

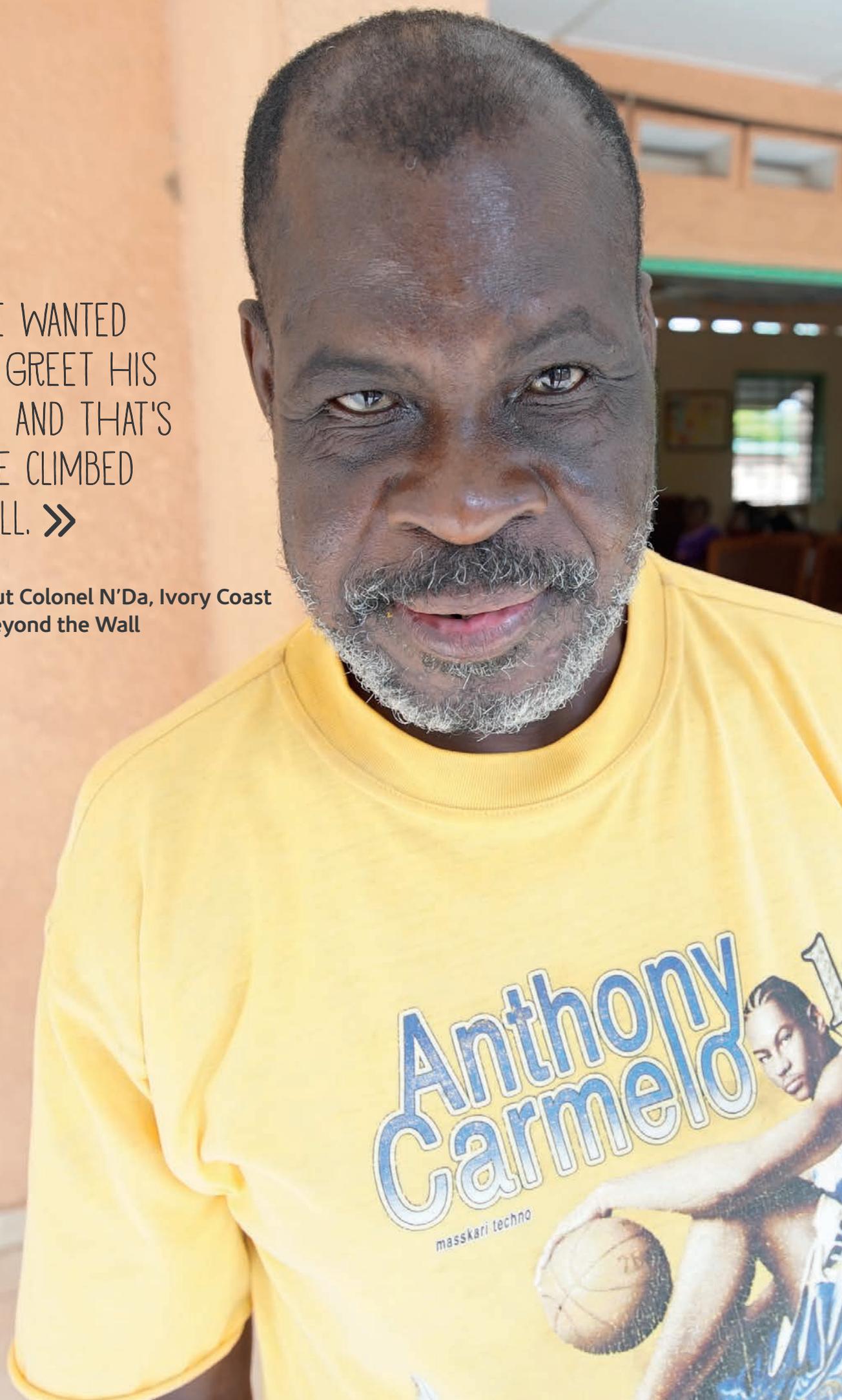
GLOBAL SOLIDARITY

FUELING THE GLOBAL MISSION OF L'ARCHE



« ...ALL HE WANTED
WAS TO GREET HIS
FRIENDS, AND THAT'S
WHY HE CLIMBED
THE WALL. »

**Adrien about Colonel N'Da, Ivory Coast
As I Am - Beyond the Wall**



A MESSAGE FROM...

THE INTERNATIONAL LEADERS

Over the last fifty years, L'Arche has grown from one small community in France to 152 communities worldwide. Throughout this time L'Arche has been living a unique model of community with, and care for, persons with intellectual disabilities. Whether through the day to day life of a shared home, or through daily workshops and outreach programs, L'Arche's way of being together has proven extremely fruitful for persons with intellectual disabilities, whose gifts are recognized and celebrated. It has also proven extremely fruitful for the assistants and friends of the community, who are often transformed by the mutuality of relationships.

L'Arche communities in low-income countries live out the vision and mission of L'Arche in extremely challenging contexts, usually with little to no public funding. As you learn more about these communities in the pages to come, we hope you'll be inspired to partner with them. We recognize that L'Arche International has a role to play as a model for the care of, and solidarity with, highly vulnerable people. For this reason, you will also see in this album an invitation to partner with us in investing financially in L'Arche leadership programs. In this way, you can help us fulfill the leadership role we as an organization are being called to in the world.

It is our deep hope that this Album will strengthen the unity and solidarity of L'Arche by giving both information and inspiration that will enable each of us, whether individuals, communities, businesses or foundations, to do our part to diminish the big gaps that exist in our world. We invite you to make a bold and concrete choice to support the mission of L'Arche around the world.

In gratitude,

Stephan Posner, Stacy Cates-Carney
International Leaders



« SOLIDARITY IS A CORE VALUE AT L'ARCHE. ONE OF THE WAYS THAT WE EXPRESS THIS VALUE IS THROUGH FINANCIAL SHARING. »

GLOBAL SOLIDARITY

INTRODUCTION

L'Arche exists in countries around the world that experience very difficult living conditions: natural disasters, political corruption, civil war, large-scale gang activity, violence, and struggling economies. In these contexts, the opportunity to live in L'Arche is often the difference between life and death, and is certainly the difference between life and mere existence.

L'Arche Communities in these contexts are profoundly inspirational, demonstrating extraordinary commitment, beautiful talents and remarkable depth of relationship. They also work hard to develop their own, local, support network. But the reality is, with little to no public funding, it is a daunting task. L'Arche International stands with these communities, and helps them to **find financial partners like you**, who will join with them to celebrate the lives of persons with intellectual disabilities around the world.

Direct financial aid to L'Arche communities supports day to day operating costs, such as housing, food and medicine. It also supports capital projects such as the purchase of a house, car or workshop. We also invest in local leadership; L'Arche International assigns each community an « Envoy » who journeys with the local leaders and Boards, providing guidance and L'Arche organizational wisdom. Where appropriate, we also provide a finance delegate to guide the community in managing the funds. Finally, we also make the way for selected local leaders to participate in International's leadership development programs and formation workshops. Direct financial aid is a question of survival today. Investment in leadership is building towards self-sufficient communities of tomorrow.

As you review each page, and learn more about L'Arche communities that are living as a light in challenging contexts, we trust you'll see their beauty, their commitment, and their hopes for the future. **And we invite you to join with them in a concrete way to turn those hopes into reality.**



« I WAS READY TO GO AND ABANDON MY CHILD SOMEWHERE! THAT IS WHEN L'ARCHE CALLED ON ME. AS SOON AS YOU BEGAN TO SUPPORT US, THE MOCKERY BEGAN TO DIMINISH, AND I FELT STRONGER. »

Mother supported by the Ivory Coast Outreach Program.

