


L'ARCHE® North Carolina



2026 IMPACT REPORT

# BELONGING and Beyond!

LARCHENC.ORG/IMPACT

## LIFE AT THE L'ARCHE NC home

At the L'Arche home in South Durham, Core Members share life with live-in and live-out assistants who support them in accessing healthcare, building meaningful relationships, and fully participating in work, volunteering, and social opportunities. Assistants also help with medication, personal care, meal planning, and navigating daily routines and complex social settings. This looks like everything from learning to tie one's own shoes to doing everyday household chores, celebrating birthdays, and gardening. L'Arche is not just a place to live—it's a place where people are truly known and loved.

## FORWARD IN friendship

L'Arche NC is growing! In order to meet the demand for permanent, supportive housing for adults with I/DD, we purchased two homes in the inclusive North Street neighborhood. Renovations will begin in late 2026, and we plan to have Core Members move in starting in July 2027. This expansion will allow us to provide homes for an additional 6 or more adults with I/DD.

## Accessible Editions

| | |
|---|---|
| EASY READ EDITION | SEE INSERT |
| ONLINE EDITION | LARCHENC.ORG/IMPACT |
| AUDIO EDITION | LARCHENC.ORG/IMPACT |

# L'ARCHE NC Together

L'Arche North Carolina's Together Programs offer free, accessible spaces where people of all abilities and backgrounds connect in community. To see a current schedule and sign up, visit us online at larchenc.org/events.

## ONGOING PROGRAMS




We make crafts like coffee filter flowers, wooden wall hangings, and sun catchers.




We enjoy lively music sessions led by guitarists who take requests and encourage everyone to sing and play.




A virtual event for dialogue and reflection to connect in our sacred interfaith space.

## SPECIAL EVENTS



In June, we hosted Run, Walk, and Roll - an inclusive race at the Miracle League Field.



We co-host accessible events with local congregations, like Soup & Crafts at Duke Memorial UMC.



Led by author Tatum Tricarico, our Stations of the Cross event was a powerful exploration of this prayer and meditation practice through a Disability justice perspective.

JOIN US FOR IN-PERSON PROGRAMMING AT

## THE BULLA Center

Edenton Street United Methodist Church
301 W. Jones Street, Raleigh, NC 27603

**Scan to sign up**

"He has found friends who see and celebrate him. He comes home after events smiling, saying, 'It was fun! I got to talk with my friends!' ... he is happier, more connected, and filled with a sense of belonging."

– MOTHER OF A TOGETHER PROGRAMS PARTICIPANT

JULY 2025 - JUNE 2026

# BY THE numbers

**500+** unique individuals participated in our L'Arche NC events.




**9,855** hours of care were provided by our assistants this year, growing friendships and offering belonging.




**75** people shared hopes and dreams for L'Arche North Carolina at our Visioning Day.



**15** Community Dinners hosted at the L'Arche NC home

**60** Events this year, online, at the Bulla Center, and at the L'Arche Home

Group photo by Lisa Nalven

FAMILIES, NEIGHBORS & FRIENDS

# IN THEIR words

"We are grateful for L'Arche, our son is so happy. L'Arche has really become like a family to him. What I see as his mother is how caring the L'Arche Assistants are. They really go out of their way for the Core Members. They don't show up because it's a job, they show up because they care!

– MOTHER OF A CORE MEMBER






"Core members knew they could get where they needed to go, when they needed to, safely and without hesitation. I have often said that L'Arche North Carolina means freedom.

– TATUM TRICARICO, AUTHOR & FORMER DUKE DIVINITY INTERN

"We love having L'Arche as our neighbors. I wish there were more L'Arche homes around us. Everyone there is just so sweet!"

– L'ARCHE NC NEIGHBOR










SIP, SEE & SUPPORT

# A DREAM BECOMES *home*

In November 2025, we had a bold dream: to purchase the Friendship Houses in Durham's North Street neighborhood. On August 26, 2026, that dream came to life when we closed on the two houses. Four days later, friends, neighbors, donors, and community members gathered for Sip, See & Support to tour the houses and celebrate how far we've come.

