



The **L'Arche mission** is dedicated to ensuring that core members receive the respect and support they need to live meaningful and fulfilling lives.

We make a commitment to treasure them as family and to value them always for the many gifts they bring to the community and the world.

A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMUNITY LEADER

Forty years ago – on Mother's Day in 1985 – the **dream** of a group of parents of adult children with disabilities was realized at last. The doors of Harbor House were opened. A mere seven years later, it would become L'Arche Harbor House; and officially renamed L'Arche Jacksonville in 2015.

Accordingly, we have taken every opportunity this year to celebrate this amazing milestone of 40 Years! CELEBRATION is one of our core values after all: daily affirmations; monthly community get togethers; anniversaries; birthdays; events like the Golf Classic and Holiday Extravaganza; art shows; sporting events; ...the list goes on! We know how to celebrate and count every blessing with an abundance of gratitude.

For example, a special anniversary project to update the courtyard area resulted in a new gazebo and fully accessible gathering space for everyone. It's now the perfect location for outdoor activities and it wouldn't have happened without the support of you, our friends.

To cap off the year, the **Ruby Jubilee Garden Party** provided a fantastic atmosphere (complete with a riot of gorgeous flowers, beautiful white tents, **...and a chandelier!**) to welcome families, friends, and supporters on the May anniversary of our founding.

We have many hopes for the future and welcome more reasons to celebrate the unique community of L'Arche Jacksonville with you.

You make it all possible...thanks for keeping the dream alive!

Community Leader/Executive Director



AT THE HEART OF L'ARCHE: CORE MEMBERS

- These special people with intellectual disabilities live as family in three houses clustered around a community center.
- Our core members are true teachers of the heart. Imparting faith, patience, love, joy, and spontaneity to everyone they meet.

Resident Core Members 14

Age Range: 44-80

Number of Years at L'Arche:

40 years: Ann, Joy 28-36 years: Kathy, Jeff, Viva,

Brenda, Larru

11-22 years: Tommy, Michael, Jack 1-6 years: Sara, Sonia, Sophie, Lisa

Rainbow Workshop Non-Resident Core Members

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A JOURNEY THROUGH 40 YEARS

Great friends, community members, donors, and directors of L'Arche Jacksonville: Nancy Powers, Karl and Dottie Klein, Dianne Welch, Amy Finn-Schultz, and Lorie Strange

Larry presents a hand drawn Rainbow made by core members to Warren Powers at the Ruby Jubilee.





Kevin

Kathy

Artist &

he L'Arche Jacksonville community celebrated our 40th anniversary this year. On May 10 we honored the Powers Family at the Ruby Jubilee. The Powers Family has been a vital part of our community through the giving of their time and treasure. Their generosity has nourished our growth and pro-

vided opportunities to share our gifts and mission with the First Coast throughout the years. This event was filled with joy, memories, and a unique storyboard experience depicting the first 40 years of L'Arche Jacksonville.

Yes, there was a little rain early on, but it never stopped us from having a great time at the garden party: with hors d'oeuvres; tours of the homes; and fellowship throughout the community. A significant portion of the program highlighted our community history with a special skit performed by core members and assistants, past and present. Friends from all over the United States came to celebrate this momentous occasion.

May 10th was also bittersweet because founding core member Joy Miller passed away just days before the 40th anniversary party. Her spirit and presence could be felt throughout the Ruby Jubilee as we remembered her feisty strength and constant smile.

We are incredibly grateful to our sponsors, donors, volunteers, families, and friends who made this event possible.

COLORS OF THE RAINBOW



Lotfi & Tommy make sure the burgers on the grill are made with love for Extravaganza guests

Walk of Fama (right) - lowery through the

Walk of Fame (right) - Journey through the Rainbow and discover the gifts and talents of the Rainbow Workshop Artists! L'Arche Jacksonville's day program, the Rainbow Workshop, unveils the talents of 20 - 25 individuals with developmental and physical disabilities 5 days a week. The synergy between assistants, volunteers, and core members showcases the dedication, patience, and life skills that bring out the talents of each person.



The **Holiday Extravaganza** was an exciting time for the Rainbow Workshop. Core members work year-round to create paintings, mosaics, ceramics, jewelry, holiday cards, note cards and much more to be sold at this annual November event. **The 2024 event was a huge success generating net proceeds of \$26,649 with an attendance of over 230 guests.**

BELONGING AND BEYOND

Stories like the one below are exactly why Clayton King (Modern Woodmen of America) fell in love with the L'Arche Jacksonville community and felt a strong call to action. His vision for cultivating more stories, friendships, assistants, and donors to L'Arche Jacksonville has refreshed our commitment to the mission and values of our community; leading us to reimagine the Assistants Fund - now known as Channels of the Ark. We believe authentic, welcoming relationships in family-style homes are a vessel impacting how you view disability, inclusion, community, and friendship.

