



Creating pottery and sharing life

Our Identity:

L'Arche Blue Ridge Mountains is people with and without disabilities sharing life in family-like homes in a community of faith. Mutual relationships and trust in God are at the heart of our life together. We seek to build a world that recognizes the unique value of every person and our need for one another. Each person is supported in determining his or her individual life choices.

L'Arche Blue Ridge Mountains mission is to create fully-accessible homes where people are supported to discover their unique callings and abilities.

Our first home was completed in July 2005 and our second home is under construction and will be completed in April 2009.



www.larchebrm.com

People Discovering Their Gifts:

Jane, a member with an intellectual disability, has lived in L'Arche for 4 years. She describes how life in L'Arche gives her purpose: "I never thought I had anything to say but now people love to hear me pray." Jane recently conducted the leading prayer at a widely publicized conference by Jean Vanier at Duke University.

"To love someone is to reveal to them their capacities for life, the light that is shining in them." Jean Vanier in "From Brokenness to Community"

Genevieve, a L'Arche assistant, speaks of her life in L'Arche: "My growth now is with others, out in the open, for all to see. I am learning that being a "servant" is certainly that, in giving care to some one who needs it, but it turns out that the one receiving the care is the servant, a servant-teacher, a gift; a gift from the heart."

Cassidy, who uses a wheelchair and is blind, maintains an active life in L'Arche. She serves on the Local Human Rights Committee. Cassidy expresses her feelings on L'Arche: "What I like about L'Arche is that I have freedom to go out with friends. I don't want to be a shut in and I pray for all those people who can't get out of bed or into the community. Everybody is my friend here and I can help a lot of people."

Our History:

L'Arche Blue Ridge Mountains is one of over 135 L'Arche communities world-wide, the 16th in the United States, and the first in Virginia.

The example of L'Arche communities has been cited as a model for reconciliation and peacemaking. Inspired by the writings of Jean Vanier and Henri Nouwen, Reverend Beverly Cosby visualized the need for L'Arche in Lynchburg 25 years ago. After many years of study, prayer and work, a small ecumenical mission group evolved into a not-for-profit (501-C3) organization.

With generous donations, a substantial VHDA loan and guidance from L'Arche U.S., L'Arche Blue Ridge Mountains community completed our first permanent home on Longwood Road in 2005.

Our first home is named **Cosby Cottage** in gratitude for Bev Cosby's unwavering vision of L'Arche as a spiritual gift to central Virginia.



Cosby Cottage, a reflection of God's abundance and love

How L'Arche is Operated:

L'Arche Blue Ridge Mountains is a family-like home, a spiritual community, and a non-profit agency providing physical care, life-enriching opportunities, and meaningful relationships to adults with disabilities.

L'Arche exceeds state licensing criteria for group homes and receives funding from Medicaid.

We grow a portion of the community's fruits and vegetables on the property.



L'Arche is Growing:

Construction has begun on our second 8 bedroom home. Our community will continue to expand in order to support many more people with and without disabilities, and will include a pottery and craft building.

For more information about L'Arche Blue Ridge Mountains see:
www.larchebrm.com

L'Arche Needs Your Support:

- Attend a prayer night.
- Volunteer or visit our home.
- Pray for our community.
- Donate furniture and supplies.
- Make a financial contribution.

Government funds do not cover:

- ◆ New home start-up costs
- ◆ Spiritual, recreational and social activities for core members
- ◆ Participation in L'Arche U.S.A. events
- ◆ The full cost of room and board
- ◆ Hosting guests, travel, and visiting family and friends
- ◆ Solidarity with Central and Latin American L'Arche communities

"Life flowing from one to another is a strange and wonderful thing---and sharing weaknesses and needs calls us together into a common humanity." Jean Vanier, Founder of L'Arche

Send financial contributions to:

L'Arche Blue Ridge Mountains
P.O. Box 2242
Lynchburg, VA 24505



**Thank you for supporting
L'Arche Blue Ridge Mountains!**



L'Arche Blue Ridge Mountains



Celebrating life in community,
a sign of hope to the world....