

Annual Summary 2018

Working for  
a better world  
where everyone  
belongs



Jean-Robert and Ismaël  
from L'Arche Haiti



Photograph: Elodie Perriot

# Building a federation for the future

## A letter from our International Leaders

In our roles as leaders of L'Arche International we have the privilege of seeing and hearing inspirational examples of how members of the Federation live out our mission on a daily basis. We see and hear wonderful stories of how – by encountering each other's differences – we are transformed and grow in our humanity.

L'Arche embraces the vast and rich diversity of the world. We come from many different countries. We hold many different beliefs. We speak many different languages. We have many different gifts. But together we form one *L'Arche*, making one worldwide community.

However, it is not enough that we share a beautiful ideal. In order to honour the people with intellectual disabilities we support, and those who choose to commit all or part of their lives to build a world where everyone belongs, we must underpin what we live and the services we provide with a professional framework supported by appropriate levels of revenue and capital funding.

In 2018 we were able to take a significant step forward. A major funding partner gave us an exceptional grant to support the launch of a three-year, federation-wide, capacity building

strategy that aims to significantly elevate our leadership, management, safeguarding, fundraising and communication. We are committed to implementing this ambitious project through processes that are aligned with L'Arche's core values.

The pages that follow are a brief report on the key strategic directions we took over the course of 2018. We hope they will give you some sense, if only in a small way, of the impact of the global Federation on individual lives, and the radical, world changing ideas that underpin it. We look back with gratitude on 2018, and the thousands of lives that were changed. We thank you, our donors, for choosing to partner with us to help make it possible.



Stephan Posner  
*International Leader*



Stacy Cates-Carney  
*Vice-International Leader*

Members of the  
L'Arche Paris  
Community



Photograph: Christoven De Almeida

# Strengthening unity and leadership

**L'Arche International strengthens leadership and builds unity to make sure that every L'Arche Community is a place of safety, where each person can live out L'Arche's core values.**

## Key Actions in 2018

### Clarifying the values that unite us

L'Arche International developed a 3-year, inclusive process to enable a federation-wide review of our Charter, to begin in 2019 and continue through 2021.

### Raising standards of safety and well-being

In autumn 2018 we launched a robust safeguarding initiative, to be rolled out over a number of years, to ensure all L'Arche Communities meet a professional standard of safety and care aligned with internationally recognized standards.

### Investing in the leaders of tomorrow

In 2018 the formation team reached over 200 people, including new community leaders, long-term assistants, house leaders, and workshop leaders.

### Sharing expertise and best practice

Within the Federation we have a rich pool of human resources, and we've developed various programs through which our generous members can share of their skills, experiences and knowledge. One example is the International Mission Program.

The International Mission Program recruited and resourced seven experienced L'Arche assistants and leaders to work alongside Communities in challenging contexts in the Philippines, Haiti, Mexico, India and Ivory Coast, modelling and sharing best practice, impacting c300 people with intellectual disabilities.

## Example from the International Mission Programme

Noelia Grifell from L'Arche in Spain spent a year with the Asansol Community. In her feedback to the program she said: "It is changing my preconceived ideas of my own culture. What I really appreciate here is the simplicity, humility and joy of daily life. We really do live in the present moment and need to learn to love that. Prayer is truly woven into daily life here, and I am learning a lot about sharing life with people of different religions and respecting each of them, whether Christian, Hindu or Muslim."



***Living with an experienced L'Arche member coming from another community was very helpful and meaningful for me.***

*Sindhu Devi, Community Leader from Asansol, India*



Photograph: GMB Akash

## L'Arche Kolkata Outreach Program

**Asha Niketan (L'Arche) Kolkata** offer an outreach support to 25 of the poorest families with intellectually disabled children, living near the Community. They provide practical support, therapeutic care, vital medications, emotional and social support.



