

# GRATITUDE & IMPACT REPORT 2022

## GROWING COMMUNITY







## LETTER from Our Executive Director

**Dear Friends,**

Twenty years ago, L'Arche Atlanta was only a dream. Ten years ago, that dream became a reality with the launch of the first house. **Now, 10 years into this journey of growing inclusive and transformational community in Atlanta, we are in awe and filled with gratitude for all that we have lived together.** And we could not have done it without you. **Thank you.**

This year's theme for the Gratitude and Impact Report is Growing Community and as you'll see in the following pages, **2022 was filled with outstanding accomplishments and growth spurts.** We launched our second house and welcomed all new Core Members and Assistants. Our virtual community programming continues to foster connection and astonishingly strong friendships (astonishing only because you wouldn't think this were possible in a Zoom call!). Our *Storytelling Project* continues to push the boundaries of creativity and advocacy to ensure more Georgians with disabilities can contribute their gifts to growing community wherever they are.

**Perhaps one of the most significant milestones of this past year was the celebration of our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.** We kicked off the weekend with the Founders Breakfast, where David Jenkins and Curt Armstrong spoke about their experiences and the beginnings of L'Arche in Atlanta. It was a humbling and inspiring moment to hear from these luminaries who helped shape the origins of this community and laid the foundation for what we have become today.

As we reflect on this past year, **we are filled with gratitude for our Growing Community and all that we have accomplished together.** We look forward to continuing to grow and serve our community in the years to come.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in our mission.

Sincerely,

Tim Moore  
Executive Director, L'Arche Atlanta







# Programs That Make a **DIFFERENCE**

## Home-Based Professional Services

**Residential life at L'Arche Atlanta centers around our two homes** where people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), known as Core Members, form the heart of the community and organization. Core Members and Assistants learn and grow in family-like home environments which foster choices, self-determination, independence, and opportunities for community integration. We are committed to providing high-quality living environments, individualized healthcare coordination, and authentic mutual relationships so that Core Members can thrive as vital members of the community. L'Arche Atlanta's unique residential program provides stability and support for people who otherwise lack safe housing choices while enabling adults with and without IDD to live together in community and celebrate one another.

In 2022 L'Arche Atlanta **celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of opening the Mead Road home in Oakhurst and opened our second home on Clairemont Avenue.** We are excited that Clairemont House doubles L'Arche Atlanta's impact and brings us to our new "Two Homes: One Community" status.

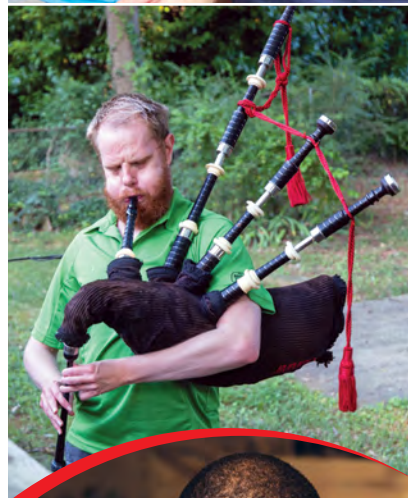
## Community Events

L'Arche Atlanta events bring the **celebration, spirituality, and connection** found in L'Arche Atlanta homes into the broader community. L'Arche Atlanta hosts people with disabilities, their families, and friends at events where guests enjoy L'Arche Atlanta's uniquely inclusive hospitality. Between the **L'Arche Atlanta Spring Picnic, Walking Together, Painting in the Park,** and the **Dinner Dance**, L'Arche Atlanta hosted hundreds of friends at **inclusive in-person events** during 2022. We are grateful for the volunteers who helped make these gatherings successful!

The virtual **CONNEXIONS** program, launched as a safe way to gather during the pandemic, connects our larger community of people with and without disabilities through regular Zoom events. Consistently 15-20 people meet on Tuesdays for multiple-choice **Trivia** and in 2022 we were pleased to offer **"Y'all Belong Here"** Sacred Space gathering in conjunction with our friends at L'Arche North Carolina.

