

40 Years of Creating Community Together



ANNUAL REPORT
2023



L'ARCHE®
Greater
Washington, D.C.

ON THE COVER:
Photos of L'Arche
GWDC members
over the years.



**Johnny &
Cordelia**

*"Una vida grande?
Una vida grande es preciosa."
"A big life? A big life is precious."*

JOHN SCHOFIELD
Politician, Student, Core Member



Rozella & Ricky



Joseph & Crisely

*"I have fun here. Go out.
Or go to baseball...
hang out and help!"*

JOSEPH BUTLER
Commanders Fan,
Loving Brother, Core Member

*"There's a lot of staff in L'Arche. And people
listen. I want to be ok in L'Arche. Hang out
with my staff, my housemates, [my family].
And I want to talk to them about getting a
new girlfriend. It is very important to me."*

RICKY MILLER
Aspiring Animal Trainer,
Uncle, Core Member

Dear Friends,



Can you believe we celebrated 40 years of this fantastic community? It is truly incredible to think of all the people who have made our way of life possible. We owe it to them, and to you, for creating communities of belonging.

In recent years, we have witnessed a growing cry for connection. The US Surgeon General has declared a loneliness epidemic, and many of us know the pervasive sting of social isolation all too well. While L'Arche is not the only solution to this problem, we do hold a powerful solution through life-giving connection.

Our model's foundation for building a more human society is providing lifelong care and relationships. This year, we celebrated Michael Schaff's 40th anniversary in L'Arche. Michael moved into Ontario house on October 6, 1983, marking the official opening of L'Arche GWDC. We also commemorated the life of our beloved brother, Charles Clark. Charles went to heaven on September 18, 2023, surrounded by his friends and family. We are forever changed because of Charles and his unwavering commitment to us.

Having experienced the beauty of L'Arche firsthand and the solidarity of community through the highs and lows of life, I am amazed yet unsurprised at how our work transforms individuals, neighborhoods, and communities. We remain a place of encounter and deep connection for so many.

Through the dedication of our assistants, core members, leaders, friends, volunteers, and partners like you, our vision for a more human society is becoming a reality. I am grateful for what we have built together and excited to see what we will create together over the next 40 years.



Carolyn Rumer

CAROLYN RUMER, ESQ. Board President



Lifelong Care and Relationships

We believe it's possible to shape a world that welcomes every person as a fully valued and meaningfully contributing member of society. We do this by providing holistic, individualized care for core members rooted in mutual relationships.

We cannot discuss lifelong care and relationships without honoring and celebrating our late brother and core family member, Charles. With his spirit and guidance, we continue our work and commitment to a more human society, the beauty of which is possible through your partnership.

- For 19 months, Charles received hospice care in his home. Sixth Street assistants and house leaders provided immensely competent and compassionate care for and with Charles. Charles lived out the last year of his life with the fervor and dedication many of us know him for. He attended three weddings, went on two trips, and participated in several important meetings with disability advocates and L'Arche USA.
- As the caregiving shortage grows more severe, direct support professionals (DSPs, also known as assistants in L'Arche) and people with disabilities face detrimental consequences. If we want a society that values all of our members, we need to address the historically underpaid and undervalued work of DSPs. For this reason, we created a compensation philosophy reflecting this work's importance and raised our starting pay for assistants to \$20 an hour. Government reimbursements are still based on minimum wage, making our donor funding crucial in paying our assistants the meaningful wages and benefits they deserve.
- Your donations made a safer, more accessible life for our core members this year through things like Highland's brand-new ramp, Bruce's newly designed, easy-access closet, and purchasing our accessible van!

After three years of eating 6 feet apart inside our homes due to COVID protocols, we are thrilled to gather around our tables again.

Laurie and Hazel hang out over morning coffee. Hazel stayed at 6th Street while Highland's new ramp was constructed. She had so much fun; it was touch and go for a bit whether she'd move back home or not.



Carolyn and Eric pass the peace!



Together again!



Charles lived a big life at L'Arche. Pictured in his "Year in Review" are the vast array of friends and family members with whom Charles went out to eat, cooked, and sat on the porch in his last year of life.

