


VOICES OF HOPE FOR APHASIA

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



2012 - 2022



**WHEN I SAW
THIS, IT WAS
KIND OF
A MIRACLE.**

MEMBER ON FINDING VOHA
VIA NEWS SEGMENT AFTER
BRUCE WILLIS' APHASIA ANNOUNCEMENT

**VOICES OF HOPE
FOR APHASIA**

10 YEARS OF ELEVATING VOICES

A DECADE OF GROWTH

It is with great pride that we at Voices of Hope for Aphasia enter our 10th year of helping our members, neighbors and the community at large. For a decade, we have striven to provide an understanding environment, as well as increasing awareness of aphasia within our community. This has only been able to be accomplished with the inspiration and efforts of many: our members, family members and friends, staff, board of directors, strategic partners and not least of all, our donors. We truly appreciate and acknowledge your support, which has allowed our organization to grow not only exponentially but also sustainably. We have not, and will not, lose sight of the privilege we have to positively impact the many people who we have not yet reached. With every new contact we make, every activity we undertake with our members, every discussion where we can advance the understanding of the burden of aphasia, we make a difference.



STEPHEN MILLER
Board Chair

A VISION MADE REAL

Ten years ago, Mike and Kathy Caputo invited me to be part of the founding board of directors of the nonprofit they had established. Realizing there was a great need for what they envisioned, I immediately agreed. The organization, manned by a handful of volunteers running group activities, in 2014 welcomed Dr. Jackie Hinckley as our first Executive Director. During her tenure, Voices of Hope for Aphasia established itself as a respected organization in the St Petersburg area, and nationally among our aphasia peers. When I stepped into her shoes in 2019, I benefited from a solid foundation that allowed us to grow and serve more people in the Tampa Bay area, and across the country, during the pandemic. I am proud of how far we have come and excited for the future. Thank you to all of you who continue to make the Caputo's vision a reality!



DEBBIE YONES
Executive Director

MISSION

Voices of Hope for Aphasia reconnects people living with aphasia with their lives through innovative programs.

VISION

Improving the lives of people with aphasia and their loved ones.

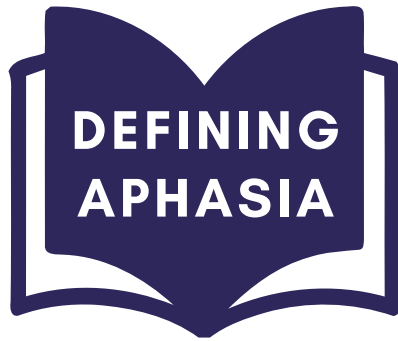
MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER

A DREAM OF CONNECTING MADE REAL

I live with aphasia every day. It is difficult living with aphasia, because not many people know or understand what aphasia is. We started Voices of Hope for Aphasia with the goal of bringing people with aphasia together to build a community for one another. Voices of Hope has become a network of support to help those in need by providing activities, education and services to people with aphasia and their caregivers. I look forward to seeing the organization continue to grow and reach new heights in the coming years with the support of individuals, corporations, and foundations equally dedicated to our mission.

MIKE CAPUTO

Organization Founder



noun. An acquired language disorder that affects a person's ability to communicate, but does not affect their intellect.

It can occur suddenly after a stroke or head injury, or develop slowly from a growing brain tumor or disease. There are many types and severities of aphasia.

Aphasia can affect a person's ability to **speak, understand, read,** or **write.** Aphasia can be very **isolating**, but speech therapy and social connections can help!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Stephen Miller, Chair

John Valavanis, Vice Chair

Mary Catherine Daughtry, Treasurer

Desmond Welch, Secretary

Ken Bado

Steven Blum

Gary Panaro

Jeffrey Renzulli

Mike Caputo, Ex-officio & Founder

10 YEARS OF CREATING COMMUNITY



FOUNDING MEMBERS

Mike Caputo
John Dingman
Nancy Hicks
Kathryn McCabe
Dannie Muheim
Vicki Walton



FOUNDING BOARD

Est. 2012
Ken Bado – Chair
John Valavanis – Vice Chair
Mike Profita – Treasurer
Debbie Yones – Secretary



FOUNDING DIRECTOR

2014-2018
Dr. Jackie Hinckley
Dr. Hinckley brought a plethora of expertise and knowledge regarding what makes an aphasia center successful and accessible.

