

At the Table
By Trish Glennon

The table has been our focus for reflection over the past months in our community. At a recent retreat day, we took time to re-tell a story of one very special table in our community — the table that Henri Nouwen commissioned for our chapel many years ago.

The beauty of this table, which has been at the centre of our community prayer gatherings for more than 30 years, was designed and crafted by Joe Child. He took on Henri’s vision for a table that would be low to the ground. A table where many could gather, whether sitting on chairs or sitting on the floor. A table where the Eucharistic celebration could be made most visible. This low table was reflective of Henri’s deep desire for those gathered to see, experience, and witness the sacred meal — communion as an experience, visible and reflective of the ways in which God’s love for us is never out of reach but always available, present, and drawing us closer.

Joe brought this vision to life, drawing inspiration from his love of nature, his kayaking on the water, as well as in his boat building skills as a woodworker. He took months to build this table alongside and with the help of John Bloss. The table was made from scraps of discarded wood that were pieced together, then sanded and smoothed, forming a design resembling



The table in the Dayspring chapel at L’Arche Daybreak was designed and built by Joe Child with the help of John Bloss.

the hull of a boat.

This table in our chapel continues to inspire us to see the table as central to our lives — a place of welcome, a place to share our sacred stories, and a place to be nourished. The table anchors us in our home life where we gather each day. Our tables are often big and busy and they reflect our world of differences and our paths of connections.

This summer, we have been reflecting on the theme: We Come from Many Tables. Each week, assistants from our community have been sharing about their country of origin and the traditions of gathering around the table with friends

and family back home. From the Congo, to Jamaica, to India, to Indonesia, we take in all the rich diversity that exists in food and in the rituals of the table around the world. But, across these differences, is the universal feeling that our tables are integral to being at home, as well, how important it is to extend the table wider — the table is a place of welcome and hospitality and is open to whoever may show up, announced or unannounced. The table is meant to be a place of generosity.

We come from many tables, and we are grateful for the ways in which our tables continue to be places of invitation, connection, and blessing.

Djembe Drumming Circle — Everyone is Welcome!

L’Arche Daybreak was pleased to receive funding this past year under the Government of Canada’s New Horizons for Seniors Program for our Djembe Drumming project.

This federal grant and contributions program supports projects led or inspired by seniors who are making a difference in the lives of others in their communities.

The funds were used to host Djembe drumming sessions on a monthly basis at the Meeting Hall. Each session was led by Terri from Rhythmic By Nature, who guided participants through a morning of self-expression, collaboration, and the joy of music. These sessions provided an opportunity for participants to not only learn the art of drumming but also to build connections and develop leadership skills within a supportive environment.

Thank you to the Government of Canada’s New Horizons for Seniors Program for the funding support provided to L’Arche Daybreak. It has made a significant difference in the lives of seniors in our community.

For more informaton, or if you would like to participate in the Djembe Drumming sessions, please contact Tanya Brethour at L’Arche Daybreak, (905) 884-3454 ext. 292.

Djembe drumming takes place at L’Arche Daybreak, 11339 Yonge Street in Richmond Hill.



Community Notes



Joe Egan, Sue Mosteller, and Mary Egan celebrated their 50th anniversary in L’Arche.

Gannon University Students visited L’Arche Daybreak in March. Their visit has been part of a long standing connection through their campus ministry immersion programs which offer students meaningful opportunities in service with others. The students joined us for our morning Dayspring service and spent the day meeting community members in our programs.

The Spring Disability Vendor Market took place on Saturday, May 24th, on the Daybreak property, featuring a variety of goods which were designed and created by individuals with disabilities and their caregivers. This exciting new partnership we have with the York South Family Network is set to launch a holiday market in November.

Liberty Mutual Canada volunteers once again celebrated their Serve with Liberty outreach this spring by donating their time at the Craft Studio, the Lively Loaf, and the Cedars Guesthouse. We are incredibly grateful for their time, talent, and support.

