

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020



Called To  
Connection



L'ARCHE®  
GREATER  
WASHINGTON, D.C.



Above: Ontario House celebrated National Hat Day together!

On the cover: 6th Street smiles from their porch. Credit: Brian Taylor

## DEAR FRIENDS,

What a year it has been! In last year's annual report we wrote "we are confident in our ability to face challenges." And we certainly did face challenges. From COVID-19 to unrest in our city – the challenges were many.

We're proud to say that our confidence was not misplaced. Everyone stepped up to face our new reality. Employees, and especially assistants, took on more hours and followed the often difficult and changing health regulations. Thanks to their hard work, and the commitment of core members, all of the core members have remained safe and healthy. And all of the core members have now received the vaccine!

We could not have faced these challenges without our donors and supporters. No matter what, you continued to connect with us. You called, you joined Zoom celebrations and prayer nights, and helped us find PPE. Thanks to your donations, we had and continue to have secure financial footing. In fact, individual gifts rose!

We continue to look to the future, crafting a strategic plan for internal growth and welcoming Carolyn Rumer as our new Board President. Carolyn's connection with L'Arche GWDC goes back over a decade starting when she was an assistant at Highland House!

We're grateful you were with us this past year. When days were tough, the connection to all of you kept us going. We're so glad you answered the call to connection.

**Constance U. Battle, MD**, Outgoing Board President

**Carolyn Rumer, Esq**, Incoming Board President



# Lifelong Homes

During a strange and difficult year, we were more appreciative than ever to have safe, caring homes. We are spending a lot more time in these homes as day programs and work places closed to keep us safe. With more hours to fill, core members and assistants got creative!

Highland House started planning “activity days”: going on outings to parks, berry picking, potting plants, and even kayaking. At Ontario House they were really missing their local restaurants - so they brought restaurants to them! They also hosted “TED Talks” where community members shared a presentation about something they loved. Euclid House expanded their baking repertoire, watched movies, made claymation videos, and enjoyed playing games. And 6th Street House held talent shows, made up indoor sports games, enjoyed visiting trains, and danced in the kitchen!

In Virginia, we received very little government funding for these many additional hours of daytime support. Contributions from generous donors were critical to fill in the gap and allow for our continuity of care.

Of course, when you spend so much time together, some pranks will be played - including hiding plastic bugs in closets! We also celebrated birthdays, holidays, MAP planning sessions, and anniversaries.

And we didn't only stay at home - in the fall, several of our houses were able to safely take House vacations to the beach and the mountains. Core members and assistants enjoyed being out in nature and seeing new places.



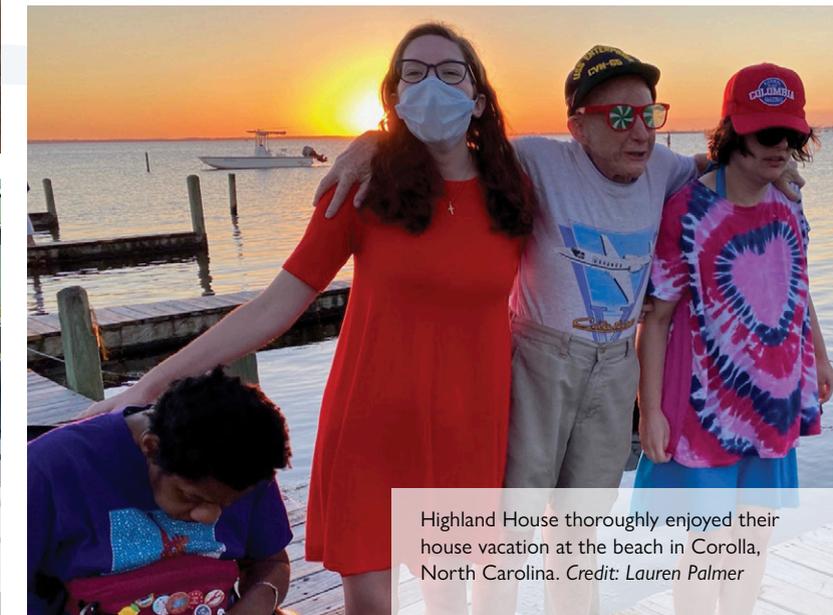
Gloriose and Adryen serve food for Eileen and Debora at their “restaurant” - Bistro Ontario. Credit: Laura Heiman



