



Adler Aphasias
CENTER
adleraphasiacenter.org

FINDING THE WORDS. SHARING THE JOURNEY.

2025 Adler Aphasias Center Report to the Community

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

Aphasias Communication Groups 551.287.2238

Haddonfield • Maywood • Monroe • Stockton University/Galloway
Toms River • Virtual NJ Groups



Dear Friends,

Because of your generosity and commitment, 2025 was a year of remarkable growth and impact at the Adler Aphasia Center. Together, we helped more people with aphasia find their words, reconnect with loved ones, and rebuild their confidence and independence.

This year, our outreach efforts reached **113% more people through 50% more venues**, while our online community continued to grow. Social media followers increased by **40%**, and our TikTok content garnered more than **363,000 views**. Every new partnership, program, and connection helped raise awareness of aphasia and amplified the voices of our members as they shared their journeys with a broader audience.

Education remained a cornerstone of our mission. We experienced a **106%** increase in educational programming for healthcare professionals and students, helping to build a greater understanding of aphasia and the life-changing support available through our programs. Through both on-site visits and guest lectures at local universities, graduate speech-language pathology students gained firsthand insight into life with aphasia and the evidence-based practices that help our members rebuild communication, confidence, and connection. Students also had the opportunity to engage directly with our members, witnessing the resilience and determination that define our community. Sixty first-year graduate students from Seton Hall University participated in Something Special's popular *Beading Buddies* program, working side by side with members. Their involvement reinforced an important truth: rebuilding communication is a shared journey, grounded in patience, partnership, and human connection.

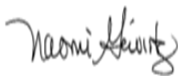
We were also proud to celebrate our members' achievements at our inaugural **Member Showcase**, which welcomed more than 200 attendees from across Adler sites to enjoy member artwork, gardening, culinary creations, and performances ranging from piano to humor, each one a testament to voices reclaimed.

Together, these efforts touched the lives of over **14,000** people this past year, a **65%** increase from 2024, with even more connecting with us online through our growing social media presence. This growth is only possible because donors like you believe communication is a right, not a privilege. The need remains great, and the work continues, but the foundation you've helped us build will endure—ensuring our members keep *finding their words and sharing their journeys* far beyond our walls. Thank you for making this possible.

With gratitude and excitement for what's to come,



Sandra Govic
Chairperson, Board of Directors



Naomi Gewirtz
President & CEO

a•pha•sia

(ə-ˈfā-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.



The Adler Aphasia Center LEGACY SOCIETY

As Elaine Adler would say “Let it be known...there is life after aphasia.”

Choosing to leave a planned gift is one of the most meaningful ways to support The Adler Aphasia Center mission. We are shaping the future of aphasia care for generations to come. When you join our Legacy Society, you are supporting the vital work that Adler is known for — innovative and effective programming. No matter what.

Elaine and Mike Adler, our founders, were steadfast believers in speaking up for those who could not speak for themselves. They understood the power of community and supported what was important not only to them, but to others. Whether you are a member, a family member, a friend, a supporter, or a professional, you are part of this extraordinary community. Thanks to Elaine and Mike, together, we are building a world where one day, no one has to face aphasia alone, where every person can find their voice, and where compassion is at the heart of healing. Your support allows us to continue offering scholarships and programs to our members who need them most. To join our Legacy Society, please contact Naomi Gewirtz at 201.855.9991 or ngewirtz@adleraphasiacenter.org.



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Mike Adler*

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**Adler
Aphasia
CENTER**

OUR IMPACT IN 2025

This year, our impact went far beyond the walls of our program. Every member and caregiver who found their words also found a community, and that community continues to grow. Our award-winning program has fostered a wider circle of supporters who truly understand the needs of people living with aphasia and their families, extending the journey well beyond those we serve directly. Through professional education and training, community outreach, caregiver education, partnerships with corporations, major healthcare institutions, local organizations, ongoing research, and more, Adler Aphasia Center touched thousands of lives in 2025, continuing to build an innovative, supportive, and inclusive environment for all those affected by aphasia and proving that no one has to share this journey alone.



