



REBUILDING COMMUNICATION

# BUILDING Bridges



Summer 2012

**Building Bridges** is the quarterly newsletter of the Aphasia Institute - 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.

## Town Hall

### *A Coming Together of Our Members*



Our Town Hall gatherings are an excellent opportunity to update our members on everything we are doing, and for them to discuss new ideas, ask questions, and talk about issues of concern. Our summer Town Hall, held Monday, June 11th, was jam packed with

agenda items, with more than 60 members, their family and friends, volunteers and staff in attendance.

Aura Kagan, Executive Director and Director of Applied Research and Education, spoke about research in relation to conversation groups. She also discussed the therapeutic importance of meeting new people and having the kind of interactive conversations people wouldn't necessarily get in their home setting. Research shows that being in a conversation group helps to instil confidence, enhance motivation, and improve communication.



We welcomed our new Music Therapist, Thyra Andrews, who will be holding sessions on Wednesdays. Please note this is in addition to our regular drum and choir sessions, which will continue to be held on Tuesdays.

We also introduced Ky Pruesse, our new member representative to the Board of Directors.

There were also updates on the numerous outings our members have enjoyed this past spring (including Riverdance, Medieval Times, and Bowling and Lunch), our fundraising events at U of T, and the Craft and Bake Sale.



## Walk, Talk 'n Roll 2012

A big thanks to everyone who contributed to this year's annual **Walk Talk 'n Roll**, we achieved our mission of breaking records and achieving goals in many different ways.

Under sunny skies, and in very hot weather conditions, participants either ran 5k, or walked 5k or 1k. Ninety-four people reached out to more than 830 individuals to help raise funds for the organization.

So far, we've raised more than \$58,000, and the donations and funds from pledges are still coming in. Thanks also go to all of our board and staff members who raised \$23,600.

Every cent raised helps fund the work of the Institute, bringing us ever closer to achieving our vision of removing all barriers to people living with aphasia. This year, the funds we raised will allow us to provide subsidies for people with aphasia to attend our community programs, enable us to upgrade our web technology, and provide resources to hundreds of people so they will have access to the information they need.

We are pleased to announce that Javed Baquer, an Aphasia Institute member, and his wife Zehra, successfully completed their goal of walking 1k. This is the longest distance Javed has walked since he sustained a stroke in 2009. Javed said, *"For me, this walk is about hope and a group of people who support each other as we reach our goals. The Aphasia Institute gives me hope."*

We thank you, Javed, for your dedication to the Aphasia Institute. You are an inspiration to so many people who are working hard to achieve their goals.

Finally, we would like to express our appreciation to the Toronto Challenge, a multi-charity event supported by the City of Toronto, who invited the Aphasia Institute to participate with approximately 5,000 people from other charities.



## Our next events will be:



Saturday, July 21, 2012  
**Beauty and the Beast** show



Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup>  
**Blue Jays** Baseball Game



Sunday, August 26 2012  
**Forsythe Cup** Golf Tournament



Tuesday, August 28<sup>th</sup>

A day trip to **WindReach Farm** in Ashburn that includes fully accessible trails, a tour of the farm, a wagon ride and fishing.

## Ambassador Award Call for Nominations



Since 2005, the Aphasia Institute has annually recognized a member or family member for their outstanding contributions to our community with the Ambassador Award. This includes fundraising, giving advice and assistance on a committee, being an advocate for the Institute and for people who have aphasia, and making a positive overall contribution to the community at the Institute.

Last year, Tracy Steele was recognized for her incredible work in the area of aphasia awareness. As the daughter of a member living with

aphasia, she creatively uses every opportunity to raise awareness about aphasia and the work we do. This has included creating t-shirts and hats for our Walk, Talk 'n Roll event, and distributing awareness-raising brochures, videos and CDs to friends and neighbours.

Other past award recipients include Paul Bussiere, who for ten

years has run the Forsythe Cup on behalf of the Aphasia Institute; Donna, Phil and Jeff Brown, and Jeff, Lois and Ken Richards, who over the years, among other things have taken on the role of "aphasia ambassadors" by contributing to the success of our Walk, Talk 'n Roll campaigns; and Jack and Sybil Geller, who have done so much to raise awareness about aphasia through their participation in media stories, letter writing campaigns, and establishing and maintaining the Geller Fund, which provides bursaries to help pay for member program fees.

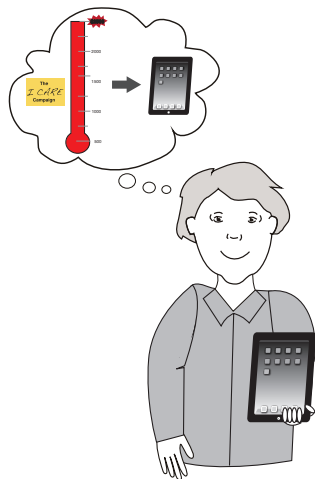
### Nomination Criteria:

- Members, family members or individuals impacted by aphasia
- Must be connected with the Aphasia Institute for a minimum of two years
- In the past year has made an outstanding contribution to the Aphasia Institute and people with aphasia
- There is no limit to how many people you nominate

Give your Ambassador Award nominations to **Lisa Debow**, or email [ldebow@aphasia.ca](mailto:ldebow@aphasia.ca) with the subject line "Ambassador Award," no later than **July 31, 2012**. Please be sure to include a brief paragraph describing why you nominated this individual.

The award recipient will be notified by the selection committee by mid-August and will receive a special invitation to our Annual General Meeting, September 24th. The recipient will be announced at the AGM and their name will be displayed on a plaque listing all recipients of the Ambassador Award.

## The *I CARE* Campaign



We are very pleased to announce that our *I CARE* Campaign was a total success. Because of the outstanding contributions of 25 people, we exceeded our goal of raising \$2,500. With these funds, we purchased four iPads.

With a total of five iPads now available, we want to hear your ideas about how our members can best use these incredible new tools. Let us know in person, or jot down your recommendations and put them in our suggestion box.

Thanks again to everyone for helping us reach our *I CARE* Campaign goals.

In the fall we will be running another *I CARE* campaign.

**Stay Tuned!**

## Aphasia Institute Annual General Meeting



Please join us for our Annual General Meeting

**Date:** September 24, 2012

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

**Location:** Aphasia Institute, 73 Scarsdale,  
Toronto, Ontario. M3B 2R2

If you need more information, please feel free to contact:

**Clare** at [cthompson@aphasia.ca](mailto:cthompson@aphasia.ca) or call **416-226-3636 Ext.10**



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).

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