



ANNUAL **REPORT** **2025**



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About L'Arche Calgary

L'Arche Calgary is proud to be part of the international L'Arche Federation, a global network of 160 communities in 37 countries.

L'Arche Calgary was founded in 1973.

Our story began in August 1973, when Marymount, the first-ever L'Arche Calgary home, opened its doors. That moment marked the beginning of a remarkable story with 52 years of community, growth, and love.

Over the decades, L'Arche Calgary has been a place filled with memories, joy, celebration, meaningful relationships, cherished traditions, and countless milestones. We have had the privilege of welcoming hundreds of people, including Core Members, Assistants, volunteers, friends, and family members, and each person has left a lasting imprint on our community.

Today, L'Arche Calgary has grown to include five homes - **Annapurna, Haeremai, Kichiyak, Marymount,** and **Villa Maria** - the Tamarack Day Program, and a Supported Independent Living Program (SILP).

In each of our homes, Core Members live alongside Assistants who join us from all over the world. Each house is as unique as the people who call it home. People with and without intellectual disabilities experience the rhythms of daily life alongside one another.



Whether it's a quiet weekday dinner or a festive celebration, the family model of care builds deep bonds of trust and mutually beneficial relationships.

Our **Tamarack Day Program** provides engaging programs and activities for Core Members from Monday to Friday. Our individualized approach ensures that each person's day is relevant to their goals, interests, and needs. From music therapy to baking, art, and community outings, Tamarack is a space where Core Members grow in confidence, skill, and joy, while always supported by dedicated Assistants.

Our **Support Independent Living Program (SILP)** is designed to help Core Members live independently while receiving the support they need. Core members receive assistance from occasional visits to regular help with daily tasks such as meal preparation, transportation, and medical administration. This program enhances their personal, social, and spiritual well-being, promoting independence and integration into the broader community.



Our Identity

Vision

- Mutual care, respect, and compassion between people with and without disabilities
- Sharing ordinary, daily life with all its joys and sorrows
- Living, working, learning, and celebrating together in communities of belonging
- Transforming our lives as we embrace our gifts and imperfections
- Recognizing that we need each other and are better together
- A model of inclusion, a way of peace, and a sign of hope for our world

Mission

Make known the gifts of people with intellectual disabilities, revealed through mutually transforming relationships.

Foster an environment in community that responds to the changing dreams and needs of our members while being faithful to the vision and core values of our founding story.

Engage in our diverse cultures, working together towards a more human society.

Values

Creating a Vibrant Community
Celebrating the Value of Each Person
Building Mutual Relationships.
Journeying Together
Nurturing our Gifts and Growth
Having a Valued Role
Sharing Spirituality
Living a Life of Joy
Shaping a More Human Society

Word from our Community Leader

Spring is always a time of movement in our community—a time of reflection, transition, and renewal. As we bring one year to a close and step into the next, I find myself holding deep gratitude for all that has been shared and built together over this past year at L'Arche Calgary.

The heart of L'Arche is relationship, and our mission has never felt more alive: **to create a community where each person, especially our core members, is seen, known, and celebrated for who they are.** This past year reminded us how essential it is to hold space for our purpose—creating a place where everyone belongs, and where each person's gifts shape our life together.



Ani Hynes
Community leader

At a time when the landscape of disability supports is shifting, we have remained grounded in what matters most: building a community of belonging and ensuring that our core members receive the consistent, personalized, and loving support they deserve. We've also continued to walk alongside our assistants and team leaders, offering formation, care, and opportunities for growth, recognizing that we all need support to thrive.

This year, the word that comes to mind is thriving. We've seen growth—not just in numbers or programs, but in relationships, in resilience, and in our capacity to accompany one another. This growth didn't happen by chance. It took intention, discernment, and the shared efforts of many: our assistants, our leadership team, our Board of Directors, families, volunteers, and friends of L'Arche. And most importantly, it was made possible by the trust and presence of our core members, who continue to be the heart of all we do.

We have been focused on strengthening the foundation of our community—deepening relationships, renewing our commitments, and nurturing the L'Arche spirit that calls us to live with compassion, simplicity, and joy. We've continued to invest in community life, celebrate our traditions,

and welcome those who are drawn to connect their faith and values with our mission.

