

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2022-2023



L'ARCHE®  
calgary

50 years

ESTABLISHED IN 1973



# ABOUT L'ARCHE CALGARY



L'Arche Calgary is apart of an International Federation, with 156 communities in 38 countries worldwide.

## **L'Arche Calgary was Founded in 1973.**

50 years ago in August of 1973 the first ever L'Arche Calgary home called Marymount was established and thus began the journey! These past 50 years have been filled with memories, joy, celebration, beautiful traditions, meaningful relationships, countless milestones and so much love! Over the many years, L'Arche Calgary has welcomed hundreds of beautiful people including, Assistants, Core Members, Friends, Family Members, Volunteers, and each person has left a unique imprint on this community that we will always remember and cherish.



Over the last 50 years, we have grown to be 5 houses, a day program, and a supported independant living program.

In our houses – Annapurna, Haeremai, Kichiyak, Marymount, and Villa Maria – Core Members live alongside Assistants who join us from all over the world. Each house is unique, just like its inhabitants. People with and without intellectual disabilities experience the rhythms of daily life alongside one another.

Whether sharing supper on a typical Tuesday or going out to celebrate a special occasion, our family model of care allows us to build trust and mutual relationships.

Our Tamarack Day Program provides engaging programs and activities for Core Members from Monday through Friday. Our individualized approach ensures that each person's day is relevant to their goals, interests, and needs. Assistants provide support both on-site and on community outings. From music therapy to baking, there is something for everyone at Tamarack.

Our Supported Independent Living Program (SILP) is designed for Core Members who live in the community but require additional support. SILP fosters independence while striving to build practical life skills. Alongside Assistants, Core Members in SILP are supported to work towards their goals and maintain their wellbeing.

As we celebrate our 50th year as L'Arche Calgary, we celebrate our past and eagerly look forward to our future!

# OUR IDENTITY



## VISION

- Mutual care, respect, and compassion between people with and without intellectual disabilities
- Sharing ordinary, daily life with all its joys and sorrows
- Living, working, learning, and celebrating together in communities of belonging
- Transforming our lives as we embrace our gifts and imperfections
- Recognizing that we need each other and are better together
- A model of inclusion, a way of peace, and a sign of hope for our world

## MISSION

Make known the gifts of people with intellectual disabilities, revealed through mutually transforming relationships.

Foster an environment in community that responds to the changing dreams and needs of our members while being faithful to the vision and core value of our founding story.

Engage in our diverse cultures, working together toward a more human society.

## VALUES

Creating a Vibrant Community

Celebrating the Value of Each Person

Building Mutual Relationships

Journeying Together

Nurturing our Gifts and Growth

Having a Valued Role

Sharing Spirituality

Living a Life of Joy

Shaping a More Human Society



# OUR COMMUNITY LEADER



Happy 50th Anniversary to all in our L'Arche Calgary family! As a community of difference makers, it is important to take a moment to reflect upon this remarkable milestone. What we are living here seems impossible; after all, people of all ages, abilities, religious beliefs, genders, cultures, and sexual orientations are living, working, and sharing life together. Living simply and joyfully together in community; how is that possible?

## **It turns out it is possible.**

**It is possible**, due to the lifelong commitment of so many people, especially our founding group. Our founders felt the call to start a community and some to even commit themselves wholeheartedly to the creation of this community. They followed this call with humility and passion, and we are still reaping the harvest of the seeds they sowed and nurtured. On August 13th, 1973, the first house, Marymount, opened its doors and welcomed the first ever core-member!

**It is possible** due to the endless hours of faithfulness of past leaders and their commitment to living in community, being dedicated & determined, and believing in the power of relationships to heal and transform.

**It is possible** because of the hundreds if not thousands of assistants who came, shared their ideas, and shaped our community with their passion to connect with others and to whole-heartedly live vibrant lives together with Core Members.

**It is possible** because of our Core Members, who have called us and our society to work towards peace and justice, which begins with understanding and embracing those who are different from us. Our Core Members have given us an example of true humanity, as they live each day in communion with others of different genders, cultures, religions, and abilities. Every day, we are reminded by Core Members to share our joys and pains, to celebrate, to welcome one another, and to forgive and love unconditionally.