A Place Called Greatfull

By Lia Moessnang - Greatfull House Assistant 2024-2025

hen I first heard the name **Greatfull House**, I thought it was a misspelling. But after ten months of living and sharing life here, I realize: **it's absolutely perfect.**

I came from Germany to Jacksonville, Florida, to volunteer at a L'Arche community — not knowing that a house with five core members and a few assistants would become one of the most meaningful places I've ever known. The spelling, as it turns out, isn't wrong.



Lia and the Greatfull House core members enjoyed an afternoon out at the movies.

It's just honest. Life here is full of greatness – and full of gratitude.

I came to L'Arche not knowing what to expect. From the moment Sonia (one of our core members) and Taylor (another assistant) picked me up at the airport, I felt like I belonged. There was something so warm and easy about it — like I had known them forever. I didn't plan to stay longer than 5 months, but I loved it so much, I extended my visa. That's how special this place is.

Life at Greatfull House isn't about doing big or fancy things. It's about the small moments that stick with you – like listening to Harry Styles with Sara and dancing around the living room, singing with Kathy (loud and proud), chatting with Ann about anything and everything, or watching movies with Larry.

And then there are the peaceful walks with Sonia, when sometimes we don't even have to say much – just being together is enough.

What makes this house so unique is the bond between the assistants and the core members. It doesn't feel like work. It feels like being part of a family – one that laughs a lot, supports each other, and finds joy in the everyday stuff.

I've learned more here than I ever expected. About slowing down, being present, and appreciating people for exactly who they are. This time at Greatfull House has changed me in the best way — and I'll carry it with me wherever I go.



SHARING LIFE IN COMMUNITY: ASSISTANTS

- Assistants share daily meals, work, celebration, and prayer with core members.
- Our live-in assistants come from across America and around the world; our live-out assistants are from the Jacksonville area. Some have special training or prior experience helping people with disabilities, but most do not.

Number of Assistants: 23

6 Live-in · 7 Live-out 10 Part-time

Meals prepared: 33,580

Weekly outings: 4,368 hrs/asst.
1-on-1 special time with a

core member: 12,272 hrs/asst. (Illness played a role in this high number)

(annual average)



VOLUNTEERING WITH A SMILE

L'Arche Jacksonville Auxiliary

The L'Arche Jacksonville Auxiliary invites you to JOIN THE FUN and make an impact! Our Auxiliary is dedicated to volunteering time, supporting L'Arche campaigns, and driving successful events throughout the year. This year members assembled direct mail pieces, procured auction items, assisted golfers at the 35th Golf Classic, hosted guests at the Holiday Extravaganza, and raised funds for the community by volunteering at The Gate River Run. They are a vital part of our success.

Auxiliary Members: Eileen Bain, John Farnie, Jeanne Vliek, Cherl Evers, Maripat Meide, Myrna Stokely, Nancy Smith, Pat King, and Pam Chappell We will dearly miss longtime Auxiliary member, Juanita Beidelman, who passed away while this **Impact Report** was in production.



Auxiliary member Maripat Meide and students from the College of the Holy Cross welcomed golfers at our 35th Annual Golf Classic



A LOVING SUPPORT SYSTEM: VOLUNTEERS and FRIENDS

L'Arche Jacksonville relies on generous individuals and groups from the larger community.

Some share their time and talent; others offer financial help. L'Arche welcomes, delights in, and depends on volunteers of all ages, from students to retirees.

Number of Volunteers 175

Weekly Volunteers
Rainbow Workshop helpers
Accompaniers
Board of Directors
Auxiliary Committee
Golf Tournament
Church, School, and Social Groups
Business Partners
High School and College Students

Students from Urban Plunge planted flowers and cleaned up landscaping at Sunflower House



LIVING THE MISSION

he L'Arche mission thrives thanks to volunteers who give their time, treasure, and heart. Since the very beginning, volunteers have been essential to the community: Escorting core members to visit with friends, dining with the community, sitting with and calming our most vulnerable, participating in community events, and simply being the source of endearing

conversation. Friends like Dottie Klein (first Executive Director), Mary Updike, Dianne Welch, Jim Sebesta, Mary Jane Mercing, Mary Lewis, Nancy Smith, and Jeanne Vliek have led our community to provide family-style homes with grace and understanding throughout our 40 years. We are inspired by our long-term friends who continue to share their gifts and set examples of fidelity, leadership, and transformation.

The Notre Dame Club of Greater Jacksonville – alumni and friends performed their annual service day to help beautify the grounds in preparation for our Ruby Jubilee party. They strive to help all members and friends to thrive in faith,

party. They strive to help all members and friends to thrive in faith, service, learning, and work; and inspire them to act as forces for good in the Jacksonville community and beyond.



