



# Becoming More Human, Together

ANNUAL REPORT  
2024



L'ARCHE®  
Greater  
Washington, D.C.

ARTWORK BY  
EILEEN  
SCHOFIELD



HOW TO  
BECOME MORE  
HUMAN

Good

Loving

Understanding

Aware

Friendly

Sensitive

Connected

One Family

ES

Lovely

Authentic

Patient

Ourselves

Courageous

ON THE COVER:  
L'Arche GWDC community members gather  
to celebrate someone on their birthday.

## Dear Friends,

Our society is facing an epidemic of loneliness and isolation. Have you felt that at times? Even people with loving families and support networks can know the strain of disconnect.

But when we share everyday life—people with and without intellectual disabilities—we start to heal that strain. We begin to find the belonging that we all need to thrive. This is the work of L'Arche. Because no one person will enjoy the fullness of belonging until every person is welcomed fully.

With your continued and growing support, L'Arche GWDC is expanding spaces of belonging. We are renovating a new home to serve more people with disabilities, expanding our education and advocacy efforts to remove barriers between people with and without disabilities, and seeing more lives transformed by connection and community.

I cannot thank each of you enough for all your efforts and contributions to shaping a more human world—one that welcomes every person as a valued member of society.



CAROLYN RUMER, ESQ. Board President



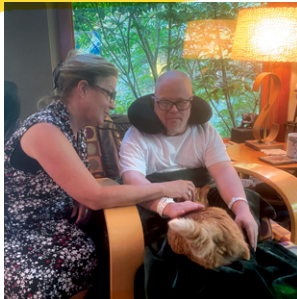
# Lifelong Care and Relationships



## In Good Hands

"I'm ready to die." These were the words of Emmy Lu Daly, the week before she passed away, having lived a full century. Emmy Lu, in addition to being a former Home Life Leader for L'Arche in the 1980s, was also the mother of Fritz Schloss, a founding core member at Highland House. Fritz and Emmy Lu were very close. It was commonplace for the two of them to sing "Sweetest Little Fellow" at our annual talent show.

"I believe Emmy Lu could let go because she knew her son would be taken care of," remarks Dixcy Bosley-Smith, hospice nurse and longtime friend of Emmy Lu & L'Arche. "This is the dream of so many parents of people with disabilities—to know your child will be in good hands."



Dixcy is part of a wider community of people who enrich Fritz's life in small but meaningful ways. During a visit, Fritz and Dixcy looked through all the pictures of Emmy Lu she has on her phone.

In addition to providing competent care, L'Arche cherishes friends like Dixcy who stay connected, tell stories, and support core members to connect with their family & their family history. To stay in touch, Fritz regularly calls his sister, Lisanne. He also visited her this year, taking a vacation to Michigan to relax with her and her cats.

Bruce and Carl revel at the Arlington County Fair.



Cordelia, Abi, and Michael enjoy a vacation in Virginia Beach.



Our annual community trip to Bull Run Water Park was only made better by the rain!

Joseph and Crisely catch some rays.



Holy Cross College students join us for a spring break immersion trip. Eileen takes them on a trash walk to help keep the neighborhood clean!



Our Community Connections Program (CCP) launched in January 2024. It has been an incredible space of belonging, with relationships growing beyond the once-a-month gathering.



Hazel and Kelly beat the heat with some ice cream.



Ricky appreciates the animals at the zoo.



# Education and Advocacy

## Being Ourselves with the CUA Women's Soccer Team

Kinsey Jarboe was a Junior and a women's soccer team member at the Catholic University of America when she joined L'Arche GWDC as a summer volunteer in 2022. Whether it was making bracelets with Laurie or dreaming up plans for a bakery with Charles, Kinsey had a knack for building mutual relationships. Even after her volunteering was complete, Kinsey returned to work at L'Arche part-time. One fall afternoon, the 6th Street core members attended a CUA soccer game to cheer on Kinsey and her teammates.



The connection could have ended there, but after her graduation, Kinsey encouraged her coach, Casey Sommers, to explore a partnership with L'Arche. Coach Sommers invited the L'Arche community to join the team in one of its pre-season traditions—dinner and a talent show! Ten L'Arche community members joined for a raucous, joyful evening. Eileen sang and danced to Michael Jackson. Ricky performed the Macarena with some of the first-year players. Laurie sang Celine Dion with her usual vim and verve, and Francene did not hesitate to share her favorite flying act! One senior, Ava Rieger, remembers that "the members of L'Arche got up in front of everyone and crushed it on the stage." Since that day, Coach Sommers and the team have continued to partner with L'Arche. Over half of the players have come in recent months to join us for a party and share dinner and prayer in our homes. Coach Sommers shared afterward, "As young adults, our students can often get anxious or worked up about trivial things. After spending time with L'Arche, they were able to relax, laugh, and just be themselves. L'Arche has been a reminder that sometimes you don't have to take yourself so seriously."



