

2021-2022

ANNUAL REPORT



L'ARCHE®
calgary

ABOUT L'ARCHE CALGARY

In 1964, several men moved into an abandoned cottage in northern France.

The cottage was named *L'Arche*, after Noah's Ark, in hopes that it would be a place of refuge and a symbol of God's provision. This cottage in the village of Trosly-Breuil soon became a home where individuals with and without intellectual disabilities lived together.

As the story of L'Arche spread, people from around the world came to Trosly-Breuil to experience life in the flourishing community.

Today, L'Arche has grown into an International Federation, with 156 communities in 38 countries worldwide.

L'Arche Calgary was founded in 1973.

Over the last 49 years, we have grown to be 5 houses, a day program, and a supported living program.

In our houses – Annapurna, Haeremai, Kichiyak, Marymount, and Villa Maria – Core Members live alongside Assistants who join us from all over the world. Each house is unique, just like its inhabitants. People with and without intellectual disabilities experience the rhythms of daily life alongside one another.

Whether sharing supper on a typical Tuesday or going out to celebrate a special occasion, our family model of care allows us to build trust and mutual relationships.



Our Tamarack Day Program provides engaging programs and activities for Core Members from Monday through Friday. Our individualized approach ensures that each person's day is relevant to their goals, interests, and needs. Assistants provide support both on-site and on community outings. From music therapy to candle-making, there is something for everyone at Tamarack.

Our Supported Independent Living Program (SILP) serves Core Members who live in the community but require additional support. SILP fosters independence while striving to build practical life skills. Alongside Assistants, Core Members in SILP are supported to work towards their goals and maintain their wellbeing.

As we enter into our 50th year as L'Arche Calgary, we celebrate our past and eagerly look ahead to the future of our community.

OUR IDENTITY



VISION

- Mutual care, respect, and compassion between people with and without intellectual disabilities
- Sharing ordinary, daily life with all its joys and sorrows
- Living, working, learning, and celebrating together in communities of belonging
- Transforming our lives as we embrace our gifts and imperfections
- Recognizing that we need each other and are better together
- A model of inclusion, a way of peace, and a sign of hope for our world

MISSION

Make known the gifts of people with intellectual disabilities, revealed through mutually transforming relationships.

Foster an environment in community that responds to the changing dreams and needs of our members while being faithful to the vision and core value of our founding story.

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

VALUES

Creating a Vibrant Community

Celebrating the Value of Each Person

Building Mutual Relationships

Journeying Together

Nurturing our Gifts and Growth

Having a Valued Role

Sharing Spirituality

Living a Life of Joy

Shaping a More Human Society

OUR COMMUNITY LEADER



What a year – or two years – it has been! Challenging? Absolutely! But I have been so encouraged to see God's faithfulness through it all.

“Set out, pilgrim. Set out into the freedom and the wandering. Find your people. God is much bigger, wilder, more generous, and more wonderful than you imagine.”

- SARAH BESSEY

Our Mandate for 2022-2026 is grounded in these words. They call us to build trusting relationships, enhance unity, invest in the growth of our community members, ensure stability, and discern where we need further work. Patience, compassion, innovation, and creativity flourish from our experience of being loved by God. God's love works in us through the Spirit, enabling us to love others in the same way we are loved.

L'Arche Calgary has lived through some difficult transitions. We have grieved our losses and said our goodbyes. At the same time, we have welcomed new people, new life, and new vibrancy into our community. Our Tamarack Day Program continues to create and innovate, our Coffeehouse is gathering in person once more, our homes continue to sustain our values, and the Leadership Team has been busy developing new practices and resources to empower us to live our mission well.

Our work, gatherings, and celebrations have looked very different in recent years. Despite this, our mission stays the same.

We always have been, and always will be about making known the gifts of people with disabilities.

In doing so, we work towards a more human society in which everyone, regardless of their ability, belongs.