23,968 LIVES

ONE MISSION. MANY PATHS.

- LIFE SKILLS.**
- EDUCATION & TRAINING.**
- ADVOCACY.**
- COMMUNITY OUTREACH.**
- COMMUNITY PARTNERS.**
- CAREGIVER EDUCATION & SUPPORT.**
- RESEARCH.**
- VOLUNTEERS.**
- CORPORATE PARTNERS.**
- SOMETHING SPECIAL.**
- SOCIAL MEDIA.**



41,632

**HOURS OF
PROGRAMMING—
HELPING MEMBERS
FIND THEIR WORDS AND
REBUILD THEIR LIVES,
ONE JOURNEY AT A TIME**

41,632 hours. That's how much time we've spent helping members find their words and helping families share the journey. Across 6 counties in NJ, our 3 full-service Centers, 6 in-person Aphasia Communication Groups, and 3 virtual groups are making every hour count. Every session, every conversation, every connection is a step forward, proof that recovery isn't a solitary path, but one we walk together.

“Coming to Adler made me a better person. I found compassion and new friends.

— Member, West Orange

**68 CAREGIVERS
PARTICIPATED IN OVER
1,065 SERVICE HOURS OF
SUPPORT GROUPS—
SHARING THEIR JOURNEY
AND STRENGTHENING
RELATIONSHIPS**

Caring for a loved one with aphasia or a physical disability is a journey no one should walk alone. Our Caregiver Support program exists to share that journey, offering caregivers a place to be heard, recharge, and reconnect with their own well-being while they support someone who depends on them every day. Through group sessions, educational lectures, hands-on art activities, and enrichment programs, caregivers find not just relief from stress, but community, connection, and renewed strength for the road ahead.

“Our son attended Maywood for 12 years. The program helped his self-confidence and independence soar. His use of many new communication strategies has enabled him to successfully return to his role as husband and father.

— Caregiver, Maywood



1,207

HEALTHCARE AND SERVICE PROFESSIONALS AND STUDENTS BUILDING THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF APHASIA, ONE WORD AT A TIME

True advocacy starts with knowledge and the compassion to put it into practice. Our in-house Advocacy and Education & Training programs continue to attract some of the most dedicated and talented healthcare and service professionals and students in the field, equipping them to communicate with confidence and compassion. As these participants return to their own communities, they carry that knowledge with them, helping to share the journey with more people living with aphasia and building a world with greater inclusion and communication access for all.

“If I were to describe the program in one word, I would choose “hope.” Thank you for all you do to bring hope and encouragement back into people’s lives.

— Nursing Student, Ramapo College



115

DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS POWERED OUR NJ COMMUNITY GAVE 4,096 HOURS OF SERVICE IN 2025

The backbone of our organization, our volunteers, contributed hours valued at \$158,065 in 2025. Their diverse skills and fresh perspectives spark innovation, while their service, from board and committee leadership to co-facilitating life skills programs, provides essential support to our members. Above all, their dedication cultivates a genuine sense of community and belonging that is vital to our mission.

“Volunteering at the Adler Aphasia Center has truly been a highlight of my life. It’s amazing watching someone find their voice again, even if it’s just a shared laugh over something silly. It’s taught me to slow down and really appreciate all the ways we connect, even when the words don’t come easy.

— Volunteer, Maywood





693

CORPORATE EMPLOYEES, ONE SHARED MISSION

In 2025, our **Something Special** program celebrated its 16th anniversary, continuing to offer expressive, creative, and business skill-building opportunities for members with aphasia. Through partnerships with 21 NJ corporations and community organizations and universities, the program has raised awareness of aphasia, promoted more inclusive workplaces, and created meaningful volunteer opportunities for corporate and community partners. Signature initiatives including corporate lobby sales, Beading Buddies events, and Snack & Learn sessions engage employees, deepen their understanding of aphasia, and offer hands-on ways to give back. Since its founding in 2009, **Something Special** has generated over \$780,000 in revenue, funding 238 scholarships for Center members.

