



Overcoming Together

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

On the cover: Alex, Debora,
Eileen, and Sera, smile on the
Ontario front porch.

Photo By Ryan Donnell

Right: Francene, Lauren, and Mary
enjoy being together in
the Highland House backyard.

Photo By Ryan Donnell



DEAR FRIENDS,

As I write this, we are approaching the second anniversary of the beginning of the COVID-19 shutdown. Two years of masks, distancing, staying safely at home, advocating for vaccines, quarantining, and regular testing. Two years of “unprecedented times.”

The second year was in some ways harder than the first - as places opened up around us, we had to keep following restrictions. People with disabilities are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19 and the government safety policies for disability service providers like ours are especially stringent. We've also faced increased staffing needs in the midst of a nationwide workforce shortage. We endured loss, including the loss of our brother Andrew.

This year has also been a time of gratitude and accomplishment. We produced the “My Voice” film on inclusive medical care for people with intellectual disabilities. We led a discussion series on race, advocacy, and storytelling. Our Diversity Commission led us in hosting affinity listening groups. We spoke to over a thousand people about our mission and model. We kept each other safe. And we did all of this together.

All of this would not be possible without the support of our many friends over the past year, and we are incredibly grateful! It was wonderful to see friends from all over the world at our virtual Heart of L'Arche fundraiser and witness your generosity in a tangible way.

Thank you for helping us overcome together. We couldn't do it alone, and we wouldn't want to.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carolyn Rumer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Carolyn" and last name "Rumer" clearly distinguishable.

Carolyn Rumer, Esq., Board President



Lifelong Care and Relationships

In early 2021, we celebrated getting vaccinated! After many months of advocacy, core members were prioritized to receive the vaccine.

We returned to being able to meet in groups, mostly outside, wearing our masks and keeping ourselves warm with heaters and fire pits in the wintertime. Many core members were also excited to return to day programs and jobs. We went on house vacations which was extra special for Joseph, who saw the ocean for the first time! Community members filled their time with local outings, movie nights, and reading – Bruce read most of the Harry Potter books!

Even though we were vaccinated, 2021 was a challenging year. As people around us began to return to a more open life, we still needed to keep ourselves safe by following COVID regulations for group homes. Core members aging, more time at home, and the impacts of COVID mean that we've hired more assistants to provide the best community and care for core members. Rising to meet this need has been difficult, as caregivers are in short supply and workforce challenges rise across the country.



We continue to miss our brother Andrew who passed away in April 2021. We'll never forget the light and laughter he brought to us all.

April 25, 1978 – April 13, 2021



*Clockwise
from top left:*

Debora on house
vacation at the
beach. We use
special beach chairs
for mobility.

Joseph and Eileen
enjoy the ocean!

Hazel and her
fellow community
members received
their first vaccine
shots in January
2021!

Bruce, Francene,
Charles, and Laurie
spent a lot of time
watching trains
at the local train
station.



“I’m a human being,

and I want to be treated like one, not like a 5-year-old boy.

My voice is important to make sure other people hear.”



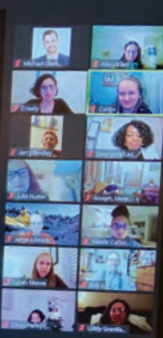
Clockwise from top left:

Michael blesses us with his knowledge of both L’Arche history and history in general. Alex reads one of his latest history books!
Credit: Ryan Donnell

Our My Voice series, based on experiences of people with intellectual disabilities, has been shown to medical students around the country.

All community members have a voice in making decisions for their house and sharing their gifts. Laurie and Bruce make dinner for their home!
Credit: Ryan Donnell.

We hosted our first Diving Deeper series! Our second event was on the intersection of race and disability led by Dr. Georgette Ledgister.



Education and Advocacy



An important aspect of our mission is building a more inclusive society, and this past year our outreach only grew! We spoke to over a thousand people and shared materials with countless others. Community members wrote and produced a film on how medical spaces can be more accessible to people with intellectual disabilities. The film, called ***My Voice: Amplifying the Voices of People with Intellectual Disabilities in the Medical System***, has now been shared with medical students and professionals around the country, including via many presentations led by core members!

