

God Knows, That Is All That Matters

by Stacy Cates-Carney, Executive Director

*We find by losing.
We hold fast by letting go.
We become something new by ceasing to be something
old.*

*This seems to be close to the heart of the mystery.
I know no more now than I ever did about the far side
of death as the last letting-go of all,
but I begin to know that I do not need to know
and that I do not need to be afraid of not knowing.*

*God knows.
That is all that matters.*

- Frederick Buechner

This quote from Frederick Buechner was read at one of our community prayer services during Holy Week. In fact it was read several times. I now have it on my desk and it is helpful to read it daily. The reality is that there is so much we don't know in community life (well, let's just face it...LIFE). And we are experiencing a time as a country where a lot of fear is built up around the not knowing. To calm our own fears and anxieties in community we remind each other that God called L'Arche into being and God continues to be with us. The words of Buechner are well coupled with a piece of the L'Arche Identity Statement, "Mutual relationships and trust in God are at the heart of our journey together."

As we look back over the past year there was much that happened that was anticipated – assistants moved on to the next part of their journey, new community members were welcomed, we hosted visitors from other L'Arche communities, Sarah went to India as our delegate to the International General Assembly, we weathered winter storms, and volunteers and supporters continued to play an integral part in sustaining our life. But there was much more we couldn't anticipate and this was hard...and the not knowing is something we have to continually make peace with.

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God Knows, That Is All That Matters *(continued from page 1)*

This spring newsletter serves as our annual report and shares some of what is known at L'Arche Tahoma Hope. We are excited to introduce our newest core member, Nathan Barlow and report on some community activities. We share a fiscal snapshot. We ended 2008 in a positive stance financially but like many other individuals and organizations the financial realities are changing in the current economic climate. The State budget deficit will affect many things including funding for residential and employment services for individuals with developmental disabilities. This newsletter is also filled with names of so many that have supported L'Arche Tahoma Hope over the past year and to whom we are deeply grateful.

As I work closely with our Board of Directors to lead the community in planning for the future wisely, we affirm that mutual relationships and trust in God are at the center of our community life. And we don't need to be afraid of not knowing, "God knows, that is all that matters."



The Triduum and Easter have always been special times in our community. As we have grown, our traditions have changed with us (when we were smaller we used to trade off hosting with the Victoria L'Arche community, traveling to Victoria every other year), but foot washing on Holy Thursday has been an ever-present tradition. It is an especially symbolic opportunity for the core members to be the ones caring for assistants.and of course, the Easter Bunny is always around too, right Sharilynn??



From Our Board President, by Paula Olson

"SPRING SHOWS WHAT GOD CAN DO

WITH A DRAB AND DIRTY WORLD." - VIRGIL A. KRAFT

Spring is my most favorite time of year. Along with celebrating the Risen Christ at Easter and getting my chocolate fix satisfied with rabbits, I love the budding flowers and the new green grass and the warm sunshine. My thoughts turn to what plants Pat and company will be growing this year at Farm & Gardens and whether I can make them grow in my yard as beautifully as they do. Of course, they have a leg up with the help of the core members whose love and caring is a "Miracle Grow" of a different kind.

While spring celebrates new life, that growth is based on what came before, on the foundation of the past. In the past year, our community has been blessed with donations from persons and organizations that came to us in new ways. For the first time, Boeing Corporation participated with us as an underwriter to our auction. One woman in San Francisco had a long ago connection with L'Arche in Europe. When she found our community and Farm & Gardens on the internet, she wanted to renew her connection by supporting the farm. Kevin King,

one of our board members, called her to thank her and her story added to the fabric of our community. Intel's employees donated their energy and time on the farm and as a result of this, we received a financial match from Intel for every hour of volunteer service...a great gift for Farm & Gardens.

We have other newness that was based on outreach over the past year. We just welcomed two new board members, Melissa Missall, a local bank manager for Columbia Bank and Sergio Hernandez, a realtor who is formerly of Centro Latino. They have already inspired us with their compassion and commitment to take on the challenge of joining the board. Two of our assistants were featured at a poetry reading hosted by King's Books, one of our business supporters.

Just as spring surrounds us with beauty and refreshment in our world, so does the renewed commitment of all of the friends of the L'Arche Tahoma Hope community, both new and old, lift our worries in these times of tighter budgets and brighten our future. Thank you to all of you for your continuing generosity. Each of us on the board is grateful to your faith in our mission and your presence by your bounty.

