



# 2018

## Annual Report



L'Arche Boston North, Inc.

# Message from Jennifer Matthews

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to be writing this note to introduce the L'Arche Boston North Annual Report for 2018. Over the past year, our community has experienced some wonderful blessings. We have welcomed our 19<sup>th</sup> Core Member and added our first shared living home to community! We have also had the great joy of celebrating 35 years as a L'Arche community with our Gala in September 2018. It has been a full year since a major transition in our leadership, saying goodbye to Swanna Champlin after 14 years of service. We have dedicated the past year to examining our practices and procedures to determine opportunities for growth and efficiency while staying true to our mission and values. We have invested in systems and structures that will support future growth and have collaborated with the Department of Developmental Services to continue advocating for additional resources and supports to meet the growing needs of our Core Members.



As we prepare to embark on a strategic process of envisioning our mission for the next five to ten years, our current trend of positive financial standing and stability allows us to dream exciting dreams for our community's future. We have learned many lessons in our 35 years and hope to build on the foundation of yesterday to create a larger footprint of L'Arche in the greater community today and tomorrow. We hope to develop models that reach beyond our current home-based delivery of services. In our greater community, individuals with disabilities and their families are yearning for a place of belonging, a community where they are valued and celebrated for their gifts and authenticity—in fact, for the quality of services that L'Arche provides. We envision a community where everyone has a seat at the table and is welcome, and where independence does not equal isolation. As the disability field evolves, we desire not only to meet the needs of individuals and families, but also to provide opportunities for growth and meaning in each person's life that exceed expectations.

We need support from our friends and partners in the greater community to achieve these goals and actualize this vision for our future. We invite you to *come and see* L'Arche. Visit us for dinner or a celebration. L'Arche began over 55 years ago with one man, Jean Vanier, and his simple dream to create a true home for people with disabilities. L'Arche has evolved to having a tremendous impact throughout the world, with over 150 communities in 37 different countries. We welcome you to join us as we dare to reimagine this dream and carry L'Arche forward into the future, providing not only homes, but meaningful opportunities for belonging to all those who desire to be a part of a community where mutual relationships transform lives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer Matthews".

Jennifer Matthews  
Executive Director/ Community Leader

# Our Mission is to....

**Make known** the gifts of people with developmental 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 humane society.

## Programs



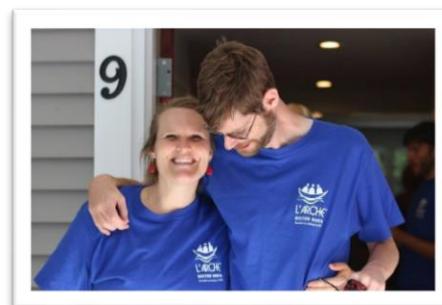
### Residential Care

24-hour extensive on-going services and supports provided to individuals who need daily intervention with care, supervision, and skills training in activities of daily living, home management, and community integration



### In Home Supports

A broad range of service levels that assist Core Members in living as **independently** as possible within the community.



### Shared Living

Provide recruitment, placement, training, and resources for clinical or behavioral consultative services and oversight of caregivers and living situations for individuals who either live in the home of a designated care provider or live in their own homes with a designated care provider.

# Our Homes

***“Being at home is one of the most fundamental needs of the human spirit”***

*Jean Vanier, L’Arche Founder*



## Nazorean House

This is the first home that L’Arche Boston North opened in the Haverhill area. Four

core members and three assistants live together in this lovely single-family home. The third floor and basement have been renovated into bedrooms for assistants. The back yard provides the community with an ideal spot for cookouts and other outdoor gatherings. The name Nazorean was chosen for this home because it was the town where Jesus lived throughout most of his childhood and as an adult until he was 30 years old.