COUNTRY PAGES

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www.larche.org/support-us

Statistics were gathered from one of the following two sites:

www.hdr.undp.org/en/countries

www.worldbank.org/en/country





**L'ARCHE
AFRICA**



L'ARCHE EGYPT




Communities

**MINIA
ALEXANDRIA
CAIRO**


Core Members

44

1 house.

8 welcomed in a L'Arche home.

COUNTRY STATISTICS

Total population (in millions)	91.5
Per capita income	\$10,064
HDI (Human Development Index)	0.691
HDI rank	111/190

WORK ACTIVITIES

- > Manufacturing candles and soaps.
- > Making women's accessories.
- > Caring for goats and chickens.
- > Planting and harvesting crops.

CREATING CHANGE

- > L'Arche Al Fulk (in Al Minia) began a network of local NGOs several years ago. This network has grown considerably over the last few years, and provides effective advocacy and services for persons with disabilities in the area.
- > The sale of candles has proven extremely successful, which has contributed to a sense of self-esteem and independence for the Core Members.
- > Al Fulk hosts a weekly medical center, which provides services to people in need and improves integration into society.
- > L'Arche in Egypt is developing - Alexandria and Cairo are both relatively new (referred to as «project» communities).

CONTEXT and CHALLENGES

- > Deep tensions, political, social and religious issues in the country after the 2011 revolution.
- > In Minia especially: high rates of unemployment, illiteracy and poverty. Children with intellectual disabilities are often hidden away from society, at times in cruel ways.

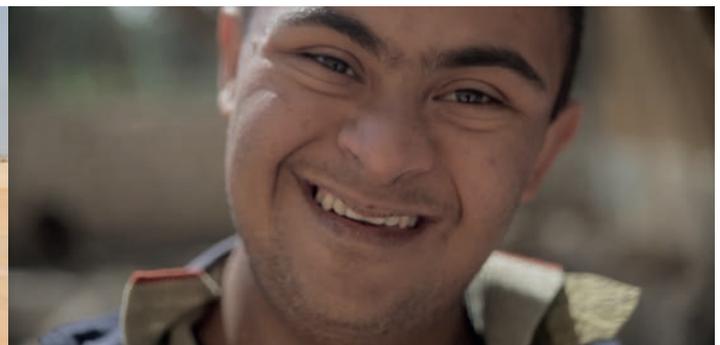
VISION for THE FUTURE

- > To be a unifying presence in a society plagued by conflict.
- > To be an example to our society of how to treat persons with disabilities.
- > To provide more meaningful, challenging activities for our Core Members, that encourage a sense of personal responsibility and genuine participation in the building of civil society.



INTRODUCTION to A CORE MEMBER: Hany

Hany and his sister Nagat now live in L'Arche in Egypt. They were born in a region along the Nile river in Middle-Egypt. Both experience an intellectual disability. When their mother died their uncle took Hany and Nagat and locked them in a tiny room in the basement. They had one very small window that allowed oxygen and some sunlight in. They received food and water through this tiny window, but that was it. This room was their entire world, and they experienced complete abandonment. One day the door to Hany and Nagat's tiny room was opened, and Hany and Nagat were welcomed back into the world and, what is more, into a home and a place of belonging.



« IT MEANS MY FAMILY WHO I LIVE WITH, IT MEANS THE GARDEN AND IT'S BIG AND WIDE, AND NOT SUFFOCATING LIKE AN ORDINARY HOUSE, IT MEANS TO PLANT AND CROP WITH MY FRIENDS, AND LEARN EVERYTHING LIKE READING AND BIKING. »

Hany
L'Arche Al Fulk



Scan this code to discover the **AsiAm Egypt** movie.



L'ARCHE IVORY COAST




Communities

BOUAKE


Core Members

89

3 houses.

17 welcomed in a L'Arche home.

COUNTRY STATISTICS

Total population (in millions)	22.7
Per capita income	\$3,163
HDI (Human Development Index)	0.474
HDI rank	171/190

WORK ACTIVITIES

- > Day program - age appropriate sensory development activities and skill development activities.
- > Chicken and crop farming.

CREATING CHANGE

- > Testimony from a mother supported by the neighbourhood outreach program: « I was ready to go and abandon my child somewhere! I was actually thinking about it. That is when you called on me. As soon as you began to visit us and support us (my son and I), the mockery began to diminish, and I felt stronger, and my love for my son became stronger too. Today without shame, I can go out with him. »
- > A partnership is developing with the Université Alassane Ouattara, which will allow students from the University to do placements in the L'Arche community, and Core Members to benefit from medical services available through the University.

- > The community has recently received home to Bouaké the ten community members who were living as refugees in the southern city of Bonoua since the civil war broke out in 2002.

CONTEXT and CHALLENGES

- > In the culture, there remains a lot of fear and shame around having a child with an intellectual disability.
- > Almost 50% of the population of Ivory Coast lives in poverty.
- > Bouaké is still in a state of recovery after the Civil War that started in 2002.

VISION for THE FUTURE

- > To strengthen and expand the local leadership team, and to continue to build a local network of supporters.
- > To find new ways of generating local income.
- > To welcome more Core Members by opening a fourth house in Bouaké.



INTRODUCTION to A CORE MEMBER: Soro Princesse

The early years of my life were very painful. On June 6th, 2014 passers-by found me abandoned in a landfill site, near the city of Abidjan. Those who left me there thought I was dead because of the significant injuries they had inflicted on me. But those who discovered me cared enough to call the authorities, and I was taken to the local hospital where a doctor performed several surgeries to heal my wounds. Since nobody knew my name, they called me Soro Princesse. The hospital's social services referred me to L'Arche where I now live. My scars have disappeared, and I live a happy life in L'Arche.



ALL ALONG THIS PATH OF WALKING WITH PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, I HAVE DISCOVERED QUALITIES AND GIFTS THAT HAVE CREATED A RELATIONSHIP OF MUTUAL TRUST BETWEEN US.

N'dri Edouard & N'guessan Adrien
Bouaké

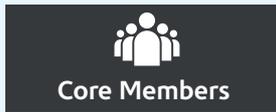


Scan this code to discover the **AsIAm Ivory Coast** movie.

L'ARCHE UGANDA



KAMPALA



34

2 houses.

18 welcomed in the a L'Arche home.

COUNTRY STATISTICS

Total population (in millions)	39.0
GNI per capita, PPP	\$1,670
HDI (Human Development Index)	0.493
HDI rank	163/190

WORK ACTIVITIES

- > Crop farming – cassava, yams, potatoes, corn, beans, plantain, bananas and more!
- > Raising animals – pigs and chickens.
- > Crafts – jewelry, linens and candles.
- > Sports and talent galas.

VISION for THE FUTURE

- > Continue to strengthen our crop and income producing activities..
- > Renovate and upgrade one of our buildings, which we use for activities, in order to generate more local revenue for the community.
- > Renew and strengthen the partnership with the CoRSU Rehabilitation Hospital, which provides rehabilitation for some Core Members, and to train the Assistants in some aspects of physiotherapy.

CONTEXT and CHALLENGES

- > Persons with intellectual disabilities are stigmatised, isolated, rejected, and abandoned. Even in their own families, they are often given second place or no place at all.
- > There is very little recognition of differing needs for persons with intellectual disabilities.
- > Because of discrimination in the culture, it is very difficult for persons with intellectual disabilities to obtain a job.

CREATING CHANGE

- > Despite limited local resources, the community has maintained a very high quality of care for and attention to the Core Members.
- > In recent years, the harvest from the crops and animals has been very good, which contributes to the health of the Core Members.
- > The community also reaches families in the local villages, sharing from the harvest, and helping families to raise their own chickens.



