



Life Together

ANNUAL REPORT 2014

Members of Euclid House celebrate L'Arche International's fiftieth anniversary with one of the five arks that traveled the world in summer 2014.
Photo by Brian A. Taylor Photography



Walton Schofield cradles the ark from L'Arche International.
Photo by Brian A. Taylor Photography

DEAR FRIENDS,

As L'Arche founder Jean Vanier writes in his book *Be Not Afraid*, living together is difficult for human beings. Bring together a group of people who are very different in their origins, customs, and ways of thinking, and you will certainly have tension and squabbling.

Yet the beauty of L'Arche is that when a group of people comes together for the purpose of seeking the fulfillment, peace, and happiness of every other member in it, the barriers begin to drop, mutual confidence grows, and homes become a place where you can sense peace, openness, and welcome.

L'Arche Greater Washington, D.C., is part of an international L'Arche movement to imagine community differently: a community where people with and without intellectual disabilities (known as *core people* and *assistants*, respectively) share their lives, where the weakest members are given a place of honor and their gifts called forth, where mutual relationships and trust in God are at the heart of our life together.

Today, L'Arche Greater Washington, D.C., is a vibrant community with sixteen core people at its center in four communal homes. Life together encompasses sharing homes, providing personalized support, and advocating for one another. The symbolism of our name, which means *the ark* in French, is just as appropriate today as it was when Jean Vanier opened the first L'Arche home in France fifty years ago—a place where people can find safety from life's raging storms.

Thank you, friends, for being part of our life together.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Gaunt, S.J." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fr. Thomas P. Gaunt, SJ, Board President

L'Arche Greater Washington, D.C., is an interdenominational Christian community that welcomes people of all backgrounds to share life together. Community life is centered on four communal homes and the sixteen members who have intellectual disabilities, known as *core people*.

Each community member is encouraged to discover and deepen his or her spiritual life and live it according to his or her particular faith and tradition. Those who have no religious affiliation are also welcomed and respected in their freedom of conscience.

Over the past year we have deepened our commitment to community by . . .

- Hosting one of five wooden arks traveling the world in celebration of L'Arche International's fiftieth anniversary.
- Sending four core members on a L'Arche USA core-person retreat in Pennsylvania.
- Enjoying a visit from Eileen Glass, L'Arche International leader, who hails from Australia.



community



Charles Clark welcomes Eileen Glass, vice-international leader for L'Arche International, to the Greater Washington, D.C., community. Photo by Bethany Keener



Linda Garcia receives a blessing from her friends and family at the end of her annual goal-setting meeting. Photo by Brian A. Taylor Photography



Sarah Clemmer and Eric Arntson prepare to welcome guests to the annual Heart of L'Arche breakfast at the Mayflower Hotel. Photo by Dale Iglesia

John Gaunt, William Schofield, Michael Schaff, and Crisely Melecio-Zambrano prepare to take L'Arche's new van, dubbed "Rojo," out for a spin. Photo by Hannah Newmark



Johnny Schofield (seated) and Gilbert Marquez pack toiletries at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle's ministry to the homeless, where Johnny volunteers regularly. Photo by Dale Iglesias

Foundational to the community's well-being is the dedication and tenderness of the professionals who provide support for daily living. Within the context of the home, L'Arche assistants administer medication, provide personal care, plan nutritious meals to suit particular diets, help navigate complex social settings, and offer guidance in decision making.

The element of sharing life together—cooking, cleaning, shopping, vacationing, worshipping—forms special bonds between people, turning strangers into friends, friends into family.

In 2014, L'Arche improved its professional services by . . .

- Purchasing a wheelchair-accessible van to make it easier for members with limited physical mobility to maintain active lifestyles.
- Implementing electronic recordkeeping to improve accuracy, record retention, and compliance with HIPAA and Medicaid requirements.
- Receiving an “excellent” rating from D.C.’s Department on Disability Services Provider Certification Review, including a 100 percent satisfaction score from core members.



professional services

For generations, people with intellectual disabilities have been ignored, excluded, and spoken for. L'Arche aims to change that by advocating with people who have intellectual disabilities for the rights and dignity they deserve.

Advocacy can mean working to change policies to give core people more freedom. It can mean calling a reporter to help illuminate problems in our system. It can include calling an insurance company and spending an hour on the phone. Most often, advocacy means asking questions and really listening to the answer, then joining our voices together to speak up for change.

