



**2018
GRATITUDE
REPORT**

Letter from Tim Moore

Dear Friends of L'Arche Atlanta,

Mother Teresa once said, "The problem with our world is that we draw the circle of family too small." At L'Arche, we seek to draw a bigger circle. We want to expand the definition of family. We want everyone to have a place of belonging.

That's the joy of L'Arche Atlanta: the friendships formed in a community where adults with and without intellectual disabilities share life together. The vision of our founder, Jean Vanier, has grown from a small town outside of Paris to 154 communities world-wide united by a desire to share the extraordinary beauty of a community of faith that celebrates the gifts of each person, including those with intellectual disabilities.

2018 was a transformative year for L'Arche Atlanta, one we look back on full of gratitude. Our community was featured on the Today Show, we attended our first major league ballgame where Core Member Patrick had the chance to open the game with "Let's play ball!", and we raised \$75,000 at a single event, our 6th Birthday Benefit & Bash.

Perhaps the biggest change came as we established a more strategic approach to our advocacy work for Georgians with disabilities. In 2018 we partnered with the Georgia Council of Developmental Disabilities (GCDD) on The Storytelling Advocacy Project. L'Arche Atlanta led this project in collecting 75 stories from people with disabilities

throughout Georgia. These stories were published in GCDD's magazine, on its website, and hand-delivered to legislators to remind them of the importance of state funding for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

We expect to build on this growth in 2019. In addition to continuing to provide the highest quality of care for our Core Members and offering a wide range of community events for Atlanta-area families that include adults with disabilities, we will expand our advocacy efforts by continuing to partner with GCDD on the Storytelling Advocacy Project. In short, our plans continue to elevate the awareness of the L'Arche mission and values, so that everyone will have a place to belong.

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 disabilities, known as Core Members, share the home with five full-time assistants who provide personalized care in a family-like home environment. Healthcare professionals, government agencies, and advocates in the disability field herald L'Arche as one of the best providers of community-based care for people with intellectual disabilities.

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.

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 (GCDD) — the state's leader in advancing causes on behalf of people with 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 a voice to people with disabilities — working with them to make their voices heard.



Our Impact

L'Arche creates spaces for mutually-transforming relationships between Core Members, House Assistants, volunteers, and community friends to be nourished. The impact of our unique approach results in the following outcomes.



Community

Neighbors become advocates for people with disabilities.

Neighbors can articulate the positive difference having a L'Arche home makes in their community.

Through community events, people with disabilities in the wider community build a network of friends and support.

House Assistants

House Assistants leave their experience with L'Arche with a greater understanding of and compassion for people with disabilities and become advocates for people with disabilities.

House Assistants enter long-term career fields where they help others, whether in a non-profit setting or a medical or therapy setting.

Core Members are healthy because of coordinated, personalized healthcare.

Core Members

Core Members feel safe and accepted in the L'Arche home.

Core Members have the space and resources to self-determine choices about their lives.

Core Members have a measurably higher quality of life than before they lived in a L'Arche home.

Core Members have a network of true friends who care about them.



2018 Impact in Numbers

85 volunteers

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



75 stories

completed for The Storytelling Project

900 participants at **9** community events

143 dinners shared with guests

150 people joined our Brackets for Good team

(Our team won the \$10,000 prize!)



204 people attended our 6th Birthday Benefit & Bash

244% increase in number of donor households

34% increase in raised dollars

\$23K to Solidarity Fund*

* The L'Arche Solidarity Fund provides funding for communities in developing world countries where there is no government assistance and virtually no philanthropy for L'Arche programs.



154 L'Arche communities in **38** countries on **5** continents

2018 Highlights

The Today Show, Featuring L'Arche Atlanta

On December 3, 2018, L'Arche Atlanta was featured on the Today Show! The video allows viewers to virtually meet our Core Members and team as they share our community's spirit with the world. In the words of Maria Guzman, former L'Arche Atlanta house leader, "L'Arche is not about charity, service, or taking care of people. It's about entering into relationships with each other. It's about learning and growing together." The video was the most popular Today Show video the week it was released and we heard from new and old friends from around the country who watched it! You can see it for yourself at www.larcheatlanta.org/media.



