

# 21 WAYS WE EMBRACED 2021

2021 Adler Aphasia Center Report to the Community



**APHASIA** is a language disorder that usually results from a brain injury (such as stroke, brain tumor, accident, or infection). While aphasia can affect one's ability to speak, understand, read and write, it does not affect intellect.

**OUR MISSION** is to enrich the lives of people with aphasia, their families, and communities.

## Full Service Centers

**Maywood**  
60 West Hunter Ave  
Maywood, NJ  
201.368.8585



**West Orange**  
300 Pleasant Valley Way  
West Orange, NJ  
551.287.2237

**Toms River**  
1563 Old Freehold Rd  
Toms River, NJ  
551.287.2236

## Aphasia Communication Groups

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Monroe  
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Toms River  
Virtual NJ ACG  
Virtual Spanish Speaking  
551.287.2238



ADLER APHASIA CENTER  
IS A 501(C)3 NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION

## Our President and CEO's Message



While so much has transpired in the last year, I write this to you with great optimism about what is ahead. This past year we welcomed new members and caregivers, engaged members in conversation and activity groups that they longed for after the many changes brought on in the prior year. To that end, we brought back medical and nursing students to learn from our members—our best advocates—and brought many funders through our doors to show you first-hand the impact of your support.

As I write these remarks, we are embarking on a new semester at Adler; welcoming our newest cohort of members and caregivers to the Adler community; and seeing firsthand how those most recently impacted by aphasia are welcomed into this one-of-a-kind family. The year was a reminder of the resilience of our community, the willingness to adapt and learn new skills, and the flexibility that is necessary to navigate life for all of us. As we look ahead, we are overjoyed to have members back in our *Something Special* store, in the computer lab, and in the art groups that join our members and volunteers together, creating more meaningful opportunities while increasing communication and reducing isolation.

I don't have to tell you how special Adler Aphasias Center is, but to witness and embrace it is a true gift. Thank you for your continued support and allowing us to continue our important work for our members.

Be well,

Naomi Gewirtz

## Our Founder's Message



As we have opened to in-person programs once again, our board and staff continue to place the highest priority on our members', caregivers', staff and volunteers' safety and health. We have learned it is necessary to continually transform our services and programs to adapt to this new normal.

Our goals are bold, but we are embracing the opportunity to review what we offer our members and caregivers to improve their quality of life. Adler Aphasias Center will always continue to contribute, grow and thrive together with you, our aphasia community.

Please take care, be good to yourself, be kind to others, and stay healthy!

Elaine Adler

## The Adler Aphasias Center LEGACY SOCIETY



We invite you to join the Adler Aphasias Center Legacy Society. We hope you will consider a future gift to the Adler Aphasias Center. Through your estate plans, you can create a legacy of care and continue your support for individuals with aphasia and their caregivers.

The information below may be helpful to you and your advisors. To get started, contact Christine Brewster, Adler Aphasias Center Director of Development at [cbrewster@adleraphasiacenter.org](mailto:cbrewster@adleraphasiacenter.org) or call 551-280-8660.

**Legal Name** The Adler Aphasias Center **Address** 60 West Hunter Avenue, Maywood, NJ 07607 **Federal Tax ID** 02-0687863

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Elaine and Mike\* Adler

*\*In memoriam, 2015*

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# 21 WAYS WE EMBRACED 2021

This past year continued to pose challenges for Adler Aphasia Center: how to ensure ongoing access to long-term recovery for people with aphasia throughout New Jersey, enabling them to live their best lives while dealing with the ripple effects of the pandemic. After a highly successful pivot to our telehealth program during the past two years of the pandemic, our three full-service centers in Maywood, West Orange, and Toms River returned to in-person programming in late 2021. Telehealth continued to serve a few of our ten Aphasia Communication Groups and caregiver support groups. While a return to normalcy is still our hope in 2022, we're grateful that our staff, participants, and volunteers made it through this very difficult past year determined to maintain a routine, ensuring that all our members were offered a continuum of care on their paths to recovery.