Hazel, Fritz, Kelly, and Eric enjoy a tractor ride on an activity day! Credit: Alice Felker



Francene won the Crunchiest Cupcake in the 6th Street cupcake contest! Credit: Hannah Avard



Highland House thoroughly enjoyed their house vacation at the beach in Corolla, North Carolina. Credit: Lauren Palmer



In February 2020, prior to quarantine measures, Charles was able to meet with Delegate Plum at the Virginia State Capitol and advocate for issues like a higher minimum wage. Photo: Kara Cunnane



Sometimes you just need a lift! John and Fritz play around at Highland House. Credit: Lauren Palmer



Eva-Elizabeth and Amy wear PPE to safely test community members for COVID-19. Credit: Luke Smith



Thomas and Andrew take a springtime walk in their DC neighborhood. Credit: Maryanne Henderson



## COVID Response & Advocacy

Like most of the country, L'Arche GWDC started taking COVID safety precautions in early March 2020, canceling in person events. By mid-March we were staying safe at home, with our office working fully remote and our homes closed to visitors. The rapid changes of lockdown kept coming - mask wearing, distancing, screening questions to enter the house. Assistants and core members adapted to all of these changes, learning to navigate their homes in new ways. Assistants also adjusted to wearing PPE all day and creating daytime programming. Their work and lives felt upended, and the stress of keeping their homes safe was very real, yet assistants didn't falter. Their strength in the dailiness of life during COVID was and is deeply appreciated.

We also dove into advocacy – writing representatives, joining virtual town hall meetings, and doing whatever we could to ensure people with disabilities - some of the most vulnerable to the virus – were not forgotten during this difficult time. Charles, who has been an active advocate for many years, helped lead us in advocating for one another.

Friends sent fun crafts and games for staying at home, donations, and wish list items. Neighbors reached out to us to see how they could help and organizations offered us PPE. We are so grateful to have such loving, supportive people in our corner.

# Connecting & Planning

We missed gathering together this year, but we made it work with a lot of virtual hang outs. A silver lining is that our events - including monthly prayer nights - became more accessible, including to friends around the globe.

We were also joined online by wonderful virtual volunteers and interns. They connected with core members on FaceTime, wrote blogs and articles, led Zoom activities, helped with the website, and prayed with us.