Chottu and his grandfather Gouri, and Somnath and his mother Pam Pa, are supported by L'Arche Kolkata's Outreach Program.



**“** Now there is a little bit of hope that there are others like us and I know I am not alone.  
*Pam Pa*

# Supporting outreach

**L'Arche International has a key role to play in creating opportunities to reveal the gifts of people with intellectual disabilities.**

## Key Actions in 2018

### Outreach

L'Arche International supported and encouraged Communities worldwide to develop outreach programs to challenge the often-held perceptions that people with intellectual disabilities have nothing to contribute to society. Examples include:

- **L'Arche Ivory Coast** reached an average of 80 people a year with a psychomotor rehabilitation service.
- **L'Arche Haiti** ran a "Centre for Awakening and Rehabilitation" (Centre d'Eveil et de Réhabilitation), serving 30 children and young adults from the surrounding, disadvantaged, neighbourhoods. Program activities helped the children become more autonomous by teaching daily life skills alongside basic education.
- **L'Arche Hondruas**, Choluteca supported 14 families in the wider community that have a member with an intellectual disability.

- **L'Arche Lithuania** organized an annual event with the Kaunas Archdiocese Youth Center to showcase the gifts of people with intellectual disabilities, introduce the L'Arche Community, and promote volunteering opportunities to 150 people.

