

This holiday season, your generosity brings the gift of connection.

Kevin was just 32 years old when he experienced a sudden stroke that changed his life and relationships in an instant. He went from having a career in information technology and an active social life, to experiencing the profound isolation that so many people with aphasia face.

Once he recovered physically, he learned about the Aphasia Institute and the wide range of programs available. When asked how he felt on his first day, he said, “excited.”

Kevin quickly became an active participant, joining the New Beginnings Program, Community Aphasia Program, Toastmasters, Hear My Voice (karaoke), and Documentary Talks. He also participates in the informal younger-persons meetup group, enjoying weekly conversation circles and peer-led outings. These connections and friendships maintained outside of the Institute through text, email, and social media, give Kevin a meaningful social life and a sense of community.

Kevin attends the Institute onsite and online four days a week, and in the last six years, he’s built countless connections with staff and fellow members. But perhaps the most remarkable part of his journey is the work he’s doing with healthcare professionals.



Kevin - Aphasia Institute Member

Through the Aphasia Institute’s Supported Conversation for Adults with Aphasia (SCA™) Professional Training Programs, designed to help healthcare providers communicate more effectively with clients living with aphasia, Kevin shares his firsthand experience and practical strategies by having the healthcare professionals practice their newly learned SCA™ skills with him.

By teaching tips and tools for better communication, he is helping healthcare providers connect with patients in ways that are life-changing. He shows them how to be patient, slow down, and use visual communication. His guidance ensures that individuals experiencing aphasia are treated with competence, feel understood and supported, and that their healthcare teams have the skills they need to communicate with confidence and compassion.

Thanks to caring donors like you, Kevin has regained a profound sense of belonging and the joy of being part of a community once again. He's now envisioning new career possibilities and considering a path as a forklift driver, embracing the future with hope and determination.

Kevin's story is just *one* example of the difference you make.
Your generosity brings these transformative achievements to life.

This holiday season, your support is needed more than ever. Your gift to the Aphasia Institute helps sustain essential programs while creating new ones designed to meet the evolving needs of our members.

Please give now to help your loved ones, friends, and neighbours find their voices, rebuild their lives, and embrace the power of connection.



Life's a Conversation