

L'ARCHE ERIE

Annual Report 2008-2009



L'Arche Erie
3745 W. 12th St
Erie, PA 16505
www.larcheerie.org

L'Arche Erie is a
faith-based
community where life
is shared between
people with and
without intellectual
disabilities

Board Report

Colleen Stumpf, Board President

During 2009, the Board of Directors of L'Arche Erie, Inc. has focused on how the vision of L'Arche – the creation of a community in which all people are welcome and accepted – can be shared with more of Erie. In furtherance of this goal, the Board participated in a Retreat lead by Michael Kumar of Duquesne University. Mr. Kumar assisted the Board in revising L'Arche's mission statement so that it more clearly expresses L'Arche's purpose.

The Board also began the process of designing a strategic plan that will help us to accomplish the goal of sharing

the vision of L'Arche. An immediate step that the Board took towards this goal was to hire Jason Lavery as our Development Director. This annual report is one way in which Jason is working to share the L'Arche message.

Although annual reports traditionally focus on an organization's financial well-being, this report is also a way in which we can demonstrate how we are achieving our mission. As you read this report, I would like you to focus on several other numbers:

- 100+ Assistants, Staff, Volunteers, and Directors

- 34 Core Members
- 8 Homes
- 1 faith-based community composed of people with and without intellectual disabilities who share life together

I hope that you remember these numbers, the individuals that they represent, and the vision that they are working to share with all of Erie. Your contributions to L'Arche Erie support these individuals and the L'Arche mission. This support makes you a valued member of the L'Arche Erie community.

Director's Report

Vicki Washek, Executive Director

How can I tell you about the ways we accomplished our mission last year? The heart of our mission involves values and a vision leading to growth and change that can't be tied to a particular time frame. It doesn't easily translate into lists of accomplishments.

However, there is a wonderful story involving Bob that illustrates the on-going accomplishments of the mission of L'Arche Erie.

On a recent trip to a local restaurant, Bob was being his usual charming self, interacting

with other patrons and making new friends. He was completely at ease with himself, a man who knows he is a great guy! One particular couple at a nearby table engaged Bob in a lively conversation and then began to ask the person who had accompanied Bob to the restaurant questions about him. She hesitated in responding, being unable to share this personal information with strangers.

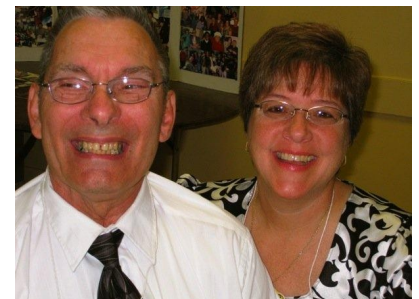
Sensing her unease, the couple explained their interest.

They have a very young son with Down syndrome, like Bob, and were touched and inspired by observing Bob. They said that it gave them hope – they are able to envision a bright, happy future for their son.

The values and vision of L'Arche come to life in the people who live it. L'Arche is a school of love where we learn to respect every person and reveal their talents and value. Sharing what we learn with others will enrich the world around us.



Colleen and Ben



Leroy and Vicki



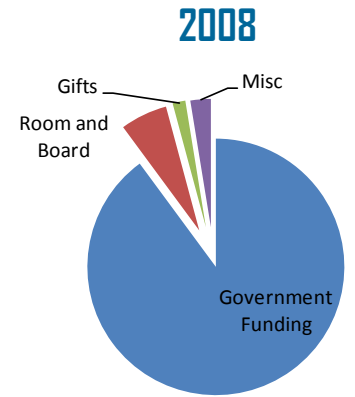
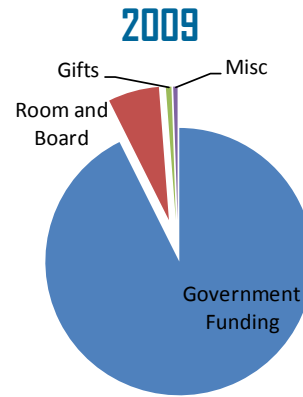
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L'Arche Erie Inc.

