



Amy Finn-Schultz with Jack and Jeff

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 family and to value them always for the many gifts they bring to the community and the world.

A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMUNITY LEADER

This year will be remembered as a year of resilience and adaptation, of small triumphs and many festive gatherings. It has been full of ordinary, yet impactful challenges. There has been a need to adapt, to keep walking forward, and adapt again. The community made the decision to close the Sunflower House because of flooding and staffing; it was a hard decision, but one that was made with a lot of conversation, prayer, and guidance. We honored and celebrated a space dear to our community, full of dinners and conversations, named for the flowers that follow the light of the sun.

Along the way, we supported long-term assistants as they moved into new roles of leadership, welcomed new members to our office and homes, and witnessed the fruits of investing in our team. We hosted dozens of people, many of them students, through immersion, service, and volunteer programs. Whether it was for a day, a week or a summer, we felt immense gratitude for the energy and care those visitors invested in us while we offered a space of belonging and growth to them in return.

The fullness of life is present at L'Arche Jacksonville, in our challenges, adaptations, and resilience. You have been a part of this journey during this past year, and we are so grateful for that! Your support is one of the ways this year is marked as special and unique, one of the dear treasures we will hold on to as we celebrate and remember. Thank you!

Army J. Schuld
Community Leader/Executive Director



AT THE HEART OF L'ARCHE: CORE MEMBERS

- These special people with intellectual disabilities live as family in three 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."

Resident Core Members 13

Age Range: 43-79

Number of Years at L'Arche:

39 years: Ann, Jou

27-35 years: Kathy, Jeff, Larry,

Viva, Brenda

10-21 years: Tommy, Michael,

Jack

3-6 years: Sara, Sonia, Sophie

Rainbow Workshop Non-Resident Core Members 8

A NEW RELATIONSHIP IS BREWING

At Happy Brew L-R: Ann, Josh Thiele, Kathy, Sara, Sonia, and Amy Franks





'Arche Jacksonville is proud to build new relationships and strategies with amazing people in welcoming spaces. Happy Brew Director Amy Franks, and Manager Josh Thiele wrapped their arms around the L'Arche community, creating a social atmosphere that feels like home to the core members. **Happy Brew** is so much more than a cup of coffee. Adults with intellectual and developmental differences are given opportunities to grow, lead, work, and use their abilities alongside their neurotupical peers in a café setting where our community can come together in shared hope. Amy explains, "We love collaborating with other groups here in the community. This space includes everybody, all abilities, coming together and working together because everybody has a gift. Thank you so much for sharing life with us in this special place."

L'Arche Jacksonville and Happy Brew will continue to combine efforts and promote connection between those with and without disabilities. Coffee mugs with the Happy Brew and L'Arche logos, created by L'Arche core members at the Rainbow Workshop, will be availble this fall.

"There is a lot of strength in unity. We can have social interactions and be in places and spaces where we feel accepted and comfortable, and I think that is something Jacksonville needs and the whole world could use more of." -Josh Thiele

Visit Happy Brew at 3200 Hendricks Ave. Jacksonville, FL 32207 • happybrew.org

RAINBOW GETS AROUND



Framed Rainbow artwork decorated the lobby of the Florida Ballet.

(right) Sr. Betty and Sonia greet shoppers at a Rainbow event

Area churches throughout the First Coast combers' artwork. The congregations help announce the L'Arche mission while raising funds through the sale of art created at our day program, the

munity have welcomed the display of core mem-Rainbow Workshop.

Florida Ballet Installation - Since 1978, The Florida Ballet has trained and featured brilliant dancers. The L'Arche Jacksonville Rainbow Workshop is honored to showcase masterpieces created by core members at such a prestigious institution focused on artistic excellence.

The Holiday Extravaganza is an exciting time for the Rainbow Workshop. Core members work year-round to create paintings, mosaics, ceramics, jewelry, holiday cards, note cards, and much more to be sold at this annual November event. The 2023 event was a huge success – more than 200 shoppers generated net proceeds of \$11,870.99



A JOYFUL RELATIONSHIP

By Elizabeth Cashen, Peace House Coordinator

remember this specific moment with Joy like it was yesterday. I was in the middle of a busy time of sharing life, most likely a time where there were a lot of moving parts to the day, and feeling overwhelmed with everything that was going on. I was going back and forth to different parts of the house, seeing who needed assistance. As I was doing that, I heard Joy bellow in her boisterous way, "HEY! COME HERE!"

I go to her and ask what she needed or wanted — with Joy, you never really know. She then grabbed my hand, stopped me in the midst of the busyness and said, "I love you." Those simple words, that simple gesture, caused me to stop in my tracks and slow down. Reminding me why I said yes to L'Arche as an assistant a few years ago.