When I reflect upon the past year, I realize that each of our successes can be attributed to our people. Core Members, Assistants (in homes, Day Program, SILP and Umiak), donors, the Board of Directors, family members, and friends of this community have shared life together in ways that have changed every one of us. Joy and laughter have coexisted with pain and struggle. Collectively, they form a year where we have been stretched and enriched.

Thank you for the part you have played in making the past year a success. I am grateful to God for the opportunity to serve the L'Arche Calgary community. You inspire me as you continue to give, serve, and live out the L'Arche mission.

In solidarity,

Ani Hynes
Community Leader/Executive Director

OUR BOARD PRESIDENT



The L'Arche Calgary Board of Directors has been working diligently to support our community. You may wonder what the Board of Directors does – L'Arche International has a short video* that explains the role of the Board in a L'Arche Community. As this video says, the Board meets regularly to:

- **Understand the mission of L'Arche Calgary**
- **Ensure its legal and financial integrity**
- **Maintain its credibility and reputation**
- **Contribute to its growth and development**

The Board does this by collaborating closely with the Community Leader and the Regional Leader to ensure the community has the resources it needs to fulfill its mission. Who are the people that make up the Board of L'Arche Calgary? We are a group of nine volunteers with diverse backgrounds, experience, and skills who believe in the L'Arche mission.

The last year has been a challenging one in many respects. We have lived with ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, we have undergone numerous personnel changes, and we have had to adapt and accommodate the changing needs of our Core Members. Through these challenges, however, we remain positive and hold on to hope.

Thanks to the efforts of our terrific Assistants, House, and Program Leaders, our community has remained safe throughout the pandemic.

* <https://bit.ly/larcheboard>

Thanks to the dedication of our employees, we have managed our expenses well. In addition to managing our expenses, grants from generous foundations in the Calgary community and the ongoing support of committed individual donors have enabled L'Arche Calgary to remain financially sound.

As restrictions have eased, we have been able to restart the Tamarack Day Program and gather as a community once more. We have a new mandate to help us forge ahead. We installed a wonderful new Community Leader this spring. Through a successful Run for L'Arche, we have been able to provide support for our fellow community in L'Arche Ukraine. And as a Board of Directors, we have been fortunate to welcome two new members who bring invaluable skills and expertise.

We have many reasons to be thankful for the past year - and even more reasons to be optimistic about the future of our community.

Let us pray that together, we can live out the L'Arche mission of building a more human society at home in Calgary.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael J. Doty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'M' and 'D'.

Michael Doty
Board President

OUR GENEROUS DONORS

“Do your little bit of good where you are; it’s those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.”

- ARCHBISHOP DESMOND TUTU

We extend our sincere gratitude to each individual and organization that has supported L'Arche Calgary in the last year. Every donation makes a difference and makes our work possible.

Due to limited space, we cannot list all of our supporters here, but we would like to recognize the generosity of the following donors:

**Thomas Ambrose
The Berkhold Family Foundation
Doug Brown
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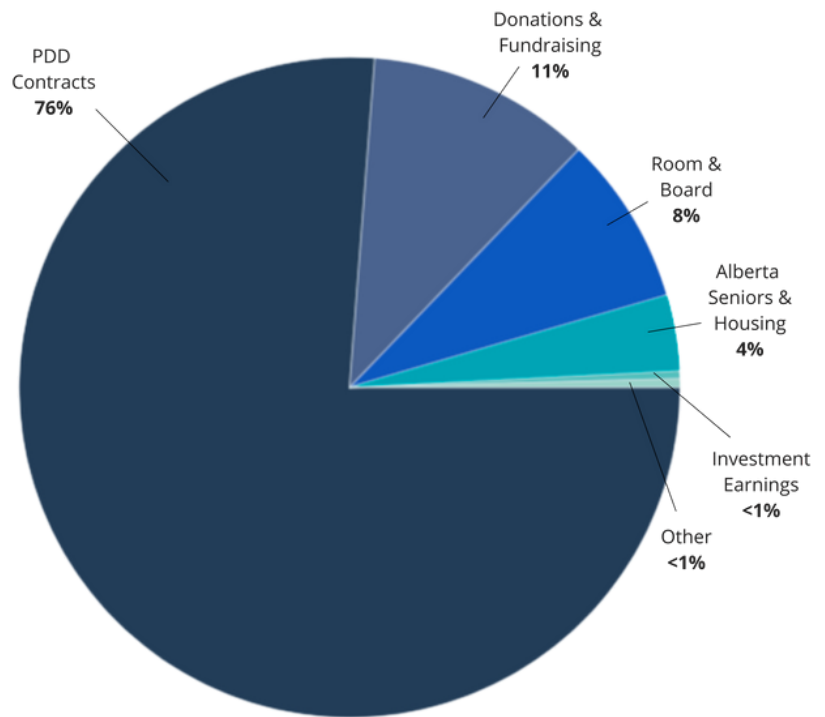
**THANK
YOU!**

