

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



35 YEARS
OF
Belonging



L'ARCHE®
GREATER
WASHINGTON, D.C.



In hellos and goodbyes, we belong to one another. L'Arche GWDC gathered to celebrate Sonny and pray for him as he transitioned to new housing, but remains a member in our community. *Credit: Brian Taylor*

On the cover: Members of Euclid House celebrate L'Arche GWDC's 35th Anniversary. *Credit: Brooke Lacock*

DEAR FRIENDS,

Since our founding in 1983, with support from our donors, L'Arche Greater Washington, D.C. has provided a place to belong for core members and also for assistants, volunteers, dinner guests, and the community at large. As your new L'Arche GWDC Board President, I am excited to guide the first steps into L'Arche's next 35 years!

As we reflect on this past year, one testament to our work and what L'Arche means to others was our highly-attended 35th-anniversary celebration, which included guests who have dedicated themselves to our vision since the beginning.

Of course, there were some challenges, but also opportunities. Our community mourned the death of core member Walton and was saddened by Sonny's transition to other housing. While he remains a core member, Sonny needed a physical environment better suited to his needs.

We also celebrated birthdays and house vacations together! We faced, and successfully advocated against, regulation changes that could have impacted our way of life and care. We built new relationships and partnerships, such as our membership in the DC Coalition of Disability Service Providers.

In the next year, I will support and guide the L'Arche GWDC leadership team as we carry on responding to our changing needs, honoring the mutually transforming relationships that are central to our work. These relationships include our commitment to ongoing solidarity within the L'Arche Federation and with L'Arche USA. With your help, L'Arche GWDC will continue providing homes for life, supporting aging in place, sharing our mission with greater Washington, D.C., and advocating for a more human society.

Thank you for your part in our first 35 years of belonging and for walking with us in our continued journey.



Constance U. Battle, MD, Board President

Stories of Belonging

- Charles plays a lively harmonica melody – don't be surprised if it has you stomping your feet. A core family member for nine years, last year he shared his sacred story and made a point of including his biological and L'Arche families. Through this experience, both Charles and the L'Arche GWDC community more strongly understand our need for one another.
- Vacations for L'Arche core members and assistants embody a sense of family and have an additional benefit – sharing the L'Arche way of life and caring with the broader community. A trip to Atlantic City, New Jersey provided much-needed respite with seafood dinners, visits to the beach and boardwalk, fun tie-dying shirts, and more. These joyful times would not be possible without donor support!
- Friends from far and near gathered to celebrate our 35 years of living intentionally at the L'Arche GWDC 35th Anniversary Symposium on Compassionate Living in Washington D.C. The celebration was held at St. John Paul II National Shrine and featured founding community leader Kathy Bruner, #AslAm filmmaker Michael McDonald, and Fr. Richard Rohr, O.F.M. as speakers. That's a Wrap Deli, which employs people with developmental disabilities, catered the delicious lunch.

Through your support this past year....

15 core members – adults with intellectual disabilities – lived and found belonging in L'Arche homes.



Mo, Crisely, Eileen, and Brooke
tie-dyeing shirts in Atlantic city.
Credit: Maryanne Henderson

Charles playing harmonica.
Credit: Lauren Stewart



Melissa and Michael at the
35th Anniversary celebration.
Credit: Brian Taylor



Deborah enjoying her 70th birthday celebration.
Credit: Rachel Schrock



Andrew and Summer at the ice cream social hosted by Tim Shriver and Linda Potter. Credit: Brian Taylor



Johnny Walton's brother, working on his art while on vacation in Kansas with Ontario home life leader Laura. Credit: Laura Heiman

... 28 college students from 3 different universities learned about building a more human society during their spring breaks.

... 35 church groups actively share in our work in greater Washington, D.C. and 61 individuals volunteered or brought over dinner.

- As part of creating a more human society, L'Arche looks outward to invite people into belonging. During fiscal year 2018, we shared L'Arche's mission and model with others through speaking at universities, career fairs, and other events, as well as hosting college visits and guests from all over the country for tours and dinners. Through these activities, supported by donors over the years, we have touched thousands of lives.
- Each year young leaders come to L'Arche as volunteers and interns. This past summer, L'Arche hosted students from the University of Notre Dame, Duke University, and a fellow from the Sacred Sector. As the next generation of leaders, they help to impart L'Arche's mission.
- The L'Arche GWDC community gathered in October to remember Walton, who passed away in January of 2018. Walton had been a core member for over fourteen years. Those present at the memorial were invited to take a block home with them, remembering one of Walton's favorite past times of organizing blocks. L'Arche is honored to have been part of Walton's family and to carry his memory forward.

- Core member Hazel cares deeply about others' needs. Last year she led "Hazel's Hike for Haiti," a fundraiser with her church, Our Lady Queen of Peace, to help four students from their sister parish in Medor, Haiti to attend university. The event raised \$5,430. Hazel's gifts of initiative, invitation, and compassion made the walk possible!
- L'Arche GWDC is committed to supporting aging in-place for as long as possible as an alternative to institutionalization. Last year, with donor support, we updated adaptive equipment in each of the houses, enabling core members to continue living in their L'Arche homes.
- L'Arche's lifelong commitment to core members extends to supporting their plans for end of life. In 2018, core members met with their loved ones and community members to discuss how they would like to be celebrated when they die. In addition, the Board approved the Burial and Memorial Fund to provide resources to mourn and celebrate core members when they pass away.
- The model of living together – assistants and core members – is at the heart of what makes L'Arche who we are. This past year a language change to the Virginia state regulations was proposed that excluded live-in assistants. L'Arche reached out to our network of friends who showed overwhelming support via the public comment section of the regulation. The regulatory committee ultimately decided not to change the language.

