

2022

HOME

HOSPITALITY

JUSTICE

PASSION

FRIENDSHIP

BELONGING

COMMUNITY

ANNUAL REPORT



L'ARCHE[®]
NORTH CAROLINA

SAILING HOME

L'Arche North Carolina is rolling out our start-up fundraising campaign, as we set our sights on opening our first home in 2023.

Dear Friends,

We are grateful for your participation and partnership in our journey to establish the first L'Arche community in North Carolina. We have an exciting announcement.

After exploring long-term lease options and potential rental properties, our Board of Directors has made a formal commitment to purchase the first North Carolina L'Arche home by March 2023!

Wow! We are super excited. This will be so much more than a housing program for people with developmental disabilities. It will be a welcoming home for people with and without disabilities, a
Continued on **page 4**



Laura shares a meal
with members of
L'Arche Atlanta's new-
est home.



Continued from page 2

place of belonging where meals are shared, quality care abounds, friendships are formed, and the gifts and contributions of each person are celebrated! We have not yet found the house but we are actively searching. Please hold this search in your heart and prayers.

This opening of this home is an important step in our journey to create a robust L'Arche community in the Triangle Area. The need for affordable and accessible housing in Raleigh and Durham is at a crisis level. We receive calls weekly from parents and family members wondering where their family member may live when they can no longer care for them. Each person who calls us has a spoken or unspoken dream. "Who will love, care, and cherish my adult child, brother, sister or other family member?"

Is this not the dream of each of us? To have a safe place to live with family and friends who know and care for me in good times as well as hard. To experience meaningful participation in the community through work or singing in the choir, enjoying a night out, or going to the game with a buddy. To know the joy of leisure time, traveling, and long meals where we eat, laugh and talk about the day.

In this dream of living fully and aging gracefully I am known by others. Yes, there are ups and downs, but I am never isolated because I belong, and I help others to belong. In this dream there is a rhythm and harmony in my life with those around me.

Now, perhaps more than ever before, we need your financial partnership. We have created a comprehensive budget for the next three years. Right now, in order to purchase and renovate our first home we need \$750,000 by this coming summer. The great news is that we have already raised over \$450,000 through the generous support of friends and our growing L'Arche community. That leaves a short term goal of \$300,000. This is a big number but we are trusting that if everyone gives generously, we will be gifted with the financial resources to make the dream real.

Thank you to everyone who has jumped on board our L'Arche boat. We celebrate how far we've sailed to date, and are committed to all that lies ahead. We promise to keep you up to date!

Will you help us reach our goal of \$300,000? Please make a stretch financial gift during this season of gift giving. Together we can fund a dream that none of us could do by ourselves.



In Community,

Laura Steed Lorino

Executive Director and Community Leader
L'Arche North Carolina

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



Campaign Goal: 1.5 Million by June 2025



By the Numbers

762

Number of total participants who attended L'Arche NC Events so far this year.

53

Total L'Arche NC Events This Year

100%

Percentage of L'Arche NC events which are accessible to all

76

Attendees at our Sailabration Breakfast Fundraiser

56.25

Number of hours spent at Community Gatherings in 2022 (so far)

145

Number of participants joining the "Disability &" advocacy series events live, plus 232 views on YouTube.

