

2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT



L'ARCHE
Greater Vancouver

OUR IDENTITY



MISSION AND IDENTITY STATEMENT

L'Arche is a community where the members, with and without developmental disabilities, share life together. Each member receives support to grow, attain their goals, and contribute their gifts and abilities.

Life-sharing breaks down the barriers in the traditional caregiving relationship. Mutual care, respect, and compassion transform these relationships. The persons supported and those who support them help each other reach their full potential.

L'Arche does not exist for itself. We participate in and contribute to the life of our families, neighbourhood, and city, and the faith, cultural, service, and recreational organizations where we live.

L'Arche provides supports for persons with developmental disabilities to have mutual, caring relationships, a personal spiritual journey, a home, meaningful work/daytime activity, and belonging in their communities of interest.

Each person has a personal support plan developed by listening to their hopes and dreams, choices, and goals. The plan responds to their care needs as they change over time. Their circle of support helps individuals meet their goals for a full and meaningful life.

BOARDS OF DIRECTORS

L'Arche Greater Vancouver

Jim Lattimer, President
James E. Dorsey, Q.C., Vice-President
Grant T. Smith, Secretary/Treasurer
Rev. Daniel Kirkegaard, Director
Ric Tesan, Director
Renee Lopes Lieu, Director
Tracey Brezovski, Non-Voting Member

L'Arche Foundation

Jim Lattimer, President
Amanda Wong, Vice-President
Patrick Armstrong, Secretary/Treasurer
Renee Lopes Lieu, Director
Audrey Staudacher, Director
Tracey Brezovski, Non-Voting Member

L'Arche Housing Society

Dan Kirkegaard, President
Angela Girard, Secretary/Treasurer
Grant T. Smith, Director
Peter Ruetz, Director
Annette Kuhn, Director
Tracey Brezovski, Non-Voting Member

Land Acknowledgement

We humbly acknowledge that we live, learn, grow, work, and build community on the unceded, ancestral, traditional, and occupied homelands of the *xʷməθkwəy̓əm* (Musqueam), *Skwxwú7mesh* (Squamish), and *Səlilwətaʔ/Selilwitulh* (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.



ABOUT L'ARCHE GREATER VANCOUVER

L'Arche Greater Vancouver was founded in 1974 and the first residents to come into the community were young people from institutions that housed people with developmental disabilities. At L'Arche people with developmental disabilities are often referred to as "core people" since they are the heart of our community.

We have four homes in which 19 core people share life together with those who assist them. We welcome people of all religions, races, genders, and cultural backgrounds and support each person's spiritual journey. This simple approach to shared living between core people and assistants is a unique lifestyle, and often a transformational experience.

We also have two community inclusion programs with 20 participants. The Emmaus Day Program aims to build security and belonging through relationships by participating in meaningful, recreational, social, and volunteer outreach opportunities. Activities respect the abilities and autonomy of each individual while encouraging them to grow in their relationships with others.

The second program, Neighbours Helping Neighbours, gives people with disabilities the opportunity to serve the wider community by providing yard work, simple maintenance, and chores for the elderly and others who aren't physically able to perform these tasks.

Our philosophy is that whatever their gifts or their limitations, people are all bound together in common humanity. Everyone is of unique and sacred value, and everyone has the same dignity and the same rights. The fundamental rights of each person include the rights to life, care, a home, education, and work.

Since the deepest need of a human being is to love and to be loved, each person has the right to friendship, communion, and to spiritual life.

Our Community Inclusion programs and administrative offices are located in L'Arche's temporary location on Conway Avenue in Burnaby while we await the completion of our new building in 2024.



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/ COMMUNITY LEADER



I am motivated by my belief in the vision and values of L'Arche. The changes and challenges of the year have not deterred me. In fact, they have confirmed that I want to live my life within a L'Arche community and guide L'Arche Greater Vancouver towards new possibilities.

We entered the year in a time of uncertainty and grief. There was grief as we said goodbye to our old building and watched it being demolished. This time of waiting has been challenging for some as it has been difficult to move into our temporary location and then imagine what L'Arche will look like in its new setting.

We experienced more grief as we mourned the loss of three important people in our community. Delinda Perry and Ken Milne were long-standing members of the community, each with their unique story and gifts. Betty Allen had accompanied the community in various roles for many years and was often referred to as one of our wise women.

We were also challenged with the COVID Public Health orders that resulted in staff turnover. The Public Health Orders also impacted the spirit of the community as people couldn't participate in a way that was familiar for their daytime activities, Community Prayer evenings, and other community events. Despite the reality of COVID fatigue, we have continued to live our mission. The care that was given was full of heart and reminded me daily that L'Arche is like a family, no matter where we live and what is happening in the world around us.