A Special Thanks to Our Donors....

"Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow."

- Anonymous

Following is a list of those who have supported us financially from January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008.

Sincere efforts have been made to assure the accuracy of these donor records. We apologize for any errors or omissions and ask you to notify the office at (253) 535-3178 with corrections to help us continue to improve our efforts.

Kristine and Timothy Adams
Toshio and Suzanne Akamatsu
Marcela Alanis & Theresa Pearson
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Alfy's Pizza - Bonney Lake
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Jane Allen
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Karl and Christine Anderson
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Ball Auto Sales & Service
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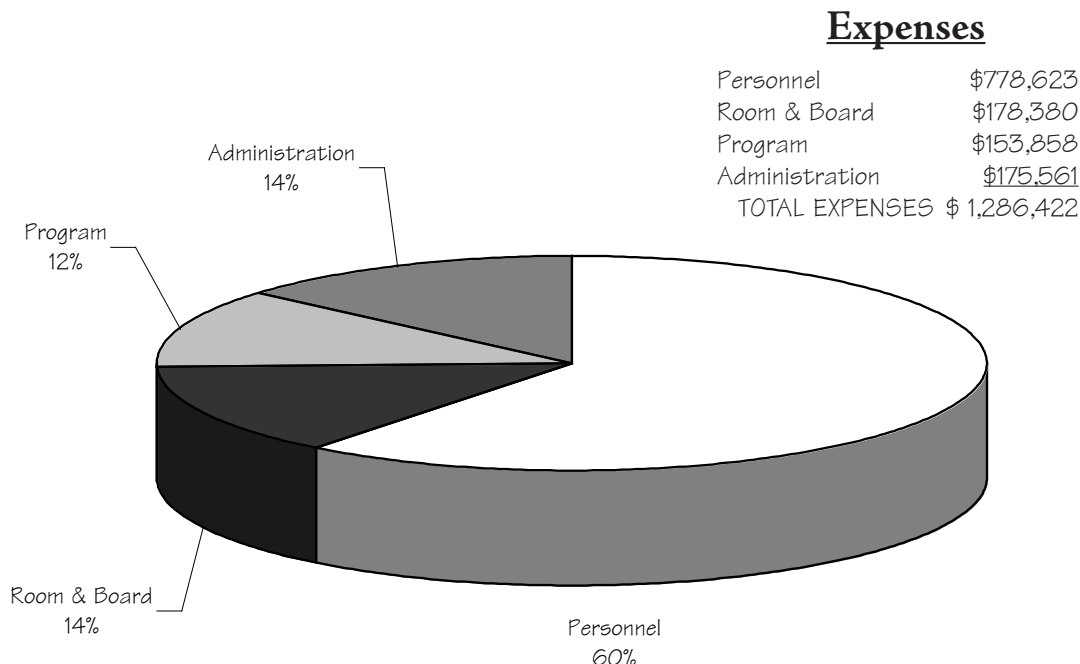
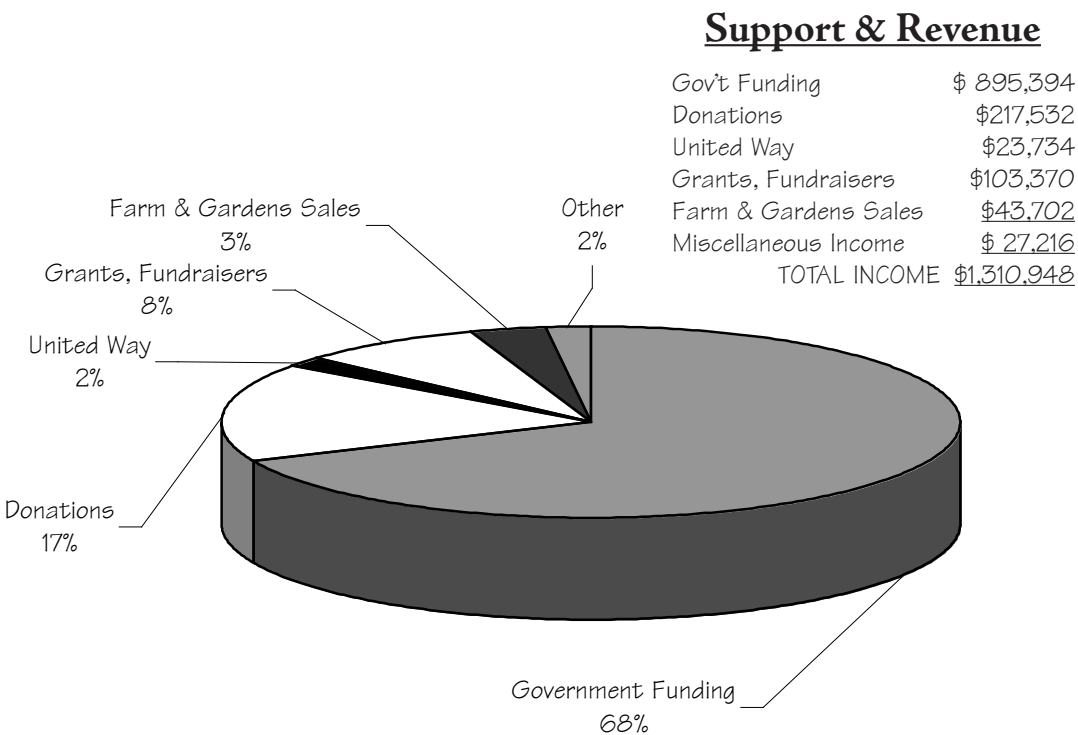
Nancy Chmiel
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Perry and Sandy Colombini
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Brad Grimsted and
Denise Laflamme
Evelyn Guerra
Clarence and June Guimond