I STARTED AT VOHA IN 2015 AS A VOLUNTEER.
SIX MONTHS LATER...
I WAS THEIR **FIRST PROGRAM ASSISTANT**,
HELPING PEOPLE WITH APHASIA
IMPROVE THEIR QUALITY OF LIFE &
REINTEGRATE THEM INTO THEIR COMMUNITY.
BEING A PART OF VOHA IS TRULY LIKE BEING
A PART OF ONE BIG FAMILY.



BROOKE OLIVER, ON HER
EXPERIENCE DURING
VOHA'S NASCENT YEARS

A Different Kind of First: USF St. Pete, one of VOHA's first partners, hosted member groups on Fridays from 2015-2018 (pictured below).



2015

10 YEARS OF FOSTERING HOPE

2013

Moved location to Woodlawn Presbyterian Church.



2015

Programming expands to include Fridays at the **University of South Florida - St. Petersburg** and Monday/Wednesdays at the **Sunshine Center**.



2012

Board of Directors established.

VOHA starts groups for 6 people



2012

Conversation groups begin once a week for people with aphasia. Now called **"Living! with Aphasia"** these groups provide safe, supported opportunities to participate in conversations and build a network of peers.

2014

Dr. Jackie Hinckley joins VOHA as the founding Executive Director.



2016

Hosted "Looking Forward" aphasia conference, designed for both professionals and consumers.

WHEN I FIRST JOINED VOHA IN 2014, IT CONSISTED OF A HANDFUL OF PEOPLE

MEETING IN A SPARE ROOM OF A LOCAL CHURCH. NOW VOHA IS ONE OF THE LEADING COMMUNITY-BASED APHASIA PROGRAMS IN THE U.S.A.!

DR. JACKIE HINCKLEY
FOUNDING VOHA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2017

STARS Technology
Program is added
to roster of services



2018

Project BRIDGE
conference in partnership
with USFSP and PICORI



2019

Debbie Yones is
welcomed as VOHA's
Executive Director

2021

**VOHA opens its first
official home on October 6
in St. Petersburg, Florida.**



VOHA exceeds
100 people
served

VOHA exceeds
500 people
served

2019

Develops new programs focused
on community engagement:
First Friday Lunch, creating social
connections for families
and
Max Adventures, aphasia-friendly
excursions to museums, sports
events, and local theatre.



2020

COVID-19 pandemic
shut-downs cause a
pivot to **virtual programming**.



2017

VOHA opens service
location at the
**Hale Senior Center in
Dunedin, FL**

2021 SNAPSHOT

VOHA has blossomed from a grassroots organization to an established figure in the aphasia community. A decade of word-of-mouth referrals and partnerships allowed VOHA, in 2021, not only to develop virtual programming but establish a dedicated home to serve local members and their families directly.

2021 BY THE NUMBERS



7,098

Number of educational and supportive touchpoints VOHA had with existing members



203

Number of individuals (unduplicated) who received services and support from VOHA



459

Number of people reached by VOHA since its inception.



18

Number of weekly, in-person and online activities offered by VOHA

UPWARD GROWTH

2020, while chaotic, presented an opportunity for unexpected growth. During the upheaval of 2020 and into 2021, VOHA provided virtual support groups and programming, a first for our organization. These opportunities were accessed by individuals across the country, dramatically increasing membership and activity. Additional awareness and visibility brought by Bruce Willis's announcement of his struggles with aphasia has resulted in further growth and successful outreach efforts which will propel VOHA into our next decade.

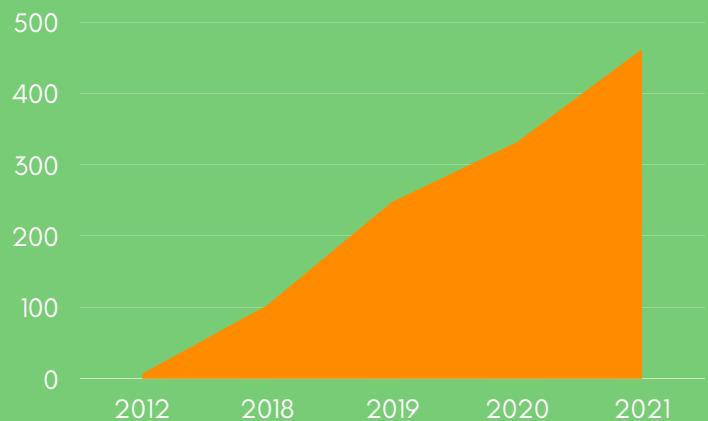


Fig. 1: Growth of cumulative people served from VOHA founding to the current reporting year.

