

L'Arche Ireland

Annual Report 2021



CEO and Chairperson's

Report 2021

The struggle of Covid continued right to the dying days of 2021. However, we continued to adapt and make the most of the time and are pleased to see gradual return to a more normal life. We would like to thank the HSE and the many partners who have helped us come to this stage and put us all, on the road to overcoming the challenges of this Covid pandemic. In the later part of 2021, we were very grateful to receive some significant grants from the HSE, from the strengthening disability service fund (SDS), funds to improve our transport, especially for L'Arche Cork

While the pandemic has been a challenge, it also has given us a great opportunity to plan for the future. In 2021 three significant projects were started. In L'Arche Kilkenny a re-invention project, in L'Arche Cork a Renew project and across all L'Arche Ireland is the Time to Reflect project (TTR). These projects are looking to redesign Day projects and to see how to develop these into the future to match the needs of our present and future core members and in line with New Directions. Through the Reinvention project in Kilkenny, we restructured to create a Day projects Co-Ordinator post, we closed the café and evolved into a new Culinary skills program, relocated part of the Day service to the houses, created a training and development space and refocused the projects in line with Core members current needs, wishes and in line with New Direction – Day project standards.

With the Renew project in Cork, they did an extensive consultation in 2020 and in 2021 to decide on the key focus for growth and change. There are

several key areas of new development. A community café and garden project both at design stage at the end of Dec 2021. The Art project and increased connection with other programmes are building on existing projects. As L'Arche, like so many organisations, has gone through significant change in recent years, therefore at the end of 2021 we started

our Time to Reflect project. This project will enable us to research, consult, reflect, and plan for the future, in three key areas Volunteers, Ethos and Governance/ Capacity. Ongoing growth in our Dublin Community can be seen in the development of a third house 'Baidin' which is now up and running, with two Core members enjoying their new home.

Our main focus for 2022, is to recover from the Covid

pandemic, continue to build and grow especially in relation to Day services but also to adapt and change to develop opportunities with our Core members as they age and require additional support and more accessible buildings. We want to thank each Core member – the people we support – for their resilience and courage during this Pandemic. I want to thank all the teams in each of the communities who have kept us

going and not only kept us going but planning for the future. I want to thank in a particular way, our volunteers those who live in the houses and our board and committee and all the teams, who have enabled us to survive and to thrive during this time.

Mairead Boland Brabazon, CEO L'ARCHE IRELAND & NORTHERN IRELAND

Grahame Coplestone, CHAIRPERSON OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES, L'ARCHE IRELAND AND NORTHERN IRELAND



L'Arche Our Mission

TO MAKE KNOWN the gifts of people with 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..



L'Arche Ireland Communities

Some exciting plans for 2022

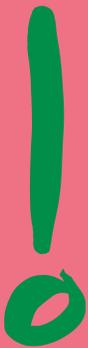
Time to reflect project development in the key areas of: Volunteers, HR, Values/Ethos & Governance

Cork day project development

Reconnecting with one another in person as we navigate life with Covid 19

Encompassing New Directions

Renovating some of our houses to suit changing needs



Our L'Arche identity

WE ARE PEOPLE with and without intellectual 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.

Changes and developments

L'Arche Kilkenny



Community life had changed in 2020 with Covid 19 and this continued into 2021. Despite these difficulties, the appointment of Majella Harte as Day Service Coordinator and the consultancy work of John O'Connor as Day

Service Developer has enabled the development of our Day Service in line with New Directions, the Health Service standards supporting people with a Disability in a person's Day service. The decision to close the Café as a commercial venture was taken after much consideration as we wanted to reinvent the project

for more Core Member participation. The newly christened CLST programme Culinary Life Skills Training is being great enjoyed and supported by Core members and the L'Arche team. This reinvention went hand in hand with the rest of the Day Service developments.