Purchasing the houses is only the beginning. Before new Core Members move in, both homes need renovations and accessibility improvements to make them safe, welcoming, and truly ready for the people who will call them home.

**200%** increase in L'Arche NC's residential capacity

| | |
|---|---|
| **NOV 2025** | The dream: buy the Friendship Houses |
| **AUG 26, 2026** | We close on two houses |
| **LATE 2026** | Renovations & accessibility work begin |
| **JULY 2027** | Core Members begin moving in |

**Meals around the table, gardens tended together, birthdays celebrated, friendships formed – two houses becoming homes.**

Photos by Lisa Nalven



THE L'ARCHE DIFFERENCE

# A FULL life

A full life is more than having a safe place to live and receiving daily care. It is having friends who look forward to seeing you, places where you are known, and doing what brings you joy.

When one Core Member's Community Networking Support through another agency ended, our assistants stepped in. Her weekly African dance classes in Durham, line dancing, and favorite community programs continued because these are more than activities. They are friendships, self-expression, and moments that make life meaningful.

This is the L'Arche difference. We build shared lives around what matters to each person, providing the support to stay connected, pursue their interests, and experience the belonging everyone deserves.

## HOW WE'RE DIFFERENT

**Our home is staffed every day from 8 am to 9:30 pm, with live-in assistants on-site and on-call overnight.**

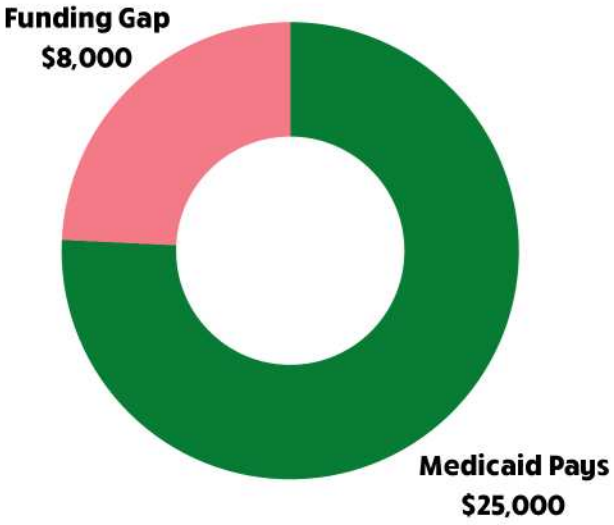
**Trained professionals work with care manager, a nurse, and clinical supports, while neighbors, students, and volunteers help build community.**

**Assistants share meals, support daily routines, join community activities, and build real friendships.**

**Families know their loved one has stable community for life. Core members can age in place, and parents can simply be family.**

# WHAT IT TAKES

Medicaid and core member fees do not cover the true cost of a L'Arche home. Here's the math for one full home of four core members, every month.




WHY IS THERE A GAP? Compared with nearly all other states, North Carolina's Medicaid Program pays less. Medicaid is paid only for days a Core Member is at home, about 351 a year. Staffing doesn't shrink when a room is empty, and we take time to find the right housemate.

WHERE DOES MY GIVING GO? Your gifts support relationship-centered staffing, competitive wages, nursing and clinical support, training, and the upkeep of a safe, welcoming home: insurance, repairs, accessibility.

**THE MEDICAID DIFFERENCE - FUNDING PER PERSON, PER DAY**

$412 A L'Arche Community in a neighboring state

$215 L'Arche North Carolina

Across about 351 days of in-home support, that is a Medicaid difference of $69,147 per person, every year. We raise it ourselves. Last fiscal year, philanthropy covered about 60% of operating expenses.