2008 Financial Report

L'Arche Tahoma Hope completed 2008 in a surplus position. A significant donation, low personnel expenses and low program expenses helped offset low government funding as a result of a slower than anticipated process for welcoming new core members. We have already welcomed Nathan Barlow (see right) in 2009 and our hope is to welcome another core member in the next year.

Our investment portfolio took a 30% hit in the later part of the year, but considering the dire situations that many nonprofits have found themselves in, we feel blessed. It is through the generosity of our donors - foundations, corporations and individuals - that we are able to live our mission out on a daily basis.



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Lance and Diane Koty
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George and Rose Landeis
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Goldine Lathrop
Fr. Seamus Lavery
Bob and Pat Lawrence
Abigail Laxa
Left Foot Organics
Sharyl Leingang
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Ty and Kathleen Lillis-Tinsley
Al and Sheila Linggi
Esther and Martin Litton
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Josephine Lowe
Donald Luby, C.P.A.
Luciano's Waterfront Restaurant
Miral Luka
Lumberman's - Bonney Lake
Jane MacNeil
Mad Hat Tea Company
Jean Madden
Mary Maddox
Susan Mahmood
Paul and Dolores Mahoney
Thomas and Theresa Mahoney
Ruth Maitlen
Majorie Mankin
Patrick and Judith Manza
Viola Marcoe
Anna Markholt
Joseph and GERALYN Marley
Ken and Margaret Marson

Welcome Nathan!

by Sarah Thomson, Community Coordinator

It was with great joy that we welcomed Nathan Barlow to Anawim on March 28th, 2009. It was a long awaited day. Nathan had been visiting Anawim for over a year and so he was ready and excited for this move from his parent's home in Rainier, Washington. Immediately, he brought new life and joy to Anawim and to our community.

Nathan is an easy-going, good-natured young man. He is very relational and has enjoyed being with us at community gatherings for prayer and celebration. He loves to eat, plays the harp, and loves animals. He enjoys swimming, listening to music and doing puzzles. Before Nathan came to L'Arche he volunteered at Left Foot Organics in Olympia. He is currently volunteering at Farm and Gardens 2-3 days a week. Thank you Nathan for bringing good cheer and a fun spirit to life on the L'Arche boat.



Thank You!

We are grateful to the following Foundations that supported us financially in 2008.
We also appreciate the following Companies' commitment to encouraging their employees to share their blessings by instituting internal Matching Gifts Programs.
The companies' support of us is also appreciated.

