

## L'Arche Beauty in Stories of Community Life

By Devin Land, *Community Leader and*

Hilary Graham, *Director of Community Services*



We turn the corner to this year's summer from a spring that brought sadness in the sudden and unexpected loss of our friend and core member Dianna, joy in the welcoming of our newest and youngest core member Daniel,

and change to our community through the moving of our administrative offices to a new location. It's a reminder again of how the welcoming and joyous spirit of our L'Arche community remains steady throughout the changes that life inevitably delivers. And the stories of those like Dianna and Daniel only add to the examples of how a community like L'Arche fosters trust and growth through authentic caring, patience, and love. Daniel's story is just beginning, and we look forward to journeying with Daniel as he continues the growth and development of his gifts that we're already seeing. Dianna's story in particular illustrates the beauty of a L'Arche community, as told by Hilary Graham:

Through L'Arche Clinton's *yes* in welcoming a woman who was in need of a family



and a home, we were witness to something extraordinarily beautiful. We witnessed a woman who avoided touch become one of the best huggers we know. We witnessed a woman with few family and friends become loved by an entire community. We witnessed a person who

was rarely celebrated, be celebrated for every small and big moment in her life. We witnessed a woman who seemed to have given up, blossom into the woman that she was always meant to be.

This would not have been possible without the incredible amount of patience, care, and love that our Assistants provided for Dianna on a daily basis. Alongside remembering Dianna for the beautiful human that she was, I will never forget the tremendous amount of growth that this community helped her achieve. I can say without a doubt that Dianna died a happy woman and I am not sure that would have been possible without the friendship and safe place that L'Arche Clinton provided her. I am so thankful to have loved Dianna and even more so to have been loved by her.

# Welcome Daniel

## Daniel brings bells and whistles to L'Arche Clinton!

By Jaime Zastrow  
Coordinator Arch I

Paw Patrol, Fire Trucks, and church bells are all favorites of our newest core member Daniel Beam. Daniel joined the Arch I home on December 1, 2022. This was the first time Daniel had lived on his own without family, and he has transitioned wonderfully and is quick to tell others that his home is Arch I in Clinton, Iowa. Daniel has made new friends in L'Arche and in Clinton. Daniel enjoys being on the go be it through going for a ride past the fire trucks, karaoke, attending L'Arche events, or stopping by a park. Daniel's personality has really shown through and he is known for being quite the trickster.

Daniel has a wonderful smile that lights up his face and the room and a laugh that is contagious. Daniel has shown growth in many areas such



as words he says, foods he eats and tasks he completes. We look forward to the future with Daniel and growth he will have.





# Remembering Dianna, a friend, lost too soon

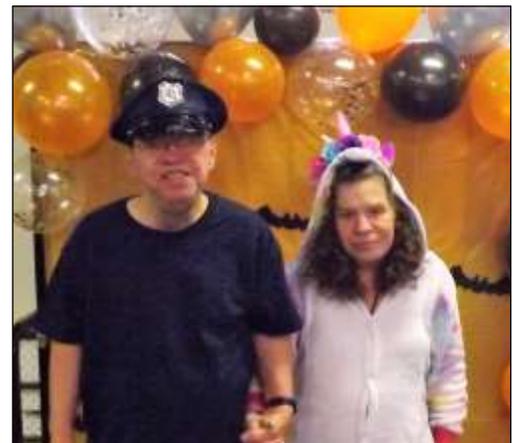
By Jaime Zastrow  
Coordinator Arch I

**On March 15, our community suffered the devastating unexpected loss of our beloved core member Dianna from Arch II. Dianna joined our community in May of 2021 and during her time with community made a lasting impact through the memories we have and relationships she developed.**

**Dianna loved living at Arch II and considered the staff and her housemates family. She was very proud of her home and items she had in her room. We find comfort in knowing that Dianna was truly happy during her time with our community and had the opportunity to have the best Christmas and Birthday she ever had. Dianna loved being part of the L'Arche community and her memory lives on in the many crafts she shared with our community and the memories she made.**



We miss our friend,  
Dianna!





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## **We've Moved...**

...We are now located at 404 S 1st St., Clinton (**Next to Happy Joe's**)



We're happy to announce that we have moved our administrative office to our new location at 404 S 1<sup>st</sup> St., Clinton, IA. More in coming newsletters about our plans for our new location! We'd like to thank our friends at St. Paul Lutheran Church for their friendship in hosting L'Arche Clinton's administrative offices for 33 years!