THE LATEST NUMBERS



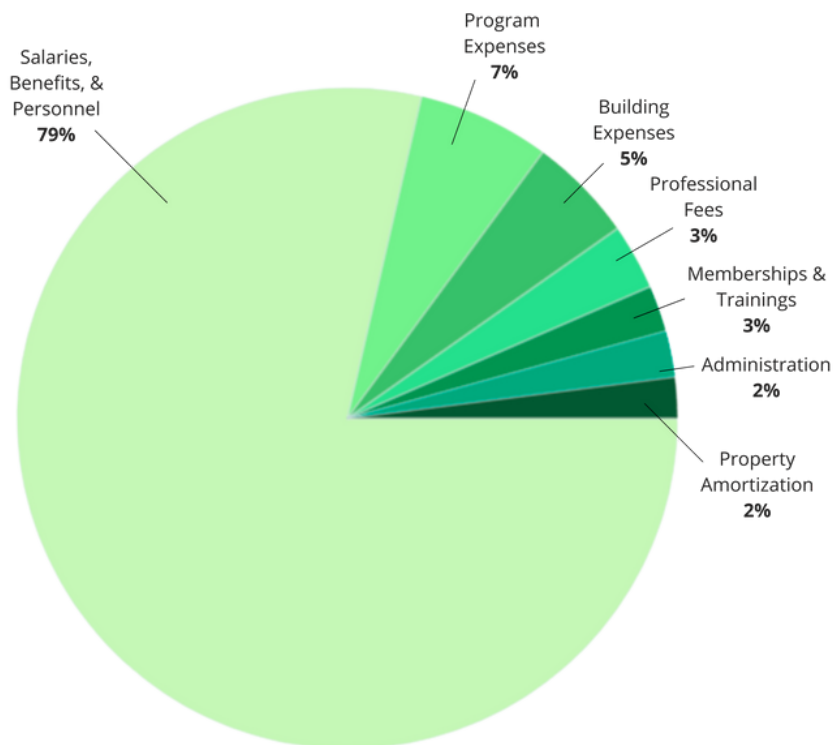
Revenues

PDD Contracts	\$ 3,179,227.00
Donations & Fundraising	\$ 457,975.00
Room & Board	\$ 346,725.00
Alberta Seniors & Housing	\$ 154,300.00
Investment Earnings	\$ 16,244.00
Other	\$ 17,287.00
TOTAL	\$ 4,171,758.00



Expenses

Salaries, Benefits & Personnel	\$ 3,268,960.00
Program Expenses	\$ 269,420.00
Building Expenses	\$ 214,684.00
Professional Fees	\$ 134,277.00
Memberships & Trainings	\$ 94,326.00
Administration	\$ 93,439.00
Property Amortization	\$ 83,297.00
TOTAL	\$ 4,158,403.00



MEET STEPHEN HUDSON

When Keith and Felicity Hudson considered moving to Calgary, there were many factors to take into account. "We had lived in Vancouver for 45 years," said Keith. "That might as well be a lifetime."

A move to Calgary would mean living closer to family, closer to their children and grandchildren. That was not enough, however. Before they could contemplate an inter-provincial move, one thing needed to happen:

Stephen Hudson had to have a place at L'Arche Calgary.