Whether it's through accompanying someone through a life transition, advocating for greater inclusion and funding, improving our homes for accessibility and aging in place, receiving Affordable Housing support, building new partnerships, or simply sharing everyday moments of laughter and care, L'Arche Calgary has continued to be a place of welcome and witness.

As we look ahead to 2025 and beyond, we remain rooted in hope. Hope that comes from living faithfully our vision of mutual relationships. Hope that is sustained by your support—our members, families, and community partners, who make this life possible.

To our assistants: thank you. Your generosity, creativity, and perseverance this past year have not gone unnoticed. Thank you for showing up with open hearts and for choosing to journey with our core members and with one another.

Together, we are growing, learning, and thriving. And by walking together, we will continue to do so.

With deep appreciation,

Ani Hynes

Word from our Board President

As I reflect on this past year with our L'Arche community, my heart is full of gratitude and hope.

This year holds special significance as it has been designated the Jubilee Year of Hope by His Holiness Pope Francis “a time to renew our collective commitment to compassion, inclusion, and unity.”

These themes resonate deeply with our mission at L'Arche and have been evident throughout our work and community life this past year.

The incredible spirit, dedication, and joy that defines what L'Arche means to each and every person in our homes and in our programs is demonstrated daily by our staff, assistants, volunteers, and greater community.

Together, we continue to create meaningful connections in a community that not only supports one another but also shines as a beacon of inclusion in the City of Calgary.

One of the year's most memorable highlights was our Christmas Pageant, hosted once again St. Mary's University. The evening was a delightful celebration of faith, joy, and togetherness, brought to life by our Core Members and Assistants. Their heartfelt Nativity performance, joined with music from St. Mary's University students and the appreciative audience, reminded us all of the simple and profound truths of the season. It was more than a pageant — it was a lively expression of collaboration, joy, and belonging.

We also celebrated a major milestone with our 15th Annual Run for L'Arche in April, raising over \$65,000! This incredible achievement reflects the hard work of our planning team and Race Day volunteers and is a testament to the generosity of our supporters.



Maureen Ross

Board president

The energy and enthusiasm at the event were contagious, and it reaffirmed the strength of our community when we come together in solidarity and purpose.

We've also seen growing excitement around the project to upgrade our homes. The interest and energy from community members and supporters have been encouraging, and it is clear this initiative is inspiring us to think bigger about what's possible for the future of our L'Arche homes.

None of this would be possible without the exceptional contributions of our volunteers, including those involved in the Run for L'Arche, our Best Buddies program, our Board of Directors and Committee members, and university students who consistently show up and support our mission in meaningful ways. Their commitment makes a real difference.

Word from our Board President suite...

And finally, to our Staff: you are the heartbeat of L'Arche. Your commitment to living the mission day in and day out — with compassion, patience, and grace — sets an example not just for our community, but for all of Calgary. You make our shared life possible, and we are better because of you.

We have had a wonderful year of successes and we recognize that continued funding and fundraising is key to ensure we can provide the highest level of care and support for our Core Members. We continue to uphold the values of compassion, dignity and inclusion that define L'Arche. As we look ahead to a new year, I'm filled with hope. We are dreaming bigger, reaching further, and sharing life deeper beyond our tiny southwest neighborhoods. Thank you for being part of the L'Arche Calgary journey.

Maureen Ross

Our Generous Donors

"It's not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving."

Mother Teresa

88.9 Shine FM

Acera Insurance

Aviva

Berkhold Family Foundation

Best Buddies University of Calgary

Calgary Foundation

Calgary Renaissance Singers and Players

Canada Helps

Canada Summer Jobs

CCA Truck Driver Training Ltd.

Christian Stewardship Services

Corpus Christi CWL

Corus Entertainment (Country 105 & QR Calgary)

Crawford & Company

CREB (Calgary Real Estate Board)

Economical Insurance, Calgary Office

Fasken

Harry & Martha Cohen Foundation

Knights of Columbus Council 10337

Love & Light Mercy Fund

McLennan Ross LLP

MF Trust

Michael Ange Fund

Pat White Consulting

Pure Information Technology Inc.