Statement of Operations

Revenues

	2009	2008
Government Funding	2,717,514	2,664,044
Room and Board	181,021	175,499
Gifts	19,766	47,716
Miscellaneous	15,383	76,057

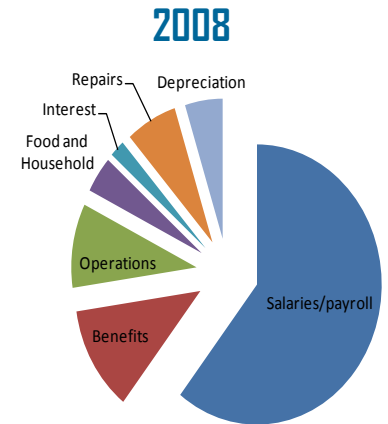
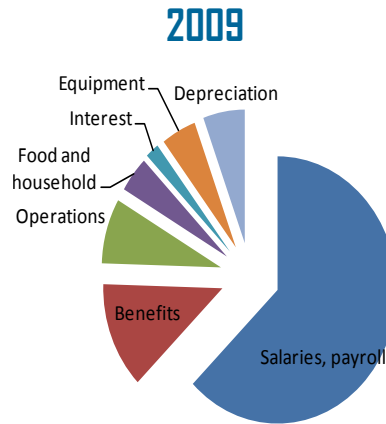


Total Revenue

\$2,933,684 **\$2,963,316**

Expenses

Salaries, Payroll	1,846,701	1,719,331
Benefits	380,424	343,714
Operations	233,238	274,622
Food and Household	128,242	118,940
Interest	54,665	55,525
Repairs/Equipment	140,176	188,147
Depreciation	166,848	138,573



Total Expenses

\$2,950,284 **\$2,838,852**



Thank you to our Supporters

July 1, 2008-June 30, 2009

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L'Arche Erie is grateful to have so many dedicated supporters of our mission and community. The money these generous families and friends gave to us directly drive our mission. To put it simply; Government funds cannot be used for mission based activities or trainings. This puts us in a hard position to continue providing our L'Arche standard of care to our core members. It also gives us an easy way to show you how much impact your donations have on our community and it's L'Arche journey. Now with the recession and recent budget impasse, our funds are more in danger than ever. Up until now, we've weathered the storm. As with anything however, this could always change. So we humbly ask you for your continued support and prayers. L'Arche is a blessing to the people we serve as well as the assistants who find so much value in our mission. I can say this with complete authority and authenticity because like many of you, I have been transformed by the L'Arche Erie mission.

Jason Lavery

Director of Development

David D. Long 1961-2009

Memorial by Sherry Stephens

When Jess called to tell me of your death, I was surprised. While talking with her about how this happened, we couldn't help but say that your passing in such a short time after your sister, Carole, seemed deeply meaningful in ways we can't quite grasp, but can only guess. I am so thankful for your friendship, David, sharing your journey in L'Arche has been many things-among them, fun, frustrating and profound. Fun in that I always enjoyed your sense of humor and your wit. So many times you made me laugh. I enjoyed the times we managed to eat out at Ruby Tuesday's or the chats when I finally made it out to visit. The frustration for me came because I didn't quite know what to do sometimes, to help you. The profound was expressed in your strong spirit, my friend. As your body weakened, I sensed that your inner being strengthened. And, that is because you chose life-even in the difficult circumstance of your illness which took away your body's abilities bit by bit. A story I sometimes share with others about you describes this decision and this courage. When you heard from the doctors that your disease

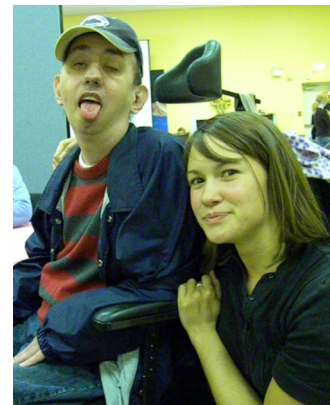
Carole E. Long 1960-2009

Memorial by Abby Roach-Stephenson

Carole brought joy and laughter to all who were close to her. She seemed to have a sixth sense for reading her friends' moods. She could always tell when an assistant or housemate was troubled and always made sure to offer her support, usually with a much needed hug. Carole was especially close to her housemate Steven. Though Steven is nonverbal, he and Carole communicated just fine. Carole often spoke for Steve and seemed to know what he needed. She also enjoyed helping feed Steven at meal times or to lend a comfortable lap for him to lay his head. Carole was a lover of all games. You could often find her rounding up her assistants and housemates for a game of "Yahtzee!", "Sorry!", or "Candyland." If, for some reason, nobody else was in the mood, she would go solo and play many games on her computer. She also loved playing baseball on her Playstation with her friend and assistant Eric, or Wii bowling with her housemate Carl or friend and assistant Don. Carole was also an avid bowler in the Special Olympics, and often brought home a gold medal, though the thrill of competing against her brother David was what she really looked forward to! Carole also loved to sing. It wasn't a surprise to

