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

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

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!

STEPHEN MILLER
Board Chair

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

DEFINING APHASIA

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
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).
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.

2017
VOHA opens service location at the Hale Senior Center in Dunedin, FL.

2019
VOHA exceeds 100 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 exceeds 500 people served.
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.

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 us 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!

Senior Citizens Services
The Bank of Tampa
Studio Grand Central

Forest Hills Presbyterian Church
DeBartolo Family Foundation
Deupree Family Foundation
Minuteman Press
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.
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.

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

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

LOOK AT HIM!
HE’S SMILING FROM EAR TO EAR!
I HAVEN’T SEEN HIM SMILE LIKE THAT SINCE HIS STROKE.
BUILDING A COMMUNITY WHERE EVERY VOICE IS VALUED

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