Rikai Foundation of Hope (TD Canada Trust)

Roman Catholic Bishop

Rotary Club of Heritage Park

Run Sponsors

ServiceMaster Restore of Calgary

ServPro

SGI

Sister of the Precious Blood, Calgary AB

Sisters Of Charity of St Louis of Calgary

St. Isidore of Seville Online School

Synapse Health & Fitness Inc

Telus Spark

United Way of Calgary

Valentine Volvo

You Make Belonging Possible

Since 1973, L'Arche Calgary has been a place of belonging, dignity, and community; we could not have done it without you.

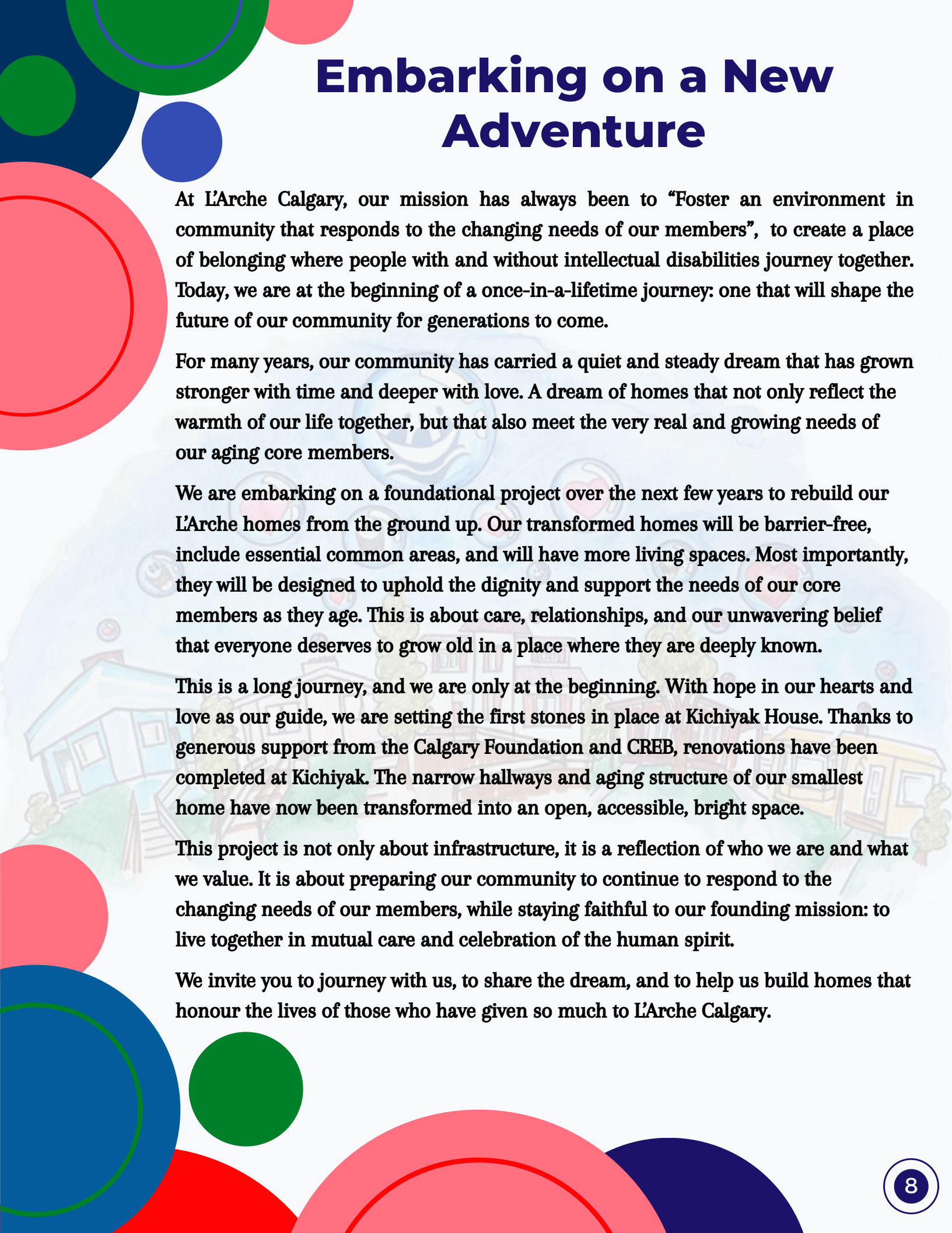
Your generosity over the years is the reason we exist. It's what allows us to provide not just care, but a true sense of home and family for our Core Members. Because of you, we are able to continue building spaces where every person is seen, valued, and celebrated.