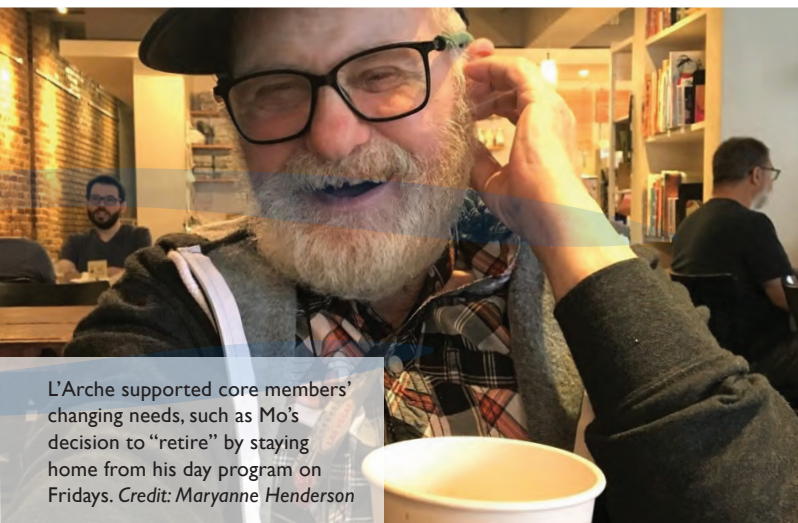
Over 1,000 visits occurred in our homes, with visitors experiencing L'Arche's model of care and mission.



Hazel takes the lead at
"Hazel's Hike for Haiti"
with Keren. Credit: Chris Maggio



Laurie and Fritz advocated at
the National Down Syndrome
Society's Buddy Walk on
Washington. Credit: John Cook



L'Arche supported core members'
changing needs, such as Mo's
decision to "retire" by staying
home from his day program on
Fridays. Credit: Maryanne Henderson



Bruce and volunteer Emmy
during the Christmas party.
Credit: Brian Taylor

Thank You

These gifts were received in our fiscal year calendar October 1, 2017-September 30, 2018. Donors who made gifts received after September 30, 2018 will be acknowledged in our next annual report.

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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!***

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\$25,000 or more per year for three years
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Deborah and Daisy enjoy the Eastern Regional Core Member Retreat which members of L'Arche GWDC helped plan.
Credit: Katie Moore



Eric and Lauren on the Virginia House vacation to Atlantic City.
Credit: Lauren Palmer



Kelly and Katie join hands across artwork by former assistant Vincent Bush.
Credit: Ryan Donell



Francene and Edna share a hug in the 6th Street House prayer room.
Credit: Ryan Donell.

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Over the past year the following organizations have contributed to L'Arche Greater Washington, D.C. through financial gifts, in-kind donations, volunteer hours, and professional assistance

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Archdiocese of Washington
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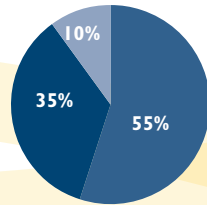
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Tryst
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FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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 2018 Audited Financial Statement

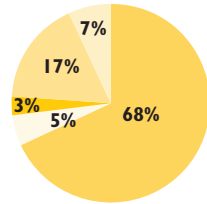


Revenue

■ Government Contracts	\$2,116,224
■ Contributions ²	\$1,347,241
■ Rental and Other Income	\$383,422
Total Revenue	\$3,846,887

Total Assets	\$7,065,403
Total Liabilities	\$2,787,918
Total Net Assets	\$4,277,484

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



Expenses

■ Program (Homes)	\$2,361,982
■ Program (Other)	\$153,001
■ Education & Outreach	\$109,457
■ Administration	\$597,576
■ Fundraising	\$245,278
Total Expenses	\$3,467,294

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

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



**BUILDING COMMUNITIES OF FAITH AND LIFELONG HOMES
WITH PEOPLE WHO HAVE INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES**

Dear Friends,

As we were preparing this annual report, our beloved friend and brother Mo Higgs died.

Mo came to L'Arche from Forest Haven, a notorious local institution - a place where Mo's unique and sacred value was not recognized, where he and other founding members, Gene and Glen, and hundreds if not thousands of people were excluded from society due to fear of their disabilities.

In Mo's death we celebrate his modeling of our values: recognizing a person's unique giftedness, living a faithful life, and welcoming vulnerability. We celebrate and miss his charm and warmth, friendship and care, and love.



Mo with his copper wire in his shed in the backyard of Euclid house. Credit: Brian Taylor

Mo is an unrepeatable grace. A grace that has been bestowed upon so many people over the last 33 years, a grace the world will continue to understand as we work toward a more human society.

In L'Arche, Mo was able to share his unique and sacred value through teaching countless assistants, friends, and those he would encounter in his walks in Adams Morgan, the importance of dignity and fidelity. And through your support, Mo was supported in his dying with dignity and fidelity.

Thank you to all those who have been praying for Mo and the community, we have experienced, and continue to experience, the power of prayer. We can now ask Mo to intercede for us, along with Walton, Gene, Dottie, and many others.

In peace and gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "LSK".

Luke
Executive Director | Community Leader