



FISCAL YEAR
L'ARCHE Chicago 2023

ANNUAL REPORT

GRATITUDE FOR
OUR COMMUNITY

www.larche-chicago.org

OUR MISSION

L'Arche Chicago's mission is to celebrate the unique value of each person and to create lifelong places of belonging through small, residential homes that empower residents with intellectual disabilities to share their gifts with their neighborhood, city, country, and world, as part of an international federation.



A LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Welcome to the L'Arche Chicago Annual Report for 2023! It has been such an exciting year for the community. Thanks to your faithfulness in giving and prayer, the community is growing and thriving.

The greatest challenge – and joy – of 2023 has been efforts directed toward the “new house”. As you know, we currently have three homes where 11 core members and several assistants share life together. Angel House, Peace House and Friendship House, in Chicago and Forest Park respectively, have been homes of life, laughter, many meals, dancing, discussions, celebrations, and belonging. Blessed with an unexpected and significant financial gift a few years ago, we began to dream about expanding our community in ways to meet the increasing needs of our aging core members and those with physical challenges. We “dreamed big”, purchased land in Oak Park, and are now collaborating with excellent architects, contractors and vendors to make the dream come true. Construction of the fourth house (to be named at a later date by those who will first reside in the home) is going well. Not only will it be spacious, modern, and lovely, but will be energy-efficient, energy-producing, and universally-designed for persons of all abilities. We plan to welcome four new core members to our community in the summer of 2024 to serve a total of 15 core members.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we are tremendously grateful for your support and presence in the L'Arche Chicago community. You make a tangible and welcomed impact in the daily lives of all community members. We have been, and are, a community built on the foundation of relationships – between its members and with those of you who are friends and supporters of L'Arche Chicago. Your support helps us to transform lives.

Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Kimberly Bryze, PhD, OTR/L
Board President

A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I couldn't be more excited as we close out the 2023 fiscal year. Looking back, it's clear how much joy and growth we lived in the past year.

First and foremost, all of our programming, events, and activities were able to be held in-person and together. Covid restrictions made it difficult in prior years to foster a sense of community and belonging—our core values—amongst our core members and assistants. We kicked the twelve months off with our first in-person all community retreat in three years. We used the time to think strategically about what our next 3-5 years could look like as a community as we began to turn the page on a challenging season of restrictions and community health vigilance. The result was an inspiring strategic plan that seeks to expand our services, increase the depth of our quality of care, and push the limits on our drive to be an inclusive community.

Second, we leaned into the heart of our mission this past year—sharing life together. We designed new community experiences such as a monthly soup night to bring our community members together around stories, spirituality, and song. We reimagined other touchpoints for community members as well, including a weekly Assistants formation and in-service experience and peer retreat opportunities.

Last, and perhaps most exciting for many of us, we broke ground on our long-awaited, long-dreamed-for fourth house! Designed to meet the evolving accessibility needs of core members in our community by allowing them to effectively age in place (complete with an in-home elevator), the house will be home for four core members and three live-in Assistants in Oak Park, just a few blocks from Angel House. As I've seen walking through the house during construction, I can't help but envision our core members inside, thriving in an environment that's designed specifically for them. It truly will be a model for quality service provision. Not only that, but the home will also serve as a model for energy sustainability with its state-of-the-art geothermal heating and cooling system, all-electric design, and extensive solar panel system that will generate almost all of the power the home will consume. We couldn't be more excited, and especially by the way each one of you has rallied for this project by filling our groundbreaking ceremony, donating to the campaign, providing in-kind support, sharing the project with your friends and family, or rolling up your sleeves and helping put the pieces together with us.

That's a wrap on a historic page-turning year for L'Arche Chicago!

Mic Altena, M. Div.
Executive Director
& Community Leader



2022-2023 FISCAL YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

FOURTH HOME
FUNDRAISING
GOAL MET

\$2M
RAISED!



Fall Community Retreat in Woodstock



We broke ground on the Fourth Home in May!



Out and About!



The Joy of Being Back in Person



Community Events (Soup Nights)

BRILLIANT HUMOR IN SIMPLICITY:

A Reflection & A Lesson by Sharing Life at L'Arche Chicago

By Mikyoung Hwang, Assistant & DSP at Angel House

As a DSP at L'Arche, I am also a Catholic sister, a certified spiritual director and a theological reflection facilitator. I would like to share how I am touched by the sharing life at L'Arche with a story.

In November, the Angel House had two birthday celebrants, a core-member and an assistant. We went to an Italian restaurant for the celebration. We arrived slightly late for our lunch. But we were all excited. While we were waiting for food and chatting with each other, Christianne went to the restroom. After some time, she came back to our table, standing and said, "I am back." She was brightly smiling with two hands open. We all paused for a second from our chatting by looking at her, and laughed all together out loud as we welcomed her.

I am always amazed with Christianne's brilliant humor like this moment that **brightens our celebration and unites us as a community**. As I reflected on the story deeper, I found three dimensions that touched me: her words, acts, and pause. In her words, there is no exaggeration, pedantry, or sarcasm but a simple truth that she is back from. You don't feel uncomfortable since her humor has no inflation or rules. You don't have to be intelligent to understand her humor since there are no turns and twists that need some background knowledge. You don't have a bitter taste in your mouth since her humor is harmless and innocent.

