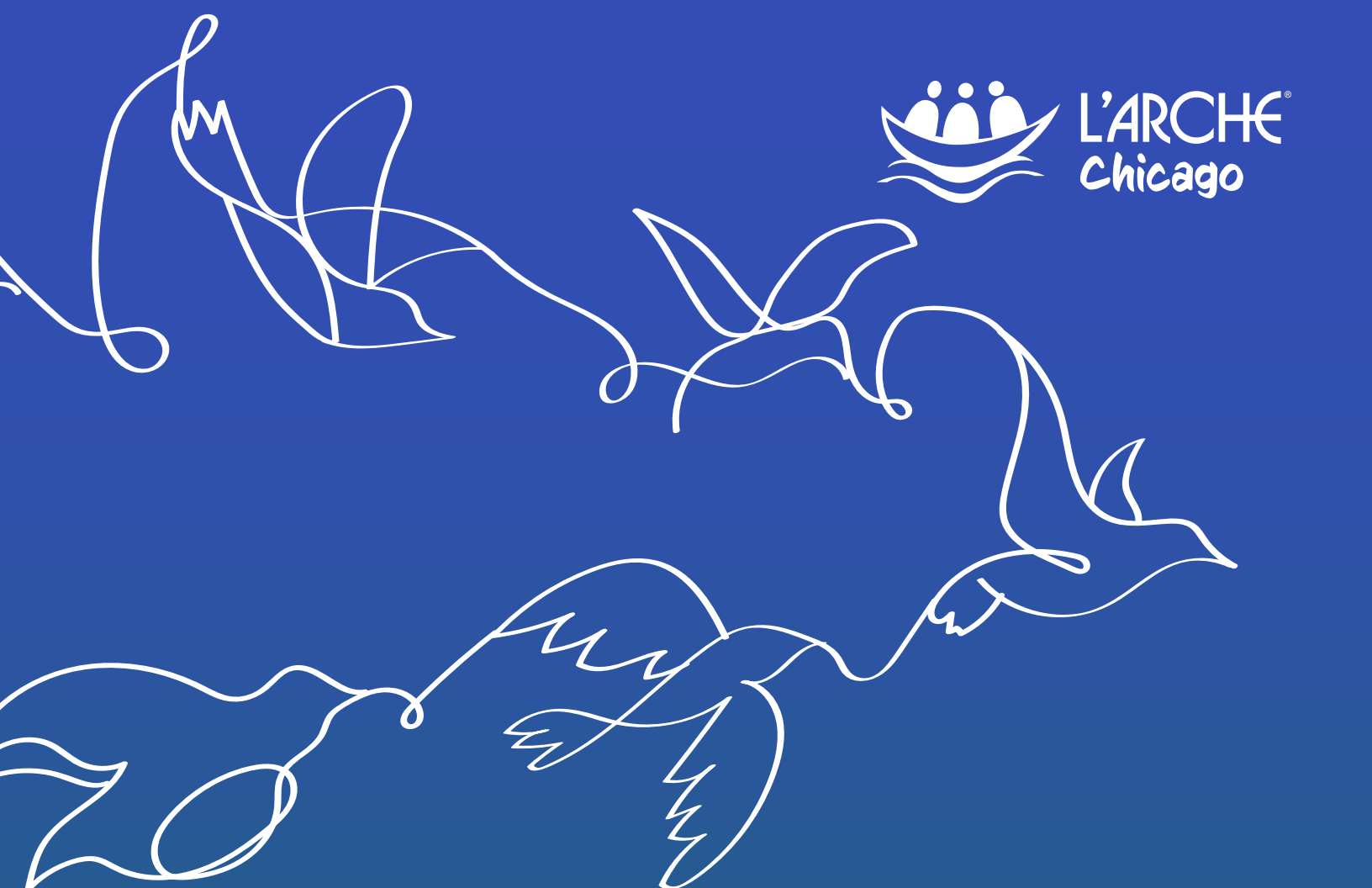




L'ARCHE<sup>®</sup>  
Chicago



# L'ARCHE CHICAGO ANNUAL REPORT

**FISCAL YEAR 2024**  
(July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024)





# 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.

## BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF L'ARCHE CHICAGO 7/1/23 - 6/30/24



**Friendship House**  
Forest Park



**Peace House**  
Forest Park



**Angel House**  
Chicago

### Core Member Time In Community



**10.75**  
Average Years  
**23.7**  
Longest Years

### Core Member Age

age range 27-66



**55%**  
Ages 21-50  
**45%**  
Ages 50+

### Our Community



**12**  
Core Members  
**8**  
Live-in Assistants  
**29**  
Live-out Assistants

*What's on the Horizon: Opening St. Joseph House and welcoming four new core members into community*

# LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

This past year, L'Arche Chicago has been filled with joy and excitement. A significant dream, that of a fourth home, is close to coming true largely because of you, our generous donors. Improvements in the existing homes have been ongoing and upgrades in efficiency will continue to be our focus. The dream of enlarging our community with new core members and assistants is being realized while maintaining our strong, caring, and vibrant culture. This annual report booklet shares many ways in which we have been enriched and strengthened by your care and support. Its theme of migration offers images of the many growth points of our 2024 year.