11

Number of L'Arche NC Board Members

473

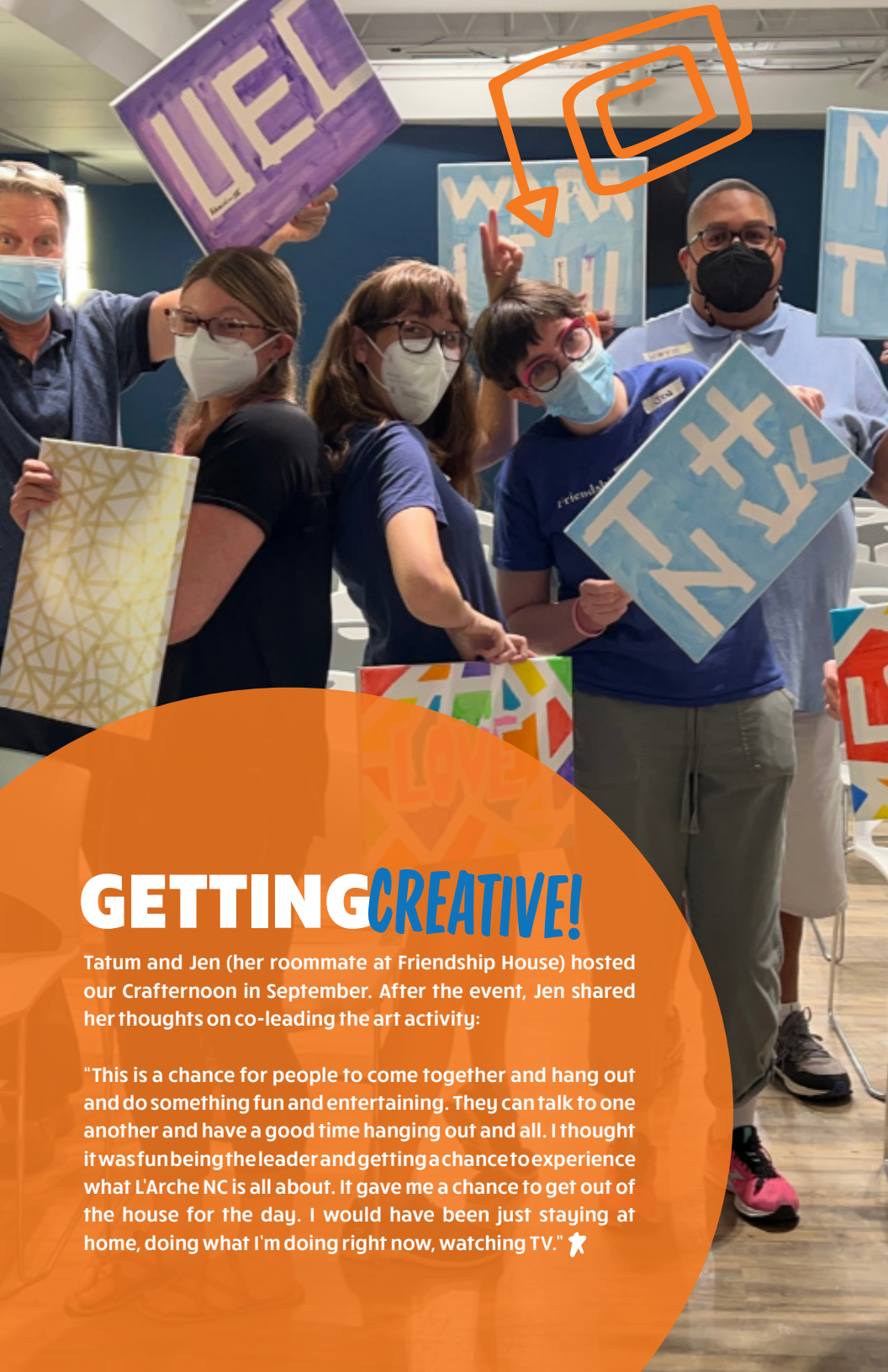
Johnson Service Corps & Duke Divinity School Intern Service Hours



WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR?

One of our friends, Jeff Piegari, has a lot of big ideas. In early January 2022 he called Laura and said, "We need to celebrate Mr. Roger's Birthday!" Laura asked, "Well, what would that look like?" Jeff replied quickly, "We need to make puppets, have cake, and sing songs from Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood."

Community United Church of Christ in Raleigh partnered with L'Arche NC for the event, and former board members, Terry Whiteley and Laura Tonkin sewed hand puppets for everyone to decorate. At the event, Jeff read quotes from Mr. Rogers and we were all inspired by the kindness he showed the world. One of the quotes Jeff read, "As human beings, our job in life is to help people realize how rare and valuable each one of us really is, that each of us has something that no one else has - or ever will have - something inside that is unique to all time. It's our job to encourage each other to discover that uniqueness and to provide ways of developing its expression." Kyla Ponciano taught everyone improv skits and the event concluded with an awesome puppet show. ✨



GETTING CREATIVE!

Tatum and Jen (her roommate at Friendship House) hosted our Crafternoon in September. After the event, Jen shared her thoughts on co-leading the art activity:

"This is a chance for people to come together and hang out and do something fun and entertaining. They can talk to one another and have a good time hanging out and all. I thought it was fun being the leader and getting a chance to experience what L'Arche NC is all about. It gave me a chance to get out of the house for the day. I would have been just staying at home, doing what I'm doing right now, watching TV." ✨

Called to Justice



TATUM TRICARICO, DISABILITY, JUSTICE AND THEOLOGY INTERN

I have been grateful for my internship at L'Arche North Carolina. Getting to work in this space with people who are passionate about the same things that I am has been a blessing in my life.