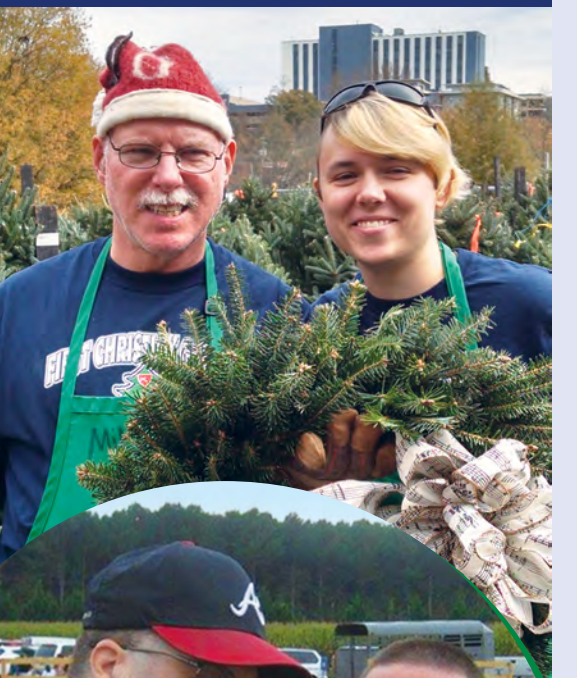
## Advocacy

L'Arche Atlanta advocates for people with disabilities to have the right to decide where they live along with resources and support to **thrive** in the community of their choice. We partner with the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities (GCDD) through the **Storytelling Project**, a state-wide initiative to educate and motivate state legislators to act on issues that affect Georgians with disabilities by giving people with IDD a voice to share their stories. So far over 100 people have participated and **in spring 2022 we were awarded a second contract to continue this work for five more years!**





# L'ARCHE ATLANTA TIMELINE



## 2002-2005

- A steering committee including **David Jenkins**, **Laura Wells**, and **Mark Crenshaw** plans a weekend retreat intended to explore interest in starting a L'Arche community in Atlanta.
- The retreat draws **over 200 people** and inspires **former L'Arche Assistants and others** to form a L'Arche community in Atlanta.
- A group of **15 people** begins meeting to pray together and study L'Arche's values.
- **Mary Wenska** becomes the first board chair and L'Arche Atlanta achieves 501(c)(3) status.

## 2006-2010

- The first L'Arche Atlanta Community Event is held at **St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church**.
- L'Arche Atlanta's board (*below*), chaired by **Laura Wells**, hires **Curt Armstrong** as the first Executive Director and Community Leader.
- The **Community of Hospitality (COH)**, an organization in Oakhurst with a history of serving people experiencing homelessness, and L'Arche Atlanta enter a formal partnership to lease COH's Mead Road home to L'Arche Atlanta.

## 2011-2015

- **120 households, faith communities, foundations, and businesses** give \$150,000 to renovate the Mead Road home.
- L'Arche Atlanta acquires a Community Living Arrangement (CLA) permit and hires **Jessica Bridges** as founding House Coordinator. **Sara Ellet** and **Tim Moore** join Jessica as Founding Assistants.
- The L'Arche International Gathering is held at **Agnes Scott College** in Decatur. More than **500 L'Arche delegates** from around the world are hosted by **local Atlanta families**, creating new bonds with the L'Arche community.
- The first L'Arche Atlanta home officially opens with the move-in of **Founding Core Members**. In 2012-2013 **John Hudson**, **Terry Hochschild**, and **Patrick Barlow** make the Mead Road house their new home.
- The board, chaired by **James Washburn**, appoints **Tim Moore** as the second Executive Director and Community Leader.