PROGRAM MEMBER'S WIFE
ON HER HUSBAND'S
ACHIEVEMENTS & PROGRESS

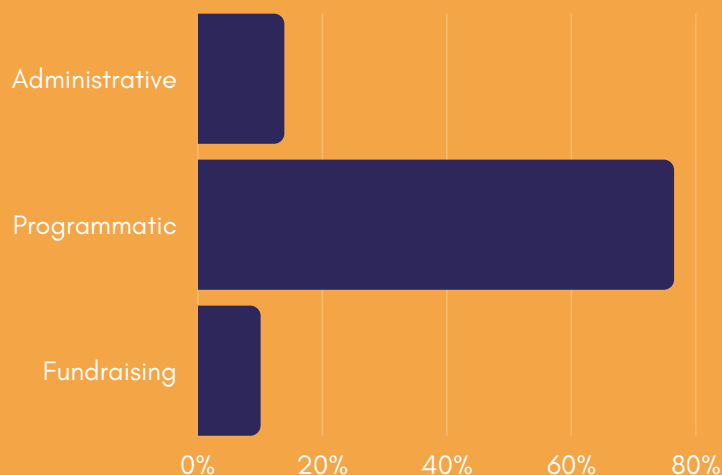
SINCE GETTING CONNECTED,
[MY HUSBAND] IS FINDING
NEW WAYS TO COMMUNICATE
THAT HAVE IN TURN
HELPED OUR OWN COMMUNICATION
MORE THAN I CAN SAY.
BEING A PART OF VOHA HAS BEEN
AN ABSOLUTE BLESSING.

FINANCIALS

In fiscal year 2021, VOHA continued to pursue our mission with passion and purpose. We do this with your support, today and every day.

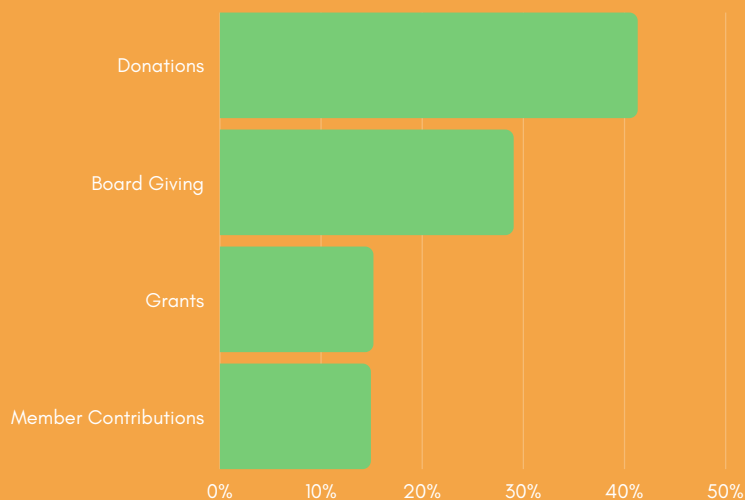
EXPENSES

As the COVID-19 pandemic continued throughout 2021, VOHA focused the majority of its spending on programs for its members, including a cautious return to in-person sessions, while maintaining virtual options for those who couldn't join in person.



REVENUE

The growth of virtual services, program offerings, and staff would not have been possible without the generosity of our individual donors, foundations, and board. As we enter our second decade, VOHA is focused on building and strengthening our partnerships so we can continue to meet the needs of our growing aphasia community.



THANK YOU TO OUR 2021 SPONSORS!



OUR DONORS

VOHA's decade of growth would not be possible without the administrative and fiscal support of the board of directors, as well as generous gifts by members of our community. A sincere THANK YOU to the donors who supported us in 2021.

CHAMPIONS

\$5,000 +

David Billingsley & Amy Walters
Monta Bolles
Suzanne Miller
Will & Karyn Peterson
Vic & Vittoria Yones

AMBASSADORS

\$1,000 - 4,999

Jeff Amaro
Bob Burton & Ruth Steele-Burton
Mike & Kathy Caputo
John & Ann Dingman
Steve & Paulette Duffett
Pat Fradley
Rachael & Debbie Georgia-Stein
Trish Hambridge
Jane Hannon
Jackie Hinckley
Kathryn & Patrick McCabe
Bob & Margaret McMillan
Susann & Edward Peterson
Joe Posch
Tony & Jeannette Santos
Kathy & Scott Smith
Greg, Rebecca, & Matt Tamason
Milton Taylor
Earnie & Sally Truby
Ann Walsh
Cora Wilson
Debbie Yones & Alan Mohny Jr.