This year has been inspiring for me as I witnessed how people leaned into each other. There was a willingness to collaborate, and everyone did what they could to help each other as they made people in our homes a priority. The compassion, care, and respect they extended to our Core Members was extraordinary.

I am also inspired by the ways in which the Program Team, House Leaders, and Assistants advocated our external agencies for the health and well-being of our Core Members. We are aware that the advocacy role will continue to grow with the changing needs of our aging members.

My sincere thanks to everyone who accompanied me through this year. I am grateful to Jim Lattimer, and the Board Members of both the L'Arche Greater Vancouver and the L'Arche Greater Vancouver Foundation for their patience and guidance. I am also grateful for the

assistance of Christine Monier, Regional Leader for L'Arche Canada, Western Region, who equipped me for this new role.

To the Program Team, House Leaders, Core Members, Assistants, and Admin Staff - thank you for the way in which you have introduced me to the heart of L'Arche. I am exceptionally proud of how we have navigated this time of uncertainty and change together. We have maintained who we are. Community isn't a building, it is us.

My gratitude also includes the generous individuals and organizations who have supported us financially. Because of your faithful and loyal giving, we have had one less concern. I am so thankful that you continued to show L'Arche that you care.

I look forward to the year ahead. I know that all that was lived in this last year will assist us as we move forward. The possibilities are endless.

Respectfully,

Tracey Brezovski
Executive Director/Community Leader

L'Arche is like a family,
no matter where we live
and what is happening
in the world around us.

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT



Another exciting year filled with opportunities and challenges. Our old building on Sussex Avenue was demolished in the summer followed by a beautiful Blessing of the Land Ceremony in September. At the demolition, community members expressed mixed emotions. Some felt the loss of their home while others envisioned the spectacular building that would rise from that location. The construction of our new building finally began in late fall. I thank Townline Housing Solutions and City Spaces for their expertise in developing our project.

A special thank you to the donors who contributed to our We All Belong Capital Campaign. Your generosity brought us closer to achieving our goal. We are extremely grateful for the major grant from the MJ Murdock Charitable Trust that we were awarded.

In late spring, I was pleased to serve on the committee to interview and hire a new Executive Director/Community Leader. After a thorough process, conducted by a truly dedicated team, we were thrilled to hire Tracey Brezovski. Tracey comes to us with a wealth of experience along with a Masters of Arts degree in Leadership. I would like to thank the committee: Christine Monier (Committee Chair and our Regional Leader), and the team members: Louise Cummings, Annelise Jacky, Rene Lopes Lieu, Grant T. Smith, and Jacqueline Doering, for their dedication to finding and hiring the best candidate for this crucial role. Welcome, Tracey!

During the summer we also held a special community celebration to thank Denise Haskett for her more than 30 years of passion and devotion to L'Arche. The past fourteen years of her time at L'Arche were lived as the Community Leader/Executive Director.

During her last mandate, Denise had the tremendous challenge of splitting her time between being the Community Leader and the Capital Campaign/New Building Co-ordinator. I am grateful for her years of service and wish her good health and happiness in her retirement.

I would like to thank the L'Arche Greater Vancouver Operations Board for the knowledge that they share so willingly: Dan Kirkegaard, Grant T. Smith, James Dorsey, Renee Lopes Lieu, and Ric Tesan.

I would also like to thank our Foundation Board: Patrick Armstrong, Audrey Staudacher, Amanda Wong, and Renee Lopes Lieu, for their ongoing support in raising funds for the needs of our core members and, of course, our capital campaign.

A big thank you to the Housing Board: Dan Kirkegaard, Grant T. Smith, Peter Ruetz, Nick Petrie, and Annette Kuhn for their commitment to seeing our new building become a reality.

L'Arche is a special community, and I am made aware of that each time I visit the new Conway Center, attend community functions, and participate in board meetings. Our core members are lovingly cared for by our dedicated staff. I am honored to have served as a board member for the past eight years.

In conclusion, thank you to our dedicated employees, amazing volunteers, and wonderful donors for their continued support of our mission.