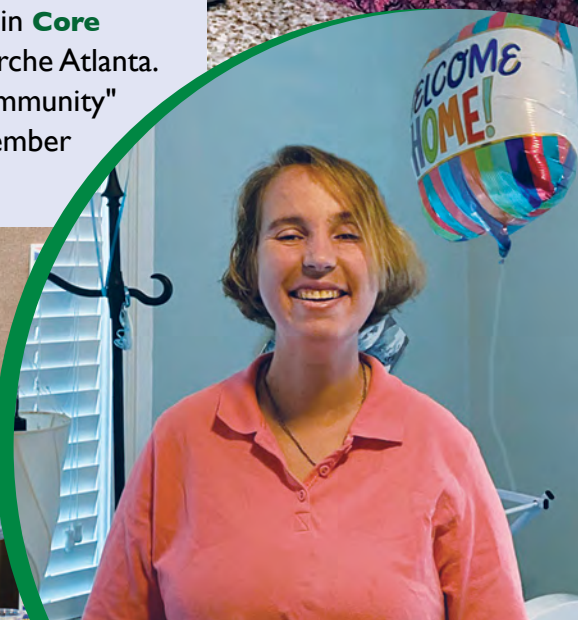


## 2016-2020

- **Corbin Allgood-McKinnon** becomes the fourth Core Member in the Mead Road home.
- The board, chaired by **Gayle Gellerstedt**, approves plans to open a second house. L'Arche Atlanta identifies a house on Clairemont Avenue owned by **Woodlands Garden** as the site of the second home and seeks funding for the future Clairemont House.
- The **Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities** selects L'Arche Atlanta as its partner for the *Storytelling Project* to give people with disabilities a platform to share their stories. The Project creates the award-winning mini-documentary, *6,000 Waiting*, directed by **Michael McDonald** and produced by **Irene Turner** and **Tim Moore**.
- L'Arche Atlanta's Community Events Coordinator **Becca Van Galder** launches the online CONNEXIONS program to create new avenues for friendship through virtual common-interest gatherings.
- **232 households, faith communities, foundations, and businesses** donate \$1.4 million to turn the dream of a second L'Arche Atlanta home into a reality. Board chair **Steve Siler** announces successful completion of the capital campaign. L'Arche Atlanta purchases Clairemont House and begins renovations.

## 2021-PRESENT

- Clairemont House renovations are complete. Future **Core Members and their families** gather to view the house and meet one another. Clairemont House receives CLA permitting to begin operation.
- The *Storytelling Project* develops "Story Weavers," a L'Arche Atlanta CONNEXIONS/ Cow Tipping partnership for writing workshops and *Treasure Maps: the Georgia Storytelling Roadshow*. The *6,000 Waiting* mini-documentary and *Hidden Voices* podcast inspire thousands of people across the country to advocate for people with disabilities.
- The Clairemont House **Founding Assistant Team** forms and begins training. They welcome the home's **Founding Core Members** to Clairemont House in the summer of 2022.
- L'Arche Atlanta's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration features a free Community Dinner Dance, Founders Breakfast, and a record-breaking Benefit & Auction. L'Arche Atlanta founders **David Jenkins** (below, center) and **Curt Armstrong** join **Core Members, board, staff, and supporters** to celebrate ten years of L'Arche Atlanta.
- Inclusive Community Events return in full with a "Two Homes: One Community" joint Mead Road/Clairemont House Secret Santa Holiday Party in December 2022 and a joyful, family-friendly Valentine's Dance in February 2023.







## VALENTINE'S CARE PACKAGES (FEBRUARY)

**110** gifts of art supplies, trivia, & treats  
mailed to friends with IDD

## Y'ALL BELONG HERE (ALL YEAR)

**80** people attended interfaith  
prayer service gatherings

# MORE 2022 HIGHLIGHTS ...BY THE NUMBERS



## ◁ SPRING PICNIC (MARCH)

**65** friends of L'Arche Atlanta  
picnicked together

## PAINTING IN THE PARK ▷ (APRIL)

**75** participants painted  
with an art instructor  
& donated supplies



## WALKING TOGETHER (JUNE)

◁ **132** walkers & donors gathered at Legacy Park  
**12** vendors & their helpers offered crafts & coffee  
▽







## TRIVIA! ▷ (ALL YEAR)

**650** trivia questions asked during  
**25** Tuesday Trivia Virtual Meet-Ups



## ◁ OPEN HOUSES (SUMMER & FALL)

**74** guests toured Clairemont House

## 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY EVENTS (OCTOBER) ▽

**198** Benefit & Auction guests  
**82** auction items purchased  
**61** Founders Breakfast attendees  
**112** friends & volunteers at the  
Decades Dinner Dance



## HOLIDAY PARTIES (DECEMBER) ▽

**100+** people danced & sang at the Karaoke Party



**18** Secret Santas exchanged gifts at the "Two  
Homes: One Community" Secret Santa party





# 2 HOMES: 1 COMMUNITY ... & 35 STORIES



## 35 Stories through the Storytelling Project

**6,000 Waiting** continues its impact as a powerful disability-advocacy documentary. *6,000 Waiting* influenced hundreds of Georgians to contact their legislators to educate them about the need for increases in waiver funding.