The Passing of Two Dear Friends

would gradually take away your ability to walk, it understandably saddened you. Your sister, Carole, was also hospitalized for an operation that week. All around very hard news and hard times. Always a rather sly and private man, you withdrew even more, staying in your room for a long time. Concerned, I asked if I could come in and talk to you. We discussed death and human frailty-and I remember saying that we cannot know when we will die, that the important thing was to live each day well-to choose life. You listened and gave me a hug as I left. Then, the next afternoon, as I went about things around the house, you called me to your room. As I entered, you smiled and said, "I choose life." opening your arms and giving me a strong hug. We both cried as I felt such immense respect for you. That respect for your continued choice to live as fully as possible has only grown over the years as you surrendered walking for a manual wheelchair, and a manual wheelchair for a power chair. Still, you chose to be a part of things, enjoying your life, accepting each limitation as it came. When I came to be with you the day you were told



David & Kellianne

your sister had died, our talk eventually came to your sense of faith in Jesus, which you gently and easily stated without any questions from me. Also, you spoke of watching "Touched by An Angel," remarking that "Andrew is the Angel of Death, right?" We both said that dying is probably a lot like it happens on the show. So, my friend, you've made that journey. I will miss you very much and will hold your faith and courage dear as an inspiration in my own life.

hear her sing Christmas songs starting in the beginning of November and lasting well into January. She had a favorite CD that had many songs from "TV Land." We would all warble along with her to theme songs such as "Those Were the Days" from "All in the Family," (Carole could do a great Edith Bunker impression!). Carole loved the Andy Griffith Show, and I Love Lucy. She also had a date every Monday night with her friend and assistant Debbie, to watch "Dancing with the Stars." Carole's favorite movie was "The Wizard of Oz," and I can recall countless times of her reciting our favorite lines from the film. Her friend and assistant Michelle even bought Carole the book so we could all take turns reading it to her at night. Carole loved going shopping and out to dinner, usually with her good friends Charlene and Mark. They'd often go to Applebee's or Ruby Tuesday. Carole almost always made sure to get a Miller Lite, her favorite beer. Carole, although a wonderful friend and sensitive person, could sometimes be a bit of a pista! She had a pretty strong stubborn streak, and she let us all know it! That stubborn streak could work to her advantage, though, as it gave her



Carole & Misty

determination. There were several times Carole needed physical therapy to walk again after various injuries. She very easily could have given up and stayed in her wheelchair. There may have been times of frustration, but Carole always prevailed until she was able to walk with only the use of her walker. Just when it seemed she was ready to give up, Carole would surprise us all and come out on top. Carole was an amazing person. She was full of life, laughter, and love. Although she was taken from us at a young age, I know it was part of God's plan. We will all miss Carole, but she is in a place where she can sing all day, play games, and walk even without that walker. We know she's home.

Heart's Garden

My first experiences with L'Arche occurred in the communities of Clinton, IA and Orange County, CA, where I lived in the homes as a live-in assistant. While at L'Arche Clinton, I had visited Erie with my L'Arche house on a trip to L'Arche Daybreak in Toronto. I left the Wavecrest Community in California in May 2009 and did some volunteer work in Oregon over the summer. I repeatedly had thoughts of returning to L'Arche and so arrived in Erie in September to be an assistant here.

I live-in at Heart's Garden with Garnet, Richard, Matt, Vinnie and Peyton and all the other assistants who are present in the house. Every L'Arche house I've lived in has been unique, including Heart's Garden. Each person brings to the home a unique quality that distinguishes ours from other homes. Our days have a pattern that is easy for me to live. Some days are high energy, and some are low-key. No day is ever the same. The L'Arche ideal of mutual relationships within a home is very much lived at Heart's Garden.



Peyton & Garnet



Labor Day Picnic



Long before coming to L'Arche, I felt a deep sense of belonging in its ideals. I spent my early college years longing for a place where individuals love and celebrate one another for simply being in the world.

When Heart's Garden found me in May 2008, I discovered love and joy in the presence of those with whom I learned to share life; my heart had its home in community. I decided to commit to L'Arche beyond my graduation from Gannon and moved into Heart's Garden in June.

While I am still grateful for L'Arche's mission, calling Heart's Garden *home* has made L'Arche and the gift of relationship real for me. Sharing life with Garnet, Richard, Vinnie, and Matt is a daily blessing. They renew for me the wonders of God's love and remind me that what each of us is called to in L'Arche is ultimately bigger than L'Arche itself.



Matching Programs

For those who are unaware, a lot of employers will match donations. When money is withheld from your paycheck and designated for charitable contributions, the employer will match 50%, 100% or sometimes 150% of your donation. This is definitely something worth checking into.



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Beyond Intellectual
Disabilities: Learning through
the Heart of Another

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newsletters than we mail. If
you'd like to receive our
newsletter via email, please
submit your info to
larcherie.org.

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