PARTNERS

\$500 - 999

Patrick & Susan Bailey
Barry Cine
George Connor
Dale & Patty Hutchings
Steve Jakab
Larry Johnson
Glenn Kehs
Steve & Lois Krueger
Frank & Mary Mascari
Al Pollak
Nancy & Bill Russell
Chuck & Kathy Vachout
Waldemar & Marie Vidal

FRIENDS

\$100 - 499

Audra & Barry Ackerman
Melchora Alexander
Charade Barbera
Ruth Berkeley
Barbara Bodenstein
Tom & Erika Boyle
Ahadi Bugg-Levine
Jan Burger
John Chandler
Chuck Collins & Lori Moran
Mike Colombo
Monica Coplea
Joan Corb
Shama D'Souza
Donna & John Daly
Paul Day
Michael DeMattia Jr
Amanda DeRose
Cathy & John DiPaula
Neila Donovan
Lynn Durant
Kevin & Karen Eldridge
Jim Emery
Ann English
Susan Ertel
Milvia Fischer
Wendy Foley
Maria Gianfilippo
Duane Gibson
Ronlyn Goo
Robert & Catherine Grass
Don Hague
Donna Hambridge
Matthew Horowitz
Mark & Karen House
Sue House
Allen & Verna Hoyt
Suzy & Scott Johnson
Ben & Annie Kaplan
Mary Kilbane
Kristian Koziol
Timothy Lane
Myrna Laundry
Gisela LeRiche
Kimlee Lindgren
Don Linker
Eileen Livingstone
Lance & MJ Lubin
Paul Mailhot
Darin Mardock & Jeff Tarczali
John Mather

Tara Mattiacci
Betty Jo Mayo
Michael McBride
Dennis & Michelle McBride
Sean McBride
Maureen McDonnell
Colleen & Mark McDonough
Judy Mercer & Phil Rackley
Michael Milhaupt
Hillary Milonas
Bob Mitchell & Nancy Hicks
Betty Mitchell
Wendy Moore
Stacey Moskowitz
David Nieman
Abhijit Oak
Lisa & Vinny Onessimo
Susan & George Owen
John & Susanne Papa
Cheryl Paul
George Peasall
Jeffrey Peterson
Becky & Rick Reese
Bryan Renehan
Janet Robertson
Elma Lou Roda
Matt & Jaclyn Rooney
Leland Rush
Ellen Russell
Scott & Robin Samuels
Marilyn Sanderson
Hank Saum
Susan Scerbo
James & Sharon Sides
Gil Silva
Terry Silva
Ryan Simmons
Rachelle Skovira
Janice & Gary Smiles
Melanie Steward
Andrew Synott
Ronnie Vander Veer
Vicki Walton
Matthew Weingartner
Jeffrey Welch
Steve Welch
Joe Whalen
Elaine Whitlock
Ted Williams
Suzanne Wong
Traci Zierk

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Thanks to a decade of support from committed donors and partners, Voices of Hope for Aphasia has come closer to making our vision a reality. Each day, our members inspire us by proving that an aphasia diagnosis does not mean the end of a full, engaging and hope-filled life.

We are determined to help restore what those with aphasia have lost because of their stroke or injury: a community of understanding and acceptance, the ability to interact with their world in this new normal, and a sense of hope for life ahead.

Voices of Hope for Aphasia is the only 501c3 community-based program for individuals with aphasia and their families in the Tampa Bay area.

Your support goes directly to reducing isolation, increasing participation, and improving quality of life in people with aphasia and their loved ones.

LOOK AT HIM!
HE'S SMILING
FROM EAR TO EAR!
I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM
SMILE LIKE THAT
SINCE HIS STROKE.

*PARTNER OF VOHA MEMBER
ON THEIR MOOD AFTER
A VOHA-LED OUTING*

A GIFT OF SUPPORT

To make a tax-deductible donation via a secure online portal, please visit our website www.vohaphasia.org

or by mail:

Voices of Hope for Aphasia
6798 Crosswinds Dr. N. Suite B-102
St. Petersburg, FL 33710

Voices Of Hope For Aphasia, Inc. Is A Registered 501(C)(3) Non-Profit Corporation, Ch#42604. A Copy Of The Official Registration And Financial Information May Be Obtained From The Division Of Consumer Services By Calling Toll-Free Within The State (1-800-Help-Fla) Or At www.Freshfromflorida.Com. Registration Does Not Imply Endorsement, Approval, Or Recommendation By The State.



**BUILDING A COMMUNITY
WHERE EVERY VOICE
IS VALUED**



6798 CROSSWINDS DR. N, STE. B-102, ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33710
(727) 249 - 1953 INFO@VOHAPHASIA.ORG WWW.VOHAPHASIA.ORG