**Treasure Maps: A Georgia Drive-in Roadshow.** Following the success of the 2021 *Treasure Maps Roadshow*, a second *Treasure Maps* collection was created in 2022. GCDD and L'Arche Atlanta partnered to highlight 10 people with IDD telling their stories and we shared that film at a large event in Macon, Georgia.

**Story Weavers Workshops.** In partnership with Cow Tipping Press, L'Arche Atlanta offered adults with IDD the chance to communicate through self-developed stories. The workshops create an opportunity to empower people by giving them ownership of the lens that is used to project their story to the world.

## Second House Launch

In 2022 we were thrilled to launch the second L'Arche Atlanta home, **Clairemont House**. This milestone represents the culmination of years of work among L'Arche Atlanta donors, supporters, board members and staff. On June 1<sup>st</sup> a new group of Assistants moved in and began establishing themselves as a team learning to be Direct Support Professionals. To ensure the highest level of care for our Core Members, training included a wide variety of topics related to supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD): engaging individuals with IDD in their full humanity; communication and conflict management skills; CPR and first aid training; home safety; and healthcare coordination. In July and August the Clairemont House's founding Core Members moved into the home. **Eight people are now building an inclusive community together, learning and celebrating each other's gifts.**

In December, L'Arche Atlanta hosted **our first "Two Homes: One Community" Secret Santa party**. Core Members and Assistants from the Mead Road home and the Clairemont House gathered to mark the season in joyous celebration.





# In 2022 We CELEBRATED L'Arche Atlanta's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ...

## Community Dinner & Dance

Over 100 people joined us for this all-friends-were-invited celebration.

## Founders Breakfast

L'Arche Atlanta founding director Curt Armstrong (*right*) joined key supporters for **camaraderie and inspirational speeches** by current and former leaders. Speakers included L'Arche USA past president David Jenkins who organized the first L'Arche retreat in Atlanta.

## 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Benefit & Auction

L'Arche Atlanta enjoyed a festive in-person celebration. **Generous sponsors and auction guests gave more than \$200,000** to support the L'Arche Atlanta community!



### Presenting Sponsors

Shayla & Chip  
Rumely

  
**Robbie Harris**  
ATLANTA

  
ATLANTIC HOME MORTGAGE

Ann Glendinning & Dale Kelly  
Gué & Bill Hudson  
Dan Marks & Keri Powell  
Ann & Steve Rushing

### Community Sponsors

  
Anne Architecture

 **FLEETCOR**  
 **Kristen M. Lewis**  
ATTORNEY AT LAW

 **Seyfarth**  
 **SitterTree**

  
Zest  
atlanta

Marilyn & Dean Hammond

### Companion Sponsors

Atlanta Braves  
Decatur Package Store  
InTown Ace Hardware

Pat Barlow, Chapman Hall Premier Realtors  
Summers & Sons Development Co.  
Three Taverns Brewery

Beth Allgood-Justice  
Bill McKinnon  
Alan & Jane McNabb

Judy & Chuck Miller  
Shannon Powell & Paul Duda  
Lizanne Stephenson  
Trace Haythorn & Mary Anona Stoops

**... & Now Please SAVE THE DATE for 2023!**

## 11<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION BENEFIT & AUCTION



**Sunday, October 29, 2023**  
**4:00 - 7:00 p.m.**

**St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox Church Parish Hall**  
**Atlanta, GA**

L'Arche Atlanta's 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Benefit & Auction will be a memorable celebration! Join us for an afternoon of festivities as we celebrate this community we have nurtured and grown together!



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

L'Arche Atlanta's rich community life is only possible because of the generosity of our donors. **Thank you to everyone who supported L'Arche Atlanta in 2022!** While Core Members are the heartbeat of the community, our donors offer vital inner light! **In 2022 ...**



**643** individuals, families, businesses, faith communities & foundations donated to L'Arche Atlanta

**160** volunteers brought meals to the homes, helped with events, assembled furniture & much more!

**\$806,970**

given by L'Arche Atlanta donors

**42** donor families formed the Heart of L'Arche Society

**85** households belonged to the L'Arche Luminaries

**Thank you all so much for your generosity!**

Your kindness is recognized each day by the members of the L'Arche Atlanta community.

