



GRATITUDE

L'Arche Winnipeg Newsletter #72



Walk with L'Arche tops 500 participants



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

The 13th annual Olympic Building Centre's Walk with L'Arche on May 7th was a great success. The sun was shining, the sky was a beautiful blue and the wind was gentle, which made for a wonderful walking experience.

With 440 registrations and 78 volunteers, this year's walk saw our largest turnout ever. We welcomed 135 new registrants who identified themselves as "first time walking with L'Arche". All these participants who came out to support L'Arche helped raise a total of \$69,611.00 in pledges (just \$240.00 shy of making this our 2nd best Walk). One hundred per cent of pledges raised will be used to help maintain and improve the quality of life of L'Arche members with a developmental disability and their volunteer assistants.

There were 19 teams registered for the walk, and **L'Arche Tova Café** took the trophy and prize for **Top Fundraising Team**. Collectively, this 19-member team *Order Up!* raised a total of \$5,329.00.

Hazel won the **Top Individual Fundraiser** prize, having raised \$4,000.00 with the help of her friends Kathy, Roger, and Clive.



Kathy (left), congratulating top fundraiser Hazel.



Team L'Arche Tova Café with the trophy for top fundraising team.

Michelle was the 2nd Top Individual fundraiser, with a total of \$2,385.00 raised.

Thank you for your support of L'Arche Winnipeg. We hope that you can join us for our 14th Walk, which will take place at Oxford Heights Community Club on Sunday, May 6, 2018.

We are pleased to announce that **Vickar Automotive Group** will be the naming sponsor for the 2018, 2019 and 2020 walks.



First-time participant RBC presented a \$6,000.00 cheque for the Walk with L'Arche.

For more information on L'Arche, go to
 L'Arche Winnipeg website: www.larchewinnipeg.org
 L'Arche Tova Café website: www.larchetovacafe.com

In Brief...

Café Summer Closures

L'Arche Tova Café will be closed on Saturday July 1st and Monday July 3rd for Canada Day.

The Café will also be closed for staff holidays from Sunday August 20th until Tuesday August 29th (re-opens on Tuesday).

Market Garden Opened!

The Transcona Biz Market Garden in Centennial Square (just 3 doors west of the Café) opened on Thursday, June 15th, and will be held every Thursday from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm until August 31st. L'Arche Tova Café will be selling freshly baked bread and a variety of other baking each Thursday at the Market, so come and see us there!

L'Arche Recognition at the Manitoba Legislature

Blair Yakimoski, MLA for Transcona, read a Private Members Statement before the House of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba on March 9th, which was a statement of appreciation for L'Arche Tova Café and its' importance in fostering a more compassionate society.

The statement was applauded by all members of the Legislature. You can read the statement here:

www.larchewinnipeg.org



Funding Innovation

Shanley Redekopp (left), from **Funding Innovation's Easel Program**, presents a cheque of \$1,123.40 to L'Arche members Diane Truderung and Jim Lapp. The program displays works of art or collectibles which are for sale, with a percentage of the proceeds given to L'Arche.

The art is set up on an easel at the Café, with a sealed bid auction in place. The artwork is displayed for about two weeks, before being rotated to other locations.

L'Arche Tova Café Honoured Twice at 34th Annual Manitoba Volunteer Awards



Some of the Café volunteers & staff who received the Premier's Service Award, group category: (l. to r.) Albert, Lynda, Carley, Mary, Stacey, and Akech. Left photo: Stacey with her Mayor's Service Award (individual category).

Volunteers Make A Difference!

by **Diane Truderung**

*Director of Fund Development
and Communications*

On Tuesday, April 25 at the RBC Convention Centre in Winnipeg, the L'Arche Tova Café volunteers were the recipients of two awards at the 34th annual Volunteer Awards dinner.



The Café volunteers received the **Premier's Service Award**, which honors their dedication and commitment for their outstanding efforts at the L'Arche Tova Café. When you walk into the Café you will be greeted by a person with a developmental disability, along with a volunteer. They will bring menus to the table, take food orders, deliver drink orders, and ensure that your meal is delivered quickly.

The Mayor's Service Award was won by Stacey. She has been volunteering at the L'Arche Tova Café for over two years and lives out the mission of L'Arche. In her role at the Café, Stacey brings her friendly nature, her joyful spirit and her lively sense of humour, along with her many talents.

Congratulations to the L'Arche Tova Café volunteers and to Stacey for receiving the awards by showing that "Volunteers are valued and very important to our community".

The L'Arche Tova Café located at 119 Regent Ave. West was established by L'Arche Winnipeg to further its mission of making known the gifts of individuals with developmental disabilities.

L'Arche Tova Café provides healthy food and great service in a very welcoming atmosphere. The Café provides meaningful employment and volunteer opportunities that benefit the community of Transcona, and is a place where the public can meet people with developmental disabilities, learn from one another and make new friends along the way.

Remembering Kevin

Kevin passed away on April 5th at age 51, after spending nearly 39 years in L'Arche Winnipeg. Kevin came to L'Arche on August 8, 1978 when he was just 13 years old.

Family members, friends, L'Arche members and many past assistants have shared fond memories of knowing and living with Kevin. The following three reflections are excerpts from tributes given by L'Arche members at Kevin's funeral service.



A happy Kevin with the Top Fundraising Team trophy, on his 50th birthday at the 2015 Walk.

