



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

L'Arche Sudbury announces \$500,000 in funding from Desjardins to be used towards a multi-use affordable housing project.

Sudbury, ON (October 12, 2023) – Founded in 1982, L'Arche Sudbury is proud to have three homes in Greater Sudbury where people with and without intellectual disabilities can live, work, and celebrate the gift of sharing life with one another. With over 300 people on a waitlist for housing, L'Arche Sudbury has been working towards securing funding to build their fourth home.

Today, as part of their GoodSpark Fund, Desjardins announced \$500,000 to help L'Arche Sudbury realise their dream, and build their fourth home.

"Desjardins is proud to be contributing to L'Arche Sudbury Place with a donation of \$500,000 from the GoodSpark Fund. One of our values is to enrich the lives of people and communities, and projects like this do exactly that. L'Arche Sudbury Place will provide much-needed housing, and encourage community integration for people with developmental disabilities," said Billy Boucher, Chief Executive Officer of Desjardins Ontario Credit Union. "Not only will this project help families in Sudbury, but it will also inject capital and create jobs in the area."

"Desjardins is making a historic corporate donation to construct a community cornerstone for L'Arche, truly making the City of Greater Sudbury *greater*. We are witnessing a real life "Field of Dreams" as Desjardins is transforming a common field on Bancroft Drive, not into a baseball diamond, but a jewel of caring and sharing", said Gerry Loughheed, Co-Chair L'Arche Capital Campaign.

L'Arche has been working on developing a model of housing for people with and without developmental disabilities that is accessible and encourages the well-being of the neighbourhood.

Jennifer Cawley Caruso, Co-Chair L'Arche Capital Campaign adds, "We at L'Arche Sudbury are very grateful to be recipients of the GoodSpark Fund. In addition to Desjardins generous and sizable donation, we have also received a vote of confidence in our project and expertise for our capital campaign".

Executive Director/Community Leader L'Arche Sudbury, Jennifer McCauley says, "L'Arche Sudbury has had the support of many community partners since we were founded in 1982. The next 40 years will require us to build even more relationships, steward well the resources we have, and commit to our vision so that we can touch the lives of even more people in our city. The investment of \$500,000 from Desjardins recognizes what L'Arche Sudbury has done to date and expresses faith in our ability to expand into the future".

To find out how you can support L'Arche Sudbury contact:

capitalcampaign.chair@larchesudbury.org

For more information, visit <https://larchesudbury.org/>

About the GoodSpark Fund

In 2016, Desjardins created a \$250 million fund to invest in communities and support projects that will have the potential to shape our society by 2024. The Fund supports projects that meet community priorities, such as employment, economic vitality, education, and the environment. To date, the Fund has supported over 700 projects.

About Desjardins Ontario Credit Union

With over 100 years of presence in Ontario, Desjardins Ontario Credit Union contributes to the economic and social development of communities and fosters the financial autonomy of its members by offering them complete banking services with the full range of Desjardins Group products and services. Because of its cooperative nature and financial strength, it shares a portion of its surplus earnings with its members. Last year, Caisse Desjardins paid out over \$13.7 million in dividends to individuals and communities, contributing to hundreds of projects. Desjardins Group is the largest financial cooperative in Canada and North America, and is recognized as a leading corporate citizen and one of the most solid financial institutions in the world.

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