## Pat House

Our newly constructed, fully accessible 5-bedroom home opened September

2016 in Merrimac, MA, a town neighboring Haverhill, MA. Pat House replaced our beloved Gandhi House. This home has enabled us to safely and comfortably provide for our aging Core Members. This home has a large lot and beautiful trees surrounding the property. It has an open porch in the front and a three-season porch in the back. This home fulfills our promise to family members and guardians to provide “homes for life” for the core members in our community.



## Peace House

Peace House is a three-level home that has a small apartment on each of its floors and is located near the

heart of downtown Haverhill. Each apartment offers independent living while giving the feeling of a one big family home throughout the three floors. Currently, a married couple live on the first floor and one core member lives on the third, all receiving minimal support. On the second floor, two core members make their home together with support from an assistant.



## Assisi House

Assisi House is a beautiful split-level home located on a

quiet cul-de-sac in Bradford. Four core members and three assistants live here. With nature all around, Assisi is an appropriate name for this home, St. Francis’s home was in Assisi and he was interested in the natural world of animals and possessed a love for a peaceful life setting. The back yard of this Bradford home is a natural setting for gardening, barbecuing and just plain relaxing.

# A Loving Support System

## Richard and Stephanie Bower



L'Arche for Stephanie and me has been a place of awakening. For us L'Arche has been a place to encounter ourselves and others, of seeing each other in a new light. In community we experience our own gifts and vulnerabilities, as well as those of others. We have much to learn and many ways to grow. Through L'Arche we are people on the way to a new birth, a new way to understand life, and to live it together.

At the heart of our life in L'Arche is the discovery, in new and deeper ways, the importance of relationships. Our humanity, our experiencing the love of God for us, and for all, has drawn us toward others. It has drawn us to touch and be touched by knowing and loving those for whom we had felt sorrow, in whom now we rejoice.

Stephanie has been in L'Arche for 23 years, in many capacities: as assistant, as US National Board Member, as a person with gifts to offer others in retreats and celebrations. She also was an assistant in El Arca Choluteca, Honduras, for 3 months in the year 2000. Mostly, for her, time in L'Arche has been a place of liberation, of finding and being found by others, especially by those with special needs. Most especially she has developed a greater sensitivity in all her relationships, learning how to listen more carefully and attentively to herself and others.

I learned about L'Arche in the 1990s when I was Dean of the Episcopal Cathedral in Syracuse, New York. At the Cathedral there were people, with relationships and experiences in L'Arche Syracuse, who encouraged me to share in the life of L'Arche.

I was privileged to serve as Pastoral Minister for L'Arche USA for 16 years. During that time I developed a small team to help our communities in their spiritual growth and in living the spirit of L'Arche. Also, I was honored to participate in several L'Arche International Assemblies, in Assisi, Calcutta and England. Here is where I experienced L'Arche in different cultures and religious faiths.

## Bower Continued

Over the years Stephanie and I have shared life with L'Arche Communities in Mexico, Central and South America, and in the Dominican Republic. We have found deep friendships, discovering how other cultures live their rich humanity; we saw how L'Arche can live and flower even in the midst of difficult poverty. Together, in relationships of love and mutuality with our Latin American friends, we discover a tenderness and joy in our life together.

In recent years, after moving to Vermont, we are coming to know the gifts of the L'Arche Boston North Community. For over 18 years we have been invited to share love and life with this community. Here we have been building relationships that keep us alive and more open to God's human family. We have also had the joy of welcoming our L'Arche friends to our house in rural Vermont, for times of rest, celebration and prayer.

We are grateful for L'Arche, locally and abroad, for helping us to discover and live more faithfully lives of love and celebration, enabling us to be present to each other in times of joy and of need.

We have the joy each year to be with the L'Arche Community in Trosly-Breuil, France, for 4 weeks. Here is where we find new friends, and meet old friends, who help us grow in L'Arche.



Jean Vanier has recently given expression to the spirit we try to live in L'Arche when he wrote: "Jesus chooses to bury his omnipotence in the weakness of a child. A little child who wants to play, a little child who needs to be loved, a little child who just wants to rest. . . to live in the Father's heart." \*

And so we, Stephanie and I, celebrate our years in L'Arche, our growing in love and hope.

