

L'ARCHE IRELAND

Annual Report 2019



CEO AND CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT 2019

LIFE CHANGES and yet many things remain the same. This is true this year more than any other. As we write we are living through the Covid pandemic, the lockdown is gradually easing. It has been and continues to be a challenging time, especially now as we start to re-open and cope with the new normal. We want to express a huge thank you to all in the communities and the Board for all their work in 2019 and now in this pandemic.

We thank the core members for guiding us, in their own unique ways, in the importance of the here and now and yet also reminding us of the importance of planning for the future.

The results of the L'Arche international inquiry into Jean Vanier brought great sadness, disappointment to us and sorrow for the women involved. We want to thank everyone for all their support over this difficult time. L'Arche is committed to making sure that its 154 communities across the world are places of safety and growth for all its members, with and without disabilities. It is important for us to learn from this and to celebrate the combined efforts of ordinary people, with and without a disability who together make something unique.

L'Arche Dublin celebrated its 25th anniversary in June 2019. We thank everyone who has helped grow and nurture the community over the years. In particular, we want to thank its founder Ann O'Sullivan, committee members, and the present team led by Peter Shiels.

In 2019 Dublin developed their mandate/strategic plan, which they are already actively working on, for example, they renovated the smallest house, Baidin. They are planning to welcome two new core members in 2020.

L'Arche Belfast had a busy January 2019 with the opening of their fourth house, the Lantern, and moving office. Their day projects continue to be vibrant, with for example, Grow Cook Cater, Root Soup, and In Other Words. They work closely with Church and community groups,

mainly through their day projects which are based in a variety of church halls, and allotments. This really brings life and mutual benefit to all, both in L'Arche and in the other groups.

L'Arche Cork have been busy adapting both Le Cheile, the day centre, and An Croi to suit the changing needs of the core members.

L'Arche Kilkenny also face the challenge of the changing needs of core members as they age and are adapting the day activities to suit. The Café continues to do well and is a place of good food and welcome for all its customers.

It is hard to believe that we have completed the re-registration stage for HIQA, the 3 years have gone by quickly. We have learnt a lot in the process of registration and maintaining the Standards. Thankfully, with hard work and dedication, we have achieved a high level of compliance and HIQA have complimented the communities on the support they provide to all the core members.

In addition to the day to day work in the communities, we have been very actively working to continue to develop our governance, to be in line with the different regulatory requirements of the HSE SLA, the Housing Agency and the Charities Governance Code.

Life continues to be full in the communities, even with all the changes Covid has brought. We are working hard to figure out the new "normal". We give thanks for all the work and commitment in the communities. A huge thank you to all those who supported us in so many ways throughout the year.

**Mairead Boland
Brabazon,
CEO/Leader,
L'Arche Ireland**



**Grahame
Coppstone,
Chair, L'Arche**





L'ARCHE TO MAKE KNOWN
– **OUR** the gifts of people with
MISSION intellectual disabilities
revealed through mutually
transforming relationships.

TO ENGAGE in our diverse cultures,
working together to build a more human
society.

TO FOSTER an environment in
communities that is inspired by the core
values of our founding story, and that
responds to the changing needs of our
members.

OUR WE ARE PEOPLE with
L'ARCHE and without intellectual
IDENTITY disabilities, sharing life in
communities belonging to
an international
federation.

*Mutual relationships and trust in God are
at the heart of our journey together. We
celebrate the unique value of every person
and recognise our need of one another.*



A BUSY YEAR

L'Arche Kilkenny

2019 WAS A BUSY YEAR for the Kilkenny community. All of our residential houses have recently undergone successful re-registration with HIQA. Developments in the community included a new log cabin giving additional space, the installation of a polytunnel, the start of our "Bee Garden" and refurbishment work at the L'Arche Café.

The community were deeply saddened by the passing of our Local Committee Chairperson Brendan Fennelly in July. One of the many trips made by the community included a Dublin outing in March to meet and listen to Stacey Cates Carney, one of our International Leaders. Amongst other

trips were an overnight stay at the ecovillage in Cloughjordan and a day trip to Wells House in Wexford.