Foundations

- G. M. Babare Foundation
- The Comcast Foundation
- Edwards Family Foundation
- I Do Foundation
- Medina Foundation
- Neeb Family Foundation
- The Russell Family Foundation
- Schwab Charitable Fund
- Special Friends Foundation
- The Margaret Starling Trust
- The Stewardship Foundation
- The Tucci Family Fund of the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation
- United Way of King County
- United Way of Pierce County
- United Way of Snohomish County

Matching Gifts Companies

- Bank of America Matching Gifts
- Intel Corporation
- Microsoft Giving Campaign
- Russell Matching Gifts
- Starbuck's Matching Gifts

First Light Marathon

by Diana Busch, Community Coordinator

Shoes pounding on the pavement, wind blowing in our faces, cheers from onlookers spanning 26.2 miles, Leana asking, "Do you think I can make it?" as we speed walk up yet another hill. These are a few of the sounds that were heard in January as the L'Arche US Western Region relay team took part in the 8th annual marathon benefiting L'Arche Mobile. Cool temperatures and adrenaline pushed us on as we completed the course mile after mile. LUSWR was one of over 50 relay teams and nearly 500 individual marathon runners to participate. Team members Danelle Harris and Meghan Dooley participated in the half marathon route as well.



USWR relay team: Marilyn & Ben of L'Arche Nehalem, Diana Busch, Leana Shin, Erin Hahl & Danelle Harris of Tahoma Hope, Patty McNally USWR Coordinator and Meghan Dooley of Tahoma Hope

Getting to know members of the L'Arche Central region and getting to know one another better were highlights of our 4-day trip to Mobile.

Good food, Mardis Gras festivities and warm weather (except for race day) were other great bonuses! A big thanks to everyone who helped to sponsor our trip and to James Bentley who made an early morning airport run!

We hope to have a team again next year. If you're interested in joining the team, and an incredible solidarity experience, start training and mark your calendar for January 10, 2010!

Diana Busch, who has served as one of our Community Coordinators since 2004, will begin maternity leave this month and will return in August to a few roles in the community.

Diana has been a dynamic member of the leadership team and has been a committed advocate of core members. We are deeply grateful for all Diana has given in her years in as a Community Coordinator. We look forward to welcoming baby Elizabeth and supporting Diana and Levin as they enter the journey of parenthood.

We are pleased to welcome Erin Hahl as our new Community Coordinator. Erin first came to L'Arche Tahoma Hope in 2003 as a Jesuit Volunteer at Noah's Workshop. She has served as House Leader at both Hopespring and Farmhouse. Erin brings a deep commitment to L'Arche, long term relationships with core members and a creative sense of play.



L'ARCHE
TAHOMA HOPE

L'Arche throughout the world has agreed to adopt the same logo for all communities as a way to strengthen our identity as an international organization. We will be transitioning to this new logo over the next few months.

James and Mary Mason
Tom and Cathy Matson
Linda Matsusaka
Richard and Marcia Matthaei
Megan Matthew
Smithosh Matthew
Jeff and Mali Mayor
John and Mary Mazetier
Ed and Joan McCarron
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Maureen Newman
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Nonna Rosa
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Elizabeth Todak-Norem
Joseph and Anne Nusse
Christine and Maria O'Brien
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Oak Brothers
Tamela and Thomas Ohm
John and Ginette O'Looney
Joseph and Diana O'Looney
Rob and Paula Olson
Todd and Roberta Olson
Daniel and Mary Alice Onorato
Our Lady of Good Counsel
Peace & Justice
Onti Onorato
Bill and Marie Orrange
Fredrick and Stephanie Ostmann
Reid Ozaki
Pacific Ave. Motors
Pacific Crest Industries

Who's Where in Our Community

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Nyanza Paluku
Joe and Ann Panesko
Patriot Fire Protection, Inc.
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Mary Pedersen
Joe and Cheryl Penry
Mark and Leeann Perry
Rich and Fran Perry
A. Brooke Peterson
Axel and Frances Peterson
Richard and Lorelei Petrich
Peter and Karen Pierce
Pierce County Deanery
Pike Place Bagel
Pilates of Tacoma
Margaret Pinchak
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Bernard and Sarah Pola
Clifford and Marilyn Ponnikas
Christine Porter
Michael and Bunny Portmann
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Marc and Juleen Pudists
Quality Fasteners
Daniel and Jana Quiocho
Ram Restaurant & Brewery
Jane Ann Ramsey
Scott Rapp
The Red Hot
Redeemer Lutheran Church
Redford Family Partnership
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Steve and Tessa Rothrock
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Frank and Donna Rush
Joseph and Lillian Ryan
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St. Frances Cabrini
St. John of the Woods