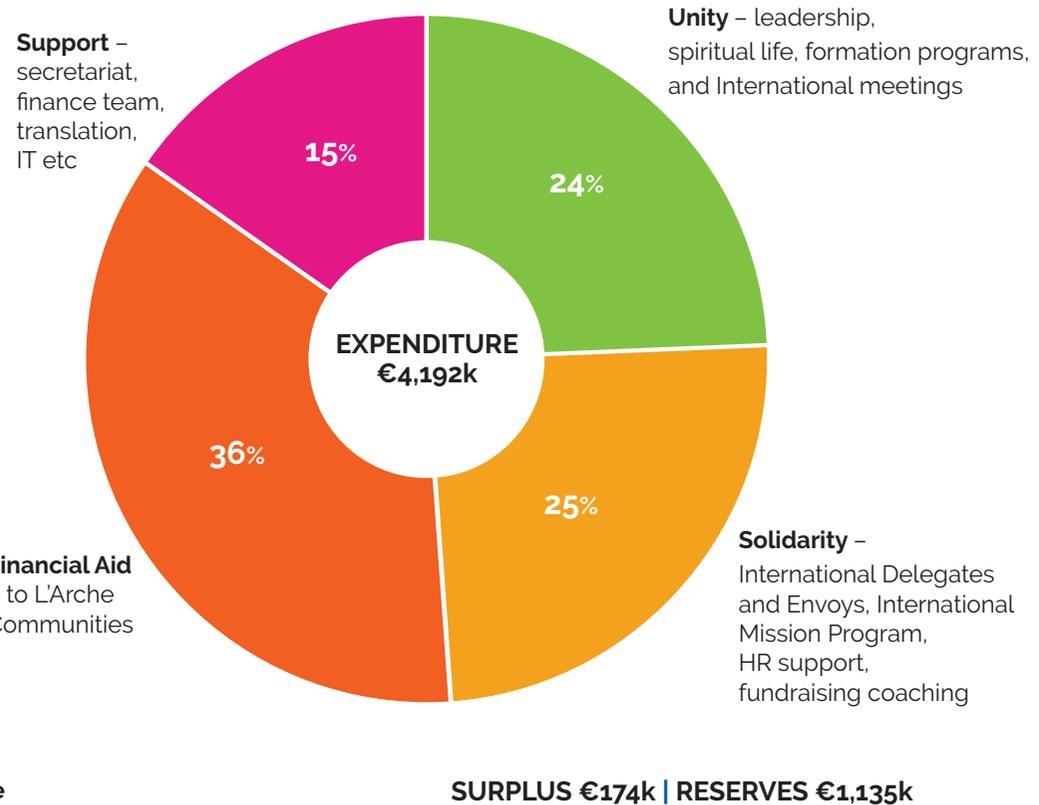
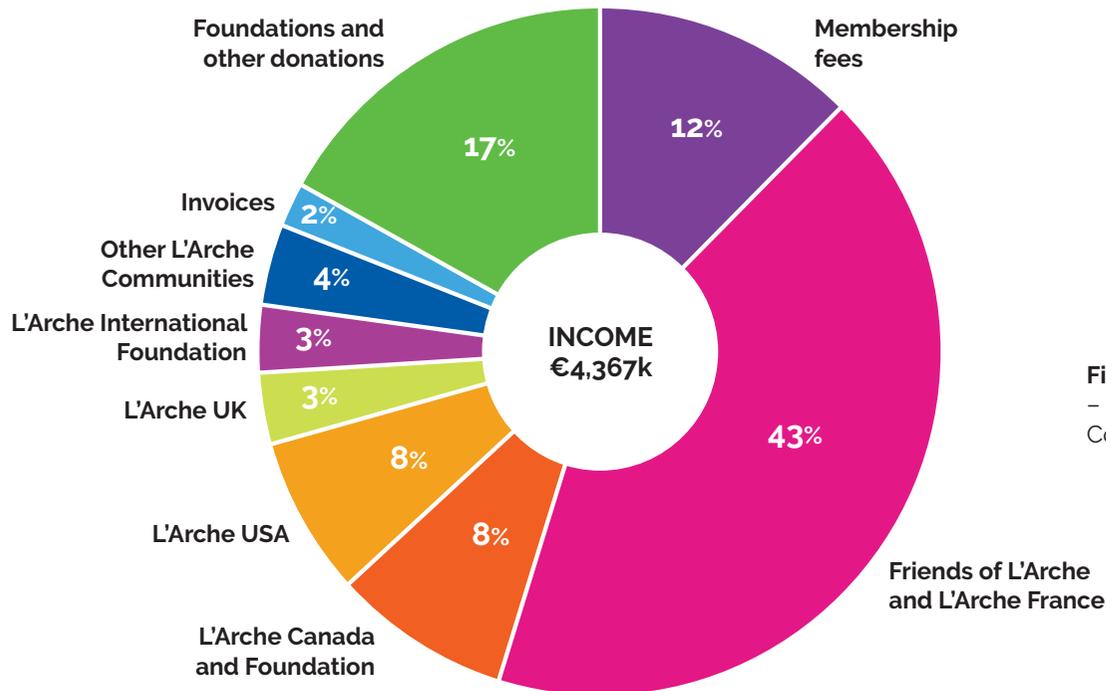
- **L'Arche Egypt** worked with five local NGOs, training the local village coordinators, and helping them directly reach 100 children and their mothers with a medical convoy and awareness building activities. Over five hundred village members have been impacted by this work.

- **L'Arche Zimbabwe** welcomed local University students (occupational therapists, physiotherapists, and social workers), who regularly participated in community life as part of their practical training and skill development. They reached 36 families through their Outreach program. The goal is to increase this reach and to connect these families to a new physiotherapy centre, belonging to and run by L'Arche Zimbabwe, that will open in 2019.

### Learning with partner organizations

L'Arche hosted a formation workshop "Sharing life with people with learning disabilities in East Asia," for 40 people and 14 different organizations, from Japan, Philippines, Korea, China, and Taiwan.

# Financial overview



## Examples of how we spend your donations

**L'Arche Ivory Coast** purchased two houses – one to receive people with intellectual disabilities who had been living as refugees in another city for over fifteen years, and one to welcome new people in desperate need of a home. The first house will open in 2019.

**L'Arche Honduras** had to vacate La Casa San José in September 2018, after heavy rains damaged the roof beyond livability. Funds were raised in 2018, and the house is expected to be completely re-built by the end of 2019.

