We celebrate the unique gifts of every person and recognize our need for one another. Together we are building a more inclusive community with trust in God at the centre of our journey.

At L'Arche, we believe...

Every person deserves and longs to be loved and to find a place where they truly belong. Our abilities, or disabilities, do not make this any more or less true.

We are people with and without intellectual disabilities, sharing and creating a community rooted in shared respect and belonging.

We celebrate the unique gifts of every person and recognize our need for one another. Together we are building a more inclusive community with trust in God at the centre of our journey.

Our story...

In 1964 L'Arche founder Jean Vanier invited two men with developmental disabilities to share his home in the French village of Trosly-Breuil.

He named the house “L'Arche, French for “the ark” after Noah’s ark: a safe and secure place, and a sign of God’s care and provision.

Today there are 154 L'Arche communities in 38 countries around the world.

L'Arche Calgary creates community with 19 core members (individuals with a developmental disability) plus 19 live-in Assistants residing in five homes. Our Supported Independent Living program assists five core members to live in the broader community.

In addition, we provide the Tamarack Day Program which allows 16 individuals to enjoy activities related to their goals, interests, and particular needs with a focus on helping them build relationships.

Love doesn’t mean doing extraordinary or heroic things. It means knowing how to do ordinary things with tenderness.”

- Jean Vanier
Message from our President

At our recent Annual General Meeting in June, I felt joy as I saw and experienced the hospitality and spontaneity shown by members of our community to each other and our guests. It was a special meeting. After the formal business was dealt with, we took time to reflect upon and thank God for the life of Jean Vanier and the gift of L’Arche.

Jean encouraged us to see each other as God sees us, and to live out the gospel message of the Beatitudes. This is a call to accept and love each other and a reminder of the essential worth of each human being. It is this message that inspires us to create communities of friendship and belonging.

Looking forward, our community will continue to expand its outreach. Initially this will be through a visiting program to reach those who otherwise might be alone. Other initiatives will follow. We are excited about this call to reach beyond the traditional bounds of a L’Arche community. We thank you all for your prayers and support.

Mark Richards
Board President

“In the end the most important thing is not to do things for people who are poor and in distress, but to enter into relationship with them, to be with them and help them find confidence in themselves and discover their own gifts.”
- Jean Vanier
Message from our Community Leaders

Our 2017-2021 Mandate set out ambitious plans for Going Deeper; Going Out; and Going In. We made progress by: clarifying our spirituality; developing a clearer focus for growth as we reached out to schools, churches and other groups; collaborating with other service providers and L’Arche Canada; and perhaps most importantly, selecting our next Community Leader. We continue to work on self-care and examining the work/life balance, especially for live in Assistants; being a community and not just a service provider; improving communication; and supporting the personal growth of everyone.

All of these things are on-going opportunities. We will never “arrive”! As Jean Vanier wrote in Community and Growth, “Individual growth towards love and wisdom is slow. A community’s growth is even slower. Members of a community have to be friends of time… It can be a great mistake to want, in the name of clarity and truth, to push things too quickly to a resolution.”

So as we move into the second half of this Mandate, we are grateful that you are patiently walking with us.

I arrived back at L’Arche this past spring, which is a time of renewal and growth. It was also the time of Jean Vanier’s passing and marked a period of not only mourning and deep gratitude for his life but one of reflection and visioning of who L’Arche is called to be in our communities and the world without our founder. The International Federation of L’Arche will embark on a process to revisit and renew its Charter over the next three years. The thinking and reflection that L’Arche Calgary will contribute will serve us well in the next half of our Mandate, as we “get on the bus” and move forward into connecting with others in the broader community and welcoming more people into ours. The Strategic Clarity process we undertook this past year resulted in a clear roadmap which we will be putting into action in the coming year.

I am grateful for the wisdom and support of Garth Reesor and the Board of Directors during this time of transition and for the L’Arche Calgary community as a whole who have welcomed me so well. I look forward to this next stage of our journey together!

