



We celebrate with families



L'ARCHE
BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAINS
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Kristen and Felecity

*“ Living Together as a
Changing Presence in God’s World ”*

Blessings to Our Dear Friends of L’Arche Blue Ridge Mountains:

L’Arche Blue Ridge Mountains is a community of faith and a lifelong home for people with severe developmental disabilities and assistants who share their lives in mutual relationship. We are part of an international federation of communities with a common mission to value the unique abilities of every person in society. (www.larcheusa.org) Members with disabilities are called core members, because they form the true center and heart of the community. Assistants come not just to provide care but to walk with the core members and share a common experience. Everyone in L’Arche has something to give and to receive—something to teach, and something to learn. More than just a home, L’Arche is a place of transformation as people learn to welcome and respect weakness (in ourselves as well as in others), live in unity with those who are different, and become a sign of hope for the world that this is possible everywhere.

Ordinary moments become extraordinary. One afternoon an assistant was reading from a book by Jean Vanier, the founder of L’Arche International. In the forward she read "God loves you just the way you are." Kristen, our newest core member, said--"I know what that means now." The assistant asked "What is it that you know now?" She answered "I know that people are happy to see me every morning when I wake up and they come in my room". Later the reading mentioned brokenness and how all people need something and all people have gifts. Kristen said "I know you need me. I love you. All of you." She spread her arms and, sitting in the sunlight in the sunroom, they seemed to go around the world. Kristen needs total care but she has found a way to give beyond what hands can do.

L’Arche Blue Ridge Mountains needs your help in order for our community to grow.

Over 5,000 people with intellectual disabilities are waiting for services in VA. Few existing homes are available and willing to serve those with the most severe intellectual, medical and physical challenges. We are now building our second fully accessible home. Medicaid funding may not be used for room and board, recreation, or many other expenses that lead to a quality life--and does not cover the increased costs to serve those with greater needs.

This is why we need you.

Your gift makes it all possible. Without your help we cannot help those most in need. Please consider a gift this year. *You can be a changing presence for us.*

God’s peace to you and yours,

Mark Russell, Community Leader

Cecily Heuslein, Board President



L’Arche is a changing presence in Lynchburg and the world.

How Your Gift Helps

- \$1,500 provides mortgage for one month (for each house)
- \$700 provides groceries for one month (we have a garden and use the Food Bank)
- \$600 pays for utilities for one month
- \$375 pays for one month medical supplies not funded by Medicaid
- \$300 pays for one core member or assistant to attend a L'Arche Retreat
- \$50 allows us to buy materials to recycle candles and make new candles
- \$80 fills the gas tank for our two used vans
- \$40 provides one dinner at the house
- \$600 pays our loan for 2 accessible vans
- There are many other ways your gifts can help and they are essential to us.

Your gift is greatly appreciated. Your gift is tax-deductible and you may designate that it be provided in increments throughout the year(s). Private non profit Organization 501 C3

***Financial:** L'Arche BRM is licensed and receives Medicaid payments. These funds do not cover the costs of our total budget requiring us to fundraise to supplement our budget. We spend less than 1% of our budget on development and try to do only one annual campaign a year. Our mailing lists are not given or sold to other organizations. Detailed budget information is available by calling (434)384-6300 or email larchebrm@ntelos.net You may designate the way your donation is used if you wish.*

Some other ways you can help.

- Share this annual campaign letter with others whom you believe would like to help
- Donate items we can use:
Right now we need laptops, computers, office chairs, household paper products, old or used candles, small glass containers to be made into candles, towels, sheets, outside/patio furniture, gardening tools and supplies, we need everything for our new home opening in April
- We need a small used hatch back car as a back up vehicle as we often need a third car to enable people to get to medical appointments when other vehicles are in use.
- Matching donation: Check to see if your employer will match your donation. We receive matching donations from some businesses including GE Financial.
- Volunteer or just visit our community
- Volunteer to help with our candle making, pottery or jewelry making

For more information about our community: www.larchebrm.com

You may wish to use the "Donate Now" option on this website

Our first Capital Campaign to cover start up construction and program costs for both of our homes begins this winter. Please remember us.