Dottie Klein and Ann participate in a skit for the Ruby Jubilee - both have been with us for 40 years!

Jim Sebesta ran the show at our 35th Annual Golf Classic - did you know he's been on our Golf Committee for more than 30 years?

Amazing Volunteers and Students

Volunteers from **University of Notre Dame, Bishop Snyder High School, College of the Holy Cross, Urban Plunge, and Gamma Sigma Sigma** gave their time to clean, organize, and build friendships with the L'Arche community. Bishop Snyder students assisted in many of our community events such as the Holiday Extravaganza and the Living Nativity while Gamma Sigma Sigma

cleaned up our courtyard in preparation for the Ruby Jubilee. The Notre Dame students spent their summer participating in daily living in the homes and the Rainbow Workshop, while also taking time to complete projects. Six Holy Cross students on

spring break devoted countless hours to daily

activities in the houses and the Rainbow Workshop, and even volunteered at our Golf Classic. Holy Cross student, Lauren Ross, so moved by the relationships she built in community over spring break, returned to L'Arche Jacksonville after graduation to become a full-time assistant, embracing those with intellectual disabilities.

Lauren Ross and Lisa became friends over spring break.

GATHER, GARDEN, AND GRILL AT THE GAZEBO!



The perfect place to gather, garden, and grill... our new Gazebo provides a fully accessible outdoor space for **everyone** in the community!

We thank the Powers' Family Foundation for their continued support of L'Arche Jacksonville. This spring, a match campaign — **Springing Forward to a New Gazebo** — assisted in raising funds to renovate the courtyard. Friends of L'Arche jumped into action and donated dollars to fulfill the match guarantee.

As core members embrace their new age, a revitalized courtyard centrally located amongst the homes and the Blanchart Community Center will improve the quality of life of the core members, assistants, and staff while promoting fresh air and accessible outdoor living for the community. Having this comfortable addition allows core members and assistants to gather, garden, and grill at the new gazebo!

Look for details in upcoming newsletters for a community barbeque/chili cook-off during the fall season.

OUR DONOR TRIBUTES

2024-25 Fiscal Year: July 1, 2024- June 30, 2025 *

e gratefully acknowledge tribute gifts made to honor the life events of friends and families. Contributions have been made in memory of a loved one, or in celebration of special events such as birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, etc. For all tributes, L'Arche notifies the recipient of the gift and the donor receives a grateful acknowledgment of their tax-deductible gift.

*The following tributes were received between 7/1/24 and 6/30/25.

IN HONOR OF

Beth Came

Helen Came

Arlene Cossum

Rosemarie F Hall

Tommy Dunham Nancy Smith

Wanda Edmondson

Susan Della Porta

Amu Finn-Schultz

Peter Racine

Joan P. Jablonski

Theresa Jablonski

L'Arche Jacksonville Volunteers

Schwab Charitable Fund Arun and Julie Tahiliani

Larry and Ashley

Paige Hones

Louis Lints

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Lisa Meadows

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Peace House

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Joanne Powers

Nancy Powers

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Lydia Lamm

Paul and Mary Scagliarini

Patricia M. Carocari

Sarah Snelson

Franklin Snelson

Sara Stokely

Laura S. Whitney

Jeffrey Todd Vliek

Tim Bishop

Viva Walker

Amy Frassa Rotella

IN MEMORY OF



Farewell to Joy (1955-2025)

For 40 years Joy remained a matriarch and constant presence in Peace House, touching the hearts of everuone who walked into the community with her quick wit and maternal compassion. She loved connecting with people over a shared glass of wine; talking about what life was like growing up in Jacksonville; going on outings with her fellow housemates and assistants; and most importantly talking about and sharing her love for her son, Matt.

Hollis Avery

Maripat Meide Nancy Smith

Tom Bain

Steve and Colleen Frick Catherine Powell

Jim Bilderback

James Hendricks Bilderback

Eileen Brown

Justin Jones

Margaret Doucette

Jacqui Collett-Diamond

Gene Dunham

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Sherry Williamson

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Linda Mahoney

Todd Mayer

Anna Mae Sabatino

Dennis Smyser Cindy Sutton **Rich Trebus**

Lori DeNoewer Rush

Karen Aldrich

Paul and Mary Scagliarini

Jean "Foxy" Sell

Lucille Guzzone

Kathleen Duncan Rein

Geralyn Stewart

Carolyn Ueber

Sister Annie

Anna Mae Sabatino

Jeffrey Smith

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Eileen Bain

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Bruce and Judy Toth

Jeanne Vliek

Steve and Janet Whittaker

Kathy and Buddy Williams Sherry Williamson

Kayleigh Vause

Patricia Japour

Terry F. Vliek

Charles and Sharon Bailey

David Weinstein

Margie Weinstein

IN GRATITUDE TO OUR DONORS

IFE at L'Arche Jacksonville relies upon the generosity of family, friends, companies, foundations, business partners, and others who support our mission.