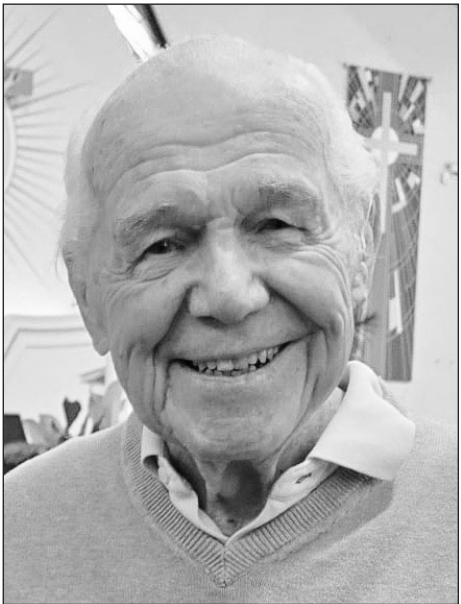
Kathy Kelly celebrated her 80th birthday on May 29th in the Pond Room. Friends and family gathered for an elegant luncheon tea party. We are grateful for Kathy and the positive impact she has had on our lives over the years.

Joe Egan, Mary Egan, and Sue Mosteller celebrated their 50th anniversary in L’Arche on June 9th. We took time to share our gratitude for their incredible faithfulness and commitment they have made to L’Arche here and around the world.

Rex Arnett, father of Michael and the late Adam Arnett, and husband of the late Jeanne, passed away on June 17th. Rex held a faithful and devoted presence in our community right up to his 100th year. He will be deeply missed by his many friends and family.

Our tree planting took place on June 10th where we planted 65 trees and 75 shrubs. Thank you to Alex Karney, and the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation for their generous funding.

Reg McLean was elected as our new Board President at the AGM in June. Reg has been a board member since 2014 and has served as our Vice President for the past eight years. We are grateful to Reg for taking on this important role.



Rex Arnett died on June 17th.

Community Wish List	
Humidifier.....	\$150
Arts & Crafts Supplies.....	\$250
Stainless Steel Table.....	\$300
Bannetons for Bread Proofing.....	\$300
Porch Swing.....	\$450
Pillows for all homes	\$800
Baking Tins	\$900
BBQ	\$1000
End Tables and Lamps	\$1000
Twin Comforters for all homes	\$2000
Twin Sheets for all homes.....	\$2000
Couch	\$2500
Wheelchair Accessible Van.....	\$90000
For more information, please call Carol-Anne Forsythe at L’Arche Daybreak’s Development Office at (905) 884-3454, ext. 285.	

Walk with Hope — Old Friends and New *By Mary Bastedo*



Mikayla and her grandmother, Pam Marshall, attended this year's Walk with Hope.

One of the newest participants in our Walk with Hope this year has a deep connection with its past. Mikayla, a high school student, came to the Walk with her grandmother, Pam Marshall. Pam has fond memories of coming to the Walk frequently with her mother, Barbara Houlding, who was a long-time, enthusiastic supporter of L'Arche Daybreak.

When I moved into my condo building in Aurora almost three years ago, one of the first people I met was Barbara Houlding. As Barbara and I chatted, curled up on the couch at our neighbour's dinner party, I soon realized that Barbara was a huge fan of L'Arche Daybreak. She talked about what a thrill it was to attend our Gala, as well as to participate in our Walk with Hope, and the Christmas Carol Services. She said Daybreak was the place where she most fully experienced joy and togetherness; it gave her hope.

What had drawn Barbara to be such a faithful, generous supporter of Daybreak was her friendship with Peggy Hopkins. Peggy, one of the first core members at Daybreak, moved into the Green House in 1974. Barbara and Peggy knew each other growing up in the same neighbourhood of Toronto and remained good friends ever after. It was through Peggy that Barbara discovered Daybreak.

After that dinner party, I got to know Barbara's daughter, Pam, who came frequently to visit her. Barbara lived to celebrate her 100th birthday but passed away shortly afterwards on September 17th, 2024. She and Peggy were both born in 1924.

In December, Pam brought her granddaughter, Mikayla, to our Carol Service. (Pam's daughter Tara, Mikayla's mother, had also been drawn to L'Arche and spent a year as an assistant at L'Arche Homefires in Wolfville, N.S.) Mikayla enjoyed the community and wanted to volunteer for the Walk. I was delighted to see Mikayla and Pam at the Walk with Hope with big smiles on their faces. I smiled, too, thinking how pleased Peggy would be that her friend Barbara's great-granddaughter was participating in Daybreak's Walk with Hope. The fruitfulness of Peggy's life has impacted many generations and continues to do so to this day. ✚



Barbara Houlding, and Jacquie Boughner joined Peggy Hopkins to celebrate her birthday.

L'ARCHE DAYBREAK

The L'Arche Daybreak community is a dynamic example of how people of different intellectual capacity, social origin, religion and culture can live and learn together.

The first L'Arche community in North America, L'Arche Daybreak began in 1969 and now includes eight homes in Richmond Hill, several day programs of creative activities, and the Dayspring Spiritual Centre.

