

Soundings



Volume 35, Issue 2



June, 2024

NEW BEGINNINGS AT L'ARCHE

by Karrie Zylstra Myton, Communications & Development Coordinator

L'Arche Tahoma Hope has seen many improvements in the homes and on the farm in the past few months because of the generosity of our community. Thank you for being a part of who we are and what we do!

Tucci & Sons and Sessler, Inc. both generously donated their time, materials, and equipment to pave the driveway and install a new accessible ramp at Hopespring. The entrance looks fantastic and if you haven't seen it, do stop by!



Flynn Construction

has done marvelous work on the farm. They donated 8 dumpsters, re-built our walk-in fridge, re-built our outdoor sinks, built a shelf for our wood shed, created a system so our greenhouse windows can open, and had an electrician come out to do an evaluation of our property. Be sure you check out the accessible raised beds and new doors on the greenhouses

on your next visit! We are so grateful for the donated time and materials!



FROM OUR COMMUNITY LEADER, KATIE

Thank you all so much for your support at our 30th annual auction! As I write this, L'Arche continues to step into its new melody—continuing in the dance of our Prom for All in March.

The arrival of spring is its own dance and when we celebrate the Easter season, we all think about the renewal, change, and hope that this time brings. I often think of what Leana calls the "transition monster" and about the loss and hope we all experience daily. Leana has some key phrases she says often: "Who would want us to? Who is sending us vibes? Is this my old self before I met you?"



Leana challenges us to think of who else is supporting us and how we've grown over the years. L'Arche Tahoma Hope is wrestling with and leaning into these questions.

In this issue, you'll find details about our renewal in the construction projects at Hopespring and on the farm. I think you'll be impressed with the generosity of our local construction industry.

We also want to introduce you to our new Office Administrator, Kira Cox! Kira brings a vibrant energy to her role. Be sure to welcome her when you see her next!

Like farmers or master musicians, we are all developing calluses and building muscle memory around new rhythms while we remember the past that connects us. Even as L'Arche steps into change together with you, we are surrounded by the familiar and wonderful faces of our wider community. We look forward to seeing you again soon!

Katie Miyabada



LOOK AT THESE SMILING FACES!

Gray Media took portraits of some of our core members this spring and they're fantastic - enjoy!



WELCOME, KIRA!

an interview with Kira Cox, by Karrie Zylstra Myton

Kira Cox recently stepped into the role of office manager after Lori Jordan, the former office manager, became our financial coordinator. Kira will often be the first person you speak to when you call L'Arche Tahoma Hope, and she has a vital role in our community.

I got the chance to talk to her right after she started and am delighted to share our conversation with you. She has incredible energy and a smile that lights up the room. Please welcome Kira to our community whenever you get the chance so you can see her warmth and sparkle for yourself!



KZM: How did you hear about us at L'Arche?

KC: Lori Jordan's daughter Emilia and I met at my first job after college when I was a paraeducator and she was a teacher. A few years ago, Emilia asked if I wanted to volunteer for the auction, and that was how my life with L'Arche got started.

KZM: What did you do when you volunteered for the auctions?

KC: A lot of different things! I helped set up for the events—mostly putting up decorations. This year we did prom, so I also sold the corsages.

KZM: What's your favorite part of the office manager job so far?

KC: I think my favorite parts of the job are getting to know everyone, dipping my toe into the community here, and getting to know the people at L'Arche.

cont'd on pg. 7

TRIBUTE DONATIONS

Listed below are tribute donations we have received in 2024. We accept these gifts with gratitude for the honoree as well as for the generosity of each donor.

In Honor of:

Les Leise
Garry Skelton

In Memory of:

Fr. Jimmy Boyle
Monica DePaul
Alex Griffin
Marjorie Hudacek
Bea Kingery
Jeanne & Woody Woodruff

Prom for All **A HUGE SUCCESS**

The Prom for All: An '80s Starry Night was a swinging success! Our core member prom royalty really knew how to shine and bring everyone in the community together.

We are especially grateful to the generous underwriters and sponsors, the 2024 Auction Committee, the hardworking volunteers, and the staff who put in many extra hours.

This year we made **over \$207,000**—our second highest earning auction ever.

These dollars support core member unfunded needs, staff salaries, and other critical needs like heat and lights in our buildings. Thank you so much for joining our community by giving so generously. You are a critical member of our community.



BILL DOWNEY AWARD

Each year since 2001, the L'Arche Tahoma Hope Board of Directors gives an award named for former core member Bill Downey. Bill's legacy of building relationships has continued since the early years of LTH and we honor his generous spirit with this award.

At our annual auction this year, the community proudly presented the Bill Downey award to **Cheryl Elrod**, who has been a faithful friend and supporter of the community. For over 14 years, Cheryl has supported us all with her many acts of service. She's the person who provides lunches, hot drinks on cold field trips, and sun hats and cold drinks on the hotter days. Nicknamed the "Celebration Queen," Cheryl is also core member Zach Hovland's grandmother. Be sure to thank Cheryl when you see her next!



