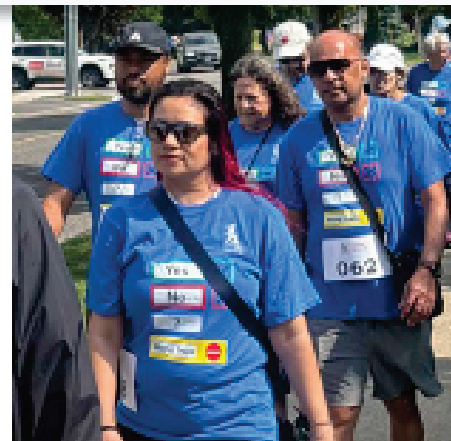
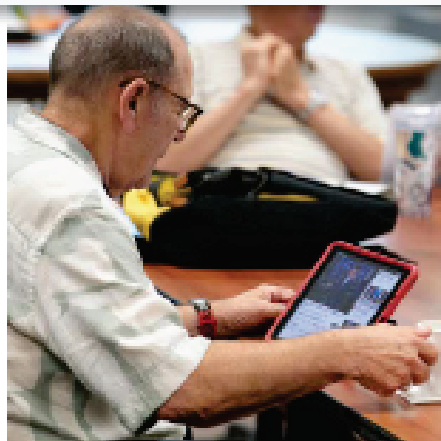


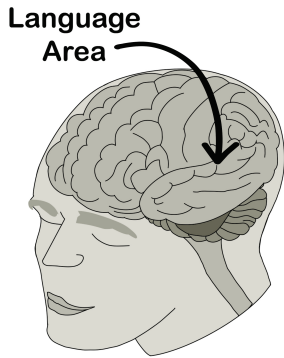


Annual Impact Report 2025-2026



Aphasia-Friendly Version

What is Aphasia?



Aphasia is caused by a **stroke**, **brain injury**, or **brain illness**

Aphasia is a **Communication Disorder**

Aphasia can make it difficult to

Talk



Understand



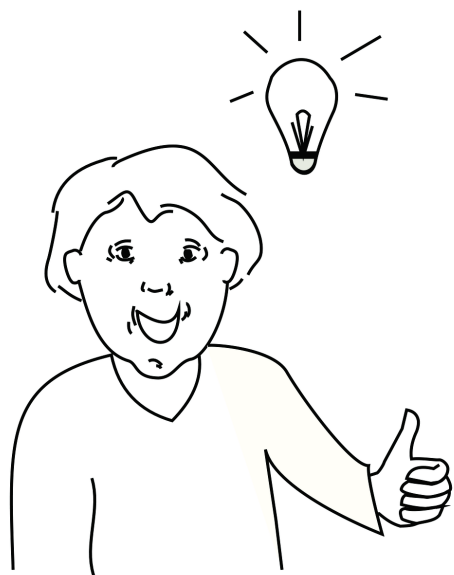
Write



Read



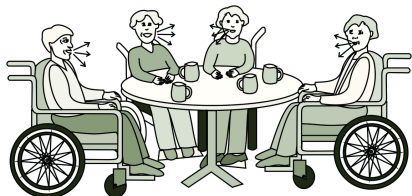
People with Aphasia:



- Are **still intelligent**
- **Know what they want to say**
- Are **competent adults**
- Can still **make decisions**

The Aphasia Institute

Founded in 1979



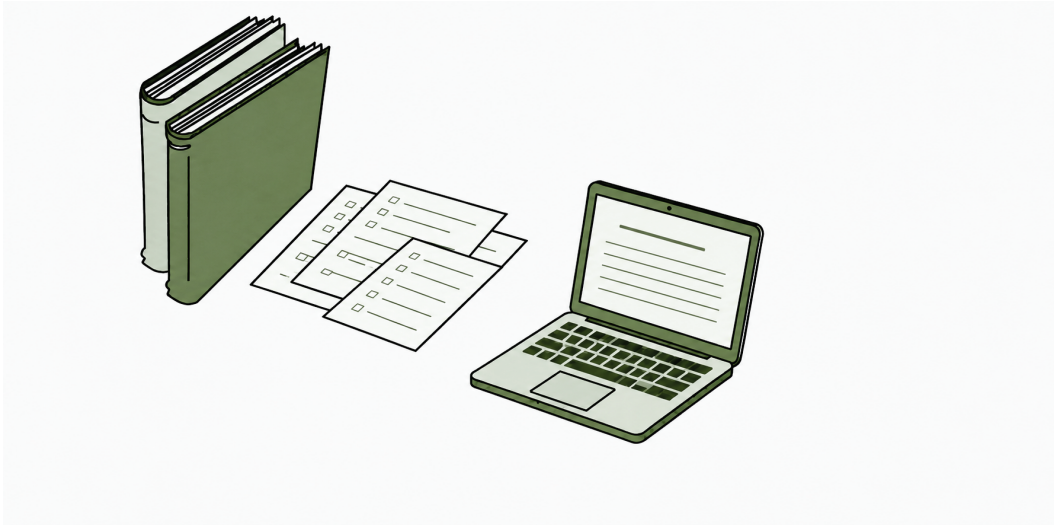
Helps people with aphasia,
family members, and others



**Provides direct services,
training, and research in
communication skills**

Aphasia-Friendly Documents

Changing written communication (articles, books, forms) can make **understanding easier** for people with aphasia.