- Stephanie and Richard Bower

\*Jean Vanier, A Cry is Heard p. 141

# The Year in Review

We had many wonderful experiences together over the year both individually and as a community. Here are just a few highlights!

## New Community Leader



In July 2017 we welcomed Jennifer Matthews in her new role as Community Leader and Executive Director after the retirement of our beloved leader of fourteen years, Swanna Champlin. Jennifer has been with the L'Arche Boston North since 2006, serving as Program Coordinator. Jennifer brings with her a wealth of knowledge in all areas and a heart for our community.

## New Program Director



In July 2017 we welcomed Michael Richard to his new role as Program Director. Michael has been with our community since June 2013, first as a direct care assistant then as House Manager at Assisi House. Michael brings a deep understanding of the joy of living in community, as well as the knowledge of running and directing a certified residential program.

## Hummus in the House!

In July 2017, we launched our Homemade Hummus venture at the Haverhill Farmer's Market. Due to the success of the first year's hummus production, we continued to make and sell Homemade Hummus in the



summer and fall of 2018, finishing with our first appearance at the Haverhill



Winter Market in November. Homemade Hummus highlighted the culinary and interpersonal skills of community members while providing a unique point of community access at the Haverhill Farmer's Market.

## Accessible Van

In February 2017, we purchased our community's first wheelchair accessible van. Because of the generosity of the Wadleigh Foundation and other donors, we can continue to meet the changing needs of **all** our core members.



## We are Growing

We started a new "shared living" program, furthering our ability to meet the needs and desires of our core members and allowing us to expand our footprint in the greater community. Our first shared living home is a testament to the transformation



and the relationships built in L'Arche. After 5 years of living together in community, assistants Molly and Core Member Fran made the mutual decision to explore shared living. Molly and Fran live at Martha and Mary House, located a mile away from Pat House. They share their home with Molly's sisters Emma and Sophie, and the Giard Family.

## Welcoming New Community Members

### Core Members



We welcomed Ryan to Assisi House in November of 2017. Ryan and his family had been interested in L'Arche for many years. Ryan brings a lot of joy and enthusiasm to the home and community through his humor and love of music!

We welcomed Lianna to community in March of 2018. Lianna and her family had been interested in L'Arche and were regulars at our community events. Lianna has brought so much light and love into our community through her generosity and authenticity!



### Board Members

This past year was a tremendous year for the Board of L'Arche Boston North! We said goodbye to several amazing Directors who had served our community faithfully and ushered in a Freshman class of Directors, full of energy and enthusiasm to steward the mission of L'Arche into the future! Among our new members are; Will Oliver, Bill Keating, Esther Albuquerque, Lynette McRae, Thomas Murphy, Lois Klee and John Anton. Each director brings gifts and expertise to complement the proficiencies of our Board.

### Assistants

Every year in L'Arche we are blessed with welcoming new assistants into our homes and hearts. Many of our assistants come for an experience of community and stay for 1-2 years. Some discern to stay longer, while others leave L'Arche having been transformed by relationships and experiences that will guide and inform their futures. We are grateful to all assistants, past and present. Those who continue to share life daily, and those who evolve to dear friends who hold L'Arche within their heart.

## A Second Home

I came to community at 17 years old, not knowing what it was or who I was; outgoing, energetic and with a whole lot of confidence and ignorance, I jumped in to this life here without hesitation. I am so lucky that after such a blind jump, I was caught by a community of people with their hands out, ready to gently ease me into the “real world.”



The past eleven years here have been filled with a lot of growth, both personally and in community. I have traveled a lot because of L’Arche, spending time in places like Poland and France on an international retreat with people from different communities from around the world. Experiences like this have expanded my view of L’Arche, the world and most importantly, myself.