Your commitment has sustained us through changing times, rising costs, and growing needs. Thanks to you, we have strengthened our programs, supported our dedicated team members, and maintained a community grounded in compassion.

From all of us at L'Arche Calgary, thank you for being the heart of our mission. We are honoured to walk this journey with you.

Thank you!





Embarking on a New Adventure

At L'Arche Calgary, our mission has always been to “Foster an environment in community that responds to the changing needs of our members”, to create a place of belonging where people with and without intellectual disabilities journey together. Today, we are at the beginning of a once-in-a-lifetime journey: one that will shape the future of our community for generations to come.

For many years, our community has carried a quiet and steady dream that has grown stronger with time and deeper with love. A dream of homes that not only reflect the warmth of our life together, but that also meet the very real and growing needs of our aging core members.

We are embarking on a foundational project over the next few years to rebuild our L'Arche homes from the ground up. Our transformed homes will be barrier-free, include essential common areas, and will have more living spaces. Most importantly, they will be designed to uphold the dignity and support the needs of our core members as they age. This is about care, relationships, and our unwavering belief that everyone deserves to grow old in a place where they are deeply known.

This is a long journey, and we are only at the beginning. With hope in our hearts and love as our guide, we are setting the first stones in place at Kichiyak House. Thanks to generous support from the Calgary Foundation and CREB, renovations have been completed at Kichiyak. The narrow hallways and aging structure of our smallest home have now been transformed into an open, accessible, bright space.

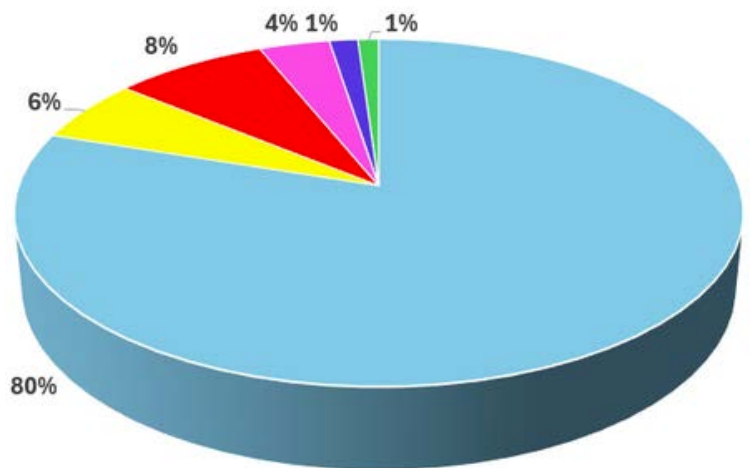
This project is not only about infrastructure, it is a reflection of who we are and what we value. It is about preparing our community to continue to respond to the changing needs of our members, while staying faithful to our founding mission: to live together in mutual care and celebration of the human spirit.

We invite you to journey with us, to share the dream, and to help us build homes that honour the lives of those who have given so much to L'Arche Calgary.

