



GRATITUDE

L'Arche Winnipeg Newsletter #63



10th Annual Walk a Huge Success

by Diane Truderung
Director of Fund Development
and Communications

The Vickar Community of Dealerships on Regent's Walk with L'Arche event held on May 4, 2014 was a great success. This event raised over \$64,000 which was \$10,000 more than last year. The pledges will be used to maintain and improve the quality of life of L'Arche members and their volunteer assistants.



Friends, family, sponsors and supporters gathered at Oxford Heights Community Club. Participants collected pledges and walked either the 1 kilometre or 5 kilometres in support of L'Arche Winnipeg. This year we are proud to announce that there were over 100 new participants. The festivities began with a Zumba warm-up led by Tammy Vogel.

After the walk, the participants enjoyed a barbeque provided by the Knights of Columbus, and food items were provided by Maple Leaf Foods, McDonald's, Domino's Pizza, Wellington Fine Coffee, World of Water, Swagelok and the L'Arche Tova Café. The celebration continued indoors as guests enjoyed performances by the Andrew Brown band,

Tone Chimes and Elvis Aaya. Mago the Magician displayed his creativity and talent by creating balloon figures.

Thank you to Larry Vickar who provided the wonderful balloon displays. The balloons had a colourful spring theme and brought smiles and warmth to the event.

Prizes were awarded to the top fundraiser, Gerard Lecuyer who raised an amazing amount of \$15,606.00. Gerard has walked and collected pledges for nine walks. In total, Gerard

Top: walkers of all ages enjoying the walk.

Right: Gerard Lecuyer speaks of his belief in the work of L'Arche, after receiving his prize & award



has raised an incredible total of \$49,828.00 in pledges. A special award was presented to Gerard in recognition and appreciation for his dedication and support of L'Arche Winnipeg. Second top fundraising prize went to Michelle, a member of L'Arche, who raised \$2,557.00. The top

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Mourning the Loss of L'Arche Winnipeg's Founder



Sister Marie Paradis, who founded L'Arche Winnipeg in 1973 and was our Community Leader until 1980, passed away on May 17th, 2014 at the Sisters of St. Joseph residence in Toronto. She was 81 years old. Her funeral was held on May 23rd in Toronto.

A memorial mass was held here at Blessed Sacrament Church on Friday June 6th, attended by the whole L'Arche Winnipeg community and some long-time friends of Sister Marie (see tribute on page 3).

As we left the church, we stopped for a few minutes in the parking lot to blow some bubbles skyward, bubbles of love and gratitude for Sister Marie. As the bubbles rose, we sang our blessing song for her.

It seemed natural to end on a joyful note. L'Arche Winnipeg has a reputation for being a community of joy and celebration, and that is very much the spirit which Sister Marie breathed into us from the very beginning.

Walk a huge success...

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fundraising team was the L'Arche Tova Café, who raised \$7,449.60.

Prize draws took place with one lucky volunteer winning a fabulous prize. All registered walkers were eligible to win great prizes, donated by the business community. A huge thank you goes to all of the businesses for the donation of the prizes and the support of L'Arche.

Thank you to our naming sponsor Vickar Community of Dealership's on Regent, and to our major corporate sponsors: Casera Credit Union, TD Canada Trust, North American Lumber, Enterprise Holdings Inc., Olympic Building Centre, NVR Construction, Wyatt Dowling Insurance Brokers, BPG, The Benefits Planning Group, The Running Room and CHVN 95.1 FM. Also thank you to all of the participants, the L'Arche volunteers and everyone who made the 10th Annual Vickar Community of Dealerships on Regent's Walk with L'Arche such a huge success. The



Some members of the L'Arche Tova Café team, gathered around Leonard who is holding up the team trophy.

11th Walk With L'Arche is pleased to announce our new naming sponsor, Olympic Building Centre. This fun filled family event will take place on Sunday, May 5, 2015 at the Oxford Heights Community Club. We hope to see you next year!



Walker Donated

Deborah Black, owner of **Transcona Health and Safety Services**, generously donated a walker to Maressa, one of our L'Arche members. Maressa had dropped in at her store to check out the products, and Deborah noticed that Marissa's walker needed to be replaced. Thank you so much Deborah for your donation of the walker and for your philanthropic spirit. Needless to say that Marissa was thrilled to receive this gift, as you can see by the smile on her face!

Transcona Health and Safety Services at 111B Regent Ave W. has a variety of healthcare products including specialty shoes, walkers and wheelchairs.



Transcona Biz Market Garden

L'Arche Tova Café will once again be participating in the Transcona Biz Market Garden, selling fresh bread, scones, squares, butter tarts, and a variety of other baked items. Drop by **Archambault Pavilion** (just 3 doors west of the Café) every Thursday between 11:00 am and 3:00 pm, from July 3rd until August 28. Hope to see you there!

A Tribute to Sister Marie Paradis CSJ

by Jim Lapp
Community Leader

"Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me I was in prison and you visited me..... 'Truly I tell you just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'"

- Matthew 25, 34-36, 40

We are here today to celebrate the life of Sister Marie Paradis and to thank God for her presence in our lives.