Stephen, Keith and Felicity's son, had been previously introduced to the Tamarack Day Program. After his first visit to L'Arche Calgary, everyone knew. "Stephen took to L'Arche like a duck takes to water," said Keith. "He was comfortable immediately," agreed Felicity.

Stephen has an infectious smile; when he says he is glad to see you, his sincerity is evident. Stephen loves coffee, mathematics, swimming, and art. He enjoys the various activities offered by the Day Program, and his parents enjoy seeing him take on new experiences and challenges.

Stephen is also very perceptive. "We'll be having these philosophical discussions, and everyone is trying to articulate their point, trying to find the right words," Felicity explains. "Then Stephen will say something that perfectly sums it up. It's uncomplicated,



but he gets right to the heart of it. He understands."

Stephen also understands respect.

"L'Arche Calgary is something unique," says Felicity. "It's not just about meeting someone's needs or taking care of them. The people here go deeper. There's a passion. At L'Arche, Stephen is given respect - and he knows it."

Keith agrees. "L'Arche is special. It's not about the building - I don't think anyone would call this place a palace," he says with a laugh. "It's the people. It's the heartbeat."

Stephen is part of that heartbeat, too. From the beginning, Core Members have been at the heart of L'Arche, at the heart of our mission to create a more diverse, more inclusive, and more human society.

"For Stephen, coming to L'Arche was a miracle. It still is a miracle."

- FELICITY HUDSON

Stephen loves taking the bus or taxi to and from Day Program every day. He cherishes his independence. When he comes home after a full day of activities, one of his parents has a cup of tea waiting for him. And when they ask how he's feeling after a day at L'Arche Calgary? Felicity smiles, "Happy. Stephen always answers happy."

STUDENTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE



L'Arche Calgary has a long history of welcoming post-secondary students to live and work in our community.

These students come from a variety of programs and places - from Disability Studies to Kinesiology, from Alberta to Ontario. In addition to their enthusiasm, each one brings a diversity of skills and experiences to their roles.

Gloria Cho was a practicum student in the Tamarack Day Program in Fall 2018. "The support and encouragement I received from everyone at L'Arche Calgary was invaluable as a student," Gloria says, "I grew a lot during my practicum."

She enjoyed her time so much that she returned to L'Arche Calgary as an Assistant after graduating.

"I appreciated the inclusivity, the feeling of belonging, and the relationships I built here. I came back because of the people."

- GLORIA CHO

And Gloria is in good company. Annie McNab, current Community Life and Formations Coordinator, and Carmela Dimaio, current House Leader at Kichiyak, are also former practicum students. These are just a few examples, but there are others too.



Japneet Sachdeva and Muskaan Grewal were both University of Waterloo co-op students at Haeremai House in Winter 2022. Japneet, who recently moved to Canada to pursue her education, smiles as she says, "I was always told that Canadians are nice. L'Arche Calgary proved that it's true."

When asked about her L'Arche experience, Muskaan has glowing praise too. "It's like a family. I could talk about anything with anyone." Japneet agrees, saying, "I felt at home here right away. The people made me feel so loved and valued."

Both students also expressed gratitude for the diversity they encountered at L'Arche Calgary. Japneet speaks confidently. "There are people from everywhere, and we all incorporate parts of ourselves and our cultures." Muskaan concurs, saying "Everyone is respectful of your story."

But when it comes to the best part of their co-op terms with L'Arche Calgary, the two women agree. Japneet and Muskaan share a knowing look. "Core Members."

"My biggest takeaway was that you can learn something from everyone, even if they are non-verbal. It's possible to communicate, to connect with everyone. You just have to try."

- MUSKAAN GREWAL

RUN FOR L'ARCHE & UKRAINE

Over the past 12 years, the Rogers Insurance Run for L'Arche has raised over \$500,000 to support our homes and programs. Run for L'Arche is one of our largest and most important events - but this year's Run was especially important.