Great work took place in the year on our fundraising with new music equipment for the community purchased following a concert by the group Reel to Reel. There were many other events including bag packing, flag days, church gate collections, "Come Dine with Me", an American Tea Party concluding with The Qube event in association with James Stephens GAA Club. All of these events raised much needed funds for the community.



25 YEARS OLD L'Arche Dublin

2019 CONTINUED TO BE a great year for L'Arche Dublin – it was the year that we celebrated the community being 25 years old with a party at the Riasc

Centre in Dublin. The Belfast, Kilkenny and Cork communities along with many other friends and extended family joined us. A great time was had by all. We also had our successful reregistration of Seolta and Leoithne. This time we also managed to add Baidin as a centre which also has increased our possible capacity in the community.

Each year we go on many outings and this year was no exception, we even took a trip out to Renate's community. They fed us and we met their chickens – but we did not eat the chickens!

After some presentations in several local secondary schools some of the Transition Year students helped us move and store some of our (very heavy) archived documentation.

This year, Oisín went on his holidays to Spain, Karen to Italy, Aidan to Liverpool and Stephen took a plane trip to London. There he spent a few days with his family and shopped till he dropped!

In December we did our now annual L'Arche Dublin Schoolhouse Christmas Trip and Santa took some time out of his busy schedule to drop in with some presents and festive cheer. The local Christmas Choir 'Forget Me Nots' kindly came to the community and hosted a lovely Christmas Sing Song. Of course, we also got



involved in the Christmas Shoe Box Appeal. Colin, Patrick, Zoe, Paul and Peter all went to another 'Blades' Christmas reunion gig in Dublin City.

It was a busy but great year for L'Arche Dublin.



AT A GLANCE

L'Arche Cork

HELLO FROM EVERYONE IN CORK. It will be hard to include all that we want to for the Annual Report but here it is as at glance.

HIQA: Well done to everyone for the successful HIQA re-registration of An Cuan and Dochas in May 2019. HIQA also came to An Teaghlach and An Croi later in the year for a thematic inspection, again a great outcome.

The Butterfly Circus: The preparation for this lovely production began in early 2019 with Monica, an assistant from An Cuan (who left us to go to L'Arche Argentina). The play tells a lovely story close to the heart of L'Arche – that everybody is beautiful, more beautiful than we can dare to imagine! The production was first shown to the community and for the second showing we invited the school next door to come and see the wonderful message in the play. The highlight was the children and adults alike mesmerised by the great acting and the wonderful message of the play.

Angela's exhibition in Bandon: Angela Burchell has many reasons to be very proud of herself this year, but none more so than her art exhibition in her home town of Bandon. Exhibiting in her own home town was a big dream for Angela, and now she has achieved it. She was much celebrated in Bandon during the exhibition.

The Big Birthdays: Happy 50th Pauline Kelly!
Happy 60th Nuala.

Goodbye and Congratulations: Tim Kearney left us to take up the role of Community Leader in Trosly. Tim founded L'Arche Cork 35 years ago

and throughout his years of involvement in L'Arche has been a loyal and dedicated servant to us in Cork. We wish Tim all the best on his new venture. We hope we will celebrate the 35th anniversary of L'Arche Cork with him in 2020.

Maria Kearney also left the L'Arche Cork community in November 2019 to

take up an exciting new challenge of joining the Charter Team as Assistant Leader. Maria will be hugely missed by all in the community, but we are glad that she is a part of a process which is so important to the future of L'Arche.

Holiday Fun: Retreat in Trosly, Holiday in L'Arche Poland community with Marcin, Summer Holidays and Failte Morning in Le Cheile.

The Life and Soul Documentary – L'Arche Cork on the Tele!



ABILITY INCLUSION DIFFERENCES

SINCE APRIL 2019 WE HAVE FOCUSED more on grants and available supports. We explored the benefits of being an Approved Housing Body, along with examining other possible funding opportunities that would build capacity and extend our outreach.

