



**For Immediate Release ~ February 13, 2012**

**L'Arche Greater Vancouver Holds 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual 'The Art Of Being Together'**

L'Arche Greater Vancouver is pleased to hold its third annual 'The Art of Being Together', an art exhibit and silent auction on Saturday March 10, 2012 from 1 to 5pm at the National Nikkei Museum & Heritage Centre (6688 Southoaks Crescent, Burnaby BC). This event will feature works of art by some of Vancouver's emerging and leading artists along with inspiring pieces created by teams of people with and without developmental disabilities. Selected artwork will be available for purchase. Everyone attending the event will be invited to participate in creating a collaborative piece of art guided by local artist Jane Appleby.

The Art of Being Together is L'Arche's signature event that brings together the arts community and people with developmental disabilities in a celebration of community and our need of each other.

The organization's Executive Director, Denise Haskett emphasizes how this event embodies the L'Arche spirit of community and togetherness. *"Art celebrates the whole person – and so does L'Arche. Everyone has a gift to offer and when we recognize those gifts we are all richer. Through this event we have an opportunity to observe some of these gifts and see how others have been inspired by the theme of community."*

Artists were invited to submit an original work of art to L'Arche inspired by community and togetherness. A panel of esteemed judges will review the submissions, selecting a winner from all the finalists whose work will be on display at the event. Attendees coming to the event are encouraged to vote for the "The People's Choice" award. Both the Judges' Choice and People's Choice will be unveiled during the event.

Award presentations will take place at approximately 4:30 pm. There will also be musical performances throughout the afternoon including a special performance by the Tetsu Taiko Drummers. Admission is by donation. A \$5 minimum is appreciated.

**About L'Arche Greater Vancouver:** *L'Arche means "The Ark" and refers to the Biblical symbol of refuge and safety. L'Arche Greater Vancouver was founded in 1974 as a non-profit organization to provide homes and day programs for men and women with developmental disabilities. In our homes, people with disabilities and those who come to assist them, live in family-like settings. We are an intentional community where mutual relationships are at the heart of our life together and where each person is supported to realize their potential.*

*There are six L'Arche homes in South Burnaby, each with its own name and unique story. The two day programs, Neighbours Helping Neighbours and the Emmaus Centre, give people with varying abilities the opportunity to build friendships and contribute to the larger community.*

*For more information regarding L'Arche Greater Vancouver, visit [www.larchevancouver.org](http://www.larchevancouver.org).*

*For more details about The Art Of Being Together, visit [www.facebook.com/taobt](http://www.facebook.com/taobt).*