



L'Arche Ireland

Annual Report 2022



CEO and Chairperson's

Report 2022

In 2022 we started to see the benefit and the relief as the Covid pandemic became more under control and the restrictions reduced. Day projects were able to fully reopen and really started to grow and develop from the plans that we had created in 2021. These plans are three to five year projects and in 2022 many of the first steps were taken.

In L'Arche Cork, with the support of a garden consultant who has considerable organic gardening knowledge and experience, the vegetable garden started to take shape. The plans for the hard landscaping were created and the work for this will be completed in 2023. In addition the local Tomar Trust donated a significant portion of the costs to help us realise this dream, for which we thank them most sincerely. Most importantly we reignited and increased our connection with the local area, through gardening talks and other events. We started back doing things that we had been doing prior to the pandemic but also increasing our involvement in other social and community events across the county.

Many of the houses in L'Arche Cork now require additional work to bring them up to standard and we conducted a feasibility study to assist us in understanding the work required. This will continue to be a very large project over the next three to five years.

In L'Arche Kilkenny, the main focus was on reopening fully the day projects but also redesigning them and expanding them in line with the HSE New Directions - Day Projects for adults with disabilities, and with the vision and interest of our core members.

In L'Arche Dublin they continue to focus on residential support. We changed our structures to provide additional support for core members, through adding the role of Person in Charge. This has proved to be very beneficial for the running of the community.

During 2022 we completed the Time to Reflect (TTR) Strategic Review and Plan project. This research project enabled us review many aspects of L'Arche through consulting with core members, volunteer assistants, leadership, staff and board. The project for example reviewed the volunteer model, governance, and the HR systems in place. The review also gave recommendations for the future and these will be key part of our work in 2023 and will be embedded in our Mandate/Strategic plan for December 2023 to December 2028.

We completed a review of our constitution and plan that our new constitution will be available in 2023.

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

Marion Courtney, CHAIR, L'ARCHE 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.

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.



Rediscovering Community life

L'Arche Kilkenny

Covid remained a factor during 2022 as we edged towards rediscovering Community life during the year. During the summer, the Community were able to hold a BBQ as we continued to explore bringing back gatherings, formations and community events. By late November our Christmas Fair returned with many gift ideas available plus tea, coffee and baked goods. The celebration of Christmas continued with a concert in Kilmoganny, an evening of music, reading and fun.

A great event and as always, supported by all in Kilmoganny. To finish the year the L'Arche Community joined together for a Christmas Mass at the beautiful Edmund Rice Centre Chapel, in Callan.

Following a short illness, our good friend and Core member, Frances Kennedy passed away in April. She brought much light, laughter and friendship to the Community. We will always be thankful for all of her wonderful qualities and gifts. Amongst many other things, Frances loved her chalet, friends in L'Arche, Windgap and nature.

She is greatly missed.

The Community welcomed three new Day Project core members, Dylan, Cody and Nikitta in the year.

The Time to Reflect interviews started in Kilkenny during February and continued during the year resulting in a valuable piece of work, the Strategic Review and Plan. Moorefield House were

able to purchase a much needed mini bus after securing HSE funding late in 2021.

Building works in Moorefield House were also completed enabling a better use of the existing space and upgrades.

A good year for self advocacy within Kilkenny as the external ID Rights South East became established and a weekly internal advocacy group started. Quarterly Day Project training days became a fixed event giving a great opportunity for all Day Project staff to upskill.

Our Café reinvention to the Culinary Life Skills programme extended out to four days a week with many core members enjoying the Project. Staff wise we were sorry to see Peter Brabazon, Micky Ramsbottom and James Platt leave us. Lion De were delighted to see Linda Fitzgerald appointed as House Leader and later joined by Sharon Barry as Deputy House Leader.

Ger Mullally, stood down as Chair of the Local Committee after a great contribution and loyalty to the Community. In August the L'Arche Café hosted a social evening with Local Committee members, core members and staff. A great night of sharing stories, videos and food.



Trips and celebrations

L'Arche Dublin

2022 saw the nation still in lock down. However, that did not stop us having our yearly Valentine's Party Celebration – a 'COVID' friendly version of course.

Again, it was true to say that all of the Team rallied around and enabled the community to keep its sanity – sometimes only just! We did the washing of the feet during Easter week, which as always was a very solemn and intimate time together.