There was sadness in the Community when Margo Moran, our valued Local Committee member passed away in April and then in early



June when we were all left shocked by the sudden passing of our friend, colleague and House Leader in Lion De, Valerie Kelly Conway.

Many key developments in the Kilkenny Community included:

- Support for pay restoration
- Training developments
- Staff changes in the Day Service
- Art Project with artist Paola
- Establishment of our Changing Phases Group
- The celebration of the General Assembly in Naas
- Successful grant applications for Mitigating Against Educational Disadvantage
- Development of a Sensory Garden and new Minibus funding

Building work was completed at Moorefield House supporting and enabling a Core Member to relocate downstairs in the house and ensuring optimum accessibility. At the end of the year, we bid a fond farewell to Peter Brabazon who was one of our Assistant Coordinators. Peter had been an important member of the Kilkenny Community for several years and we continue to enjoy his friendship.





A reawakening!

L'Arche Dublin

L'Arche Dublin had a reawakening after lockdown, and it was wonderful to see the Core members, staff and volunteers getting the opportunity to get back (safely) into the community. There were a range of different highlights from the year but the general mood, although cautious, was very positive.

Core members began to reconnect with the local community, one of the many highlights was to have one of our core member's poems hung up in the local library. Another of our Core members started involving himself in many new activities, and a stand out moment was his foray into the world of Bruce Lee as he began to learn Martial Arts. We were delighted to welcome our newest Core Member to Leoithne, and it has been an absolute pleasure to have him join us. His smile and warmth have made an impact from the moment he started, and he continues to bring a positivity to everything he touches. At Seolta, we have appointed both a new House Leader and Deputy, they have both settled in well, with Core Member's interests at the centre of all the decision making, which is the biggest compliment we can give them as leaders.



At Leoithne and Baidin, we also have a new Deputy House Leader, and she has made the transition seamlessly showing solid judgement in her decisions and support for the staff team and Core members. We sadly said goodbye to one of our Core Members in 2021, who has moved on to a TLC in Santry and we wish him all the very best in his new home.

Although Covid continues to prove challenging for all concerned, we still managed to keep the fun alive in L'Arche Dublin with Santa even paying us a visit at our traditional Christmas party. All in all, we feel as though things are moving in the right direction, there is a spring in our step, and we look forward to what 2022 and beyond will bring us.



Grateful for sacrifices made

L'Arche Cork

2021 had many ups and downs as we continued to adjust to living through Covid. We remained positive and focused on our future. We spent time talking and sharing ideas in the Community about the developments in the Day service. This helped us to start progressing exciting new plans for 2022. The opportunity for a L'Arche Café and horticulture project fill us with enthusiasm.

Thankfully Core members were able to slowly start going home to their families for breaks, enjoy having small community gatherings and to start developing ways to build connections in the local and wider community. It was still a difficult year for Assistants, who unfortunately were not able to have the full Community experience, but we are forever grateful and in awe of them for their resilience, care, and journeying together within their houses. We have great memories of their time spent here.

As ever, together we worked on keeping our spirits up through:

- Connecting via Zoom with other Communities and learned that singing was good for the brain



Keeping active and fit

- Improvising when salons were closed
- We showed solidarity with other communities
- Celebrating whenever we could and appreciating precious time together

Most importantly we all managed to stay safe and well throughout 2021, which we are very grateful for and know how many sacrifices were needed to support keeping healthy and well. We are filled with hope for a 2022 that will be full of new opportunities and exciting experiences.



Strengthening our vision 2021 ...

Development Report

Over the past number of years L'Arche Ireland has worked tirelessly to strengthen and develop our Communities. Together with Core members each Supported living house and Day project team have rose to the bar of HIQA and New Directions standards. With Covid 19 changing and shaping so much of what we do, this has been no easy feat and is to be commended.

