

“What makes us  
human is not  
our mind but our heart,  
not our ability  
to think but  
our ability to love”

— HENRI NOUWEN, FRIEND OF L'ARCHE



Celebrating the Unique Value of Every Person



## It Began as an Act of Compassion

In 1964, three gentlemen with intellectual disabilities, who had been locked away in a French asylum, were welcomed into a small home in Trosly, France. This invitation ultimately restored them to a life outside those walls, one where their humanity, spirit, and gifts would be respected and recognized.

This one selfless act set in motion the founding of L'Arche. Today, 154 L'Arche communities in 38 countries are thriving, united by the same vision and the same spirit of **welcome**, of **sharing**, and **simplicity**.

## L'Arche Rhymes with “marsh” and is French for “The Ark”

Founded in 1985 as Harbor House by parents and friends of adults with intellectual disabilities, L'Arche Jacksonville joined the International Federation of L'Arche in 1992 and is the **only** L'Arche community in Florida. Fittingly named, L'Arche is French for “the ark,” a symbol of refuge and the first covenant between God and humanity.

At L'Arche, our 19 adults with an intellectual disability are known as **core members** because they are the ♥ of the community. House **assistants**, dedicated men and women of all ages, are involved in their daily activities, creating a home that supports and encourages core members to share their gifts within the house and with you in the larger community.

We love visitors and invite you to visit L'Arche Jacksonville. **Take a tour** of our four family-style homes, the Blanchart Community Center, and our day training program called the Rainbow Workshop.

## A Remarkable Day Program Called RAINBOW

You're in for a treat when you visit and/or purchase unique items from our day program! The L'Arche Jacksonville Rainbow Workshop is a hub of creativity for L'Arche core members and a number of non-resident core members from the Jacksonville area. From its humble beginning in 1996 as a volunteer arts and crafts program, the Rainbow Workshop evolved into a fully-functioning day program, directed by trained staff and caring volunteers. It is designed for people whose talents are not a good match for typical day training programs.

Our busy artists take great pride in creating cards, beautiful paintings and ceramics, mosaic tile art, wall art, and jewelry for sale to the public at various venues around town and for our annual Holiday Extravaganza in November.

The “new” Rainbow Workshop opened in 2014 and is a gift from the Warren P. Powers Charitable Foundation, longtime friends of L'Arche Jacksonville. Conveniently located across from the community, it operates on a small budget and has always relied on the generosity of supporters, including donations from individuals and businesses.

**Stop by the Gift Shop — open Monday-Friday from 11am-4pm.**





## Extraordinary Love 24/7

When Mary was hospitalized for several weeks, she was never alone. Someone from L'Arche was with her at all times and her friends visited often to cheer her up. You can imagine the joy when she finally made it back home.

The L'Arche mission is dedicated to ensuring that core members receive the respect and support they need to live meaningful and fulfilling lives. We make a commitment to treasure them as a family for their lifetime and to value them always for the many gifts they bring to the community and the world.

**Getting to know the core members is a gift in itself.** For example, Viva is known for her hugs and incredible recall of dates; and Tommy for his love of *The Sound of Music*, hamburgers, homemade cookies, and the weather. Kathy *loves* to sing and have parties; Katrina can whistle tunes like no other; Larry is the local paparazzi; and several others are “famous” for their artistic talent and Special Olympic skills. Their ages range from 40 to 76; and 8 have lived at L'Arche for more than 25 years.

Like all families, the community provides loving comfort during sad times and enjoys celebrating the many good ones. They eat together, pray together, celebrate birthdays and accomplishments, play games, go on outings and vacations, and welcome friends who come to bring dinner or just to hang out. Our four houses gather often for community events of many kinds.

## Help Us Keep Our Promise

Our future relies on the generosity of our families, individuals, companies, foundations, and others who believe that those with intellectual disabilities are deserving of dignity, respect, and encouragement to fulfill their dreams.

Government support has historically covered about 2/3 of the cost of care. **In recent years, due to a number of factors, L'Arche has faced the challenge of raising more than \$500,000 per year.**

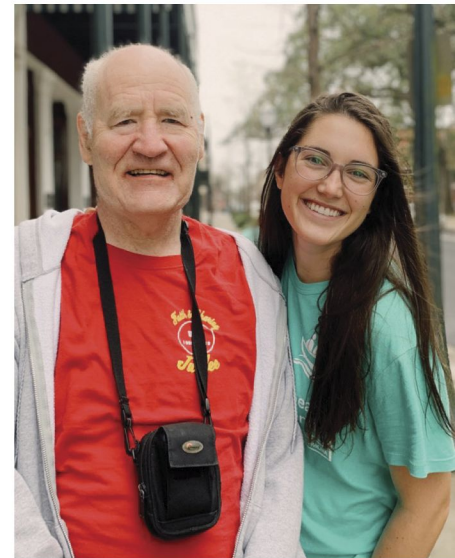
We have been heavily impacted by:

- Increasing care needs and higher staffing ratios as our core members age
- Cutbacks and unpredictable fluctuations in government funding
- New minimum wage and overtime regulations that ended our stipend system for assistants
- Steep increases in healthcare costs
- Higher prices for food, utilities, and supplies
- Facility maintenance and repairs

L'Arche Jacksonville has made a promise to care for our core members as family for life. **With your support we can keep this promise** to our current core members, and continue to welcome new core members for years to come.

