



Rebuilding communication. Transforming lives.

ACC Connection

Volume 16 Issue 1 ♦ Spring 2013

The ACC's KeyStrokes Choir: Hitting all the Right Notes!

"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."

--Anne Frank

By Roberta J. Elman, Ph.D.
*President and Founder,
Aphasia Center of California*

When first hearing that the Aphasia Center has recently started an aphasia choir, many people express real surprise. They wonder: how is a person who has difficulty talking, able to sing? But the human brain is a marvel—melody and rhythm are often relatively spared with aphasia because these abilities are usually located in the right side of the brain. This is opposite to the side of the brain that is typically involved with aphasia. Because some singing is often possible for persons with aphasia, speech-

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The ACC's KeyStrokes Choir at their Holiday Party Performance.

Join our 11th Annual "Walk to Talk" Raise Funds and Awareness!

What: The Aphasia Center of California's 11th Annual "Walk to Talk" is a fund-raising event to raise funds for our programs. Our "Walk to Talk" will feature a 1/4 mile and 3 mile untimed walk/run.

When: Saturday, June 15th, 2013. Walk registration will begin at 9:45am.

Where: Lake Merritt, Oakland. Walk starts at the Downtown Oakland Senior Center at 200 Grand Avenue in the lounge.

How: Companies and individuals, from walkers with kids to seasoned athletes to people with their dogs on leashes can participate in this event to benefit the Aphasia Center. Help the Aphasia Center by sponsoring an Aphasia Center participant, asking friends and family for donations, or joining us for the walk. You can register or sponsor a walker online via our website: www.aphasiacenter.org Please contact Roberta Elman (510) 336-0112 to receive a walk packet or for more information.

Our Mission Statement: *The mission of the Aphasia Center of California is to enhance communication skills, quality of life, and overall well-being for all those affected by aphasia.*

State Honors for the ACC

The ACC has recently received state and national honors for its program innovation and impact. Most recently, we were awarded Program of the Year honors from the California Speech-Language-Hearing Association (CSHA).

CSHA is a professional non-profit organization that supports speech and hearing services to persons with communication challenges. Each year, CSHA honors are awarded to professionals,



consumers, and programs that demonstrate excellence. As the 2013 Program of the Year, the ACC was lauded for its service to people

impacted by aphasia. Special recognition was provided to the ACC for its work in advocacy, research, and innovative program services.

ACC staff members Sue Ewing, Dr. Roberta Elman, and Loran Tolbert, accepted the Program of the Year honors on behalf of

all ACC members, past and present. You are the inspiration for all the work that we do!

KeyStrokes Choir Hits the Right Notes

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language pathologists have been incorporating melodic techniques into speech-language therapy since the 1940s.

But the real reason that we decided to start an aphasia choir is because it builds community and is a lot of fun! The Aphasia Center is committed to helping people with aphasia participate in activities of choice. This is consistent with the Life Participation Approach to Aphasia that the ACC has been so instrumental in sharing with other speech-language pathologists around the world via our professional publications and presentations.

So, with having fun as the primary goal, the Aphasia Center KeyStrokes began in September 2012. The KeyStrokes accepts anyone living with aphasia as well as family members and friends who are also interested in joining. Our first

choir director was graduate student intern, Jacqui Standel. Jacqui did a wonderful job of getting the choir off the ground, and within weeks, the 20+ members of the KeyStrokes had chosen their name and began selecting and polishing up their song repertoire!

Seth is just one example of how the aphasia choir enriches people lives. Seth had never tried to sing after his stroke. His aphasia has made both talking and reading a challenge and he believed that the choir might be too difficult for him. But when the music started playing at the very first choir practice, Seth's entire face lit up as the words came rolling off his tongue. Seth exclaimed, "I can't believe it!" He was thrilled that he was able to sing!

The inaugural performance of the choir was during the ACC's December 14th holiday party. The KeyStrokes performed 4 unforget-

table songs: I Can't Help Falling in Love, What a Wonderful World, Stand by Me, and Jingle Bells. As the first few notes began, smiles, as well as a few tears of happiness, filled the entire room. This was definitely the most inspiring holiday party that the Aphasia Center has ever held!

The KeyStrokes choir members who performed at the holiday party included: Seth Andrews, Jack Berry, Eric Bird, Carolyn Bird, Judi Briano, Larry Byrd, Anita Cox, Meg Frost, David Giacomelli, Charles Heard, Chris Milberger, Michael Miller, Howard, Olson, Steve Orlando, Emily St. Clair, Tamar Solomon, Gail Taylor, Norine Theircof, Philip Tien, and Bill Wong.

The KeyStrokes choir is currently under the very capable direction of graduate student intern, Tina Payne Chasse. If you are interested in singing with the KeyStrokes, please call us and join in the fun!!

Aphasia Center News

Education and Training Around the World

Aphasia Center of California's staff members are frequently invited to provide training to speech-language pathologists throughout the world. During the last year, we even hosted a speech-language pathologist from Taiwan who will be bringing our ideas and techniques home to start Taiwan's first aphasia group. We have also been asked to speak about our programs to speech-language pathologists around the country, and have written an invited chapter and several articles about various aspects of aphasia group treatment. Although the Aphasia Center programs may be physically located in California, our philosophy and clinical techniques continue to impact lives around the world!

