L'Arche North Carolina

More than a home. More than direct care. L'Arche is a community.

L'ARCHE North Carolina

L'Arche NC is part of L'Arche International, a federation that began with one home in France in 1964. Today, there are over 160 L'Arche communities in 37 countries. Across cultures, people with and without intellectual disabilities share daily life, build friendships, and contribute to their communities.



Why L'Arche is needed:

Combating isolation and segregation

For generations, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) were segregated in institutions. Today, people with intellectual disabilities still face a much higher risk of isolation, loneliness, and exclusion from everyday community life. L'Arche creates small, intentional homes and communities where people with and without disabilities share daily life, build friendships, and get to know their neighbors.

Building a more human society

A person's worth is inherent. At L'Arche, we honor each other's choices and show up for one another. We bring that spirit of compassion, mutuality, and respect into the wider community, where everyone belongs, regardless of productivity or independence.

Addressing unmet housing needs

Many adults with intellectual disabilities live with aging family members and face limited options for affordable, inclusive housing and long-term support.

Moving beyond the caregiver-patient divide

Trained Assistants provide quality care. At L'Arche, mutuality means people with and without disabilities give and receive care as peers in community. An Assistant helps a Core Member get ready for work. A Core Member helps a new housemate feel welcome. This is interdependence in daily life.

Affirming inherent dignity and belonging

Core Members make choices about their own lives, help shape the household, and share gifts that enrich the lives of their housemates and neighbors.

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What it takes to sustain a caring home of belonging

At L'Arche, Core Members pay room and board to help cover household expenses. Medicaid and charitable giving help pay for the staff who provide daily care and support, as well as the costs of delivering those services.



Household costs

Each Core Member pays a monthly room-and-board fee based on the 2026 state Special Assistance basic rate used by Durham County's Special Assistance In-Home program. This rate is currently $1396/month.
Room and board helps cover housing costs, groceries, utilities, household and health supplies, home upkeep and property insurance, replacement furnishings and appliances, and the cost of running and insuring two household vehicles.

Care funding

Medicaid reimburses L'Arche for authorized residential supports through the NC Innovations Waiver, helping pay for trained Assistants (DSPs), our house manager, nurse, and licensed clinical health professional, plus a small share of administrative staffing. Staffing alone costs more than Medicaid reimburses.

The gap philanthropy helps fill

Philanthropy helps cover the recurring staffing gap so L'Arche can keep a consistent care team in the home. That team makes everyday choices possible, from getting to work or dance class to inviting friends over for dinner. Those ordinary moments are what make a L'Arche house a home and connect the people who live there to their community.

APPROXIMATE MONTHLY STAFFING FIGURES FOR A L'ARCHE HOME WITH FOUR RESIDENTS

*The gap shown is for staffing costs alone.

$33,000+
actual monthly staffing cost
to staff the home

$25,000
est. monthly Medicaid reimbursmement
from the NC Innovations Waiver

$8,000+
monthly funding gap
for staffing & professional operations

Let's keep advocating together for Medicaid rates that reflect the real cost of supporting people with I/DD in their communities.

North Carolina ranked in the bottom third nationally for public spending on I/DD services relative to state income. Nonprofit homes like L'Arche shouldn't have to fundraise to keep a care team in place. Let's keep advocating together for Medicaid rates that cover the cost of dependable, high-quality daily support.

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L'ARCHE North Carolina

Daily Life at L'Arche NC



Jerome House

Four adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) live at the Jerome House, our first licensed home in Durham. We call these friends "Core Members." Trained live-in Assistants share the home as housemates and cover scheduled shifts with other live-out Assistants (Direct Support Professionals). They help with personal care, medications, and daily routines, share meals, and support Core Members in doing what they choose, from going to dance class to hosting friends for dinner.

Beyond Care, a Place to Belong

Our licensed clinical health professional helps Assistants understand each Core Member's specific needs and trains them to provide individualized support. That training helps Assistants support the parts of life that matter to each person, from joining friends at dance class to hosting dinner at home.

Community Beyond the Home

Assistants help Core Members stay active in their community. L'Arche Together Events also build friendships across the Triangle through music, crafts, and more!

From one home to three

FORWARD IN FRIENDSHIP

The $1.5 million Forward in Friendship campaign funds the purchase, accessibility renovations, and startup of the two Friendship Houses. Ongoing gifts help sustain daily care and community life.

In August 2026, we purchased two adjacent Friendship Houses in Durham's North Street neighborhood. The houses will create more residential care opportunities for 6-8 more adults with I/DD. We will blend the L'Arche model with the traditions of the Friendship House. We continue to fundraise and hope to open these homes by summer 2027.

www.larchenc.org/forward

Interested in living at L'Arche?

Complete the application: larchenc.org/live-with-us/

IMAGINE COMMUNITY DIFFERENTLY

An invitation to share in the life of our community



Make an Impact: Give to L'Arche North Carolina

At L'Arche, we believe every person is beloved and has gifts to share. We see it when someone pulls up a chair for a friend, asks for help, or notices who's missing from the table. We invite you to give and help sustain this kind of community

What your gift makes possible

Your gift helps keep a consistent team of Assistants who know when to lend a hand and when to make space for a Core Member to lead. A ride to dance class means staying connected to friends who know you by name. At dinner, the person you helped that morning may be the one who notices you've had a hard day.

Help us continue to grow

Help us welcome up to eight more adults with I/DD into the L'Arche community. A gift to Forward in Friendship helps us make two Durham homes accessible and ready for new Core Members to make them their own.



1. **Make a one-time gift or become a monthly donor**
   Give any amount to help bridge the gap and sustain daily support.

2. **Lend a helping hand**
   Subscribe to our emails at larchenc.org/subscribe to learn about upcoming opportunities.

3. **Champion our story**
   Tell friends, neighbors, and local leaders about our growing L'Arche community. Join us in advocating for Medicaid funding that reflects the real cost of care for adults with I/DD.

Give online or get in touch!

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