Dear Friends,

A special education teacher and counselor in Fair Lawn, NJ and a longtime volunteer in her community, Judy and her husband of almost 36 years, Roy, were beloved members of several Bergen County communities, where they lived, worked and volunteered.

Judy’s life, at 58, was upended in August, 2018, following a stroke as a result of a brain arteriovenous malformation, a tangle of abnormal blood vessels connecting arteries and veins in the brain. Hospitalized for 6 weeks, she underwent numerous brain surgeries, surviving on a feeding tube and sheer willpower. It took her 4 weeks to simply sit in a wheelchair. Judy was also diagnosed with aphasia, unable to neither speak, read nor write. Their three children and their communities came together to support them, providing meals, and much needed respite for Roy. Their oldest, Lindsay, a Speech-Language Pathologist, helped Judy build her communication skills while at home, using aphasia software to practice her speech.

As she continued to recover, Roy and Judy communicated extensively about their new journey together. Though uncertain, she knew she had to put her all into rehabilitation and have no regrets. Judy came to Adler Aphasia Center in a wheelchair just 6 months ago, ready to start a new journey. Being in the early stages of her rehabilitation, the sight of so many others with aphasia speaking and showing great improvement was shocking when she first arrived. Judy worried that she wouldn’t be able to improve like the others. But with the support of her dedicated family, her newfound Center friends, our innovative life skills groups, and her increasing confidence, Judy has thrived thanks to the Center’s holistic approach to rehabilitation. She has hope and joy once again. Recently she walked into the Center using only her cane, a major milestone in her recovery, and was met with applause from her fellow members with aphasia – here to cheer her on literally every step of the way.

Judy is one of 2.5 million Americans living with aphasia. Our program is among only a few in the world that provides long term post-rehabilitation aphasia therapy. Our unique services rely on funding from our generous donors, like you, to offer the
critical support that stroke and brain injury survivors with aphasia need. Your contribution of:

- **$2,700** will provide a full year scholarship for a member to participate in our programs;
- **$1,500** will upgrade our technology program’s software;
- **$900** will sponsor a semester of programs for a member to build their communication skills;
- **$500** will sponsor a twice-weekly caregiver support group for one semester;
- **$250** will sponsor a year of attendance for a member at one of our 11 Aphasia Communication Groups throughout NJ.

With your gift of $250 or more, our founder, Elaine Adler, will match your gift up to $100,000 during this campaign.

Your gift will strengthen our programs and services throughout NJ and enrich the lives of people with aphasia, their families and communities. Your gift will aid Center members in their rehabilitation. Your gift will help our members, like Judy, take those important steps toward recovery.

Thank you for giving generously and our best to you in 2020!

With gratitude,

Charles P. Berkowitz
Chair, Board of Directors

Chantelle Walker
President and CEO

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**aphasia** (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.