



Important Update from L'Arche GWDC

APRIL 23, 2020

Dear Friends,

We write to you during a strange and sad time. Yet in the midst of uncertainty, we are blessed to find ourselves standing on a supportive foundation. Our community life continues, though now much of it is virtual, with all the daily joys of prayer, connection, and celebration.

As we put the final touches on the 2019 annual report content, coronavirus began spreading in the United States. Now it has upended our lives. We're following the guidelines from local and national health authorities, which means that core members are not going to day programs or work, we are wearing masks and staying 6 feet apart as possible in the homes, and our events have been canceled or gone virtual, among other precautions.

It is a sobering reality that people with intellectual disabilities are at especially high risk in this pandemic: from underlying health conditions and from discrimination within health systems. Discrimination against people with disabilities has always existed - the pandemic has revealed and entrenched it. Our mission is more important than ever, that we make known the gifts of people with intellectual disabilities. During this time core members are leading us with their creativity and compassion.

Before coronavirus precautions began, L'Arche GWDC had already received some distressing news from L'Arche International - a year-long inquiry uncovered that the late founder of L'Arche International, Jean Vanier, had been sexually abusive toward adult women without disabilities. These findings cause us great disappointment and grief, although none of the inquiry's findings relate directly to our L'Arche GWDC community. More information on the inquiry results and L'Arche USA's response can be found in the letter from Tina Boverman, L'Arche USA's National Leader and Executive Director, on the L'Arche USA website.

Through it all, we remain grounded in the strength of our community and find joy in our daily life together. We are grateful to our supporters near and far during this time. No matter what, we come back to each other and to our values. We are glad to have you with us.

In peace and hope,

Luke Smith

Community Leader | Executive Director

Constance U. Battle, M.D.

President of the Board



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A Place at the Table

Above: Community gathered to welcome L'Arche national and international leaders. From core members to board members, volunteers, assistants, and donors, it takes all of us to build community.

On the cover: Community members enjoy each other's company at Ontario House.

December 31, 2019

DEAR FRIENDS,

As we reflect on our year, we celebrate our blessings: wonderful community members, solid financial footing, and opportunities for growth. Our table is covered with good things, and we've pulled up extra chairs so everyone can have a place. Thank you to our faithful donors, supporters, and volunteers for making this abundance possible!

As a community, we walked through changes together in 2019. We were excited to welcome Joseph Butler as a core member in DC! We also welcomed new community members - including program coordinators and a communications coordinator - and said goodbye to those moving on. We mourned the passing of core member Mo Higgs and celebrated his life.

We have strengthened our place in the wider community: being invited as a trusted partner and expert to speak at the Special Olympics office, formalizing our relationship to Georgetown University, and working closely with local churches, schools, and universities. We also received top scores in our DC service audit.

Looking to the future, we are confident in our ability to face challenges, embrace new opportunities, and grow as a community. And at the end of each day we come back to each other around the table in gratitude.

Thank you again, to all of our donors and supporters, for your prayers and resources. There is always a seat at our table for you.



Constance U. Battle, MD, Board President

2019 Highlights

Volunteers support our community with their time and talents, including groups from the DC Knights of Columbus, Yachad, and the Association of American Medical Colleges. From helping with house maintenance to making healthy dinners, our homes are blessed by their presence and hard work.

We welcomed Joseph, a core member at Euclid House! Joseph brings a gentle presence and a deep attentiveness to the people around him. Whether he is remembering birthdays, checking in with someone about their day, or helping his home stay organized, his gifts build us up as a community.

L'Arche supports core members travelling to reconnect with loved ones and visit places that are important to them. Debora and Caroline visited Debora's family in Texas and Hazel hit the road with some L'Arche friends down to Mecklenburg, the town where she grew up. Fritz and Lauren took a trip to see their friends Vince and Tam Bush who were recently L'Arche GWDC assistants. These meaningful trips are made possible by donor support!