Useful Changes

Plain Language:

Everyday **vocabulary**, short **sentences**, no **jargon**

Page Design:

Clear **headings**, short **paragraphs**, plenty of **white space**

Add Visuals:

Drawings, photographs, simple fonts



Life's a conversation



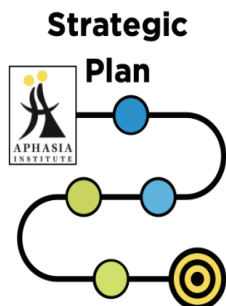
Executive Message

Dear Aphasia Community,

This year, **we achieved** many important **goals**:

1. New Strategic Plan:

2026-2029



Natalie Gierman

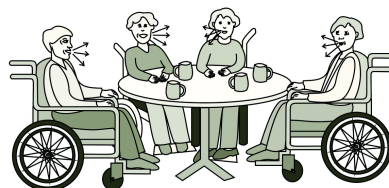
2. Preparing for a **new Accreditation** in **2027**.

We were accredited in 2023



Jane Brenneman Gibson

3. Improved and increased our **services, training,** and professional **education**



Thank you,

A handwritten signature of Natalie Gierman.

Natalie Gierman,
Executive Director

A handwritten signature of Jane Brenneman Gibson.

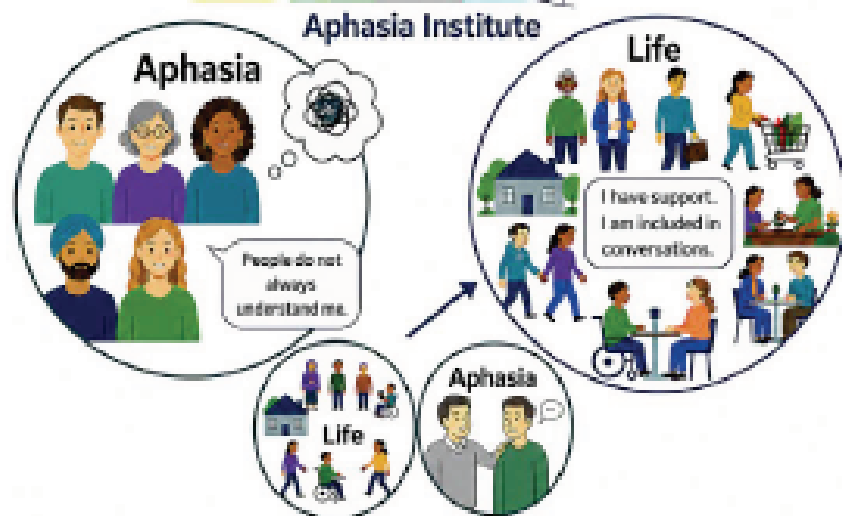
Jane Brenneman Gibson,
Board Chair





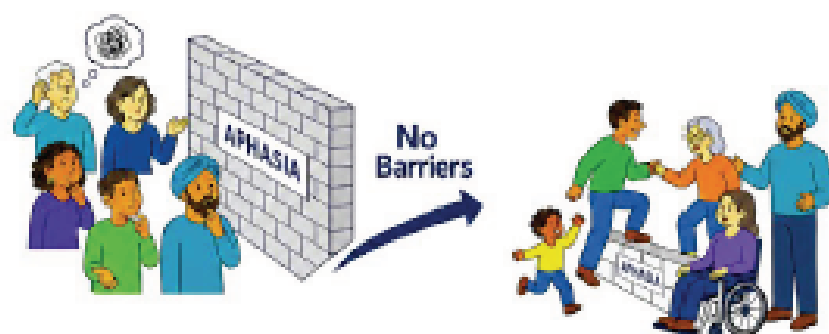
Mission

Give hope to people with aphasia and their families by developing and sharing innovative solutions that reduce language barriers to full life participation.



Vision

There are no barriers to living successfully with aphasia.



Community Aphasia Programs (CAP) Highlights

Our **staff** and **volunteers**
lead the **programs**.

Our **members**
have **conversations** ,
meet other **people**
with **aphasia**,
and build **new** **relationships**.



Weekly Conversation Table

Technology Access Program



Technology Program in Action

Our weekly **onsite iPad** group
helps members practice skills
such as **Zoom**, **YouTUBE**,
and **Google**.