The above reading speaks to us of Marie's faithfulness to God's call.

When God called Marie to be the first community leader of L'Arche Winnipeg He knew what he was doing. She was a very warm welcoming person who had gifts in celebrating life with an enthusiasm that was catching. She was the perfect person to welcome strangers.

At the beginning of L'Arche Winnipeg Marie would go every week to the institution in Portage to meet potential members. I have counted at least 15 current and former members who she welcomed into our homes from the institution. They were strangers no more because of her.

Like many of us gathered here today I was one of those people that Marie welcomed in the first year L'Arche Winnipeg opened. I first met her at York University in Toronto in August 1974. I was expecting to meet a pre-Vatican two sister in full black habit and head covering with a stern look and possibly a yard stick in her hand. How wrong could I be. Marie was wearing one of her infamous knitted ponchos, I think the green one. Hazel informs me she had at least four of them all of different colours. Right away I was struck by her warmth and enthusiasm. When I arrived at Rosseau Court in early September I immediately felt welcome by Marie and everyone else in the house. I think that within less than a day I felt at home. I also remember the enthusiastic welcome we received from the members of Blessed Sacrament Church. On behalf of all the community I want to thank the community of Blessed Sacrament for



At the conclusion of the memorial mass, we blew bubbles of love and gratitude skyward in celebration of Sister Marie's life, and the new life she gave many of us.

supporting Sister Marie and all of us in those tough early years.

I arrived an agnostic and right away was struck by the presence of the Spirit of God within our community. As a faithful servant of God, and Community Leader, Marie had a key role in welcoming His Spirit. Never in my life, before or since have I felt the Spirit's presence as strongly as I did in those first few months. From that experience I became a Christian.

Over the last 20 years as a board member and community leader members of other L'Arche communities have said that L'Arche Winnipeg has gifts of welcome, enthusiasm, and celebration. I particularly remember a Regional Board workshop three years ago when we had a L'Arche night on a Saturday night so that they could be included. We celebrated Evelyn's 70 birthday. All of those gifts of the Spirit were present that night and the Board members from other communities were raving about the celebration over breakfast the next day and even as I was driving them to the airport. These spiritual gifts come from Marie and live on in our community today. It is part of our culture and her legacy.

Recently as I was walking down Kildonan Drive near my home I was thinking of Sister Marie and I was struck by the thought that as each one of us gets to the gates of heaven, Marie will be there, probably first in line, to warmly

welcome us to the celebration of His Kingdom. Let us thank God for Sister Marie and her faithful service to all of us.

- Tribute given at the memorial mass

Other tributes from the memorial mass

"I would like to give thanks for the great gift of Sister Marie Paradis. She came to see me in Portage la Prairie, at the institution, and asked me if I wanted to come and live with her. I said "Sure!" I'll never forget the car she came in - it was a blue Pinto."

- Hazel

"I know Sister Marie Paradis for a long time. Sister Marie is a good person. She welcomed me. I love her. She always made me laugh. I miss her - a lot."

- Maressa

"...Marie spent hours driving to and from MDC, the institution in Portage la Prairie, deciding who she could next welcome to the new community. Her invitation to prospective assistants was always "Come and See". She didn't only show us how to be Christian, she taught us how to be human. Sister Marie Paradis' name will be connected and revered by L'Arche Winnipeg and her many friends for years to come."

- Shirley

L'Arche Tova Café Caters for New CN Training Center

by **Diane Truderung**
*Director of Fund Development
 and Communications*

In April, the L'Arche Tova Café was thrilled to receive a catering order for the new CN training center. The L'Arche Tova Café located at 119 Regent Ave. West is in the "CN Neighbourhood" and the Café is very thankful for the continued support of CN.

Over the course of seven days, the Café provided a total of 151 trays of sandwiches, wraps, and other assorted catering items. This order was sufficient to provide lunch for 743 people.

The new CN training facility is an 85,000 square ft. facility located at 650 Pandora Ave. East in Transcona. Each week this facility will train 300-400 employees each week, as part of its enhanced employee train-



Diane Truderung and Liz Gauthier from L'Arche helped deliver many food trays to CN

ing program for new and existing employees. The L'Arche Tova Café has

expanded the catering menu and would like to cater to you! For more information, please visit the L'Arche Tova Café website at www.larchetovacafe.com or call 204-421-9388 for more information.



(l. to r.) Earl Yetman, Dennis & Amy Butcher, and Paul Moreau, L'Arche Board President

More Support for L'Arche Tova Café

(photo above) Ongoing major sponsorship of the Café is recognized on a new donor wall, which now has a 2nd Silver level plate sponsored by Earl Yetman, honouring Dennis & Amy Butcher on the occasion of their 40th wedding anniversary.

(photo on right) The Kinsmen Club also wanted to show their support for the Café with a \$250.00 cheque recently presented at the Café.



GRATITUDE FROM WINNIPEG

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