There was the usual crazy amount of birthday celebrations and often celebrations for no reason whatsoever. Also, too many trips and holidays to mention. Patrick even got to 'fly' to Disney in August with Elaine and Antoinette.

In between celebrations, core members in Dublin were being interviewed to join An Garda Síochána. The Garda really wanted the core members to join, especially Danny, but as he was already an honorary Chief Inspector, he was too busy.

In September we welcomed our new batch of Volunteers and had more birthdays and cake. The COVID Stone was increasingly becoming the COVID Two Stone!

Peter left the community but ran back a few weeks later. Sadly, near the end of the year, Jose (House Leader Leoithne / Baidin), decided to move on to the exciting world of IT.

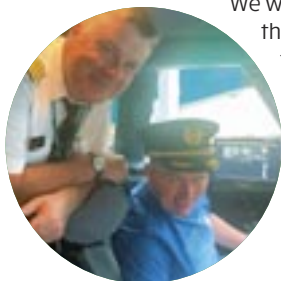
We wish him all the best for the future and thank him for being a part of the community for so many years.



We had a new core member, Niamh, starting to visit the community later in the year. It is hoped that she will join the community full time in 2023.

In December, with a slight lifting of restrictions, we managed to do our 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.

It was another challenging year, but everyone stood – two metres apart (most of the time) – together for L'Arche Dublin.



Time of many things

L'Arche Cork

2022 was a 'time of many things'

- **A time of solidarity with other L'Arche Communities**

The Russian invasion of Ukraine began on 22nd February 2022. In response L'Arche Ukraine and Faith and Light in Ukraine invited us to pray with them and their friends in Lithuania and Russia every evening. We of course had Khrystyna from the Ukraine in the community which made us all feel closer to the terrible events in Ukraine.

- **A time to go on holidays!**

- **A time to celebrate**

- **A time to congratulate**

We congratulated Brendan on his victory in the Special Olympics Golf tournament and Joe on his return to work in Tesco after the pandemic.

We received an award from the Cork Environmental Forum under the Community and Voluntary Award category.

- **A time to learn new skills**

- making bat houses.
- composting.
- ceramics.
- furniture upcycling.

- **A time to say farewell**

We mourned the loss of Fr. Joe Rooney SM who passed away on 19th Sept 2022. He was a friend of L'Arche Cork – remembered with great love by so many community members.

We said a sad farewell to Fr. Stephen who has been a very faithful friend to the Community since 2009 and who is moving to the Dominican House in Kilkenny. We celebrated Mass together after which we all prayed a blessing that God would keep him safe in his loving care until we would see him again.

General Assembly was held in Abbeyleix Manor Hotel on 11th & 12th November.



L'Arche Ireland Accounts Summary

year ended 31 December 2022

	2022		2021	
Income	€	%	€	%
Government Funding	4,884,254	86%	4,592,192	90%
Donations & Events	73,307	1%	68,303	1%
Core Members Personal Income	235,059	4%	285,036	6%
Café and Workshop Sales	23,413	0%	20,176	0%
Other Income	26,975	0%	9,099	0%
Other grants	406,395	7%	127,412	2%
Total Income	5,649,403		5,102,243	
Expenditure				
Fundraising Costs	4,366	0%	-	
Pay/Allowances	3,407,262	61%	2,940,333	58%
Living	487,032	9%	464,155	9%
Property	311,666	6%	213,573	4%
Transport	88,763	2%	71,704	1%
Administration	398,868	7%	378,331	7%
Employer's NI/PRSI contributions	203,671	4%	288,558	6%
Staff Defined Contribution Pension Costs	248,437	4%	243,066	5%
Day Project Costs	50,714	1%	52,760	1%
Legal and Professional	2,128	0%	1,874	0%
Training/Formation	112,372	2%	100,687	2%
Depreciation	249,276	4%	204,920	4%
Accountancy	39,873	1%	36,945	1%
Bank Charges	2,016	0%	2,909	0%
Total Expenditure	5,606,444		5,053,949	
Total Income over Expenditure	42,959		48,294	



Building a
Better Health
Service

Seirbhís Sláinte
Níos Fearr
& Fíorbheir



The Hospital
Saturday Fund



The Community
Foundation for Ireland



EUROPEAN
SOLIDARITY
CORPS



Bank of Ireland
Begin
Together



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