We also **lend iPads** to
members, as needed.



We started our **online** **programs**
in 2021.

Singwell Aphasia Choir



We worked with **Toronto Metropolitan University** to study an **online singing program** for people with **aphasia**.

Family and Care Partner Support Groups

Family members of people attending our programs can **meet every week**, both **in-person** and **online**. Family members can **share ideas** and **support each other**.



Reduced Wait Times for New Members



New members can **join programs** more **quickly**.

We **improved** our **referral forms**.
The new forms will include
more **important information**.

People can **send referrals** now
by **email** or fax.

We completed **48%**
more assessments.

Quality Improvement

We asked **members**
and **family members**
for **feedback**.

They told us they **feel safe**,
respected, and **informed**.

Members asked to be
more **involved in decisions**.

We will **find new ways** to
include members in **planning**.



Members attended many outings, including **Blue Jays** games, the **National Ballet**, **Camp Sunshine**, an **Indigenous dance**, and a clay-making class at the **Gardiner Museum**.



Members volunteered at the **Daily Bread Food Bank**, the **Yonge Street Mission**, and the **Toronto Waterfront Marathon**.

28% increase in members going on **outings**

Students: Training new Speech-Language Pathologists



We **supervise** **graduate students** every year, from the **University of Toronto** and **McMaster University**.

Volunteers in Action



Our **165 volunteers** gave us **9,909 hours** last year.

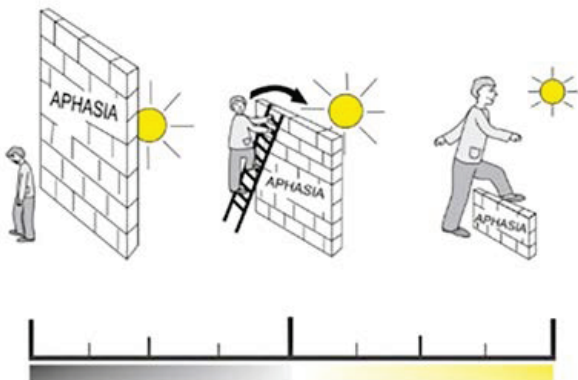
We recruited **68 new volunteers**.

Our **staff** gave **1,400 hours of education** to our volunteers.

Education, Training, and Resources

New Clinical Resource

Which one is you?



The Wall Question

A short, simple but **powerful quality of life measure** for people living with aphasia

Education, Training, and Resources

Introduction to SCA eLearning V2

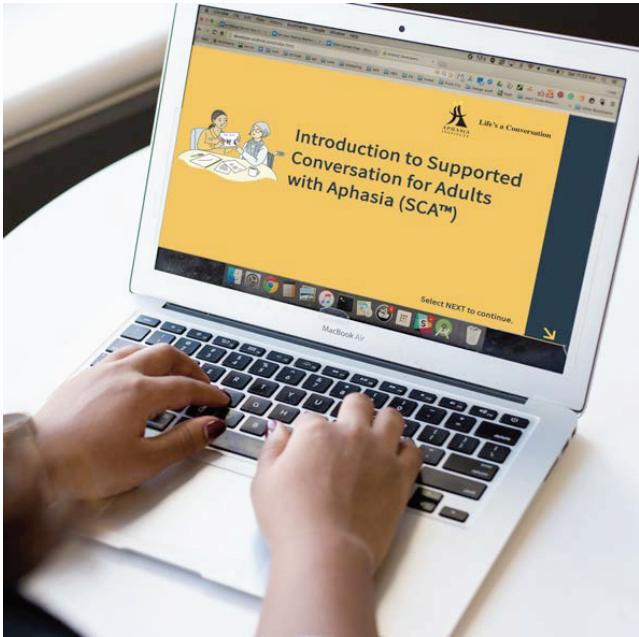
The **Aphasia Institute** teaches many **health care providers** how to **communicate** with **people who have aphasia**.

6,354 LEARNERS

837 IN ONTARIO

1,844 IN CANADA

4,510 INTERNATIONAL



Professional Training Courses Online

Aphasia Institute **members** help **learners** practice new communication skills.

110 TRAINEES

+90% RATED THE COURSE AS EXCELLENT



McMaster University/ Malawi and Nigeria Project

Staff from the **Aphasia Institute** and **McMaster University** worked together to **train healthcare providers** in **Malawi** and **Nigeria**.



Twelve outstanding **experts spoke** about clinical **research** and **therapy** for aphasia.

Canada

Dr. Esther Kim, Edmonton, Alberta

U.K.

Dr. Anna Volkmer, London

Dr. Jane Marshall and Dr. Niamh Devane, London

U.S.A.

Dr. Suma Devanga, Chicago, Illinois

Dr. Jackie Hinkley, Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Dr. Mackenzie Fama, Washington D.C.

