



L'Arche Toronto
Annual Report 2017-2018



Artwork by Nicholas Herd



Dear Friends of L'Arche Toronto,

This past year was filled with many exciting and several challenging developments in our community life.

In the fall of 2017, community members gathered to develop and write our new Strategic Plan/Mandate. During the next four years (2017–2021), we will focus on three priorities: Servant Leadership, Outreach, and Mission & Growth. This plan calls us to continue to research and develop creative, innovative housing models for both core members and others in need of appropriate and supportive living arrangements. As well, we will further key fundraising efforts and work to secure sustainable funding sources for all the programs we offer at L'Arche Toronto.

We are delighted to share that we launched a two-year pilot project called Trying It on for Size (TIFS). The TIFS program offers a safe environment in which participants, with their coach, can evaluate their independent living skills and create opportunities for personal growth. TIFS participants gain experience in living independently, explore decision making, build self-confidence and learn practical ways to identify their strengths. We are tremendously grateful for the seed money provided by substantial grants from L'Arche Canada and the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS).

In response to the growing budget deficit, we focused on expanding our fundraising capacity. While we deeply appreciate the funds received from MCSS, the increasing needs of our core members continue to require greater financial resources, particularly in the area of meaningful community participation (e.g., day programs) and in sustaining the team support structures in our homes.

The success of our second annual *Twist n' Sip* fundraiser, which took place at Crow's Theatre, was an energy-filled evening that enabled us to connect

with our generous donors, meet old and new friends and community members, and celebrate our community. This outreach opportunity also offered us the opportunity to expand our circle of partners.

In addition to our fundraising events, a variety of outreach activities contributed significantly to raising public awareness of L'Arche Toronto. Our creative arts and performance program Sol Express was part of the Toronto Fringe Festival in 2017 and received great reviews for its *Seasons* performances. We are delighted that Sol Express has been invited back for the Toronto Fringe Festival 2018 to perform *Birds Make Me Think about Freedom*.

Enjoy the stories contained in this year's annual report. We're deeply grateful for your help in making the L'Arche vision a reality: **Create a world where everyone belongs!**

Sincerely,

Raphael Arens
Executive Director and Community Leader

Amanda Hudson
Board President

About L'Arche Toronto



L'Arche began in 1964 when Canadian and Templeton Prize winner Jean Vanier invited three men from a local institution to live with him and create home together in Trosly-Breuil, France. Today L'Arche is an international network of 152 communities in 37 countries, where people with and without intellectual disabilities live, work and create home together.

FOR OVER 40 YEARS, L'Arche Toronto has brought to life the vision of Jean Vanier, as people with and without intellectual disabilities share life in community with a wide circle of family, friends, and neighbours. We provide supports for daily living, employment, and community participation as well as a creative and performance arts program, Sol Express, and Trying It on For Size (TIFS), a life skills program. We help individuals with intellectual disabilities discover their gifts and abilities to achieve their goals for a meaningful life. L'Arche Toronto is a community that works with others to create a world where everyone belongs.



Our Mission

- To make known the gifts of people with intellectual disabilities, revealed through mutually transforming relationships.
- To 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.
- To engage in our diverse cultures, working together towards a more human society.

Spotlight

CORE MEMBER

Dore Ann

by Abbey Holmes

“Dore Ann is one of those people who brings light into a room.”

BEING PRESENT AT L'ARCHE celebrations is a big part of who we are. Dore Ann celebrated a milestone 60th birthday in November. A large celebration was held at the Gathering Place, which was filled to the brim with people who know and love Dore Ann. Being able to appreciate Dore Ann on such a special occasion calls to mind the true values of L'Arche and how we all are invited to contribute to the vibrancy of community life. Dore Ann is certainly well-loved and appreciated!

Dore Ann is a true community connector within and outside our L'Arche community. She is a known and valued presence in many places. Most recently, she

has started to volunteer with Jane at the Centre for Social Innovation, doing a variety of office work and tasks.

