



BONNER FELLOWS PROGRAM

L'ARCHE GREATER WASHINGTON, DC - WASHINGTON DC

PLACEMENT OVERVIEW

Fellowship Position Title: Community Advocacy Fellow

The Community Advocacy Fellow will support L'Arche's mission to advocate for people who have intellectual disabilities and to confront structures that prevent people from engaging in society free from discrimination. The Fellow will serve in the Development Office under the organization's COO and General Counsel to identify a number of discriminatory policies in the District of Columbia, work with a consultant and in a development team, and develop an advocacy plan for the organization over the next few years. In addition, the Fellow will directly engage with some of the disabled-enabled living communities in Greater Washington DC to learn more about L'Arche's programming to inform their advocacy work. Finally, the Fellow will help grow the macro-level partnership between the Bonner Network and L'Arche Communities.

Specific Position Activities:

- 1) prepare a research memorandum on laws protecting people with disabilities from discrimination;
- 2) identify key contacts that can support L'Arche's efforts;
- 3) provide recommendations for improving the advocacy plan;
- 4) advocate through writing or speaking if capability is shown; and
- 5) develop the general partnership between Bonner and L'Arche through program design & outreach.

Service Site: L'Arche Communities Greater Washington DC (GWDC) (www.larche-gwdc.org)

Service Site Location: 2474 Ontario Road NW, Washington DC 20009

Supervisor Name & Title: Steve Keener, COO and General Counsel

Supervisor Email & Phone: join@larche-gwdc.org | (202) 580-5638

AGENCY DESCRIPTION

Mission Statement: The mission of L'Arche Greater Washington, DC is to make known the gifts of people with intellectual disabilities, revealed through mutually transforming relationships; foster an environment in community that responds to the changing needs of our members, while being faithful to the core values of our founding story; and engage in our diverse cultures, working together toward a more human society.

Organizational Goals: L'Arche provides top-quality professional services to people with intellectual disabilities. L'Arche's aim is to enable people with intellectual disabilities to have friends, to make decisions, to worship as part of a religious congregation, to participate in civic life, and to have hobbies -- the things that most people want, but things that are often unavailable to people with intellectual disabilities.

L'Arche believes that those who find it difficult to express themselves have a valuable voice. This belief is the basis for all of L'Arche's advocacy work. Many times advocacy is done quietly and in gentle ways. Assistants and core people work together so each core person has the opportunity to share personal preferences about his or her own physical care, social and spiritual lives, and goals for the future. Other times, L'Arche advocates more publicly for legal and policy changes.



DESIRED CANDIDATE QUALIFICATIONS

All Bonner Fellows

Bonner Fellows will represent some of the most standout students across the Bonner Network, ideally rising juniors and seniors with previous summer internship experience and interested in building their professional network, who demonstrate:

- commitment to the Bonner Program model and its core values (i.e. the Common Commitments);
- passion for social justice, service, and civic engagement;
- excellent organization, written and oral communication, and analytical skills;
- ability to work autonomously and in team settings;
- readiness for a capstone-level project;
- effective time management skills; and
- a motivated, focused, reliable self-starter.

L'Arche Communities: Community Advocacy Fellow

REQUIRED SKILLS

Experience with MS Word & Excel; Ability to maintain confidentiality; Desire and comfort for communicating with people who have intellectual disabilities in a way that recognizes their gifts

PREFERRED EXPERIENCES

Working with people who have disabilities; legal or policy-related experience

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR THIS POSITION

AmeriCorps (NO): This position is ineligible for AmeriCorps due to its advocacy component.

Funding: We have asked all sites to consider providing extra funding for Bonner Fellows to reach a target of \$3500 per Fellow for the summer. Check with your Bonner Director and Coordinator to determine if you have any Bonner Scholar or Leader funds that could be used to assist your living costs for this summer. In addition, this position offers some funding to help meet this goal.

Housing: You will need to relocate to Washington DC. Fellows are expected to secure and manage their own housing for the duration of the term.

Interested in applying for this position?

- [Read more](#) about the Bonner Fellowship Program online
- [Apply](#) for this position through our Bonner Fellowship Online Application