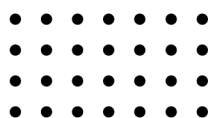




2024 Annual Report

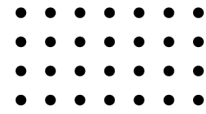
Empowering Communication. Enriching Lives.



VOHAPHASIA.ORG



Stewarding Hope, Shaping the Future.



Debbie Yones
Executive Director



At Voices of Hope for Aphasia, our mission is rooted in one powerful belief: **that every person deserves the opportunity to connect, to be heard, and to belong.** This year, I've witnessed the profound impact our programs continue to have—not only on people living with aphasia but on their families and loved ones as well. From innovative communication groups to family education and community outreach, our work is making daily life more accessible, less isolating, and filled with moments of genuine connection.

Thanks to the dedication of our team and the generosity of our supporters, we are meeting people where they are and helping them move forward with hope. I am proud of what we've accomplished together, and I'm **inspired for what's ahead.**

Ken Bado
Incoming Board Chair



This year, we witnessed the incredible **resilience** and **strength** of our community. Voices of Hope for Aphasia continues to be a beacon of **connection, communication, and compassion** for those navigating life with aphasia. Together—with our members, families, supporters, and dedicated team—we are not just restoring voices, we are **restoring lives.**



Aphasia Facts

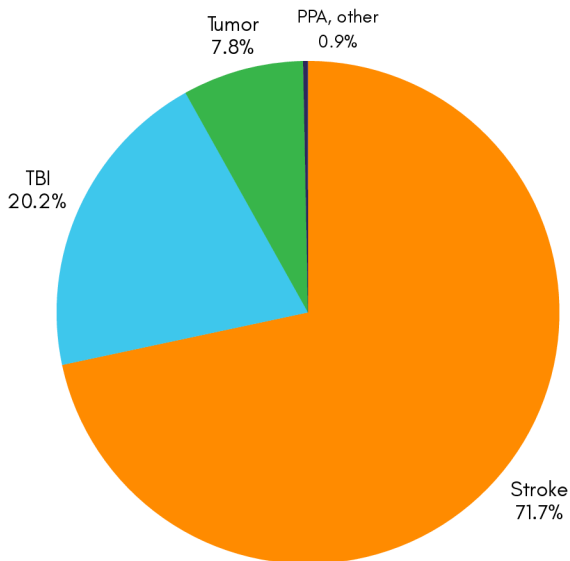
A DEFINITION

Aphasia is an acquired language disorder, affecting speaking, understanding, reading, and writing – but not intellect.

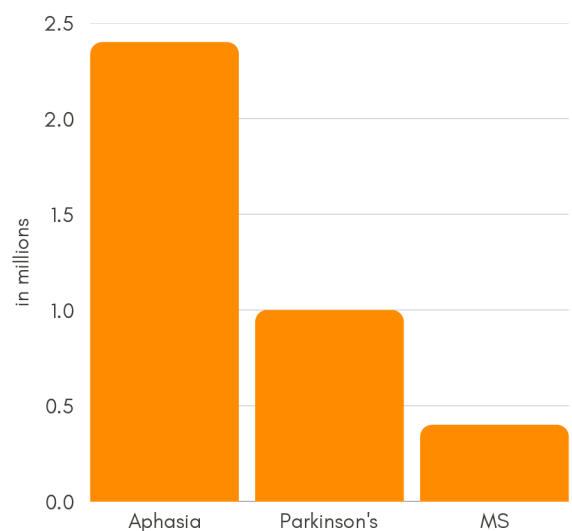
It can occur suddenly after a stroke or head injury, or develop slowly from a growing brain tumor or disease.



Causes of Aphasia



Prevalence of Aphasia in USA



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.

