



# L'ARCHE ERIE



## *Impact Report 2019*

# L'ARCHE ERIE 47 YEARS OF IMPACT

## Vision

L'Arche Erie envisions a world where everyone has a secure place of belonging in community, where people with and without disabilities can live in mutually transformative relationship, and where all people's gifts are valued and given a place from which to contribute to the wider society.

Combining efforts with community partners, donors, and supporters, we envision and seek to inspire a community that embraces differences and celebrates everyone's unique gifts regardless of ability. L'Arche Erie was the first L'Arche community in the United States and as such, we continue to be a beacon of hope that a more human and inclusive society is not only possible but is being built right here in Erie!





# THE VIEW FROM HERE

## **Vicki Washek, Community Leader**

Since our founding in 1972, with support from our donors, L'Arche Erie has provided a place of belonging for core members as well as for assistants, volunteers, dinner guests, and the community at large. As we reflect on this past year, one repeated testament to our work and what L'Arche means to others is the tremendous response on Erie Gives Day. This year we once again surpassed our \$12,000 goal!

While we have faced some challenges along the way, many opportunities have presented themselves too. Our struggles and difficulties so often encourage us to lean on each other, to depend on our faith, and to reach out to friends and supporters. Our friends and partners are vital to our community – to connect us to our city and our neighbors and to help our core members discover and cultivate their interests and talents. Hand in hand, our circle of belonging continues to grow!

Thank you for your part in our first forty-seven years of belonging and for walking with us in our shared journey.



# THE WORK WE ARE DOING

**33 CORE MEMBERS:** People with intellectual or developmental disabilities that live in a L'Arche Erie home or participate in a day program.

**70 ASSISTANTS:** People without intellectual or developmental disabilities who live with and support Core Members here in Erie.

The impact of L'Arche goes far beyond our numbers. Each day, people with and without intellectual disabilities develop extraordinary friendships through ordinary activities: preparing meals, brushing teeth, shopping for groceries, and praying together. These friendships become catalysts for change. Read more about the many ways L'Arche impacts the lives of our members and the broader community.

## Our Impact on People

Mutually transformative relationships form the heart of L'Arche. All of us, whether or not we live with an intellectual disability, desire a sense of belonging. In L'Arche, people of differing intellectual capacities, social origins, religions, and cultures build relationships rooted in trust and vulnerability. By sharing daily life together, community members experience L'Arche as a "University for the Heart," where they learn true friendship and teach one another to love unconditionally.



**Kindness is a passport that opens doors and fashions friends. It softens hearts and molds relationships that can last lifetimes. – Joseph B. Wirthlin**



## Our Impact on Perception

L'Arche makes it possible for our perceptions regarding disability and vulnerability to be transformed. Since our founding, L'Arche has illuminated the gifts of people with intellectual disabilities and affirmed their inherent dignity and worth. L'Arche believes everyone has something valuable to contribute, even the most vulnerable. Our weaknesses and vulnerabilities are not to be hidden from others, but welcomed and shared.



# FOCUS ON FORMATION

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Relationship is the central reality of L'Arche, so it makes sense that L'Arche is often referred to as a "School of the Heart." The heart is the basis of all relationships. If we hope to attend to our relationships with openness, respect, and trust, we need to care for our hearts.

While the situations which restore and sustain the heart might vary from person to person, L'Arche Erie has re-committed to formation as one source for such nourishment. Formation in L'Arche can take many shapes and can span lengths of time as short as 10 minutes and as long as a week. All times of formation have in common: a learning about or grounding in the mission, call, or values of L'Arche; an invitation to reflect on and to share about our own experiences in the light of that learning; and a call to consider how we might integrate the mission, call, or values of L'Arche more fully in what we live together day to day.

In L'Arche Erie, there is a dedicated time for formation within the structure of team meetings and community gatherings. Opportunities to reflect on and integrate the vision of L'Arche are woven into the fabric of conversations and decisions throughout the community. However, with the desire to deepen our understanding of L'Arche and to embody its mission more fully, we have committed to regularly scheduled times of formation. Small groups of assistants and Hearth members pause once every two months for an hour and half to explore some essential aspect of L'Arche and to seek the inspiration and courage to live it into our reality.

We are wrapping up the second full-year cycle of these formation meetings. We hope these opportunities to expand our capacity for relationship and to renew our energy for sharing life together will bear fruit for us individually and collectively. Formation allows for a stepping back from daily life in order to look at things from the perspective for the vision we seek: to share life and friendships in community and to envision and inspire a world that welcomes difference and celebrates the gifts of all people.