INTRODUCTION to A CORE MEMBER: Kabuye George

Kabuye George joined the L'Arche Community when he was just a small boy. He lived in the Thomas house, and grew well there. He has always participated in the workshop activities, like making candles and doormats, but his favorite place to work is on the farm! Now that he is a grown man, he is able to live with and support his mother, who is partially blind. But Kabuye George still comes to the community every day to work on the farm and to continue building friendships with other Core Members.



FAMILY IS IMPORTANT. WE ARE BORN IN A FAMILY, BUT WE CAN ALSO GROW "INTO" A FAMILY. THIS MEANS EMBRACING EVERYONE, EVERY DAY.

Kabuye George
L'Arche Kampala



L'ARCHE ZIMBABWE




Communities

HARARE


Core Members

23

2 houses.

12 welcomed in a L'Arche home.

COUNTRY STATISTICS

Total population (in millions)	15.6
GNI per capita, PPP	\$1,588
HDI (Human Development Index)	0.516
HDI rank	154/190

WORK ACTIVITIES

- > Operating a grinding mill.
- > Raising chickens, and crop farming.
- > Making candles, jewelry and cards.
- > Producing Batik clothing.

CREATING CHANGE

- > The community has developed a very positive, reciprocal relationship with neighbours.
- > University students (occupational therapists, physiotherapists, and social workers) now participate in community activities, which will strengthen our ability to attract skilled assistants over the long term.
- > Prayer has remained a key value in the community, and it brings together people from various traditions and denominations.
- > L'Arche members participated in the Paralympic Games held in Harare. This involved vigorous training and preparation. L'Arche members brought home a bronze medal and a silver medal.

CONTEXT and CHALLENGES

- > The economy of Zimbabwe continues to underperform. This creates a challenging context in which to find individual financial partners. At the same time, major donors in Zimbabwe consider the L'Arche community too small to support directly. So, local fundraising is difficult.

VISION for THE FUTURE

- > To become self-sufficient through income generating activities.
- > To strengthen recruitment and training for assistants who will grow with the community in the spirit of L'Arche.
- > To develop a therapy center (in partnership with L'Arche Germany) which will provide physiotherapy for the community members, and offer services to people in the surrounding area. Within about three years, this should become an income-generating activity of the community.



INTRODUCTION to A CORE MEMBER: Joshua

In October of 2006, Joshua (Jomo) was abandoned at the National Railways of Zimbabwe Station in Harare. He was found by the police who sent him to the hospital, where he lived for several years! The authorities could not discover anything about his family, and so he was brought to L'Arche in 2009. Jomo has quadriplegic CP, and cannot move, sit or eat on his own. Here at L'Arche we can provide for all his material, emotional, physical and psychological needs. He also contributes a great gift to the community, which is his beautiful smile!



IT IS SATISFYING THAT I AM PART OF THE COMMUNITY THAT SHOWS THAT EVERY HUMAN BEING IS A GIFT, AND THAT CARES FOR PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH.

Peter
L'Arche Harare





**L'ARCHE
EUROPE**





Communities

ZAGREB

Core Members

16

COUNTRY STATISTICS

Total population (in millions)	4.2
Per capita income	\$20,291
HDI (Human Development Index)	0.827
HDI rank	45/190

WORK ACTIVITIES

- > Arts and Crafts – jewelry, greetings cards, wooden gifts.
- > Volunteering in the neighbourhood – presenting workshops for children in primary schools.
- > Hospitality – hosting small conferences, which include meals for the guests.

VISION for THE FUTURE

- > To increase visibility in the local community, stabilize local fundraising and to expand professional development opportunities for the community's staff, assistants and volunteers.
- > To promote a culture of solidarity in the local neighbourhood.
- > To enable people with intellectual disabilities to actively contribute in increasingly creative ways in Croatian society.

CONTEXT and CHALLENGES

- > Many divisions, suspicion and distrust in Croatian society make partnerships difficult.

CREATING CHANGE

- > Every month the community hosts an open house activity which draws neighbours and friends from the wider community, bringing together very different groups of people, and building trust.
- > A mobile team goes out to support people with intellectual disabilities, and their families, in their own homes.
- > The response to the workshops presented to school children has been very positive, and the community continues to receive more requests for these workshops.
- > In 2016 the community decided to focus on improving their fundraising work, and has been strongly encouraged by the positive results.



INTRODUCTION to A CORE MEMBER: Valentina

Valentina came to L'Arche Zagreb in 2015 at the age of 25, when her grandmother heard that L'Arche had opened its daily workshop. Valentina had skills as a seamstress, but was unable to obtain a job. She had a lot of fear in her life at that time. Through her experience of community, Valentina has become a person who chooses to trust. Because of the strong friendships she has here, Valentina was able to overcome a big fear, choose trust, and get on a plane to Belfast to attend the L'Arche Federation Assembly! She has discovered great joy in teaching our workshops to local elementary school children. Valentina is a teacher to us all, and we are grateful for her presence in the community.



L'ARCHE LITHUANIA




Communities

KAUNAS
VILNIUS


Core Members

36

2 houses.

8 welcomed in a L'Arche home.
4 respite care spaces.

COUNTRY STATISTICS

Total population (in millions)	2.9
Per capita income	\$26,006
HDI (Human Development Index)	0.848
HDI rank	37/190

WORK ACTIVITIES

- > Producing candles, postcards, icons and soaps.
- > Making pottery - bowls, cruets for candles, soap holders.
- > Woodworking – cutting boards, chairs, cruets for candles.
- > Gardening - growing vegetables and herbs.

CONTEXT and CHALLENGES

- > Although there is a movement towards de-institutionalization, many people with intellectual disabilities still live in large institutions, which usually provide very limited opportunities for personal development, social interaction or a sense of personal dignity.
- > Practicing Christianity was strictly forbidden in Lithuania until its independence from Soviet occupation 25 years ago. As a result, there remains in the culture some strong negative attitudes towards Christian organizations.

CREATING CHANGE

- > L'Arche's expression of dignity, respect and hospitality towards every human being are important examples for the country's social system, which still reflects the old Soviet style. The Minister of Social Affairs recognizes L'Arche as an example, and it is influencing government policies going forward.
- > The community has built strong ties with other organizations in the neighborhood. These partnerships allow them to provide more diverse opportunities for Core Members, and have a greater impact on society.

VISION for THE FUTURE

- > To expand the physical structure of the community to include a well-developed workshop, and thereby create opportunities for meaningful day time activities for persons with intellectual disabilities in the community and the neighbourhood.



INTRODUCTION to A CORE MEMBER: Edita

Edita grew up in a family that had many difficulties. She experienced times of abandonment, rejection and abuse. Fortunately, she now lives with a loving and supportive Aunt. Edita has been involved with L'Arche Kaunas since September of 2017, and the impact on her life is already evident. She is growing in relationships, which gives her the confidence to try new activities. For example, in the community she takes the initiative to wash dishes, keep the space organized and tidy. These are things her Aunt didn't realize she was capable of! While remaining shy, Edita smiles and laughs more often, and talks more about her life. Her presence brings joy to everyone around her.



WHEN THERE IS A GOOD LIFE IN THE COMMUNITY DISABILITY CAN DISAPPEAR, BUT AFTER LEAVING THE COMMUNITY IT WILL APPEAR AGAIN.

Martynas Šimkus
(Core Member from Betzata community,
author of a published book of poems)



L'ARCHE UKRAINE



Communities

KOVCHEH



Core Members

65

1 respite house.