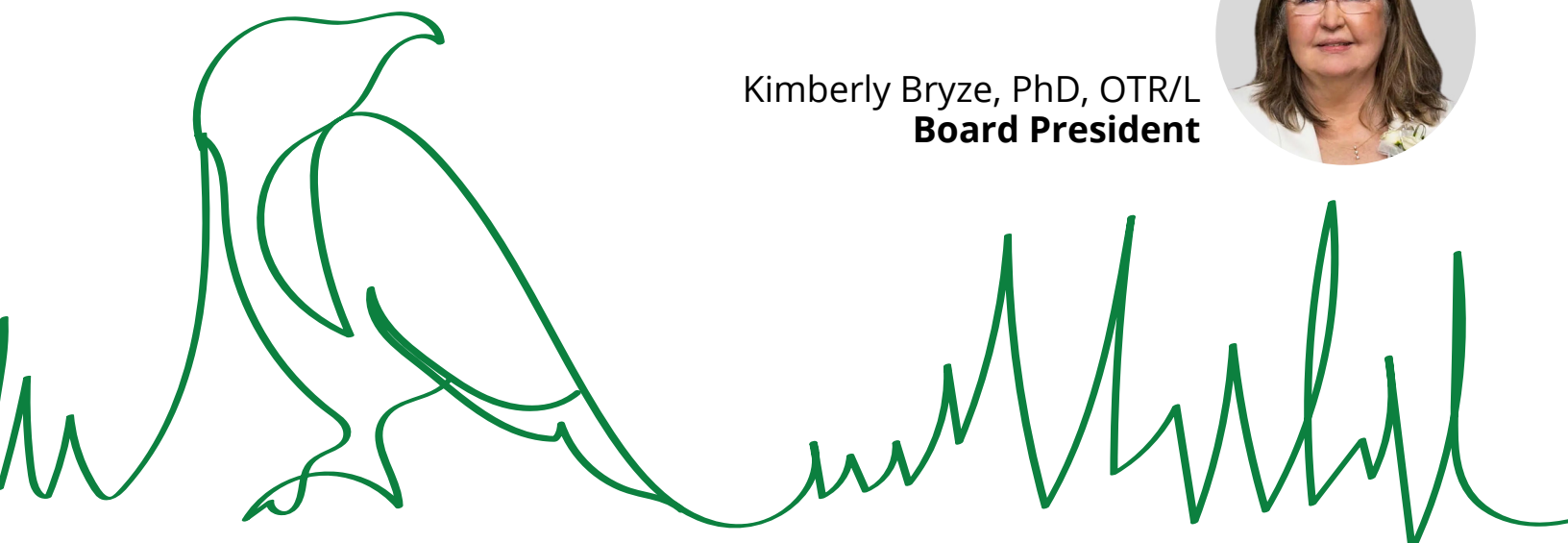
In its most common usage, migration refers to the seasonal movement of birds or animals from one region to another. For example, the tiny hummingbirds I love to feed and watch have flown thousands of miles to migrate, through the United States, to their winter homes in Mexico. They relocate and resettle in warm climates until the spring when they again migrate back up north to our fields and flowers.

Migration can also refer to an individual's movement from one place to another. We are witnessing this movement within our L'Arche Chicago community. Upon the opening of the fourth home, some current core members will move, or migrate, between a home in which they have lived for some years to a different home of their choice. Once complete, four new core members will be welcomed as they 'migrate' in, to share life in our community. Amidst the moving and shifting and resettling of core members and assistants, we will continue to live our daily lives, routines, and celebrations in relationships that form the L'Arche Chicago life.

While there may be challenges in this time of moving or shifting, we can rest our minds and souls in a promise found in Psalm 121:8: "The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore" (ESV). The phrase 'going out and coming in' refers to our daily activities, the things we do every day as we care for our bodies, our homes, others in our lives, our productive work, and our times of leisure and rest. We transition out of and into various tasks and activities throughout the day, essentially migrating from one space to another, near or far. We pause a puzzle we were working on to join others and a dinner prepared with care. We go out to our work or day trip, then return back in to our home for rest and refreshment. All the while, we are kept, protected, and sheltered by the Lord. In the midst of the mini-migrations of our busy days and the larger more challenging migrations of moving from one home to another, we are always kept and held in His love.