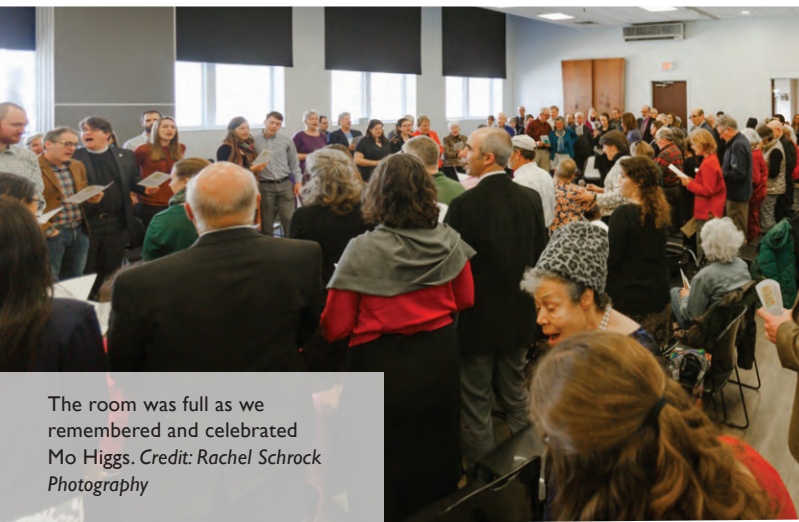
In March 2019, we celebrated the life of Maurice (Mo) Higgs, one of our founding core members. We remembered him through stories, songs, and liturgy. As a community, we walk with each other in every stage in life, including farewells. Mo and his loyal friendship, his pranks, and his music will not be forgotten.



Yachad volunteers smile as they work on maintenance projects in our Virginia homes.



Joseph joined Euclid House in 2019! Credit: Brian Taylor



The room was full as we remembered and celebrated Mo Higgs. Credit: Rachel Schrock Photography



Vince and Fritz out to lunch in Princeton, New Jersey. Credit: Lauren Palmer

2019 Highlights Continued

6th Street House received a new van thanks to the generosity of the Order of Malta Federal Association, U.S.A.! Accessible vans are more than just a vehicle to us - they are our means to be engaged in the community and get everywhere from church to work to medical appointments. Transportation is just one area where our donors empower us to live as a community.

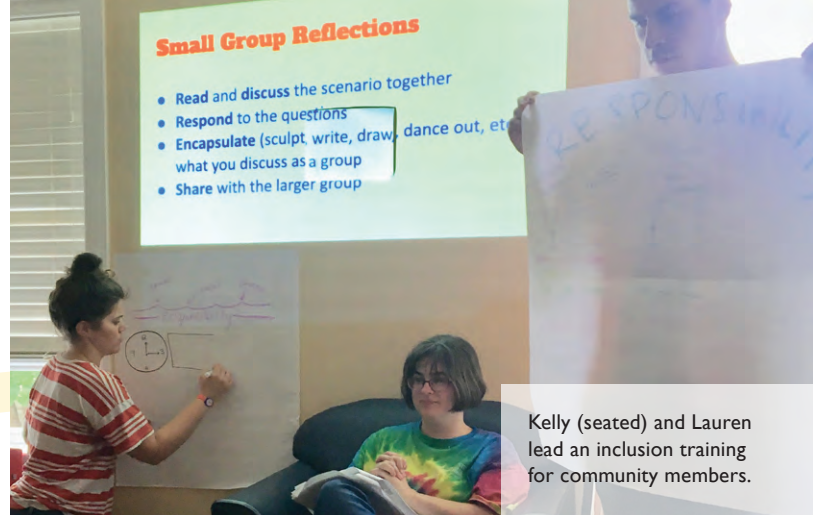
L'Arche is a top scoring service provider in DC, having received excellent overall scores from the DC Department on Disability Services in their 2019 review. The compassion, competence, and leadership of everyone in our community - including our donor support - helps make us an exemplary model of service provision.

Thanks to donor support, our homes went on house vacation to the beach in North Carolina! Core members and assistants swam in the sea, rode bikes, made s'mores around a campfire, flew kites, and enjoyed being together as a family. We were grateful for an accessible home to stay in and the resources to take time to rest.