Take Us Out to the Ballgame

On August 11, Core Member Patrick kicked off the Atlanta Braves game with a rousing "Let's play ball!" in front of 40,000 fans at SunTrust Park. People left and right celebrated Patrick with high fives and fist bumps as he walked back to his seat. The event was the first time the extended L'Arche Atlanta community attended a major league ball game - all made possible by our generous donors.



6th Birthday Benefit & Bash

More than 200 friends gathered at St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox Church on September 9 to celebrate L'Arche Atlanta's 6th birthday. The event raised over \$79,000, money that was used to sustain the mission of L'Arche Atlanta and help us reach our 2018 goals. We're so grateful to the many local businesses that sponsored the event and made donations of catering, drinks, and auction items. Over 50 Atlanta-area businesses donated auction items or sponsored the event.



Oakhurst Porchfest

Oakhurst's Porchfest is a neighborhood festival designed to build community by using neighborhood porches as stages to feature local musical talent. The 2018 festival featured more than 200 performances in 4 hours, including L'Arche Atlanta's Core Member Corbin McKinnon on the bagpipes. The festival was a wonderful opportunity to demonstrate the L'Arche Atlanta presence in the community. We handed out over 300 bags of popcorn and cups of lemonade to our neighbors who enjoyed learning about this unique community in their neighborhood.



Storytelling Project

In 2018, L'Arche Atlanta received a grant from the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities (GCDD) to lead the The Storytelling Project. We collected 75 stories representing the experience of individuals living with a developmental disability in Georgia—at least one story from 53 of Georgia's 56 State Senate Districts. The stories support GCDD's efforts to amplify the voices and stories of people with developmental disabilities in Georgia. The grant was extended at the end of 2018; in 2019 the project will include a mini-documentary and seven episode podcast series. Through the documentary, viewers will encounter the dreams & struggles of four Georgians with disabilities as they navigate the Medicaid Waiver. Through their stories, we will encounter remarkably resilient people overcoming unnecessary adversity. The podcast series will further explore these themes and educate listeners on the basics of disability advocacy.

Impact Story

Terry: Finding & Creating A Place of Belonging

By Grason Poling, L'Arche Atlanta live-in house assistant

Living well in community requires each member to know, be known, and be affected by every other member. If this mutual understanding does not exist—if one member chooses to set up barriers to keep others at arm's length—the community is deprived of the unique gifts that person may have to offer. The deep mutual trust for which many communities hope may take a long time to be established.

Terry is a thriving member of L'Arche Atlanta because he not only knows the people in his community, he's truly committed to them, allowing himself to trust and be affected by them. Through his hospitable spirit, he invites others to join in the full life made possible by trusting and knowing one another.

It is difficult to quantify Terry's quality of life in L'Arche. So much of his trusting and affection resides in small, seemingly unimportant moments. Should we mention Terry's love for crunchy peanut butter as he generously spreads it across slices of bread, with every fondness in his eyes? Or expressing the hustle that accompanies each shot and rebound on the YMCA basketball court, as if a paycheck and press conference were to follow? Is there a meaningful way to convey the importance and care from Terry when he crafts a mixtape for one of his housemates, or cleans up a mess he didn't spill? These instances can seem too insignificant to offer as evidence of meaningful living, but they are the moments in which Terry invites his fellow community members to be known and affected by him.

Terry maximizes the potential of each given day. He plans trips and excursions, listing what will happen and who will be there, with the clear intent to expand his life and the community's well-being as a whole. He allows himself to be affected by others—patting a fallen toddler on the back after they are righted, he offers an affirming "You'll feel better soon." When a day has turned out to be less than ideal, Terry still allows himself to appreciate it for what it has to offer.

This past fall, Terry was given the opportunity to showcase some of his life in L'Arche with a couple of new friends from Today.com. During the few days that they were around, Terry hospitably invited his guests to see what his life was like. He talked about and drew pictures of housemates and friends, giving insight to the inherent mutuality he's established between himself and the world. At one point in the interview he was asked, "Who loves Terry?" His answer was that he loves Terry—that everyone loves Terry. His response reveals the space that Terry has made for himself and others at L'Arche: a space to belong, a space to call home.





THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Thank you for sustaining the mission of L'Arche Atlanta with your donations to the 2018 operating fund. We would not be able to do what we do without your generosity. While our Core Members may be the heartbeat of the community, you are the lifeblood.

In 2018, you and your peers increased your donations to L'Arche Atlanta by 34% and 380 people joined our donor family as first time donors.

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 6th Birthday Benefit & Bash Corporate Sponsors

Platinum Level



Silver Level



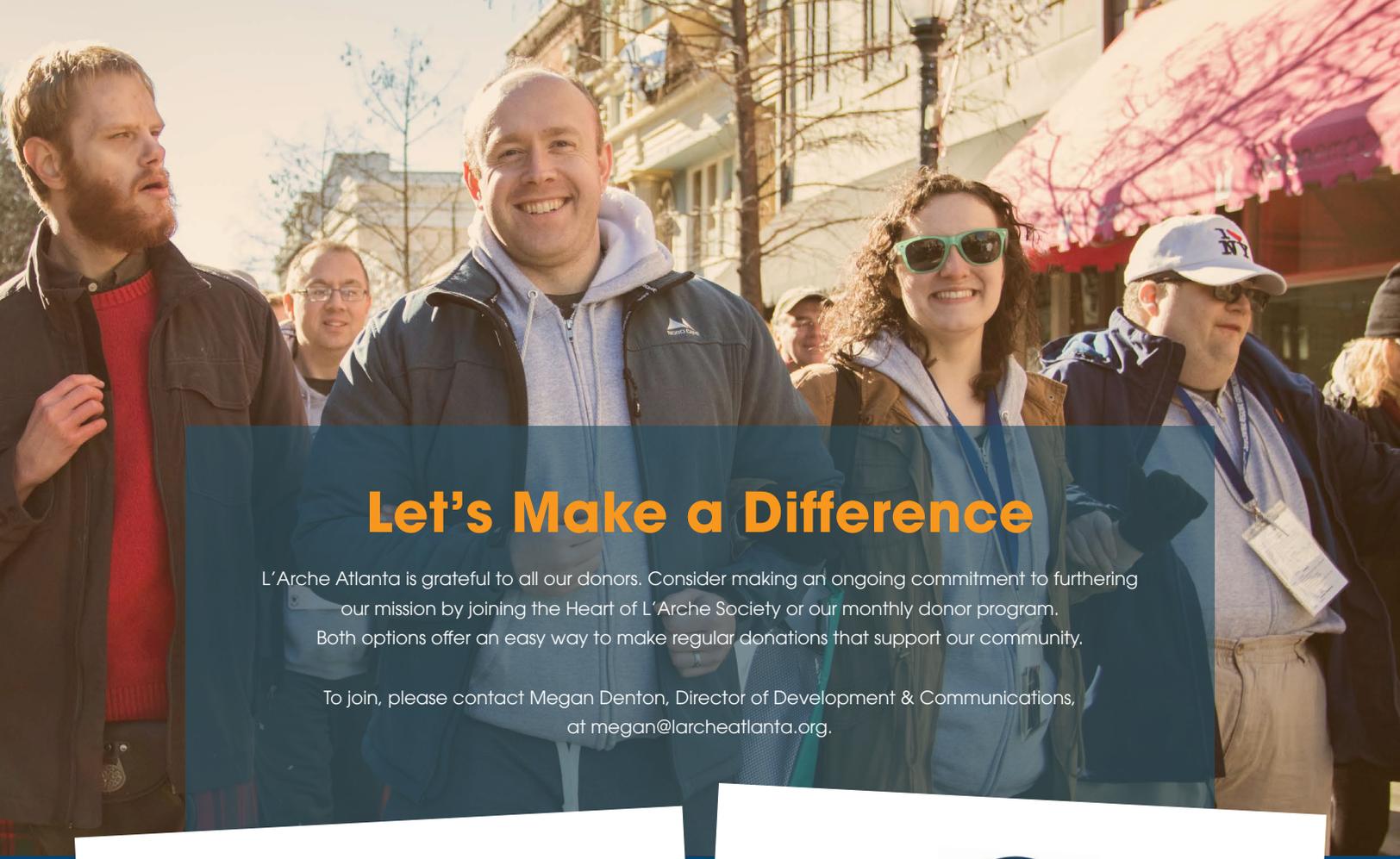
Bronze Level



Thank you to the following in-kind donors for their generous donations to our 6th Birthday Benefit & Bash

THE WOODRUFF ARTS CENTER





Let's Make a Difference

L'Arche Atlanta is grateful to all our donors. Consider making an ongoing commitment to furthering 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 our community.