This past spring, Dore Ann attended the Prayer Partners retreat in Sudbury and had the chance to join others from L'Arche across the province in prayer, retreat and fellowship.

Dore Ann leads an active social life and enjoys being with people whom she trusts. She is a true example of the vibrancy of our community, shining her light and sharing her gifts in a multitude of ways and places. We as a community are thankful for her!

Spotlight

ASSISTANT

Prosper in Change

by Lindsey Furlonger



ROUTINE AND STRUCTURE have always given me a sense of comfort, but change, of course, is where growth leaps and spreads. After two years with L'Arche, I've learned that adjustments are constant and unyielding. Many people in community have collected stories that prove exactly how much transformation has occurred over the 40 years since our community's beginning. If you have a chance to listen to Jane reminisce about the days without computers when everything was handwritten, you will understand the amount of change that is possible.

This year, the community members at Simpson House have experienced everything from changes in laundry days to a change of House Leader. It's hard, but there's growth. I personally shifted into a part-time role with Sol Express, which is a dream though still hard to manage. Yet I do see growth. Bill 148 has arrived, which impacted how we structure some of the very basics within our community. It comes with plenty of change that is difficult; but progress pushes through, too.

“So, does transition get easier?” I ask Loretta who has been gliding with change for many years in community. “Not really,” she replies as she gets up from the couch to get a glass of water. Loretta's nightly routine is to sit on the couch and read as she

relaxes with a glass of water. “Oooh, getting old” she grunts. She moves her foot a little differently now. “What can you do?” she adds before she sips some cool water.

I guess it doesn't get easier; however, Loretta has created a way to feel grounded during adjustments, and it's brilliant. She seems to find strength in some daily traditions that help her to cope as other patterns shift. Great tip!

As we encounter more changes in community life, I'm hopeful that we can respectfully acknowledge that we must continue to progress. Then take a sip of cool water and enjoy where growth has prospered.





Spotlight



VOLUNTEER

A Community of Open Hearts

by Neil MacDonald

MOST WEDNESDAY EVENINGS you'll find me at Gamble House, having dinner with the core members and assistants. I've been doing this for over two years now, and it has been very rewarding. It's always a lot of fun when the core members – Dore Ann, Janet, Robert, Stacy, and Stephen – are all there to share the meal. We talk about the day or upcoming events, and there's always lots of joking and laughing together.

But then, not everyone is always there for the meal. As often as not someone will have gone out for dinner, or to visit with friends, or (in Robert's case) headed off to choir practice.

I'm always impressed by how busy the core members are. Their lives are full, with lots to keep them going during the day, what with Sol Express, or visits to the art gallery, or trips to the swimming pool or going to various workplaces.

I particularly enjoy spending time with Stephen. He and I are the same age (we're both in our seventh decade – I'm not saying where exactly!), so we share

many of the same kinds of memories about growing up. Plus he knows a lot about cars.

Stephen and I are of an age where older family members are leaving us. Stephen lost his mother earlier this year, and I've recently lost some elders too. It's part of the aging process, and I think Stephen and I understand that it's something we share.

What I like most about my time with L'Arche is how readily I have been accepted into Gamble House. L'Arche is a community of open hearts, something each of us needs more of in our lives.

Core Fundraising Events a Great Success. Thank you!

EVERY YEAR L'Arche Toronto appeals to family, friends and the general public to raise approximately 15 percent of its revenues from donations and fundraising efforts. Fundraising activities include: core fundraising events such as the Twist n' Sip and the Harvest Howl Open Mic; fundraising appeals in the spring and fall, as well as an annual holiday appeal; and other initiatives such as monthly giving, online campaigns such as Giving Tuesday, third-party events, and corporate and foundation grant proposals. The two core events rely on the generosity of businesses and corporations to sponsor and contribute to raising approximately \$80,000 in total. L'Arche Toronto also benefits from countless in-kind donations throughout the year.

