

Transcript from Miha's video on web site

My name is Miha. I am from Romania. I came here 2 years ago, after graduating from university and I was looking for a volunteering program, I didn't really know what I was looking for. I met a family friend and she talked to me about L'Arche, she was glowing and she said it was amazing. I wanted to find out more about this place L'Arche and why this person would speak so nicely about it.

I have stayed here because there is something about this place that makes me feel wanted, and it makes me feel that I am doing something right for myself and for others and I am developing as a person.. The house that I lived in (The Well) became like a home to me, and this was obvious to me when I came back after I had been away for a time and a person with learning disabilities, who is normally very quiet and doesn't talk to many people, gave me a big welcoming in a sort of angry way in a way that meant 'why have you been away?' that made me realise that I am wanted there.

We opened the Flats called Fountain Court, which is a new project. It is four flats in a building. Three people with learning disabilities each one living in their own flat and two live in assistants who live in the fourth flat plus a team of live out assistants who live in their own house who come into the flats each day to work. The people with learning disabilities seem to enjoy it a lot and they are talking about their flat with lots of enthusiasm. The way they invite people over – it is a big change. There is still a sense of community and there is interdependence. I can always knock on Linda's door, a person with learning disabilities, and have a cup of tea with her.

As I have an inner change over my time here in L'Arche, it has made me way more sensitive. I have been thinking about things, about life, about how we make decisions about how we give and take and how we make decisions for people with and without learning disabilities. I hope I am a bit more patient. I hope I think twice before I tell someone what to do. And I hope I am a nicer person than I was before.