The Latest Numbers

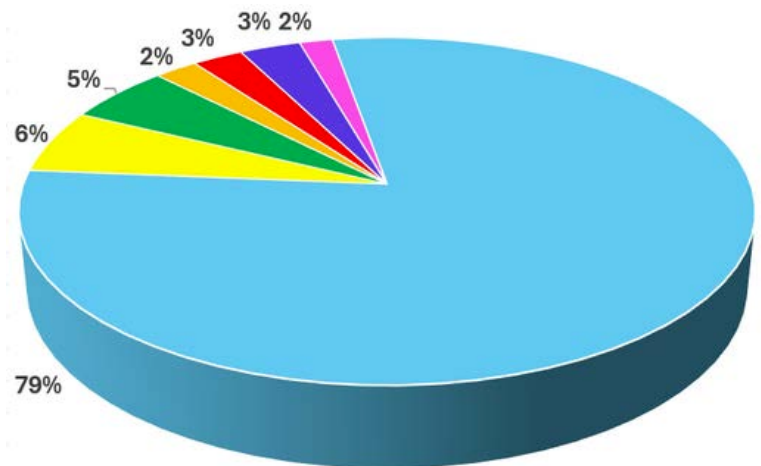
Revenues

PDD Contracts	●	\$ 4,430,117
Donations & Fundraising	●	\$ 324,319
Room & Board	●	\$ 439,148
Seniors Housing	●	\$ 201,000
Investment Income	●	\$ 81,140
Other	●	\$ 59,581
TOTAL		\$ 5,535,305



Expenses

Salaries, Benefits & Personnel	●	\$ 4,277,283
Program Expenses	●	\$ 320,359
Building Expenses	●	\$ 291,578
Professional Fees	●	\$ 119,905
Memberships & Training	●	\$ 140,197
Administration	●	\$ 168,102
Property Amortization	●	\$ 91,229
TOTAL		\$ 5,408,653



Meet Kirstie

Core Member in SILP.

A Rising Star in Para-Swimming

Kirstie Kasko, born in October 1992, is a talented Canadian para-swimmer whose passion for the sport and remarkable dedication have propelled her into the international spotlight. Hailing from a close-knit family of five, which includes a brother and a sister, Kirstie's journey into competitive swimming began at an early age. Her resilience and determination in overcoming challenges are what have truly shaped her journey and success.

Growing up in a family that valued hard work and perseverance, Kirstie was introduced to swimming very early in life. With her siblings by her side, she quickly developed a love for the water and began pursuing the sport more seriously as a teenager. Her journey wasn't without obstacles, and it was her tenacity and the support of her family that laid the foundation for what would become a flourishing para-swimming career.

Breaking Through at the 2011 Parapan American Games

Kirstie's international career took off in 2011 when she competed in the Parapan American Games in Guadalajara, Mexico. This event proved to be a turning point for the young swimmer. Kasko made a name for herself by emerging as one of Canada's brightest new talents, winning two gold medals in the 200-metre freestyle and the 100-metre backstroke. Her outstanding performance in Guadalajara marked the beginning of what would become a series of impressive accomplishments on the world stage.



A Paralympic Debut in 2012

Just one year after her success in Guadalajara, Kirstie made her debut at the 2012 Paralympic Games in London, England. Competing in the S14 category, which is for athletes with an intellectual disability, Kirstie faced some of the best para-swimmers in the world. Though she didn't earn a medal, her results were a testament to her grit and determination. She finished 12th in both the 100-metre backstroke and the 100-metre breaststroke, and 14th in the 200-metre freestyle.

It wasn't just her race results that stood out—Kirstie also broke three Canadian records that year in the 200-metre and 400-metre freestyle and the 100-metre breaststroke. She attributed much of her progress to a greater focus on technical training, strength conditioning, and even yoga, which helped her build both physical and mental strength.

The Road to the 2013 IPC World Championships

Building on her success in 2012, Kirstie continued to push herself further. In 2013, she competed at the IPC World Championships, where she participated in four events. This event was another opportunity for Kirstie to demonstrate her skill and resilience as a top-level athlete. Though the competition was fierce, Kirstie's consistency and commitment to improving continued to shine through.

2015: Qualifying for the Parapan American Games

Kirstie's hard work and dedication culminated in 2015 when she successfully qualified for her second Parapan American Games. The Speedo Can Am Para-swimming Championships in Toronto that year saw Kirstie earn impressive finishes. She secured second place in the 200-metre freestyle, and third place in both the 100-metre breaststroke and 100-metre backstroke. These results reinforced her position as one of Canada's premier para-swimmers and set the stage for future international competitions.

A New Chapter in Her Journey with SILP

Kirstie's story is one of remarkable resilience, determination, and growth. A celebrated para-swimmer with numerous accolades, including gold medals at the 2011 Parapan American Games and multiple Canadian records, Kirstie's journey doesn't stop at the pool. In August 2023, she took a significant step in her personal and professional life by entering the Supported Independent Living Program (SILP) from L'Arche Calgary, a community that supports individuals with intellectual disabilities. This new chapter marks another important milestone for Kirstie as she continues to challenge herself both in and outside of the water.