TWIST N' SIP GROOVE-A-THON

June 8, 2017 at the Crow's Theatre





HARVEST HOWL
OPEN MIC

October 25, 2017 at the Dora
Keogh Irish Pub



Saffron Painting
and Finishing



IN-KIND SPONSORS

9Round Toronto, Allen’s Restaurant, Anthi Floral, Art Gallery of Ontario, Artists’ Play School of Dance, Ascari Enoteca, Belmonte Raw, Bicycle Opera Project, Black Creek Pioneer Village, Blitz Facial Bar, Brooklyn Tavern, Chateau des Charmes, Creekside Winery, Davidson’s valu-mart, De La Mer, Dolce Gelato, Dora Keogh Iris Pub, Dundas and Carlaw, Dwell Gym, Eastbound Brewery, Ed’s Real Scoop, El Pipil, Facepainting by Clara, Gerrard Pizza, Great Lakes Brewery, Hansen’s Danish Pastry, Hone Fitness, Hyatt Regency Toronto, Jawny Bakers, Judith LePage Original Florals, Kernels, Left Field Brewery, Leslie Jones, Local 1794, M. Thompson Chocolates, McMichael Art Gallery, Melanie’s Bistro, Mondelez Canada – East York Bakery, Morgans, Motion Clothing, Move Fitness, Muddy York Brewery, Olde Toronto Tours, On the Off Beat Music School, Orange Theory, Paint Lounge, Pamela Lauz Jewellery, Photo booth by Alex Tse, Pizzeria Libretto – Danforth, Sandy Aleksander, Seamless Care, Serano Bakery, Sweat and Soda, Tails, Textur Studio, The Cycling Gym, The Flying Yogi Studio, The Old Spaghetti Factory, The Only Café, The Ten Spot – Leslieville, Torq Ride, Toronto And Region Conservation and Work In Progress.

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David Livingston-Lowe

Assistants and Community Coordination Team

We would like to acknowledge our assistant body of over 25 dedicated individuals who live and support our core members in our homes as well as participate in community life.



- Raphael Arens, Executive Director and Community Leader
- Lydia Banducci, Community Life and Program Coordinator
- Kim Barnes, Healthcare and Volunteer Coordinator
- Effie Fakalis, Office Manager and Executive Assistant
- Odette Foronda, Finance Manager (N.P)
- Amanda Hickey, Trying It on For Size (TIFS) Program Leader
- Caroline Hughey, Development Coordinator
- Hannah Rawlins, Human Resources and Assistants Coordinator
- Katie Nelson Berkow, Development and Communications Coordinator (N.P)
- Matt Rawlins, Sol Express Artistic Assistant
- Erina Shrestha, Administrative Assistant
- Cassie Wilson, Homes Coordinator
- Cheryl Zinyk, Sol Express Artistic Coordinator

N.P= Not Pictured

Sol Express

It was an exciting 10th Anniversary year for L'Arche Toronto Sol Express with the mounting of *Seasons* at the Toronto Fringe Festival.

OVER THE COURSE OF seven performances in July 2017, more than 600 people viewed the interdisciplinary collaborative arts project. *Seasons* explored life through the lens of the seasons through movement, music, poetry, film, and clowning. While working with five collaborating artists, Sol Express participants reflected on each season – exploring how the season looked, felt, sounded, smelled and tasted. Many months were spent rehearsing, creating masks, and developing characters and costumes.

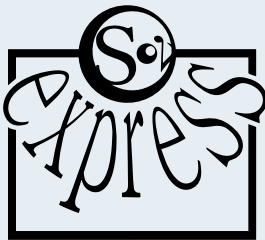
Representatives from Sol Express were invited to help in the planning and animation of the *L'Arche International Federation Assembly* held in Belfast, Northern Ireland. Over 500 L'Arche members from across the globe gathered for a week of celebrations and meetings. In addition to joining the Drama Committee, Sol Express was called upon to facilitate small interactive workshops on accessibility and inclusion in performance.

