



SPONSORSHIP PROPOSAL

when:

Wednesday, July 1, 2026

6:30pm – 9pm

where:

University of South Florida – St. Petersburg

Student Center

200 6th Ave S

St. Petersburg, FL 33701

in benefit of: **Voices of Hope for Aphasia**

About the Event

Word Play 2026 is the fourth annual, award-winning fundraising gala benefiting Voices of Hope for Aphasia, Inc., a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to empowering individuals and families living with aphasia.

This year marks an exciting new chapter as Word Play moves to the **heart of downtown St. Petersburg**. In partnership with the University of South Florida's Communication Sciences and Disorders Department, the event will be hosted at **USF St. Petersburg's Student Center**, a stunning waterfront venue overlooking Tampa Bay. The setting reflects the spirit of the evening—open, vibrant, and connected to the community we serve.

Held on **Wednesday, July 1**, the event invites guests to start the holiday weekend with an evening of celebration, creativity, and community—set against the sparkling backdrop of downtown St. Petersburg and Tampa Bay.

Word Play is a lively night of word-game competitions, dinner, and interactive experiences, with a special tribute to the late Merl Reagle, Tampa Bay's nationally celebrated crossword puzzle master. Guests don't just attend—they participate, connect, and learn about aphasia directly from those who live with it every day.

Now in its fourth year, Word Play has raised more than **\$400,000** to support Voices of Hope for Aphasia's programs and services. Highlights from past events include:

- Recipient of a **Creative Loafing Best of the Bay Award**
- Attendance of more than **250 community and business leaders** each year
- Celebrity participation from **Tampa Bay Rays players Pete Fairbanks and Jason Adam**
- Presentation of the **"Merl Reagle Words for Good" Award** to community champions, including the Pinellas Community Foundation and the City of St. Petersburg
- Proceeds supporting **hundreds of individuals** and delivering **over 12,000 hours of life-changing services**

Word Play 2026 brings together philanthropy, creativity, and community in a setting as inspiring as the mission it supports—where words, connection, and generosity come together to change lives.



About Us

Incorporated in 2011, **Voices of Hope for Aphasia** is a not-for-profit organization that has provided 15 years of life-changing programs in the Tampa Bay region. Voices of Hope for Aphasia was founded by local resident Mike Caputo and his family after he had a stroke 17 years ago. They realized there was a significant gap in services and support for families living with aphasia and turned their struggles into action.

Aphasia is a communication disorder in which a person may have difficulty speaking, understanding, reading, and writing due to stroke or other brain injury. Aphasia impacts language, but NOT intelligence.

DID YOU KNOW:

EVERY 40 SECONDS...someone in the US has a stroke.

Nearly **40%** of strokes result in **APHASIA**

34% of strokes occur in those **under the age of 65**

More than **TWICE** as many people live with **APHASIA** as Parkinson's



Did you know that...



APHASIA

leads to isolation, anger, depression, and poor overall health.

but...



the programs at

VOICES OF HOPE FOR APHASIA

foster community and improve quality of life!



THANK YOU TO THE GROWING LIST OF WORD PLAY 2026 SPONSORS!

TITLE SPONSOR:



GOLD SPONSORS:



SILVER SPONSORS:



DESSERT SPONSOR:



CROSSWORD SPONSOR:



BRONZE SPONSORS:



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



EXCLUSIVE TITLE SPONSOR - \$25,000 INCLUDES:

- Exclusive headline signage at the event and on stage
- Two tables (16 tickets) in the VIP section
- Two bottles of wine per table for you & your guests to enjoy
- Your logo included on all event signage and marketing materials recognizing your company as TITLE SPONSOR (including brochures, banners, tabletops, and event program)
- Company mentioned as TITLE SPONSOR in all advertisements and press releases (including radio, TV, and print)
- Premium logo recognition (pre- & post-event) on Voices of Hope for Aphasia social media platforms (including Facebook and Twitter) and website with hyperlink to your business
- Verbal recognition at event by emcee or CEO
- Representative from your organization announces winner of Word Play during the event
- Company representative given an opportunity to "say a few words" from the stage during the program
- Exclusive placement as title sponsor.
- Sponsorship at this level is customizable for your needs!

