



2019

Annual Report



L'Arche Boston North, Inc.

Message from Jennifer Matthews

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to introduce the L'Arche Boston North Annual Report for 2019. Over the past year, our community has experienced some wonderful blessings, and also deep sorrow. This has been a year for reflecting on the gifts of the past and envisioning the possibilities of the future.



With sadness and great gratitude, we have mourned the passing of L'Arche founder Jean Vanier. We continue to live his legacy and remain dedicated to his mission: that L'Arche should be a sign of hope and belonging in a world where both are so desperately needed.

We have also had the joy of celebrating 35 years as a L'Arche community with our Gala in September 2018. We recognize the friends, family, and supporters who have made it possible for us to live as a community for so many years, and we hold their stories as an important part of our community story.

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 50 years ago with one man and his simple dream to create a true home for people with disabilities. 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,

Jennifer Matthews
Executive Director/ Community Leader
L'Arche Boston North

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, whilst being faithful to the core values of our founding story.

Engage in our diverse cultures, working together toward a more human 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 clients 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. 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

Cliff Gallant

Speaking for myself, I believe that L'Arche has been a godsend for Dan on multiple fronts. As you know Dan became a core member (if memory serves me correctly) in



2004. Dad having passed away some 5 years earlier, Mom's ability to meet Dan's needs on a daily basis (despite all of her heartfelt efforts) became more and more difficult. Thankfully Eleanor Sweetman introduced L'Arche to Mom. As difficult as it was for Mom to resign herself to that reality, the L'Arche Community made the transition of Dan moving from her home into the L'Arche Community one that she

realized was necessary not only for her but more importantly, for Dan. She along with my sisters and I saw how he was welcomed into the Community and what that transition did for him. Dan, with all the support and love of the Community, was out on his own. Since that time, the L'Arche Community has become his extended family. His L'Arche family has been there with and for him constantly throughout these past 15 years, being ever supportive not only in his daily activities, but in all the ups and downs life brings as well. In the process Dan has continued to grow as evidenced by his never-ending wit and pride in doing everything he can on his own, while having come to recognize his own limitations, accepting the help of others.



Clifford Gallant, Jr.

L'Arche Family Member

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!



Keeping L'Arche Rolling

Many thanks to the **George C. Wadleigh Foundation** for their generous support. With their help, we were able to purchase a new minivan for Nazorean House, ensuring that Core Members there are able to get out in the community and live active, healthy lives.

Cummings \$100K for 100—An Investment in Innovation



We are excited to recognize the **Cummings Foundation** for their generous investment in our Homemade Hummus project. L'Arche Boston North has been awarded \$25K per year over 4 years to grow this collaborative and inclusive initiative in which Core Members and Assistants together make and sell hummus at farmers' markets and beyond.

35th Anniversary Gala



L'Arche Boston North celebrated 35 years as a community with a Gala at the Haverhill Country Club in September. The evening included a cocktail hour with silent auction and Yeti raffle, a delicious meal, and a presentation on L'Arche's impact around the world by the creators of the

L'Arche International *As I Am* documentary series Michael McDonald and Amber Herkey.

The event concluded with a live dessert auction with homemade treats from community members and then after-dinner dancing. It was a beautiful evening to remember and celebrate our years as a community of L'Arche.



L'Arche International Faith and Culture

This winter, long-term Assistant Molly LeBlanc-Medeiros was able to travel to the Hague, the Netherlands, in the final installment of the L'Arche International Faith and Culture Program, of which she has been a part since 2016. "The opportunity to travel and experience the fellowship of a learning cohort from L'Arche communities around the world has been amazing," Molly says. "I have learned so much about how when L'Arche is authentically present in the world, we change and the world changes—both for the better. I am very grateful to have had this chance for growth and to bring what I have learned home to my community."

Remembering Jean Vanier



On May 7, 2019, L'Arche founder Jean Vanier passed away. L'Arche Boston North honored his memory with a live-stream viewing of the funeral held in his home community of Trosly in France. Our local community members were able to share stories about encounters with Jean, inspiring more laughter than tears. The community also

collaborated with Boston College to hold a memorial mass for Jean Vanier on campus. The service provided an opportunity for people from around New England to gather and give thanks for the life of a man whose legacy of love and welcome will remain an inspiration for generations to come.



