

2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT



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
Antonio Daling, Director
Tracey Brezovski, Non-Voting Member

L'Arche Foundation

Patrick Armstrong, President
Amanda Wong, Vice-President
Jim Lattimer, Co-President
Nate Chiu, Director
Kamil Aliyev, Director
Antonio Daling, Director
Audrey Staudacher, Director
Tracey Brezovski, Non-Voting Member

L'Arche Housing Society

Dan Kirkegaard, President
Grant T. Smith, Vice President
Donna Diskos, Treasurer
Peter Ruetz, Director
Kamil Aliyev, 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



My priority as Executive Director and Community Leader is to be aware of the needs of people in the community. At L'Arche this means more than attending to the physical and medical needs of an individual, it includes caring for the whole person - body, soul, and spirit. I am grateful to everyone in the community who shares this awareness and looks out for those who need extra attention during times of transition, loss, and even in the simple cares of everyday life.

Although we continue to live our mission from our temporary location, we anticipate what life will look like in the new building. How will our mission grow? Who can we serve? What traditions can we keep? How will our story grow? Who can we welcome?

Our current mandate has been our guide as we consider those important questions. Our "We All Belong" event gave us the opportunity to address our current reality and our expectations of life in the new building. I was encouraged by the themes that evolved in our two days together. People talked about welcome, building relationships, accessibility, inclusion, and how old traditions can continue and still have room for new ones to grow.

In the last year, we came to see COVID as a great teacher. Although painful at the time, COVID forced us to be creative in how we built relationships and how we could be together even though we were apart. Although we are permitted to gather now, we continue to use our "COVID technology" so that friends and family who live far away can still experience our community at prayer.

As I recall the activities of the last year, I am reminded that L'Arche does not exist for itself. Our Neighbours Helping Neighbours crew works hard every day in helping seniors with their outside chores. The people in our Emmaus Community Inclusion program continue to deliver Meals on Wheels and invite others for their Friday lunches. The people in our homes are eager to welcome people to their tables and celebrations. Cards are signed, visits are made, cookies are baked - this is how we care.

Another post-COVID realization has been that we will never take being together for granted. Our time together is precious. This was particularly

evident when we said goodbye to two people in our community last year. Jim Watson, who had joined us at the beginning of the fiscal year as our Director of Fund Development and Communications, died suddenly in November. Even though he had been with us a short while, he made a big difference in helping us along our Capital Campaign journey.

It was near the end of the year that we lost Patrick Byron who fought a long battle with cancer. His personality would easily fill a room. If you had the privilege of meeting him, you could not forget him. His loss reminds us of the fragility of our aging community members and yet again, the preciousness of our relationships.

I am deeply grateful to the people within the community who have been diligent in caring for each other. You are faithful models of how we live our mission. Thank you to the members of both Boards and the leadership team for all the ways you have assisted me in my role. Your dedication to L'Arche has been my inspiration.

Respectfully,

Tracey Brezovski
Executive Director/Community Leader

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENTS



Much of this year's focus has been on the progress of our new building. As President of the L'Arche Greater Vancouver Board, Jim had the opportunity to participate in a site visit. Although there is a lot to do before it is completed, he could see the layout of the building including our three homes, offices, community inclusion program spaces, the 10 semi-independent living units, and 29 rental units. The views from the rooftop are incredible and the inner courtyard is going to be beautiful.

Three important events were held in the fall. The first was our Two-Day Change Event for people who are part of our community. We talked about our lived Covid experiences and envisioned what we would like to see in our new building. After the isolation of Covid, it was great to be together again.

The second event was the re-launch of our Ark Builders Brunch where we were able to acknowledge some of our faithful donors and share community news. The third event, our Art Together show, followed the brunch and was open to the public. After a two-year hiatus caused by Covid, guests were once again able to view and purchase the artwork created by people from our community who were inspired by our 2022 theme "L'Arche for Every Season".

As the ongoing challenges of Covid subsided, we had other illnesses among staff and core members. Sadly, two community members passed away. In the fall, Jim Watson, our amazing Director of Fund Development and Communications suddenly passed away. A few months later our beloved Patrick Byron passed away following a long illness. Our community is still grieving the loss of these two exceptional men.

We 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, Ric Tesan, and Antonio Daling. A special thank you to Jim Dorsey who has shared his gifts with the board for 10 years. We will truly miss his wisdom and sense of humour. We wish him good health and happiness.

We would also like to thank the members of our Foundation Board for their contributions: Patrick Armstrong, Amanda Wong, Nate Chiu, Antonio Daling, and Kam Aliyev for their ongoing support and hard work in raising funds for the community, especially our capital campaign.

