



# Your gift. Your impact. Their future.

*2023 Adler Aphasias Center Report to the Community*

## a•pha•sia (ə-’fā-ZH(ē)-ə):

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 Campus

60 West Hunter Avenue, Maywood, NJ  
201.368.8585

#### West Orange Campus

Temple B'nai Shalom  
300 Pleasant Valley Way, West Orange, NJ  
551.287.2237

#### Toms River Campus

Church of Grace and Peace  
1563 Old Freehold Road, Toms River, NJ  
551.287.2236

### Aphasia Communication Groups

Haddonfield  
Hammonton  
Maywood  
Monroe  
Toms River  
Virtual NJ Groups  
551.287.2238



**Adler Aphasias**  
**CENTER**

[adleraphasiacenter.org](http://adleraphasiacenter.org)

## MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

*Dear Friends,*

As we reflect on the past year, we are reminded of the incredible impact of your generosity. Your gifts have not only supported our programs and initiatives but have also transformed the future for those we serve. **"Your gift. Your impact. Their future."** This theme encapsulates the essence of our work and the profound difference each donation makes. Thanks to you, individuals in need have access to vital services, opportunities for growth, and a brighter tomorrow. Your support is not just about giving; it's about changing lives and shaping futures. Together, we are making a profound difference in the lives of those affected by aphasia, ensuring they have the support and opportunities they need to thrive. Thank you for being a part of this journey with us.



Naomi Gewirtz  
President & CEO



Sandra Govic  
Chairperson, Board of Directors



The Adler Aphasia Center  
LEGACY SOCIETY

We invite you to join the Adler Aphasia Center Legacy Society. Your future gift to the Center can create a lasting legacy of care and support for individuals with aphasia and their caregivers.

The information below may be helpful to you and your advisors. To get started, contact Naomi Gewirtz at 201.368.8585 or [ngewirtz@adleraphasiacenter.org](mailto:ngewirtz@adleraphasiacenter.org).

**Legal Name:** The Adler Aphasia Center  
**Address:** 60 West Hunter Avenue  
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**Federal Tax ID:** 02-0687863

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\*In Memory



# 13,581 PEOPLE DIRECTLY TOUCHED BY APHASIA IN 2023

*YOUR GENEROUS GIFT AND IMPACT WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN FOSTERING A SUPPORTIVE AND INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR EVERYONE AFFECTED BY APHASIA, ENSURING THEY RECEIVE THE CARE, SUPPORT, AND UNDERSTANDING THEY NEED TO THRIVE.*

- **People with aphasia:** your gift helped us provide tailored programs and support services to our members with aphasia, aiding in their communication skills, emotional well-being, and their overall quality of life.
- **Caregivers and families:** we offered guidance, education, and support to caregivers and their families, helping them navigate the challenges of caring for their loved ones with aphasia and ensuring they felt empowered and informed.
- **Volunteers:** your support allowed us to recruit, train, and retain volunteers, who play a vital role in delivering our programs and services, providing support and a helping hand to our members.
- **Professionals and students in healthcare and service sectors:** through educational initiatives and partnerships, we engaged with this sector to raise awareness about aphasia and equip them with the knowledge and skills to better serve our members in their communities.

## SKILLS PROGRAM

### 31,928 PROGRAM HOURS IN 2023

*YOUR GIFT AND ITS IMPACT HAVE ENABLED US TO DELIVER THOUSANDS OF PROGRAM HOURS TO 191 PEOPLE WITH APHASIA IN NJ.*

We sustained programming across 6 counties in NJ, incorporating our 3 full-service Centers in Maywood, West Orange, and Toms River, along with 8 less-intensive in-person and virtual Aphasia Communication Groups, catering to homebound and geographically distant participants. Our Life Skills program introduced novel approaches and innovative elements that significantly engaged Adler members on their aphasia journey. Additionally, over 20% of participants continued to receive scholarship support to ensure full access to Adler programs.

*"No words to say to thank you for giving me a scholarship to come to the Center. It helps me a lot...getting better with my speech. If I didn't have this place to come to, I don't know where I'd be right now."*

—Member, West Orange

## CAREGIVER SUPPORT AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS

### 1,356 PROGRAM HOURS IN 2023

*YOUR GIFT AND ITS IMPACT HAVE BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN PROVIDING ESSENTIAL RESOURCES FOR OUR CAREGIVERS AT EVERY STAGE OF THEIR JOURNEY.*

From our 7 monthly in-person and virtual support groups to our caregiver education events, we design holistic, thoughtful programs to alleviate caregiver stress and anxiety, fostering better relationships between caregivers and their loved ones. We provide comprehensive information about aphasia, entitlements, and engaging group support activities to enhance communication between caregivers and those for whom they care. Our education programs feature conversations with guest experts with sessions addressing self-care, socialization needs, legal needs and more, supporting various dimensions of their lives. We distribute monthly email updates and semi-annual e-newsletters packed with tips and relevant, up-to-date information, aimed at keeping caregivers informed to help them navigate their caregiving responsibilities with greater ease and confidence.