**Here are 21 achievements we embraced in 2021 that we hope make you proud about being a friend and donor of Adler Aphasia Center:**

**1** We provided 22,000 service hours to more than 300 members, caregivers and virtual meet-up group participants via telehealth and in-person communication groups in 2021, enabling people with aphasia to continue to relearn communication skills, while maintaining socialization and improving their quality of life at a time of significant social isolation.



**2** For Adler members, virtual communication groups were offered via Zoom through August 2021, providing 15 weekly telehealth groups 4 days a week. From September through the remainder of 2021, we pivoted to a hybrid program, offering 4 days a week of Life Skills programming in person in the morning and additional program hours virtually in the afternoon.

**3** More than 2,000 service hours were devoted to our 10 Aphasia Communication Groups, connecting close to 100 members in 2021.

**4** Our Aphasia Communication Group members, providing opportunities for people with aphasia to connect with a broader aphasia community across the state, were offered a songwriting workshop, an opportunity to participate in focus groups for Adler marketing materials, and welcomed researchers and healthcare professionals to their groups to learn more about their projects.

**5** We offered 44 Virtual Meet-Up groups to people with aphasia who weren't members of the Adler community in 2021, totaling 233 service hours.

**6** Having offered 10 monthly virtual and in person caregiver groups, 90% of caregivers surveyed in 2021 reported that their own lives had improved as participants of our formal Caregiver Support Groups.



Caregivers display their Something Special bracelets.

**7** Results of our 2021 Member Telehealth Survey demonstrated that 100% of responding members reported that they maintained or improved their overall quality as well as their communication skills after participating in our virtual groups.

**8** With the support of our community partners and foundations throughout the US, the Center was awarded \$744,000 in emergency and program grants in 2021.

**9** We upgraded the Center's technology infrastructure in 2021 through the purchase of new hardware and software, as well as contracted new IT services, ensuring smooth functional operations for all Adler sites.





West Orange ribbon cutting

**10** We opened our West Orange program in a new location in the fall at Temple B'nai Shalom and welcomed more than 100 community leaders, donors, Center families and special guests to an Open House and ribbon cutting ceremony. Original Saturday Night Live writer, screenwriter and best-selling author whose family member was a former West Orange member, Alan Zweibel, was our featured speaker.

and Co., Barclay Bank, CIT Corp., Eisai Inc., Deloitte, and Express Scripts by offering event sales and Virtual Snack and Learns. This unique program has grossed over \$580,000 in sales since its inception in 2009, providing 180 full annual scholarships to members.

**13** We made remarkable efforts to reach our donors and friends via social media and virtual events in



Something Special shoppers supporting the Center

**11** With a core force of 30 volunteers during the pandemic, this group was instrumental in the success of our telehealth program by running weekly virtual conversational groups for our members. Six Something Special volunteers led virtual and in-person events hosted by local corporations.

**12** Something Special continued to engage in community outreach in 2021 with 6 corporate partners, Becton, Dickinson

2021. Offering 2 Facebook Live events combined with other outreach efforts, we reached more than 4,600 people in 2021. Our social media followers now number over 5,000 on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

**14** Our virtual gala raised close to \$190,000 to support our programs and services.

**15** For those members who were unable to pay our tuition fee of \$30 a day to participate in

our full-service programs, we provided 50% of our membership full and partial scholarships in 2021.

**16** Our Community Partners Group, consisting of 28 active Center members and caregivers throughout NJ, participated in our Aphasia Coach program offering virtual "aphasia expertise" to newly diagnosed people with aphasia at Kessler Rehab over 13 occasions. This group also volunteers as an intergenerational partner with the Scarlet Studio Program at a local high school, offering students with special needs a virtual opportunity to engage in a Something Special Beading Buddy event, a meditation and movement activity and a Halloween party.

**17** We maintained an active community outreach schedule throughout the state, reaching more than 4,600 people in 52 venues in 2021, in an effort to educate our communities beyond our flagship location in Bergen County about aphasia and our programs.

**18** Close to 150 nursing and physician assistant students from Holy Name Hospital and Seton Hall University virtually participated in aphasia



training sessions, with Center members helping to lead discussions. Seton Hall Speech-Language Pathology students also practiced administering diagnostic evaluations to our members.

**19** Our Toms River location that opened in January of 2020 has doubled its membership since reopening our doors in 2021.