## HELP US CREATE A PLACE OF WELCOME!



  
Heart of L'Arche

**By joining the Heart of L'Arche Society, members fund our most vital initiatives.** These beloved donors pledge \$1,000 or more per year for three consecutive years which supports our long-term goals. By committing to the Heart of L'Arche Society, you are helping to ensure the future of L'Arche Atlanta.

**L'Arche Atlanta**

**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 valued members of their local communities and beyond.





## 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Officers

- > **President:** Jim Swartz – Seyfarth Shaw LLP
- > **Treasurer:** Ray Krawczyk – MIMEDX Group
- > **Secretary:** Brandon Maxwell – Henri Consulting Group

### Members at Large

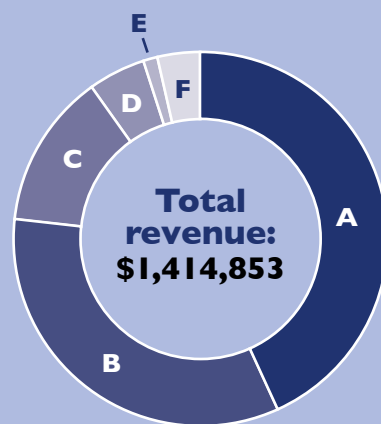
- > Haqqa Bolling – Retired Educator
- > Marilyn Hammond – Communications Consultant
- > Robbie Harris – Robbie Harris Atlanta Real Estate
- > Alan McNabb – Georgia Heirs Property Law Center
- > Jasmine Terry Okafor – ACPE: The Standard for Spiritual Care & Education
- > Mary Anona Stoops – North Decatur Presbyterian Church
- > Dr. Khalia Williams – Candler School of Theology at Emory
- > Alan Yorker – Retired Psychiatrist

## 2022 ADVISORY COUNCIL

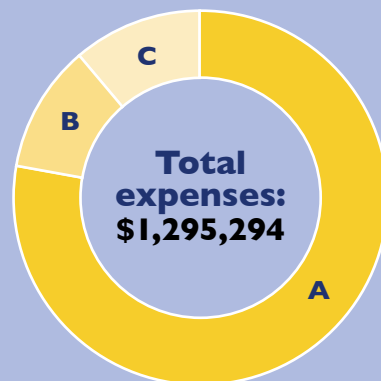
- > Trace Haythorn – Association for Clinical Pastoral Education
- > Gué Hudson – Retired Educator & Core Member Parent
- > Elisabeth Marchant – Dale Carnegie
- > Mary Margaret Oliver – Georgia House of Representatives
- > Elizabeth Pearce – The Lovett School
- > Shannon Powell – City3Sixty
- > Lizanne Stephenson – Community Volunteer



## 2022 FINANCIALS



- A** → Contributions: **43%**  
(Individuals, Foundations, Businesses, Faith Organizations)
- B** → Medicaid Agency Funding: **33%**
- C** → 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday Benefit & Auction: **13%**
- D** → GCDD Storytelling Project Grant: **6%**
- E** → Government Grants: **1%**
- F** → Other: **4%**



- A** → Program Services: **78%**
- B** → Management & General: **11%**
- C** → Fundraising: **11%**

**The Council on Quality and Leadership renewed L'Arche Atlanta's Quality Assurances Accreditation for an additional three years!** The

attainment of this accreditation demonstrates that L'Arche Atlanta aligns with internationally renowned standards in the human services field. These standards involve the implementation of sound systems and person-centered practices which help to improve the lives of people with disabilities.







**L'Arche Atlanta's mission is to transform lives by building community among people with and without disabilities.** We envision a world where everyone belongs. The L'Arche Atlanta philosophy of caregiving begins with the premise that **people living with disabilities are a gift to society** and that **expressions of care must honor their dignity, humanity, and gifts.** We work with friends, partners, and leaders to **imagine community differently** and establish opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to **thrive.**