We have an exciting year ahead as we continue to make plans to occupy our new building in 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

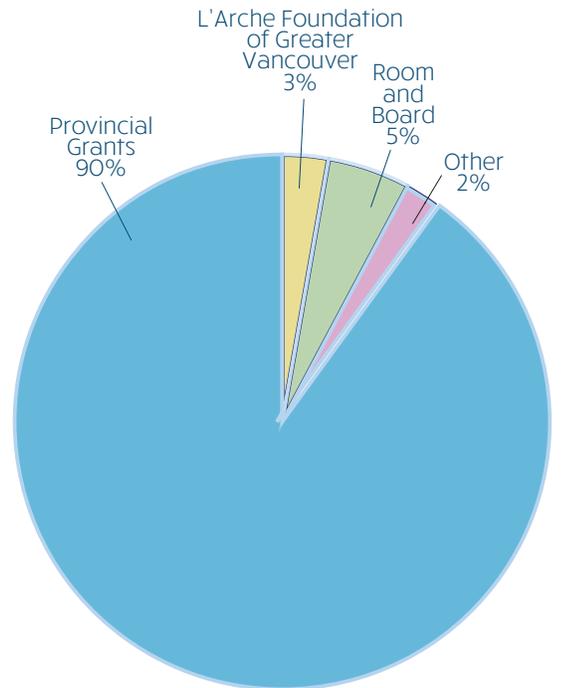
Jim Lattimer
President
L'Arche Greater Vancouver Board

Your generosity
brought us closer to
achieving our goal.

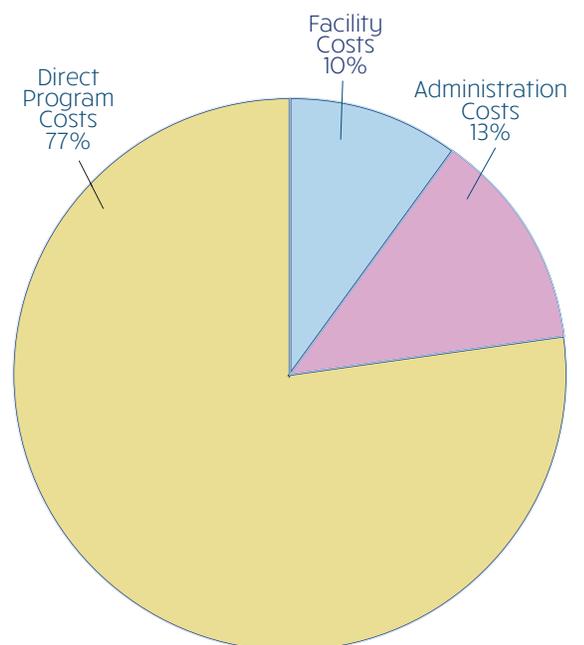
FINANCIALS



REVENUE	
Provincial Grants	\$ 2,906,000
L'Arche Foundation of Greater Vancouver	\$ 101,000
Room and Board	\$ 161,000
Other	\$ 54,000
Total	\$ 3,222,000



EXPENSES	
Direct Program Costs	\$ 2,406,000
Facility Costs	\$ 313,000
Administration Costs	\$ 399,000
Total	\$ 3,118,000



CORPORATE DONORS

Agape Catholic Charities Fund, held at the Vancouver Foundation
Andrew Mahon Foundation
Anita Poon Fund, held at the Vancouver Foundation
Ans Electrical Installations Ltd
Baiton Wilkinson Fund, held at the Vancouver Foundation
B.E. Digitally Hip Corporation
BC Housing
Burnaby Firefighters Charitable Society Ltd
Catholic Women's League of St. Joseph's Church
Catholic Women's League Council #3093 at St. Mary's
Columbia-Bowell Funeral Chapel
Community Living BC
D & D Reesor Family Holdings Inc.
First Christian Reformed Church of New Westminster
Gerard Search
Giustra Foundation
God With Us Inc
Hawthorne Charitable Foundation
Immaculate Conception Parish
J & G Servant Foundation
Kennedy Duncan Foundation
Kiwanis Vancouver Welfare Foundation

Knights of Columbus - Guardian Angels Parish Council 14723
Knights of Columbus Council No. 8853
Knights of Columbus Fraser Valley Council, No. 2552
L'Arche Canada
Living Hope Fellowship
M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust
McGuire Family Foundation
Mount Pleasant War Memorial Community Cooperative Association
Provincial Employees Community Services Fund
Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Vancouver
Saint Mary's Health Foundation
SCWH Holdings Ltd.
Shortreed Community School
Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul
Sisters of Instruction of the Child Jesus
Sisters of St. Joseph of Sault Ste. Marie
St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity, S.F.O.
St. Anthony of Padua Parish
St. John's Anglican Church ACW
St. Joseph the Worker Parish
St. Peter's Catholic Womens League
St. Thomas Anglican Church
Tundra Sales Inc.
Vancouver Rotary Club Foundation
Virginia's Arc Private Foundation



**Thank you to our generous donors.
We couldn't be L'Arche without you.**

OUR BIG NUMBERS



Emmaus Community Inclusion Program

- Baked 20 Birthday cakes
- Delivered 360 Meals on Wheels



Neighbours Helping Neighbours

- Cut 169 Lawns
- Served 22 Customers



Emily House

- Walked 450,000 meters in our neighbourhood
- Shared 730 meals together



Nazirah House

- Welcomed 100 guests
- Went on 110 outings



Creation House

- Celebrated BIG Birthdays - 70,75, 80 and 85
- Served 315 hamburgers during our Summer BBQ's

Crossing House

- Watched 55 movies together
- Said many final good-byes to Delinda

MEMORIAL



Delinda Perry
May 24, 1952 - May 28, 2021

Delinda first came to L'Arche in 1994 and had just turned 69 years old when she passed away. Her open and welcoming spirit will always be remembered. She will also be remembered whenever we sing "Jesus loves me" which was her favourite song. She strongly believed that Jesus did indeed love her. Her ability to love was evidence of that belief.