**NEW THIS YEAR**

## ABOVE & beyond

Belonging grows when people feel heard, understood, and supported. Since March, Meredith, a licensed Clinical Mental Health Professional and Marriage and Family Therapist, has met weekly with Core Members and supported our team in navigating the joys and challenges of shared life. This important new role is made possible by generous donors; this partnership brings emotional well-being and stronger relationships to the heart of daily care. It's one of the many ways L'Arche goes above and beyond a typical group home to create and form community.



A YES MAKES BELONGING POSSIBLE

# BELONGING ambassadors

Sometimes belonging begins with a single visit. Nearly two years ago, Esther joined us for the house blessing of our first L'Arche home. What began as a visit slowly became a relationship. Her sons volunteered to help with yard work (right), and her family joined us for the Run, Walk & Roll.

When Esther learned about the monthly funding gap, she responded. She became L'Arche North Carolina's very first Belonging Ambassador by funding an entire month of that gap—helping ensure this home remains a place where people are known by name, meals are shared, and laughter fills the kitchen.




"In L'Arche, you BELONG because you are created in the image of God, because you have inherent worth, because you are created with a purpose—no matter your abilities, your background, your past, your brokenness—there is a place for you at the table."

– REV. CHRISTI DYE, BELONGING AMBASSADOR, WHO LIVED IN L'ARCHE FOR NINE YEARS

**$8,000**

## SPONSOR A MONTH OF belonging

Your journey doesn't have to begin with a major gift. You, your family, your congregation, or a group of loved ones can come together to close one month's gap.

Become a Belonging Ambassador: info@larchenc.org

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

# WE LOVE TO celebrate!

## SANDY DEMEREE HONORED

The Spirit of Belonging Award honors someone who helps others feel seen, celebrated and included. Our 2026 recipient, North Street neighbor Sandy Demeree, knows that belonging takes tending. With potlucks, bingo and community gardens, she brings neighbors together and shows up for those with no family nearby. She has opened her rental homes to people with I/DD and others who face exclusion, and she championed L'Arche making a home on North Street. Sandy joins past honorees Warrie Evans III (2024) and Rofida Bakheet (2025).



"All of our lives are better because of Sandy."

-FROM HER NOMINATION



## OUR LEADER HONORED BY DUKE CHAPEL

In September 2026, Duke University Chapel honored Laura Steed with its Humanitarian Service Award. Over five years, she helped establish L'Arche NC's first home in Durham and led the purchase of the Friendship Houses.

"Laura's service is not based on charity offered from a distance, but on relationships of mutuality and proximity."

-FROM HER NOMINATION

## L'ARCHE NC RECEIVES $250K HUD GRANT

In May 2026, the Durham City Council awarded L'Arche NC $250,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from HUD. The grant helps us purchase and renovate the Friendship Houses as housing for adults with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities. Each year the City chooses recipients through a competitive process. This award is a vote of confidence in a model where neighbors with and without disabilities share life together, and it moves us closer to welcoming new Core Members home in 2027.



ADVOCACY

# SPEAKING UP, SPEAKING *out*

People with intellectual and developmental disabilities should have a say in the decisions that shape their lives. This year, our community showed up: at a legislative caucus, in an elementary school, and before the Wake County Commissioners.










On April 29, 2026, L'Arche NC hosted a Welcome Event at the Bulla Center (left) in Raleigh, just before the N.C. Council on Developmental Disabilities' I/DD Legislative Caucus. Advocates, self-advocates, families, providers and lawmakers began the day with coffee, connection and a Jam Together sing-along, then headed to the Legislative Building together. The Caucus took up the waiting list for services, the direct-care workforce, and funding for the supports people rely on to live in community.

On July 6, 2026, we were honored to receive the Wake County ADA Proclamation (left) recognizing the 36th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Core Members and assistants joined the recognition and shared our vision: a community where people with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities share life as friends, and every person has gifts to offer.

During their annual Disability & Inclusion Awareness Week, two Core Members spoke to 100 elementary school students at a local school, sharing what home, friendship and belonging mean to them.