**Thank you for being part of this community. Your friendship and support are invaluable, and we look forward to a new year and the fulfillment of new dreams.**

Kimberly Bryze, PhD, OTR/L  
**Board President**





# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It has truly been a joy to assemble this year's annual report. It's remarkable how much growth, development, and celebration there has been in these past twelve months! Truly it has been a year of movement — migration — for all of us at L'Arche Chicago.

Most significantly, we neared the finish line on construction of our fourth home! A long dreamed of project, the house provides a universally designed, ADA accessible setting where core members can age in place while feeling truly at home, complete with a fireplace and tree lined front porch. The overwhelming interest from the community spoke volumes to the need for high quality, accessible settings that provide care in small, family-like environments like L'Arche Chicago. For the four openings that were created from the new home, we received over 100 applications. We strategically designed an admissions process that prioritized individuals in the greatest need of services. We started with careful reviews of each application, then scheduled interviews, and finally in-person visits and overnight stays in our homes. Along with staff and core member feedback on the visits, we selected four individuals to migrate with us to L'Arche, their new home. We couldn't be more excited to experience this growth and to see more individuals in need supported well in our highly personalized, community-based homes.

Meanwhile, we invested more resources than ever in developing our residential programs and community culture. Guided by our Strategic Plan, we embarked on several significant projects such as enhanced trainings for Assistants and improved communications to our guardians to more effectively center our homes around the dignity, well-being, and voices of the core members. This, in combination with our goal to develop leadership best practices at all levels, deeply strengthened the fabric of our community as we migrate toward greater organizational health.

And of course we took plenty of time to celebrate (after all, this is a core value of L'Arche!): from monthly celebration nights where we affirm each other while enjoying a meal together in our homes to organizational-wide fundraisers such as our annual golf classic that celebrate the impact L'Arche is making in the Chicagoland area. Walking with the founding core member of L'Arche Chicago, Elbert Lott, in the last days of his life, and being present with him to celebrate his rich and meaningful 79 years on earth before he transitioned to the next life (a very special sort of migration), was a deeply meaningful experience for our entire community.

I hope you'll enjoy paging through what follows, seeing the highlights above and many others!

**With gratitude for you,**

Mic Altena  
**Executive Director  
& Community Leader**





# 2023-2024 Fiscal Year Highlights



A Visit to the John Michael Kohler Arts Preserve



Construction of our Fourth Home



Sookie Joined the Race



David and Stella Enjoyed the Golf Outing



We Found Time to Clown Around



# REFLECTION FROM CASSIE & ANDERS: Inclusive Leadership

*L'Arche Chicago community members Cassie Sadenwater and Anders Gullberg participated in the Inclusive Leadership Group (ILG) during this fiscal year which is a group of people with and without intellectual disabilities from L'Arche in the USA. The ILG aims to create guidance for core members and others with intellectual disabilities to be more actively engaged in consultation and leadership responsibilities within L'Arche and beyond. Cassie and Anders are excited to share their experience throughout the year.*

In February, we traveled to Kansas to attend the Mini Regional Gathering to meet other communities in the Midwest Region of L'Arche. Each IGL participant shared what's been happening in their community, and together, we brainstormed action plans for each community. Reflecting on the gathering, Anders said, "The gathering was great. It was good to see what we can do better at." Cassie added, "It was nice to have everyone come together to help one another. The gathering really lived up to L'Arche's value of community."

The ILG then jumped into our preparations for the National Assembly. We met over zoom twice a month with the rest of the ILG. During this time, we shared our personal stories, and we worked to identify the challenge, choice, and outcome of each story and prepared to introduce this tool at the National Assembly.

In May, the L'Arche National Assembly came to Chicago, and we attended with the ILG. Our group led a session where we shared our stories of inclusive leadership within L'Arche. We then challenged leaders to put their artistic skills to work and create presentations to share their findings. At the end of our session, the ILG asked the larger group to identify one practice of inclusive leadership that they could take back and share with their communities. "It was so fulfilling to see the group get excited about exploring inclusion. The work we did for several months paid off at that moment," Cassie said.

During the National Assembly, we were able to connect in person with our fellow ILG members, and we continued our conversations pertaining to inclusive leadership. Additionally, we brought our friends from L'Arche Greater Washington, DC back to L'Arche Chicago's Angel House. Anders said, "It was very nice to show them around Angel House. They really liked my garden too!"

