



ACC Connection

Volume 26, Issue 1 ♦ Spring 2023

The ACC had an Incredible 2022 thanks to YOU!

“Those who are happiest are those who do the most for others.”

~Booker T. Washington

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

As I look back at 2022, I am so proud of all that the Aphasia Center of California has accomplished! We’ve included a quantitative 2022 Annual Report to the Community (see page 3 of this issue), but I also want to provide more in-depth information below:

- Our highly skilled speech-language pathology staff provided more than 3,800 virtual group visits for people with aphasia as well as their care partners. 2022 ACC Programs included multiple weekly aphasia communication groups, Book Club groups, TED Talk groups, News Forum groups, Care Partner groups, Music Club groups, and Fitness groups!

- We were contacted by journalists from across the country to share our expert knowledge about aphasia. My interview with award winning journalist, Hal Eisner, is posted on the ACC’s YouTube channel. Here’s the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BcgMHkNQxuc> In addition to our interviews with journalists, ACC speech-language pathologist, Lyssa Rome and I held a recent educational session about aphasia for ACC participants and family members. If you’d like to view this in-depth

Inside:

2022 Annual Report..... page 3
Thanks to Our Donors page 4
Aphasia Awareness Month..... page 5



For her distinguished contributions to the profession, Dr. Elman received 2022 Honors of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) educational event, a recording is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jfRFkOAs7sY>

- Our 2nd annual virtual “ACC Challenge” in October was a tremendous success! ACC participants chose an activity that was personally meaningful and challenging for them. In turn, they raised contributions from family and friends. In total, the “ACC Challenge” raised more than \$60,000 to support and expand ACC programs! The top 10 ACC fundraisers were: John Jankowski, Omar Herrera, Wanda Crews, Leonard Katz, Regina Tipton, Roberta Elman, Myrna Schwartz, Michael Miller, Mike Rivera, and Sid Dommies/Enid Meyer. A big THANK YOU to the more than 370 individuals who raised or contributed funds for the 2022 ACC Challenge! You can

Continued on page 2

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.*

The ACC had an Incredible 2022 thanks to YOU!

Continued from page 1

find the complete list of all 2022 ACC donors on pages 4 to 8 of this issue.

- To celebrate the success of our ACC challenge, we held a virtual Talent Showcase featuring seven ACC members. A round of applause goes to Trish (and Paulo) Dumlao, Rolando Gonzales, Frank Goulart, Avelina Leanos, Michael Miller, Mike Rivera, and Regina (& Elvis) Tipton for sharing their wide range of interests and incredible talents!

- With the assistance of ACC speech-language pathologist, Katelyn Eng, the ACC has built a strong social media presence. We post ACC news as well as educational information about aphasia several times a week on the ACC's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/AphasiaCenterofCalifornia>, Twitter account [@aphasia_acc], and on Instagram [@aphasia_acc]. June is National Aphasia Awareness month—please help us continue to spread aphasia awareness by liking, following, and sharing our ACC social media posts!

- Your generous support to the ACC in 2022 provided more than \$16,000 of sliding fee assistance! In fact, since we opened our doors in 1996, no one has ever been turned away from ACC services because of financial challenges.

- In 2022, we are extremely proud to report that ACC program services received 90% of all money spent! TOGETHER we continue to build a thriving ACC community!

2022 turned out to be a very special year for me. I was humbled to receive the 2022 Honors of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). This is the highest award given by ASHA and “recognizes those individuals whose contributions have been of such excellence that they have enhanced or altered the course of the professions.” Although this was a personal award, it is impossible for me to separate what I have accomplished professionally from what we have all accomplished together at the Aphasia Center of California. People with aphasia, family members and friends, volunteers, speech-language pathology

staff, and especially our generous donors, have made the entire ACC community possible. And all that we have accomplished has not stopped at our doors. Although we were the first independent Aphasia Center founded in the United States in 1996, the ACC has had international impact by inspiring the creation of many other Aphasia Centers and aphasia programs. In addition, the ACC's professional publications, peer reviewed journal articles, and presentations have also helped to shift the intervention and research focus to a Life Participation Approach to Aphasia (LPAA), making available services more relevant and meaningful for each person who is living with aphasia.

At the ACC, we work incredibly hard every single day to provide the highest quality program services to help rebuild communication and transform lives for those affected by aphasia. We remain focused on expanding our reach by publishing and presenting our treatment philosophy and methods so that other speech-language pathologists and their clients with aphasia will also benefit.

Thank you so much for your generous support – YOU make all that we do possible!

Birthdays? Anniversaries? Raise Aphasia Awareness!