Hummus Program Expansion



This summer, the L'Arche Boston North Garbanzo Gang grew to include more Core Members and Assistants to make and sell delicious Homemade Hummus at our local Haverhill Farmer's Market. Veteran hummus makers Emma and Christine welcomed volunteer Anthony and two new Core

Members, John and Lianna, to the team. Thanks to the welcome provided by First Baptist Church in Haverhill, the team was able to produce more hummus and sell out most weeks. Homemade Hummus is growing in popularity, and with the help of the Cummings Foundation \$100K for 100 Grant, the project is poised to take the next step in expansion.



Regional Gathering

This June, L'Arche Boston North community members participated in the Northeastern Regional Gathering in Scranton, PA. Every other summer, communities and burgeoning projects from the region—including Cleveland, Erie, Frederick, Greater Washington, D.C., Long Island, and Syracuse—gather to celebrate, to pray, and to meet up with old friends and make new ones. Highlights included a Community Presentation featuring L'Arche Boston North pirates and community members' performances in the Talent Show and record-breaking sales of temporary tattoos at our Solidarity Fair table.



A Reflection from Mary

[Note: Mary has promised her reflection by the end of the week. Ariana's text remains as a placeholder.]

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 - its where I grew up.

Mary Hearon

Live-In Assistant, Assisi 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 33 volunteers from 4 different schools, logging more than 1850 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. Florian Hellmann and Paul Wegehaupft 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 a sitting board member from this community.

My L'Arche Is...

Lianna Flewelling

My L'Arche is basketball in the kitchen
and listening to Johnny Cash records
and honey in my tea.

My L'Arche is my bus driver's honk outside.

My L'Arche is going to church and Dunkin
and falling asleep watching TV after work.

My L'Arche is tickling Dan
and having a hard time to know what my brain is doing.

My L'Arche is having more quality time
and wanting something to help Tom with his remix of life.

My L'Arche is *The Golden Girls*
and Peace Salad.

My L'Arche is fun times
and the center of God.

My L'Arche is lighting up the night
and finding out what's new with the Charmed Ones.

My L'Arche is doing more things with the church
and friendship growing slowly.

L'Arche is full of cherries in a bowl of us.



Enriching Lives

A look into our community this year!

A Night to Shine



Backyard Baseball and the Red Sox at Fenway



Special Olympics



MDSC Buddy Walk for Down Syndrome

Trips to Vermont, Bermuda, and Las Vegas, 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.

Align Credit Union
Amazon Smile
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The Arc of Greater Haverhill-
Newburyport
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Ariana Bachman
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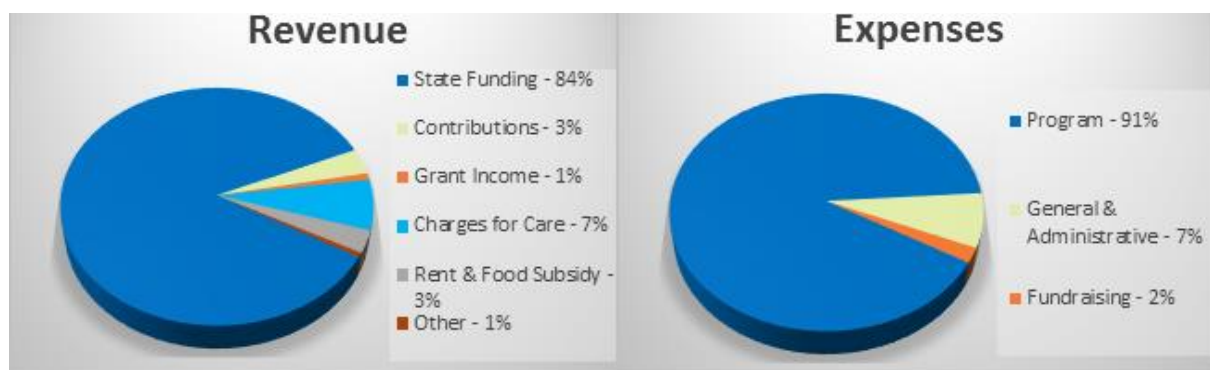
Thank You to Our Donors

"Change the world with love, one heart at a time."

Jean Vanier, Founder of L'Arche

This is a list of those who have supported us financially from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. Sincere efforts have been made to assure the accuracy of these donor records. We apologize for any errors or omissions and ask you to notify us with corrections to help us continue to improve our efforts. .

Financial Snapshot Fiscal Year 2018-2019



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

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 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.

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!

NOTHING IS AS STRONG AS THE HEART OF A VOLUNTEER

33

VOLUNTEERS

4

SCHOOLS

1850

HOURS

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Cristo Rey High School, College of the Holy Cross, Iona College, and Stonehill College

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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!