*"The caregiver support groups are truly a lifeline for me. They provide a safe space where I can express myself openly, learn from the experiences of others, and gain valuable info. I finally feel empowered to take care of myself while also caring for my husband."*

—Caregiver, Maywood



## PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

### 453 PROFESSIONALS & STUDENTS IN 2023

*YOUR GIFT AND ITS IMPACT HAVE MADE A SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE BY PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR HEALTHCARE AND SERVICE PROFESSIONALS AND STUDENTS TO GAIN A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF APHASIA WHILE ENHANCING MEMBER ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL CARE AND VITAL SERVICES.*

Our weekly in-house Advocacy and Education program is in great demand among NJ-based speech, healthcare, and civic professionals who recognize the value of and seek training in aphasia. Annual Center events such as our state-wide Speech-Language Pathology Workshop, now in its 20th year, and the “Getting the Word Out” community fair, bring together hundreds of professionals, healthcare institutions, and organizations that serve people with aphasia, while building on our networks of professionals who can contribute to their rehabilitation efforts. The Center invests resources in building and strengthening these important relationships that serve stroke and brain trauma survivors, enriching both our members with aphasia and their communities.

*“I think all medical students and residents should visit the Center at least once. Talking with people living with aphasia and witnessing seeing their enthusiasm and hope as they continue their recovery journey is eye-opening and rewarding. I will take what I learned here throughout my medical career.”*

—Visiting Medical Resident, Advocacy and Education Program

## VOLUNTEERS

### 120 DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS SERVING 7,009 HOURS IN 2023

*YOUR GIFT AND ITS IMPACT HAVE PROVIDED TREMENDOUS VALUE TO OUR ORGANIZATION BY INVESTING IN OUR RESOURCES AND RECOGNIZING THE POWER OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE. THIS INVESTMENT UNDERSCORES THE POSITIVE EFFECTS THAT VOLUNTEERISM HAS ON THE QUALITY OF LIFE WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY, UPLIFTING THOSE WE SUPPORT AND CREATING A LASTING AND MEANINGFUL DIFFERENCE.*

Our volunteers are not just a resource; they are the backbone of our nonprofit. Their dedication allows us to offer a wide array of services and activities, from leading fitness and art sessions to providing tech assistance and crafting unique items for our Something Special sales. Whether serving our members, our board or honorary board, or our advisory committees, Adler volunteers bring diverse skills and fresh perspectives, driving innovation and operational efficiency. Moreover, their community engagement helps to build strong, supportive relationships and spread awareness about our mission. Their personal touch ensures a warm, welcoming environment for our members, fostering a sense of community and belonging. Their voices, support and tireless efforts are essential to our success and the fulfillment of our mission.





## CORPORATE CONNECTIONS

### 729 CORPORATE EMPLOYEES IN 2023

*YOUR GIFT AND ITS IMPACT PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN FOSTERING STRATEGIC COLLABORATIONS WITH ORGANIZATIONS THAT SHARE OUR BELIEF IN THE IMPORTANCE OF INVOLVING INDIVIDUALS WITH APHASIA IN MEANINGFUL ACTIVITIES THAT HELP THEM REBUILD THEIR LIVES.*

Our Something Special program celebrated its 15th year in 2023, providing therapeutic and creative outlets for our members with aphasia while empowering them with valuable business skills. Through partnerships with 17 NJ corporations and various community partners, Something Special has significantly raised awareness about aphasia while promoting inclusive workplaces. This program's key strategies include: corporate lobby sales, where employees purchase handcrafted items, thereby directly supporting the artisan; Beading Buddies events that encourage corporate employees to participate in jewelry-making sessions with our members, fostering a sense of community and mutual understanding; and Snack & Learn programs that offer educational sessions about aphasia, further spreading awareness and understanding among corporate audiences. Something Special has achieved a financial milestone with revenue totaling \$645,000, providing more than 200 scholarships for Center members since the program's inception in 2009.

*"Bringing your Beading Buddies event to our company was very eye opening for me. It taught me that you can have a positive attitude even when something bad happens in your life. I'm very thankful for organizations like Adler that can create this wonderful environment for people living with a communication disorder."*

—Corporate Employee, Pharmaceutical Company



## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

### 3,559 PEOPLE IN 194 VENUES IN 2023

*YOUR GIFT AND ITS IMPACT ENABLED OUR TEAM TO EXPAND AND ENHANCE OUR PROGRAMS, AS WELL AS TO FORGE VALUABLE CONNECTIONS THAT EDUCATE, BUILD, AND STRENGTHEN RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN OUR COMMUNITIES.*

Raising awareness about the value of long-term aphasia rehabilitation is the cornerstone of our outreach efforts. This focus is critical, as healthcare institutions may not always inform stroke and brain injury survivors of the long-term options available to them. By directly engaging with organizations, institutions, other stroke survivors, and their families, we educate the various communities about our programs and demonstrate how Adler can support their aphasia journey. Center members frequently volunteer to assist in educating the healthcare and service sectors about aphasia, participating in on-site programming at the Center and through in-service programs. Our healthcare partners, including major area medical and rehabilitation centers, universities, financial services companies, and other community service organizations, have integrated aphasia training into their staff events and student education programs, ensuring that awareness and understanding of aphasia are continually promoted within the community.

