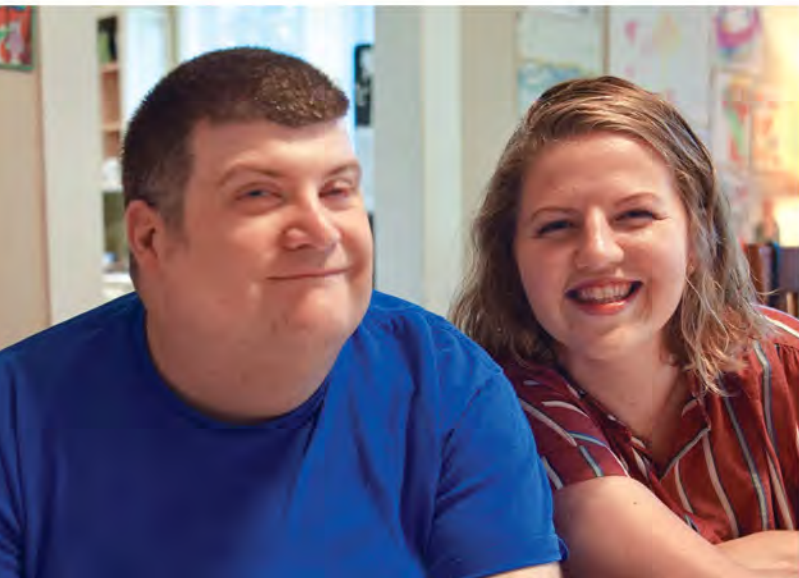




Gratitude Report 2019

a place to
belong



GRATITUDE REPORT 2019

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Dear Friends of L'Arche Atlanta,

L'Arche Atlanta's mission is to transform lives by building community among people with and without disabilities, working towards our vision of a world where everyone belongs. Our Core Members and assistants share faith-based lives in our L'Arche home, supported by a dedicated staff, board, and our enthusiastic volunteers and donors.

Thank you for standing with our community in 2019. It was a transformative year for L'Arche Atlanta, one we look back on full of gratitude. In September **we announced our capital campaign to raise funds for a second L'Arche home**, and by December — with your generous support — we had raised \$1.4 million to purchase and renovate a second house, currently owned by Woodlands Garden, for four new Core Members. **This will double our residential life capacity and effectively double our community reach** by having another hub for fellowship and togetherness.

In 2019, we continued our partnership with the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities (GCDD) through the *Storytelling Project*. The *Storytelling Project* team completed 25 deep-dive stories that profiled 33 Georgians with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). We produced a podcast series, *Hidden Voices*. We are especially proud of our mini-documentary film *6,000 Waiting* that follows three people with IDD in Georgia through their journey to obtain a Medicaid waiver.



Last year, more than 420 people attended our community events. Staff and Core Members spoke at civic and community groups, including Candler School of Theology, area churches, and the Atlanta Autism Consortium forum on housing and disability, reaching many people with compelling, inspirational stories of hope and transformation.

We expect to build on this growth in 2020, continuing to elevate awareness of the L'Arche mission and values, so that everyone will have a place to belong. Thank you for joining with us in this important work.

We are so grateful for generous donors like you who make our work possible. We invite you to share our mission with those around you as we do our part to spread the joy in our community far and wide.

Gratefully,

Tim Moore
Executive Director & Community Leader
L'Arche Atlanta



What We Do

Home-Based Professional Services

Community life at L'Arche Atlanta is centered around our communal home in the Oakhurst neighborhood of Decatur, Georgia. **Four residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), known as Core Members, share the home with seven full-time assistants who provide personalized care in a family-like home environment.** Healthcare professionals, government agencies, and disability advocates herald L'Arche as one of the best providers of community-based care for people with intellectual disabilities. **In 2019, L'Arche Atlanta received a hard-earned accreditation from the Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL).**



Community Events

Through our events, we bring the celebration, spirituality, and connection found in the L'Arche home into the broader community. **We host social events throughout the year and bring people with disabilities and their families together with the wider community.** L'Arche Atlanta residents, family members, and an ever-growing number of people with and without disabilities are drawn to our hospitality and come together to celebrate by sharing our gifts. In 2019, more than 420 people with and without disabilities attended our community events.