CUMULATIVE GIVING for Last Fiscal Year: July 1, 2024- June 30, 2025

Cumulative totals include all **tax-deductible donations**, **pledges**, **grants**, **matching gifts**, **& soft credits** received through Fiscal Year End 6/30/25. Please let us know of any errors or omissions.

Legacy of L'Arche \$10,000 and above

Alfred I. duPont Foundation, Inc.
Scott & Mona Allen ◆※
Blanchart Family Endowment

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Community Foundation for NE FL Donor Advised Charitable Giving, Inc.

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Warren & Joanne Powers Charitable

Foundation 🛠 💠

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Mary Updike ◆�

Mike & Kathy Vallencourt ◆☆

Jeanne Vliek ◆※☆

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Rev. Ronald Camarda lacktriangle

Blase & Leslie De Leo ◆

John & Ann Farnie ♦☆

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Kitti Suydam Vicki Swaney Bruce Talcott ◆ Jackie Teichert •

The Sinsinawa Dominicans

Jahi Thompson ◆ Jeff & Anne Thrasher ◆

Jennifer Tucker ◆ Kirk Upthegrove ◆ Mary Helen Wagner Nikki Wallace Christie Weber * Gigi Wentz ◆

Steve & Janet Whittaker ◆

Heidi Wymer ◆

Bold Core Member Family Affiliation

* Channels of the Ark (formerly Assistants Fund)

• We Are Family Fund

公 **Golf Classic Sponsors and Players**

4 **Matching Gift Partners**

WAYS TO GIVE

DONATIONS - Individual gifts, corporate gifts, employee matching funds

REMEMBER L'ARCHE JACKSONVILLE in your will

PLANNED GIVING - Contact us for information

WE ARE FAMILY FUND - (Annual Appeal) Designate your gift to benefit a particular need (optional); undesignated gifts support operations

CHANNELS OF THE ARK - Direct funding of the Assistants program (formerly the Assistants Fund)

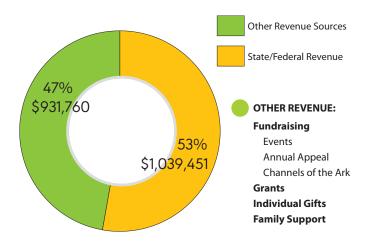
EVENT SPONSORSHIP & PARTICIPATION - Individual or corporate sponsors for the Holiday Extravaganza, Living Nativity, & Annual Golf Classic

CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP - Sponsorships, grants, donations

VOLUNTEER - Individuals or Groups - A wide variety of projects, programs, and events for all age groups

RFVFNUF

Last Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025



HOW YOU IMPACTED OUR MISSION LAST YEAR



35th Golf Classic held **March 3, 2025**

As one of the longest running non-profit golf tournaments on the First Coast, your participation is vital to raising and exceeding our goal of \$90,000 for expenses not covered by government funding. **Because of you, the**

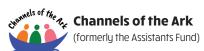
2025 event raised \$92,209!

SAVE THE DATE - 36th Annual Golf Classic - March 23, 2026!



By supporting this annual campaign, you are providing sustainability for the family-style homes, core members, and assistants. Every dollar ensures that core members receive the support needed to lead a fulfilling life.

FY 2024-25 = \$200,148



Our assistants share a common commitment to the mission and values of L'Arche by offering compassionate care and companionship to the core members. This fund has been renamed **Channels of the Ark** to emphasize the importance of donor involvement ultimately steering us to more experiences, outings, family dinners, and commitment to build stronger relationships, a better today, tomorrow, and another 40 years!.

FY 2024-25 = \$57,633



Annual Holiday Extravaganza

Christmas Shopping at Rainbow Workshop **November 22, 2025**

37th **Annual Living Nativity** December 2025

36th Annual Golf Classic Queens Harbour **Mon. March 23, 2026**

Journey Through Rainbow supporting all elements of the Rainbow Workshop day program - **NEW!**



FOLLOW US





ADMINISTRATION/LEADERSHIP

Amy Finn-Schultz, Community Leader/Executive Director
Karla Smith, Business Manager/Administrator
Patty Baker, Community Care Director/Administrator
Verquishala Lott, Community Life Director
Nora Santamaria, Rainbow Workshop Director
Lois Morris RN, Community Nurse

DEVELOPMENT TEAM:

Lorie Strange, Director Shae Williams, Development Manager/Event Specialist Mallory Koch, Community Engagement/Media Coordinator Nancy Smith, Consultant/Graphic Designer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Julie Hart, President
Sarah Thullbery Proctor, Vice President
Msgr. Vincent Haut, Treasurer
Stephen Turner, Secretary
Frank Tassone
Eileen Briggs Seuter