# Mission of Transformation

## More Than Just an Idea

"Is this actually happening?" Alex Veiga Torre asked himself as he sat among an auditorium full of L'Arche community members, enthusiastically cheering during the L'Arche USA Eastern Regional Gathering Talent Show. As a new live-in assistant at Ontario House, Regional Gathering was a foundational early experience for Alex. Seeing the genuine joy of people rooting for their friends as they performed for the whole L'Arche region, Alex shared, "I felt community in a new way. I realized then L'Arche wasn't just selling me an idea of community and love. It was real."

Alex describes his first days in L'Arche as "shocking but in a good way." Having previously worked in health care in his hometown of Havana, Cuba, Alex wasn't sure what he was getting into when he sat down at his first meal in Ontario. Slowly, he realized he had stumbled into a home where he found both competent care and a sense of family. "In the medical field, they are more focused on the diagnosis than the person. At L'Arche, we focus on both, but especially the person."



When asked about his own journey, Alex describes that he feels more emotionally intelligent, more empathetic, and more in tune with how community bonds are formed. Naming some recent moments of connection—playing Uno with Eileen, handing Johnny paint & a canvas, listening to Michael's insights during movies, and hearing Debora lead the home in singing "Yellow Submarine"—Alex remarks with a sudden clarity, "I'm learning to find joy in the joy of others."

**Carolyne  
and Laurie  
smile for  
summer.**



**Hazel, Anna,  
Fritz, and Eric  
celebrate the  
groundbreaking  
of our new home  
in Arlington.  
Learn more about  
the Farmhouse  
project at  
[larche-gwdc.org/  
welcome-home](http://larche-gwdc.org/welcome-home).**



**Francene and  
Prince proudly  
sport their baby  
yoda t-shirts.**



**Ty and Debora  
delight in some  
time spent  
together.**





Eileen poses in front of her artwork. It was displayed as part of a group exhibition at Union Station in D.C. for 5 months.



Crisely, Joseph, Jeremiah, and Ricky relax on Euclid house vacation with some face masks. Spa day anyone?



Fritz blesses Luke for his anniversary in Community.

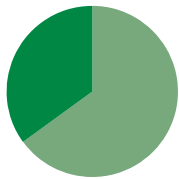


Alex, Francene, Sito, and Luke join Annemarie at her ordination as a deacon in the Episcopal church. This was the same day as our Halloween party, so Annemarie was pleased to serve communion to Daisy Duck (aka Francene).

## Financial Statements

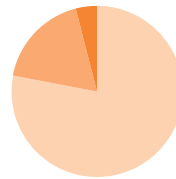
Your generous gifts supplement government contracts, making a holistic, high-quality life possible for L'Arche core members. Thank you for partnering with us to provide the compassionate care and transformational relationships that are lived out daily at L'Arche. Without your partnership, the work of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

## Here's how your investment through L'Arche furthered our mission in 2024—



### INCOME

<b>Charitable Income, 35%</b>	<b>\$1,660,636</b>
Individuals, 19%	\$912,439
Foundations, 5%	\$218,687
Corporations, <1%	\$23,835
Churches, <1%	\$28,875
Other, 10%	\$476,800
<b>Program Income, 65%</b>	<b>\$3,078,461</b>
DC Contracts, 31%	\$1,472,868
VA Contracts, 27%	\$1,264,782
Other, 7%	\$340,811
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$4,739,097</b>



### EXPENSES

<b>Program Services, 74%</b>	<b>\$3,542,448</b>
<b>Administration, 18%</b>	<b>\$861,677</b>
<b>Fundraising, 8%</b>	<b>\$382,967</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$4,787,092</b>

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

**These gifts were received in our fiscal year October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024. Donors who made gifts received after September 30, 2024 will be acknowledged in our next annual report.**

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With deep appreciation, we extend our heartfelt thanks to Francoise Aubry-Kendall for her many years of dedicated service on our board. Her leadership, generosity, wisdom, and friendship have left an enduring impact. Francoise, we are grateful for all you have contributed.

**THANK YOU!**

**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!**

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\$25,000 or more per year  
for three years

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Johnny **CELEBRATES** the arrival of his  
new wheelchair. You would not believe  
how hard it is to get excellent adaptive  
equipment sometimes.

Posing with their instructor, Eric, Kelly, and Fritz get a solid workout every Wednesday at Spirit Club—  
an organization whose mission is to empower people of all abilities to exercise.



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**Carl is settling into life at 6th street, having moved in this past summer 2024. Here, he enjoys his first L'Arche retreat in Atlanta, Georgia.**

**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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Anonymous (2)

**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!*



Directed by Jennifer Muhammad, Laurie, Ricky, Kelly, Eileen, Debora, Francene, and Joseph perform a special number at our annual Heart of L'Arche Fundraiser.



Use the QR code to watch our video, "Becoming More Human Together."



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](http://www.larche-gwdc.org) to sign up for our monthly newsletters, read our stories, and learn about our events!



**L'ARCHE**  
Greater  
Washington, D.C.

**L'Arche Greater Washington, D.C.**

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