We hope you'll always keep the Aphasia Center of California (ACC) in mind whenever you're getting ready to celebrate a birthday, anniversary, or any time you'd like to support the ACC! And it's very easy to create a fundraiser and raise donations on Facebook. The best news is that every dollar raised on Facebook is passed along to the ACC for support of our innovative aphasia programs.

Here's the direct link that you can use to create a Facebook fundraiser: <https://www.facebook.com/fund/AphasiaCenterofCalifornia/>

And know that if you ever need assistance in creating your fundraiser, please don't hesitate to contact us at 510.336.0112.

Thank you so much for your support!! YOUR donations are helping to improve the lives of so many people living with aphasia!

ACC 2022 Annual Report

2022 SERVICES

Group Communication Treatment
Visits: 2094

Reading & Writing Group Visits:
943

Recreational & Fitness Group
Visits: 785

Virtual Special Events Visits: 215

Virtual Education & Training
(National and International):
>1200 people (7 trainings/pre-
sentations/webinars)

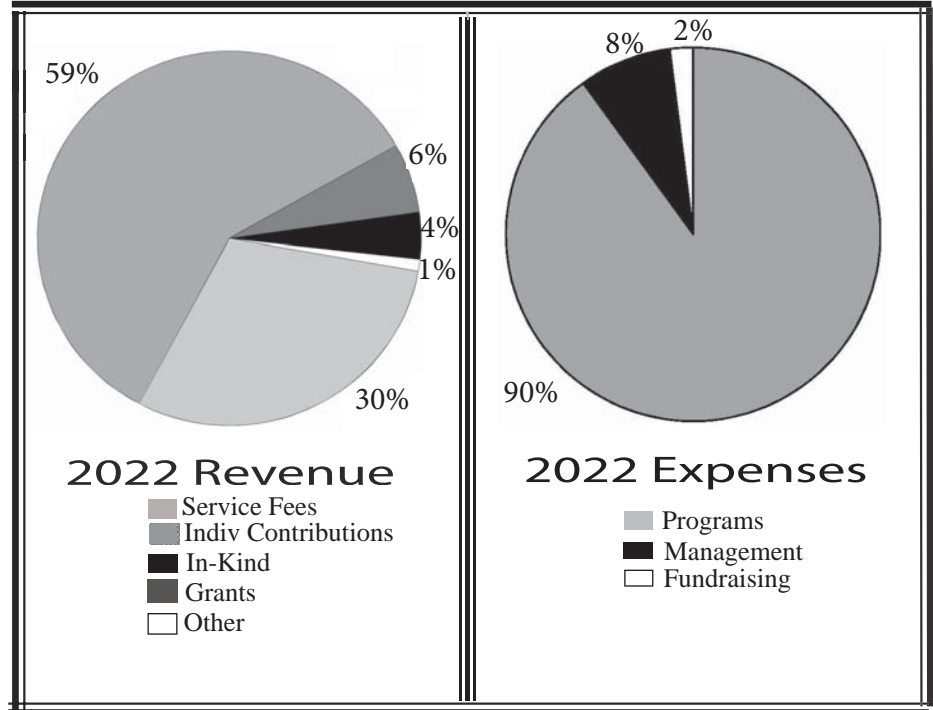
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Peer-Reviewed Publications:
Aphasiology (Boyle, Akers,
Cavanaugh, Hula, Swiderski &
Elman); *American Journal of
Speech-Language Pathology*
(Elman)

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

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continued on page 5

Please join the Aphasia Center of California on Facebook!!
www.facebook.com/AphasiaCenterofCalifornia

June is National Aphasia Awareness Month!

Did you know that more than 2 million people in the United States are currently living with aphasia? Raising awareness of aphasia has been part of the ACC's mission since we opened our doors in 1996. Please help us spread the word! How? You can share information about aphasia with family, friends, and colleagues. Start by sending them the link to the Aphasia Center of California's website, so they can learn more about aphasia: www.aphasiacenter.org Then ask them to share the ACC's website link with all of their friends, too! Be sure to watch the ACC's recent webinar entitled, "Aphasia: Questions and Answers": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jfRFkOAs7sY>

Share the link with family and friends to help us continue a chain of aphasia education and awareness!

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continued on page 6

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continued on page 7

Aphasia is not rare--more than 2 million Americans are living with aphasia!

Aphasia Awareness Attire!

Be sure to check out our "Aphasia Awareness" Bonfire store where you can purchase an ACC t-shirt, tote, or mask to help raise aphasia awareness. All proceeds go towards funding programs at the ACC. Thank you in advance for helping to spread the word, one t-shirt, tote, or mask at a time! Here's the link to the Aphasia Center of California's store: <https://bonfire.com/store/aphasia-center/>

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