

Living Independently - An Interview with Alexander

Alexander is one of our Core Members who lives independently with support in our community. He is particularly excited for his next chapter with L'Arche Homefires as he will be moving into a brand new apartment in early 2024. We conducted an interview with Alexander so he could share his experience and feelings about being involved with L'Arche:

Where are you living now, and where will you be moving?

I was previously in Eden House with L'Arche Homefires, and I am currently living in an apartment in Wolfville. Eventually, I plan on moving again to a place in New Minas. I have lived on my own since September 1st, 2023.

What challenges did you have living on your own?

I struggle with budgeting. That's the big one. I've been doing a lot better with managing my money. Also, cooking. I'm good with cooking, but it's about finding the time and space to be able to cook. I have a good support system that helps me along.

What are the benefits of living alone?

It's a challenge that I like to accept. The challenges of everyday life and normal activity, whether that's out in the broader community and finding a job, which I'm aiming to do. The benefits include having a space to call my own for my downtime when I need it. I still have interactions with people during the day, but it's nice to have my own place to escape to.

What does independence mean to you?

Independence is the will and freedom that is given to be yourself. Personal independence, in my eyes, is being myself in a place where I feel comfortable.

How do you hope to entertain guests?

Being able to have friends over with the amount of space I'll have will be great. I was hoping to play video games and sports outside with them too, like basketball.

How has your family supported you in living independently with L'Arche?

It's been with my time at L'Arche that I've really grown up. My mom has always been in my corner, no matter what has happened; she's always been there for me and taught me a better direction, which has worked, as I'm now a young adult.

What does L'Arche mean to you?

L'Arche Homefires is a kind-hearted community filled with kind-hearted people who are compassionate. I couldn't imagine myself not being a part of L'Arche in some way. When I got into this community, I developed into what I've become, and it's been a blessing.

What advice would you give to others who were looking to get involved with L'Arche?

You're always supported, no matter who you are, as an Assistant or a Core Member.

What was your favorite memory with L'Arche?

My favourite memory was definitely doing the Mud Creek challenge days. This past year was my third year doing it. It was extremely fun being a part of the L'Arche Homefires team. Those were always a blast. Even just spending lunch together or talking with the people is great. Our candle shop is really fun as well.

What are small ways in which you feel like you could make a positive difference in someone's days at L'Arche?

Being able to teach people how to learn or just having the fulfillment of being a part of something that is a benefit not to myself but to other people. For example, the art show coming up and being able to do artwork with other people. I'm a very artistic person and I like to see what other people can do. The art program in this community is great and gives me a chance to express myself and see how other people can express themselves.