# FISCAL YEAR 2019 IN REVIEW

## Revenue

Contributions & Grants	\$3,722,019
Program Service	200,149
Investment Income & Other	26,443
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Total Revenue & Gains	\$3,948,611
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## Expenses

Salaries, Benefits, Compensation	\$2,628,158
Other	842,901
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Total Expense	\$3,471,059
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## Fund Balance

Assets Fiscal Year 2018	\$1,920,169
Assets Fiscal Year 2019	\$2,397,721
Liabilities Fiscal Year 2018	\$581,530
Liabilities Fiscal Year 2019	\$500,526
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Net Assets 2018	\$1,920,169
Net Assets 2019	\$2,397,721
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# YOU HAVE MADE AN IMPACT ON US

## Circle of Friends

Benjamin & Colleen Stumpf  
Chris Bloomstine  
Greg & Elizabeth Gutting  
Greg & Sylvia Bosner  
Greg & Susan Fitzgerald  
Gregory & Sylvia Bosner  
Michael Jones  
Nicole Lavery  
Steve & Vicki Washek

## Corporate Matching

Erie Insurance Charitable Giving  
GE Foundation

## Endowments

Erie Community Foundation  
Catholic Foundation of Northwestern  
Pennsylvania

## Grants

Erie Community Foundation  
Joseph Haas Foundation  
Wireless Zone Foundation for Giving

## Community Partners

Ambridge Rose Salon  
Bay Hawks  
Benedictine Sisters  
Benedictine Sisters of Erie  
Inc  
Bianchi Honda  
Black Monk Brewery  
Board & Brush  
Bob FM, JET 1400  
The Brewerierie at Union Station  
Campbell Pottery  
Composiflex  
Country Fair  
Dahlkempers Jewelry  
Connection  
Dr. Warren & Christine Beaver  
Erie Art Museum  
Erie Children's Museum  
Erie Community Foundation  
Erie Insurance  
Erie Otters Hockey  
Erie Reader  
Erie SeaWolves  
Erie Zoo  
Fire Pit Pizza of Erie LLC  
Five Guys  
Flightpath Fellowship  
Fuhrman's Cider Mill  
Gannon University  
Gannon University Physical  
Therapy Club  
Giant Eagle  
Grise' Audio  
Harbor View  
Health South Rehabilitation Hospital of  
Erie  
Highmark  
Holy Cross Catholic Church

## Community Partners cont..

House of Prayer  
Hubbard-Bert  
Insurance Management  
John V. Shultz  
Knights of St. John  
Koldrock Waters Inc  
Lake Erie Banjo Jammers  
Lake Shore Country Club  
Lavery Brewing Co.  
Lorei Photography  
Mazza  
Morlin Incorporated  
National Fuel Gas Company  
New Hope Church  
Our Lady of Peace Church  
Our Lady of the Lake Parish  
Passavant Development Corporation  
Peek N' Peak  
Penn State, The Behrend Campus  
PNC Bank  
Presque Isel Downs & Casino  
Quinn Law Firm  
Rolling 2 You, LLC  
Room 33  
Salon B  
Sheraton  
Silk Screen Specialties Unlimited, Inc  
Sisters of St. Joseph  
Society of Holy Trinity  
Strategy Solutions  
Sunshine Cleaning & Janitorial Services  
TechWorx, LLC  
Tendto Credit Union  
Wm T. Spaeder Company  
Yoga Erie

## Friends, Donors, Supporters

Alan and Kathie Hannibal  
Albert Urban Gesler  
Alice & Paul Modzelewski  
Amber Kreider  
Ankur D Shah  
Anne Marie Spring  
Anthony & Wanda Salvia  
B. James Rizzo

Barbara Roseborough  
Becky Brady  
Ben Speggen  
Beth & Scott Hallock  
Brad & Elizabeth Ripkey  
Brad & Lisa Weisenbach  
Brenda L Johnson  
Celene Kalivoda  
Charlene & Dave Serfozo  
Charles Bennett  
Chris Bloomstine  
Chris Theiss  
Christine T. Shoemaker  
Christopher Nick  
Chuck Forget  
Colleen & Benjamin Stumpf  
Cynthia M. Forne  
Cynthia Manna  
Danielle Jones  
Dave Yanosko  
David DeFazio  
David Morphy  
Debbie & Paul Malaspina  
Denise Karhryn Riddle  
Diana Lander  
Diane Priestes  
Dianne Williard  
Donald T Barnes  
Donna & Matt Clark  
Doris Inter  
Douglas Mayer  
Dr. Warren & Christine Beaver  
Edward and Evelyn Selleny  
Elie Salchak  
Elizabeth M Sammartino  
Emily Venesky  
Eric Burger  
Erica Krasovic  
Erin Wincek  
Frank Kupniewski  
G. Richard Kern  
Fr. George Strohmeier  
Glenn & Marge Walker  
Greg & Susan Fitzgerald  
Greg Musolff  
Greg Passauer  
Gregory & Elizabeth Gutting  
Gregory & Sylvia Bosner