Farmhouse

Kai Ponnikas
James Taylor
Nancy Tyson
Roland Canillas
Elin Renstrom
Graciela Reyes
Tina Simons
Natalie White

Anawim

Nathan Barlow
Mark Drangstveit
Ricky Durham
Carie Halle
Leana Shiu
Luciano Garofalo
Meredith Lynch
Jane MacNeil
Robin Stillwater
Danyelle Thomas
Laura Willhoite

Ananda

Bobby Buchanan
Robbie Habermann
Les Leise
Stacie Swanson
Diana Busch
Kai Hoffman-Krull
Rachel Knoke
Smithosh Mathew
Sonja Perez
Jonathan Ross

Hopespring

Shannon Dell
Sharilynn Heinzman
Ha-Young An
Diana Busch
Kate Goodsel
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Katie Lodge

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Paul Borne, Secretary
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Laura Giddings
Sergio Hernandez
Arlene Joe
Steve Kramp
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Farm & Gardens

Nathan Barlow
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Tanya Brown
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Robbie Habermann
Bob Horner
Greg Kingery
Les Leise
Leana Shiu
Debbie Wilson
Meghan Dooley
Kai Hoffman-Krull
Bryce Kobrin
Elisa Stene-Carrothers
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Noah's Workshop

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Ricky Durham
Robbie Habermann
Carie Halle
Sharilynn Heinzman
Stacie Swanson
Erin Anderson
Sue Hudacek
Allison Wisco

Community Administration

Stacy Cates-Carney, Executive Director
Erin Hahl, Community Coordinator
Sarah Thomson, Community Coordinator
Cheri' Paillet, Development Coordinator
Mary Pedersen, Administrative Assistant
Danelle Harris, Bookkeeper
Dave Ronald, Maintenance
Nancy Tyson, Office Employee
Sonja Perez, Nancy's Job Coach

Our (Much-Appreciated) Long-Term Volunteers

Tom Chemelir, Lu Farber, Sr. Madeleine Farrell,
Cindy Horner, Cheryl Jordan, Jodi McConnell,
Carmen Stanley and Margaret Tolman.



Over \$21,000



Raised on Fund-an-Item

This money will go towards a much needed fully-accessible van for the community.

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, March 6th, 2010** for next year's Annual Auction. Want to help us make it a success? It's not too early to volunteer to help. Call or e-mail Mary at (253) 537-7871, info@larchetahomahope.org.

"And the Bill Downey Award Goes To...."

Bill Downey was a core member who lived his life with a deep faithfulness to those around him. Each year at our auction we present the Bill Downey award to a person who has shown this same faithfulness toward L'Arche Tahoma Hope over the years.

Marissa Manza, a student at Bellarmine, is this year's recipient of the Bill Downey Award. Marissa comes to this award as a young woman from a family who has supported our community for many years. The Manza family has shown great love and fidelity to L'Arche and we are so grateful for their companionship and care. Marissa's first connection with the community was as a student at St. Charles Borromeo. She came out with her class to volunteer at Farm and Gardens. Marissa spent many summer days volunteering on the farm and teaching us great dance moves at break time. While at Bellarmine, Marissa decided to start a L'Arche club for students who wanted to find out more about the community and the mission of L'Arche. This group of about 20 students gathers on campus and at L'Arche to deepen their understanding of the philosophy and spirituality of L'Arche and to offer practical support with community events. Marissa had the dream and the energy to make this club a reality. Thank you Marissa! We so appreciate your vision and gusto in support of L'Arche.



Read Marissa's reflection on what L'Arche means to her on the next page.

"Aloha" Was Well Lived!

Thank you to all who helped make our Annual Auction, "Living Aloha" another celebration to remember. A great time was had by all, and over \$80,000 was raised in the process! To all of you who helped with everything from displaying items to selling tickets - THANK YOU!!

And of course, an auction wouldn't exist without items to auction off and people to purchase them. Your faithfulness as auction donors and attendees does not go unnoticed, and we hope you enjoyed the evening as much as we did!

Our underwriters are such an integral part of our success since their generosity enables more of the money raised at the auction to go toward our operating budget. All of our community seats were sponsored as well, allowing strong attendance at the auction from our homes.

