

Contact us!

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www.larchethc.org

Spring Hours:
 M-F 9 am - 4 pm
 S 8 am - 4 pm
 Please call ahead for
 Saturday date availability,
 as we may be accommodat-
 ing large groups.

Volunteers are welcome
 and greenhouse tours are
 available!

Something you're just dy-
 ing to know about us? Fill
 us in and we'll try to fea-
 ture it in an upcoming
 newsletter!

**Thank you to everybody
 who came out to our
 Spring Fling and made
 the day a great success!
 Thank you to all of our
 loyal volunteers who
 worked rigorously to get
 us in gear for the season
 and to everyone who
 gave our plants good
 homes!**

Celebrating Sustainability with L'Arche

Each day is a day to cele-
 brate our connection with the
 earth and how this connec-
 tion enriches us. Now more
 than ever, as we deal with
 both difficult economic times
 and global climate change, it
 is important for each of us to
 strive to live more sustaina-
 bly. Supporting the farm is
 an effective way to do so and
 we thank you.

L'Arche Farm and Gar-
 dens practices and encour-
 ages sustainability in many
 ways. We are a small local
 farm and are part of an inten-
 tional community living sim-
 ply. We compost all organic
 materials and reuse materials
 whenever possible. We ac-
 cept donations of many
 kinds, especially gently used
 garden pots, trays and con-
 tainers. Our craft paper is—
 you guessed it—also made of
 recycled organic material,
 generated from our adminis-
 trative side. We use sound
 food scraps from all over the
 community to feed our live-
 stock, and follow the cycle
 by using chicken manure in
 our fields. We also recycle
 rainwater to nourish our ani-
 mals and plants.

These are just a few of the
 many ways in which we
 strive for sustainability. In



Soaking up some long-awaited rays, our vegetable starts line the racks outside greenhouse 3. We have many kale, Swiss chard and broccoli starts that have weathered wind, rain, snow and hail.

supporting the farm, you are
 appreciating the work that
 others do to prolong the gifts
 of earth's bounty and are in
 turn doing your part to honor
 these gifts, as well. In each
 volunteer, visitor and cus-
 tomer, we see the smiles of
 fellow stewards of the earth.

Because there are so many
 facets of our busy lives, sus-
 tainability can be a daunting
 word. Where do we begin to
 make a difference in our im-
 pact on the world? L'Arche
 Farm and Gardens encourages
 you to live sustainably by

filling your garden with lo-
 cally raised vegetables, fruits
 and herbs. This decreases
 your impact on the earth in
 many ways, from reducing gas
 consumption by shopping lo-
 cally and eating locally (from
 your own garden!) to choosing
 a more sustainable hobby
 (over electricity-driven enter-
 tainment).

We thank you for taking
 time to honor our earth and
 joining us to celebrate the joy
 and nourishment it provides in
 our lives.

Where you can find us:

- Proctor Market—Sat, 9-2, starts 4/5
- Tacoma Market—Thur, 10-3, starts 5/14
- 6th Ave Market - Tue, 1-7, starts 6/2

- Dupont Market - Every other Wed, 11-2, starts 6/17
- Steilacoom Market - Wed, 3-7, 6/24
- L'Arche Greenhouse—Weekdays, 9-4; Sat, 10-4

- St. Mark's Lutheran Church — 5/3
- St. Leo Church—5/3
- Redeemer Lutheran Church—5/10
- St. Charles Borromeo—5/10

We could really use...

- *Bales of straw
- *Mowers
- *Work gloves
- *New wheelbarrows
- *Hand clippers
- *Plastic bags
- *Chain link fence
- *Weeders
- *Hoses
- *Push brooms
- *Chicken & pig feed
- *Leaf rakes
- *Pitch forks
- *Your divided plants
- *Your helping hands!

Meet Robbie Habermann

As of May 1, core member Robbie Habermann is an official farm employee. Habermann has volunteered on the farm two days a week in



the past months and he is excited to officially join the team this month. He has been a core member at L'Arche Tahoma Hope since March 2008 and lives at Ananda, where he has added much humor to the daily happenings. Habermann is a regular jokester, taking any opportunity to wipe dirt on his face and often proclaiming himself "The Funny Guy." Here on the farm, he surprised us with his immediate skill at cleaning plants; he has a keen eye for what does and does not belong in a pot. He also enjoys caring for the animals and often spends the end of his lunch break watching them. His positive attitude will be a great asset to the farm and we are happy to welcome him.

Look for these L'Arche Lovelies:

Sun Plants:

Hanging Baskets
Veggies
Blueberries
Strawberries
Calla Lilies
Geraniums

Shade Plants:

Hardy Fuchsia
Gallium ("Sweet Woodruff")
Tricyrtis ("Toad Lily")
Heuchera
Hosta

Sutherland Orchard Groundbreaking

Amidst the hustle and bustle of Spring Fling on April 25, we celebrated the groundbreaking of the Sutherland Orchard Project, which will include a fruit orchard, a berry patch, and a beehive to provide delicious honey.

Dick Sutherland, a much-beloved core member, lives on in our hearts and will soon be honored with an orchard in his name. In conjunction with the St. Leo's Food Connection, WSU 4-H Club and Guadalupe Land Trust, we are working to provide those in need with fresh food. In the process, those who utilize the food bank system will learn how to grow their own food with demonstration gardens at pea patches and open space in the hill-top area of Tacoma.

With this project, many hands are hard at work to lessen the gap between people and their food. This collaboration honors the connection between all beings, living or deceased, human, animal or plant, and manifests our motto: together we are better.

It is the mission of L'Arche Tahoma Hope Farm & Gardens to offer a safe and welcoming environment that provides meaningful farm and garden work to persons with developmental disabilities. Working in an integrated setting with people of a variety of abilities and gifts, each farm worker, whether core member, assistant or volunteer, is affirmed in his/ her dignity, self worth and connection to all of life. To put it more simply, the goal of the Farm is to continue "Growing People Growing Plants."