Embracing Independence with L'Arche Calgary

The transition into the SILP program represents Kirstie's commitment to fostering her independence and personal growth. L'Arche Calgary provides a supportive environment for individuals to live as independently as possible, with access to mentorship, life skills, and community engagement. For Kirstie, this program not only aligns with her values of self-empowerment but also offers her a chance to deepen her connections within the community, pursue her passions, and live life on her own terms.

Being part of the L'Arche community has provided Kirstie with a sense of belonging and encouragement as she navigates the challenges of independent living. This step has allowed her to continue building on her strengths while embracing new opportunities for personal development.

With the skills and experiences she has gained through both her swimming and personal journey, there's no doubt she is well-prepared to take on this challenge. The 2025 Parapan American Games are a milestone Kirstie has set her sights on, and she is working tirelessly to make it a reality.



Kirstie and Ani, Acera Insurance Run for L'Arche, April 2025

Highlight

Acera Insurance Run for L'Arche

The 15th Acera Insurance Run for L'Arche was a heartwarming celebration of community, bringing together roughly 294 runners and volunteers who shared their energy and passion. The excitement in the air was palpable as smiles and encouragement echoed throughout the run. Together we created an unforgettable event that not only raised awareness but also fostered deep connections. A heartfelt thank you to everyone involved for making this day truly special; your support means the world to us!



\$ 65,183

Remember

Laura Marie Manickaraj

born in Calgary, Alberta in 1953.



Laura's Legacy in L'Arche

Laura was a beloved and long-standing member of the L'Arche family, and her absence is deeply felt. While she officially joined L'Arche in 1976, her presence and friendship were felt long before then. Over the years, Laura brought her deep passion and unwavering love for people with disabilities to many L'Arche communities, including Vancouver, Victoria, Cleveland, and even Kolkata, India.

Throughout her journey with L'Arche, Laura embraced many roles, but what truly defined her was her commitment to intentional community. In the early 1980s, she and her family returned to Calgary and rejoined our L'Arche community. Although she formally left L'Arche in 2009, she never left the heart of the community. She remained deeply connected through relationships and continued to offer her support in many meaningful ways.

Laura lived the spirit and charism of L'Arche fully, continuing her mission of love and inclusion right up until her passing. Her dedication, warmth, and compassion touched countless lives. Though she is no longer with us in person, her legacy will continue to inspire us. Her memory lives on in the community she helped build and nurture.



Remember

Denis Grady

born in Peterborough, Ontario in 1952.



Remembering Denis Grady

Denis Grady's journey with L'Arche Calgary began in 1976, and his presence quickly became a cornerstone of the community. As an assistant at Villa Maria, Denis formed deep and lasting relationships. Denis brought warmth, humility, and a servant's heart to his work, embodying the values of L'Arche through his daily actions. He helped foster an atmosphere of belonging, where everyone was embraced and celebrated.

Denis was not only a caregiver but a connector. Through his involvement in Breakfast with the Bishop, he welcomed and encouraged the participation of Indigenous Core Members, ensuring they too experienced the joy and dignity of inclusion in broader faith and civic life. His ability to see each person's worth and bring them into meaningful spaces was a gift that left a lasting mark on the community. Whether he was organizing spiritual events or simply sharing a song and a smile, Denis led with love and made sure others were seen and valued.

A gifted musician, a devoted family man, and a man of deep faith, Denis used every part of his life to uplift others. His compassion extended well beyond L'Arche into the streets of Calgary, across international borders, and into the hearts of everyone he met. As we remember Denis, we honour a life that was poured out in love, and we recommit ourselves to the inclusive, compassionate world he worked so faithfully to build.





L'ARCHE®
Calgary

L'Arche Association of Calgary
307-57 Ave SW
Calgary, AB T2H 2T6

www.larchecalgary.org

T: (403) 571 0155

F: (403) 255 1354

E: office@larchecalgary.org

Charity registration # 132707787RR0001

find us online

www.larchecalgary.org

