MAY NEWSLETTER



FAITH & SHARING

Set beneath the live oaks along the St. Johns River at the Marywood Retreat Center, the annual Faith and Sharing retreat brings together people of all abilities and ages for prayer, fellowship, and joyful community. Through daily mass, worship, skits, quiet prayer, shared meals, music, reflection, swimming, and friendship, retreatants experience connection, hope, and belonging. Rooted in the early beginnings of L'Arche Jacksonville, this retreat continues to be a meaningful place where people are welcomed, valued, and deeply known.

SPRING OPEN HOUSE

This month, our community welcomed family, friends, volunteers, supporters, and new guests into our homes for the First Annual Spring Open House. Through shared conversation, laughter, and time spent together, visitors experienced the beauty of life in community and the relationships that make L'Arche so special. The morning was a meaningful reminder that belonging is often found in the simple moments of being welcomed, known, and together. Special thanks to Happy Brew, Proctor Ace Harware, and Down to Earth Farms for your generous donations.





L'ARCHE USA NATIONAL CONSULTATION

Attending the L'Arche USA Gathering in Nashville was one of the more meaningful experiences I've had in a while. Spending two days with about 70 community leaders and board members working through the mandate priorities felt significant and purposeful, not just as an organizational exercise but as a reminder of what L'Arche is doing for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and why it matters. The Inclusive Leadership Group did a great job keeping the work grounded and moving, and in the small group sessions, you could hear the range of experiences across communities. I came away with a much clearer understanding of the mandate process, where L'Arche USA is trying to go, and the weight of the decisions involved in getting there. I'm glad I was able to make the trip. **- Pete Havens, Board Member**

CHANNELS OF THE ARK CAMPAIGN

Formerly known as the Assistants Fund, **Channels of the Ark** supports the core members, assistants, and homes that make shared life at L'Arche Jacksonville possible. Rooted in everyday moments – shared meals, laughter, friendship, prayer, and companionship – this summer campaign helps sustain assistant salaries, programs, and the daily life of our homes, ensuring our community continues to thrive.

Many assistants describe their time at L'Arche as a place of deep belonging, genuine friendship, and transformation. At the heart of Channels of the Ark is a simple belief: everyone deserves a place where they are known, valued, and welcomed just as they are.



Scan to Donate Today!

36TH ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC

The 36th Annual Golf Classic on March 23 was a joyful celebration of community, generosity, and belonging for L'Arche Jacksonville. Rooted in our mission, the event brought together people of all abilities for a day that reflected the beauty of shared life and friendship.

Thanks to the incredible support of our golfers, sponsors, volunteers, and friends – especially our Title Sponsor, **Walsh Investment Consulting Group** and Lou Walsh – the event raised more than $100,000 to support the homes, programs, and relationships at the heart of L'Arche Jacksonville. From friendly competition on the course to the excitement of the Silent Auction and the new Pin High game, the day reflected the joy and belonging that define our community.





COLLEGE OF THE HOLY CROSS

In March, we welcomed three students from the College of the Holy Cross for their annual immersion week at L'Arche Jacksonville. Throughout the week, students lived in the homes, spent time at the Rainbow Workshop, volunteered with L'Arche at the Gate River Run, and built friendships with the core members through the simple rhythms of daily life together.

We are grateful for the many years this partnership has continued and for the openness, joy, and presence the students bring to our community.

COMING UP NEXT

NOTRE DAME STUDENTS ARRIVING FOR SUMMER

We're excited to welcome a group of Notre Dame students who will be living and sharing life with us in L'Arche Jacksonville for seven weeks this summer! They'll participate in daily life, build relationships, and learn alongside us. We can't wait to see the friendships and memories that will unfold during their time with us.

SACRED STORIES LISTENING TOUR OPPORTUNITY

At the end of July, the Sacred Stories team will be visiting L'Arche Jacksonville as part of their national listening tour. They'll spend time with us, listen to our stories, and create a short film that shares the heart of L'Arche communities across the USA. This is a wonderful opportunity to share the spirit of L'Arche beyond our communities.

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

VOLUNTEER

- Rainbow Workshop
- Companion Activities
- Bring/Share a Meal in a Home
- Time in the Homes
- Events

DONATE

- Monthly Giving
- One-Time Donations
- Add L'Arche as Beneficiary for Fundraisers
- Consider L'Arche in your Estate Planning

JOIN CELEBRATIONS

- Special Community Nights
- Holiday Sales
- Fundraisers

Scan to Give Today

L'ARCHE Jacksonville

Follow us on social media and share, share, share!!!