



### This Issue:

## Educating

Education is an important part of L'Arche™. This issue provides windows into the impact of L'Arche on the lives of young people. Today many young people thirst for a vision of society that is just, inclusive and compassionate.

### In Brief...

Canadian Curriculum Services, the pan-Canadian evaluating service used by Education Ministries and private schools, recommends L'Arche's *Belonging* curriculum as "challenging, stimulating and relevant," and its format as "superb." It is directed to senior students in Social Sciences, Leadership, and Religious Studies. An estimated 400,000 students have been exposed to this curriculum.

St. Francis Xavier University and L'Arche Canada are collaborating to offer a five-unit distance learning Diploma Program in Assisted Living. The course content is presently being written, with the plan to launch the program in the next year.

[www.larche.ca](http://www.larche.ca)

# L'ARCHE® CANADA FOUNDATION

*Caring. Educating. Inspiring*

## Making an Impact in Canadian Society

### Creating Community in the Classroom

The grade eight students in Mrs. Brownlee's class at Crossland Public School in Newmarket, Ontario know how to create a welcoming



*Playing an awareness-building game*

classroom environment where each one belongs and has a place. Two years ago, inspired by the L'Arche curriculum package *Belonging: The Search for Acceptance*, Laurie Brownlee re-structured a core two-month segment of her class's school year around this theme. "I spend time introducing the concepts," she explains. "We incorporate fun games that help the students think about what it feels like to belong and not to belong. Each student keeps a journal in which they write a poem and a recipe for Belonging and answer questions from the L'Arche curriculum so as to explore issues of friendship, group behaviour

and their own experiences of inclusion and exclusion. Their journals are creative and remarkably mature. Last year, each student wrote to Jean Vanier about the *Belonging* film. They were thrilled when he wrote back to the class."



*Laurie Brownlee*

*A Recipe for Belonging (abridged)*  
by Stephanie Wilson, when in grade 8

*Belonging is for all ages. Bake with open-mindedness. Serve with friendship.*

#### Ingredients:

*2 tsp. hugs of joy; 1c. acceptance  
a dash of spice to liven up daily choices  
exotic flowers for inner beauty  
1 match to light flame within  
a wisp of sky to understand all situations  
autumn leaves to include all shades/cultures  
a kiss of tenderness and empathy  
a key to open closed doors of those marginalized  
pastels, for delicacy (be tactful)  
love for yourself and life*

*Serve as soon as possible. Recipe can serve as many people as it needs to.*

### More Than Inclusion used in Community College Programs

L'Arche Canada's new book *More Than Inclusion: Honouring the Contributions of People with Developmental Disabilities* is becoming a valued resource in community college social services programs. Here are comments from some Cambrian College students:

- ✦ "Since I was a child I believed people with developmental disabilities were dangerous and I feared them... This book changed my view." -M.F.
- ✦ "The stories make you realize that everyone is special, disabled or not." -R.

✦ "[The book] reminded me of what it must have been like in our First Nations communities in the past. I believe all people should have the opportunity to live in a safe and caring environment. In today's society, we are all too much in a hurry to get someplace that we actually



...Continued



## In Brief...

School boards and community college and Ministry of Education on-line learning programs have requested permission to put links to the L'Arche Canada website on their websites so that students can learn about the L'Arche model and its founder, Jean Vanier.

"Journey to Personal and Social Transformation," with L'Arche founder Jean Vanier and hospice movement pioneer Dr. Balfour Mount, continues to be available on CPAC (the parliamentary cable vision channel) and can be accessed from our homepage: [www.larche.ca](http://www.larche.ca). Our post-event survey netted a 40% response (10% is considered good). Of those who viewed the program, 98% said they would register again for a L'Arche Forum.

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cannot get to because we do not take the time to care about others." -B.A.

- "The book is important in our field because kids tend to make fun of children with disabilities. How are we to tell the kids to stop if we ourselves are awkward around them!" -M.A.
- "This book made me realize how much control society has over how we perceive the disabled. I asked myself, if we had the chance to interact regularly with people who are disabled, would we live

in a better, less judgmental world?" -M.B.

- "The stories made me think about how I could build my own relationship with someone with a disability" -S.J.

*More Than Inclusion* is described as "paradigm-altering and foundational for understanding social inclusion of persons with developmental disabilities." (Venta Kabzems, PhD, Educator, Alberta), and as "a shining example of what can be accomplished by caring Canadians." (Rt. Hon. Adrienne Clarkson).

### Breakfast with Jean

Students and teachers from Robert F. Hall Catholic Secondary School attended a breakfast with Jean Vanier.



At the Breakfast

The following note appeared in their school magazine: "Jean Vanier has a vision where all people can live in harmony and learn from each other. His vision is not about winning, about being right or about being the best. It is simply about being.... Listening to Jean Vanier was a humbling experience. Actually meeting him and shaking his hand had a profound effect on all of us."

### L'Arche Shapes the Educational Choices of Many Assistants

"I spent four years in L'Arche," says Dan Cook. "At one point I took some time away to finish my first degree, which is in mathematics, but it was living with Michael and others in L'Arche that influenced me to decide on nursing as a career. I left L'Arche to do a nursing degree."



Dan Cook, RN,  
with Michael Arnett

Today, Dan works in a busy emergency room in a large urban hospital. Dan's experience is similar to that of many college-age assistants who come to help out in L'Arche and, through this, discover their educational interests and career path.

### L'Arche Calgary Presents L'Arche and *Belonging* Curriculum to Schools

Members of L'Arche Calgary visit schools to talk about L'Arche, living with a disability, and the vision of Jean Vanier. Students view the film *Belonging* as part of the program. This year they introduced over 500 grade 10 students to *Belonging*, and last year over 700 grade 9 students. Through grants from the Persons with Developmental Disabilities Foundation and the Alberta Teachers Association Local 55, they made a gift of L'Arche Canada's *Belonging* curriculum (film and study guide) to 72 schools over two years.



Johannes and Jody on a school visit

Helping Build a Compassionate Canadian Society