Delinda had many gifts, one of the most apparent to newcomers was her gift of welcome. She was often the first person to greet guests and, by the time they had exchanged names, she would announce "you're my friend". Her friendliness disarmed any uneasiness a first-time visitor might have had in entering our building. It was always a joy to witness.

She lived authentically. She wasn't afraid of expressing her friendship and love or even disapproval. Delinda's message was a call for peace, reconciliation, friendship, and authenticity. She remained a faithful friend to the many people she met through L'Arche. She reminded us of the need for honesty with others and ourselves. She was not afraid to be real.

Delinda fought cancer bravely until the end. She never gave up. She amazed her oncologist who often mentioned that Delinda was one of her oldest surviving patients. Throughout her battle with cancer, she lived with courage and honesty. She showed us all how to trust God.

"Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God."



Betty Allen
September 3, 1925 - October 25, 2021

Betty's faithfulness and love for the people in our community were rooted in her faith and the love she had for her family. She was blessed with five children, David, Patsy, Steve, Cathie, and Sue. Sue is a member of L'Arche. Betty spoke fondly of her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren and she saw each one of them as a gift from God.

Betty became involved with L'Arche in 1980 and it became a central part of her life from then on. She carried the community in her heart, she would pray for people, and attend birthday parties and any community celebrations. She gladly shared her gift as a watercolor artist - enthusiastically collaborating with others from L'Arche to create unique and memorable paintings for our Art Together show.

Betty was one of L'Arche's "wise women" who was called upon for guidance when needed. For years Betty and Evelyne would come every day and pray in the root cellar, the little chapel at L'Arche. They would reflect on the daily reading and pray together for the needs of the community, for our donors, and for other any other concerns that were left on post-it notes on the chapel door.

Often when she came back upstairs someone would ask her how God was today. She would reply "He's doing well, and He sends His greetings."



Ken Milne
March 12, 1955 - January 26, 2022

"I am the janitor at L'Arche, a member of the United Church of Canada, the AOTS Men's Club, my AA group and the Liberal Party of Canada"

That's how Ken Milne described himself when he was asked which community inclusion program he attended. (This was back when he was still a liberal).

Ken presented himself with dignity and taught others to do the same. He was a faithful friend to his housemates, current and former assistants, fellow AA members, and the people in his church. He had the amazing capacity to make people feel special. He had a big heart, and it was full of love.

"Family first" was a motto that Ken lived. He loved being a son, brother, uncle, and great uncle. Ken loved Canada and took his responsibility as a Canadian seriously. He advocated for others and wrote letters to elected officials at every level of government. He knew them and they knew him. Ken was our statesman.

When he was born Ken's family was told that he wouldn't live to adulthood and yet, he lived decades longer. He came to L'Arche in 1974 and was proud of being a founding member of the community. Ken had a rich and full life. And, because Ken was their friend, he made the lives of others fuller and richer as well.

WE ALL BELONG CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



RE-DEVELOPMENT PROJECT MILESTONES 2021-2022

After years of planning, we saw significant events in the progress of our new building.

In April our old building on Sussex Avenue was vacated so that demolition could begin. In September we celebrated this tremendous milestone by hosting a blessing of the land led by Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB, Honourary Campaign Committee Chair. Local dignitaries, special guests, and members of the L'Arche community were also in attendance.

Further milestones included the Final Project approval in December 2021 of 36 million and the approval of the Building Permit by the City of Burnaby in February 2022

SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

- Material and labour costs and shortages escalated due to the pandemic
- Construction costs increased by \$3,000,000
- Cost increases offset by increased government funding and our generous donors
- Inflation and the Federal Government's policy to increase interest rates, will add additional, interim unbudgeted financing costs
- Increased interest rates are also a concern for takeout financing once the building is complete in 2024



We are grateful to everyone who has helped us reach this point in our journey. We look forward to the fall of 2024 when we expect to take occupancy of our new home.

WE ALL BELONG CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



WE ALL
BELONG





"Tulip Festival"
by Sue Allen and Fairy McKinley



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