It is not just in these more obvious moments that the personal transformation happens though, I have been equally transformed by the smaller moments, ones that can often be overlooked. Conversations over breakfast with Judi, praying with Katie at night before bed and while singing “how could anyone ever tell you, you are anything less than beautiful” with Sister Pat, a person that sings that song to you and truly means it.

These times have left me feeling seen, heard and valued for doing nothing more than just being myself.

L’Arche is more than just a job or community to me; it’s a second home – it’s where I grew up.

Ariana Bachman  
House Manager, Nazorean House

# Immersion at L'Arche

At L'Arche Boston North we welcome many different organizations and schools to



our community for an opportunity to immerse themselves in the world of L'Arche. We welcomed 35 volunteers from 5 different schools, logging more than 260 volunteer hours with us throughout the year.

Following a visit from one student group, Lowell Catholic High School told us, "After talking with our students, their favorite parts of the trip were the opportunities they had to be able to

interact and spend time with the core members. They thought the dance, the dinners, and the prayer time really allowed them the opportunities to get to know the core members, and, according to one student, the worst part of the trip was, 'not knowing when we will see them again'."

## Partner Relationships

### InVia

We welcomed two volunteers from InVia, an organization out of Germany, who dedicated a full year with us. Nic Heintze and Katharina Besler spent their time with us supporting the homes and building relationships.



### La Salette Community

The La Salette Community is where it all began, in the town of Ipswich, MA 35 years ago. Carole Wysopal and her husband Richard were members of the La Salette community, worshipping at the La Salette Shrine each Sunday. The Wysopals were introduced to Elizabeth Buckley, the founding director of L'Arche Scotland. Together they started L'Arche Boston North (formerly Irenicon, Inc.) La Salette continues to be a large supporter of our community. Our core members and assistants worship monthly with La Salette and we have two sitting board members from this community, along with several volunteers!

## Kindness That Can Change The World

As I look back on my seven years in L'Arche, I am filled with a profound sense of gratitude for the community that has held and nurtured me, challenged me and helped me to grow. I arrived in the community formerly known as Irenicon a year removed from my university and unsure of what I was going to do with my life. A friend had recommended L'Arche, and I was young and ready to give it a try. What I



hadn't expected was to experience such a deep sense of welcome and belonging. I hadn't expected to fall in love.

Early in my time in L'Arche, I wrote a reflection about my relationship with Tom DeGan, who was my housemate at Gandhi and Pat Houses. I told the story of the day I had my first inkling that L'Arche was more than a one-year stint in AmeriCorps for me.

In those days, TD was passionately devoted to toast with peanut butter and coffee. One rainy Sunday afternoon, I was cleaning the Gandhi House kitchen and baking bread while Tom enjoyed his favorite snack. As I scrubbed the floor, Tom would occasionally look up and give me a thumbs-up with his peculiarly ravishing toothy grin. It sounds so simple in the retelling, but this recognition and approval from the ostensibly taciturn Tom opened something in my heart.

When I think of my life with my friends in L'Arche, first at Gandhi, then at Pat, and now at Martha and Mary House, I am reminded of something Jean Vanier said: "to love someone is to show to them their beauty, their worth and their importance." In L'Arche I have felt loved. I have come to know myself and to have the audacity to share that person with others. As I have learned that the everyday is sacred, I have come to know the truth of another famous Jean Vanier quote: "Love doesn't mean doing extraordinary or heroic things. It means knowing how to do ordinary things with great tenderness." Whether I'm passing meds or supporting a shower, writing a grant proposal or cleaning a toilet, I hope to infuse my work in L'Arche with the kindness that can change the world. I have discovered that L'Arche can, in fact, be the vocation of a lifetime.

Molly LeBlanc-Medeiros  
Administrative Assistant

# Enriching Lives

A look into our community this year!

Sporting Events with the Patriots and Red Sox



Special Events like A Night to Shine, Special Olympics, Walk for Down Syndrome and the screening of Summer in the Forest



Trips to Ireland, Iceland, Niagara Falls as well as many other day outings.