2024 AUCTION COMMITTEE

- Lori Jordan, co-chair
- Abby Laxa-Anderson, co-chair
- Danielle Broberg
- Christiane Buhl
- Karrie Zylstra Myton
- Marie Orrange
- Jana Quiocho
- Cindy Skarvold
- Donna Smith
- Swana Swanson



2024
AUCTION UNDERWRITERS



Tucci & Sons, Inc.
Pamela's on Main
Barry & Becky Reid
Evergreen Excavation
Umpqua Bank
Gary Johnson Flooring

SAVE THE DATE!!!!
March 1, 2025
at McGavick Conference Center.
We can hardly wait to see you then!
**Get ready for
Mardi Gras!**



Enjoy these classics
from the
Prom Photo Booth...



TAHOMA HOPE RETURNS TO SEABECK

by Micah Buff, Spiritual Life Director



For many years, Sebeck Conference Center has been a centering place for L'Arche Tahoma Hope. We gathered there every year for Community Weekend – a time of retreat, to relax and reconnect. As our community has grown, this time of reconnection has also changed, but Sebeck remains an important part of our collective story. When asked what she enjoys about Sebeck, core member Cindy replied: "Going for walks by the lake with people, delicious food, and getting coffee (at the waterfront store across the street)." The conference center's beautiful location provides

a unique opportunity to connect with each other and nature in ways we do not experience every day.

This past year has been one of many transitions: closing Anawim House, saying goodbye to Laura, and welcoming Katie as our new community leader, among others. Transitions call us to intentionally remember our past while looking ahead into the future – and we'll be doing that in a familiar place!

Community Unity Day

- Sebeck Conference Center
- September 4, 2024 (optional overnight)
- All members of our community are invited!
- Contact info@larchetahomahope.org for details.
- We'd also love your support as a sponsor or in spirit when you think of us that day!



Community Unity Day Sponsorship

- \$22 sponsors one person's day attendance
- \$158 sponsors one person to stay overnight.

DONATE: larchetahomahope.org/sebeck



WELCOME, KIRA!

cont'd from pg. 3

KZM: What's the most challenging thing about working at L'Arche?

KC: I guess getting used to all of the new systems. I've also never worked for a non-profit before so that's new, too, but I feel like I'm learning and I'm growing.

KZM: What have you found surprising?

KC: All of the community events! I knew L'Arche provided housing for core members and medical services, but I didn't know that there were so many opportunities to get involved in all of these events.

That part has been really exciting because I was looking for a job that works really in depth with community opportunities like that.

KZM: Wonderful! To wrap up, tell me more about your life outside of work. I read in your *Latest in L'Arche* introduction that you love theater, knitting, and board games. I'd love to know more about your life in the theater.

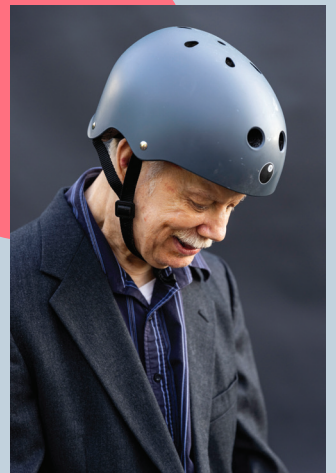
KC: I've ALWAYS loved performance ever since I was little. I got more involved in theater in middle school and high school. In college, I actually majored in theater. I focused on how theater can be a healing art and even got the chance to do a research project that won some awards on drama therapy. Then I got to write a play based on my research. Theater has been an incredibly rewarding part of my life.

KZM: That sounds amazing! Thanks so much for talking to me today, Kira. I loved getting to know you better.

KC: Thank you! Everything has been exciting, and I'm having a lot of fun learning about L'Arche.



**MORE
SMILING
FACES...**



MISSION CARDS

For many years, L'Arche Tahoma Hope has designed and printed annual mission cards. The front design changes each year and the words of our mission are printed on the back. We read these together at the beginning of the year as a community to help ground us in what we do and some community members even collect them. There are a few cards left in the office if you'd like to pick one up for yourself or to share the mission of L'Arche with others!



ANAWIM'S LOOKING BETTER THAN EVER!

As many of you know Anawim was broken into a couple months ago, and the Board, especially Property Committee Chairs Dave Vogel and Tom Pagano, have been working hard to clean it up and make it look nice again! Thank you so much to all the following people who have volunteered to spruce up the place and make Anawim look better than it ever has before!

James Bentley, Paul and Eileen Borne, Stacy and Joe Cates-Carney, Niko Colella, Colleen Croy, Ruth Donohue, Mark Drangstveit, John Elting, Kendyl Hair, Chris and Kristen Harrison, Maureen and Dave Hennessy, Sue Hudacek, Jane MacNeil, Neil and Claire O'Brien, Tom Pegano, Carla Rasmussen and Dave Vogel, Dave Ronald, Cindy and Ric Rose, David Rothrock, Chuck Schilling, Chuck Schott, Roger Simms, Jeff Upton, Anders Vogel, Chris Woodruff



Dave and Tom are still working on repairs and touch ups for next steps so we can send the place off well. Thank you to everyone who is making sure Anawim is still being cared for!



VISIT US THIS SUMMER!

Volunteer - Shop - Donate

GREENHOUSE HOURS:

Tues - Sat, 10-3

PROCTOR MARKET:

Most Saturdays



larchetahomahope.org/farm



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