Special thanks goes to:

**Event Sponsors: Boeing Global Corporate Citizenship
Rebecca Cates**

Table Sponsors: Dazaifu, LLC.



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St. Mark's Lutheran Church
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 Chris and Cat Woon
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 YMCA of Tacoma-Pierce County
 Vince Young
 Shunji Yuasa
 Charles and Madelyn Zimmerman

Special thanks to all those
 who faithfully support our
 community through the
 United Way Donor Voice
 program, and other
 similar programs!

Life is Good!

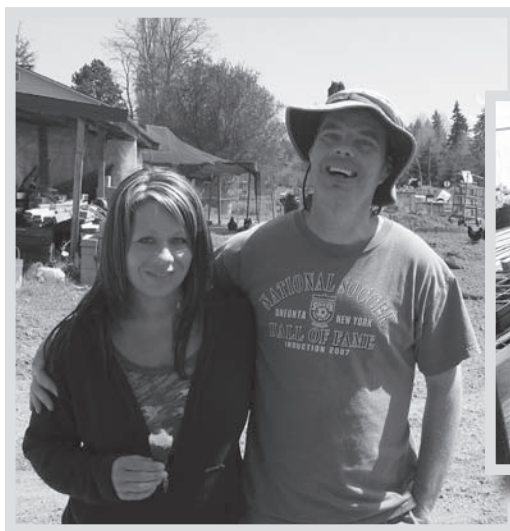
by Marissa Manza, 2009 Bill Downey Award Recipient

In his book Drawn into the Mystery of Jesus through the Gospel of John, Jean Vanier states: "With all our beauty and brokenness, each one of us is important. We can be ourselves and let the beauty in us grow.... We are part of a broken humanity, and in the company of others, we can stand up and continue the quest for freedom, truth, and peace."

Through becoming part of the L'Arche family I have received a unique gift. Although initially apprehensive about volunteering at the farm as a junior high student, through spending many beautiful days there over the past few years, I have gotten to know the core members and assistants and grown in friendship with them. Because of these relationships and the joy they encompass I have fallen head over heels in love with the community of L'Arche and its mission. While many people's favorite place is Disneyland, L'Arche has no doubt become the happiest place on earth for me. My growing relationship with L'Arche and the core members has opened up a new door in my heart and continues to teach me more and more about myself, others, and the world in which we live. L'Arche celebrates each and every person for the unique and valued individual they are and inspires me to strive to be the person that God is calling me to be.

Priceless times at the farm: inspirational morning prayer and check in, dance parties during lunch breaks with Tawna and Debbie, lively conversations with Les and Ricky, and never-ending friendly, warm smiles have taught me what life is all about - unconditional love. Through their determined and loving spirits, my friends at L'Arche have shown me that at our core, despite physical or mental disabilities or personal insecurities, we are all the same. We all possess the need to be loved, to be accepted for who we really are; and we are all beautiful.

The culture of L'Arche has enabled me to move beyond the typical teenage culture that centers around appearance, popularity, and possessions. L'Arche has taught me that despite what society says, we can grow together from our weaknesses and through compassion, acceptance, respect, community, and love, unite with one another to instigate positive change in our world. My growing relationship with the L'Arche community has blessed me with a tremendous gift of joy that makes me feel so alive; a kind of joy that fills my heart with the love of the Lord and continuously reveals to me the true beauty of life. L'Arche never fails to remind me that despite struggles and daily challenges, Life is GOOD - it's a precious gift that should be celebrated each and every day. L'Arche celebrates life!



A New Sort of Fundraising

This year we made connections with the greater community and invited them to share their amazing products with us. These small businesses hosted sales events from which they donated to us a percentage of their profit. It was highly successful and allowed all to be exposed to the great work happening in Tacoma. We are grateful to them for allowing us to partner with them in what proved to be a win-win situation.

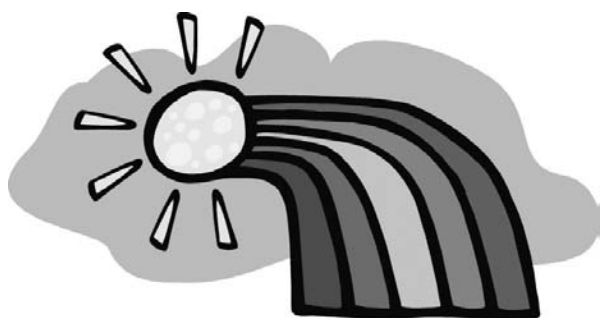
Here is a little bit about each business:

Barefoot Books (www.barefoot-books.com) is a vibrant community of people from around the world living in their own unique ways. They are committed to educating, sharing and giving back to the greater globe.