WORSHIP SERVICES

Our Community Prayer Time is held on Monday mornings at 10:30 a.m.



L'ARCHE

In a world that often sees people with intellectual disabilities as less than whole, L'Arche celebrates their creativity, transparency and great capacity for joy as important gifts to be shared. Started in France in 1964, L'Arche has become an international movement with over 150 communities throughout the world.

"What makes us human is not our mind but our heart, not our ability to think but our ability to love."

—Henri Nouwen



Daybreak Newsbreak

Daybreak Newsbreak is

published by
L'Arche Daybreak's
Development Office
11339 Yonge Street
Richmond Hill, Ontario
L4S 1L1 ~ Canada
Telephone: (905) 884-3454 ext. 285
e-mail: caforsythe@larchedaybreak.com
www.larchedaybreak.com
Editors: Carol-Anne Forsythe
Christine Gameson
Trish Glennon

Printing of *Daybreak Newsbreak*
donated by Creative Path Digital
Imaging.



Daybreak Newsbreak

Remembering Luigi

*By Tanya Brethour and
Lori Ann Whyte*

When we welcomed Luigi to L'Arche Daybreak, we were struck by how saturated in love Luigi was by his family. His magnetism, mischievous spirit, positive light, that particular tilt of his head, the unmistakable twinkle in his eyes, and that megawatt smile, were all evidence of someone who had been well-loved. That love was witnessed and continued by all of those who walked with Luigi at Daybreak.

Within a very short time, it was clear that Luigi had made his home at Church Street and had formed a new friendship with Brian, whom he shared an undeniable bond. This relationship was marked by much affection, generosity, and a healthy dose of Luigi's assurance that he knew what was best for Brian — and likely everyone else. For all the sweetness that was his signature, Luigi also had a mind of his own, and he made sure we all knew it. Whether it was his uncanny love for toothpaste, re-packing his overnight bag, or moving furniture to his desired spot in the middle of the



Luigi Cornacchia and Shreya Rangra lived together at Heart House.

night, he had a very clear sense of the way things should be and he was going to make sure it happened that way.

Luigi had a remarkable capacity for love. He also had a love of music and movement, and it was as if he had rhythm built right into his bones, his very essence. It would start with him tapping his fingers, moving his head, and then the hips came in, and he would often look for the nearest partner. Luigi was a born dancer who danced his way right into our hearts. It was impossible not to step into the dance and moment with him.

Luigi's life has been a gift and blessing beyond measure, a time filled with laughter, connection,

patience, creativity, partnership, lots of prayers, courage, hope, resilience, and, above all, love. To our dear Luigi, thank you for the gift of *you*, your generous, mischievous, pure, giant-hearted spirit, and the great love you showed us, which we will treasure forever. Thank you for all the hugs, the laughs, the tears, the dance parties, the moments of forgiveness, and the mishaps that are better left in the vault.

Luigi chose love, shining his beautiful smile until his very last day. May our gift to him be to continue reflecting that kind, genuine and generous spirit — spreading love, choosing joy in times of crisis, and embracing the beauty in life, the way Luigi did. ✚

Thank You Dorothy

A special thank you to Dorothy Whelan, who served on our Board of Directors at Daybreak for 12 years, including six years as our Board President. Dorothy's connection with Daybreak began more than 30 years ago, attending community events and prayer nights with her family.

Dorothy brought her many years of experience as an educator to her roles on our Board, offering her positive and mission-driven leadership. Dorothy's love for L'Arche was also visible, not only at Board meetings, but also, in her involvement in the community. For Dorothy, it has been the personal connections she has built throughout her many years at Daybreak that have meant the most to her.

Some of the connections included spending time with her friends at Brookwood House, and travelling with Fiona Chiu to Belfast for the International Federation meetings in 2017. Dorothy was also instrumental in building the relationship between Our Lady Queen of the World Catholic Academy and Daybreak.

It was her deep commitment to the L'Arche mission that helped to provide invaluable support in helping our community navigate the past 12 years through a particularly challenging time in our history. We are grateful for her faithfulness to L'Arche values, and for all the ways she helped attract new board members, and guide our Board of Directors to be inspired by these values.

Thank you, Dorothy, for your wonderful support of our community. ✚



We said thank you to Dorothy at the AGM in June. Pictured above: from left, Adam Whaley, Reg McLean (who was elected as the new Board President), Kim Lageer, Trish Glennon, Dorothy Whelan and Jaclyn Veres.