In 2014, L'Arche advocated by . . .

- Visiting the White House with the Interfaith Disability Advocacy Coalition to ensure that people with disabilities continue to have the choice to live in faith communities like L'Arche.
- Participating in the annual National Down Syndrome Society Buddy Walk, which promoted passage of the ABLE Act, legislation that would allow people with disabilities to save for the future without loss of government benefits.
- Spending a day on Capitol Hill speaking with representatives in conjunction with the Arc of the United States' policy seminar.



advocacy



Steve Keener and Eileen Schofield of L'Arche meet with Claudia Gordon, liaison to the disability community, White House Office of Public Engagement. Photo by Steve Keener



L'Arche representatives Sarah Clemmer, James Schreiner, Francene Short, Fritz Schloss, and John Anton advocate for the ABE Act. Photo by Sarah Clemmer



Liz Yoder, Hazel Pulliam, and Sarah Clemmer visit their representatives on Capitol Hill. Photo by Sarah Clemmer



Michele Calamari, Trevor Harvey, and Charles Clark sing backup for Bruce Weaver as he spoofs Taylor Swift's "Trouble" at L'Arche's annual talent show. Photo by Brian A. Taylor Photography



Kara Olenick, Crisely Melecio-Zambrano, Eileen Schofield, Sarah Ruzzkowski, Tim Shraver, Debora Green, Linda Potter, and Charles Clark enjoy an ice cream social with the Heart of L'Arche Society. Photo by Brian A. Taylor Photography



Andrew Comisso and Mary Mitchell visit Big Bird's home at Sesame Place. Photo by Mary Mitchell

Thank you

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The Heart of L'Arche Society

The Heart of L'Arche Society was created in 2009 to build a sustainable foundation for L'Arche's financial future. Donors pledge \$1,000 or more per year for five years, allowing L'Arche to plan ahead. To date, 103 members have pledged more than \$190,000 annually.

Thank you!

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\$25,000+ per year for five years
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Megan Guzman, Calvin "Sonny" Clarke, and Lara Case take a boat ride while on vacation in Boston.

Photo by Lara Case



Housemates Edna Tang and Laurie Pippenger show off the pumpkin they picked together.

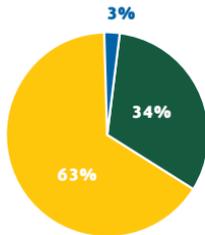
Photo by Bethany Keener

At L'Arche Greater Washington, D.C., community life centers on four homes where sixteen core people, members with intellectual disabilities, live together with the people who assist them. In addition to these life-long homes, L'Arche provides professional-support services and seeks ways for core people to be actively engaged in the social, civic, and spiritual life of Greater Washington, D.C.

Thank you to the many generous donors whose financial gifts supplement government contracts, making a holistic, high-quality life possible for L'Arche members.

Summary of L'Arche's Fiscal Year 2013 Audited Financial Statement:

Revenue and Expenses, October 1, 2012–September 30, 2013 *(A complete audited financial statement is available upon request.)*

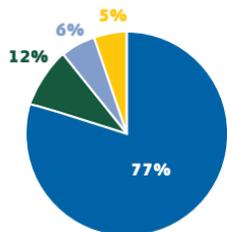


Revenue

Government Contracts	\$1,743,243
Grants and Contributions ²	\$935,734
Rental and Other Income	\$89,682
Total Revenue	\$2,768,659

Assets

Current Assets	\$2,054,761
Long-Term Assets	\$4,591,628
Total Assets	\$6,649,389



Expenses

Program (Homes)	\$1,987,187
Education and Outreach	\$306,302
Administration	\$147,797
Fundraising	\$127,800
Total Expenses	\$2,569,090

Liabilities

Current Liabilities	\$179,757
Notes Payable	\$2,293,656
Total Liabilities	\$2,473,413
Total Net Assets	\$4,172,976

² Includes gifts from foundations, corporations, faith-based organizations, individuals, and donated services.

IDENTITY STATEMENT

We are people with and without intellectual disabilities, sharing life in communities belonging to an International Federation. Mutual relationships and trust in God are at the heart of our journey together. We celebrate the unique value of every person and recognize our need of one another.

OUR MISSION

We 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.



L'Arche Greater Washington, D.C.

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