My family is pretty ingrained in L'Arche. My uncle Richard was a core member for years and my family worked here for some time. I've always referred to the core members as my family and they often saw me as erost he ing ise, loy

Joy and Elizabeth find lots of ways to entertain each other from reading quietly on the back porch to celebrating the Christmas holidays.

such. My dad used to hang out with Joy a lot when I was little, they'd sit outside on the back porch of Peace house and spend time together. I always remembered hearing about the stories they've shared. Joy's relationships with assistants and community members is special because she's been here since the beginning and she has helped shape what mutual relationships look like. When I was younger, I didn't really know Joy in that way, but now, since I've grown into my own at L'Arche, my friendship with her is something I've treasured so much. Joy has become a mosaic of many people that have come through L'Arche, holding them close, cherishing them, and taking them in as her own.

As time moves on, our friends have grown older, needing more care and assistance from what I remembered when I was younger. As I've reflected on my time here, I've realized how lucky and grateful I am to be sharing life during this season of change, especially with Joy, the matriarch of L'Arche. Being able to walk with her as she transitions into needing more care and assistance has been hard, but so rewarding. It's where the trust is built and really, when the friendship goes deeper, sharing a vulnerable side with one another and accepting help. It's not always an easy task for us or for our core members to accept when we need more help at times. I'm so grateful to be their friend, to continue this legacy of sharing life in L'Arche, keeping the memories of my Uncle Richard close, sharing stories, and ultimately walking with our friends through the seasons of life.



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.

Number of Assistants: 23

6 Live-in · 10 Live-out 7 Part-time

Meals prepared: 34,560

Weekly outings: 4,368 hrs/asst.

1-on-1 special time with a core member: 1,460 hrs/asst.

(annual average)





L'Arche Jacksonville Auxiliary

These dedicated volunteers continue to give time and know how to support the L'Arche community. This Auxiliary has folded and stuffed thousands of letters, procured auction gifts, made the golf tournament run smoothly, hosted the Holiday Extravaganza, and more. They are a vital part of our success.

The Golf Classic relies on a lot of help from awesome Auxiliary volunteers! (photos clockwise) Auxiliary president Eileen Bain; Cherl Evers and her mother Juanita Beidelman with Viva; John Farnie; Maripat Meide; Nancy Smith and Myrna Stokely





A LOVING SUPPORT SYSTEM:

VOLUNTEERS and 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.

Number of Volunteers 185

Weekly Volunteers
Rainbow Workshop helpers
Accompaniers
Board of Directors
Auxiliary Committee
Golf Tournament
Church, School, and Social Groups
Business Partners
High School and College Students

LEADING BY EXAMPLE

L'Arche believes everyone has something valuable to contribute, even the most vulnerable. Organizations that include individuals with intellectual disabilities into an environment where all people are treated with respect and dignity provide an opportunity for L'Arche core members to experience worth and usefulness as productive members of society. VyStar Credit Union staff have a "Do Good" attitude that is reflected in every visit. Core members are so proud to make deposits and converse with staff at the Atlantic Boulevard location. VyStar continues to lead the way and welcome the L'Arche Jacksonville community.





Amazing Students

Volunteers from College of the Holy Cross, University of Notre Dame, the Urban Plunge, and the Servant Heart Camp gave their time and treasure to clean, organize, and beautify the L'Arche community. Urban



Plunge students rejuvenated the Grotto with new lattice and benches. Four Notre Dame Bridge students shared life this summer, even playing piano at Community Night.



Middle school students organized cabinets, closets, and entire rooms. Six young ladies from Holy Cross spent countless hours



embracing all of the daily activities from the houses to the Rainbow Workshop while building new friendships with core members.

The Notre Dame Club of Greater Jacksonville

Twenty-seven alumni and friends of Notre Dame were on hand to help beautify the grounds

of L'Arche Jacksonville. Joining with thousands of volunteers in all 50 states and on six continents, they strove to fulfill Notre Dame's mission to be a force for good in the world on the 2nd annual **ND Global Day of Service**.





The best conversations happen on the back deck of Greatfull House. Katherine (Kathy)
Vallencourt is known to rally her house mates for robust social moments when sharing meals or just stepping outside for fresh air.

The **Vallencourt family** answered the call last year when the Greatfull House deck was in decay. Thanks to their generosity, a completely new and more durable outdoor living experience was created! Throughout every season, the community loves to gather beneath the trees on a deck designed especially

for them.