Sensaria (www.sensaria.com) promotes nurturing rituals with naturally-based products formulated to enhance health, wholeness and individual beauty. We also

Sonja Clothing for Women Sonja is dedicated to providing clothes that all women feel comfortable in.

If you know of a company that may be interested in partnering with us, please contact our office at (253) 535-3178.



Memorial Contributions

We are grateful for the donations we have received in memory of the following people since our Christmas newsletter. They, along with their families and friends, are in our prayers.

Patricia Boyle	Bob Fisher
Martin Boyle	Gladine McCarthy
Gerald Filkins	Molly McNerthney Ross
Larry Schott	

We are also thankful for the donations we received in honor of:

Fr. Jim Boyle	Jerry & Mary Ann Toohy
Mark Drangstveit	Joy Wotherspoon &
Marc Harrison	Beranger Hoppenot
Kai Ponnikas	Amy Wulfstiege
Sarah Thomson	Grace Wynne

BUY KAI'S POEM (LEFT) TO SUPPORT L'ARCHE TAHOMA HOPE

Jessica Spring, from Springtide Press (www.springtidepress.com), generously printed a broadside of Kai's poem to be sold in support of L'Arche Tahoma Hope. Broadside is a small poster where poetry and artwork interact on the page. "L'Arche Farm, February" was printed on Japanese cotton paper. Each stage of the process, from the tearing of the paper to the setting of the type and the artwork, was done by hand. The broadsides are sold for \$25, and can be purchased either at the L'Arche Tahoma Hope office or at King's Books.



L'Arche Farm, February

Only hours past noon the tips
of bare trees carry the dusk.

Shadows deepen on the ground,
melding gradually with sky until,
at last, they are the same.

For a month the sun has limped into each day,
leaning heavily on a gray cane of storms.
The farm beds slumber, kale & chard
asleep under a thin blanket of snow.

Today, though, someone found
a potted raspberry bush in the greenhouse,
small buds growing from twisting limbs.
Everyone gathered, faces pressed close,
eyes drinking colors we forgot we missed.
Curved buds, nestled into dark branches,
looked like hands held together in prayer.

We kept their promise of green close
as we walked back into the wind.

Kai Hoffman-Krull, L'Arche Assistant





WHERE TO FIND US...

MARKETS

Tacoma Farmers Market 9am - 2pm
Thursdays, May 21 - October 15

Proctor Farmers Market, 9am - 2pm
Saturdays, April 4 - November 21

6th Avenue Market, 3:30 - 7:30pm
Tuesdays, June 2 - September 29

Dupont Farmers Market, 11am - 2pm
June 17 - September 9th
(every other Wednesday)

Intel Corp., DP3 Parking Lot
Steilacoom Farmers Market, 3 - 7pm
Wednesdays, June 24 - August 19

GREENHOUSE HOURS

Monday - Saturday, 9 - 4pm until June 14.

Open Thursdays until 5pm

Call for hours after June 14, (253) 537-7871

ART ON THE AVE

July 12th, 6th Avenue Business District

HARVESTFEST: OCTOBER 3RD, 10AM - 4PM

Mark your calendars now and watch your mailbox for details!

Please call ahead to confirm we will be at the above events before making a special trip out to see us...



United Way
of Pierce County

e-mail: info@larchetahomahope.org

www.larchetahomahope.org

Farm & Gardens
11716 Vickery Ave. E.
Tacoma, WA 98446
(253) 537-7871

Noah's Workshop
12319 - 36th Ave. E.
Tacoma, WA 98446
(253) 537-7540

Hopespring
12319 - 36th Ave. E.
Tacoma, WA 98446
(253) 537-6936

Ananda
12306 Vickery Ave. E.
Tacoma, WA 98446
(253) 537-5126

Anawim
616 East 45th St.
Tacoma, WA 98404
(253) 474-5618

The Farmhouse
11716 Vickery Ave. E.
Tacoma, WA 98446
(253) 535-3171

Main Office
12303 36th Ave. E.
Tacoma, WA 98446
(253) 535-3178

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