



# Become a Sign Maker

Dear Friend of L'Arche Atlanta,

***The L'Arche Atlanta Community will be the 17<sup>th</sup> US L'Arche Community. There are more than 130 communities worldwide in 35 countries.***

It's possible to sum up the vision of L'Arche in three common words. *Relationship. Transformation. Sign.* I'd like to share with you how the L'Arche community in Atlanta will be a sign, pointing to something much larger than itself.

By supporting the L'Arche community in Atlanta you can become a Sign Maker. Every day signs send us messages and interpret our world for us. I believe that the most important of these signs are not to be found on billboards.



L'Arche Community in Scotland with Friends of L'Arche Atlanta  
President Laura Wells 4th from left.

The most powerful messages or signs that we can read are those played out between two human beings. In a L'Arche community, transformed relationships become a sign of what is possible to all who witness. As we, with and without developmental disabilities, share life together and build community, our attitudes, feelings and hearts are changed.

Life at L'Arche brings us a deeper awareness of what it means to be truly human. We witness this as people experience a true sense of "home" in its deepest sense. We see this as people discover new capacities within themselves. And we also discover this as we build community – sharing life together in a way that welcomes differences and accepts each of us as we are, with our gifts and also our vulnerabilities.

L'Arche is convinced that our societies are in need of these qualities and that people with an intellectual disability can be real teachers who are able to lead us back to the essential.

L'Arche communities are also places of welcome and support for families and friends, volunteers and neighbors, churches and other social service groups. Though in numbers L'Arche communities directly benefit only relatively few, as a sign to the watching world, they transform the hearts and imaginations of thousands.

Opening a L'Arche Community in metropolitan Atlanta is our vision, hope and desire. It is beginning to become a reality. We are writing you as

someone who shares this vision and hope. You can become a Sign Maker by financially supporting Friend's of L'Arche Atlanta today.

How can you become a L'Arche Atlanta Sign Maker? Here are some things you can do right now.

Friends of L'Arche Atlanta  
P.O. Box 2359  
Decatur, GA 30031

Curt.Armstrong@friendsoflarheatlanta.org  
678-446-5790  
www.friendsoflarheatlanta.org

1. **Visit** [www.friendsoflarheatlanta.org](http://www.friendsoflarheatlanta.org) and **learn** more about progress toward establishing a community here. Also **look** for upcoming gatherings for L'Arche friends.
2. **Give** a year end financial gift or **become** a Founding Donor by sponsoring a Day of L'Arche. Your timely gift will be put to use immediately as we continue the groundwork to rent, purchase or build a home here. Any size gift is greatly appreciated.
3. **Volunteer** to serve on a Friends of L'Arche team or committee.
4. **Learn** more about L'Arche through the international Web site at [www.larche.org](http://www.larche.org)

**Founding Donors make a gift of \$240 to sponsor the L'Arche Atlanta home for a day.** As a founding donor you will be invited to participate in the dedication of the L'Arche Atlanta community and attend a dinner in your honor. You'll also be recognized in a visible sign at the home. You may also designate a special date to which your sponsorship will be applied.

This Fall Friends of L'Arche Atlanta was approved by our L'Arche USA governing body to move from the "Pre-Project" stage to the "Project" stage of the process set out by the international body of L'Arche. This is great news and testimony to the dedication of our board, donors and volunteers who are working to be A Sign of Hope in a Broken World.

Please use the enclosed envelope to send your gift to Friends of L'Arche Atlanta and become a Sign Maker of hope, of grace in action, born in a small community in Atlanta, GA. And during this season of celebrations, turn some other hopes into reality by showing kindness to your neighbor in need.

Blessings to you and your neighbors!

Sincerely,

Curt Armstrong  
Community Leader  
And Executive Director