Kathy's brother Frank Vallencourt provided this beautiful reminder:



"1 John 4:8: '...God is Love.' By seeing Love in Greatfull House, we encounter God. To encounter God, is to want to know Him more, Love Him more, and serve Him more. Thank you for allowing me to encounter God through you, His instrument, which is Greatfull House."



OUR DONOR TRIBUTES

2023-24 Fiscal Year: July 1, 2023- June 30, 2024 *

e gratefully acknowledge tribute gifts made to honor the life events of friends and families. Contributions have been made in memory of a loved one, or in celebration of special events such as birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, etc. For all tributes, L'Arche notifies the recipient of the gift and the donor receives a grateful acknowledgment of their tax-deductible gift.

*The following tributes were received between 7/1/23 and 6/30/24.

IN HONOR OF

Core Members and Staff

Anna Mae Sabatino

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Amu Frassa Rotella

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Sara Stokely

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David Bain

Eileen Bain

Linda Barker

Katherine Brim

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IN GRATITUDE TO OUR DONORS

IFE at L'Arche Jacksonville relies upon the generosity of family, friends, companies, foundations, business partners, and others who support our mission.

CUMULATIVE GIVING for Last Fiscal Year: July 1, 2023- June 30, 2024

Cumulative totals include all tax-deductible donations, pledges, grants, matching gifts, & soft credits received through Fiscal Year End 6/30/24.

Please let us know of any errors or omissions.

Legacy of L'Arche \$10,000 and above

Alfred I. duPont Foundation, Inc. Blanchart Family Endowment Community Foundation for NE FL

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Bold Core Member Family Affiliation

* **Assistants Fund**

We Are Family Fund

Golf Classic Sponsors and Players

4 **Matching Gift Partners**

7

WAYS TO GIVE

DONATIONS - Individual gifts, corporate gifts, employee matching funds

REMEMBER L'ARCHE JACKSONVILLE in your will

PLANNED GIVING - Contact us for information

WE ARE FAMILY FUND - (Annual Appeal) Designate your gift to benefit a particular need (optional); undesignated gifts support operations

ASSISTANTS FUND - Direct funding of the Assistants program

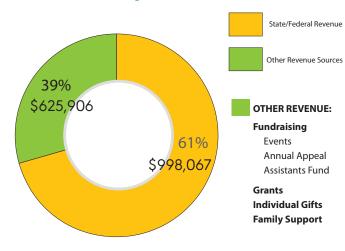
EVENT SPONSORSHIP & PARTICIPATION - Individual or corporate sponsors for the Holiday Extravaganza, Living Nativity, & Annual Golf Classic

CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP - Sponsorships, grants, donations

VOLUNTEER - Individuals or Groups - A wide variety of projects, programs, and events for all age groups

REVENUE

Last Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024



HOW YOU IMPACTED OUR MISSION LAST YEAR



2024 Golf Classic held Mar. 25, 2024

As one of the longest running non-profit golf tournaments on the First Coast, your participation is vital to raising and exceeding our goal of \$90,000 for expenses not covered by government funding. Because of you, the 2024 event, raised \$96,974!

SAVE THE DATE - 35th Annual Golf Classic - March 3, 2025!



We Are Family Fund

(our Annual Appeal)

By supporting this annual campaign, you

are providing sustainability for the family-style homes, core members, and assistants. Every dollar ensures that core members receive the support needed to lead a fulfilling life.

FY 2023-24 = \$144,602



ASSISTANTS

Assistants Fund

As time goes on and core members experience change, the cost of care increases. Your participation in the Assistants Fund makes a significant difference and promotes rooted relationships between assistants and core members.

FY 2023-24 = \$45,096



Annual Holiday Extravaganza

Christmas Shopping at Rainbow Workshop **November 23, 2024**

36th **Annual Living Nativity** December 13, 2024

35th Annual Golf Classic

Queens Harbour Mon. March 3, 2025

40th Anniversary of L'Arche Jacksonville May 10, 2025



FOLLOW US







LarcheJacksonville.org



ADMINISTRATION/LEADERSHIP

Amy Finn-Schultz, Community Leader/Executive Director
Karla Smith, Business Manager/Administrator
Patty Baker, Community Care Director/Administrator
Verquishala Lott, Community Life Director
Nora Santamaria, Rainbow Day Program Director
Claire McGrath, Projects Manager
Lois Morris RN, Community Nurse

Development Team:

Lorie Strange, Director Shae Williams, Coordin

Shae Williams, Coordinator/Event Specialist
Mallory Koch, Community Engagement/Media Coordinator
Nancy Smith, Consultant/Graphic Designer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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