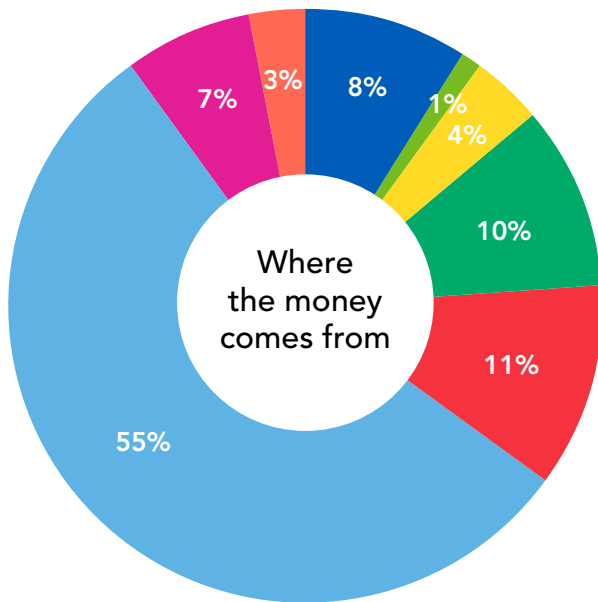
**20** Our Maywood members engaged with aphasia groups in Northern Ireland, Maine and Florida via Zoom, further expanding our aphasia community worldwide while decreasing our members' isolation and building a sense of connectedness.

**21** Over 50 people joined virtually for our "friendraiser," YogAphasia. We partnered with K-Deer, friend and supporter of the Center, to educate and reach out to a broader audience while raising funds for the Adler Aphasia Center.

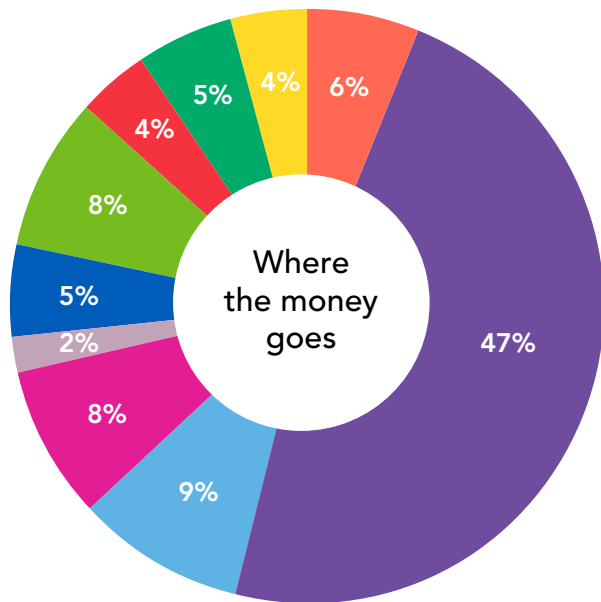


Members socializing at the Center while social distancing

## Our Sources of Income



- Something Special
- Member and Program Fees
- Government Grants
- Foundations and Corporations
- Individuals
- Events
- Other
- Donated Goods



- Fundraising
- Life Skills
- Management & Administration
- Technology
- Something Special
- Education, Training & Outreach
- Adler West Orange
- Adler Toms River
- Adler Hadassah
- Aphasia Communication Groups

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Nola Sher  
Florence and Norman Silverberg  
Loraine Simunek and  
Jo Ann Binkert  
Carolyn Smith  
Joanne Snyder  
Kristine and Steve Swanson  
Harold Takooshian  
Paul Tassler  
Susan Thaler  
Ruthann Todd  
Rosalie Unterman  
Kathryn and Gene Van Buren  
Julie and Dave Van Tine  
Frank Villerius  
Goldie Weisz  
Inge and Paul Wolff  
Lisa Wolkind  
Jennifer Woo

#### IN-KIND GIFTS

Brian Castka  
Cornell Surgical Co.  
E & M Holdings (Elaine and  
Mike Adler)  
Eisai USA Foundation, Inc.  
Myron Corporation  
Arlene and Alan Silverstein  
Robin and Justin Straus

*To err is human, to forgive is  
divine. We apologize for any  
errors or omissions.*