

Through your support, we look to the year ahead with the focus and vision to:

#### L'ARCHE GWDC 2023-2028 MANDATE

- · Strengthen relationships and structures within our homes and community
- · Cultivate relationships with new and long-term friends
- · Imagine new and innovative ways to grow in the spirit of L'Arche

#### **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-newletter, read our stories, and learn about our events!



L'ARCHE GREATER WASHINGTON, D.C.

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



"L'Arche has given me a lot of hope, joy, beauty, friendship, life, and light. Like a beautiful peace on earth."

Laurie Pippenger, Artisan Weaver, Anime Lover, Core Family Member

ON THE COVER: Highland house members pose in front of their home, smiling and laughing with each other.

Credit: Rachel Schrock Photography.



### Bear Friends,

What a year it has been! As I reflect on all we have weathered and worked for over this last year, I am proud to share both the new and familiar places we find ourselves.

We welcomed volunteers and friends back into our homes and it has been energizing for everyone—the joy and relief is palpable. We've heard from so many how they missed connecting with us in person and we missed it too.

We continued responding to a myriad of our community's changing needs. We overhauled our scheduling and staffing to support core members' varying ways of life—from seeking competitive employment to celebrating retirement and implementing in-home hospice care. As core members age, we adapt our homes, vehicles, equipment, and trainings to continue providing competent and compassionate care.

We went through the process of creating a new mandate. As a community, we reflected on our challenges, joys, and hopes. Together we set goals for the next five years and affirmed Luke Smith to continue as our Community Leader. We are grateful to Luke for his compassionate and steadfast leadership.

My admiration and gratitude for the strength, creativity, and compassion of the people of L'Arche continues to grow. It is because of core members, assistants, leaders, friends, volunteers, and you that the light of L'Arche persists. Our way of life is not always easy, but it is most certainly needed. Thank you for being part of it.

Carolyn Rumer, Esq.

**Board President** 

# Lifelong Care and Relationships

Someone working for disability services in D.C. once asked why core members in L'Arche stay so long, as compared to residents in other service providers often choosing to leave. Our answer? Lifelong care and relationships. Deep care and faithful relationships don't just happen—they take work, dedication, and commitment. Gratefully, your donations allow us to make that work a priority.

- Your support helps us respond to the changing and divergent needs within our community, which is both aging and young. We support core members in their retirement and in seeking competitive employment (Kelly got that job at Jake's Ice Cream she wanted!). We welcomed more assistants so core members can consistently engage in the activities they wish. We leased an accessible van and hailed many accessible taxis. From food processors for specialty diets to stocking our pantry with someone's comfort food, your support enables core members to live their lives how they choose.
- Although much of our world has gone back to normal, our homes continue following government protocols that require seasons of COVID isolation and quarantine. During these times many friends and neighbors dropped off dinners, which was a huge support to our homes.
- Our Medicaid contracts typically do not cover expenses related to things like exercise classes, specialty therapies, staffing during hospital stays, bonuses for the extraordinary work of our assistants, or high-quality employee health care. Your generosity helped core members and employees experience meaningful care and support above and beyond government funding.



Clockwise from top left:

Hazel is all smiles on a trip to Great Falls.

Cruz, Michael, and Luke enjoy the annual board picnic.

Joseph, with James, hosts his MAP outside. MAPs are a space where core members invite their community to reflect with them on the past, think about the present, and dream about the future.

Alice and Bruce on a kayaking adventure.



Clockwise from top left:

Bruce in his bedroom. "I got so many new things in my room... my door, my closet, my shelves! [At home] I like to cook and bake. I wash dishes sometimes. And I like to go to work, see friends and see Molly." -Bruce Weaver Credit: Ryan Donnell

Mary and Francene visit the Friends T.V. show exhibit in D.C.

Debora out to eat at The Diner. a staple in Adams Morgan.

Fritz and his mom, Emmy Lu, spend some quality time together.