“The experience of beading one-on-one with a person living with aphasia was so rewarding and taught me so much about this condition and the importance of advocacy and compassion.

— Seton Hall University, Speech Pathology graduate student



REACHING FURTHER, TOGETHER:

10,138

CONNECTIONS ACROSS 429 VENUES

Raising awareness about the importance of long-term aphasia rehabilitation is central to our community outreach efforts. Healthcare institutions often fail to inform stroke and brain injury survivors about ongoing rehabilitation support. We bridge this gap through direct outreach to organizations, institutions, survivors, and families—educating them about available programs and services. Our Center members actively volunteer in educational presentations, sharing their personal recovery experiences to demonstrate the transformative power of long-term aphasia rehabilitation.

“I want to thank you so much for your presentation at the Englewood Hospital Stroke Symposium. Your expertise, insight, and engaging lecture provided valuable knowledge for all. The audience gained a better perspective of aphasia. The audience was so engaged by your member's journey with aphasia. It was so moving and inspiring.

— Englewood Hospital, Stroke Coordinator



PARTNERING FOR IMPACT:

141

LOCAL STUDENTS AND NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS SERVED

Our Community Partners program offers Adler members meaningful opportunities to volunteer while practicing communication skills in real-world settings. Members are motivated to contribute in different ways applying skills from past careers, giving back after receiving support, or taking steps to reengage with their communities. In doing so, they not only experience personal growth but also help raise awareness of aphasia and strengthen community connections.



\$1,313,349

**IN GRANTS, FUELING
OUR ESSENTIAL
PROGRAMS AND
SERVICES**

Our impact is only possible because of the steadfast generosity of our funders across the country. Without these vital partnerships, we could not reach this vulnerable, underserved population, ensuring members receive the care and resources they need, while helping us close gaps in service and expand our programs. We remain deeply grateful for their commitment to standing beside our members as they keep finding the words and sharing the journey.



**3 PUBLICATIONS.
7 CONFERENCE
PRESENTATIONS.
ADVANCING APHASIA
RESEARCH.**

In 2025, we supported research efforts of 8 universities and institutions and 12 research teams by facilitating recruitment for 18 research opportunities and hosting 3 onsite researcher visits. We also launched our Research Hub in Maywood, creating a centralized space to connect members and visitors with research opportunities.



Member surveys tell a clear story: our programming and Center connections strengthen well-being, communication skills, confidence, social relationships, and sense of identity. These measurable gains reflect our ongoing commitment to comprehensive, community-centered aphasia support, helping members every step of the way in finding the words and sharing the journey.

“Adler has helped me communicate better and improved my life in every way. I feel more comfortable and safer outside my house now.