**Please contact our Development Office to discuss the many opportunities for support.**

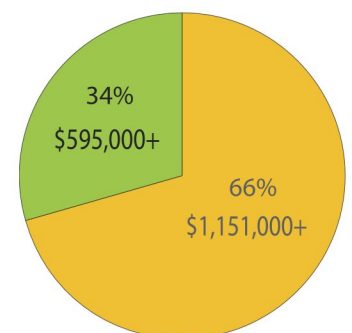
Call 904-721-5992, ext. 226 or email: [hello@larchejacksonville.org](mailto:hello@larchejacksonville.org)



**CORE MEMBER  
COST OF CARE  
\$7,600 /month**

**ASSISTANTS  
ARE THE SINGLE BIGGEST  
UNFUNDED EXPENSE**

L'Arche standards are much higher than what is required by law and cost more than government funds provide.



REVENUE



OTHER REVENUE:

**Fundraising**  
Events  
Annual Appeal  
Assistants Fund  
**Grants**  
Individual Gifts  
Family Support

Source: FY 2021-22 Budget

## LOOK WHO'S IN THE BOAT

SHARING LIFE IN COMMUNITY:

### ASSISTANTS



- ♥ Assistants share daily meals, work, celebration, and prayer with core members.
- ♥ Our live-in assistants come from across America and around the world; our live-out assistants are from the Jacksonville area. Some have special training or prior experience helping people with disabilities, but most do not.

AT THE HEART OF L'ARCHE:

### CORE MEMBERS



- ♥ These special people with intellectual disabilities live as family in four houses clustered around a community center.
- ♥ Our core members have valuable lessons to impart to everyone they meet. Faith, patience, love, and joyful spontaneity make them, in L'Arche language, true *"teachers of the heart."*

A LOVING SUPPORT SYSTEM:

### VOLUNTEERS & FRIENDS



- ♥ L'Arche Jacksonville relies on generous individuals and groups from the larger community.
- ♥ Some share their time and talent; others offer financial help. L'Arche welcomes, delights in, and depends on volunteers of all ages, from students to retirees.

## This is Tommy's Story

Tommy's lifelong journey with intellectual and physical disabilities began with a tragic brain injury at birth in 1948. Slow to speak and develop muscle, he learned to walk wearing full leg braces as a toddler. By 1953, Tommy was the proud big brother to two sisters in a happy, close-knit family of five, embraced by loving grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.



When the family moved from Ohio to Florida in 1967, Tommy enrolled in Pine Castle. This major transition introduced a new group of people into his life and support system.

Tommy relished life with his family and was extremely sad to lose his mother to cancer in 1980. His father retired later that same year to become his sole caregiver. Although challenging at times, a deep love and undeniably strong bond developed between father and son. As his father aged and grew more frail, it became apparent that the time had come to explore all options for potentially transitioning to a permanent new home.

The search was on and the bar set high. In 2003, L'Arche Jacksonville answered countless prayers for a spiritual, loving home environment. Tommy's father passed away in 2009 at the age of 92, with such gratitude

and peace in his heart for the community of L'Arche Jacksonville and its generous supporters who also love his son. His two sisters are involved as volunteers at L'Arche and Tommy continues to thrive in an environment where he is loved, his voice respected, and his needs fulfilled on a daily basis.

Just like home.

## This is Katrina's Story

Katrina has shared life with her friends at Peace House since 1988; and the fact that she is blind and, without her hearing aid, is also deaf, puts no limit on her *Joy* of life.

Throughout the pandemic year while her workshop at The ARC was closed, she anticipated the monthly packet of activities that they mailed to her. She enjoyed the challenge of trivia questions and word games, as these were relational, being done with another person or in a small group at Peace House. The recipes that were included were also of high interest to Katrina, since she delights in creating menus for her house, trying new dishes, and preparing a meal for her friends.

Katrina has long been a participant in charity walkathons and continues to enjoy this form of exercise and charity. Most recently, after having collected donations from others at L'Arche, she completed a one-mile walk on our property to benefit *Best Buddies*. Our L'Arche Business Manager, Karla Smith, was happy to accompany her.

Music is an energizer for Katrina. Whether singing, whistling, playing percussion, or dancing, she is ever ready to share her talent at home or on Zoom for the entire L'Arche community.

A key characteristic for living at L'Arche is the ability to create community. Katrina is a prime example of the fullness of life that *community* brings to us all.



700 Arlington Rd. N. • 7116 Owl Ridge Lane  
Jacksonville, FL 32211  
904-721-5992 OFFICE • 904-721-7143 FAX  
hello@larchejacksonville.org  
larchejacksonville.org



RAINBOW WORKSHOP