**It is possible** because of all the faithful members who have journeyed before us. Paving a way for community and relationships to build, grow, and strengthen more and more each year.

**It is possible** because for 50 years, L'Arche Calgary has blossomed and thrived thanks to people like you who have accepted and responded to the mission-driven call of L'Arche, and who have believed in us as a community. It has been a long road, but every year we have shared our stories of successes, sang songs together, played and prayed together and this has brought a great deal of fulfilment, joy, and celebration. This road has also brought us a great deal of disappointment, despair, hardship, and grief. All these experiences make our community real, genuine, alive, and radiant. This is how we fulfill our mission. Through those real lived experiences and small acts of kindness, we recognize what matters the most and we embrace our L'Arche identity and live out our values. We continue to improve the lives of our Core Members, advocate for a brighter future where everyone belongs, and create a compassionate culture and world for everyone.

**It is possible** because of what inspires and motivates us. After 50 years, we still believe that this little life we are leading, the choices we make to love one another even when it's hard, the acts of forgiveness and generosity that we are courageously offered day after day, are the things that are healing this world; this world that so desperately needs a sign of hope, now more than ever.

## **Hope is what makes the impossible possible. It is not easy, but it is possible.**

As in life in general, we are all presented with challenges; this is no different than daily life in the L'Arche community. I have learned that no matter who you are, where you live, or what you do - we are all human beings with essentially the same needs and wants; to be loved, appreciated, valued, and cared for. It really is that simple, and **it is possible**.

Ani Hynes  
Community Leader/Executive Director





# OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

It is hard to believe another year has gone by. I mentioned in last year's message that although our community faced challenges, there were positive signs and reasons for hope. On reflection, I believe that there have been many positive developments in our community over the past year. With the easing of COVID restrictions, our L'Arche Calgary family was once again able to gather in person to help support the sense of community that is an essential part of our mission.

This year the Board of Directors emphasized two areas:

- 1. First we supported ongoing efforts to build a more positive workplace culture and supported the leadership team through ongoing transition**
- 2. Second, we kept an eye on the community's financial health.**

Thanks to our Community Leader, the leadership team, program and house leaders, and assistants all working together, we are moving forward with hope for the future. We had the return of our wonderful Christmas Pageant, moved forward with plans to renovate Umiak for an improved Day Program, and turned an unfortunate situation into an opportunity to develop a more functional and beautiful kitchen at Annapurna. I am happy to report our financial position was healthy last year as L'Arche Calgary continued to receive the support of many donors. Their generosity allowed us to continue to go beyond providing a service to providing a real sense of community.

This past year also saw an increase in government funding for which we were grateful, but after several years of frozen funding there is still a gap and there remains a need to advocate for increased support. A highlight to start the 2023-2024 fiscal year was a highly successful Run for L'Arche in April.

On a more personal note, this year marks the completion of my three-year term as Board President. These past three years, while having their share of challenges, have been deeply rewarding and I have many people to thank. First, thank you to the talented, diverse, and dedicated board members I've had the privilege to work with - your commitment and support have been greatly appreciated. Second, thank you to L'Arche Canada Vice Regional Leader Linda Filjak - your ongoing support for our community has been exemplary. Third, thank you to the entire Leadership team, including house and program leaders - your dedication is truly remarkable.

**Finally, I want to thank the assistants and Core Members who form the heart of L'Arche Calgary - your warmth, compassion, perseverance, and joy are a continuing source of inspiration.**

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in dark blue ink that reads "Michael J. Doty". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Michael Doty  
Board President

# OUR GENEROUS DONORS

"This is how change happens.  
One gesture. One person.  
One moment at a time."

- ANONYMOUS

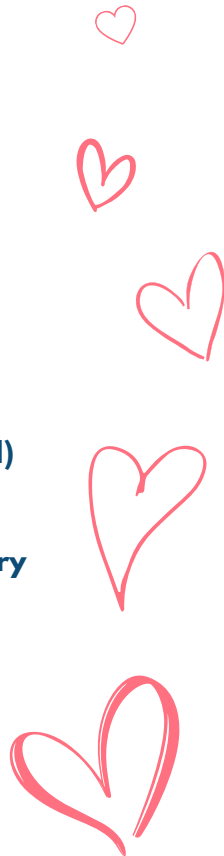
We extend our sincere gratitude to each individual and organization that has supported L'Arche Calgary in the last year. Every donation makes a difference and makes our work possible.

