

Project # 620
Current Date _____

BVS PROJECT FORM
(Please Type)

Name of Project: _____ L'Arche Chicago _____

Project Address: _____ 2010 W Carroll Ave _____

_____ Chicago, IL 60612 _____

Phone: _____ 312-226-8044 _____ Fax: _____

Email Address: snazaran@gmail.com _____

Website Address: _____ www.larchechicago.org _____

Job Title: _____ Assistant _____

Immediate Supervisor: _____ Stephen Nazaran _____

Description of project and position:

*This brief description will be used in our project book. For guidelines and examples, please see project descriptions in our current project book (available online at www.brethrenvolunteerservice.org). Include the overall purpose and goals of your organization, as well as the duties of the volunteer position. List **minimum requirements** in terms of education, skills, abilities, experience, physical requirements, etc.*

We are people, with and without developmental disabilities, sharing life together in communities of faith. **Assistants** enter into mutual relationships with **core members** (adults with disabilities), revealing their gifts to the world and (hopefully!) finding themselves transformed in these relationships. We are part of an international federation of L'Arche communities.

In L'Arche Chicago, eight adult core members live together with assistants who commit a year or more to sharing their daily life. Assistants build mutual relationships with core members, accompanying them both as friends and providing practical assistance in daily tasks. We celebrate, shop, cook, clean, eat, celebrate (a lot!), and travel together. Did I mention we **celebrate**?—our gifts, our birthdays, our anniversaries in the community, holiday, and comings and goings. We try to live ordinary lives with extraordinary love.

Assistants listen to, support, and build **relationships** with the core members. Assistants also help core members with those tasks in daily life with which the core members have difficulty, and share the responsibility for maintaining a home. Occasionally we also travel to other L'Arche communities and "get together."

Our **spirituality** is based on the writings of Jean Vanier, Henri Nouwen, and the lived experience of L'Arche across the world. We support each core member in their faith tradition and encourage assistants to grow in theirs as well. We often visit each others churches & synagogues and share our favorite religious traditions. Assistants maintain our community as a welcoming, spiritual home, by organizing prayer nights, community nights, etc.

All new assistants must successfully complete the State of Illinois mandated training appropriate for this setting, CPR & First Aid, and medication-administration training. Our homes are Illinois licensed providers of CILA (community integrated living arrangement) services. Assistants must have a high school diploma, good driving record, be willing to submit to state required drug tests and background checks. Assistants should be willing to share in all tasks relevant maintaining a warm and welcoming home.

Project Location:

Please include a brief description of the project location and anything else you think would be helpful and would attract potential volunteers.

We live in two homes on Chicago's west side near Oak Park. Every member of community has their own bedroom and we have a reputation for great food! The homes are co-ed. Our community has several vehicles that we use to get around, so a willingness to drive in city traffic is a must. Our core members are VERY active around the city, so you will get a great experience of Chicago simply by being part of the community. Assistants can also enjoy the city (or the quieter neighborhoods of Oak Park) on their days off. We are located on a bus line and a train line that goes downtown in 20 minutes, which is ideal for exploring life in the City of Big Shoulders. Chicago is very rich in opportunities for worship, culture, education, recreation, and entertainment. Also, there is public transportation available to travel to Elgin, IL where Church of the Brethren head offices are located.

Volunteers are expected to sleep at the L'Arche homes five nights per week. They are given two consecutive days of "time away," during which we strongly encourage assistants to truly leave the houses; the volunteer should feel welcome to stay with friends, family, go on a trip, etc. It is our experience that this "time away" is necessary due to the demands of community. However, assistants are always welcome to remain in the houses during their "time away" and may also join the community for meals during that time. Note that we cannot guarantee specific days off. In order to allow volunteers to travel on public transportation in the Chicago area and arrange meals during their time

away, we offer a **total monthly stipend of \$225** (or \$250 or \$275 respectively if the volunteer is in her 2nd or 3rd year with BVS).

All training and certification for the position are completed at L'Arche Chicago's expense. The first 90 days are considered a probationary period; continued service as a volunteer at L'Arche Chicago is contingent upon successfully passing all training and tests required for the position, including 40 hours of State of Illinois-mandated training as a Direct Support Person (DSP), CPR/First Aid training, employment physical and drug screen. A driver's license in good standing is required as well.

Housing for Volunteer: __**X**__ in community
 _____ in independent apartment
 _____ on project site
 _____ with family (private bedroom provided)

Description of housing: L'Arche Assistants each have their own bedroom in a co-ed house shared with adults with developmental disabilities. The housing is typical Chicago-style "two-flat" buildings. It is important that the assistant be committed to maintaining a warm, welcoming environment in the home. Each home houses four adults with disabilities and two or three assistants.

Additional Factors: Are you willing to take volunteers who are:

Couples YES/**NO** We will take couples.

Disabilities YES/**NO** We are able to receive a volunteer with a physical disability.
(Please specify in comments below.)

6 month term YES/**NO** - BVS offers a 6 month term for older adults.

Comments: _____