Friends and ghouls alike joined the festivities at the *Harvest Howl Open Mic*, an annual fundraiser hosted by Sol Express. Welcomed by the staff at Dora Keogh Irish Pub, the intimate setting exploded with friends and live music from “Work in Progress.”

The Monsters “Mashed” and various artists shared their talents for this evening of fun and camaraderie.

Sol Express continues to be invited to lead workshops, including a master’s level course at University of Toronto’s Emmanuel College and a session for L'Arche Ontario assistants.

The Arts Fest at Woodbine Heights Baptist Church is an annual event that Sol Express contributes to in a variety of ways. This past year an array of paintings from the Creative Arts group was featured, and performers showcased a segment of their work from *Seasons*.



L'Arche Toronto Sol Express is an innovative creative and performance arts program that focuses on developing the talents and skills of artists with intellectual disabilities.





Thank you!

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\$1,500 to \$4,999

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\$500 to \$999

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Deborah Barndt	Robert Browne	Anabela Correia	Taras Dusanowskyi
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James Maynard	Katie Nelson Berkow	Satu Repo	Joan Smedley
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There are many other generous donors who wish to remain anonymous.

Thank you to our many Everyone Belongs donors, shown in **bold**. The Everyone Belongs monthly giving program ensures a reliable annual income that helps us maintain our current programs and feel secure enough to plan our long-term strategies. It also lowers administrative costs so that even more of your gift can be used to help where it is most needed. Just like, day programs and regular activities are important for people with intellectual disabilities, monthly giving provides a solid and reliable income base for L'Arche Toronto.



GOVERNMENT FUNDING

We are grateful for operating and capital funding from the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services.

IN CELEBRATION AND IN MEMORY GIFTS

We have received cumulative gifts of \$500 and more in celebration or in memory of these individuals between April 1, 2017 and March 31, 2018.

Mary Banducci, Mary Lou and Brian Halferty, Paul Kennedy, Mary Richardson

COMMUNITY THIRD-PARTY EVENTS

We have received the proceeds in excess of \$1,000 from third-party events held by the following groups between April 1, 2017 and March 31, 2018.

Choir East Toronto, Davidson's valu-mart

VOLUNTEERS

We would like to thank our dedicated volunteers who support the organization in so many important ways.

Kam Balchand, John Bar, Kidist Bekele, Gail Bomers, Claire Bourgard, Madeleine Brown, Josefina Carballo, Gordon Chan, Joan Curran, Paul Del Junco, Ashley Doerwald, Kathie Drummond, Beverley Eatock, Elliot Fine, Janet Fine, Carrie Hage, Neil MacDonald, Rosemary McGinn, Chris Milne, Joanne Mullen, Jen Ormond, Cody Pentzos, Steven Pritchard, Glendon Rayworth, Fiona Strachan and Barb Todd





Financial Overview

For the year ending March 31, 2018

(Amounts in thousands of dollars)

		2018	2017
HOMES AND DAY SUPPORT RESTRICTED OPERATING			
REVENUES			
Provincial Government (MCSS)	\$2,077		\$1,770
Other	<u>140</u>	\$2,217	<u>141</u>
			\$1,911
EXPENSES			
Staffing and Benefits	\$1,526		\$1,453
Accommodations and Repairs	496		302
Programs	<u>329</u>	<u>2,351</u>	<u>328</u>
			2,083
RESTRICTED OPERATING DEFICIT		<u>(\$134)</u>	<u>(\$172)</u>
OTHER PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS			
REVENUES			
Fundraising	\$492		\$405
Program Fees	130		137
Investing in Justice Project	217		-
Other	<u>77</u>	\$916	<u>60</u>
			\$602
EXPENSES			
Staffing and Benefits	\$261		\$257
L'Arche Fees and Activities	89		36
Amortization on Capital Assets	95		102
Investing in Justice Project	3		-
Other	<u>61</u>	<u>509</u>	<u>121</u>
			516
OTHER SURPLUS		<u>\$407</u>	<u>\$86</u>
OVERALL SURPLUS (DEFICIT)		<u>\$273</u>	<u>(\$86)</u>

This Financial Overview presents a summary of the L'Arche Toronto Homes Inc. statement of operations. Full audited financial statements are available on our website.