Advocacy

L'Arche Atlanta advocates for people with disabilities to have the right to decide where they live, the resources to do so, and the support they need to thrive in the community of their choice. We speak to congregations, community groups, and advocacy organizations to build awareness and advocate for inclusion.



To advocate at the state level, we partner with the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities through the *Storytelling Project*. The *Storytelling Project* is a state-wide initiative to educate and motivate state legislators to act on issues that affect Georgians with disabilities by giving them a voice to share their stories. In 2019, in addition to written stories that profiled 33 Georgians with IDD, we produced a podcast series, *Hidden Voices*, which explored many aspects of life with IDD through the voices of 29 people with and without IDD. We also created a documentary film, *6,000 Waiting*, that follows three people with IDD in Georgia through their journey to obtain a Medicaid waiver, while examining how the state's waiting list for the waiver ballooned to more than 6,000 people.

98

people from three
L'Arche communities
came together for
our regional gathering



450

bags of popcorn
given away to
our neighbors at
Porchfest in October

our impact in 2019

L'Arche creates spaces for
mutually-transforming relationships
among Core Members, House Assistants,
volunteers, and community friends to be
formed and nourished.



364

pages of policies &
procedures written to
obtain CQL Accreditation
(& to move towards
general best practice)



504

points scored
during
L'Arche Madness



1,593

downloads of
Hidden Voices
podcast



92

volunteers made dinner,
hosted community events,
helped with yard work,
stuffed letters, &
so much more!



4

strategic priorities
developed for
our 2020-2023
strategic plan



67

auction items
purchased at our
7th Birthday
Benefit & Auction



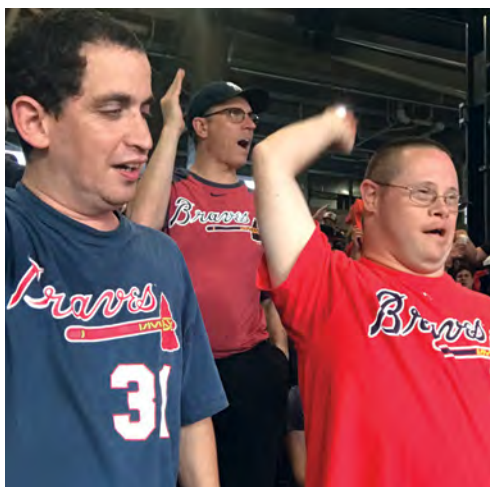
20,998

miles driven to take
Core Members to work,
volunteer activities, &
weekend getaways



178

friends joined
L'Arche Atlanta at a
Braves game in August



313

rounds of
“This is the Day”
sung after dinner
by the daily life
community



Rhythms of Belonging

By Grason Poling, L'Arche Atlanta 2nd year house assistant

We wake up and start our routines with foggy eyes and murmuring to ourselves. It is mostly silent except for doorknobs creaking and feet shuffling on the floor. **John sits at the end of his bed and says to me through the stupor, “Good morning.”** He sits on his bed, savoring the slow drift from sleep. He pauses in this transition before entering the day, knowing it will clip steadily along until it's spent. John exhales and pulls himself up, purposefully heading into the common space.

Nearing the front room, he greets Terry, who sits straight-backed and cross-legged, meditating or possibly sleeping in the deep-cushioned chair. John hollers a greeting into the kitchen while Corbin makes a pot of coffee. John's words are missed or misheard, meshed behind the coffee grinder's mechanical whir. Patrick sets himself a place at the table and waits for four toaster oven beeps, signaling there's peanut butter to be spread. John takes his usual seat with a cup of coffee and a plate of eggs.