We continue to work with the ILG and introduce L'Arche leadership to more methods of inclusion. Anders said, "It's been very nice to learn about other communities in the U.S. and what they are currently doing." Cassie added, "This work is important to all of our communities, and we're excited to continue leading L'Arche towards better practices of inclusion."

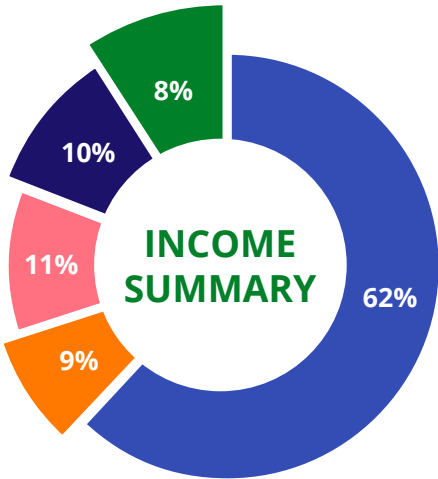


*Cassie & Anders (Middle Back of Picture) attending the Inclusive Leadership Group at the National Gathering in May.*

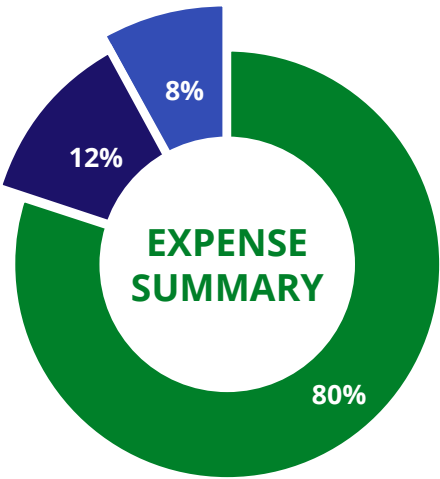
# 2024 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



For more detailed financial information, please view the full audit on our website



**Government Funding: 62%**  
**Individual Contributions: 8%**  
**Investment & Other Income: 10%**  
**Grants: 11%**  
**Events: 9%**



**Program Services: 80%**  
**Administrative: 12%**  
**Fundraising: 8%**



## Building Community Together:

This year, we’ve continued to grow our nest, woven by your contributions, that nurtures our mission, values and ability to develop a lasting impact.

### Dignified Care

- New Air Conditioning at Angel House
- New Appliances
- Fresh Paint at Friendship House
- Low Assistant to Core Member Ratios
- New Pipes at Peace House

### Advocacy & Connection

- Monthly Training and Reflection Sessions that Deepen our Mission and Relationships
- Opportunities for Team Strengthening
- Anders & Cassie Join Inclusive Leadership Team

### Community & Faith

- All-Community Day Retreat with 11 Core Members and 27 Assistants/Leadership
- 6 Retreats with 10 Staff and 2 Core Member Participants
- Regional L’Arche Gathering with 140 Participants from 7 L’Arche Existing and Emerging Communities



# With Gratitude For You!

**Thank you to those who have invested in L'Arche Chicago's mission.**

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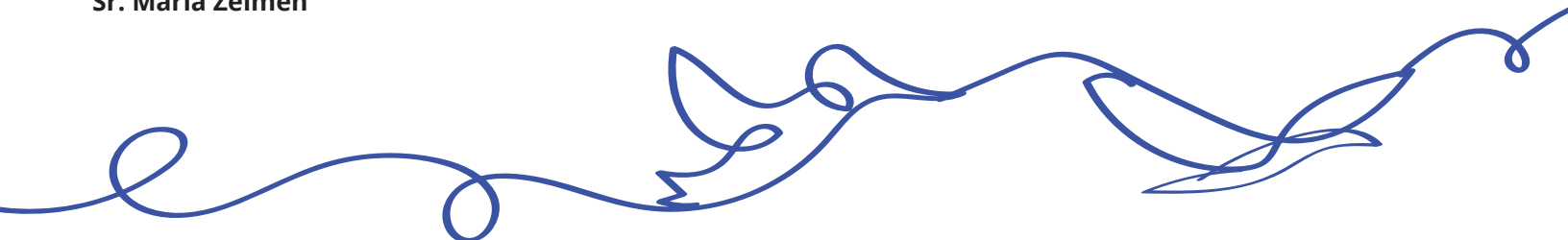
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**In Honor Of**

**Noah Cichon, Ron Cichon, Gary Dhein, Anders Gullberg, Elbert Lott, Jim & Marianne Richards, Tim Stone, Sr. Maria Zeimen**





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