We also hosted three virtual Diving Deeper events, discussion events on issues that impact our community. We talked about storytelling, the intersection of race and disability, and the ways we advocate. Our Inclusion Party Team, which exists to teach people about inclusion and help us be led by core members, held their annual Inclusion Trainings for our staff and collaborated with L'Arche USA on a national presentation.

The pivot to virtual spaces only allowed our outreach to grow, as we spoke to hundreds of people about our mission, our model, and how we can all make the world more inclusive!



Mission of Transformation

In L'Arche, mutual transformation is a way of life, as we grow together and support each other! It was wonderful this past year to welcome summer volunteers back into our community and see the ways we transformed each other. Having their energy and presence is a huge help to us! We were also grateful to the many people throughout the year who brought us meals.

We're now in the process of crafting a new charter, a document shared by the entire International Federation of L'Arche that lays out what we believe and what unites us. This is a long process of allowing all members of L'Arche around the world to share their stories in different and creative ways! Through connection and reflection, together we're thinking about what life at L'Arche means to all of us.

Throughout the year we were able to attend learning series hosted by L'Arche USA, including the New Leader Learning series and the Inclusive Leadership series. Our Diversity Commission led us in hosting Affinity Listening Groups with a space for "Remembering Summer 2020" in May 2021. They also put out, for the 3rd time, our Demographics and Cultural Competency Survey as we continue to change and learn!

Prayer nights continued monthly, as did other spaces of faith formation. Even in difficult years, we are growing as people, as friends, and as a community.



Top left-right:

Our charter process team doing the work of creating our first draft charter. Photo provided by the charter process team.

Hazel washes Liddy's feet during a Lenten foot washing ceremony.

Bottom left-right:

Fritz and friends built a new greenhouse in the backyard of Highland House! Before...

...and after!

Credit: Ryan Donnell



*Clockwise from
top left:*

Euclid House created
a group Halloween
costume based on their
shared love of Uno!

Johnny enjoys
writing outside on
the Ontario porch.

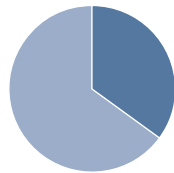
One of the summer
volunteers helped
6th Street House set
up a new flower bed.

Ontario and Euclid
House get silly on
house vacation!



Your generous gifts supplement government contracts, making a holistic, high-quality life possible for L'Arche core members. Thank you for partnering with us to provide the compassionate care and transformational relationships that are lived out everyday at L'Arche. Without your partnership the work of L'Arche would not be possible. Here's how the investment you made through L'Arche was used to further our mission in 2021.

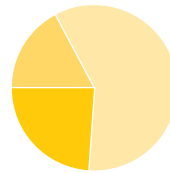
L'Arche GWDC's Fiscal Year 2021



Income

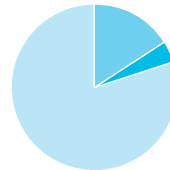
■ Charitable Income, 35%	\$1,615,652
Individuals, 24%	\$1,114,887
Foundations, 5%	\$216,798
Corporations, 1%	\$65,456
Churches, 1%	\$45,900
Other, 4%	\$172,611
■ Program Income, 65%	\$2,999,021
DC Contracts, 31%	\$1,431,582
VA Contracts, 22%	\$1,012,805
Other, 12%	\$554,634

Total Income \$4,614,673



Direct Mission – Impact per Program

■ Lifelong Care and Relationships	59%
■ Mission of Transformation	24%
■ Education and Advocacy	17%



Expenses

■ Program Services	\$2,987,531
■ Administration	\$595,575
■ Fundraising	\$150,101

Total Expenses \$3,724,207

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



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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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These gifts were received in our fiscal year calendar October 1, 2020 - September 30, 2021. Donors who made gifts received after September 30, 2021 will be acknowledged in our next annual report.

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*Clockwise
from top left:*

Kelly laughs as
she spent time out
in nature.

Francene and Alice
won a prize at the
county fair last summer!

Eric on his first day
back to work in May
after COVID had shut
down his work place
for many months!

One of our nurses,
Veronica, takes a swab
for COVID testing.
We do regular COVID
testing for all community
members. Credit: Ryan
Donnell.

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*Thank you to Virginia Theological
 Seminary for being a leading sponsor
 of our Heart of L'Arche Event!*



United Way: #8388

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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 to sign up for our monthly e-newsletter, read recent blogs, and attend virtual events!



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