the campaign has evolved and it has been very gratifying to see how the London community and beyond has demonstrated it's support to meet this challenge.

As the provision of programs and services continues to expand at the Gathering Place, there will be hundreds of individuals with intellectual disabilities who will be the beneficiaries of your generosity. This investment of today will pay dividends for years to come!

With the completion of this campaign in sight we trust that our support will enable us to reach the finish line together in the upcoming months.

We would ask that you read the beautiful words of Jean Vanier below which embodies the true spirit of L'Arche.

Again our sincere appreciation for sharing this journey together.

**Our kindest regards,  
Arthur and Sonia Labatt**



*Can we reasonably dream of a world where people, whatever their race, religion, culture, abilities, or disabilities, whatever their education or economic situation, whatever their age or gender, can find a place and reveal their gifts.*

— Jean Vanier —

## GREETINGS FROM THE BONJOUR CAFÉ

By Melissa, Natalie, and Dominique of the Bonjour Café



Greetings from the Bonjour Café team! As many of you may know, we launched the Bonjour Café program in January of this year in an effort to explore social enterprise. It has been amazing for us to connect with and serve our community while learning many skills in the process. We have developed an amazing team, working together to develop vocational skills through our experiences working in the kitchen. We have also developed many skills related to hospitality. Our work allows us to learn about customer service, communication, and about problem solving.



It has been a pleasure serving the public, getting to know our regulars, and sharing the joy of our cafe with new people too. We invite you to join us every Thursday from 9am-noon. See you then!

Ontario Trillium Foundation  Fondation Trillium de l'Ontario

We thank the Ontario Trillium Foundation for their support.

# RETIRED TEACHERS ORGANIZATION CHEQUE PRESENTATION



*Representatives from the Retired Teachers Organization present a cheque to Laurel and Jim in support of L'Arche London music programs*

In the fall of 2017 the Monday Morning Music Club was honoured to be the recipients of the PROJECT SERVICE TO OTHERS grant offered by the Retired Teachers of Ontario. It was a beautiful gift that met a real tangible need for the Monday Morning Music Club. We had recently moved into over new (dream come true) space at the Gathering Place but were lacking the technology that came with our last location. The \$4000 offered through the RTO/ERO grant enabled us to purchase the technology needed to make large screen lyrics and

chords available to our members. Along with these large screen tv's we also were able to purchase music club t-shirts for our members. They are a beautiful symbol of our community with art work on the front from Jim McGeough and a statement on the back which reads "Ask me why I love Monday Mornings!"

Thank you to the hard work of the RTO/ETO members who believed in us and submitted the proposal on our behalf! We have several RTO/ETO members taking part in our weekly music club, and would always welcome more to join in!



## MESSAGE FROM MARIETTA & PAULINE

*"Joy comes to us in moments, ordinary moments" – Brené Brown*

Last Fall, just before the snow arrived, the Lambeth Horticultural Society planted hundreds of tulip and daffodil bulbs on the corner of Colonel Talbot and Sunray. Today, the tulips are emerging from the soil, a sign of hope which reflects the growing life of our community. Our community partners from the Horticultural Society will tend the garden into the 2018 growing season, beautifying our Gathering Place and the Lambeth neighbourhood.

Since the last newsletter, Bonjour Café has opened on Thursday mornings – an initiative made possible through an Ontario Trillium Foundation Seed Grant. The design of our Gathering Place allows for this weekly Café, where neighbours and friends gather, connect to our

community hub, while enjoying a delicious cup of coffee. Also, in the next few weeks, the Seniors Drumming Circle will begin – made possible through a grant from the New Horizons for Seniors Grant.



*Marietta Drost (L) - Community Leader  
Pauline Trudell (R) - Board of Directors*

Karina, our new Arts Educator, is helping us in our exploration of a wide range of art mediums in our day program – ceramics, paper making, drawing, painting and pastels. L'Arche London, together with Jean Vanier Elementary School, are planning a collaborative Art Show on May 9th, "In the Image of God...I Belong", a show celebrating the beauty, similarities and differences that draw us together. This work is made possible through a L'Arche Canada Growth Grant.

"It's Spring, and there is much to celebrate. It is a time of joy and hope, a time of growing relationships and partnerships here in our neighbourhood and our community of L'Arche London.



# WHAT THE GATHERING PLACE MEANS TO ME

By Gloria Lynn Cripps



The Gathering Place is important to me because all of my friends are there. I go there to participate in day program activities and to work in the office. It has a big kitchen and Joslyn is going to train all of us as to how to use the equipment in it. I can't wait to make gluten-free, dairy-free mac & cheese (try saying that three times fast). There is a craft room as well, and Fabian is teaching me how to make mosaics. The library has big windows and you can borrow the books that are there. I'm going to help organize them. The first time I visited the Gathering Place I was surprised by how big it was. It was a long wait, but it was worth it!



## ART GALA (FREE EVENT)

L'Arche London and Jean Vanier Elementary School are coming together to create an Art Gala called "In the Image of God..... I Belong". This is a collaborative art project where the students, teachers, core members and assistants from the school, and from L'Arche London will feature our self portraits. It will be held at the L'Arche London Gathering Place on Wednesday, May 9th. Drop in hours will be from 5:30 - 8 pm. If you would like to submit a self portrait please contact [Karina@larchelondon.org](mailto:Karina@larchelondon.org) before April 25th. Munchies and beverages will be served. Everyone is welcomed for this FREE event. Submitted by: Karina Viovy, Arts Educator, L'Arche London.

## RENTAL OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE AT THE GATHERING PLACE

The Gathering Place is now available to accommodate your specific rental needs. From large groups to small, the Gathering Place provides kitchen facilities, meeting rooms, and a large community hall suitable for that special large function. For additional information or to set up a time for a facility tour, please contact.

**Roberta Lattanzio**  
(Office Administrator)

[roberta@larchelondon.org](mailto:roberta@larchelondon.org)

**519-652-9778 x225**



capital colour

*L'Arche London extends it's sincere appreciation to our friends at Capital Colour for the overall production of this newsletter.*

### L'Arche London Needs YOU!

I would like to help the L'Arche London Community build a stronger future by making a tax-deductible gift. Charitable registration #89183 5241 RR0001

My personal cheque is enclosed for

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

or donating online at [www.larchelondon.ca](http://www.larchelondon.ca) with a credit card.

#### Please direct my funds to:

L'Arche Gathering Place Campaign  L'Arche London Operations

Please make the receipt to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Thank you for your generosity**

Please mail this form to our office or contact us online at **[office@larchelondon.org](mailto:office@larchelondon.org)**

#### Please send information on:

- Becoming a volunteer
- Becoming a Monthly Donor
- Attending a service
- Donating goods or services
- Becoming an assistant
- L'Arche Gathering Place

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