4 workshops.
1 day program for people with profound intellectual disabilities.



COUNTRY STATISTICS

Total population (in millions)	44.8
Per capita income	\$7,361
HDI (Human Development Index)	0.743
HDI rank	84/190

WORK ACTIVITIES

- > Crafting candles, soaps, wooden articles, and hand-made beaded necklaces.
- > Making greeting cards and icons.
- > Producing fruit jam.

CREATING CHANGE

- > L'Arche Ukraine is considered one of the leading organizations caring for vulnerable populations in the country. They demonstrate various models of care, including the workshops, a day program for people with profound intellectual disabilities, and a respite care house.
- > L'Arche has developed a relationship with the local Ukrainian Catholic University, through which students engage with L'Arche and thereby learn about medical and psychological support of people with intellectual disabilities.
- > Two new groups have formed in the Ukraine, to care for persons with intellectual disabilities, who would like to grow and join the International Federation of L'Arche Communities.

CONTEXT and CHALLENGES

- > Deep level of instability in the country - a result of poor management during the communist period, ongoing corruption, and the current war in the eastern part of the country.
- > Most citizens are looking for ways to emigrate, rather than to build and invest locally.
- > No public funding. Although the community is proud to raise 1/3 of annual operating costs locally, they still rely on international financial partners.

VISION for THE FUTURE

- > To conduct more activities to spread the L'Arche mission, not only in the city and region but also throughout the country.
- > To explore social entrepreneurship; to support the community and the mission of L'Arche through income producing activities.



INTRODUCTION to A CORE MEMBER: Tania

Tania joined L'Arche in 2004, at the age of 24. Up until that point she had lived a very isolated life in her family home. Coming to the community has opened up a new world to Tania. She has many friends with whom she likes to communicate, and share experiences. She goes for walks, and meets new people (and dreams of having a dog to walk with her). In the L'Arche workshop Tania is particularly good at painting in the traditional Ukrainian style called "Petrykivka" thanks to her small delicate fingers.



« COMMUNITY IS A FOUNDATION ON WHICH ONE CAN LEAN. THIS IS A PLACE WHERE I NOURISH MY SPIRITUALITY. HERE I FORM MYSELF AS AN INDIVIDUAL, AND TO BE OPEN TO OTHERS. »

Olesia Trush
Kovchek



Scan this code to discover the **AsIAm Ukraine** movie.



L'ARCHE
LATIN AMERICA



L'ARCHE BRAZIL




Communities

SÃO PAULO
SOROCABA


Core Members

11

1 house.

9 welcomed in a L'Arche home.

COUNTRY STATISTICS

Total population (in millions)	207.8
Per capita income	\$14,145
HDI (Human Development Index)	0.754
HDI rank	79/190

WORK ACTIVITIES

- > Crafts – decorative boxes, ornaments, wine bottle holders, greetings cards and decorative garbage bins.
- > Planting and harvesting vegetables.
- > Production of garbage bags, for sale in the local markets.

CREATING CHANGE

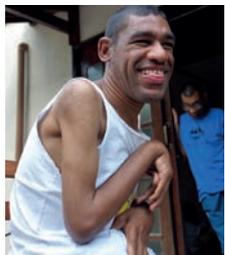
- > Last year the community successfully relocated the house to a new and safer neighbourhood, closer to hospitals and health care, and places of recreation. They have already begun integrating into the local parish and neighbourhood life. This move has dramatically improved the quality of life of the Core Members.
- > New assistants have been recruited and trained.
- > There is a L'Arche "project" community in Sorocaba, near São Paulo, which will soon become a probationary L'Arche community. They run a workshop and accompany local families.

CONTEXT and CHALLENGES

- > Brazil is currently in a very difficult political situation, with a large-scale investigation into high-level corruption. This has a very real effect on the pockets of tax-payers, which has directly impacted the amount of money L'Arche receives as donations. It has also had a direct impact on the quality of social services offered in the country.

VISION for THE FUTURE

- > To design and implement a day program that will have the maximum impact on persons with intellectual disabilities in our region, especially on those who are otherwise isolated due to their economic situation.
- > To increase opportunities for personal development and quality of life for our Core Members.
- > To achieve financial autonomy.



INTRODUCTION to A CORE MEMBER: Anderson

When Anderson was just eleven years old, his mother received a gunshot wound that resulted in significant paralysis. Since Anderson has cerebral palsy, his mother knew she could no longer properly care for him. A religious friend of the community knew this family, and made arrangements for him to join L'Arche. It was not an easy transition for Anderson. He became deeply distressed and physically aggressive. But with time, the community found a place in his heart. He came to discover that in the community he was loved, and had a home. He has a passion for music and cars, and he enjoys these simple hobbies.



« OVER THE LAST 28 YEARS, WE HAVE HAD DIFFICULTIES AND JOYS, BUT WE HAVE ALWAYS FOUND FRIENDSHIP, TRUE RELATIONSHIPS, FAITHFULNESS, GRATITUDE, GENEROSITY AND OTHER GREAT GIFTS. THESE GIFTS INVITE YOU TO STAY AND ALWAYS REMEMBER. »

Ione Xavier
Founding member of L'Arche Brazil



L'ARCHE HAÏTI



Communities

CARREFOUR
CHANTAL



Core Members

71

3 houses.

32 welcomed in a L'Arche home.
28 children attend a L'Arche school.



COUNTRY STATISTICS

Total population (in millions)	10.7
Per capita income	\$1,657
HDI (Human Development Index)	0.493
HDI rank	163/190

WORK ACTIVITIES

- > Peanut butter and honey production.
- > Making bracelets and liturgical clothing.
- > Growing and selling bananas and plants.

CONTEXT and CHALLENGES

- > The country of Haiti is vulnerable to many natural disasters, including hurricanes, severe earthquakes, floods and mudslides.
- > Haiti remains the poorest country on the American continent, with more than 59% of Haitians living below the poverty line, and more than 24% living below the extreme poverty line (meaning that they live on less than \$1.23 / day).
- > Because the culture remains full of taboos and negative prejudices towards persons with intellectual disabilities, they are often locked up and hidden from society, or are abandoned and left to fend for themselves.
- > Very few institutions house and care for persons with intellectual disabilities.

CREATING CHANGE

- > The local Board of L'Arche Haiti is consistently able to raise 20% of the operating budget, which is significant considering local economic conditions.
- > After the 2016 hurricane Matthew, with the support of international partners, L'Arche Chantal was able to meet the emergency needs of all the Core Members, and also provide a great deal of support and help to their local neighbours.

VISION for THE FUTURE

- > To increase the amount of money the community is able to fundraise locally.
- > To strengthen both L'Arche Schools by updating curriculum, recruiting more qualified staff, and integrating parent and student feedback.



INTRODUCTION to A CORE MEMBER: Ismaël

Ismaël has lived in L'Arche Haiti since he was two or three years old. On September 6th, 2002 he was discovered by a Parish Priest in the courtyard of the St. Charles de Carrefour church in Carrefour. He had a rope tied around his neck to support his head. Fortunately, the priest took him to L'Arche where he was entrusted to the care of Jacqueline and others in L'Arche Haiti. Ismaël recently turned 18. He has grown well in L'Arche. Although he does not speak with words, he does find many ways to communicate, including through a great smile!



« L'ARCHE IS MY FAMILY WHO GAVE ME A PLACE IN SOCIETY. AT L'ARCHE I'M FREE AND IN SECURITY. »

Marie-Anne Jean
L'Arche Chantal






Communities

**CHOLUTECA
TEGUCIGALPA**


Core Members

41

2 houses.

