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a•pha•sia (uh-fay'-zhuh) *n.* A language disorder that impairs the expression and understanding of spoken language, reading, and writing. It occurs most often from a stroke or brain injury. This frustrating condition affects a person's ability to communicate, but does not affect his or her intellect.

Dear Friends,

You may remember Lisa as Sister Mary Patrick, who danced with free abandon along to the local bar's juke box much to the delight of attendees at this year's musical production of *Sister Act*; or as Amaryllis, the little girl who hit all the wrong notes during piano lessons with Marian the Librarian in last year's *Music Man*. Lisa loves to perform and showcase her enthusiasm for life through the roles she takes on. But there is one role she wasn't prepared for — that of a stroke survivor with aphasia.

In 2015, Lisa developed an aneurism and suffered a stroke 3 weeks later. Gone were her days of working in the medical supply field and gone were her nights of salsa dancing till dawn. Lisa was an outgoing, vibrant free spirit who suddenly couldn't communicate with her family and friends. Although she had no physical deficits, she developed short term memory loss, could not read or write and could not retrieve her words easily. She became withdrawn and depressed, a common response to this new way of life.

Lisa joined Adler Aphasia Center 2 years ago. Here, she built her communications skills through participation in life-skill building groups. Here, she learned to use the Center's state of the art aphasia software to practice her speech. Here she discovered new interests, like performing and jewelry making. And here, she developed a new circle of friends who faced the same struggles — some less, some more. She became a champion to those members who needed a helping hand. Lisa blossomed and her vivacious personality returned, as did her confidence and self-esteem. She found a way to positively shift the focus on her own journey of reconnection, rediscovery and recovery.

Lisa is among the 2.5 million people living with aphasia in this country.

Our Centers are among only a few in the world that provide long term post-rehabilitation aphasia therapy. Our unique services are not eligible for reimbursement from insurance carriers. We rely on our generous donors to offer the critical support that stroke and brain injury survivors with aphasia like Lisa need.





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 201.368.8585

ADLER APHASIA CENTER, WEST ORANGE
 760 Northfield Avenue
 West Orange, NJ 07052
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APHASIA COMMUNICATION GROUPS
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 Toms River
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 973.530.3981

Adler Aphasia Center is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.



Your support plays a vital part in making a difference in the lives of our members with aphasia and their families. **Your contribution of:**

\$2,700

will provide a full year scholarship for a deserving member

\$900

will sponsor a semester of programs for a member to build their communication skills

\$500

will provide a year of supplies for our creative arts program

\$150

will sponsor a weekly caregiver support group for one month

Your gift will strengthen and expand our programs and services to help those with aphasia and their caregivers throughout the state. Your gift will help our members, like Lisa, shift their focus on their recovery and their rediscovery of a better quality of life.

Thank you for giving generously and from our family to yours, our best to you in the New Year.

With gratitude,

Charles P. Berkowitz
 Chair, Board of Directors

Shelby Klein
 President and CEO

