



Rebuilding communication. *Transforming lives.*

ACC Connection

Volume 19 Issue 1 ♦ Spring 2016

Kindness is the language that the deaf can hear and the blind can see.

~Mark Twain

Many Roads Lead to the ACC

Our newest ACC staff member is speech-language pathology Clinical Fellow, Audrey Cohen. We thought you'd enjoy learning more about Audrey, so we asked her to answer a few questions about herself and how she became a speech-language pathologist.

What led you to pursue a career in speech-language pathology and aphasia in particular?

In 2010-2012, I served in the Peace Corps in Yambol, Bulgaria. There I witnessed many under-represented communities, one of which was anyone with a communication difference or disability. People with aphasia, among other neurologically diverse popula-

tions, were commonly misdiagnosed. I became very interested in how I might help give a voice to these people. I began shadowing a speech pathologist. While I was learning more about how to treat speech and language disorders, I was also immersed in a world where Bulgarian became my primary language and English my home language. My own communication difficulties of living within a non-English

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ACC Clinical Fellow Audrey Cohen enjoying a good story with ACC participant Tom Purbaugh



Join our 14th Annual "Walk to Talk" Raise Funds and Awareness!

What: The Aphasia Center of California's 14th 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 25th, 2016. Walk registration will begin at 9:00 a.m.

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

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.

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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.*

Thank You to Our Generous Donors

August-December 2015

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

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Many Roads Lead to the ACC

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speaking city increased my interest in helping people who have difficulty communicating their ideas through spoken language.

Can you tell us a little about how you came to the ACC?

After the Peace Corps, I enrolled in the Speech & Hearing Sciences Graduate program at Portland State University. Portland State had a few different graduate level treatment programs, one of which was the Aphasia Group Therapy Clinic. I began looking into internships that used Aphasia Group therapy while also helping people with aphasia and their loved ones learn to support their communica-

tion. I applied for an internship at the ACC in 2015 and was fortunate to get the position!

Why is the ACC a unique place to work?

The ACC is a very unique place to work because as a therapist you have to take in “the whole picture” with respect to the clients, the community, and raising aphasia awareness. In addition to focusing on the progress that clients are making toward their goals and communication needs, I’m also constantly considering what each client’s individual home environment might be like, who their family members are, and how effectively they are able to communicate their ideas and their identities to others.

Tell us a little about yourself, both personally and professionally?

I am 29 years old and I feel very

fortunate to be completing my Clinical Fellowship with the ACC, the required supervised professional experience of any Speech-Language Pathologist’s career. I enjoy drawing and painting and love running the art class at the ACC each week. My husband and I enjoy playing strategy games (board, card, video etc.) and can often be found on weekends at local game shops strategizing in Bulgarian. I am also a long distance runner in my free time and a cyclist during commute hours. Other hobbies include playing the guitar and flute. I also love visiting my parents in Daly City—we play music and run together!

Anything else you’d like to add?

It is wonderful to be part of the ACC community!

Aphasia Center News

ACC Supporters

Meet the Challenge!

Thanks to you, we reached our match for our \$10,000 December challenge grant! These funds are already being used to enhance ACC program services, helping those living with aphasia to rebuild their communication skills and transform their lives. ACC supporters are the best—thank you!

ACC Communication Training Grant Update

We're been busy training all sorts of people in using appropriate communication tools and techniques when talking with someone who has aphasia! In just the last few months, we've provided training to Alameda County first responders, senior volunteers, adult day care center staff, and medical students. And we're just getting started! Thanks to the San Francisco Foundation for partial support of this exciting training and outreach program!

Menlo Park Aphasia Groups

The ACC will be starting a new session of aphasia group treatment in Menlo Park, beginning on June 16th. These groups are in partnership with the Pacific Stroke Association. Space is limited, so if you are interested in learning more about these groups, please call us at 510-336-0112.

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Communication training participants await Dr. Elman's presentation

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.

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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

difference in the lives of those affected by aphasia.

Do you shop at Lucky FoodMaxx or Savemart? Program Update!

Lucky, FoodMaxx, and Savemart have updated their S.H.A.R.E.S. donation program. The program is now part of eScrip. You no longer need a special card—all you need to do is register with eScrip online and then input your phone number each time you check out. It's super simple and doesn't cost you a thing. Here's the best news of all: Each time you buy groceries, Lucky, FoodMaxx and Savemart will donate 3% of your total grocery bill to the ACC! To register for S.H.A.R.E.S. through eScrip, go to this website: luckysupermarkets.com/shares and select the Aphasia Center of California as your charity. If you have any questions, please call us at 510-336-0112.

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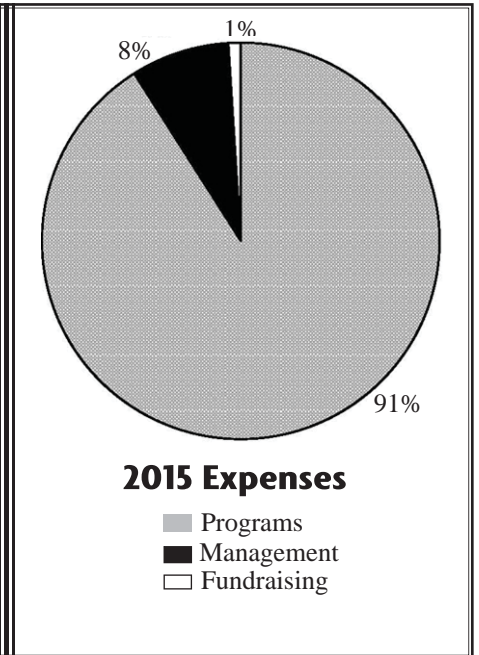
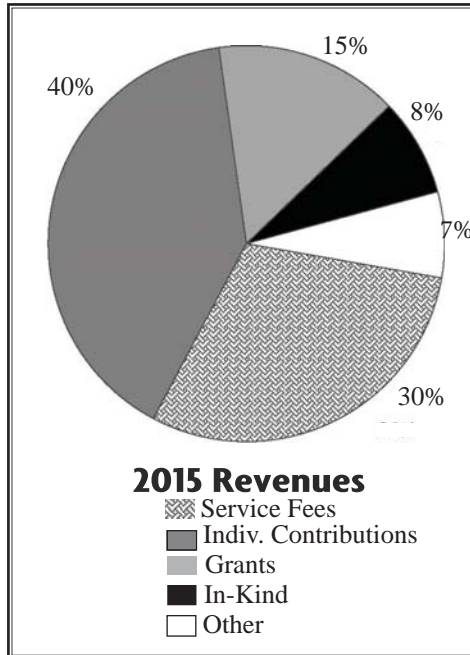
ACC 2015 Annual Report

2015 SERVICES

Group Communication Treatment Visits: 2090
 Reading & Writing Group Visits: 344
 Club Aphasia & Art Class Visits: 791
 Fitness & Relaxation Class Visits: 898
 Stroke Group & Choir Visits: 673
 Education & Training: 875 people (8 trainings/presentations)
 Information & Referral (includes phone, mail, and e-mail): 2019

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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 pro-

ceeds 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 commit-

ment to improving the quality of life for all those affected by aphasia.

This newsletter is published by the Aphasia Center of California

Written and edited by Roberta J. Elman

Design and layout by Morris Older