Today, every day, the table holds our first-glance experiences of ourselves and each other. It serves as a setting for talk and eating, for fuel and centering; a place where we process our lives together. We bring our unceremonious encounters of joy and gratitude along with our honest anxieties and small irritations to the table and to each other. All are welcome to this table where our individual and unique rhythms intersect, and our unity is born anew each day.

John is one of the longest-standing members of L'Arche Atlanta's daily life, and one of the

first to encourage these sorts of conversations, exemplifying what it means to reflect and invite reflection from others. He finds room for growth, actively reimagining what it looks like to live meaningfully with the people he's committed to. The day ahead will hold any number of phone calls with friends, brainstorming sessions over hot chocolate, and leading the community in evening songs of gratitude. In all of this, **John fosters a place of belonging, intrinsically knowing that the beauty of community exists in the blend of our unique and shared rhythms.**

When breakfast concludes, Patrick and Terry head out to either work or exercise. Corbin's routine includes anything from bagpipe practice to cooking with friends. A little later, John is on his way to make calls at the L'Arche office or to volunteer, spending his time sorting through thrift store donation troves. These individual and communal rhythms fill each of our days; we flow with them and come back together around the dinner table. We discuss what we've experienced, then head to our own spaces to rest, until we find ourselves in the next day again.

THANK YOU for your support!

Our rich community life would not be possible without the generosity of our donors. **Thank you to each person who gave to support our community in 2019.** We would not be able to do what we do without your generosity. While our Core Members are the heartbeat of the community, our donors are the lifeblood.



In 2019...

You & your peers
donated more than
\$415,000
to L'Arche Atlanta in 2019,
a **42% increase** from 2018

386
people joined our donor family
as first-time donors
(Welcome!)

745
households donated to L'Arche Atlanta
during the year

Thank you all so much for your generosity!
Your kindness is recognized each day by the members of the L'Arche Atlanta community.



Thank You to Our 7th Birthday Benefit & Auction Sponsors!

We are so grateful to the individuals and businesses that supported our 7th Birthday Benefit & Auction, an amazing event that raised more than \$110,000 for our community!

Platinum

Shayla & Chip
Rumely



Gold



Silver

ANDERSEN | TATE | CARR



Pat
Barlow

Bronze

Emma H. Barry, Esq.
City3Sixty
Decatur Package Store
Fidelity Bank

Found & Co. Decatur
Gipson & Co.
Natalie Gregory & Co.
Marilyn & Dean Hammond
Gué & Bill Hudson
Kristen M. Lewis, Esq.

Elisabeth Marchant &
David Jensen
Northwood Ravin
Mary Margaret Oliver
Ann & Steve Rushing
Gail & Matt Schaffer

Julie & Steve Siler
Lizanne Stephenson
St. Thomas More
Catholic Church



Home for Life
Capital Campaign

BUILDING

a place to belong



Perhaps the most exciting moment of 2019 came at the 7th Birthday Benefit & Auction, when Executive Director Tim Moore announced **a capital campaign to purchase and renovate a 3,800 sq. ft. seven-bedroom house** currently owned by Woodlands Garden in Decatur. These plans were developed in response to the urgent need across the state of Georgia to improve services and build community for people with disabilities in the Atlanta area; to meet this need, the leadership of L'Arche Atlanta identified a new house to complement our current home in Oakhurst.

The response to the campaign from the community was amazing! **Over 380 households, churches, foundations, and businesses donated over \$1.4 million** to purchase and renovate the home. For this, we are incredibly grateful!

Because of your generosity, **the renovated home will transform the lives of individuals with disabilities** by providing new community, long-term housing, transportation, daily life supports, and a place of belonging, with access to meaningful friendships and social activities for life. L'Arche serves our Core Members for life (or as long as they choose to live in our homes), allowing them to age in place and providing peace of mind for their family members. We will select four Core Members based on criteria that include family circumstances, current/anticipated need, financial need, and racial and ethnic diversity.