Fundraising Revenue

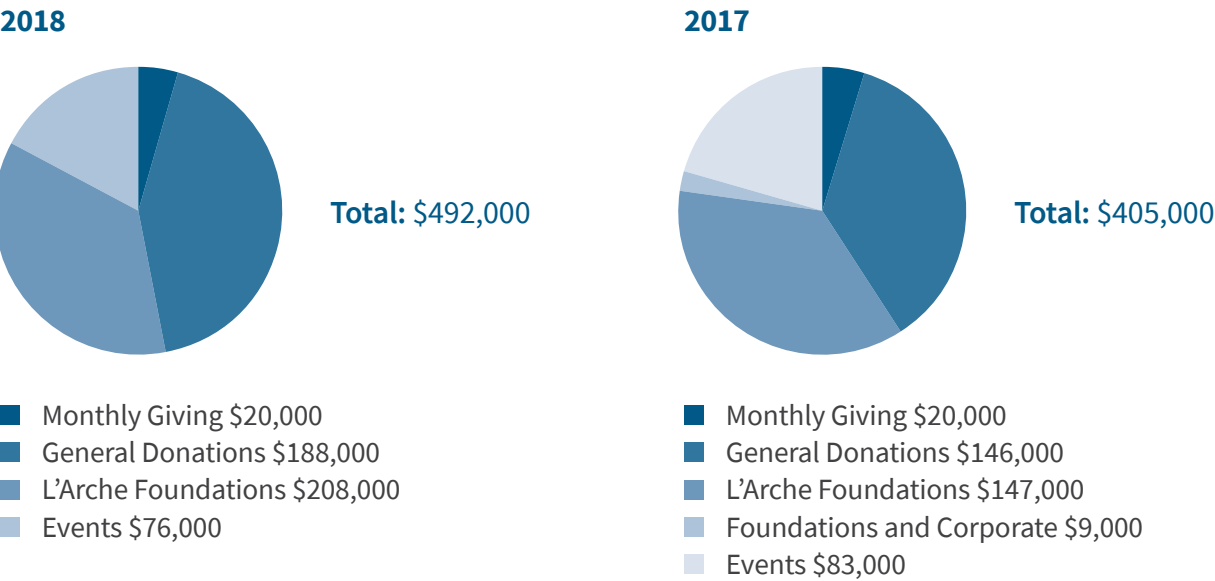
WHY DO WE FUNDRAISE?

We are very grateful for government funding, which not only enables us to provide vital daily-living and employment supports to adults with intellectual disabilities, it also allows us to provide training for our assistants.

We fundraise in order to be able to implement the important activities and programs that are not funded by the government and that contribute to L'Arche Toronto's quality approach to care and community building.

FUNDRAISING DOLLARS SUPPORT:

L'Arche Toronto Sol Express, meaningful daytime activities, volunteer and employment supports, community life events, retreats, outreach activities, accessible vehicles and transportation, and additional staffing that increases the quality of life of those we support.



High Level Overview of Various Budget Areas

	2018	2017
REVENUES		
Operating	\$2,463,000	\$2,102,000
Non-Operating	\$471,000	\$214,000
Outreach	\$35,000	\$34,000
Sol Express	\$164,000	\$163,000
Total	\$3,133,000	\$2,513,000

John Heming

Michael Marshall



We are pleased to announce the L'Arche Toronto Trying It on For Size (TIFS) life skills program.

Empowering people with intellectual disabilities to have an active role in their lives and communities.



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