



GRATITUDE

L'Arche Winnipeg Newsletter #85



New Community Leader for L'Arche Winnipeg!

After a thorough application and interview process and prayerful discernment, we are very happy to announce that the Board of Directors of L'Arche Winnipeg have accepted the recommendation of the Selection Committee.

They have appointed **Dominic Opaka** as the new Community Leader/Executive Director for L'Arche Winnipeg for the next mandate, January 1, 2022 - Dec 31, 2025. We believe that Dominic will bring the following qualities and attributes to this role:

- Personal core values that are aligned with the core values of L'Arche: the Identity and Mission, Servant leadership, spirituality of L'Arche and lived relationships with core members.
- Ten years experience of the day-to-day operations of a L'Arche community (L'Arche Edinburgh, and L'Arche Edmonton) gained from various roles, that range from live-in house assistant, to House Leader and Homes Coordinator.
- A collaborative leadership style based on deep listening, transparency, and leading from within the circle.
- An openness to continuous learning and personal growth.
- An understanding of the expectations of the role of Community Leader, and a commitment to achieving the intended outcomes of the new Community Mandate.

On a more personal note, Dominic grew up in Kenya and moved to L'Arche Edmonton a little more than three years ago. He is excited about this new opportunity in his L'Arche journey and about moving with his wife to Winnipeg and discovering another Canadian city.

We are grateful to Dominic for his "yes" and are committed to support him and the community in this time of transition and renewal. Dominic will begin December 6th with a time of

transition with Jim Lapp and take on the full leadership at the end of the December.

We trust that you will all extend a warm welcome to Dominic and that he can count on everyone to support him to lead the Community through the next four years.

Thank-you to all for your prayers during this process and especially as this new chapter in the community unfolds.

With gratitude,

Paul Moreau
Board President

Christine Monier
Western Regional Leader



Dominic Opaka

New L'Arche Winnipeg Fund Will Honour Jim Lapp

A Legacy of Hope

by **Eliane Vieira**
Director of Fund Development and Communications

We are happy to announce that L'Arche Winnipeg has a new Endowment Fund in honour of Jim Lapp. Jim is a founding member of L'Arche Winnipeg and has advocated for the rights of people with intellectual disabilities for many years.

Jim has been the Community Leader of L'Arche Winnipeg for the last 12 years. The *L'Arche Winnipeg Community Fund in Honour of Jim Lapp* will support our community in areas that are close to Jim's heart.

L'Arche's generous supporters, Tova and Larry Vickar, will match donations dollar for dollar up to \$50,000.00. L'Arche Winnipeg is grateful for Tova's and Larry's generous support.

Our long-term and trusted partner, the **Winnipeg Foundation**, will host and manage the new fund. They will also match donations at a 1 to 9 ratio. The combined matching from the 2 partners means that a \$10.00 donation becomes \$22.20 invested in the fund for L'Arche Winnipeg. More than ever before, every dollar matters. Please consider donating.



Jim Lapp and Larry Vickar, at the 5th anniversary celebration of L'Arche Tova Café

How to donate?

Go to wpgfdn.org/LarcheLapp to donate through the Winnipeg Foundation website, where the *L'Arche Winnipeg Community Fund in Honour of Jim Lapp* is your fund of choice. You can also call 204-944-9474 or 1-877-974-3631 and follow the instructions for donations.

You can also mail donations to L'Arche Winnipeg - please make sure to indicate the fund that you want to support. For more information, go to www.larchewinnipeg.org or call the L'Arche office at 204-237-0300.

Donations of \$20.00 or more are eligible for a tax receipt.



(above): A limited number of people are allowed to attend **Dorothy's** funeral service (below): **Fr. Kevin** (center) from Blessed Sacrament parish visits Ross & Tom and the rest of the **Dayspring** team to lead them in a house blessing ceremony.



(above): Members of **L'Ainé** house participate in the May Walk with L'Arche. (below): **Chimo** members enjoy a July outing to Assiniboine Park Zoo. (bottom) **The Anchor** house celebrates Thanksgiving.



Highlights of the Year 2021

January

- ◆ Funeral service for Dorothy Baxter, who had been a member of L'Arche Winnipeg since 1974 ◆

February

- ◆ Launch of our annual Walk with L'Arche event, a virtual Walk for the 2nd year in a row ◆ Online Lenten retreat for L'Arche members ◆

March

- ◆ L'Arche Canada launches "Freedom" music video, which goes on to win a number of national and international awards ◆ A *Bridge* grant of \$5,000.00 for L'Arche Tova Café is received ◆ members of L'Arche begin receiving their COVID-19 vaccines ◆ work continues on revision of the L'Arche International Charter ◆ Ross H. moves to our *Dayspring* house ◆ *The Anchor* house has their main floor washroom renovated to an accessible walk-in shower with a wider doorway to fit walkers and wheelchairs ◆

April

- ◆ Gender Diversity workshop training for L'Arche members ◆ Rick G. celebrates his 60th birthday ◆