Not only was Kevin a friend of ours, he was also our teacher. Kevin was not interested in what most of us dedicate too much time to: work, success, money, (except he did need enough money for Coke, McDonald's and Subway!). For Kevin life was all about relationships, making people laugh and having fun. Kevin was very intuitive and could tell when someone needed a hug. He enjoyed physical human contact. When I think of him I always see him sitting at a community event or in his chair at the table at Chimo. Kevin would look up and say, "Ohhh. Hi. Jim!". He would take, not shake, my hand and hold it for a while.

He recognized his own vulnerability, his need for assistance from other people. I can't even begin to count the number of times Kevin held my hand or arm as we walked somewhere. I sometimes wondered if Kevin really needed my help but I never hesitated to provide it. I think we both enjoyed that human physical contact. And as I get older, I recognize Kevin's wisdom. More and more I tell myself that I need to ask other people for help with all kinds of things.

By my calculation Kevin, over 39 years, would have lived with close to 100 assistants and was friends with 100s more. He touched their hearts and taught them about friendship, forgiveness and healing, things that will live with them for the rest of their lives.

I have no doubt that Kevin has gone ahead of us on our journey together through this Great Mystery of Life and is with his loved ones in heaven. As Bruce Cockburn says in his song Festival of Friends, "Whatever happens it isn't the end, we'll meet again at the Festival of

Friends." I look forward to seeing him again and have him reach out and hold my hand.

- Jim Lapp, Community Leader

Kevin Manley, a true gentleman, a very compassionate friend and most of all a person with an incredible sense of humour. I can describe my 6 years of living with him in Chimo as the most enriching and colorful years of my adult life. He taught me the value of taking time for people we care for, patience, and the importance of forgiveness and reconciliation.

I came to L'Arche thinking it was my job to take care of people but I was wrong. The core members, especially Kevin, took care of me too. He held me during my lowest moments. I did not need to tell him what I was going through, he just knew and always offered his arms wide open and his shoulder to cry on. I remember him saying "If you cry, I will give you a hug". It was always re-assuring.

I will miss those random hugs. Kevin had a way to make us feel good with his witty jokes, and who would forget his awesome dancing skills. We will cherish all the good times with him, those compliments he always gave to the ladies, the laughter, the chocolate-chip cookies and the regular Subway and McDonalds dates.

- Ripple Daguio, Chimo House Leader

Kevin was a dear faithful friend, a comforter to many and a charming gentleman with an undeniable wit.

He would often see me and say "Hey how about a date, how about I take you

out?" Knowing fully well where he wanted to go, I would still ask "So where are we going Kevin?". To which he would proclaim "SUBWAY!!". He was such a regular customer at the Regent Avenue Subway that the ladies would cheerfully greet him as soon as he walked in and ask "Same as usual, Kevin?" never forgetting to add 2 chocolate chip cookies and a bottle of coke - never a fountain drink.

Kevin would help around the house especially around supper time when he would set the table, put away the dishes and place mats, and would sometimes sweep the floor. One day, when apparently there had been too many requests for Kevin, he turned with a cheeky grin and said "What else madam, stand on my head?"

Kevin made the bad days for many much more bearable. In him I found my purpose at L'Arche, what I've spent so many years searching for. Through his vulnerability he taught me how to truly love and how to accept love in return. Kevin often affirmed this by giving long lingering hugs, a kiss on the hand, a thoughtful prayer or simply saying "I love you".

Kevin's intuition was so strong that a few months ago during a quiet time in his room he gently held my hand and said "Kadian, I am going to die" - not with fear but as a matter of fact. That statement caught me off guard but he was persistent until it was acknowledged. He then went on to say "I'll be in heaven. Will you miss me?" Of course my dear and faithful friend, you will be missed. You have left us with many life lessons and stories to share for many years to come. Thank you for having been just you.

- Kadian McAnuff, Homes Coordinator

L'Arche Tova Café hosts Paint Night



On May 25, students from the River East-Transcona School Division (RETS) and mem-

bers of L'Arche Winnipeg, along with their assistants, came together for the first ever **Paint Night**. Thank you to Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (WRHA) for the Healthy Living grant and to Karina Walker, the Community Programming Coordinator-Youth, for organizing the event.

A great time was had by all and it was wonderful to see the interaction between all of the participants who showed great

pride in their artistic creation. The Paint Night was so successful that we hope to plan another such evening in the fall!

Save the date

Solidarity Pancake Breakfast

L'Arche Winnipeg is planning a fundraising pancake breakfast in October. The funds raised will go to **Solidarity**, L'Arche International's program of support for L'Arche communities in poorer countries, where little or no government funding is provided. L'Arche Winnipeg is twinned with L'Arche communities in Latin America.

The pancake breakfast will be held on Sunday October 15th, 2017 at the Applebees restaurant in Transcona, from 8:00 am to 10:00 am. Further details will be on our website in the fall.

A previous Solidarity event in February - an evening of bowling at Academy Lanes - raised \$1,148.50. Thank-you to those who assist us in our efforts to financially help other L'Arche communities who are in a situation of greater need.



(above) - "Songs and Sweets" evening at the Café in April - a \$20 ticket provided you with 2 hours of entertainment as well as complimentary coffee and dessert.

(left) - Tova Vickar cuts the 5th anniversary cake.

Café 5th Anniversary Celebration

The 5th anniversary of L'Arche Tova Café was a week-long celebration in April, which included complimentary carrot cake, and a sold-out evening of music "Songs and Sweets" with Craig Buckboro and friends.

With only 50 tickets available for the event, a second *music night* in May, featuring Jamie Buckboro, also sold out quickly.



GRATITUDE FROM WINNIPEG

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