That month we also joined advocates, self-advocates and families at the Disability Pride Celebration (left) at Duke Memorial United Methodist Church, honoring the gifts and leadership of people with I/DD.

"The impact of L'Arche goes farther than just our gatherings of friends with and without I/DD but extends to other communities near and far."

-TATUM TRICARICO, FRIEND OF LNC AND FORMER INTERN

L'ARCHE USA - SOUTHEAST REGIONAL GATHERING

# FIVE COMMUNITIES together

**In July 2025, 18 representatives traveled from L'Arche NC to the Southeast Regional Gathering, including four Core Members, four community members from our Together events, and 10 Assistants and Staff.**

The Southeast region brings together L'Arche Atlanta, L'Arche Greater Washington, D.C., L'Arche Frederick (Maryland), L'Arche Jacksonville (Florida) and L'Arche North Carolina. For four days, people with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities from all five communities shared one campus. We learned about belonging and community from one another. We dreamed together, danced together, ate together and sang together.

The gathering was part of a series of L'Arche USA regional gatherings across the country, all held under one nationwide theme: Belonging & Beyond. After years apart, these gatherings brought friends back together, welcomed new faces, and helped each community see itself as part of a much larger family. For a young community like ours, it was a powerful reminder that we are not building belonging alone.








At the regional gatherings, L'Arche USA invited everyone to write a poem about what belonging feels like. More than 200 people with and without disabilities took part. Here is what they wrote about most:

COOKING & SHARING MEALS

FRIENDS AND FAMILY

CELEBRATIONS

LOVE

# DEAR friends,

We are so grateful for everyone who invested their time, energy, and resources into L'Arche NC this past year. Your generosity helps sustain our community of belonging and ensures we can provide a quality standard of care. Our house is staffed by care assistants who share meals, support daily routines, participate in community activities, build friendships, and help make a house a home environment we all want and deserve to have. Overnight, live-in assistants remain on-site and on-call for emergencies. This is only possible because of donations from our supporters. When the L'Arche home in South Durham is fully occupied (with four Core Members), North Carolina Medicaid provides approximately $25,000 per month toward care. However, the monthly cost of staffing this one home is approximately $33,000, leaving a funding gap of over $8,000 every month (almost $100,000 annually) before considering the many other operating costs of the home. Donations from individuals like you are essential to subsidize the remaining expenses. Thank you for making L'Arche NC a dream come true.



In community,

LAURA STEED

Executive Director & Community Leader

## Partner WITH US

Give today to help bridge this funding gap and be part of making home possible.

**larchenc.org/give**

(984) 245-6855
www.larchenc.org
info@larchenc.org
P.O. Box 51521
Durham, NC 27717-1521
EIN #47-4421582

### COMMUNITY PARTNERS

We are grateful and proud to have partnered with these organizations in 2025-26 to help make the Triangle area a more compassionate and just community:

Christ the King Lutheran Church
Community Bridges Foundation
Community United Church of Christ
Duke Memorial United Methodist Church
Duke University Divinity School
Duke University OTD Program
Edenton Street United Methodist Church
Fairmont United Methodist Church
Families and Communities Rising
Forestview Elementary School, Durham
Hope North Carolina
Judea Reform Congregation
Miracle League of the Triangle
NC Council on Developmental Disabilities
Reality Ministries
St. Francis of Assisi Church

### STAFF

Laura Steed, Executive Director
Beverly Christian, Director of Operations Tai Collins, Residential Care Manager
Laura Phillips, Outreach Manager
Allison Hood, Grant Writer
Willette Zigbuo, Residential Assistant Rofida Bakheet, Care Assistant
Ashanti Cedeno, Care Assistant
Allie Lerner, Care Assistant
Isaac Lund, Care Assistant
Elliot Krause, Duke Divinity Intern & Care Assistant
Liz McQuaid, Duke Divinity Intern & Care Assistant

### 2025-2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## OUR mission

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

## OUR vision

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