At the start of the semester, I told one of my friends that Laura, our Executive Director, had reached out to me and asked me to be the Disability Justice and Theology intern. My friend reminded me how so often I have made my life about getting to know others and helping them to feel seen, known, and loved, but in this circumstance, I felt that Laura and the L'Arche NC community saw me, knew me, and loved me before I even started working there, and I was so grateful to enter into this space with that incredible amount of support.

It has been a joy to get to do this work. I have spent much of my time this semester coordinating our virtual event called "Disability and Employment". This was a panel that we held in order to bring solidarity amongst Disabled people seeking employment or who are already employed. It also helped educate non-Disabled people on the ways that the employment system has impacted those of us with Disabilities. It was a joy to get to meet with the panelists to discuss

their thoughts on these topics, share with other organizations about the event so they could participate and learn, and watch the wonderful outcome on the night of. I am deeply proud of the ways we were able to share important experiences and information.

Along with that, I have loved the ways that we have partnered with local organizations and churches to offer community at a variety of events. This inclusive community has been such a significant part of my semester, and I am grateful for the ways that it has allowed me to learn more about myself, connect with people who I would not otherwise have known, and develop friendships while doing fun activities. I have been able to teach and learn, be cared for and care for others, celebrate, mourn, and share life with people in so many new ways this semester through L'Arche NC. I am deeply grateful for the space and opportunity. I am excited for another wonderful semester in the Spring and wait in hopeful anticipation for the house that L'Arche NC will purchase soon. In the meantime, I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season and find unique ways of engaging in community like L'Arche NC calls all of us to do. ★

PASSION AND GIFTS

BY TAMMY BREEDING, BOARD CHAIR, L'ARCHE FORT COLLINS

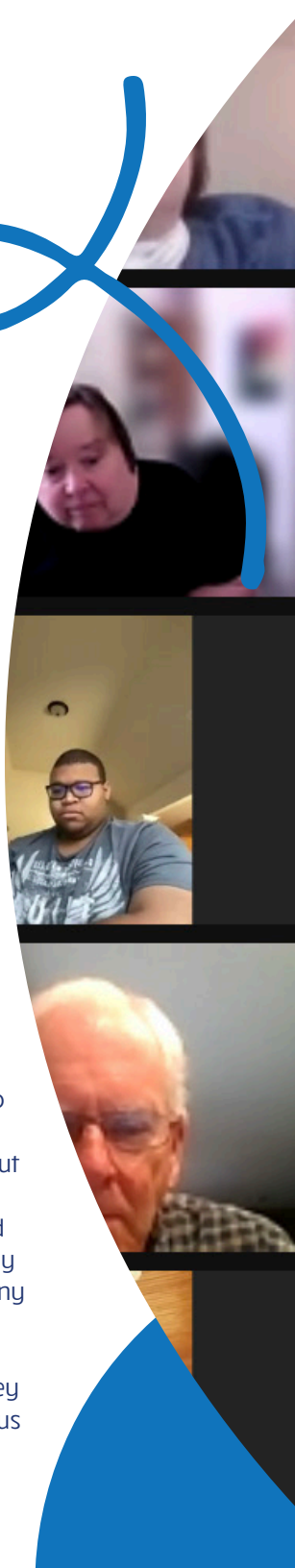
Recently I attended an event entitled "Y'all Belong Here." It is an inclusive sacred space event collaboration by L'Arche Atlanta and L'Arche North Carolina.