L'Arche strives for inclusion in all aspects of our diverse experiences and identities! Our Diversity Commission was created to celebrate and unify our diverse community and our Inclusion Party Team creates wider access via different forms of communication and understanding. In the past year their efforts have included providing us with trainings on language and leading us in creative reflections of our backgrounds.



Danny, Bruce, and Charles pose by the new van.



Small Group Reflections

- Read and discuss the scenario together
- Respond to the questions
- Encapsulate (sculpt, write, draw, dance out, etc.) what you discuss as a group
- Share with the larger group

Kelly (seated) and Lauren lead an inclusion training for community members.



Highland House and 6th Street House were excited for their beach vacation!



Debora enjoys the view of the beach on house vacation. Credit: Maryanne Henderson

By the Numbers

Led by our core members, L'Arche GWDC's impact is seen in the depth of relationship in our homes and also spreads far beyond our walls. With every volunteer we welcome, with every stranger that becomes a friend, we are spreading a message and a model of a more inclusive society.

In Fiscal Year 2019 we...

Welcomed more than **270 individual volunteers**. 



Hosted **1360 visits to our houses** for presentations, events, dinner and volunteering.

Hosted **50 public events** including monthly prayer nights, Encounter L'Arche and SolidariDay.



Shared the mission of L'Arche with **611 people** during 24 presentations and events.

Hosted **6 University Break groups**, equaling 32 students total from 5 different universities.



Worked with **42 community partners**, from churches to local businesses.

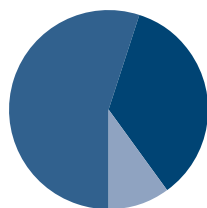
Supported and were supported by **14 core members**, who make up the heart of our community.



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

At L'Arche Greater Washington, D.C., community life centers on four homes where core members – adults 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 actively engage 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.

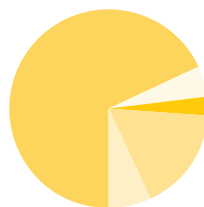
Summary of L'Arche's Fiscal Year 2019 Audited Financial Statement



Revenue

■ Government Contracts	\$1,957,560
■ Contributions*	\$1,012,604
■ Rental and Other Income	\$238,575

Total Revenue **\$3,208,739**



Expenses

■ Program (Homes)	\$2,216,657
■ Program (Other)	\$100,780
■ Education & Outreach	\$108,050
■ Administration	\$622,587
■ Fundraising	\$164,131

Total Expenses **\$3,212,205**

Total Assets: \$6,868,132.48 Total Liabilities: \$2,587,162.08 **Total Net Assets: \$4,280,970**

* Includes gifts from foundations, corporations, faith-based organizations, individuals, and others.

Additional financial information is available upon request. Tax returns are publicly available online.

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 three years, allowing L'Arche to plan ahead. ***Thank you to our Heart of L'Arche Society Members!***

SERVANT-LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

\$25,000 or more per year for three years

Chapman, Grace, Crawford, Jade, and Jarman Taylor

These gifts were received in our fiscal year calendar October 1, 2018-September 30, 2019. Donors who made gifts received after September 30, 2019 will be acknowledged in our next annual report.

ADVOCACY CIRCLE

\$10,000 or more per year for three years

Colette and Peter Arntson
Elizabeth Black and John Cook
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Rebecca and Blayne Grady

COMMUNITY BUILDER CIRCLE

\$5,000 or more per year for three years

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Anonymous (2)

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*\$1,000 or more per year
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*These gifts were received in our
fiscal year calendar October
1st, 2018 - September 30th,
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received after September 30th,
2019 will be acknowledged in
our next annual report.*

