

**O**ur dream began in the mid-eighties when we first learned about the works of Jean Vanier. Jean Vanier established a community in Trosly, France in 1964, which he named L'Arche. The first residents of L'Arche were two men with developmental disabilities who had been institutionalized most of their lives. Vanier believed that every human being had the right to dignity and the right to celebrate that dignity within the context of a community.

In 2005, a group of community members in the La Crosse area formed to determine needs and support for an Adult Family Home (AFH). By April 2006, a 12-member Board of Directors was created. In August 2008, Bridges of Belonging received its 501(c)(3) status as a non-profit organization. Groundbreaking for Bridges of Belonging, doing business as "The Dwelling Place," began on July 16, 2012. The home officially opened for residents on January 1, 2013.

Bridges of Belonging is guided by the same core values and principles that Vanier instilled in L'Arche:

1. The recognition of the unique value of all persons, with or without a developmental disability.
2. The recognition that a life shared in relationship with others, through prayer, work and celebration, is a fulfilled life.
3. The recognition that we are all created by God, to give and receive love (to will the good of another).



**1810 Green Bay Street  
La Crosse, WI 54601**

The Dwelling Place is a partnership agreement through Bridges of Belonging and Catholic Charities.

To learn more visit  
[www.bridgesofbelonging.com](http://www.bridgesofbelonging.com)  
or  
[www.cclse.org](http://www.cclse.org)

*Donations may be sent to:*

*Catholic Charities*

*P.O. Box 266*

*La Crosse, WI 54602-0266  
or donate online at [www.cclse.org](http://www.cclse.org)*

*Thanks for your support!*

# The Dwelling Place

## *An Adult Family Home*



The Dwelling Place is an adult Family Home (AFH) located in La Crosse, Wisconsin and licensed by the state of Wisconsin. It is a unique partnership between Catholic Charities and Bridges of Belonging, Inc.

The Dwelling Place serves adult household members with developmental disabilities. Services of the home focus on meeting the daily living needs as well as the social/emotional needs of each individual, with the intent of allowing members to age in place.



The home serves up to 4 residents, each with their own bedroom. There are two bathing rooms and a commons area on the first floor. The home is located on the bus line near excellent health care facilities, restaurants, retail stores, a public library and parks. It is only a few minutes away from downtown La Crosse.

Services are provided to people of all faiths and the member's safety, respect and dignity are placed at the forefront. Spiritual growth opportunities are also offered. The Dwelling Place provides staff to meet the individual needs of household members which include 24-hour care, 7 days a week. Services provided are person-centered, family-centered and community-centered.

To learn more about The Dwelling Place visit us online at [www.cclse.org/TheDwellingPlace](http://www.cclse.org/TheDwellingPlace)