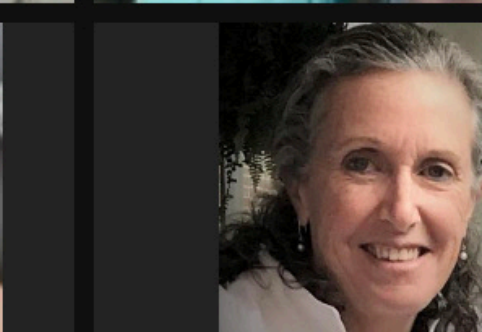
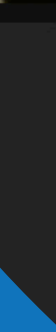
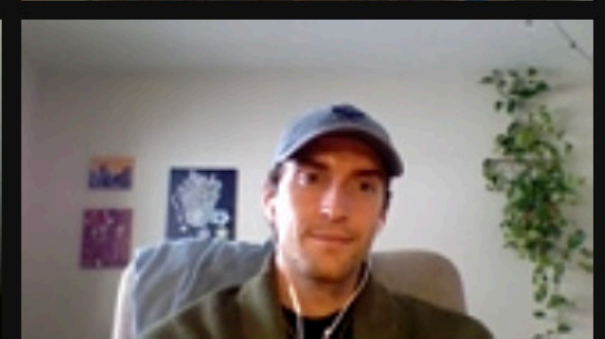
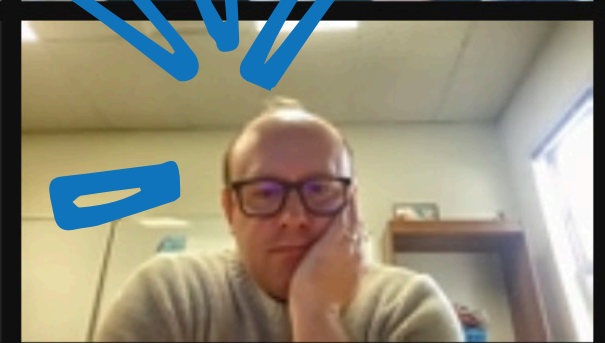
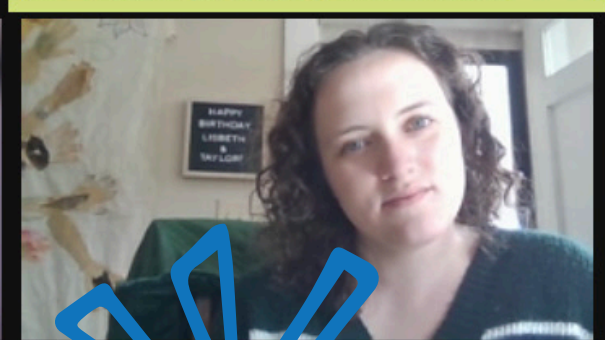
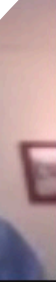
I love to attend, to make time in the midst of a busy day for a "soul break", to focus on gratitude. The theme was Passion & Gifts.


We were invited to ask ourselves questions, such as "What do you Love?", "What are you good at?", and "How can you use your gifts to benefit the world around you?". For me, I love children, nature, music, and faith. I am good at collaboration, singing, organization, and communication. I can use my gifts to benefit the world around me through my involvement in L'Arche.

I find that the more I receive from L'Arche, the more I want to give back to L'Arche. I have a son with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and one of the things I love about him is his childlike approach to life. When I look at the world through his eyes, I get in touch with my own inner child, and experience joy and wonder. My son reminds me of the many expressions of joy that I witness in Core Members in the many L'Arche communities around the world.

When we discover our passions, we experience the gifts they bring to us. We can use our gifts to make the world around us a better place, and we are blessed by the exchange. ✨







"My son and I had a great time at the Durham Bulls baseball game with L'Arche NC! Although Jax is in high school and younger than all of the participants, everyone was so welcoming and happy for us to be there. We definitely made some new friends! It was incredible to see everyone interacting, including the parents, creating a definite feeling of belonging and community. Outings like this provide a safe and inclusive opportunity for our L'Arche NC friends to be included in our greater community."

Shana Carignan, L'Arche NC Board Member

From the Board Chair: A Place for **BELONGING**

Hello from L'Arche!

I bring you warmest greetings from L'Arche North Carolina! As the Chairperson of the L'Arche NC Board of Directors, I've had a front row seat to the amazing work that's been done in 2022.

I'm proud of the way we've grown this year. We have made amazing new relationships with Core Members, congregations, and individuals. We have enhanced our financial stability through exciting fundraising plans, and we've begun to spread the word about L'Arche across the Triangle and beyond.

I'm grateful for our Executive Director, and the way Laura is leading us in these uncertain times. Laura has crafted a beautiful vision, and helped us keep our focus on our values: values you can see on the front of this report. I'm also grateful to the board, for working hard to provide effective oversight, resourcing, and strategy for our work.

What's most exciting though, is our work towards creating a home where core members and assistants can share life together. As you've already read, we're calling our startup campaign "Sailing Home". I hope it reminds you of the ways we all seek to find something called home: a place where we belong, a place where warmth, caring, compassion, and challenge meet.

2023 promises to be a wonderful year. I hope that you'll join us as we set sail for home, creating a place where people with and without disabilities can belong together.



With Gratitude,

Rev. Stuart Harrell

Chairperson, Board of Directors
L'Arche North Carolina

2022 Programs

This year, we've had 762 participants online and in-person, at 49 events. Beginning in August, through a partnership with Edenton Street United Methodist Church, we began hosting many of our programs in downtown Raleigh.

Your support has enabled us to have high-quality, community-building events all year long, with more to come in 2023. All of our events, from fundraising to panel speaker events are accessible.