Steady progress is being made on several fronts. We have accessed, for the first time, European funding under the European Solidarity Corps programme for 4 volunteers to assist with the Day Services in L'Arche Cork and Kilkenny. Thanks to the staff at Léargas for their invaluable support. This programme represents similar values to L'Arche, namely, solidarity, inclusion, ethnicity, democracy, sustainability, health, and well-being for all citizens. Volunteers play a huge role in L'Arche and their commitment, energy, enthusiasm and dedication are admirable.

An additional development has been the introduction of core members rent supplement; this process is on-going. This funding will be ring fenced for house maintenance and repairs and will contribute to the upkeep on our properties, to ensure adherence to regulations. The support of the local Social Protection Departments, Local Authorities, and the Irish Council for Social Housing is immeasurable Kilkenny County Council, under the Community Enhancement Programme,

kindly funded the development of a Bee Garden in our founding community, Moorefield House, Co.

Kilkenny. L'Arche Dublin accessed funding under the Saturday Hospital Fund. Two Communities have been accepted as beneficiaries of food under the Food Cloud programme. It was great to partner with Business in the Community Ireland for their Impact Day; a team of volunteers from Deloitte painted one of L'Arche Dublin's houses.

We continue to explore opportunities particularly through our horticulture social enterprises to work towards creating a circular economy, by providing produce from field to fork for not only our houses, but hopefully our Café into the future. Links are being built with the Leader Partnerships, Local Authorities, and similar providers to ourselves so that we can share and build on our expertise for the benefit of all.

We continue to build on our outreach initiatives with local groups, schools and colleges active within each community.

Finally, I would like to say a special thanks to our donors and supporters who have been incredibly supportive to L'Arche particularly during the Jean Vanier enquiry. We are reassured of the ongoing support for the work of L'Arche.

Mary Ferns, Development Officer



L'Arche Ireland Accounts Summary as at 31.12.2019

| Income | 2019 | | 2018 | |
|--|------------------|-----|------------------|--------|
| | € | % | € | % |
| Government Funding | 3,781,514 | 88% | 3,569,353 | 82.68% |
| Donations & Events | 120,030 | 3% | 343,243 | 7.95% |
| Bank Interest & Investment Income | 88 | 0% | 106 | 0.00% |
| Core Members Personal Income | 233,383 | 5% | 243,052 | 5.63% |
| Café and Workshop Sales | 134,685 | 3% | 135,065 | 3.13% |
| Other Income | 6,898 | 0% | 514 | 0.01% |
| Fundraising | 30,342 | 1% | 25,840 | 0.60% |
| Total Income | 4,306,940 | | 4,317,173 | |
| Expenditure | | | | |
| Pay/Allowances | 2,433,043 | 57% | 2,590,726 | 61.47% |
| Living | 412,454 | 10% | 387,607 | 9.20% |
| Property | 263,422 | 6% | 261,497 | 6.20% |
| Transport | 98,122 | 2% | 116,603 | 2.77% |
| Administration | 168,759 | 4% | 182,433 | 4.33% |
| Employer's NI/PRSI contributions | 249,477 | 6% | 143,614 | 3.41% |
| Staff Defined Contribution Pension Costs | 191,498 | 4% | 94,044 | 2.23% |
| Café/Workshop Expenses | 76,437 | 2% | 26,952 | 0.64% |
| Legal and Professional | - | 0% | 1,389 | 0.03% |
| Training/Formation | 132,968 | 3% | 105,015 | 2.49% |
| Depreciation | 204,442 | 5% | 195,891 | 4.65% |
| Accountancy | 33,771 | 1% | 40,988 | 0.97% |
| Bank Charges | 1,872 | 0% | 1,871 | 0.04% |
| Surpluses/deficits on disposal of intangibles | - | 0% | 4,241 | 0.10% |
| Fundraising Expenses | 12,692 | 0% | 61,700 | 1.46% |
| Total Expenditure | 4,278,957 | | 4,214,571 | |
| Total Income over Expenditure | 27,983 | | 118,219 | |



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