Her acts of smiling and opening hands have the main message that expresses her love and trust to us.

Her smile is so contagious to make everyone feel good and accepted. Once you see her smile and open arms, you can't resist loving her.

And she paused. It is a great time that she gives us a space paying attention to her in order to let us respond. So, laughter was our response to her as we care and welcome her back to the table. She was simply being herself at the very moment.



How many of us can be simply ourselves without social tags? I found that it is possible at L'Arche Chicago.

2023 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

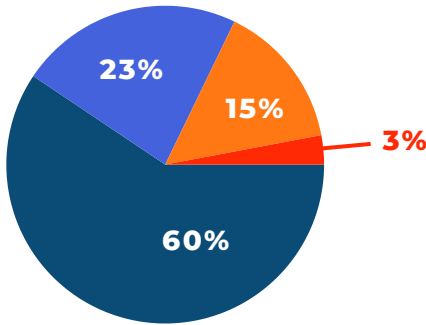
\$2,793,919

TOTAL INCOME

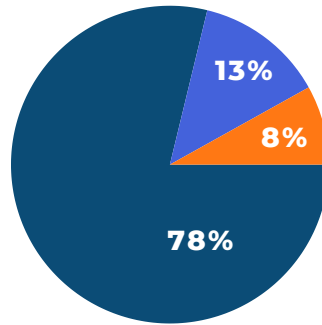
\$1,995,038

TOTAL EXPENSES

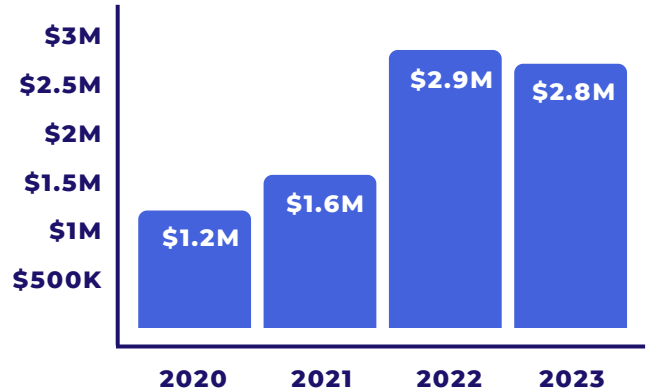
INCOME TRENDS



- Government Funding
- Individual Contributions
- Grants
- Events



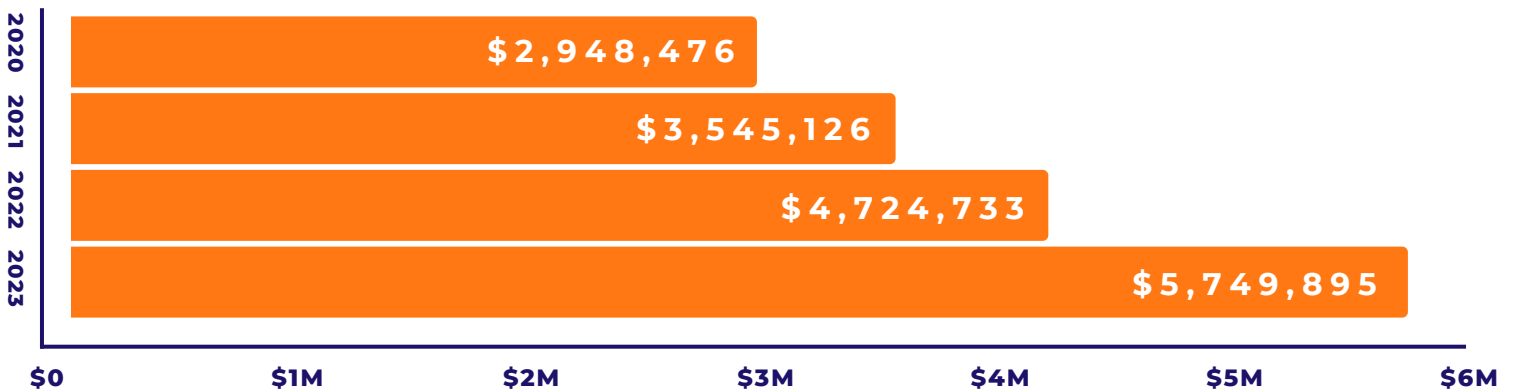
- Program Services
- Administrative
- Fundraising



CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

In FY23, L'Arche Chicago expended \$377,979 on fixed assets that included construction for a fourth home in Oak Park and several significant building upgrades.

TOTAL ASSET TRENDS



ASSETS

Current	\$1,362,939
Fixed	\$1,547,461
Endowment	\$2,839,496
Total	\$5,749,895

LIABILITIES

Current	\$94,225
Mortgage Payable	\$224,984
Total	\$319,209

NET ASSETS

\$5,430,686

THANK YOU DONORS!

Gifts received in Fiscal Year 2023, July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

We are Better Together. Thank you to our generous supporters who see the **extraordinary** in ordinary life and support the work at L'Arche Chicago.

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Capital Campaign Toolkit
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