



L'Arche Clinton — Where fellowship, faith and fun reside!

Core members show us how to adapt to the COVID-19 Pandemic

By Devin Land
Community Leader

I've always been grateful for the foundation of peace, joy, and fellowship provided by the core members in my L'Arche community. L'Arche is a place where the core members show us how to love and accept unconditionally, and how to be unapologetically authentic in our relationships. Knowing that the core members teach us so many things about life's most valuable lessons, no one should be surprised that it is our core members who are providing the most meaningful lessons about how to live



Our weekly Zoom sing-a-long, led by Devin and Michelle.

*I am grateful that all
of our community
members are healthy!*

with grace in the face of this public health crisis.

The photos in this newsletter tell the story of life in our homes since we

began sheltering at home in March. Other than the telltale signs of the times (like masks on the assistants) you'll notice that life still looks pretty simple and joyful among our community members. Our core members have been home from their day programs and jobs since March, but have shown us how to adapt, finding ways to stay engaged with activities like outdoor adventures, craft making, gardening, and helping with projects around the house. And it's been a blessing that we've been able to connect with each other regularly via Zoom, including resuming our regular calendar of community events via Zoom.

As I reflect on our community's response to the coronavirus, I am most

grateful for the assistants and leadership team members, who should be celebrated as front line heroes for the support they are providing for our core members in this challenging time. I'm also grateful to all of those connected with our community - parents, guardians, friends, volunteers, and employees - for your effort and cooperation in helping to keep all of our community members safe and healthy during this time. I'm grateful to all of our friends who have provided support to help our L'Arche mission thrive in Clinton, and who will continue to support us as we face the new challenges of living with the coronavirus. Finally, I am grateful that all of our community members are healthy!

L'Arche Clinton ♥ June 6, 1974 ♥ 46 years old



Greetings from our front porches



Our core members would like to let you know they are doing well. We are practicing social distancing and have cancelled all community meetings and are meeting via Zoom. Our assistants are all wearing masks and taking extra precautions when they are away from community. We miss you all and can't wait until we can see you all again. This poem and prayer were written by one of our leadership team.



I Can See You

I can see you on the front porch,
I can see you through the screen;
I can see you at a distance,
Your smiles they comfort me.

I can see you on a Zoom call,
To exercise or sing;
We pray as we're together,
And peacefulness it brings.

I can see you in the pictures,
Shared for everyone to see;
You're still thriving and surviving,
You still bring joy to me.

Yes, I miss your clever greetings,
Your hugs and handshakes, too!
I miss our time together,
Let's face it, I Miss YOU!

Our community is stronger,
By the careful steps we choose;
With our masks and social distance,
Making sure all caution's used.

I will see you in the future,
You will all be close to me;
But for now, we'll have to settle,
For seeing virtually!

OUR PRAYER FOR HEALING

Heavenly Father, our prayer comes to you at an exceedingly difficult time for L'Arche and our nation. We pray all are staying safe and thank you for helping others understand our core members are all at high risk. Staying self-quarantined and practicing social distancing are making life quite different for our communities. We have a mission to create homes of welcome and love everyone unconditionally. No hugs, no handshakes and staying 6 ft apart prove to be a challenge every day. We pray for our L'Arche essential workers, those who come in tirelessly everyday and provide the care we need while keeping morals up and smiles on faces that are having difficulty understanding this new normal. We thank you for all the opportunities you provide us to get outside and enjoy the world as it comes alive with springtime. Our hopes are that those affected heal quickly at the hands of the medical staff and family providing their care. We pray, that those who don't feel well or may have been exposed, self-quarantine themselves to ensure the quick eradication of this dreadful virus. We, like you, celebrate the unique value of every person and recognize our need for one another. Mutual relationship and trust in God are at the heart of our journey together. We await the awakening of our society as we find our new normal on the other side of COVID-19.

We ask these things in Jesus name. Amen



If you would like to take part in a Zoom call with our community, contact Jean Bormann at ddc@larcheclinton.org or send her a message through the **L'Arche Clinton Facebook page**.



SOCIAL DISTANCING THE L'ARCHE CLINTON WAY





**L'Arche Clinton
ARCH INC.
P.O. Box 0278
Clinton, IA 52733-0278
563.243.9035**

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CONNECT WITH US

JOIN A VIRTUAL COMMUNITY NIGHT

Interact with core members and staff as we celebrate each others anniversaries and birthdays. Email ddc@larcheclinton.org to find out details.

SHARE A MEAL WITH US

Prepare, buy take-out or purchase a gift card to share a meal with a home. You can also schedule a video chat to get to know us or reconnect with our community.

DONATE TO L'ARCHE CLINTON

Make a tax-deductible financial gift, enabling us to provide relationally centered companionship, personalized healthcare coordination and a community of belonging for people with intellectual disabilities. Go to <https://app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/ArchInc/donate.html>

For more information contact Jean Bormann at ddc@larcheclinton.org or 563-249-2569.

