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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada** – the L’Arche Foundation of Greater Vancouver was recently awarded US\$750,000 grant from the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust of Vancouver, Washington, for L’Arche’s redevelopment project to build a new facility on 7401 Sussex Avenue, Burnaby. This significant grant brings our We All Belong capital campaign much closer to successful completion, with \$4.36 million raised toward our \$6 million campaign goal.

“This grant is the largest non-governmental funding commitment that the L’Arche Greater Vancouver community has ever received in its 47-year history. We are extremely grateful for the confidence that the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust has bestowed upon our organization and for sharing in our big dream to expand L’Arche’s mission. This new building will provide an opportunity for more people with and without developmental disabilities to experience the richness of living in an intentional community.” *Jim Lattimer, L’Arche Foundation of Greater Vancouver Board President.*

## **ABOUT L’ARCHE GREATER VANCOUVER**

L’Arche Greater Vancouver is an intentional faith-based community where people with and without developmental disabilities share life together in family-like settings and work environments. Our community was founded in 1974 at 7401 Sussex Avenue, Burnaby and is one of 154 L’Arche communities around the world, including 31 in Canada. With 47 years of experience in fostering inclusion, understanding, and belonging, L’Arche is dedicated to creating homes and community inclusion day programs that nurture and foster the physical, spiritual, and emotional growth of men and women in the L’Arche community.

L’Arche’s redevelopment project involves building a new 52,000 sq. ft. fully accessible facility, which will have 3 modern L’Arche homes, expanded space for community inclusion programs, 10 units for individuals with developmental disabilities who can live more independently with some support, and 29 below-market rental units for individuals, couples, and families who wish to live in an intentional community.

The L’Arche Greater Vancouver community members and people from the broader community are eagerly anticipating our new building and enhanced community spaces. We are particularly excited about the fact that we will be able to provide new opportunities to create connections with the wider community and welcome more people to experience the richness of being part of a diverse intentional community.

We believe our new building will be a legacy that allows L’Arche to share our collective vision that all people deserve love, compassion, and belonging. In a large city where many people feel isolated and alone, L’Arche will continue to be a valuable resource by being a place of belonging.

## About M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust

M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust was created by the will of the late Melvin J. (Jack) Murdock, who was a co-founder of Tektronix, Inc. in Beaverton, Oregon, and a resident of Vancouver, Washington. Since its establishment on June 30, 1975, with a bequest of about \$90 million, the Trust has focused its grantmaking efforts primarily in five states of the Pacific Northwest: Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. The Trust's current assets are valued at about \$2.2 billion, and over the life of the Trust, more than \$1.2 billion has been distributed through more than 7,500 grants.

The Trust's mission is to enrich the quality of life in the Pacific Northwest by providing grants to organizations that seek to strengthen the region's educational, social, cultural, and spiritual base in creative and sustainable ways. Grants are awarded to a wide variety of organizations, including those that serve the arts, public affairs, education, scientific research, health and medicine, human services, and people with disabilities.

The Trust's staff brings a wide range of experiences in the subject areas and activities necessary for thoughtful grantmaking and the investment of Trust assets. In addition to grantmaking activities, it is common Trust practice to convene groups of people to discuss issues of mutual interest. This practice is of great assistance to the Trust in exploring ways of responding to new grantmaking opportunities consistent with its mission, promoting a sharing of ideas and networking among participants, and understanding new developments and best practices in the various sectors in which the Trust works.

## MELVIN J. (JACK) MURDOCK

Jack Murdock was born in Portland, Oregon, on August 15, 1917. Upon graduating from Franklin High School, and with help from his parents, Jack chose to go into business rather than pursue a college education. He purchased a shop for the sale and service of radios and electrical appliances. There, in 1936, he began a long-term working relationship with his technician, Howard Vollum. Both served in WWII, where they gained additional education and experience in technology and electronics. Following the war, the men renewed their business partnership and, in 1946, became the principal co-founders of Tektronix.

Jack first served as vice president and general manager of Tektronix. In 1960, he was elected chairman of the board, a position he held until his untimely death on May 16, 1971, as a result of a float plane accident on the Columbia River. Tektronix has become one of the world's prominent electronic instrumentation companies and has spun off dozens of related companies. While the Trust is proud of its Tektronix heritage, it is an independent private foundation having no connection with the company.

Jack was an idealist as well as a realist and a life-long seeker of new insights. He believed in science as a main source of knowledge and knowledge as key to resolving issues and addressing the needs of the world. He was thoroughly unpretentious, soft spoken, and a listener. He possessed a rare combination of good judgment, hard work, tolerance, and scrupulous honesty. He practiced philanthropy through his own private foundation that existed until the Murdock Trust was formed. More on Jack's story is available in both video and written format at [murdocktrust.org](http://murdocktrust.org).

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