Voices of Hope for Aphasia reserves the right to change marketing media as needs arise, but EXCLUSIVE TITLE SPONSOR will retain premium placement.



Platinum Puzzler- \$10,000 INCLUDES:

- Headline signage at the event and on stage
- Two tables (16 tickets) in the VIP section
- Two bottles of wine per table for you & your guests to enjoy
- Your logo included on all event signage and marketing materials recognizing your company as PLATINUM PUZZLER SPONSOR (including brochures, banners, tabletops, and event program)
- Company mentioned as PLATINUM PUZZLER SPONSOR in all advertisements and press releases (including radio, TV, and print)
- Premium logo recognition (pre- & post-event) on Voices of Hope for Aphasia social media platforms (including Facebook and Twitter) and website with hyperlink to your business
- Verbal recognition at event by emcee or CEO
- Representative from your organization co-presents winner of Word Play during the event
- Company representative given an opportunity to "say a few words" from the stage during the program
- Exclusivity in your type of business

Voices of Hope for Aphasia reserves the right to change marketing media as needs arise, but PLATINUM PUZZLER will retain premium placement.



GOLD CONSTRUCTOR - \$5,000 INCLUDES:

- One table (8 tickets) in the VIP section
- Two bottles of wine at your table for you & your guests to enjoy
- Your logo included on all event signage and marketing materials recognizing your company as GOLD CONSTRUCTOR SPONSOR (including brochures, banners, tabletops, and event program)
- Recognition (pre- & post-event) on Voices of Hope for Aphasia social media platforms (including Facebook and Twitter) and website with hyperlink to your business
- Verbal recognition at event by emcee or CEO

Voices of Hope for Aphasia reserves the right to change marketing & media as needs arise, but GOLD CONSTRUCTOR SPONSOR will retain priority placement.



SILVER SOLVER - \$2,500 INCLUDES:

- One table (8 tickets) in the general section
- Two bottles of wine at your table for you & your guests to enjoy
- Your logo included on all event signage and marketing materials recognizing your company as SILVER SOLVER (including brochures, banners, tabletops, and event program)
- Logo recognition (pre- & post-event) on Voices of Hope for Aphasia social media platforms (including Facebook and Twitter) and website with hyperlink to your business
- Verbal recognition at event by emcee or CEO



BRONZE INTERPRETER- \$1,500 INCLUDES:

- One table (8 tickets) in the general section
- One bottle of wine at your table for you & your guests to enjoy
- Recognition on Voices of Hope for Aphasia social media platforms (including Facebook and Twitter) and website

EVENT EXPERIENCE SPONSORSHIPS



MISSION MOMENT SPONSOR \$7,500 (1 available)



- Exclusive sponsor of our Mission Moment, highlighting a heartwarming story at Voices of Hope for Aphasia during our dinner program
- Exclusive logo on glowing heart necklaces given to all Gifts from the Heart donors (approx. 100)
- Exclusive digital AV slide during the Mission Moment presentation
- Your logo included on all event signage and marketing materials recognizing your company as the MISSION MOMENT SPONSOR (including brochures, banners, tabletops, and event program)
- Receive all additional benefits of Gold Constructor



COCKTAIL RECEPTION SPONSOR \$5,000 (1 available)



- Exclusive sponsor of the Cocktail Reception
- Exclusive logo recognition on Cocktail Reception sponsor board
- Opportunity to name a specialty drink provided during the reception
- Your logo included on all event signage and marketing materials recognizing your company as the COCKTAIL RECEPTION SPONSOR (including brochures, banners, tabletops, and event program)
- Receive all additional benefits of Gold Constructor



DESSERT SPONSOR \$2,500 (1 available)