Garth Reesor
Community Leader (Outgoing)

Robyn Jackson
Community Leader (Incoming)
Tamarack Day Program

In our Day Program, core members make a variety of handcrafted gifts and goodies. They’re hand-made with fun and love.
A Farewell to our Founder, Jean Vanier

Jean Vanier, founder of L’Arche and co-founder of Faith and Light, died on May 7, 2019, at the age of 90. Jean’s spirit of generosity, empathy, and loving kindness inspired millions, and his life’s work provides a powerful example of the true meaning of compassion – the deep, endless love of humanity.

Over 50 years later Jean’s legacy lives on in 154 L’Arche communities in 38 countries around the world. He permanently changed the lives of people with disabilities everywhere by demonstrating how the care of a community could open lives to meaning, joy, hope, trust and transformation - not just the lives of the person with disabilities but also the lives of the assistants and friends who share life with them. Jean called L’Arche “a school of love” because of the personal friendships and bonds that we create while living in community, recognizing people’s true gifts, discovering treasures of our humanity, praying together, celebrating the simplicity of daily life and “wasting time together”.

Here in L’Arche Calgary, we have lived out Jean’s inspirational vision since 1973 and will continue to do so, as it will live on in L’Arche communities throughout the world. Our responsibility and our privilege is to take on the legacy that Jean had entrusted us: to carry further the call of L’Arche today.
JEAN VANIER
September 10, 1928 - May 7, 2019
Ten years ago, we began our journey with Jason transitioning from child services to adult services. We had one year left of high school...then what?

As with most parents of a child with a disability, our hopes and dreams for Jason were that he always be loved, be safe, have friends and succeed in whatever he wished to do. The very first time I had heard of L’Arche was from a co-worker whose brother lived in a L’Arche home and he was so very happy there. At the time, we were so focused on just getting Jason into a day/work/volunteer program where he would thrive and learn. Anything residential felt a long way down the road and our vision was narrow as we were certain he would always live with family.

Over the years that followed, we watched from the sidelines as Jason’s old schoolmates and friends started moving away from home. We knew Jason’s desire for more independence was coming soon. As our other children married and started their own families, we recognized that it was important for them to be a part of Jason’s life as family, not caregivers. We had yet to discover that the L’Arche community IS family!

Then in 2016, a young friend told us about L’Arche. She had recently taken a leave of absence from her job to go to work for L’Arche in Cape Breton for a year. She loved it so much she stayed! We learned through her who the L’Arche community truly was. It was such an amazing feeling to discover that everything we had wanted for Jason was exactly what she described.

When Jason finally expressed a desire for that independence from us, we got in touch with L’Arche Calgary and we visited two of the houses. After visiting the second house, Jason asked if we could visit another one! He was very excited! The simple fact that he showed such interest was heartwarming for us.

Jason just seemed to fit right into L’Arche. Here is a young man who would often want to be by himself or sit and watch…and he wants to participate! He wants to be part of the annual L’Arche Christmas pageant, he wants to go on community retreats and take part in community events. As parents, it’s such a spectacular feeling! We know we have made the best decision ever for Jason…and we didn’t make it…he made that decision for himself the day he walked into Kichiyak! We feel very blessed to see that he is loved, he’s safe, he is challenging his independence, developing new friendships and he is a part of a very beautiful and caring community.

Cathy and Paul,
Parents of Jason
Lyndsay’s Story

I’ve been involved with L’Arche since first-year university as a volunteer with Best Buddies. I had exposure to similar school clubs in the past as well as having a family member who has Cerebral Palsy, so it became the first club I joined as a fresh university student.

My mother said that as long as she could remember I would come home from elementary school and tell her about two students in my class with Down Syndrome – always excited to share about the interactions. Best Buddies, which is commonly rolled out across grade schools, is partnered with L’Arche for the University of Calgary Chapter. As an active volunteer with a special one-on-one pairing, and also as Chapter president for two years, I got to experience the fulsome and wholesome community of L’Arche.