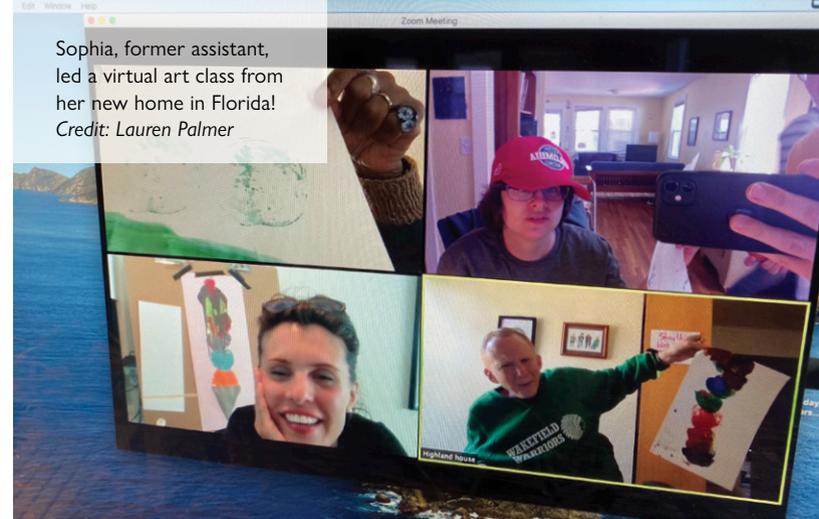
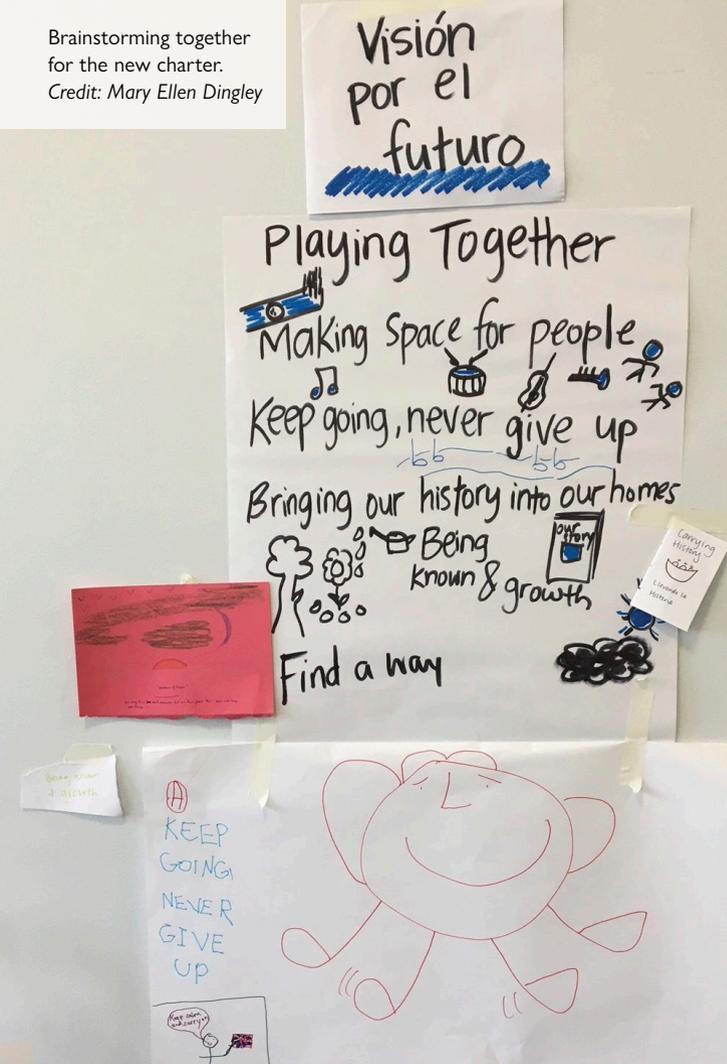
Friends also called to check in - some core members like Hazel had a calling schedule for staying in touch!

Even when connection looks different than normal, we're glad to be with each other.

We're also re-writing our charter - looking to our future, informed by our past (including last year's shocking revelations about Vanier). The Charter Process is happening throughout the L'Arche Federation. It is an invitation to reflect together on our experiences; and to listen and name the spirit and thread that inspires and unites us.



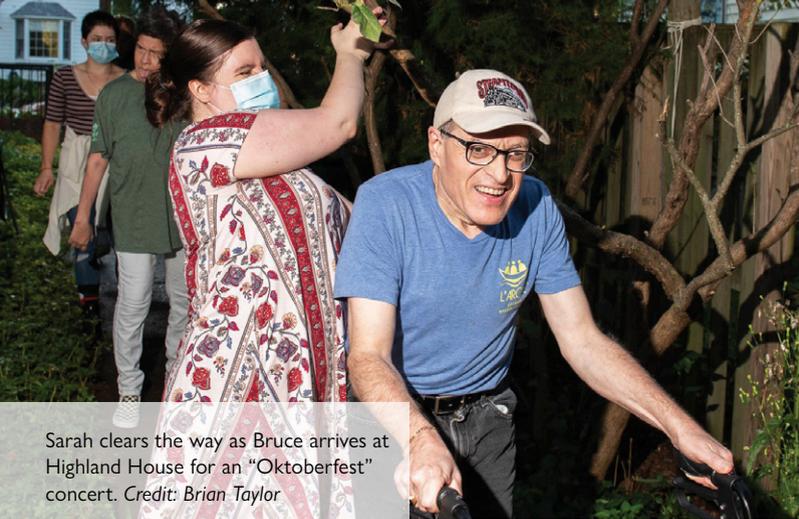
Brainstorming together for the new charter.  
Credit: Mary Ellen Dingley