## Friends, Donors, Supporters cont...

Hal & Mattie Fuller  
Heather Hinz  
Holly & Matthew Hebebrand  
Hope P Mando  
Jackie & Wayne Johnson  
Jacob Bartko  
James & Annemarie Carey  
James Markham  
James Ohrn  
Janice Etchison  
Jason & Nicole Lavery  
Jeff & Amy Brinling  
Jennifer Hemenger  
Jerome Simmons  
Jess Haney-Przybylski  
Jessica Markham  
Jim Gutting  
Jo Ellen Presnar  
John & Maureen Donnelly  
John & Rose Ann Gutting  
John E Clifton  
John Guenniemo  
John Kearns  
John Pichette  
Jon & Karen Martin  
Jon & Mary Fuhrman  
Joseph & Carol Pillitteri  
Joseph & Rhonda Schember  
Kathie Mazza  
Katie Paluh  
Kelly Corbin  
Kelsey Connelly  
Kevin Forte  
Larry & Marguerite Wander  
Larry Serafin  
Leo Gallina  
Leslie & Albert O'Connell  
Linda Catherine Koenig  
Linda Etter  
Linda M Schaffnit  
Linda Wilkinson  
Maria Miller  
Marie Inter  
Mark & Dea Rog  
Mary Ann Ramey  
Mary Ann Zarnick

Mary Beth & Joseph Hoag  
Mary Eleanor Sigler  
Mary Smith  
Mary Therese Fahrs  
Mary Vanhorn  
Marybeth Baran  
Matt Johnson  
Matthew Hubert  
Matthew Yingling  
Maureen Gormley  
Melissa R Chase  
Michael Fuhrman  
Michael Jones  
Michael Zona  
Michelle Williams  
Molly Cerroni  
Nancy Cox  
Nicholas A Armel  
Patricia & Eugene Parker  
Patricia Lacy  
Patrick Kindle  
Paul & Elizabeth Poland  
Paul & Gretchen Lorei  
Paul & Hope DeSante  
Paula Palermo-Hayes  
Pete Joseph Morgan  
Peyton Koenig  
Randy Sharp  
Ray Coy  
Rich & Mary Davis  
Richard & Antionette Bliley  
Richard & Lisa Hauser  
Richele Bann  
Robert & Ann Cline  
Robert Brubaker  
Sandie Wheeler & Family  
Scott & Rachelle Haberberger  
Sean Bliley  
Sean McCorkle  
Sharon Burton  
Stasya Erickson  
Stephanie R Cole  
Steve & Vicki Washek  
Steven & Jennifer Owens  
Suzanne Selleny  
Taylor Rene Allison  
Terry S. Holmes



# LOOKING AHEAD

## Ben Speggen, Board Secretary

L'Arche Erie always has been and remains to be a community in motion. While we do take time to stop and appreciate the world around us, we embrace the opportunity for growth and welcome the moments that become memories, and take stock of the lessons learned along the way in hopes of every member of our community closing out any particular year better than we began it because we are not alone in our journeys.

*2019 has been no different in many ways; yet, in others, it has.*

This year L'Arche Erie has begun its discernment process in search of a new community leader. It is with heavy hearts that we know we won't move forward through the sincere and beautiful vision of Vicki Washek, someone who has helped so many of us walk the path of L'Arche over many years. While she'll remain in the community, we have the opportunity to celebrate this change.

Yes, this is an ending; but it is also a beginning. We constantly seek renewal, which we might more comfortably welcome than the idea of 'change'. At the core, L'Arche remains L'Arche. But we have the opportunity to see how the ripples from our pebble in the pool might grow with the ebbs and flows of life, which is inevitably-always changes and always in motion. If we embrace this as an opportunity to turn inward to examine who we have been and who we are, we can deeply consider who we want to be into the future.

All observations, opinions, thoughts, and feelings are welcome. The one thing that remains constant about L'Arche is its openness, its inclusion of all voices and spirits to a process that seeks to remain an open invitation to see and celebrate the beauty we offer into the world as we look to become the best versions of ourselves. Together, we will remain in motion; and together, we will help each other get to where we need to be.