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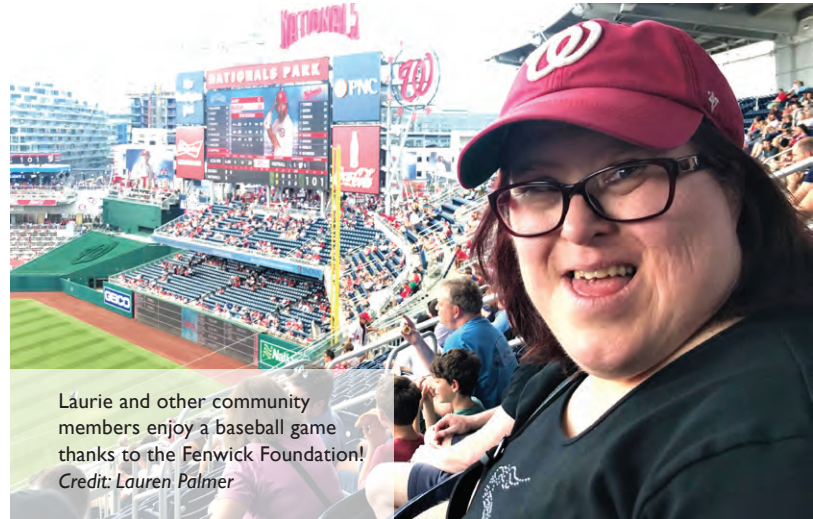
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Fritz blesses Svenja, one of our German volunteers before she returns home.



Laurie and other community members enjoy a baseball game thanks to the Fenwick Foundation!
Credit: Lauren Palmer



Charles meets a little lobster during our annual Halloween party! Credit: Eva-Elizabeth Chisholm



Johnny gives a speech at the art show he hosted to raise money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and L'Arche International. Credit: Lauren Palmer



Francene congratulates Laurie on her performance in an ArtStream theater production! Laurie (right) and Kelly (not pictured) are active ArtStream participants. Credit: Katie Moore



Andrew and Bruce celebrating at Hazel's 60th birthday bash in June. Credit: Katie Moore.



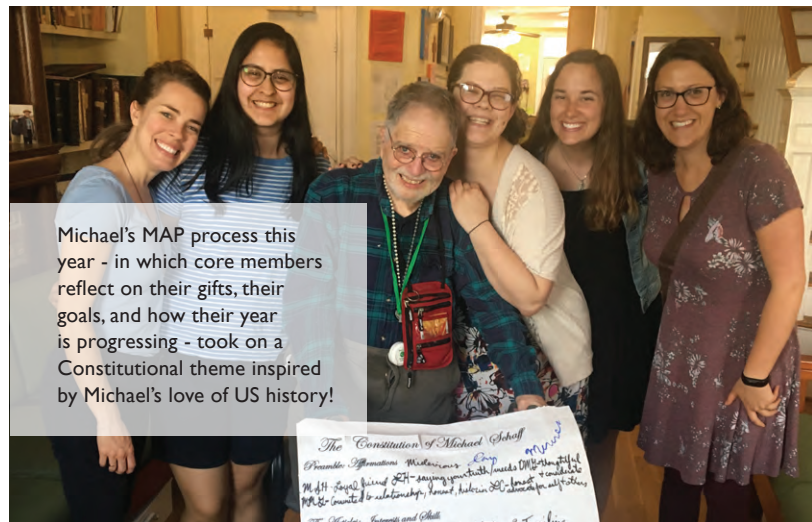
Mulu and Eric bake bread at Highland House. Mealtime - the preparation, the gathering of people, and the moments of prayer - are special times of togetherness for L'Arche.



Hazel and Katie spoke about L'Arche at a Peace Corps Career Fair.



Eileen enjoys music at Adams Morgan PorchFest. Ontario House hosted some bands for the local music festival!



Michael's MAP process this year - in which core members reflect on their gifts, their goals, and how their year is progressing - took on a Constitutional theme inspired by Michael's love of US history!

The Constitution of Michael's School
 Founded: [illegible]
 Mission: [illegible]
 Vision: [illegible]
 Core Values: [illegible]
 [illegible]

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 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. Engage in our diverse cultures, working together toward a more human society.



L'ARCHE GREATER WASHINGTON, D.C.

P.O. Box 21471 | Washington, D.C. 20009 | 202.232.4539 | info@larche-gwdc.org