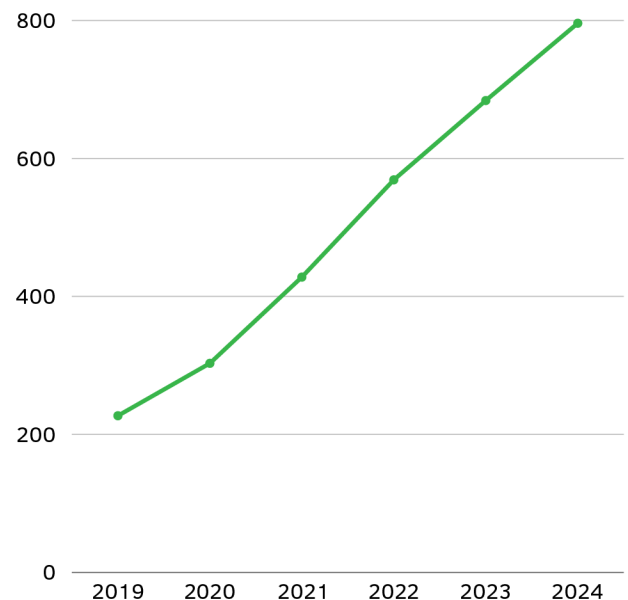
Program Updates

2024 Impact

In 2024, Voices of Hope for Aphasia delivered over 11,500 hours of life-changing service across our four sites, reaffirming our commitment to reconnecting people with aphasia to meaningful social engagement and personal growth. Our Aphasia Book Club, offered both online and in person, remained a popular activity: participants read and discussed a wide-ranging selection—from autobiographies to NYT bestsellers and gripping thrillers. Our online offerings provided vital connections and intellectual stimulation for participants in rural areas with limited local options while increasing accessibility for those facing transportation barriers. Through all our programs and activities, we continued to foster community, communication practice, and confidence-building experiences rooted in our mission. Sustaining a 4-star Charity Navigator and a Platinum GuideStar rating further demonstrates our financial transparency and governance excellence.



IMPACT OVER TIME



11,798



Number of hours of service provided; in-person and online

269

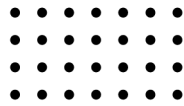


Number of individuals who received services and support from VOHA

20



Number of weekly activities offered to members.