18 welcomed in a L'Arche home.

COUNTRY STATISTICS

Total population (in millions)	8.1
Per capita income	\$4,466
HDI (Human Development Index)	0.625
HDI rank	130/190

WORK ACTIVITIES

- > Making hammocks.
- > Selling honey.
- > Producing a natural body scrub from local plant products.
- > Assembling mops.
- > Embroidery.

CREATING CHANGE

- > Spiritual life - the community has a very strong spiritual life together. They are faithful in prayer, dedicating time each week to pray for family, friends, and anyone they know that needs prayer.
- > Neighbourhood integration - the community is very involved with the local church, participating in regular events.

CONTEXT and CHALLENGES

- > Poverty – 66% of the population of Honduras lives in poverty, with approximately 1 out of 5 Hondurans living in extreme poverty.
- > Violence – there is an extremely high rate of violence and homicides in Tegucigalpa, due to gang activity.
- > Limited resources – physical therapy is a very uncommon profession, so it is hard to get proper help for the community members.

VISION for THE FUTURE

- > To develop a strong Board of Directors, who can lead the community into the future, and increase local sources of income.
- > To invest in the physical infrastructure of both communities, and thereby more appropriately provide for the needs of the Core Members.



INTRODUCTION to A CORE MEMBER: Maritza

Many years ago, Maritza's mother discovered L'Arche Choluteca. They visited the community often, and Maritza's mother asked that the community receive Maritza to live with them. L'Arche Choluteca did not have space at the time, and had to say no. One day, Maritza's mother dropped her off for a visit to L'Arche, but didn't come back. It was several years before she returned, and visited Maritza. Shortly afterwards she was tortured and killed by gang members in the city. Maritza's mother knew that L'Arche was the way to save her daughter's life. Maritza is now in her thirties, and brings much joy to the community. She takes good care of everyone, and has a special gift for embroidery.



« THE COMMUNITIES HAVE AN INCREDIBLE GIFT OF HOSPITALITY. IT IS TRULY IMPRESSIVE! THIS IS BOTH AMONG THE ASSISTANTS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES. THEY WILL GIVE YOU THEIR OWN BED WITHOUT THINKING. ABOVE ALL ELSE THEY VALUE RELATIONSHIPS. THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO SHARE AND BE TOGETHER. »

Maria Elvira Santacruz



L'ARCHE MEXICO




Communities

MEXICO CITY
QUERETARO


Core Members

35

2 houses.

13 welcomed in a L'Arche home.

COUNTRY STATISTICS

Total population (in millions)	127.0
Per capita income	\$16,383
HDI (Human Development Index)	0.762
HDI rank	77/190

WORK ACTIVITIES

- > Baking cookies and bread.
- > Making crosses with beads.
- > Wood working - crosses, tea boxes and picture frames.
- > Arts and Crafts - paintings, jewelry and cards.
- > Zumba, yoga and gardening.

VISION for THE FUTURE

- > To find new ways for the communities to engage with broader society; to invite others to engage with the beautiful vision and mission of L'Arche.
- > L'Arche Mexico City and L'Arche Queretaro are supporting a new community for and with persons with intellectual disabilities that has established in Ciudad Juarez, with hope that it will be able to join L'Arche as a «project» community.

CONTEXT and CHALLENGES

- > Little to no public funding available.
- > New tax reforms make it even more difficult for NGOs to receive funds from local businesses.

CREATING CHANGE

- > The workshop in Queretaro has grown from 6 to 22 participants in the last 2 years. In addition to impacting the lives of the Core Members, L'Arche is also impacting families in the neighbourhood.
- > L'Arche Mexico City recently relocated the community, moving out of one of the most dangerous neighbourhoods, and into a safe neighbourhood with many new opportunities.



INTRODUCTION to A CORE MEMBER: Octavio

Octavio was born with down syndrome. Although his family lives in the city, his parents abandoned him when he was a newborn baby, so his older siblings don't know that he is alive. He is a very affectionate and happy man, and the father to all - if anyone misbehaves he will let them know. He loves Coca Cola, and it is absolutely the best gift anyone can give him. He is a musician, and he is also a painter. His drawings fill our home!



« L'ARCHE MEXICO IS A BUNCH OF SMILES! »

Francine Rubina
Mexico City





**L'ARCHE
SOUTH ASIA**



L'ARCHE BANGLADESH




Communities

MYMENSINGH


Core Members

34

3 houses.

21 welcomed in a L'Arche home.

COUNTRY STATISTICS

Total population (in millions)	161.0
Per capita income	\$3,341
HDI (Human Development Index)	0.579
HDI rank	139/190

WORK ACTIVITIES

- > Making candles, greeting cards, bookmarks, embroidery, bracelets and other beaded items.
- > Home visits – residential Core Members and Assistants provide weekly visits to families in the community caring for a family member with a disability.

CREATING CHANGE

- > The community has recently completed the construction of their very own home! This has created a wonderful sense of permanence for the community, which had been renting all their houses and workshop buildings for the last fifteen years.
- > The community used the experience of building a house to also build relationships with local government officials and local leaders.
- > Over the past 15 years, the attitudes of people in the neighborhood toward persons with an intellectual disability has significantly changed - the community now feels accepted by the neighborhood.

CONTEXT and CHALLENGES

- > Social stigma and prejudice towards persons with an intellectual disability remain strong and influential in society.
- > The huge gap between the rich and the poor makes it difficult to fundraise for the poor.
- > Very little government support for persons with a disability.

VISION for THE FUTURE

- > To strengthen the salary program and professional growth opportunities, which will promote a more stable and healthy community life.
- > To improve the quality of life in our rented houses by completing necessary maintenance.
- > To secure a stable financial structure for the community through increased local funding, and through continued support from international donors.
- > To promote interreligious dialogue within the community at all levels of community life.



INTRODUCTION to A CORE MEMBER: Shahanaj

When Shahanaj was young, she was separated from her family and taken to an orphanage outside the capital city of Dhaka. This was a very traumatic experience. She moved to L'Arche in 2007. Although she continues to miss her family terribly, especially her mother, she also continues to grow and accept L'Arche as her home. She loves birthdays, and basically any celebration where she can wear a sari! She has a beautiful smile, and a love for life, and these qualities help keep the community vibrant.



« TO BE A PART OF THE COMMUNITY MEANS TO MAKE JOURNEY TOGETHER THROUGH SHARING OUR LIVES, WORKING TOGETHER, EATING TOGETHER, PRAYING TOGETHER, CELEBRATING TOGETHER ETC.

Ganesh
Mymensingh



L'ARCHE INDIA (ASHA NIKETAN)




Communities

BANGALORE
KOLKATA
CHENNAI
NANDI BAZAR
ASANSOL


Core Members

225

9 houses.

65 welcomed in a L'Arche home.

COUNTRY STATISTICS

Total population (in millions)	1,311.1
Per capita income	\$5,663
HDI (Human Development Index)	0.624
HDI rank	131/190

WORK ACTIVITIES

- > Workshops (adults): gardening and handicrafts, including candle making, bead work, weaving scarves by hand, making paper bags and more.
- > Development Centres (children): experiential learning and skill development.
- > Outreach (by L'Arche Assistants): offering social support and practical advice to families of children with intellectual disabilities in the neighbourhood.

VISION for THE FUTURE

- > To become self-sufficient for our yearly operating costs through local fundraising.
- > To establish a salary program that is relevant to local conditions, and makes it possible for Assistants, Community Leaders and staff to make longer-term commitments.



