

WINTER
2018



NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends of L'Arche Wavecrest,

This is the season when we give and receive gratitude, carrying in our hearts and minds those we hold dear. Elaine Scarry, Professor of Literature at Harvard University, reflects that, "How one walks through the world, the endless small adjustments of balance, is affected by the shifting weights of beautiful things."

L'Arche Wavecrest is a place of beauty where adjustments of balance continually happen, presenting us with a blessed and adventurous pathway through the world. Our companions are those we know and love as specially gifted women and men who continually grace our lives with a unique beauty.

We plan to include more companions as we engage in **"Building Community: Heart-to-Heart, Home-by-Home."** During the early fall season we received a matching grant of \$25,000 from a California family foundation. In early November we were able to complete that match, thanks to thoughtful and caring donors. Now we need to raise just an additional \$25,000 to open L'Arche Wavecrest Home Two!

Our companions are also you and all who engage in the mission of L'Arche Wavecrest, adding another dimension of beauty, so valued and so appreciated. We are ever grateful for the gracious support that you share so generously with the mission of L'Arche Wavecrest. Please continue to accompany us in Building Community: Heart-to-Heart, Home-by-Home!

With heartfelt gratitude,

Jim Morgan

Jim Morgan
Executive Director/Community Leader



Marianne Loewe

Marianne Loewe
Board President



**PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR
"HOLIDAY CELEBRATION OF LIGHT"**

BUILDING COMMUNITY: HEART-TO-HEART, HOME-BY-HOME



Location: Abraham House
Date: Saturday, December 8, 2018
Time: 12:00 Noon - 2:00 PM



Gather with friends and Core Members

Pray in gratitude for our many blessings. Share a great meal.

A New Feature: A Christmas Market with items fashioned by L'Arche Wavecrest Core Members and Core Members from other L'Arche communities.

Homemade baked treats will also be available.

All to Benefit L'Arche Wavecrest.

Thank you to the Community of L'Arche Wavecrest

by Martha Cain, Board Member

The Cain family thanks L'Arche Wavecrest and all of you associated with the community (now and in the past) from the bottom of our "speechless hearts" - to quote a Terry-ism. For coming on fifteen years our sister, Terry, has been blessed to be a Core Member of L'Arche Wavecrest's Abraham House. Terry, whose health had taken a turn for the worse in July, moved out of Abraham House in early October. Between July and October everyone at L'Arche Wavecrest did the very best they could to support her during her last months there. Finally, it was decided that she needed to be moved to a facility that could provide a higher level of nursing care.



Terry
(Core Member)

The Cain family's journey these past few months (consulting with doctors, braving emergency rooms, viewing nursing facilities, and interacting with bureaucracies) has served to strengthen our already resolute belief that L'Arche communities provide a truly exceptional living environment for individuals with developmental disabilities. **THANK YOU ALL FOR THE PART YOU'VE PLAYED IN TERRY'S LIFE AT L'ARCHE WAVECREST.**

The two primary elements that make L'Arche communities special are: the philosophy on which L'Arche communities are based, embedded in the founder's words below, and the individuals who are called to the L'Arche mission.

"Every child, every person needs to know that they are a source of joy; every child, every person, needs to be celebrated. Only when all of our weaknesses are accepted as part of our humanity can our negative, broken self-images be transformed."

— Jean Vanier, Becoming Human

"Love doesn't mean doing extraordinary or heroic things. It means knowing how to do ordinary things with tenderness."

— Jean Vanier, Community and Growth

As a Core Member Terry always knew she was "a source of joy". She knew she was "celebrated". She still knows "weaknesses are accepted as part of [her] humanity". And what the Assistants, Core Members and staff of L'Arche Wavecrest know is "how to do ordinary things with tenderness".



John Cathy Terry Chris
(Core Members)



Terry & Chris
(Core Members)

I want to share with you some of the moments of tenderness I experienced during the summer months when my siblings and I spent a lot of time at Abraham House.

One afternoon, when Terry had not gotten out of bed all day and was quite despondent, Travis looked her in the eye - compassionately searching for the Terry he knew - and gently said, "Hi, Terry." Then he took off his baseball cap and put it on her head. Terry took his hat off her head and put it back on his head, saying "Hi". Then ensued a game of "my hat's off to you" with flicking off the baseball cap and flinging it across the room. I decided to toss my hat in the ring, grabbing another baseball cap that was hanging on Terry's closet door, and joined in the game where Terry's sense of humor emerged. She was delightfully distracted from her despondency. I will always remember Travis' lessons on "being" - without expectation and judgment.

When the other Core Members would return home from their programs each day, the scene would frequently look and sound something like this: "How's Terry doing?" John would ask in his caring and unassuming manner. Patting Terry on the shoulder or giving her a kiss on the cheek Chris would announce to her, "It's okay, I'm here."

Jazz would inquire, "How's Terry doing?" and then follow up with the important questions we all have: "Will she get better?", and "How is dementia different from Alzheimers?"

One evening in early July, I proposed a stroll around the neighborhood after dinner and Cathy Acton decided to join Terry and me. Cathy stayed at Terry's side sweetly guiding her the entire way. Both Cathy's deep compassion for Terry and her clear opinions about life around her were evident that evening!

The Cains remain some of L'Arche Wavecrest's biggest fans. We plan to help see the community through the opening of a second home. We want more individuals with developmental disabilities to have the benefit of L'Arche in their lives.



Cathy Jazz Terry Chris
(Core Members)

SAVE THE DATES

Prayer Night:

6:30 pm – 7:30 pm on 4th Monday of each month.

Community Gathering:

Year 2018: December 8th.

Year 2019: Jan 12, Feb 9, Mar 9, Apr 13, May 11,

Jun 8, Jul 13, Aug 10, Sept 14, Oct 12, Nov 9, Dec 14.

Visit us at www.larchewavecrest.org