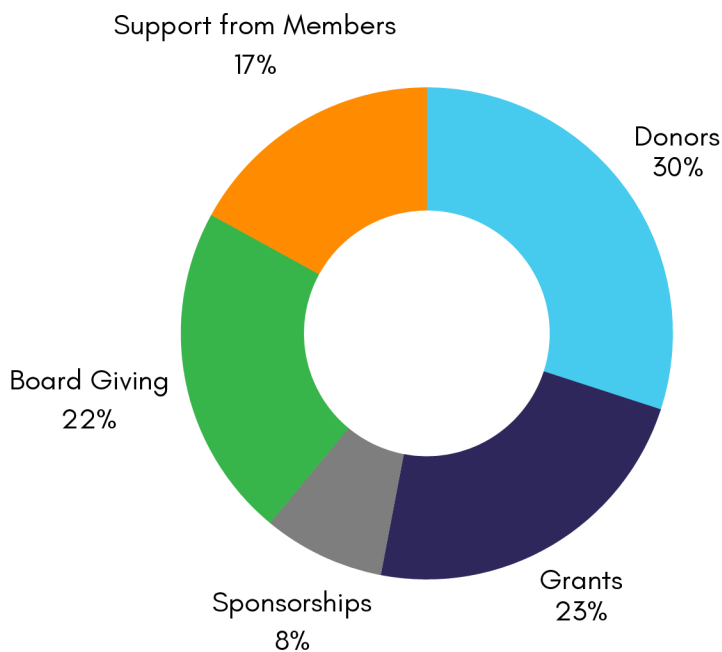
Financials

Word Play 2024

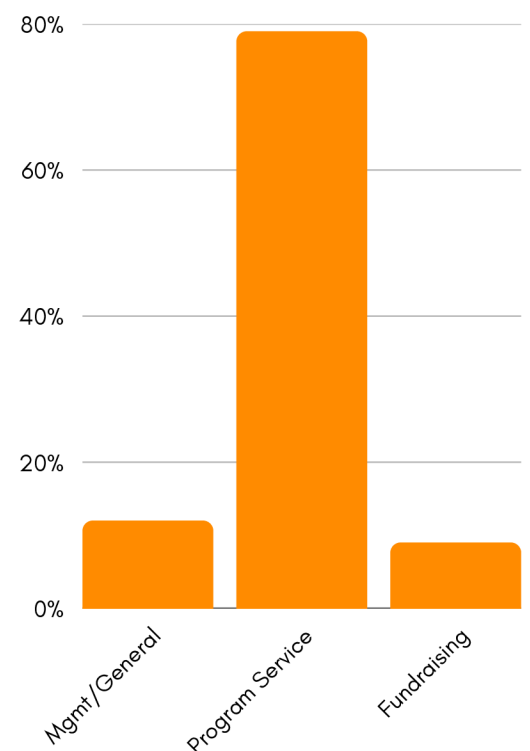
Our 2nd Annual Crossword Competition gala was another rousing success, with over 250 people in attendance, the night raised over \$138,000.00. Through powerful stories from Voices of Hope members and heartfelt messages from former Representative Gabby Giffords and former CIA Director General Michael Hayden - both living with aphasia - we helped shine a spotlight on aphasia and raise critical awareness. Voices of Hope presented the Merl Reagle Words for Good Award to the City of St Pete and the Committee to Advocate for Persons with Impairments (CAPI) for their commitment to making the city accessible to all.



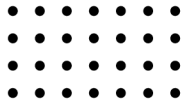
REVENUE



EXPENSES



The Voices of Aphasia



"Before my wife and I walked into Voices of Hope for Aphasia for the first time, our lives, like so many others, were shattered. It was very hard to have a conversation without tearing up.

We were invited to an afternoon session and I saw my wife come back to life for the first time since her stroke. Her eyes lit up and she was engaged and saw that she wasn't alone anymore. Every bit of her was present and alive. Now, we come every week and enjoying being in a place with people of varied backgrounds, supporting each other with love, kindness, and laughter."



Kim & Fred

"Voices of Hope has meant a lot to me during my recovery from my stroke almost two years ago. It has helped me find a community of people to socialize with and participate in many activities. In our communication groups, we had the opportunity to explore our ancestry and discover our family tree. I would recommend Voices of Hope for Aphasia for anyone who has aphasia. It has helped me with my confidence, and I feel like I can express myself with more freedom than I used to before I became a part of Voices of Hope for Aphasia."

Tillie & Kay

"The conversation groups at Voices of Hope for Aphasia have made such an impact on Al's day-to-day life. He looks forward to meeting up with his friends and has a huge smile when he tells me about it. His speech is more fluent when he attends the groups - my daughters and I notice a difference if we are away for a couple of weeks. We have also benefitted from the social connections and support from other families who are experiencing the same impacts from PPA. We are grateful to be connected to a community that supports us through this journey."



Al & Alice

"Voices of Hope for Aphasia has helped Bob and our family in ways we thought we were losing - communication with Bob! He is a new person now, a happy man and actually communicates with family and friends who have also noticed the change! We all say thank you for being able to be a part of Voices of Hope!

In Bob's own words:
"It has helped me tremendously!"

Bob & Shari

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Donate

Thanks to you, we have built a permanent home for Voices of Hope for Aphasia, a home that can be found in our center and accessed virtually through the comfort of our members' homes. The truth is this: we can't do it without your support.

All donations will equip Voices of Hope to expand service offerings, expand the member community, and ensure no family experiencing aphasia goes without the support they deserve.

To make your tax-deductible gift:

- Visit www.vohaphasia.org to make a donation through our secure portal,
- Send a check to our office, or
- Contact our office for other ways to give!

On behalf of the
members, staff, and
board of Voices of Hope
for Aphasia:





Thank you!



CURRENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ken Bado, Chair
John Valavanis, Vice-Chair
Stephen Miller, Treasurer
Desmond Welch, Secretary
Ken Bado
Steven Blum
MC Daughtry
Gary Panaro
Jim Porter
Jeffrey Renzulli
Mike Caputo, Ex-officio & Founder
Debbie Yones, Executive Director

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A special thank you to the officers and directors for their support and service:
Stephen Miller, past Chair; MC Daughtry, past Treasurer; Monta Bolles, past director.