Dr. Lauren Bislick, Orlando, Florida

Dr. Jamie Azios, Lafayette, Louisiana

Australia

Dr. Jas Sekhon, Melbourne, Australia

Research

Canada's First National Aphasia Research Network

We worked with Dr. Esther Kim
and Shannan Love
(University of Alberta) to **start** the

Canadian Aphasia Research Alliance (CARA).



This is the **first aphasia research group** in **Canada**.
We have **20 aphasia researchers** from **universities** across
Canada in the group.

Presentations and Conferences

Aphasia Institute staff
and **research partners**
presented at
many **conferences**
around the **world**.



Elyse Shumway,
Director Clinical Services and Education

Topics:

- Supporting new **friendships after stroke** and **aphasia**
- The **Wall Question** – a Quality-of-Life measure for people living with aphasia
- **Hybrid methods** for a **Toastmasters** Gavel club group

Aphasia Institute Awards

Gerry Cormier Communicative Access Award



Gerry Cormier was a **member** who is **featured** in our most popular **educational video**

Jaclyn Gilpin, OT Reg. (Ont.),
Toronto West Stroke Network,
Toronto Western Hospital

Jaclyn (Jackie) developed a network of **aphasia champions**. They trained over **300 healthcare professionals**.



Marla Fogelman,
Speech-Language Pathologist,
Reg. CASLPO
Toronto Rehab,
University Health Network



Marla **teaches** many others to use **Supported Conversation for Adults with Aphasia (SCA™)**. She serves on our **Research and Ethics committee**.

Aphasia Institute Awards

Pat Arato Community Partner Award

This award was **named after our founder**. It **honours community partners** who **provide funding** and **expert advice** to support our work.



Sunshine Centre for Seniors

Sunshine Centres for Seniors has hosted our members, family, and friends for many events and programs on Ward's Island.



Munro Partners Canada

Munro Canada Operations' **staff volunteer** every year at **Talk, Walk 'n Roll**. They play an essential role to **make our annual fundraising event a success**.



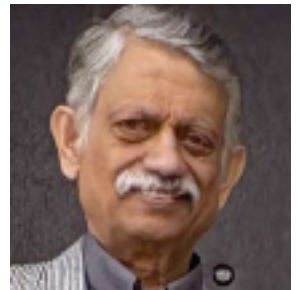
Aphasia Institute Awards

Ambassador Award

This award recognizes **outstanding contributions** to the **Aphasia Institute community**.

Alban Mendonca – Family Member

Alban **brings his wife, Odette,** to the Aphasia Institute **every week.** He talks with others and **gives encouragement and hope.** Alban has also **raised funds** for the member programs.



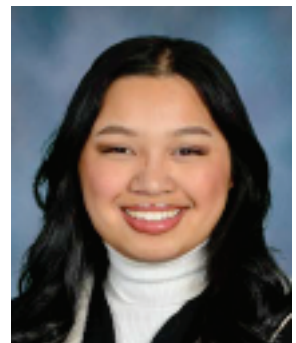
Dennis Brans – Member

Dennis is an **active member** in virtual conversation groups and Toastmasters Gavel Club. He shared his story in videos and supported the annual *Talk, Walk ‘n Roll* event.



Shane de Dios – Volunteer

Shane has **supported many member programs,** and has **recruited many student volunteers.**



Fundraising

Talk, Walk 'n Roll 2025

Members, families, friends, volunteers, and supporters came together again to **raise funds**.



This event was made possible thanks to the **generosity** of our **community** and the **support** of our corporate sponsor **Munro Canada Operations Inc.**

Artwork Auction

Thank you to our **generous art instructor Allan Brown**. Allan **donated** 20 of his **original paintings**.

The artwork was auctioned with **100%** of the **proceeds** for ***Talk, Walk 'n Roll***.



Annual Appeal

Our **Annual Appeal** raised **\$72,591**. **Kevin Lee** shared his story. Today, Kevin is also a **member trainer**.

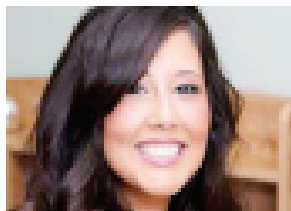


Financials

\$\$\$



Peter Tsui, CPA, CA, LPA
Auditor



Silvia Gomes
Treasurer

2025-2026

Operating **Deficit:** \$18,283.00

Total **Revenues:** \$2.29 million

Everyone Welcome. Everyone Valued.

The **Aphasia Institute** includes **members, families, board, staff, and volunteers** from **many different backgrounds**.

We are committed to creating a **positive, respectful environment**.

We want **everyone** to feel **safe, welcome, and valued**.

Non-Discrimination Policy



We want to be **inclusive**



Diversity is strength



We are committed