- Exclusive sponsor of the Dessert Station at dinner
- Exclusive logo recognition at the Dessert Station at dinner
- Opportunity to have marketing materials at the station
- Your logo included on all event signage and marketing materials recognizing your company as DESSERT SPONSOR (including brochures, banners, tabletops, and event program)
- Receive all additional benefits of Silver Solver



CLIENT SHOWCASE SPONSOR \$2,500 (1 available)



- Exclusive sponsor of our Client Showcase featuring interactive talents of our clients during the cocktail reception.
- Exclusive logo recognition on the Client Showcase sponsor board
- Handmade client gift given to our sponsor
- Your logo included on all event signage and marketing materials recognizing your company as the CLIENT SHOWCASE SPONSOR (including brochures, banners, tabletops, and event program)
- Receive all additional benefits of Silver Solver



CROSSWORD SPONSOR \$2,000 (1 available)



- Exclusive sponsor of our Crossword Puzzle Competition
- Two (2) dedicated social media posts across 3 platforms with over 2,500 followers leading up to the event, highlighting crossword tips and tricks.
- Receive all additional benefits of Bronze Interpreter

word play 2026
a fun-filled crossword gala

Sponsorship Benefits	TITLE \$25,000	Platinum \$10,000	Gold \$5,000	Silver \$2,500	Bronze \$1,500
Reserved table for 8 guests	2 tables in VIP section	2 tables in VIP section	1 table in VIP section	1 table in general section	1 table in general section
Wine at your table	2/table	2/table	2/table	2/table	1/table
Name & Logo on reserved table(s)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Name and logo on event website	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Name and logo included on all digital – FB, Event, Registration site	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Name, logo and hyperlink to website on all pre-event marketing online	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Recognition in VOH event announcement emails	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Recognition in VOH newsletters pre and post event	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Name announced by emcee during event	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Name and Logo on all event signage and program	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Company recognized during “Giving from the Heart” segment	✓	✓	✓		
Company mentioned in ads and press release (WUSF, and more)	✓	✓			
Exclusivity in your type of business	✓	✓			
Premium logo placement at event	✓	✓			
EXCLUSIVE logo placement at event	✓				
Representative from company to present winner of crossword puzzle competition	✓				

Special Event Experience sponsorships also available:

- Mission Moment - Cocktail Reception - Dessert - Client Showcase - Crossword

SPONSOR APPLICATION

benefiting Voices of Hope for Aphasia serving the Tampa Bay area.

Your sponsorship will be confirmed as soon as we receive your contribution. Sponsorship must be committed by June 1st to receive full marketing benefits.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Exclusive Title Sponsor	\$ 25,000.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Platinum Puzzler Sponsor	\$ 10,000.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gold Constructor Sponsor	\$ 5,000.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Silver Solver Sponsor	\$ 2,500.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bronze Interpreter Sponsor	\$ 1,500.00

Event Experience Sponsors

<input type="checkbox"/>	Mission Moment Sponsor (1 available)	\$ 7,500.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cocktail Reception (1 available)	\$ 5,000.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dessert Sponsor (1 available)	\$ 2,500.00 SOLD!
<input type="checkbox"/>	Client Showcase Sponsor (1 available)	\$ 2,500.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Crossword Educator Sponsor	\$ 2,000.00 SOLD!
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sorry! We can't attend, but please accept our donation of \$ _____ to benefit the programs at Voices of Hope for Aphasia.	

Please email a high-res logo for use on website and print to: debbie@vohaphasia.org

Company Name: _____

Contact person: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Please mail your form & check to:

Voices of Hope for Aphasia

6798 Crosswinds Dr. N. Suite B-102

St. Petersburg, FL, 33710

VOH Contact: Debbie Yones – (727) 249-1953 or debbie@vohaphasia.org

Voices of Hope for Aphasia is a registered 501(c)3 organization. EIN : 45-3554852 Florida reg: CH#42604

If you prefer to pay with credit card, please go to <https://bit.ly/WP2026Sponsors>.

Individual tickets for the event may be purchased at www.wordplaytampabay.com