INTRODUCTION to A CORE MEMBER: Barnabas

Barnabas came to Asha Niketan Asansol in 2008 at the age of 8. He had been completely abandoned by his parents, and was being taken care of by the Missionaries of Charity. At the time, he was described as hyperactive and violent. After several years in our L'Arche community he is now described as full of energy with "much love to give around." He enjoys welcoming guests into the home, and he is always the first person to run and get a chair to offer the guest. Barnabas has a great imagination, and imagines himself to be a cameraman or news anchor during community celebrations. He has also discovered a love of music and prayer. Barnabas is very endearing, he is a real gift from God!

CONTEXT and CHALLENGES

- > Zero public funding.
- > Huge social gap between the rich and the poor makes fundraising for the poor challenging.

CREATING CHANGE

- > Local demand for workshop products is good – at times more than the community can supply.
- > Unity - L'Arche India brings together people from various faiths, including Christian, Hindu and Muslim.
- > Local fundraising initiative in Nandibazar – this community developed a "Meal sponsorship program," through which over 500 local families have become supporters of L'Arche.



IF L'ARCHE (ASHA NIKETAN) IS A "SCHOOL OF THE HEART," CORE MEMBERS ARE THE PROFESSORS. THEY TEACH US HOW TO LIVE IN LOVE.

James Schreiner
volunteer from L'Arche Washington DC who lived in Asha Niketan Chennai for a year



Scan this code to discover the **AsIAm India** movie.



« WE ARE ALSO
HUMAN BEINGS. »

India
As I Am - We remember

ENVOYS & LEADERSHIPS PROGRAMS

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DONATE NOW

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ENVOYS

PROVIDING ESSENTIAL, ONGOING SUPPORT FOR PIONEER L'ARCHE COMMUNITIES



Envoys

8



Communities served

29

Plus 6 project communities.
Impacting approximately 750 Core Members.



WHAT IT IS

- L'Arche International provides an experienced "Envoy" to support communities in living their identity and fulfilling their mission in their local context and culture.
- Envoys:
 - Accompany local Community Leaders, Boards, and Assistants.
 - Ensure the local community offers a high quality of care for persons with intellectual disabilities.
 - Assist the local community in their search for skilled staff, leaders and Assistants, and in arranging for formation and training.
 - Support and encourage fundraising plans at both national and local levels, and supervise the yearly operating budget.
 - Help the local community in their communication initiatives to increase visibility of L'Arche in their country and to promote the gifts of people with intellectual disabilities in society.

WHY IT IS NEEDED

- When a community is pioneering L'Arche's values in its country and/or is operating in a low-income context, experience shows they will need knowledgeable and reliable support from L'Arche International, in order to be successful over the long term.

WHY IT IS UNIQUE

- Envoys provide a long-term investment into the leadership capacity of L'Arche communities that are operating in some of the most difficult contexts around the world, thus building stronger, healthier and more sustainable L'Arche communities.

FUNDING NEEDS

- Salaries of Envoys.
- Travel expenses of Envoys to visit communities.
- **Detailed budget available upon request.**

ACCOMPANIED COMMUNITIES

Argentina
Bangladesh
Brazil
Burkina Faso
Croatia
Dominican Republic
Egypt
Haïti
Honduras
Italy
Ivory Coast
Japan
Kenya
Lithuania
Mexico
Palestine
Philippines
Slovenia
Spain
Syria
Uganda
Ukraine
Zimbabwe



OUR ENVOY IS A GREAT SUPPORT FOR ME AND FOR THE COMMUNITY. HE PROVIDES GUIDANCE, STIMULATION, AND CONNECTS US TO THE GREAT FAMILY OF L'ARCHE.

Ghada Touma
L'Arche in Syria





L'ARCHE LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS



L'ARCHE
INTERNATIONAL

DESERT RETREATS

GUIDED REFLECTION AND SILENT MEDITATION AT L'ARCHE TROSLY



Participants

35-40



Project timeline

Members of L'Arche from around the world.

11 days of formation per retreat.



WHY IT IS NEEDED

- > In L'Arche communities there is weakness that facilitates growth together in unity rather than division, and in service rather than in power. L'Arche is like a living laboratory for human growth and peacemaking skills.
- > This profound journey of growth has significant implications for individuals, L'Arche communities, and for society at large, but the journey requires times of reflection and meditation.



WHAT IT IS

- > An opportunity for thirty-five to forty members of L'Arche communities from around the world to gather together at L'Arche Trosly, the founding L'Arche community, for eleven days of guided inner reflection.
- > Long-term leaders in L'Arche guide the participants.
- > Participants spend the majority of the time in silent reflection, which is interspersed by intentional times of small group sharing and one-on-one guidance.
- > Themes often include: understanding and living your mission, transformative effects of mutual relationship in L'Arche, navigating the challenges associated with life in community, reconciliation, and more.



WHY IT IS UNIQUE

- > It is a sacred time for participants, and an opportunity to choose again their commitment to the mission and vision of L'Arche.
- > Both new and long-term members of L'Arche come to the retreat from communities all over the world, and represent various religions or denominations. This diversity greatly enriches the times of small group sharing.



FUNDING NEEDS

- > Lodging and travel expenses for facilitators and participants from the low-income contexts.
- > Salary for workshop leaders.
- > Conference room rental and workshop materials.
- > Expenses associated with preparation, and follow up.
- > **Detailed budget available upon request.**



THE RETREAT HAS REACHED ME...
IN THE DEPTHS OF MY BEING.
THANK YOU!

Wendy
Desert Retreats Participant



L'ARCHE EXPERIENCE/SOLIDARITY PROGRAM

DEVELOPING FUTURE LEADERS THROUGH A SOLIDARITY EXPERIENCE



Participants

20



Project timeline

Matched with **20** L'Arche Communities in low-income contexts.

Volunteers spend **6 to 12** months in a L'Arche community.



WHY IT IS NEEDED

- > To provide solidarity and support for L'Arche communities mainly in India, Philippines, Latin America and Africa.
- > To build an intercultural capacity in volunteers, which is a very important aspect of peacemaking skills in today's global world.



WHAT IT IS

- > Each year approximately 20 volunteers (people from both inside and outside of L'Arche) are selected and matched with 20 L'Arche Communities.
- > Volunteers commit to spending six months to a year in the receiving L'Arche community, where they will accompany L'Arche Core Members through their daily life, and be completely immersed in the local community life.



WHY IT IS UNIQUE (1/2)

- > Volunteers often come to the program with experience living and working in another L'Arche community, and/or with professional competences in the area of disability. As they work alongside Assistants in the receiving community, they share new



WHY IT IS UNIQUE (2/2)

- ways of caring for the Core Members, and/or new occupational therapy approaches. This type of investment in the local Assistants has a positive long-term effect on the quality of care the receiving community can offer the Core Members.
- > The L'Arche International Director of Human Resources mentors the volunteers through quarterly skype calls, regular e-mail exchanges throughout the year, and an exit interview at the end of the volunteer year.
- > Volunteers expand their skill set in the areas of cross-cultural communications and relationships, community life and development, living and working in a foreign cultural context, and caring for persons with a disability.



FUNDING NEEDS

- > Salary for program coordinator (recruitment, mentoring and follow up activities).
- > Stipend for volunteers (where required).
- > Travel costs (where required).
- > Health insurance coverage for volunteers (where required).
- > **Detailed budget available upon request.**



IF THE POSSIBILITY OF BECOMING AN INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER CROSSES YOUR PATH, I WOULD SAY TAKE YOUR CHANCE. IT COMES FOR SOME REASON AND IT'S WORTH IT.

