



REBUILDING COMMUNICATION

# BUILDING Bridges



Spring 2012

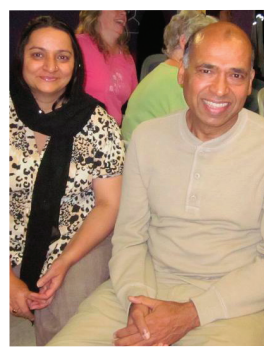
**Building Bridges** is the quarterly newsletter of the Aphasia Institute (AI)

- a community-based centre of excellence that helps people with aphasia express themselves to the world around them. Aphasia affects more than 100,000 Canadians, depriving them of the ability to speak, read, write and understand the speech of others. Aphasia affects a person's language skills, not their inherent competence, but all too often people with aphasia are discounted as incompetent because people lack the skills necessary to help them be understood. With ongoing support from donors, the Aphasia Institute's direct service and community outreach programs help people with aphasia and their families find new ways to re-join life's conversations.

## HATS OFF TO JAVED BAQUER – *an inspirational story!*

Javed Baquer is a man on a mission! Since joining the Aphasia Institute in 2011, he has focused on life goals that were interrupted by a stroke and aphasia in 2009. Javed has always been a high achiever and setting challenging goals is in his very DNA.

Before immigrating to Canada from Pakistan in 2001, he was a successful marine biologist who worked around the world and published many papers. He gave this up to provide new opportunities for his wife and four children here in Canada. A first effort with a Coffee Time franchise did not work out – did he give up? No! He looked at a new option in the real estate field and needed to pass the challenging real estate exam. The first two times were not successful – did he give up? No! Time three was the lucky number and Javed worked successfully in this new field until his stroke.



Javed Baquer with his wife

For many people, a stroke and aphasia might seem like a challenge that is almost impossible to overcome – did he give up? No! He couldn't speak well and used a walker, but focused on his new goal – to re-learn how to drive and practice real estate again. He participated in the Creative Writing, Conversation, Active Fitness, Dancing and Computer classes, and on the road to achieving his goal, recently passed new real estate specialization exams.

At our December holiday party, Javed won the Aphasia Institute's 50/50 draw and held \$509 in his hands before donating it back to the organization along with a speech that moved everyone to tears.



Lorraine Kelso fundraising with Rocket Subs

## Lorraine Kelso – Aphasia is not getting in the way of this INDEFATIGABLE 'ORGANIZER'

Lorraine is known as the family organizer in her roles as wife, mother of three and grandmother of two. She has always spoken up for those around her and often did so during her 23 years as an employee at Honeywell. So, after a stroke robbed her of the ability to speak, Lorraine surprised no one by focusing on her recovery, and speaking up again. Lorraine joined the Aphasia Institute in January 2010 and has become an integral part of the organization.

In December 2011, when members launched the I Care fundraising campaign, encouraging everyone to do one thing to show that they care about the Aphasia Institute, Lorraine was one of the first to sign up. She approached a friend who owns Rockets Subs, and convinced her to donate a portion of proceeds to the Aphasia Institute. Together they have already raised \$112 and have many happy lunch customers.

"I will do more fundraising," said Lorraine. I had to take some time away to plan my husband's 50th birthday party, but I'll run another event in April. I have a lot of ideas of ways to raise money!"

**What does Lorraine inspire YOU to do?**  
No idea is too small!

**We invite you to join the Aphasia Institute's I Care program** – a member-led fundraising program through which our members, volunteers and staff raise money in support of the Aphasia Institute. Money raised helps us to build awareness about aphasia, supports programs or training for volunteers, or covers the cost of equipment, outings and even more staff. Imagine if every one of us did one thing to show that we care?

**The I CARE Campaign**

## So you think you can DANCE



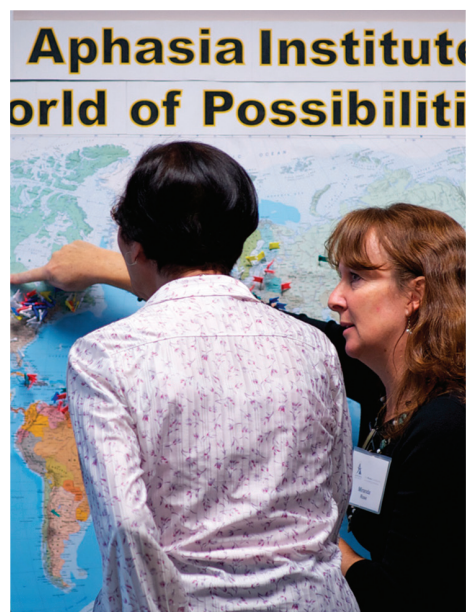
We invite you to come join in our NEW dance program - show us your moves!

**There is a new rhythm around the Aphasia Institute and it comes from the newest and most popular program for our members.** Our brand new (DANCE) program helps members and families to move, shake and have fun. Instructor Miriam Schacter is the founder of DanceFit Canada, a trained dance-fitness choreographer, a neuro/trauma-oriented psychotherapist-in-supervision and the teacher of the Dancing with Parkinson's program. The Aphasia Institute's dance program offers moves for seated or standing positions and is open to all members.

**CLICK HERE** to see how we are swinging into spring with this new program!

## The ultimate compliment for our innovative pictographic resources

After visiting the Aphasia Institute for training, speech-language pathologists from Finland and Denmark were inspired and have been successful in seeking funding to ensure that pictographic resources were available in their own countries - Another reminder that we have an impact on the lives of people with aphasia and their families far beyond our physical location here in Toronto, Canada.



## Dr. Miranda Rose Visit



**Dr. Miranda Rose,**  
*Senior Researcher,  
Centre for Clinical Research  
Excellence in Aphasia Rehabilitation*

Dr. Miranda Rose is an Australian Research Council Future Fellow and the Senior Researcher with the Centre for Clinical Research Excellence in Aphasia Rehabilitation which is funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council. This recently-created national centre aims to foster best practice in aphasia

rehabilitation through development of the Australian Aphasia Rehabilitation Pathway. In 2011, Dr. Rose and her team received a grant to study aphasia centres around the world to look for best practices before opening a new centre in Australia. The Aphasia Institute was delighted to host Dr. Rose in March 2012.

"There are 80,000 people in Australia with Aphasia, and yet, there are only 20 aphasia groups," Dr. Rose told the audience gathered at the Aphasia Institute. "We need to establish more groups. But we want them to be excellent, so we came here to learn from you."

**"The Aphasia Institute is truly a centre of excellence – everyone around the world knows that. This centre is a model that provides its members with the opportunity to participate in all aspects of life."**

"We are so grateful that you've let us come into your world and to learn from you. We will do our very best to apply your best practices in the groups that we establish in Australia."

**"It is an honour to host aphasia practitioners from other countries and to showcase the many special things about the Aphasia Institute. But such meetings are always a two way street – we learn a great deal from those who come to learn from us."**

**Dr. Aura Kagan,**  
*Executive Director of the Aphasia Institute.*



over 30 years of touching lives  
and rebuilding conversation

The Aphasia Institute relies on the generosity of individual donors and volunteers to deliver life-changing programs. For more information about the Aphasia Institute, please visit our website at [www.aphasia.ca](http://www.aphasia.ca).

**Aphasia Institute**  
73 Scarsdale Road  
Toronto, ON M3B 2R2 Canada  
phone: 416-226-3636  
fax: 416-226-3706  
[www.aphasia.ca](http://www.aphasia.ca)