Do you shop at Lucky, FoodMaxx or Savemart?

Lucky, FoodMaxx, and Savemart will donate money to the Aphasia Center of California every time you shop! Just call the Aphasia Center and ask us to mail you a Shares Program card. It's super simple, doesn't cost a thing, and you don't need to give any personal information. Each time you buy groceries, you just hand your Shares Program card to the clerk, and Lucky, FoodMaxx and Savemart will automatically donate 3% of your

total grocery bill to the ACC. So please call us today to get your free Shares Program card and start helping the ACC every time you buy groceries!! To get your Shares Program card, please call us at 510-336-0112.

Credit Card Donations Are Easy to Make!

Did you know that you can make a donation with your credit card to the Aphasia Center? It's easy to do! Just go to the Aphasia Center of California "Donate" button on the home page of our website: www.aphasiacenter.org. You can make a one-time donation or a monthly, quarterly, or annual recurring donation. All donations help us make a dramatic difference in the lives of those affected by aphasia.

Great News! The Aphasia Center Accepts Vehicle Donations

The Aphasia Center of California has teamed up with Donate For Charity, a company that specializes in processing vehicle donations for nonprofit organizations. Donate For Charity arranges for vehicle pickup, handles all the DMV issues, sells the vehicle at auction, and distributes the net proceeds to Aphasia Center of California. So if it's time to replace an older car, or if you have a boat and trailer that are just taking up

space in the garage, consider making a donation. You'll avoid the headache of selling a used vehicle, help the Aphasia Center of California fund its ongoing efforts, and receive a tax deduction. When you're ready to donate, or if you have relatives or friends that wish to donate, simply call Donate For Charity toll-free at (866) 392-4483 or donate on-line at www.aphasiacenter.org. We hope you'll take advantage of this opportunity and help us expand our commitment to improving the quality of life for all those affected by aphasia.

Spring Cleaning?

Don't forget the ACC when it comes to donating quality items. All money earned from the ACC's consignment program benefits the speech-language treatment programs at the Center. We are looking for quality items throughout the year that can be sold. All quality furniture, costume and fine jewelry, vintage and new clothing, kitchenware, children's books, and collectibles are greatly appreciated. We cannot accept non-working electrical items, computers, or golf clubs. All donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by the IRS. Please contact Elaine Ivankovich, Program Coordinator, to arrange for drop-off or pick-up at 925-954-1225 or 925-788-6261.

Please join the Aphasia Center of California on Facebook!!

www.facebook.com/AphasiaCenterofCalifornia

Thank You to Our Generous Donors

June-December 2012

If we have made any errors in this listing, please accept our apologies and contact us at (510) 336-0112.

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ACC 2012 Annual Report

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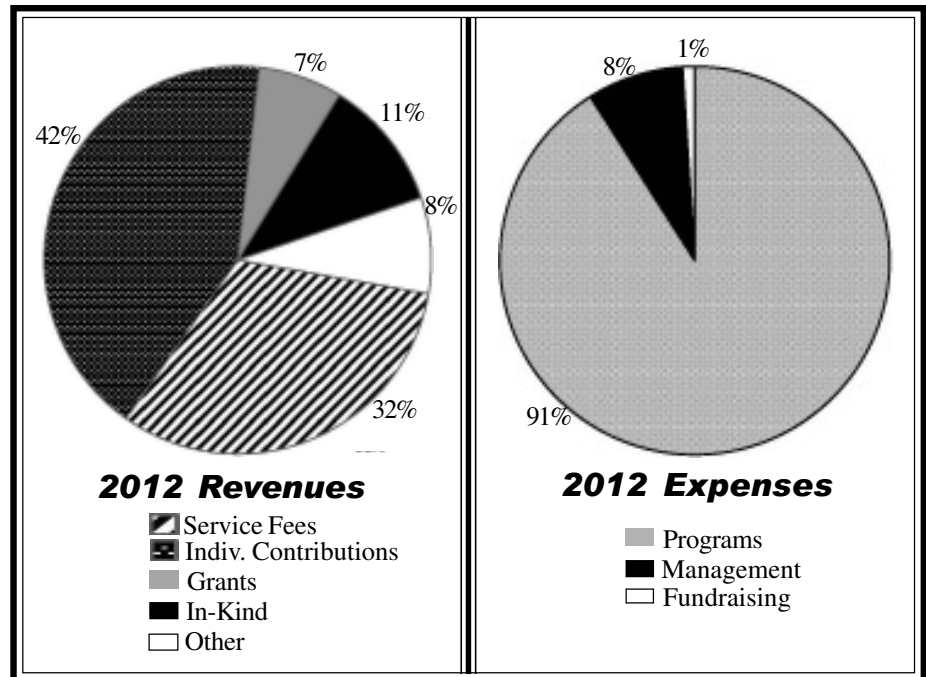
Total Visits: 4325
 Group Communication Treatment Visits: 1805
 Individual Speech-Language Treatment Visits: 71
 Reading & Writing Classes: 240
 Club Aphasia: 698
 Fitness & Relaxation Classes: 841
 Stroke Group & Choir: 670
 Information & Referral (includes phone, mail, and e-mail): 2007

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