Julia Huber,
Assistant in L'Arche Mexico



FAITH & CULTURE

INTEGRATING PROFOUND CULTURAL AWARENESS INTO CRISIS MANAGEMENT, COMMUNITY GROWTH, AND NEW COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS




Participants

up to **35**


Project timeline

4 sessions

Leaders from across the Federation.

4 days each, spread over **two** years.

WHY IT IS NEEDED

- > Over the last fifty years, the vision and mission of L'Arche has stirred the hearts of people all over the world. L'Arche communities have formed in 38 different countries: in some of the poorest places in the world, in some of the richest places in the world, and in a wide variety of cultural contexts.
- > L'Arche has many success stories to share, but L'Arche also has examples of significant struggles or cyclical patterns of crisis.
- > Faith and Culture was developed to help us understand and address these struggles directly.

WHAT IT IS

- > A two-year program that trains L'Arche leaders to integrate profound cultural awareness into crisis management decisions, community growth challenges, and new community foundations.
- > Helps our leaders build a healthy Federation by encouraging each L'Arche Community to be rooted in, and emergent from, their own cultural context.

WHY IT IS UNIQUE

- > Program content was developed in conjunction with cultural anthropologist Gerald A. Arbuckle, SM, PhD, and educator in systems and group development, Sr. Brenda Hermann
- > Each participant selects a real L'Arche case study that is relevant to their role in L'Arche, and works with it throughout the two-year period.
- > The values of the gospel (of the Christian Scriptures), and the values of L'Arche, are the reference points to help us discern where we need to question and challenge cultural values, and where we need to respect and nourish them. This process of critical interaction leads to a culture transformed by faith and a faith that is culturally re-expressed. This process can also be useful to people of other faiths or of no particular faith.

FUNDING NEEDS

- > Facilitator and translator fees.
- > Travel expenses for the formation team, and some participants.
- > Accommodations.
- > Supplies.
- > **Detailed budget available upon request.**



IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF L'ARCHE

UNDERSTANDING OUR UNIQUE IDENTITY AND MISSION



Participants

26



Project timeline

Members from across the Federation.

4 days of formation per workshop.



WHY IT IS NEEDED

- > As L'Arche continues to grow around the world, we must intentionally unify our communities, strengthen our common mission, and learn from each other.
- > It is particularly valuable for new/young members of L'Arche to learn from founding members, as well as from people from other countries and contexts.
- > More and more, not-for-profit organizations and local or national governments are looking to L'Arche for insights into best practices of caring for vulnerable members of their populations. In the Footsteps of L'Arche workshop gives L'Arche leaders and community members confidence to represent L'Arche to the wider community.



WHAT IT IS

- > Participants discover and learn more about the history of L'Arche, become more familiar with our unique identity and mission.
- > Each participant also has the opportunity to voice their own experience of life in L'Arche.



WHY IT IS UNIQUE

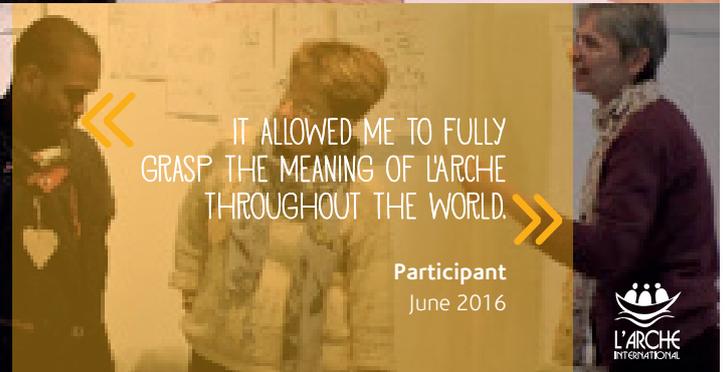
- > This highly inclusive workshop uses communication methods that are accessible to everyone, overcoming language, cultural or disability barriers.
- > Participants journey through the workshop in pairs, which include one member with intellectual disabilities and one assistant, board member or friend.



FUNDING NEEDS

- > Compensation for formation coordinators.
- > Translation.
- > Formation booklets.
- > Travel and registration for communities unable to cover the costs (approximately 10 participants).
- > Miscellaneous expenses.

> **Detailed budget available upon request.**



Participant
June 2016



INTERNATIONAL MISSION PROGRAM

ACCOMPANYING COMMUNITIES THROUGH TIMES OF CRISIS, GROWTH, TRANSITION, OR RE-FOUNDATION



Participants

Experienced members of L'Arche living in solidarity with a sister community.



Project timeline

1 to 2 years.



WHY IT IS NEEDED

- > At any given time, there are usually a few L'Arche communities around the world that are experiencing an exceptional opportunity, or a type of crisis, and they require skilled help to journey through it.
- > This might be due to a gap in local leadership, events in the local context (such as wars or natural disasters), or it could be because the community recognizes an important area of growth, and needs help to execute it well.

WHAT IT IS

- > L'Arche International invites experienced members of L'Arche to leave their home community, and commit to a one to two year "mission" in a sister community in need.
- > The process begins when a need is recognized and well understood. The Director of Solidarity then takes great care to recruit the candidate for the receiving community, and an agreement is developed that is agreeable to both parties.
- > The candidate is prepared, sent and supported throughout the mission by the Director of Solidarity. Evaluations are completed on a regular basis and a report highlighting impact and learnings is prepared at the end of the mission.



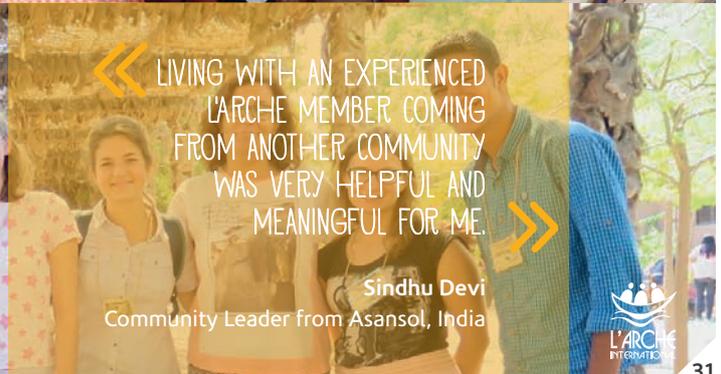
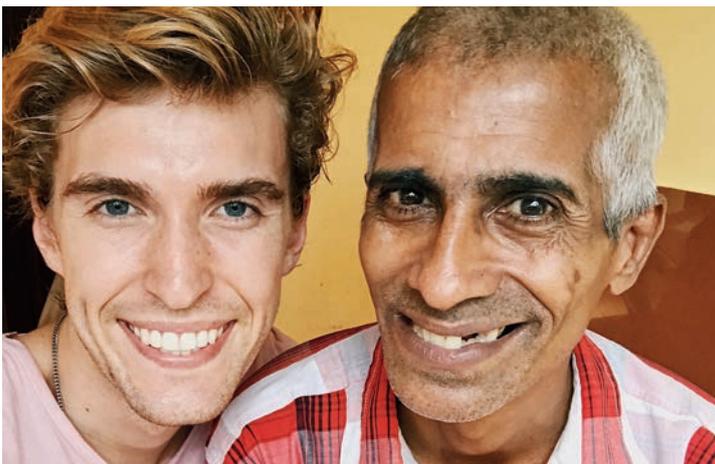
CASE STUDY

- > The L'Arche community in Queretaro, Mexico was 25 years old, but was not thriving.
- > The day program was a workshop that had the physical space to receive 25 people, but the community did not have the leadership capacity to receive 25 people. In fact, the leadership was marked by a very high turnover.
- > An experienced workshop leader from a community in Quebec, Canada agreed to move to Queretaro with his family (including three children). The agreement included three preparatory visits, 1 year of living on site, and two follow up visits.
- > After a successful mission, the difference in the Queretaro community is noteworthy! The workshop now receives 20 people each day, working in three different areas of specialization. The new workshop leader is confident, and is looking at ways to expand the program even further. The L'Arche community is receiving more attention from the neighbourhood, and is gaining visibility in the larger public.



