



Founding Mandate 2020-2022

The L'Arche Frederick Project came together in 2008 with dreams of founding a L'Arche community—a place of belonging where persons with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities share life in community. Trusting in God, accompanied by L'Arche USA, and overseen by a local Board of Directors—we have developed relationships among ourselves and reached out to the wider Frederick area, dialoging with others who may need and want such a community. We have explored local needs with existing services, determined a model for our community, and created traditions of monthly celebrations.

This mandate outlines our vision for the official founding of a L'Arche community in Frederick Maryland, as we take steps to welcome our first daily life members and prepare to apply for provisional community status within the Federation of L'Arche.

Spirituality

- Develop traditions for the community to deepen the common spiritual life: sharing, prayer, and celebration of milestones.
- Establish together, daily life members and Board committee, frequency and location for opportunities to share the spirituality of L'Arche with the wider public.
- Provide occasions for all members' spiritual nourishment, formation, retreats, and L'Arche gatherings.

Service

- Develop policies and procedures, aligned with federal, state and local laws and regulations and L'Arche USA guidelines, related to day-to-day operations.
- Establish formal residential services, utilizing a traditional DDA residential funding model, which promotes independence, recognizes self-determination and fosters self-advocacy.
- Encourage a meaningful day for all members, which may include paid or volunteer employment, habilitative services, educational pursuits, community activities, and/or combination of these or similar activities.
- Establish network of medical, psychological, and other related service providers for meetings with members to discuss concerns and develop health and/or behavior plans, if applicable.

Mutual Relationships

- Seek and form assistants who have a good balance of people presence and task-oriented competence. Seek initial core members who have deep desire and need for community.
- Provide support for daily life members to develop daily routines, which encourage humble, respectful personal care and friendships.
- Develop structures for regular assistants' meetings, house meetings and internal procedures.
- Establish rhythms for the home that highlight each members' gifts: planning meals, house chores, celebrations, activities, vacations, integration of volunteers, and creation of home.
- Create solidarity with other L'Arche communities through participation in L'Arche events and retreats, connections and financial contributions to communities in the Federation which may not receive government funds.

Outreach

Reach out through in-person meetings, events, online and print media to individuals, local businesses, other non-profits and government agencies in order to:

- Develop and implement a Fundraising plan to meet capital and operational needs,
- Foster and retain a network of friends, volunteers, and financial supporters,
- Recruit potential assistants and Board members, and
- Form partnerships to foster collaboration to advance the mission of L'Arche Frederick.