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



By joining the Heart of L'Arche Society, you help fund our most vital initiatives. These beloved donors pledge \$1,000, \$2,000, or \$3,000 per year for three consecutive years, donations 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.

JOIN NOW



L'Arche Luminaries are donors who commit to monthly donations. Your gift of \$30, \$50, or \$100 each month helps adults with disabilities become appreciated and valued members of our local community and beyond. The generosity of our L'Arche Luminaries is recognized at our annual Birthday Benefit & Auction, where they are honored and receive a token of our thanks.

JOIN NOW



I cannot tell you how discovering, learning, and experiencing L'Arche has grown and shaped me in this last year. My world feels bigger and brighter and I am so looking forward to getting more involved.

- Amanda, L'Arche Atlanta donor.

2018 Board of Directors & Advisory Council

BOARD

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Gayle Gellerstedt, Co-Chair** | Community Volunteer
Steve Siler, Co-Chair | President, Mercy Care Foundation
Shayla Rumely, Vice-Chair | Community Volunteer
Ann Rushing, Treasurer | Principal, Rushing CPA
Shannon Powell, Secretary* | President & Principal, City3Sixty

MEMBERS AT LARGE

- Haqqa Bolling**, Retired Counselor, Renfro Middle School
Mackensie Brandt, Senior Campaign Manager, Coxe Curry & Associates
Michelle Hall,* Vice President for Campus Life, Oglethorpe University
Marilyn Hammond, Communications Consultant
Robbie Harris, Realtor, Beacham & Company
Dana Keener Mast, Senior Manager, ICF International
Mary Anona Stoops, Pastor, North Decatur Presbyterian Church
Jim Swartz, Labor Law Attorney, Polsinelli
Jasmine Terry Okafor, Development Specialist, Association for Clinical Pastoral Education

ADVISORY COUNCIL

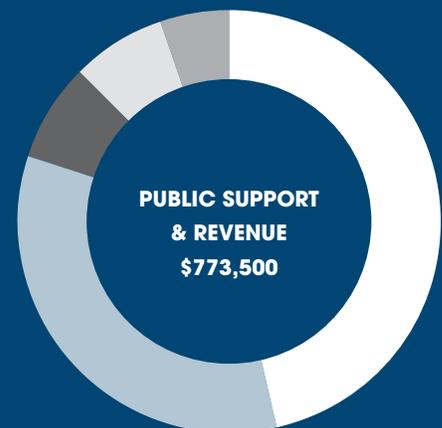
- Kathy Ashe****, Former 56th District Representative, Georgia House of Representatives
Gué Hudson, Retired Dean of Students Emerita, Agnes Scott College
Elisabeth Marchant, Vice President of Business Solutions & Executive Relationships, Dale Carnegie
Mary Margaret Oliver, 82nd District Representative, Georgia House of Representatives
Elizabeth Pearce, Chief Development Officer, The Lovett School
Lizanne Stephenson, Community Volunteer

In 2019 we welcomed three new board members: Gail Schaffer, Matthew Smith, and Alan Yorker.

*Shannon Powell and Michelle Hall completed their board service in 2018, and we are incredibly grateful for their contributions to strengthen L'Arche Atlanta

**Kathy Ashe completed her council service in 2018, and we are grateful for her contributions to L'Arche Atlanta

Financials



- **Medicaid Agency Funding: 46.4%**
- **Contributions: 33.6%**
(Individuals, Foundations, Corporations)
- **Special Events: 7.5%**
- **State Storytelling Contract: 7.4%**
- **In-Kind Contributions: 5.1%**



- **Program Services: 75.9%**
- **Fundraising: 12.8%**
- **Management & General: 11.3%**



In 2018, L'Arche Atlanta received the GuideStar Seal of Transparency, which lets our donors and community members know that we abide by the highest ethical practices. Only 2% of charities receive a transparency seal.



www.larcheatlanta.org