FUNDING NEEDS

- > Travel expenses and stipend for the candidates.
- > Resources needed on site.
- > **Detailed budget available upon request.**



NEW COMMUNITY LEADERS

TO UNDERSTAND THEIR MISSION AND DEVELOP A SUPPORTIVE NETWORK OF PEERS



Participants

35



Project timeline

New Community Leaders from across the Federation.

4 days of formation per workshop.



WHY IT IS NEEDED

- > Between 30% and 50% of new Community Leaders have no previous experience in L'Arche.
- > Since there is only one Community Leader, they can often feel alone in the role, and isolated from peers.



WHAT IT IS

- > New Community Leaders come together from across the Federation to learn more about the history of L'Arche, our Core Values, Identity and Mission.
- > New Community Leaders explore how a community can be faithful to the values of L'Arche while also honouring their local culture and context.
- > New Community Leaders learn ways to strengthen and develop community life, and how to identify new assistants that have the qualities and skills needed by the community.



WHY IT IS UNIQUE

- > This workshop is about more than passing along essential information, it is a very important time for Community Leaders to get to know each other and create networks of support for one another.
- > Leaders come from across the Federation, from communities in all different contexts, and this diversity creates an environment where everyone has something to share. For example, leaders from communities in low-income contexts may have greater needs on some practical levels, but often come from communities that have a very strong sense of community, and can share from that experience.



FUNDING NEEDS

- > Compensation for formation coordinators.
- > Translation.
- > Formation booklets.
- > Travel and registration for communities unable to cover the costs.
- > Miscellaneous costs during the event.
- > **Detailed budget available upon request.**



NON-VIOLENT WAYS OF COMMUNICATING

DEVELOPING PEACE MAKING SKILLS IN THE CONTEXT OF SHARED COMMUNITY



Participants

24



Project timeline

Members from across the Federation.

4 days of formation per workshop.



WHY IT IS NEEDED

- > Living in community presents the opportunity to work through challenges alongside people from diverse cultures, backgrounds, and religions.
- > At times, even very caring members of a community can find themselves communicating with others in a way that feels aggressive or “violent” toward that person.



WHAT IT IS

- > This four-day workshop was developed for and with two L'Arche communities in France, in order to intentionally create the opportunity for each person in the community, with or without a disability, to express their emotions, needs, desires, and ideas.
- > It has proven to be highly effective in fostering an atmosphere of communication, working through conflict, and developing peacemaking skills.
- > Themes explored include: non-violent dialogue, emotional intelligence, authority and non-violence, teamwork and non-violence, and more.



WHY IT IS UNIQUE

- > The workshop draws upon established theories (such as Non-Violent Communication), but adapts them to make them accessible to persons with intellectual disabilities.
- > Participants explore four basic emotions of joy, sadness, anger and fear, and learn to communicate about those emotions in a way that is honouring and respectful to all.
- > A wide variety of learning tools are used, including role play, acting, creating visual images, and presenting metaphors. The workshop is designed to be interactive and engaging for all participants.



FUNDING NEEDS

- > Accommodation for participants.
- > Travel and registration fee for participants from communities unable to cover the costs (usually six participants).
- > Workshop booklets.
- > Travel and compensation for formation coordinators and translators.

> Detailed budget available upon request.



WE LEARNED HOW TO BETTER MANAGE THE SITUATION INSIDE US, WHAT TO DO WHEN WE ARE ANGRY SO THAT IT EXPLODES LESS. I WOULD LIKE TO GO DEEPER IN LEARNING ABOUT EMOTIONS...

Julie

Participant from L'Arche



PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

FORMATION TRAINING FOR L'ARCHE BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS



Participants

up to **30**



Project timeline

Board members from across the Federation.

1 to 2 days of formation per workshop.



WHY IT IS NEEDED

- > The health and strength of the local Board is determinative of the health and strength of the local L'Arche Community.
- > New Board Members and Community Leaders need guidance to help them effectively integrate the mission and identity of L'Arche into their local leadership.
- > By learning from our organization's rich history, local leadership teams (Board Members and the Community Leader) and the International Envoy (delegate of the Federation of L'Arche) can maximize their efforts in working together.



WHAT IT IS

- > Board members come to understand L'Arche's unique principles of governance, including servant leadership, partnership, subsidiarity, accountability, participation, inculturation and solidarity.
- > Local leadership teams are guided through activities to help them fully engage the document "The Role of the Board in L'Arche" in order to resolve questions, concerns or hesitations they may have.



WHY IT IS UNIQUE

- > The formation team does extensive study, working together with the L'Arche Envoy, to understand specific challenges or dynamics of Boards in the local context. The workshop is adapted to the reality of the needs of the community.
- > Usually 2 or 3 sets of Boards go through the training together, which provides a rich opportunity to learn from one another.



FUNDING NEEDS

- > Compensation for formation coordinators and translators.
- > Travel for formation coordinators to the event.
- > Formation booklet and snacks.

> Detailed budget available upon request.



« I FIND IT VERY HEALTHY TO HAVE THIS INPUT FROM OUTSIDE THE COMMUNITY. IT HELPS ME LOOK AT THE COMMUNITY FROM ANOTHER ANGLE. »

Board Member
L'Arche Vilnius



TOGETHER IN THE MISSION

BUILDING INTO LONG-TERM ASSISTANTS



Participants

28



Project timeline

2 sessions

Long-term Assistants from across the Federation.

4 days of formation per workshop.



WHY IT IS NEEDED

- > Assistants have a very important role to play in L'Arche communities. They make sure the Core Members receive quality care. They also live out the vision and mission of L'Arche in the gritty and courageous way of daily life, amidst the very real challenges of community life.
- > Long-term Assistants (who commit for more than five years) are key to community life, offering stability and ongoing relationships to the Core Members, and carrying organizational wisdom when leaders change.



WHY IT IS UNIQUE

- > The workshop is held over two distinct sessions.
- > This is a deeply self-reflective time where participants develop an awareness of their own personal mission, within the mission of L'Arche.
- > Participants are exposed to the dark history of Auschwitz concentration camp to help them clarify/affirm their personal commitment to stand with vulnerable people groups and work for a more humane society.



WHAT IT IS

- > Through this formation, Assistants take time to step back from their daily life, to reflect on the meaning of life in L'Arche, and to renew their commitment to the mission.
- > Participants learn from invited speakers, small group leaders, and other long-term Assistants who are living out the vision and mission of L'Arche in very different cultural and socio-economic contexts.



FUNDING NEEDS

- > Compensation for Formation Coordinators.
- > Formation booklets.
- > Travel and registration fees for participants (usually 10) coming from communities unable to cover the costs.
- > Miscellaneous small expenses.

> Detailed budget available upon request.





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If L'Arche is present in your home country, you can donate directly to them, and enquire about a tax receipt:

www.larche.org/support-us

For more information, or if you would like to set up a registry for gifts to be made to L'Arche in honor of a special event or person, please contact:

international@larche.org

An electronic version of this album is available on

www.larche.org

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This album is a fruit of a collaboration between the Solidarity, Communication and Fundraising International teams.