## Education and advocacy

An important part of our mission is building a more human society, one that welcomes and learns from people with disabilities. We lived out this part of our mission in several ways, made possible by your support.

GWDC's Diversity Commission hosted Black History Month Zoom talks. Joseph started us off strong with a talk on Marvin Gaye and his impact on music. The Diversity Commission also led our first annual cultural humility training for all employees.

Our Inclusion Party Team was invited by L'Arche USA to lead a session on inclusive team building through play.

We presented our film: "My Voice: Amplifying the Voices of People with Intellectual Disabilities in the Medical System" to hundreds of students and medical professionals across the country.

We hosted our Diving Deeper series online, discussing human-centered healthcare, making a living with a disability, and the spirituality of L'Arche.

### Mission of Transformation

In L'Arche, mutual transformation is a way of life, allowing ourselves to grow together and be changed. Here are a few ways we lived out our mission of transformation this past year:



As an international federation, we finished drafting L'Arche's Charter, to be voted on for approval at the June 2023 International Assembly. This process began in 2019 and gave space for members of L'Arche around the world to share what L'Arche means to them and express all that unites us.



"I was transformed in a way that shapes my daily life a decade later and I hope for all my days. The way of life I found possible at L'Arche remains the standard against which I measure all I do."

Yuko Gruber Gibson, M.D., Former Assistant and Home Life Leader, Life-long Friend



#### Clockwise from left:

Laurie and Laura
(long-time friend of
community and member
of our board) dance the
night away at The Arc of
NoVa's 60th anniversary
gala. "It is so good to
be back together and
dancing. L'Arche is all
about finding joy!"
—Laura DeMaria

Joseph gets part of dessert ready. "I like baking a lot," he shares.

Johnny faithfully works on his art. Johnny hosted another art show this year, raising money for people experiencing homelessness.

Charles hosts a student volunteer group from Bishop O'Connell High School.

#### Clockwise from top left:

In his retirement, Fritz often helps with weekly grocery shopping. It's no small thing making sure so many people are well fed!

Kelly, Eric, and Gabby on house vacation in North Carolina.

Debora and Eileen trim the Christmas tree.

Eileen, Ricky, and Anna in front of Ontario House. Ricky moved into Euclid in July 2022 and it has been a joy getting to know each other. "I work at the stables now. I love horses, baby elephants, and zebras!"

—Ricky Miller

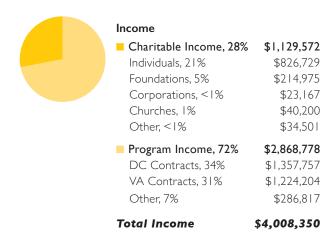
Credit: Rachel Schrock Photography



#### FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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 2022.

#### L'Arche GWDC's Fiscal Year 2022



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







These gifts were received in our fiscal year October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022. Donors who made gifts received after September 30, 2022 will be acknowledged in our next annual report.

#### L'ARCHE BOARD OF **DIRECTORS**

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Françoise Aubry-Kendall The Heart of L'Arche Society Bob Asselin was created in 2009 to build Kevin Belford, Esa., a sustainable foundation Vice President for L'Arche's financial future. Michael Clemente, Esq., Donors pledge \$1,000 or Secretary more per year for three years, Laura DeMaria Rev. Tim Malone allowing L'Arche to plan ahead. Thank you to our Heart of Delila Pinckney Nadine Reid, Treasurer L'Arche Society Members! Kris Ritter Carolyn Rumer, President CIRCLE F. Chapman Taylor

### SERVANT-LEADERSHIP \$25,000 or more ber year

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From left to right:

Michael works on his latest piece with Rex, a long-time friend who leads an art class with core members.

Hazel and John Cook travel back from L'Arche Erie's 50th anniversary celebration.

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Charles and together.

Francene smiling



Open your smart phone's camera and hover over this QR code to watch our video, "The Light of L'Arche."



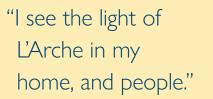






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- Eileen Schofield, Friendship Builder