The new home will also serve as a hub for our extended community, which brings together people with and without disabilities to re-imagine what true inclusivity can be. L'Arche homes provide an environment that nurtures mutually-transforming relationships for Core Members, assistants, volunteers, and friends.



The second house will not only serve as an accessible, supportive residence for Core Members and assistants. It will also be a thriving focal point of community life that demonstrates inclusion and belonging, an example of what life is like when people with and without disabilities can live and flourish together.



Help us create a place to belong

L'Arche Atlanta is grateful to all our donors who create a place to belong. Consider making an ongoing commitment to further our mission by joining the Heart of L'Arche Society or our monthly donor program. Both options offer an **easy way to make regular donations that support and sustain our community.**



By joining the Heart of L'Arche Society, you help fund our most vital initiatives.

These beloved donors pledge \$1,000 or more per year for three consecutive years, gifts that fund our long-term goals. By committing to the Heart of L'Arche Society, you are helping to ensure the future of L'Arche.

The L'Arche Luminaries are a special community of people dedicated to creating a place of belonging for people with disabilities. Your gift of \$30, \$50, or \$100 each month helps adults with disabilities become appreciated and valued members of our local community and beyond.



To join one of our donor communities, please contact Megan Denton, Director of Development & Communications, at megan@larcheatlanta.org.

2019 Board of Directors

Officers

- › **Chair:** Steve Siler – President, Mercy Care Foundation
- › **Vice Chair:** Shayla Rumely – Community Volunteer
- › **Treasurer:** Ann Rushing – Principal, Rushing CPA
- › **Secretary:** MacKensie Brandt – Associate Director, Coxe Curry & Associates

Members at Large

- › Haqiqa Bolling – Retired Counselor, Renfro Middle School
- › Gayle Gellerstedt – Community Volunteer
- › Marilyn Hammond – Communications Consultant
- › Robbie Harris – Realtor, Beacham & Company
- › Dana Keener Mast* – Senior Manager, ICF International
- › Jasmine Terry Okafor – Development Specialist, Association for Clinical Pastoral Education
- › Gail Schaffer – Attorney, Lueder, Larkin, & Hunt LLC
- › Matthew Smith – Law Partner, Anderson, Tate, & Carter
- › Mary Anona Stoops – Pastor, North Decatur Presbyterian Church
- › Jim Swartz – Labor & Employment Attorney, Seyfarth Shaw LLP
- › Alan Yorker – Retired Psychologist & Teacher

* Dana Keener Mast completed her board service in 2019, and we are incredibly grateful for her contributions to strengthen L'Arche Atlanta.

In 2020, we welcomed two new board members:
Brandon Maxwell and Dr. Khalia Williams.

2019 Advisory Council

- › Gué Hudson – Retired Dean of Students Emerita, Agnes Scott College
- › Elisabeth Marchant – Vice President of Business Solutions & Executive Relationships, Dale Carnegie
- › Mary Margaret Oliver – 82nd District Representative, Georgia House of Representatives
- › Elizabeth Pearce – Chief Development Officer, The Lovett School
- › Shannon Powell – President & Principal, City3Sixty
- › Lizanne Stephenson – Community Volunteer

2019 Financials



Medicaid Agency Funding: **31.6%**
Contributions: **28.0%**
(Individuals, Foundations, Businesses)
GCDD Storytelling Project
Contract: **16.5%**
7th Birthday Benefit & Auction: **11.1%**
Other: **12.8%**



Program Services: **77.4%**
Fundraising: **13.6%**
Management & General: **9.0%**



In 2019, L'Arche Atlanta received the Guidestar Platinum Seal of Transparency, which lets donors & community members know that **we abide by the highest ethical practices.**
Less than 1% of charities receive the platinum seal.

www.LArcheAtlanta.org



 facebook.com/larcheATL

 instagram.com/larcheatlanta



L'Arche Atlanta | P.O. Box 2359 | Decatur, GA 30031 | 470/582-0008

We are a 501(c)(3) charitable organization (EIN 20-3091620)

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