

# Help your favorite non-profit win a \$1500 donation!

**Cast your vote**



## L'Arche Boston North

L'Arche Boston North is a Haverhill-based community dedicated to caring for and revealing the gifts of adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities. The community formed in 1983 as part of the L'Arche movement around the world, in which people with and without intellectual and physical disabilities chose to share life together in homes, growing in relationship with each other and learning from one another. Our organization supports adults through a variety of residential models, from 24-hour care to independent supports to shared living.

Just as caregivers in the community provide essential physical, social, and spiritual supports to members with intellectual disabilities, these members in turn provide an education in welcome, vulnerability, belonging, and celebration to their caregivers, transforming a human service into a relationship based on trust, respect, and deep understanding. L'Arche changes the world one life at a time by illuminating the beauty of each person—with or without a disability.

Even before the coronavirus pandemic, adults with disabilities suffered from more loneliness and isolation than the general population. Around the world, people with physical, intellectual, and developmental disabilities experience social isolation, underemployment, and stigma. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, for example, 84 percent of adults with core activity limitations had not received a visit from friends or family in the last 3 months; 59 percent had not received a phone call in the last 3 months; and 18 percent had had no social contact in the last 3 months. This "Loneliness Statistic" persists, even as people around the world strive to provide adequate social services for their citizens with disabilities. The National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine have found correlations between social isolation and loneliness and increases in health problems such as heart disease and dementia.

By supporting the physical, mental, and emotional needs of adults with disabilities, L'Arche Boston North is responding to an urgent need. Our organization is seeking \$1,500 from the We Share A Common Thread Foundation to cover costs associated with the additional care required to support physically vulnerable individuals during a pandemic. For the past year, the individuals we support have been unable to participate in activities outside the home due to safety concerns. L'Arche Boston North has responded to their unanticipated need for daytime supports, personal protective equipment, and adaptive technology to stay connected with important people in their lives, knowing that our organization will not be fully reimbursed for costs associated with this extraordinary level of care.

We are proud that the vulnerable people we support have remained free of COVID-19 infection and will continue to work hard every day to keep them safe, happy, and healthy. A \$1,500 donation from the Jeanne D'Arc Credit Union Give A Click program would help us cover costs associated with necessary care for vulnerable people during a pandemic.

*we share a common thread*