At **Crafternoon**, friends have joined to share in the creation of something beautiful (photo opposite).

We've cohosted **Y'All Belong Here** with L'Arche Atlanta each month, where we reflect on a spiritual topic (Love, Gratitude, etc.) that's accessible and open to people of all faith groups.

We've hosted **Museum Meetups**, where we've visited a museum together, and discussed what we enjoyed (photo p.6)!

Our **Disability &... Panels** have focused on issues of justice in the disability community. This year, we've hosted panels on Disability &... Pride, Justice, Christian Faith, and Employment. Visit YouTube to watch!

We've practiced our favorite recipes at **Cooking With Community** on Zoom and inperson.

If you have joined us for **Funtastic Thursdays**, you might find yourself enjoying bingo, trivia, or perhaps a surprise!

St. Thomas More Catholic Community and Christ the King Lutheran Church in Cary co-hosted **L'Arche Prayer Nights**.

We hosted **Book Club** Discussions on [Demystifying Disability](#) by Emily Ladau, [My Body is Not a Prayer Request](#) by Amy Kenny, and [Marcelo in the Real World](#) by Francisco X. Stork.

We've also hosted many Special Event including a **Movie Night**, **Baseball Night at the Durham Bulls** (p. 20), **Mr. Rogers Birthday Party**, a **Sailabration Pancake Breakfast**, **Accessible Yoga, Trivia, Bingo**, and a **Musical Showcase.** ✨



"I think we all may have heard that diversity is being invited to the party, and inclusion is being asked to dance. My brother is invited to dance at the party."

-Felicia Woodard,
Disability Justice Panel Event speaker



FINDING FRIENDSHIP

Cooking with Community started as a virtual event when it was not safe for groups to gather together. Now, we host this fun culinary gathering in person in each month. We've also gathered to Cook for the Community, making dog treats for a local animal shelter and cookies for a local group in need. Kyla (pictured above on the left) is one of the co-hosts. She helps pick out the recipes and shop for the ingredients. Kyla spoke about volunteering with L'Arche NC and said, "Before L'Arche, I was more of a follower. Now, I am leading events and helping. L'Arche helped me gain more self-confidence." ✨

Support Our Growing Community

Partner with us to help bring the social innovation of L'Arche to the Triangle. Help us grow and create a space of belonging. We invite you to:

- Join community gatherings and volunteer.
- Champion the L'Arche story.
- Invite others to be engaged.
- Invest with a financial commitment.



L'ARCHE NC ANCHORS

L'Arche Anchors is our sustained giving program. To become an Anchor, visit the online giving link below, and make sure to choose a monthly gift! Monthly giving helps us plan, and gives us a regular source of income throughout the year.

ONLINE GIVING

Anyone can give online. It's quick and easy. Visit larchenc.org/give or use the QR code at right, and you'll be taken to our site where you can make a one-time or recurring donation. We appreciate every last gift!



LEADERSHIP GIFTS

If you're interested in making a larger gift, gift of stock, or legacy gift, contact our Executive Director and Community leader, **Laura Steed Lorino** at laurasl@larchenc.org. She'll guide you through the process of leading the way for L'Arche North Carolina.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

L'Arche NC is pleased to partner with community organizations, congregations, and civic groups. There are many ways to partner, whether offering financial support, volunteer support, or helping us get the word out about L'Arche NC. Contact **Laura Steed Lorino** (laurasl@larchenc.org) for more information.

L'ARCHE NC IS COMMUNITY



Why we exist

- To ensure the dignity of people with intellectual disabilities
- To inspire movement from charity to contribution
- To create a just society where diverse people with and without intellectual disabilities belong and thrive

What we do

- Provide homes and programs where people with and without disabilities share life together
- Create circles of care, belonging, and friendship
- Facilitate meaningful day programs and work opportunities that empower

Executive Director & Community Leader

Laura Steed Lorino

Duke Divinity School Intern (September 2022 to April 2022)

Tatum Tricarico

Johnson Service Corps Intern (September 2021 to June 2021)

Macie Bridge

Website

www.larchenc.org

Social Media



[larchenc](#)



[larchenorthcarolina](#)



[larchenorthcarolina](#)

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Mission

L'Arche North Carolina cultivates inclusive communities where people across the spectrum of intellectual and developmental disability identities live and flourish together.

Vision

We envision a just society where diverse people with and without disabilities thrive.



Board members gather at an April retreat.

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Charles Rousseau, Secretary
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