Due to limited space, we cannot list all of our supporters here, but we would like to recognize the generosity of the following Foundations, Corporations, and Organizations.

- **Acera Insurance (formerly Rogers Insurance)**
- **The Oak Shoppe**
- **Soeurs Franciscaines Missionnaires de Marie**
- **Miracles Toastmasters**
- **Enterprise Holdings**
- **Christian Stewardship Services**
- **Franciscan Missionaries of Mary**
- **Knights of Columbus St. Bonaventure**
- **Springbank Lions Club**
- **White Consulting**
- **Calgary Foundation**
- **MF Trust**
- **Corpus Christi Catholic Women's League**
- **Sisters of Charity of Providence**
- **EAT Grant - Govt of CDA**
- **CREB**
- **Berkhold Family Foundation (Gordon Berkhold)**
- **Kinsmen Club of Calgary**
- **Economical Insurance**
- **Roman Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of Calgary**
- **Fasken**
- **ServiceMaster Restore of Calgary**
- **Pure IT**
- **ServPro of Calgary South**
- **McLennan Ross Legal Counsel**
- **Crawford and Company**
- **OneContact Integrated Facility Services**
- **SGL Canada**
- **Country 105 & QR Calgary**



# THANK YOU!



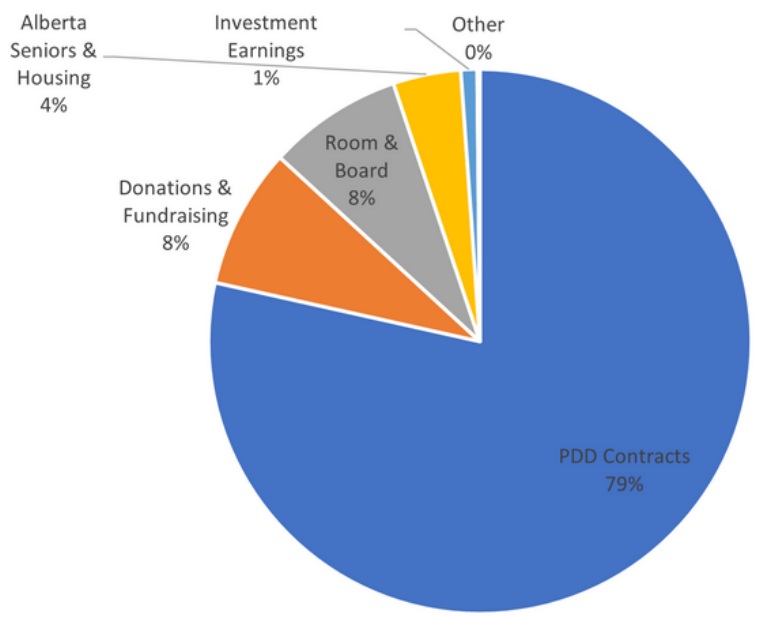


# THE LATEST NUMBERS



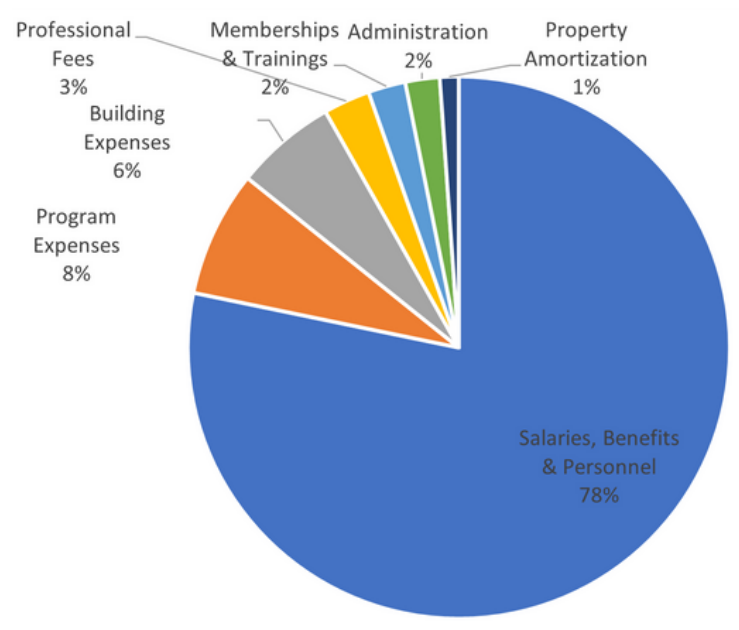
## Revenues

PDD Contracts	\$ 3,393,794.00
Donations & Fundraising	\$ 360,493.00
Room & Board	\$ 346,804.00
Alberta Seniors & Housing	\$ 174,786.00
Investment Earnings	\$ 41,967.00
Other	\$ 6,901.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 4,324,745.00</b>



## Expenses

Salaries, Benefits & Personnel	\$ 3,474,160.00
Program Expenses	\$ 333,736.00
Building Expenses	\$ 268,489.00
Professional Fees	\$ 123,562.00
Memberships & Trainings	\$ 99,080.00
Administration	\$ 91,063.00
Property Amortization	\$ 49,989.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 4,440,079.00</b>



# MEET RICARDO



Ricardo's story is a journey from a professional business life to a life of service and meaningful relationships. Before coming to L'Arche Ricardo was a General Accountant at the Marriot Hotel. He was a businessman with much ambition and success. After years and years of hard work in a job that was all about corporations, professionalism, skills, and knowledge, he felt a call from God to take another path.