On the road, Core Members and assistants have broadened their horizons, made new friends, and learned about L'Arche communities across the country.

Other special times included special celebrations, individual accomplishments, and making memories with one another.



# Thank You to Our Donors

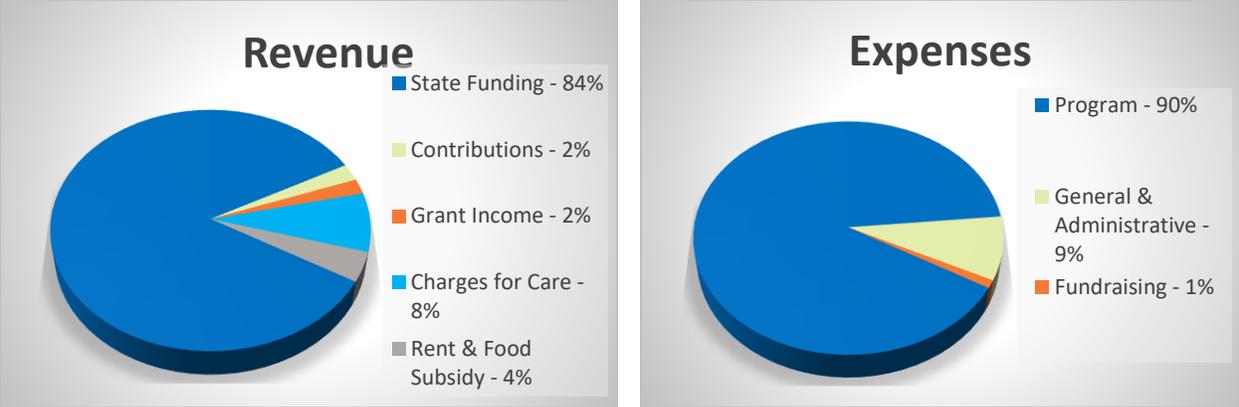
Thank you for helping us to build a community for core members filled with rich lived experiences, countless journeys, and a life rooted in faith and spirituality.

A.W. Chesterton Company	Lauren Curry	Stephen & Judith Lais	Michael Richard
The Agnes Lindsey Trust	Robert & Carol Curry	La Salette Faith Community	Mary Robison
Amazon Smile	David Damron	David & Karen Laroche	Martha Rodweller
Louis Amberg	Daughters of St. Paul	Emma Leblanc-Medeiros	Roman Catholic Bishop of Boston
Marie Anderson	Penelope Davis	Sophie Leblanc-Medeiros	Richard Rosa
Janice Anton	Sally DeGan	Sr. Mary Elizabeth Leonard	Ermanno & Donna Rossi
Patricia Austin	Faith Delaney, Attorney at Law	Long Term Pharmacy Solutions	Sharon Ryan
Ariana Bachman	Benjamin Drayton	Phil Loring	The Sacred Hearts Parish
Cristina Bachman	John & Dolores Driscoll	Lowell Catholic High School	Myrna Saltman
James & Sheila Barry	Jeffrey & Fran Eason	Masson Family Fund	Deanna Santiago
Gregory Benulis	Elizabeth Fahey	Mathisis Tech Inc.	Kenneth & Marcia Savory
Deborah Billington	Tammy Gagnon	Carol Matsuuchi	Edward Seaver
Madelyn & Gerald Bilodeau	Galinsky Plumbing & Heating	Jennifer Matthews	William & Elaine Shea
Russell Boekenkroeger	Cliff & Cynthia Gallant	Steve & Maria Mayer	Robert & Joan Shea
Richard & Stephanie Bower	Don & Vicky Gallant	Edward McCarthy	William & Elaine Sisler
Carole Brown	Diana Giard	Robert McGarty	Sisters of Charity Halifax
Dennis & Marie Buckley	Give With Liberty	Pamela McGrath	Sisters of Charity Manchester
Webster Bull	The GE Foundation	Douglas Medeiros	Jodi Smith
Holly & Joseph Burke	John & Gail Griffin	Mobility Works	Wayne Snell
Daniel Butler Esq.	Karen Gralla	George & Deb Moskevitz	St. Joseph's Abbey
MaryAnne Cappelleri	Groveland Knights of Columbus	Mount St. Vincent Retirement Community	Judith Stanley
Cathy Carberry	Joanne Harder	Edward Murphy	Stephen & Karen Stulck
Nathan Champlin	Christine Harrington	Thomas Murphy	Lacy Tannous
CIL Realty	Haverhill Bank	Charles & Alice Odell	Ten Men, Inc.
Sandra Clark	Vanessa Henry	William & Heather Oliver	Richard & Anne Tonachel
Susan & Joseph Cleary	Iona College	Barbara Ostberg	James Traver
Cotton Cleveland	Jeanne D'Arc Credit Union	Mary Papazian	The Wadleigh Foundation
Annette & Frank Coccoluto	Stephen Kaneb	LeAnne Parr	Robert Wahl
College of Holy Cross	Won Ho Kang	Mary Peters	Jeff & Cindy White
James Collins	Joseph & Laurie Kennedy	Courtney Pierce	Karen Wysopal
Lawrence Comeau	Timothy & Lois Klee	Sara Pottberg	Renee Wysopal
Communitas, Inc.	Gina Kucker	Richard Ransom	Thomas Zaya
Mary Elaine Corrigan	L W Bills	Alice Regan	Terrence Zech
Dan & Maureen Costello-Shea		William & Pauline Reynolds	