Joseph, Matthew, and Ricky pose for a photo together. Matthew joined us as a summer intern from Notre Dame's Bridge program, bringing much-needed sports talk (according to Joseph) and a love for Wii sports.



Fran and Mary catch a show at the Kennedy Center.



Debora, Beth, and Lauren enjoying an afternoon stroll.



Eileen and Haley attend a #CareCantWait rally. The campaign advocates for the funding needed to support people with disabilities living in their community and for living wages and benefits for direct support professionals (DSPs/assistants).

Education and Advocacy

Our way of life has the power to remove barriers between people with and without disabilities. Through formal and informal educational moments, we promote the understanding that all people are valuable and integral to mutual thriving. We advocate for each other and for laws that promote inclusion to create more human communities.

Here are a few ways your partnership made this vision a reality:

- Over 750 people heard about the mission of L'Arche through various presentations on topics such as disability rights, our MyVoice curriculum amplifying the voices of people with disabilities in the medical system, and L'Arche spirituality. After co-presenting at Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart on daily life and celebration in L'Arche, Bruce received a giant cake from the students in honor of his birthday!
- In partnership with L'Arche USA and external consultants, our Diversity Commission conducted a Diversity Self-Assessment, which gave rise to meaningful and actionable commendations and recommendations. We look forward to celebrating what we learned and expanding our efforts; as the consultants noted, "L'Arche community members are crystal clear on the mission of L'Arche, in what they say and how they do what they do."



Mission of Transformation

We nurture each other's leadership potential and spiritual formation to discover who we are and how we can contribute to the greater good. Investing in our model of belonging and community supports opportunities for transformative relationships across difference and makes a more human society possible for all.

- We welcomed over 100 people from around the world as volunteers, interns, and assistants. Three students from Notre Dame's Bridge Program and one from the University of Virginia joined us as summer interns.
- Our virtual prayer nights continued monthly, an invaluable space for connection among old and new friends. Our committees led us in our traditions, offering spaces of transformation through Lent and Advent retreats, formations, weekly and holiday celebrations, and more.
- As an international federation, we voted to approve our new Charter at our International Assembly in June. Our Charter guides us toward action, reminding us how genuinely sacred our relationships are—a sign in the world that all belong.

“What keeps me here and what I hope will bring me back next summer... the friendships are just so wonderful. Being in relationship with every assistant and every core member has, I think, changed my life. It is an experience you'll never forget.”

CAROLINE RAYMOND, Summer 2023 Ontario Intern



**Caroline,
Eileen, and
Kari at UVA.**



Ontario's Queens
4—Chynah, Debora,
Eileen, and Jennifer—
perform during
Adams Morgan Day.
Check our newsletter
for upcoming
performances.



Holy Week foot-washing
service at Highland.



You have to see Queens 4 live!



We hope you can join us
for this year's event!



Johnny relaxes and avoids the
jellyfish at Sandy Point beach.

We had a lovely time sharing
our gifts at our first annual
Gather Our Gifts friend-raiser and fundraiser
at Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart.
Talent show, art sale, ice cream truck...
what more could you want from a Saturday?

Musical highlights: Ricky playing guitar by the fire and Joseph's bongo-playing!

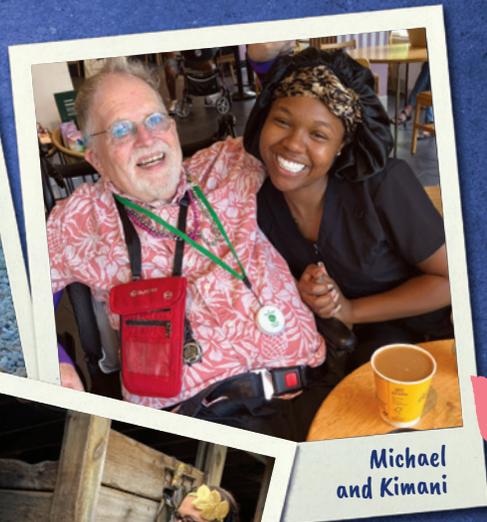


Highland House Vacation – Corolla, NC

So much fun – swimming, crabbing, playing on the dunes, shopping, and more!

