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# **Creating a World** Where Eveyone Belongs





## Creating a world where everyone belongs

That's a bold claim! And maybe even a bit presumptuous. But that is exactly what we are striving to do in our little corner of Erie, Pennsylvania.

The power of L'Arche springs from our founding principle: people with and without intellectual disabilities building mutually supportive bonds and sharing daily life together. We share life in our homes and neighborhoods-in times of recreation, of work, of prayer, and of celebration. It's that simple! Yet it is in that bonding through friendship, interdependence, and life shared, that we discover every person has a gift to bring and a contribution to make to the human family – that each of us has a place of honor, that each of us belongs!

We are not simply one group of people taking care of others. Rather, we are seeking to create hearts and hands of service together, where each person is invited to both give and receive. L'Arche is a sign of a hope in the world because of the ways that we honor and celebrate diversity of experience and ability. L'Arche cultivates the values of interdependence and mutuality, forming people to live and lead those values throughout their lives, wherever their journey takes them.

We are grateful for the support and assistance of many friends who join us in this audacious dream for a hope-filled world where everyone has a place to belong. We couldn't do it without them! In Peace,

Vicki Washek

Congratulations to L'Arche Erie's Connie Reinwald, who was named the Pennsylvania Advocacy and Resources for Autism and Intellectual Disability Western Region Direct Support Professional of the Year.



The award honors a direct support professional from each region of Pennsylvania who is employed by a PAR provider member organization and who has shown extraordinary determination and success in empowering people to lead fulfilling and enriching lives.

Pictured far left is L'Arche Erie Home Life Coordinator Connie Reinwald (center) accepting he "You Are Worth It" award alongside PAR Board Chair Kathleen Brown McHale (left) and PAR President Shirley Walker (right) . Pictured right is L'Arche Erie core me Linda Kelsey cutting cake with Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf. Photos courtesy of PAR.

## Thank You to our Friends of L'Arche Erie

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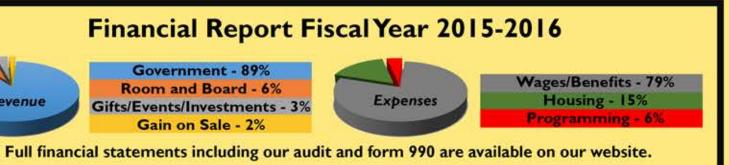
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