2021 challenged us to look at alternative ways to continue to offer supportive, inclusive, and multicultural Communities. Our international assistants and staff teams have shown such commitment, as Covid-19 continued to dictate how we lived our lives. We listened to the expert advice, weathered the storm and thankfully the light at the end of the tunnel was in sight as the year came to an end.

Developments across the Communities came in various guises. New Core members and new staff members joined the Communities. We also said goodbye to some fantastic and long serving members of the L'Arche Community, but we continue to enjoy their loyal friendship and support.

Each Community has enjoyed great success with accessing grants and funding for developments during 2021. Investments in the area of accessible technology allowed each Community to upgrade IT equipment and ensure each Core member had the opportunity to get involved in the new normal that has become Zoom and remote access. The Mitigating Against Educational Disadvantage led the way with this funding. Funding from the HSE, for the ever-growing cost of transport and ensuring comfortable, reliable fleets was another positive this year.

A successful partnership with the

European Solidarity Corps grew with four participants working with the L'Arche Communities this year. Brónagh and Daniel gained experience in the Cork Community 'Le Cheile' and James and Agnes were invaluable in the Kilkenny community, with James successfully moving into the staff team in the Kilmoganny garden project. We look towards 2022 to continue to strengthen and future proof the Assistant and Volunteer model with the Time to Reflect (TTR) project. The TTR project is working with each of the four Communities meeting with Core members, Assistants, Volunteers, Staff team members and Community Leaders along with Stakeholders and Board members.

2022 will no doubt bring new challenges but also lead to new opportunities for all in L'Arche. Focus will continue to encompass New Directions standards within our Day projects and continue our high standards of care as is recognised by HIQA. We look forward to the new initiatives across the Communities such as a new garden, social enterprise cafe and the evolving of Culinary Skills Training and development in CLST, along with housing developments and upgrades. We also hope to research and move towards increased energy efficiency and sustainability within L'Arche.

We are so grateful to The National Lottery, Community Foundation for Ireland, Saturday Hospital Fund, Local Enterprise Offices, Local Authorities, Léargas, European Solidarity Corps and Sports partnerships for their invaluable support; along with the HSE and our loyal fundraisers and donors.

Miriam Duggan,

DEVELOPMENT OFFICER



Seirbhís Sláinte
Níos Fearr
& Forbairt



The Hospital
Saturday Fund



The Community
Foundation for Ireland



Begin
Together
FUND



L'Arche Ireland Accounts Summary

year ended 31 December 2021

Income	2021		2020	
	€	%	€	%
Government Funding	4,592,192	90%	4,076,101	89%
Donations & Events	68,303	1%	144,203	3%
Bank Interest and Investment Income	25	0%	37	0%
Core Members Personal Income	285,036	6%	250,315	5%
Café and Workshop Sales	20,176	0%	49,281	1%
Other Income	9,099	0%	37,369	1%
Other grants	127,412	2%	7,505	0%
Total Income	5,102,243		4,564,811	
Expenditure				
Pay/Allowances	2,940,333	58%	2,679,426	58%
Living	464,155	9%	450,541	10%
Property	213,573	4%	227,509	5%
Transport	71,704	1%	66,208	1%
Administration	378,331	7%	323,151	7%
Employer's NI/PRSI contributions	288,558	6%	266,356	6%
Staff Defined Contribution Pension Costs	243,066	5%	226,757	5%
Day Project Costs	52,760	1%		
Café/Workshop Expenses	-		20,747	0%
Legal and Professional	1,874	0%	9,470	0%
Training/Formation	100,687	2%	70,169	2%
Depreciation	204,920	4%	207,903	5%
Accountancy	36,945	1%	44,998	1%
Bank Charges	2,909	0%	2,309	0%
Surpluses/deficits on disposal of intangibles	-		3,801	0%
Fundraising Expenses	-		3,570	0%
Redundancy and Development Support	54,134	1%	-	
Total Expenditure	5,053,949		4,602,915	
Total Income over Expenditure	48,294		-38,104	



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