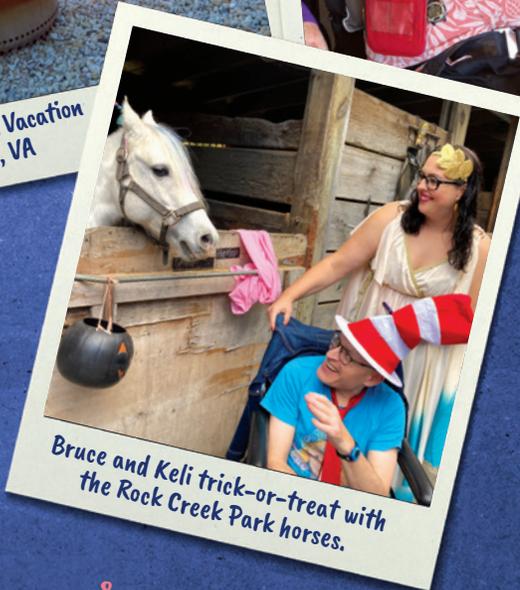


Euclid House Vacation
Reedville, VA



Michael
and Kimani

Enjoying each other's company over some drinks.

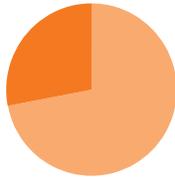


Bruce and Keli trick-or-treat with the Rock Creek Park horses.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

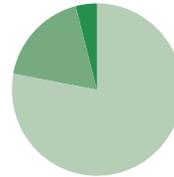
Your generous gifts supplement government contracts, making a holistic, high-quality life possible for L'Arche core members. Thank you for partnering with us to provide the compassionate care and transformational relationships that are lived out daily at L'Arche. Without your partnership, the work of L'Arche would not be possible.

Here's how your investment through L'Arche furthered our mission in 2023—



INCOME

Charitable Income, 29%	\$1,376,511
Individuals, 21%	\$979,119
Foundations, 4%	\$188,379
Corporations, <1%	\$31,567
Churches, <1%	\$20,163
Other, 3%	\$157,283
Program Income, 71%	\$3,310,653
DC Contracts, 34%	\$1,589,517
VA Contracts, 31%	\$1,459,283
Other, 6%	\$261,853
Total Income	\$4,687,164



EXPENSES

Program Services, 77%	\$3,466,316
Administration, 18%	\$810,309
Fundraising, 5%	\$225,085
Total Expenses	\$4,501,710

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

These gifts were received in our fiscal year October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023. Donors who made gifts received after September 30, 2023 will be acknowledged in our next annual report.

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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

The Rumer Family
Grace, Chapman, Crawford,
Jade, and Jarman Taylor

ADVOCACY CIRCLE

\$10,000 or more per year
for three years
Colette and Peter Arntson
Elizabeth Black and John Cook
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\$5,000 or more per year
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\$2,500 or more per year
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The Young Family





Johnny is in great spirits as he celebrates his L'Arche anniversary.

COMPANION CIRCLE

\$1,000 or more per year
for three years

- Gail Arnall
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- Françoise and
Ron Aubry-Kendall
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*Lisa, Debora, Eileen, and
Ty pause for a photo in
Harper's Ferry, where
Virginia, West Virginia,
and Maryland converge.*





***“This is a manifestation
of what I see in my mind—
the way life should be.”***

JENNIFER MUHAMMAD
Proud L’Arche Assistant

In honor of Kenneth H. King
Fran Knoll
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Stephen Yoder
Zenon Zabinski

Terrence Zecha
and Elizabeth Brady
Jenna Zigman
Barbara and Todd Zinke
Ziser Smith Family
Anonymous (39)



*Kelly, Mary, and Eric
cheer on the Nationals
from a top-deck view!*

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.

COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE PARTNERS

Academy of the Holy Cross
 ALCO Pharmacy
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 Archdiocese of Washington Office of Deaf and Disabilities Ministry
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 Anonymous (4)



United Way: #8388
CFC: #73532

Do you know if your employer matches donations? Contact us to learn more about corporate matching and double your impact!



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

OUR 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

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! Go to www.larche-gwdc.org to sign up for our monthly newsletters, read our stories, and learn about our events!



L'ARCHE[®]
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Washington, D.C.

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