After four years of involvement in university, I graduated and entered a demanding career which can limit community involvements. Given my career path, fundraising became my way to continue to support and contribute to L’Arche. Fundraising differs from offering your own time and talents in that it relies on the help and support of those who surround you. Over three years I raised $28,000 for L’Arche. It opened a conversation, and also a part of my heart, with those who had never seen that side before. There was also a very positive byproduct of fundraising – it also showcased the support in my own network, even from those in outer circles who felt motivated to contribute.

Most recently, we convened a group of 11 peers and approximately 25 members of L’Arche to volunteer side-by-side at the Mustard Seed and enjoy a homemade lunch together afterwards. Many friends commented on what a wonderful way it was to spend a Saturday and I think all three groups walked away feeling really good about the experience.

If you consider what it takes to keep you fulfilled and engaged in the world around you, then look at the impact a simple conversation or outing can have, you realize that being a part of something meaningful does wonders for your life. It’s no different for me. It’s no different for the L’Arche community.

Lyndsay,
L’Arche Calgary Volunteer
Thank you to all of our Donors and Sponsors

We are deeply grateful for the many gifts of continued friendship, volunteer time and financial assistance provided by all of our supporters. These contributions help us to better fulfill the mission of L’Arche, which is to make known the gifts of people with developmental disabilities.

Special thanks to our many individual and gift in-kind donors and to those donors who have chosen to remain anonymous. Every effort is made to provide accurate information. If you believe your name was missed from this list, we sincerely apologize.

Benevity Community Fund
Berkhold Family Foundation
Calgary Foundation
Calgary Heritage Lions Club
Calgary Inter-Mennonite Church
CCA Truck Driver Training
Cenovus Energy
Charitable Impact Foundation
Christian Stewardship Services
Community Natural Foods Ltd.
Corpus Christi CWL
Elda Daniels Group
Enterprise Holdings Foundation
Evan J. Strong Funeral Services
Government of Alberta CIP Grant Program
Knights of Columbus – Columbus Benefit Club of Calgary #4965
Knights of Columbus – St. James #10337
McWilliams Family Foundation
Government of Alberta PDD (Persons with Development Disabilities)
One Contact
Pure IT
Richards & Associates Management Consultants Inc.
Robert McClure United Church of Canada UCW
Roman Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of Calgary
Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Hudson Bay
Servus Credit Union
Sisters of Charity of Providence
Spartan Controls Ltd.
Springbank Lions Club
St. Luke’s CWL
Urban Impact Recycling
Financials

**Revenue**

- PPD Contracts: $2,978,381.00
- Seniors and Housing: $373,057.00
- Room and Board: $360,958.00
- Donations and Fundraising: $355,633.00
- Investment Earnings: $23,246.00
- Other: $6,290.00

**Total Revenues**: $4,097,565.00

**Expenses**

- Salaries, Benefits, Personnel: $3,076,407.00
- Building Expenses: $310,709.00
- Program Expenses: $266,756.00
- Property - Amortization: $103,821.00
- Memberships and Training: $123,837.00
- Professional/Consulting Fees: $87,999.00
- Administration: $103,286.00

**Total Expenses**: $4,072,815.00
Save the dates!
Join us for our upcoming events

L'Archetoberfest
*Wednesday, October 9, 2019*

L'Archetoberfest is on the move. To bring you an even better event in 2019 we have moved to Trolley 5 Restaurant and Brewery, 728 17th Avenue SW.

Please join us for our third L'Archetoberfest. Admission includes yummy food, one complimentary beverage, a live German band and polka dancing optional! Space is limited. Admission is by donation.

10th Anniversary Rogers Run for L'Arche
*Sunday, March 28, 2020*

Thank you to our friends at Rogers Insurance, the Volunteer Event Committee Members, Sponsors, Donors, Event Day Volunteers and Runners for continuing to support our needed fundraising efforts.

New routes planned with exciting new surprises in store for the 1 km Family Fun Run. We look forward to having you celebrate with us at the 10th anniversary edition of this fabulous event.

Would you like to contribute or be a part of the success of one or both of these events?

Contact:
Trish Weatherup, Director of Development
403-930-2263; tweatherup@larchecalgary.org

For more information on our community events including our Christmas Pageant and Prayer Nights visit [larchecalgary.org](http://larchecalgary.org)