Since 2014, through the L'Arche International Solidarity Twinning Program, we have been "twin communities" with L'Arche Kovcheg in Ukraine. By writing letters, sending video messages, and communicating across continents and an ocean, we have built a close connection with the Kovcheg community.

Because of our ongoing friendship, when news broke about the invasion crisis in Ukraine, we felt compelled to contribute whatever we could to support relief efforts. The desire to help our friends led us to decide that half the proceeds we raised from the 2022 Run For L'Arche would be donated directly to the L'Arche Ukraine Emergency Fund.

People with disabilities are disproportionately affected by disasters, emergencies, and conflicts. They are more likely to be left behind during evacuations, turned away from shelters and refugee camps, and discriminated against when resources are scarce.

SOURCE: "Disability-Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Situations."
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. 2014.



Although the event was already planned, when we announced that 50% of the funds we received would go towards L'Arche Ukraine, we saw a remarkable increase in both donations and engagement. More than 500 people laced up their running shoes to attend the Run this year.

Thanks to the generous support of our sponsors, volunteers, and participants, we were able to give more than \$25,000 to the L'Arche Ukraine Emergency Fund.

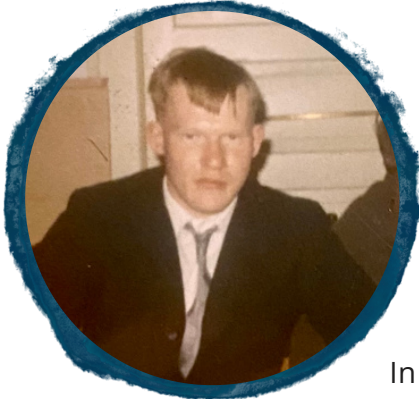
So, while we celebrate another fantastic year of the Roger's Insurance Run for L'Arche, our hearts remain with the L'Arche communities in Lviv and Ternopil.

Whether you walked, ran, or rolled - no matter the distance - you made a difference.

We hope to see you at next year's Run for L'Arche on April 1, 2023. Save the date!

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RUN
for L'ARCHE
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REMEMBERING ALLAN HANSEN



Allan Hansen grew up on a farm in Butte, Alberta, alongside his large family. Allan was a loving son, brother, uncle, and great uncle. He liked to show off family photos and share fond memories of his childhood and youth in Cochrane. Allan was a hard worker, and he was proud to have been an employee at a car wash, a bottle depot, the Fairmont Palliser Hotel, and Tim Hortons, amongst others.

In 1983, Allan joined the L'Arche Calgary community. Allan spent nearly 40 years living at Haeremai House, where he kept memories and traditions alive. He welcomed each new person into the home with warmth and a colourful handmade card. Allan's competitive card games and practical jokes always kept his housemates on their toes. His warm presence helped make the house a home.

**One day, they had me over for supper at Haeremai.
They asked me if I wanted to live there. I said yes.
This is the longest I have stayed in one place.
When I was on my own, I moved around quite often.
Now, I stay at L'Arche because I make friends from all over the world.
Some people have left the community, but I'm still friends with them.**

- FROM "MY STORY," WRITTEN BY ALLAN IN JANUARY 2005

Allan was a dear friend to many. He enjoyed community prayer nights, retreats, holidays, and celebrations. Allan was eager to join others in prayer, worship, and fellowship. He relied on his faith during difficult times and always prayed for those who were struggling. Allan diligently practiced his guitar playing and singing and was passionate about music - especially Elvis Presley. He loved to perform for others at events and during impromptu home concerts.

Allan was fiercely independent; nothing could stand in the way of his downtown trips and coffee shop outings. When faced with winter weather, Allan requested "snow tires" for his walker so that he could continue his weekly excursions. Despite the health challenges he faced in recent years, Allan remained cheerful and pressed onwards with courage and resilience.

Allan had a spirit of goodness and hope; he was one of a kind. He was beloved because of who he was and how he embraced a life well-lived. Allan's smile, sense of humour, and devotion to his friends and family will be dearly missed.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allan Hansen".

JUNE 16, 1947 - JANUARY 2, 2022



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