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

Each time we visit the community, attend functions, participate in board meetings, and talk to donors we are reminded that L'Arche is a special community. Our core members are lovingly cared for by truly dedicated staff and numerous volunteers.

In conclusion, we thank all our dedicated employees, faithful volunteers, and wonderful donors for their continued support of our mission.

It will be a very exciting year ahead as we continue to make plans for occupying our new building in the summer of 2024.

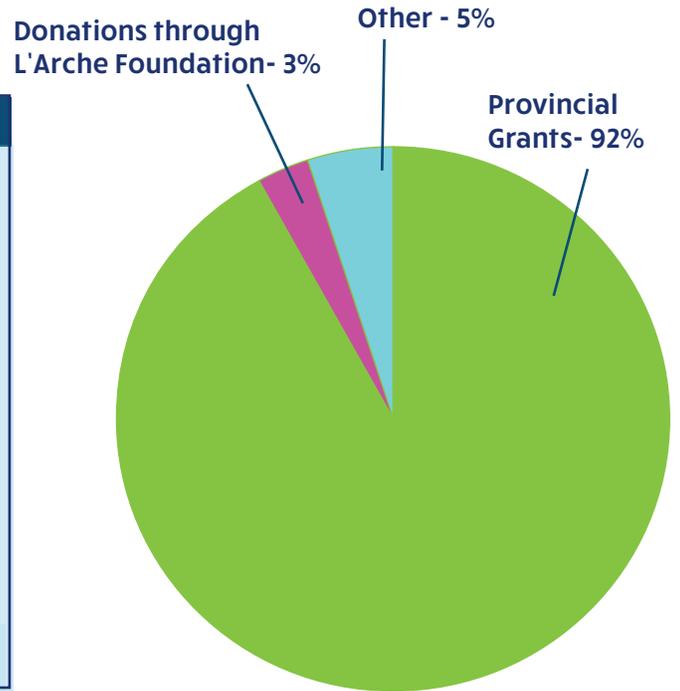
Respectfully submitted,

Jim Lattimer
President
L'Arche Greater Vancouver Board

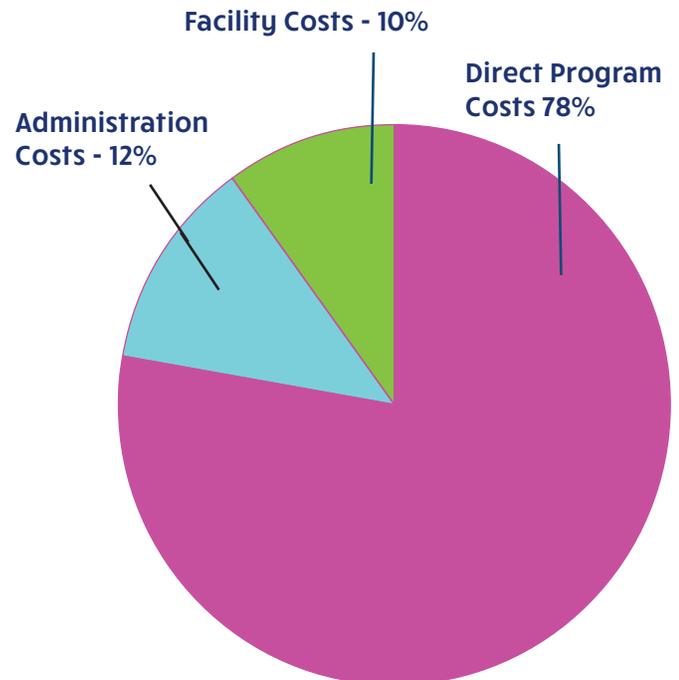
Patrick Armstrong
President
L'Arche Foundation Board

FINANCIALS

REVENUE	
Provincial Grants	\$ 3,383,570
L'Arche Foundation of Greater Vancouver	\$ 121,668
Other	\$ 180,608
Total	\$ 3,685,846



EXPENSES	
Direct Program Costs	\$ 2,750,891
Facility Costs	\$ 352,307
Administration Costs	\$ 436,264
Total	\$ 3,539,462



SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

Agape Catholic Charities Fund held at Vancouver Foundation

Andrew Mahon Foundation

BC Housing

B.E. Digitally Hip Corporation

Burnaby Firefighters Charitable Society Ltd

Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation

Celtic Cross Charitable Foundation

City of Burnaby

Columbia-Bowell Funeral Chapel

Community Living BC

D & D Reesor Family Holdings Inc.