Ricardo was seeking a **life of service**, so he decided to become more involved in his Parish community through volunteering at St. Vincent De Paul, helping pack baskets of food which would be given to people in the community who were struggling. Ricardo did this during the pandemic when many people were struggling physically, financially, and emotionally and he continues to volunteer at St. Vincent De Paul today. Ricardo also helps minister pastoral care which provides guidance, companionship, and prayer to other parishioners experiencing difficult times in his church community. He would do this by bringing food and the eucharist to people in nursing homes and hospitals and spending time with them as a companion and friend.

Ricardo truly desired to grow more deeply in his service, so he decided to start the process of becoming a Deacon!

## **This began a journey he never anticipated...**

Ricardo began taking the steps to become a Deacon and one of those steps was to partake in community service. So, he was given a choice of which organization, charity, or non-profit he would volunteer at, and from the list he **picked L'Arche Calgary**. He had no experience in the disability field and had no idea what was in store for him but as Ricardo would say "God had a plan for him." So, Ricardo contacted Dallas the Day Program leader at the time and asked if he could come to L'Arche and complete his 40 hours of volunteer work for his Deacon program. Ricardo was welcomed into the Day Program as a volunteer in September of 2021. Ricardo's first day at the Day Program was wonderful, he spent time with Core Members (people with disabilities), got to know everyone over coffee, and helped Core Members with their math skills. Overall, it was a great day, but he was struck by what Tyler, one of the Core Members said to him as he was leaving; he said,

**"Thank you for your company."**

Ricardo was touched by Tyler's words because for once someone wasn't thanking him for his skills, achievements, knowledge, or success, but was just thanking him for his time, for being with him, for his company.

In this moment Ricardo knew that Tyler and the Core Members were his companions, and he was their companion. Ricardo spent the next 7 weeks completing his volunteer requirements but after a month and a half when he had completed his required time he wanted to stay and continue volunteering and building relationships. For the next year Ricardo continued discovering a new sense of **joy, belonging, and service** at L'Arche. After a year of volunteering at the Day Program a position opened, and Ricardo applied right away. He started officially as a Day Program Assistant in August of 2022.