The above list reflects donations from July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018

# Financial Snapshot

## Fiscal Year 2017-2018



Full audited financial statements and form 990 available on our website.

## Volunteers

Nothing is as strong as the Heart of a Volunteer

# 35

**VOLUNTEERS**

# 5

**SCHOOLS**

# 260

**HOURS**

SPECIAL THANKS TO  
Boston College, Cristo Rey High School, Holy Cross, Iona College and Stonehill College

**“Change the world with love, one heart at a time.”**  
*Vanier, Founder of L’Arche*



# We Need Your Help

Please consider being a partner in our mission and supporting us to provide a community for Core Members filled with rich lived-experiences, countless journeys, and a life rooted in faith and spirituality.

## You Make a Difference

Please visit us at [www.larchebostonnorth.org](http://www.larchebostonnorth.org) to make your secure online donation or you can send it by mail to:

*L'Arche Boston North, Inc.  
PO Box 1177  
Haverhill, MA 01831*

## Volunteer and Impact Lives



We welcome, delight in and depend on volunteers of all ages, from students to retirees. Whether its spending time going for a walk or working on a puzzle, your time in community is valued and has a tremendous impact!

We are in need of people with special trades or expertise in helping us with routine repairs and maintenance of our homes. Please contact our office if you would like to donate some time!

## Board of Directors

Joseph Kennedy  
**President /Chairman**

Mary Peters  
**Vice President**  
*VinFen*

William Oliver  
**Treasurer**  
*Business consultant, Professor, CPA, venture capitalist*

Lois Klee  
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**Director**  
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Thomas Murphy  
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**Director**  
*Family Coaching Specialist*

John Anton  
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*Core Member and Legislative Advocate at Mass State House*

Lynette McRae  
**Director**  
*Human Resource Management*

L'Arche Boston North, Inc.  
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01831

Assisi House  
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Bradford, MA

Nazorean House  
73 Lamoille Ave  
Bradford, MA

Peace House  
55-57 Ninth Ave.  
Haverhill, MA

Pat House  
9 Valley Street  
Merrimac, MA



## JOIN US

We love visitors! We have many opportunities for you to get to know us. Join us at our monthly Anniversary and Birthday celebrations or for a prayer night. Learn what life in our homes is like and visit for dinner or a special event. Call our office to learn more!