— Member, Maywood

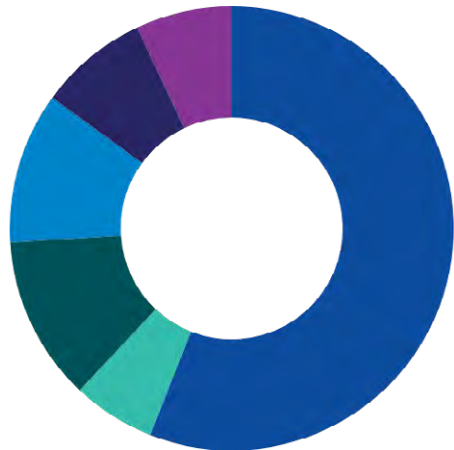


**QUALITY OF LIFE:
MAINTAINED OR
IMPROVED FOR**

**99%
OF MEMBERS**

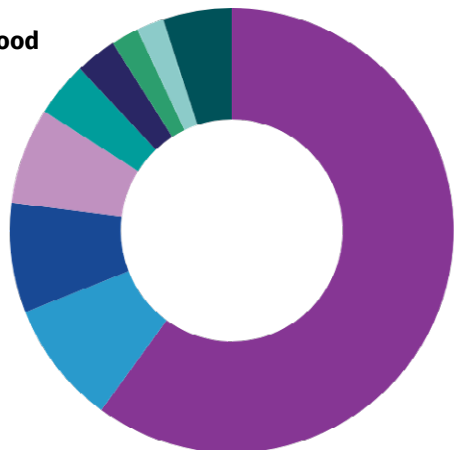
HOW WE'RE FUNDED

- 56% Foundations & Corporations
- 6% Individuals
- 12% Donated Goods
- 11% Member & Program Fees
- 8% Events
- 7% State Support



HOW FUNDS ARE USED

- 60% Member & Caregiver Programming at Maywood
- 9% Administration
- 8% Fundraising
- 7% Adler at West Orange
- 4% Adler at Toms River
- 3% Technology
- 2% Aphasia Communication Groups
- 2% *Something Special*
- 5% Outreach, Education, Training & Research



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Trudy Sarver	Jack Tacchino	Laura Wiss	Joanne and Anthony Martino
Madelyn and Anthony Scardino	Harold Takooshian	Lisa Wolkind	Master Business Forms
Michael Scher	Marilou and Joseph Tenenbaum	Ilana Wollin	Morey Piers
Kaitlyn Schillizzi	Miriam "Kiki" and John Thielke	Jennifer Woo	New Jersey Symphony
Leslye Schulman	Mindy and Aaron Tucker	Joan Wormser	New York Red Bulls
Linda Schupper	Amy and Steven Tulip	Myra and Charles Wrubel	NJ Jackals
Ann Schwartz	Betty Tusing	Your Cause LLC	NY Giants Organization
Cynthia and Bennett Schwartz	Rosalie Unterman	Carol M. Zamrok	Christine and Ed Ordway
Herva L. and Jerold Schwartz	Elaine Urscheler	Christine Zeman and Roger Poehlsen	PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.
Carol Seigel	Sharawn Valentine	Elizabeth Ziolkowski	Preakness Hills Country Club
Nola Sher	Connie Vandervliet-Mikula	GIFTS IN KIND	Shake, Rattle and Roll
Sangita Sheth	Elizabeth and James Vandyke	Beacon Hill Country Club	Lucille and Vlado Skroce
Emily Shih	Julie and Dave VanTine	Blue Claws Baseball League	The Spotted Canvas
Kristin Shoemarket	Keith Vaughan	Bronx Zoo	Suburban Revival, Laura Callias
Denise Sirois	David Veraja	Karen Castka	Time Mission
Toni Smith	Theresa Viscardi-Lynch	Linda and Phil Cennerazzo	Total Wine
Yolanda Smith	Janice Volk	Chipotle Mexican Grill	Turning Point
Jonnie Sofer	Teri Walters	Foxwoods Casino Resort	Urban Air Trampoline Adventure Park
Rita Sorbera	Ken Wanio	Deborah and George Giesey	Norma Wellington
Michelle R. Spies	Jeanne Waxman	Glassrooms	Julianne Wherry
Henrietta and James E. Spry		Gourmet Gift Baskets	
		Sandra Govic	

TO STRIVE IS HUMAN, TO ACHIEVE IS EXTRAORDINARY. WE ACKNOWLEDGE ANY SHORTCOMINGS IN OUR PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE.

OUR VOLUNTEERS

We thank those who selflessly dedicated their time January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025

Ginette Abbanat	Sandra Dran	Linda Kostrinsky	Ronnie Rein
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Martha DeYoung	Andrea Kopido	Carol Ramer	Mary Zeigler