



**L'Arche Clinton
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December 2018

We hope we've inspired you throughout 2018!



Our Core Members: (Front from left): Becky, Sarah Jane, Brenda, Janice, Harlan, Gene, Jeff, Robbie, Waldon, Darren and Kenney. (Back from left): Dan, David, Jacob and Mark.

Arch II says good-bye to their beloved Shasta

In mid-October Arch II had to say good-bye to their beloved pet, Shasta. Shasta had been a resident in their home for over eight years and was loved by all. Following are some quotes and memories of Shasta by the core members of Arch II.

“She tickled my feet.” – Sarah

“Hello! I need more treats! I’d say this to Jon, my friend.” - Brenda

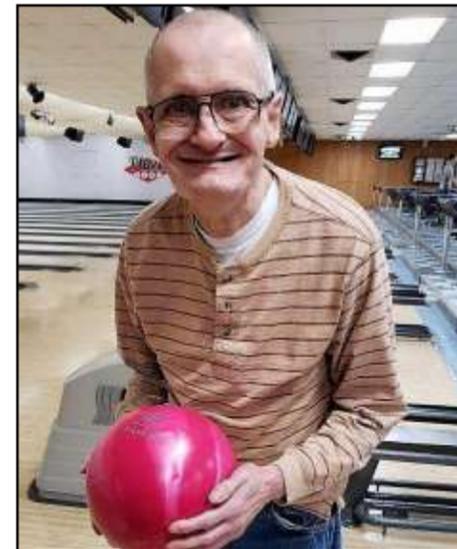


“Ok, one memory, I was sitting, I hugged her, then I’d take her outside to go doo doo. I’d pick her up when her legs got tired from the stairs. When she passed, I was so sad. Janice, me, and staff went to the vet to hug her goodbye.” – Brenda



“I liked it when Shasta would sit on my lap. She’d jump up on him when I gave her treats. Now Shasta went up to heaven with Jesus and the rest of the doggies. She’s got a new home.” – Becky

“I will say a prayer. I love her.” – Janice



PHOTOS FROM THE WELCOME CELEBRATION!



Mark with his parents, Gary and Linda Trenkamp.



Mark receiving his blessing from Brenda, Janice and JoAnne.



Brenda blessing Mark's ears.



Mark receiving affirmations and his gift from the L'Arche office staff.



The entire community welcomes Mark with a traditional L'Arche blessing.



Mark receiving his gift from Arch IV.



Welcome Mark banner made by April for his celebration.



By Lauren Kline
Program Coordinator Arch II

When I first saw Mark, I thought I saw a flash of lightning. Mark was moving his belongings into Arch II faster than the speed of light. When this dash of red and green (red sweat-shirt, green Kermit hat) streaked by, I knew that things were bound to be different in the home. What energy! But the beautiful thing about lightning is, it lights up and illuminates everything around it. And this is Mark: truly a magnificent sight to behold, and a light to everything around him.



Watching Mark is like watching a force of nature in many ways. He is nonstop energy, constantly taking out trash, doing the dishes, turning on music, bringing life into any situation or moment that he finds himself in. Watching him in motion inspires me to move, to think of others, to take care of matters that are in front of me, and not to ignore little things that I'd like to push off in favor of ease. Mark will take matters as they come, whether that is a load of laundry, taking up dishes that aren't even his, or mopping the floor simply because it needs to be done and he can do it. In addition, his passion for things, such as Christmas music, is another wonder! When Mark loves something, he loves it deeply and with a single minded focus that calls me to consider my own passions. If I were to dedicate a portion of myself to the way in which Mark devotes himself to his passions, what a marvel that would be!

Mark is deeply sensitive and caring. One of my favorite stories about Mark is that one day, he kept opening the front door and peering outside. The assistants couldn't quite figure out what was going on, but as they watched, Mark kept looking across the street to sirens that were going off. A firetruck and ambulance were attending to a neighbor, and Mark was keenly compassionate and interested in the welfare of the neighbor, even though nobody in the house noticed at first. Mark's interest in the world around him makes everyone who comes in contact with him that much more aware of what life lies around. He illuminates the world and calls us each to think of each other, care for one another, and move beyond ourselves. A true wonder and miracle to behold. We are so blessed and delighted to have him in our L'Arche Community.

RANDOM SHOTS OF MARK!



Photos clockwise starting top right: Mark with L'Arche Board President, Karen Marshall; Mark painting a ceramic Christmas tree; Mark receiving his award at the 2018 Holiday Party; Mark waiting his turn to bowl; Mark and his mom, Linda, showing off his new Disney Santa hat; and Mark having fun with the Pizza Ranch staff at our November fund-raising night.