But God had a different plan for Ricardo and that was not to stay in the Day Program but to take on a different role. So, after lots of prayer, reflection and consideration Ricardo decided to apply for the position of Director of Finance and was eventually selected for the role in March of 2023. Ricardo says, "I am grateful for this opportunity to grow and serve this community and to be able to combine my skills and knowledge of finance, money, and accounting, with my desire to serve, pray and live in relationship and faith with others." Ricardo said that there are **blessings and miracles** happening right in front of his eyes in the way that his life has been guided and how God has taken care of him. Ricardo misses the relationships with people in the Day Program but still stays connected by having lunch with them a few times every week. Ricardo lives with these mantras at the forefront of his life,

**"God Provides" "Enjoy the Moment "  
"I am Grateful"**

Ricardo is such a blessing to this community and is teaching us these lessons everyday!



# RUN FOR L'ARCHE BEST YEAR YET



**This year we raised the most money the Acera Run for L'Arche has ever raised. Thank you to all our Runners, Supporters, Donors, Sponsors, Partners, and our Special Olympics run starters! We couldn't have done any of this without your support!**

We passed the finish line of the 13th Annual Acera Insurance Run for L'Arche, and what a success it was! We kicked off the Run with a NEW name and a NEW logo! The Acera Insurance (formerly rogers insurance) Run for L'Arche! This year, we had over 450 people attending, including runners and volunteers! We offered a NEW route with five different distances including, the half marathon with 125 runners which is the highest number of participants for that distance in 13 years, the 10K, the 5K, the NEW 3K distance, and the much loved 1K Fun Run! We had so much fun this year and we can't wait for next year!

## Total Money Raised

# \$80,000





# REMEMBERING SHEILA ELLIOTT

Sheila Elliott was born on October 15th, 1933. She was a loving daughter, sister, auntie and friend. Sheila had a full and happy life living in Calgary and spent many of her years with the Gerke family until living more independently with L'Arche Calgary in 1976. Her love for painting, knitting, crafts and art filled her life. She simply loved the company of everybody and L'Arche especially lifted her heart. Sheila is dearly remembered for her beautiful smile, fierce independence, and for her love for all the people in her life.

**"I remember how she would always knit for people and specifically her scarf for her brother Bill. She was always worried she will not make it for him in time for Christmas."**

**-Lidia**

**"Sheila wanted to be her own self (independent). I helped Sheila move into her new place. Sheila was a good person."**

**-Core Member (Anonymous)**

**"Almost every time I sat down next to Sheila and started talking, at some point in our conversation Sheila would ask me to get her wallet for her. She would scrummage through and pull out a pin from the 1988 Calgary Olympics. She would show me with such pride and excitement and tell me all about the days of the Calgary Olympics. She often talked like this about many things including when she spoke about her family. She was so proud of the people in her life and the experiences she had"**

**-Carmela**





# REMEMBERING JODY EVANS



Jody was born on January 27, 1970, in Bassano Alberta. Jody was a loving daughter, sister, auntie, and friend. Jody was an ambitious woman she was involved with Special Olympics and also volunteered at a nursing home and held part-time jobs. In November of 1992, Jody moved to L'Arche Calgary and was apart of the community for 30 years. She loved to travel and always enjoyed the home's summer vacations. Besides her jobs and community activities, Jody enjoyed bowling, softball, golf and soccer with Special Olympics. Jody still continued to spend time with her family, but expressed how happy she was living in the L'Arche Community. Jody loved animals especially dogs, cranking her boom box and dancing, and going to Tim Hortons for coffee. Jody is dearly remembered for her beautiful smile, warm loving hugs and always saying she loved you!



**"Jody was an ambassador for L'Arche, she always spoke so highly of the community and her experience as a member. When Jody felt the movements of the spirit, she couldn't help but preach the good news that Jesus loves us!"**

**-Annie**

**"Jody was the best conversationalist with a wide-ranging vocabulary. After receiving a compliment from me Jody would look at me and grin: "Dallas, you're so diplomatic!" I'd thank her and then she'd routinely add: "Dallas, what does diplomatic mean?"**

**-Dallas**

**"Jody would be in her room doing sit ups and count outloud, 1, 2, 3, 100.. 101, 102, 200... 201, 202, 203, 300... 301, 302, 303, 304, 400... 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 500. Then come to an assistant and say I did 500 pushups with a smile."**

**-Hanna**

**"She was a lot of fun."**

**-Core Member**

**"She made me laugh and she always said I want more food"**

**-Core Member**







50 years

ESTABLISHED IN 1973

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