First Christian Reformed Church of New Westminster

Gateway Casinos & Entertainment Limited

Giustra Foundation

Grant Thornton LLP

Highcrest Investments

J & G Servant Foundation

Kiwanis Vancouver Welfare Foundation

Knights of Columbus Council No. 8853

Knights of Columbus Fraser Valley Council, No. 2552

L'Arche Canada

Mackin Creek Farm

Matrix Design Graphics

McGuire Family Foundation

Mount Pleasant War Memorial Community Cooperative Association

Provincial Employees Community Services Fund

Raymond James Canada Foundation

Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Vancouver

Project Advance Grant

Roncec Enterprises Ltd

Royal Bank of Canada Foundation

Saint Anthony of Padua Fraternity, S.F.O.

Saint John's Anglican Church ACW

Saint Joseph the Worker Parish

Saint Mary's Catholic Womens League Council 3093

Saint Mary's Health Foundation

Saint Nicholas Parish Catholic Womens League

Saint Peter's Catholic Womens League

Saint Theresa's Catholic Womens League

Saint Thomas Anglican Church

SCWH Holdings Ltd.

Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul

Sisters of St. Joseph of Sault Ste. Marie

Tina Hubert Architect Inc.

The Watkins Fund for Innovative Ministries with Senior Adults at The United Church of Canada

Tundra Sales Inc.

VanCity, South Burnaby Community Branch

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

- Celebrated **22** birthdays
- Delivered **352** Meals on Wheels
- Created **60** toques
- **\$660** collected from recycling cans and bottles



Neighbours Helping Neighbours

- Served **36** regular customers
- Shoveled snow from **19** driveways and sidewalks
- Weeded and raked **84** times
- Cleaned common areas at Conway **63** times
- Cut **149** lawns



Emily House

- Celebrated **62** birthdays
- Prayed **998** times around the dinner table
- Coloured **267** colouring books
- Took **852** walks



Nazirah House

- Baked together **45** times
- Made **105** hospital visits
- Enjoyed **70** outings for coffee



Creation House

- Donated **75** hats to our local thrift store
- Erol attended **4** Canucks games
- Went to **17** different parks in the Lower Mainland



Crossing House

- Linda knitted **25** hats and scarves for others
- Sue spent **650** hours colouring
- We had **10** karaoke nights
- We welcomed **50** guests

MEMORIAL



Jim Watson
May 24, 1952 - Nov 17, 2022

We were immensely saddened to learn that our friend, Jim Watson, passed away on November 17, 2022.

Although Jim joined L'Arche just seven months before his death it felt like he had been a member of the community for much longer. When he was interviewed for the role of Director of Development and Communications, Board President Jim Lattimer took note of his positive attitude and amazing energy. It was evident that Jim Watson was the right person for the job.

Jim had a tremendous gift for building connections. He was excited to introduce us to the people he knew from his years of fundraising and broadcasting experience. He was equally excited to introduce himself to people who supported our mission and capital campaign

We are grateful for all that Jim brought to our community. We miss his laughter, encouragement, wisdom, and warm presence.

Jim was looking forward to being present when we plan to cut the ribbon of our new building in 2024. Even though he won't be there in person we believe he will be there in spirit. We are committed to continuing the good work he started at L'Arche.



Patrick Byron
September 19, 1963 - March 20, 2023

Patrick was born at a time when a new understanding of children with developmental disabilities was taking place in society. Parents began to look for options other than placing their children with different abilities in institutions. Patrick's father was clear that he would remain at home. He was in the first cohort of people with developmental disabilities in Burnaby who experienced integrated schooling. This experience gave him solid friendships that lasted his lifetime.

Pat knew he had a purpose and was curious about how he fit into the world. He was not content just to observe. He looked for the extraordinary and wanted every day to have a bright spark in it. If there was anything unique to be made of a day, if anything needed to be celebrated you would find Patrick at the heart of it.

The world is quieter without Pat. His exuberant entrances into a room with upset or with celebration always created the sound of life. His life filled our ears over the years.

He was opinionated, strong-willed, and determined to the point of intense - and he was also faith-filled, soft-hearted, and forgiving to the point of heartbreaking.

You could not help but love him. He loved you and you would easily love him back.

WE ALL BELONG CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

MAJOR COMPONENTS

- 3 L'Arche Homes
- 10 Suites for adults with developmental disabilities who can live semi-independently
- 29 Units of non-market rental housing open to adults and families who want to be part of the L'Arche community
- Increased Community Inclusion Program services
- Courtyard
- Rooftop garden, amenity space and chapel

FUNDRAISING

- We have raised 3.8 million of our 6 million goal
- Since the campaign started 781 friends of L'Arche have contributed to making this dream become a reality
- 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





"Nature's Garden"
by Mary and Brenda Art Together 2022



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