May

- ◆ Vickar Automotive Group's Walk with L'Arche is a virtual event ◆ Diane Truderung retires from her role as Director of Communications and Fund Development, Eliane Vieira replaces Diane in that role ◆ Mandate & Selection committee begins consultations with L'Arche members for creation of a new 4-year mandate for L'Arche Winnipeg ◆

June

- ◆ We mourn the loss of another community member, Linda Bauch, a member of L'Arche Winnipeg for the last 46 years ◆ consultations for Mandate continue by Zoom ◆ Tom N. celebrates his 65th birthday ◆

July/August

- ◆ A new January 2022 - December 2025 Mandate is approved for L'Arche Winnipeg ◆ advertising for a new Community Leader/Executive Director begins ◆ L'Arche Tova Café re-opens for dine-in at 50% capacity ◆ new air conditioning installed for the upstairs at *Elpida* house ◆ a new, more powerful, furnace is installed at *The Anchor* house ◆

September

- ◆ Selection committee conducts interviews for Community Leader position ◆ Custom made swing for wheelchairs delivered to *Dayspring's* back yard ◆

October

- ◆ L'Arche International *Festival of Light* is held on Zoom ◆ a grant from *United Way Essential Needs Fund* allows for attic renovations/insulation update at our **Chimo** house ◆ Barbara W. celebrates her 65th birthday ◆ The Board of Directors announces selection of the new Community Leader ◆

November / December

- ◆ Retirement of Jim Lapp, after 12 years in the role of Community Leader ◆ Our annual *Christmas Pageant* is an online Zoom event again this year ◆ Russell T. moves from *The Anchor* to *Dayspring* ◆ L'Arche Canada launches season 2 of its' highly popular lip-synch competition **Battle of the Fans** ◆ On-going implementation of a Human Resource Information System (HRIS) creating a common pay calendar for L'Arche communities across Canada ◆ a new L'Arche endowment fund is set up at The Winnipeg Foundation, with a sponsor matching donations dollar for dollar, up to \$50,000.00

Introducing our Director of Fund Development and Communications

by **Eliane Vieira**

Director of Fund Development and Communications

From 2019 to last May, I was the Events & Social Media Coordinator for L'Arche Winnipeg. When Diane Truderung announced her retirement, I decided to apply for the position. I felt inspired by her outstanding work, and I thought I could put my skills and experience to service for an even greater cause.

My journey with L'Arche began over a decade ago. I first heard about L'Arche from a friend at university back in Brazil. He had just returned from L'Arche London, in the UK and shared his unique experience with that community. I immediately felt a connection. Shortly after graduating in 2006, I went to L'Arche Dublin for a one-year volunteer term in Ireland. From live-in assistant to House Leader to fundraising video producer, my experience was so wonderful that the one-year commitment turned into three. I made friends, learned new skills, and felt transformed by sharing my life with people with intellectual disabilities.

I left L'Arche Ireland in 2009, but L'Arche never left my heart. In 2011, I arrived in Winnipeg for another one-year volunteer term. Once again, that one-year commitment stretched to several. From 2014 to 2019, I decided to pursue further education in communications. I also acquired valuable experience in communications, marketing, photography, videography, and new media. Back to L'Arche



Eliane Vieira

in 2019, I was equipped with a skill set that allowed me to contribute to the community in new ways.

In this new role, I am happy for the

opportunity to serve L'Arche by applying my knowledge in Communications and Fundraising in a way that we can fulfill our mission to make known the gifts of people with disabilities.

I know that I have big shoes to fill after Diane stepped down, especially during challenging times of a pandemic. But I also know that I am not alone and that L'Arche Winnipeg has great members committed to supporting each other in this journey.

I am looking forward to what the future will bring us, and I am confident that, together, we will continue working towards a world where everyone belongs.

L'Arche Tova Café is Open, Volunteers Welcomed

L'Arche Tova Café is pleased to have welcomed back our customers for full dine-in service. The re-opening to dine-in has meant hiring two new staff members to served our faithful clients.

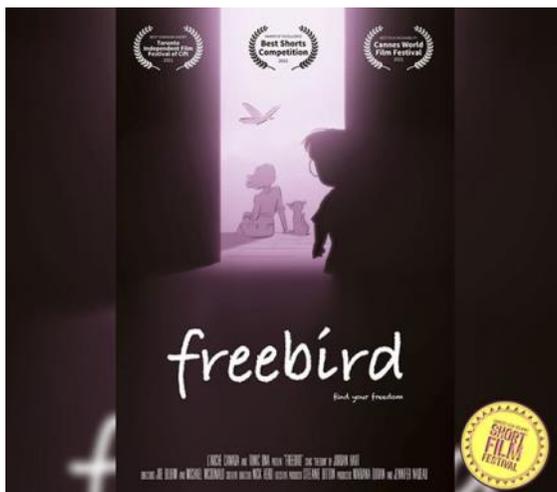
The Café is also looking for volunteers to help out in shifts of four hours, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM, Tuesdays to Saturdays (*free lunch provided!*). The Café is situated at 119 Regent Ave. West in Transcona.