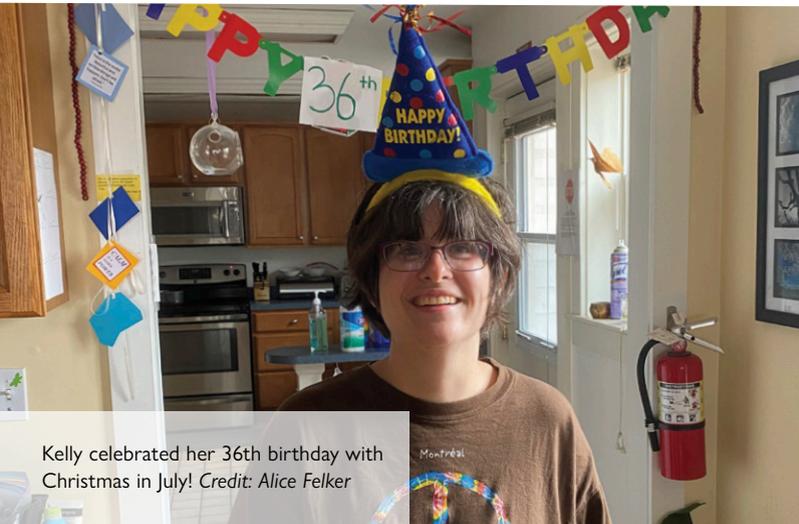
Sophia, former assistant, led a virtual art class from her new home in Florida!  
Credit: Lauren Palmer



Laurie created and led the Purple Yarn Knitting club that met on Zoom!  
Credit: Brooke Lacock-Nisly



Sarah clears the way as Bruce arrives at Highland House for an "Oktoberfest" concert. Credit: Brian Taylor



Kelly celebrated her 36th birthday with Christmas in July! Credit: Alice Felker

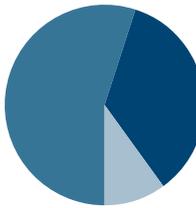


From left: Caroline, Iveta, Eileen, and Adryen celebrate the arrival of fall! Credit: Laura Heiman

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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 2020 Financial Statements



Revenue	
Government Contracts	\$2,350,170
Contributions*	\$1,133,373
Rental and Other Income	\$372,499
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$3,856,042</b>



Expenses	
Program (Homes)	\$2,388,246
Program (Other)	\$102,899
Education & Outreach	\$103,755
Administration	\$690,747
Fundraising	\$185,354
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$3,471,001</b>

Total Assets: \$7,568,349    Total Liabilities: \$2,914,662    **Total Net Assets: \$4,653,687**

\* 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!

*These gifts were received in our fiscal year calendar October 1, 2019-September 30, 2020. Donors who made gifts received after September 30, 2020 will be acknowledged in our next annual report.*

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For over a decade, hundreds of individuals and families have built a sustainable foundation for L'Arche through the Heart of L'Arche Society. Members generously give \$1,000 or more per year for three years, allowing L'Arche to plan ahead and grow sustainably.

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Joseph makes play dough!  
Credit: Meredith Gursky



Michael gets some pumpkin pie for Ontario's "Thanksgiving" in May.  
Credit: Laura Heiman



Eileen created a sign during the Black Lives Matter protests in June.  
Credit: Maryanne Henderson



Johnny bakes some chocolate chip cookies!  
Credit: Laura Heiman

- |                                    |                                      |                                   |                                      |
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## 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.

**STAY INVOLVED!** Head to [www.larche-gwdc.org](http://www.larche-gwdc.org) to sign up for our monthly e-newsletter, read recent blogs, and attend virtual events!



**L'ARCHE GREATER WASHINGTON, D.C.**

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