## RESEARCH

### 365 HOURS OF TREATMENT WERE PROVIDED IN A NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH STUDY IN 2023

*YOUR GIFT AND ITS IMPACT ENABLED US TO ADVANCE OUR RESEARCH, GENERATE DATA-DRIVEN OUTCOMES, LAUNCH NEW PROGRAMS, AND SHARE EVIDENCE-BASED INSIGHTS WITH APHASIA PARTNERS AND PHILANTHROPISTS.*

Close to one-third of Adler members in Maywood participated in the second of a three-year NIH-funded clinical trial on conversational treatment for people with aphasia. This study, in collaboration with Boston and Temple Universities, examines the efficacy of group conversation treatments. The study involved 170 assessment hours and resulted in the collection of over 5,700 data points. Additionally, 5 Adler staff members represented the organization at 3 national conferences and an international conference. They presented or co-authored 7 presentations that highlighted Adler programming, shared collaborative research findings, and encouraged colleagues to make research more accessible to people with aphasia. Our research staff, along with 3 members, co-authored an article published in Topics in Language Disorders, highlighting the results and experiences from a collaborative research project that explored what people with aphasia want from aphasia groups. Furthermore, our research team supported recruitment efforts for more than 15 research projects in 2023 led by other aphasia researchers.

## ANNUAL MEMBER SURVEYS

### 99% OF MEMBERS REPORTED THEIR QUALITY OF LIFE WAS MAINTAINED OR IMPROVED SINCE ATTENDING ADLER PROGRAMMING IN 2023

*YOUR GIFT AND ITS IMPACT PROFOUNDLY INFLUENCED OUR MEMBERS' WELL-BEING, COMMUNICATION SKILLS, CONFIDENCE, SOCIAL CONNECTIONS, AND SENSE OF IDENTITY.*

Our Research Department conducts an annual survey to evaluate our members' perceptions of the Center's impact on their lives. Other 2023 sample survey results below underscore the significant benefits our programs have provided: 96% of responding members reported maintaining or improving their **communication skills**;

99% of responding members reported maintaining or increasing their **ease of interacting with healthcare providers**; 97% of responding members reported maintaining or improving their **mental health**.

*"Adler Center helps you use what you have lost... helps with what you can gain and helps you go back to what you want to do again."*

—Member, West Orange

## PROGRAM GRANTS

### \$560,875 IN FOUNDATION GRANTS WERE SECURED IN 2023

*THE UNWAVERING SUPPORT OF OUR COMMUNITY AND NATIONWIDE FUNDERS HAVE BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN OUR IMPACT. WITHOUT YOUR GIFT AND YOUR IMPACT, WE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PROVIDE ESSENTIAL SERVICES TO THIS UNDERSERVED, VULNERABLE POPULATION.*

Foundations, private donors, and other supporters play a critical role in ensuring that our members with aphasia have access to the care and resources they desperately need. Their contributions have enabled us to bridge gaps in service, enhance our programming, and make a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve. We are profoundly grateful for these partnerships and their dedication to our mission of creating a more inclusive society for people with disabilities.

*"While our initial grant in 2010 supported various Adler projects, your caregiver and outreach programs have a very special place in our family foundation's heart. Less than a year after our first grant to Adler, we learned first-hand how aphasia affects the entire family as my sister was diagnosed with aphasia following an aneurysm. Thank you for your dedication to the aphasia community."*

—Carolyn Dircks Van Riper, President,  
Robert and Joan Dircks Foundation



# OUR SOURCES OF INCOME



- ♥ 34% Individuals
- ♥ 17% Foundations & Corporations
- ♥ 14% Donated Goods
- ♥ 11% Government Grants
- ♥ 9% Events
- ♥ 12% Member & Program Fees
- ♥ 3% Other Program Revenue and *Something Special*



- ♥ 47% Life Skills
- ♥ 11% Management & Administration
- ♥ 3% Fundraising
- ♥ 10% Adler West Orange
- ♥ 9% Adler Hadassah
- ♥ 6% Adler Toms River
- ♥ 5% Outreach, Education, Training, & Research
- ♥ 3% Technology
- ♥ 3% *Something Special*
- ♥ 3% Aphasia Communication Groups

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