If you are interested in volunteering at the Café, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Maureen Manning, by email:

volunteer@larchewinnipeg.org



Café Manager and Chef Rob deJonge was very happy to welcome customers back into the Café.



L'Arche Getting International Recognition Through Music Video

Since launching **Freebird** at L'Arche Canada's **Free to Be Music Festival** earlier this year, the video has garnered over 25 national and international awards, winning Best Canadian Short at the Toronto Independent Film Festival, Best Film on Disability at the 2021 Cannes World Film Festival, Best North American Music Video at the Munich Music Video Awards, and Best Foreign Script at the New York Script Awards.

The video is a powerful coming-of-age story about a boy with Down Syndrome who learns to navigate the world with its' many challenges and opportunities. You can view the video on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wOW6QmcMYuU>

Battle of the Fans, Season 2

by **Eliane Vieira**

Director of Fund Development and Communications

“L’Arche demonstrates that when persons with intellectual disabilities take their place at the table, they contribute to a more just, compassionate, and vibrant world for all.” - L’Arche Canada.

Dust off your dancing shoes, grab your air guitar and let’s rock disability!

Season two of the “**Battle of the Fans**” started November 2nd and continues every Tuesday until December 7th.

After the success of 2020, the fun-filled fundraising event is gearing up for an even greater season two. “Battle of the Fans” is an online video lip sync competition, created by L’Arche Canada, with video contributions from L’Arche communities from around the world. The ultimate goal is to have fun while raising funds and promoting the wonderful gifts of people with disabilities.

You are invited to watch the ‘**Battle**’, on L’Arche Canada’s YouTube



channel where you can vote, share, and donate. Communities advance to the next round by scoring points for their video: 1 point for each dollar donated, 2 points for a “view” and three points for a “like”.

Funds raised will be divided equally: 50% to the L’Arche community, 50% to L’Arche International’s **Solidarity** program, which supports L’Arche communities in countries where there is little or no government funding available.

Visit L’Arche Winnipeg [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages and L’Arche Canada [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages for updates and viewer comments.

May the ‘Battle’ begin!

[L’Arche Canada YouTube Channel](#)



Wheelchair Swing

Creativity and generosity combined for this donation of a swing adapted for wheelchairs, recently delivered to our Dayspring house. Ross was the first to try it out (seated, between kneeling assistants Anatolii and Ronny).

Our gratitude goes to Russ Edwards & crew of **Westman Group Inc.** - members of the Winkler operation designed, fabricated, and assembled the swing. Members of the Winnipeg operation of Westman Group (*standing*) delivered the swing to Dayspring’s back yard.

We also thank Ross’s sister Barb and husband Don for the original idea and for having brought it to fruition.

L’Arche Winnipeg:  

L’Arche Tova Café:  

Identity and Mission of the International Federation of L’Arche Communities



Identity Statement:

- We are people with and without intellectual disabilities, sharing life in communities belonging to an International Federation.
- Mutual relationships and trust in God are at the heart of our journey together.
- We celebrate the unique value of every person and recognise our need of one another.

Mission Statement:

Our mission is to...

- Make known the gifts of people with intellectual disabilities, revealed through mutually transforming relationships.
- Foster an environment in community that responds to the changing needs of our members, whilst being faithful to the core values of our founding story.
- Engage in our diverse cultures, working together toward a more human society.

GRATITUDE FROM WINNIPEG

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Making known the gifts
of persons with
developmental disabilities

Faire connaître les dons
des personnes ayant un
handicap intellectuel

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Community Leader/ Executive Director

Jim Lapp

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L'ARCHE Winnipeg, Incorporated

November, 2021

Dear friends,

Christmas is a time for giving thanks for the many blessings we have received and also a time to reflect on the changes at L'Arche Winnipeg.

The past year has been one of many changes: retirements, role changes, and a new dynamic in the community in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. You can read our November **Gratitude** newsletter for more information.

L'Arche Tova Café, our social enterprise in downtown Transcona, allows us to live our mission to make known the gifts of people with developmental disabilities in a welcoming and friendly environment. After temporary closures and limited operation because of the pandemic, the Café is now open at 100 percent capacity. L'Arche is very grateful that our social enterprise has been able to survive during these challenging times.

It is with mixed emotions that I retire and leave the Community Leader role. However, I have great confidence in those assuming new responsibilities, and I know the community will be in good hands. Amidst all these changes, there is one constant: the reassuring presence of our members with developmental disabilities, who continue to show us what is essential through all this: relationships, presence, caring for each other, trust in God.

Another constant is the faithfulness of our friends and donors who continue to support L'Arche Winnipeg in many ways – and for this, we are very grateful.

L'Arche Winnipeg receives government funding; however, this is not enough to meet our members' needs. Your generosity and financial support allow us to fulfill the mission of creating caring homes and transforming lives even through challenging times.

May you be blessed this Christmas with the light of Jesus who dispels all darkness.

Sincerely,

Jim Lapp
Community Leader
L'Arche Winnipeg

Credit card donations can be made through CanadaHelps.org

Cheques, payable to *L'Arche Winnipeg Inc.*, can be mailed to:

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118 Regent Ave. East
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