L’Arche Bologna, Italy
Summer Service Experience

L’Arche is an international community of adults with and without disabilities living together, founded fifty years ago in France by Jean Vanier as an ecumenical and inter-religious community with roots in the Catholic tradition. Since 1964, young volunteers from around the world have come to live in L’Arche communities for some period of time to learn the “art of presence” and the beauty of friendship with adults with disabilities through its community life.

The city of Bologna is one of ten, official “sister cities” to Portland. For over 10 years the two cities have sought to establish cultural, social and business links through the Portland-Bologna Association. Both cities are also University hubs and have active, welcoming L’Arche communities.

Drawing on these links and common goals, The Moreau Center and the L’Arche Bologna community have established a summer service program for UP students to L’Arche Bologna. Qualified students will be given the opportunity to spend approximately 8 weeks (approximately May 20th to July 20th, 2015) to live and serve in the L’Arche community of Bologna. Through the Bologna-Portland Association, they will also have an opportunity to learn about and discover their sister city in Italy. University of Portland alumnus Professor Michael Driessen (’02), a graduate of both UP and L’Arche Bologna, will help facilitate the trip and orient students to L’Arche Bologna.

Students interested in this opportunity are encouraged to read about what it means to be a volunteer at L’Arche and fill out an application form with the Moreau Center by December 1, 2014.