**Burkina Faso** worked with an external consultant to develop a 3-year stabilization plan. The work is being supported and overseen by L'Arche International Envoy Alain Ouedraogo, current Director of L'Arche Montreal and originally from Burkina Faso himself.

# Building organizational accountability, resilience and capacity

L'Arche International provides leadership, strategic direction, financial support, and financial accountability to L'Arche Communities outside France, Canada, the USA and the UK.

## Key Actions in 2018

### Providing Financial Support

21 Communities in 14 countries, where the place of people with intellectual disabilities in society means there is little public funding, were offered financial support.

### Ensuring Financial Accountability

In addition to this financial support L'Arche International provided a layer of financial oversight to ensure sound financial planning and accountability. Where possible, we also supported Communities to develop strategic plans for greater levels of financial independence.

### Building Philanthropic Capacity

L'Arche International assisted Communities across the Federation to build philanthropic partnerships. This assistance was offered in the form of in-person workshops, webinars, and coaching of local fundraisers. One example of the impact of this work is from **L'Arche Croatia** where, during two and a half years of fundraising coaching, they increased local annual donations by over 1000%.

An evaluation conducted in 2018 of the Communities operating outside a national L'Arche structure, will bring a more strategic approach to strengthening and empowering our Communities and will underpin a review of L'Arche International's financial aid system.

## Impact stats

- **740** individuals with intellectual disabilities, in 17 countries, supported through L'Arche International's financial aid system
- **200** L'Arche leaders from around the world equipped through formation workshops
- **23** stand-alone Communities supported by an experienced L'Arche member (called an Envoy)
- **11** countries saw fundraisers strengthened through direct coaching
- **2.9 million** views for #AsIAm increased the online visibility of L'Arche by 73%
- **c10,000** members *with* and *without* disabilities worldwide

**#AsIAm** – rejoice in who you are, as you are



2018 saw the release of the final three films in the **#AsIAm** series of 12 x 3-minute shorts.

The last, "The Unremarkable Encounter" starring Santos and Pipe (pictured), was shot in the style of a telenovela.



People with intellectual disabilities continue to be perceived as undesirables. This is one of our world's significant injustices. It is one we can change. L'Arche International's #AsIAm series invites us to "imagine the world differently" through a glimpse into the life of a person with an intellectual disability.



Top: Koffi filming with Amber, L'Arche Ivory Coast  
Above: Sachiko, L'Arche Japan

## Looking ahead

**We will continue to build momentum in our capacity building initiative with a focus on:**

**Safeguarding** – continue to put in place every possible measure to ensure that all members of L'Arche are safe from abuse and experience a high quality of care and community.

**Monitoring and Evaluation** – implement stronger feedback loops, and a knowledge management process, to provide more strategic, effective and timely support to Communities across the Federation.

**Financial Support** – improve our current process to make sure there is a positive and productive flow of resources from donors to receiving communities and back again.

**Resources** – strengthen and increase resources offered by International to the Federation, such as formation programs, fundraising strategy and coaching, and direct support of local community leaders and boards.

154 Communities

21 Projects

38 countries



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More than 10 Communities

3 to 10 Communities & Projects

1 or 2 Communities

New Projects

CANADA

UNITED STATES

MEXICO

HONDURAS

HAITI

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

ARGENTINA

BRAZIL

THE NETHERLANDS

SWITZERLAND

BELGIUM

UNITED KINGDOM

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

FRANCE

SPAIN

GERMANY

POLAND

LITHUANIA

AUSTRIA

UKRAINE

CROATIA

ITALY

SYRIA

PALESTINE

BURKINA FASO

EGYPT

IVORY COAST

UGANDA

KENYA

ZIMBABWE

CZECH REPUBLIC

SLOVENIA

INDIA

BANGLADESH

PHILIPPINES

AUSTRALIA

NEW ZEALAND

JAPAN