Working for a better world where everyone belongs
Guided by our Mission

We are struck by the many ways that members of our communities with intellectual disabilities are particularly powerful agents of change in the world. We all have something valuable to learn from those often considered the weakest, or who perform least well against the usual standards of ‘success’ – especially during this time when we are all asking how our world can be sustainable in the long term.

Now, more than ever we are called to be led by our mission:

As people with and without intellectual disabilities, sharing life in communities, mutual relationships and trust in God are at the heart of our journey together. We celebrate the unique value of every person and recognize our need of one another.

The year 2019 was a turning point for L’Arche with the death of Jean Vanier and the launch of an inquiry and the subsequent findings which were published in February 2020. It was also a period of deepening our commitment to our strategic priorities:

- Strengthening leadership and building unity across the federation to make sure that every L’Arche Community is a place of welcome and safety, where each person can live out the core values of L’Arche.
- Supporting and encouraging communities worldwide to develop outreach programs to demonstrate that people with intellectual disabilities have much to contribute to society.
- Building organizational accountability, resilience and capacity
  Providing leadership, strategic direction, financial support and ensuring financial accountability for L’Arche communities worldwide.

This work lays the foundation for a stronger federation: better able to meet all of the four aspects of L’Arche; support provision, community, spirituality and outreach. It enables us to achieve a deeper insight into our mission, in conversation with the different cultures where L’Arche communities are established.

The federation is alive and well. You will see in the photographs in this report that our mission continues to thrive in our communities all around the world.

We are committed as people with and without intellectual disabilities, to work together to create a more human society. Now as before, we embark on that work with faith and enthusiasm.

In this time of deep transition, we are deeply thankful to all of our teams, communities, supporters, alumni, board members and donors for their practical and prayerful commitment.

Although this message refers to our work in 2019, it was written the following year, after the publication in February 2020 of the inquiry into Jean Vanier, commissioned by L’Arche International.
Financial Overview

INCOME €4,512k
- L'Arche Canada: 11%
- L'Arche USA: 9%
- L'Arche UK: 2%
- Foundations and other donations: 15%
- L'Arche France: 39%
- L'Arche International Foundation: 6%
- Other L'Arche countries: 4%
- Membership fees: 12%
- Invoices: 2%

EXPENDITURE €4,325k
- Solidarity: 25%
  - International Delegates and Envoys, International Mission Program, HR support, fundraising coaching
- Support: 12%
  - Secretariat, finance team, translation, IT etc
- Unity: 30%
  - Leadership, spiritual life, formation programs, and International meetings
- Financial Aid: 33%
  - To L'Arche Communities

SURPLUS €187k
RESERVES €1,322k

Building communities of belonging now and into the future

- Over 10,000 members with and without disabilities in 38 countries worldwide
- 175 Communities & Projects
- Supported over 800 members with intellectual disabilities, living in 18 countries where there is little or no public funding, through direct financial aid
- Invested in the leadership and development of 225 people, representing 23 different countries, through training and formation in the L'Arche model