
Aphasia Center of California

Volume 10 Issue 1 ♦ Spring 2007

Aphasia Center of California 10th Anniversary Celebration

“While they were saying among themselves that it could not be done, it was done.”

Helen Keller

*By Cara Urry, MS, CCC-SLP
Speech-Language Pathologist*

Editor’s Note: It is hard to believe that the Aphasia Center of California has just celebrated its 10-year anniversary. We have certainly packed a lot of commitment, compassion, and competence into those 10 years!! We thought it would be interesting for you to learn what a visitor to the anniversary festivities wrote about the Aphasia Center’s special celebration—Roberta J. Elman, Ph.D., ACC Founder & President

Touching, festive, inspiring. Even those with aphasia would most likely be able to come up with these or other similar words to describe the Aphasia Center of California’s 10th Anniversary Celebration, held on

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Dr. Roberta Elman presented Don Welcome, shown above with his wife Vicki, with the ACC’s first annual Go for it! Award

Sunday, November 5, 2006 at the Downtown Oakland Senior Center.

Although I have worked as a Speech-Language Pathologist for the last 10 years on the East Coast, I had long ago heard of the Aphasia Center of California as a place that was doing innovative work and making a difference in many lives. I wanted to take advantage of my recent temporary stay here in Northern California to find out more about the Center and the people behind it. I believe it was synchronicity, rather than coincidence, that when I looked at the ACC’s website, there was an invitation to attend the Anniversary Celebration. And the timing of my visit

mirrored what I heard many other attendees say about their experiences with the Center—that isn’t it amazing how you often find what you need just when you need it.

Attended by approximately 125 of the Center’s current and past staff, volunteers, survivors, family members, and others, the celebration started with an educational talk and slide show by Dr. Roberta Elman, Aphasia Center Founder and President, entitled, “Everything You Wanted to Know about Aphasia.” In a word, the presentation was enlightening. On a scale of one to ten, using one of those famous number lines that Roberta told

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Our Mission statement: *The mission of the Aphasia Center is to encourage and expand communication and psychosocial well being for those with aphasia. We are dedicated to helping families and stroke survivors understand the ramifications of stroke and aphasia on their daily lives and to improve the quality of life for all those affected.*

10th Anniversary Celebration

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us about and that are used at the Aphasia Center, I'd give the presentation a 10! As a gesture, that would be two thumbs up!

Dr. Elman then presented Don Welcome with the first-ever "Go for it!" award. This award is to become an annual honor, presented to the ACC participant who lives life, with aphasia, to the fullest. Don is a shining example of this as he fills his life with hobbies, volunteering, and encouragement to everyone at the ACC who is living with aphasia.

The ACC then received a check for \$600 from Elaine Ivankovich, who raised these funds through garage sale and consignment activities for the Center. Dr. Elman thanked Elaine for the money she has raised and all the hours she is volunteering to help the ACC.

Next, we all made "rainbows" as Elyse Dukatz lead us in some much appreciated physical activity. Elyse's positive energy combined with Dr. Elman's interesting and compassionate presentation certainly fit with the celebratory mood resonating from the crowd, who were all smiles. It's amazing how happiness and joy are so obvious regardless of how weak one side of your smile might be!

The room then became silent, as Sue Ewing introduced three strong, brave, and courageous individuals who told their stories of how they survived or helped a family member survive stroke and cope with aphasia. Martha Lynch, Patty Santanna, and Susan Mora gave voices to all the fears,

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Our Benefactors' Circle

The Aphasia Center extends a special thank you to our Benefactors' Circle donors who have made an annual contribution of \$2000 or more. Benefactors' names are engraved on brass plates that are mounted on a mahogany plaque displayed at the Aphasia Center of California. Our Benefactors' Circle donors for 2006:

Platinum Benefactors' Circle Donors (\$5,000 and above a year)

- ♦ Sidney H. Elman in memory of Lillian W. Elman
- ♦ Jane G. Logan

Gold Benefactors' Circle Donors (\$2,000 - \$4,999 a year)

- ♦ Carol and Harold Parsley

The Aphasia Center would also like to acknowledge individual donors who generously contributed \$250 or more in 2006:

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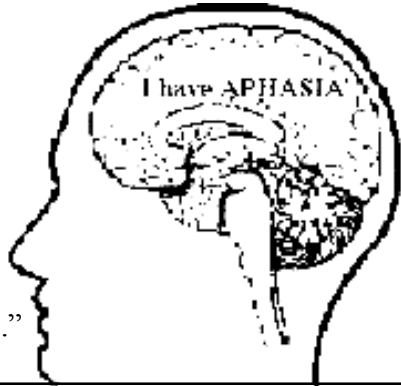
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Aphasia Center News

Aphasia (uh fay' zhuh) n: an impairment of the power to use or comprehend words, usually acquired as a result of a stroke and sometimes from head injury or a brain tumor. More than one million Americans have acquired aphasia.

"Ijenti ferbis..."



Donate your Quality Items to the ACC

We are looking for quality items that can be sold in our consignment program. All quality furniture, costume and fine jewelry, vintage and new clothing, kitchenware, children's books, and collectibles are greatly appreciated. All money earned directly benefits the speech-language therapy programs at the ACC. Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by the IRS. If you have questions, or would like to make a donation, please contact Elaine Ivankovich, Program Coordinator, at 925-687-9783 or 925-788-6261.

June is National and California Aphasia Awareness Month

Help the ACC raise awareness of aphasia. Increasing the awareness of aphasia will help us to provide needed services, improve research funding, and reduce the isolation often caused by aphasia. You can help us to raise aphasia awareness by educating your friends and family about aphasia. Join us at our "Walk to Talk" event in June at Lake Merritt. Whenever you can, educate people about "aphasia" and give them the website address of the Aphasia Center of California so they can learn more: www.aphasiacenter.org

Shreve & Co. Jewelers Donation

Please join us in thanking Shreve & Co. Jewelers in San Francisco for their generous donation of a stainless steel men's watch for our 10-year anniversary raffle. More than \$600 was raised from the raffle for programs at the ACC. The winner of the watch was Leslie Mack—congratulations Leslie! And thank you to Shreve & Co. for once again helping us serve people living with aphasia!

This newsletter is a publication of the Aphasia Center of California

Edited by Roberta J. Elman

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Join our Fifth Annual "Walk to Talk" Raise Funds and Awareness!

What: The Aphasia Center of California's Fifth Annual "Walk to Talk" is a fund-raising event to raise funds for our programs. Our "Walk to Talk" will feature a 1/4 mile and 3 mile untimed walk/run.

When: Saturday, June 30th, 2007. The walk will begin at 10:00am.

Where: Lake Merritt, Oakland. Walk starts at the Downtown Oakland Senior Center at 200 Grand Avenue.

How: Companies and individuals, from walkers with kids to seasoned athletes to people with their dogs on leashes can participate in this event to benefit the Aphasia Center. Help the Aphasia Center by sponsoring an Aphasia Center participant, asking friends and family for donations, or joining us for the walk. Please contact Roberta Elman (510) 336-0112 to receive a walk packet or for more information.

Thank You to Our Generous Donors

July-December 2006

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

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ACC 2006 Annual Report

2006 SERVICES

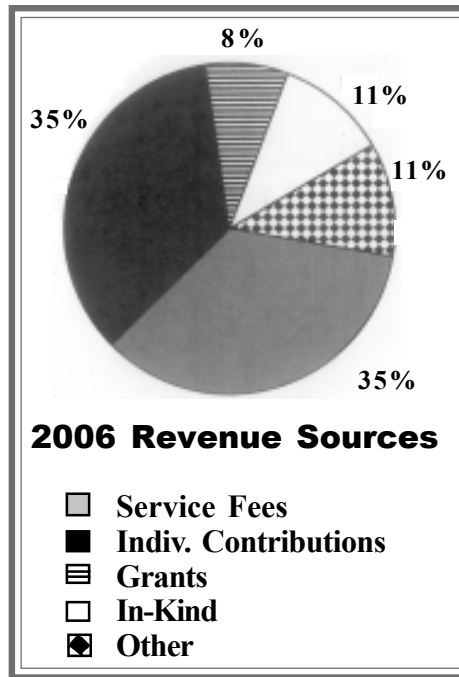
Total Visits: 4609
 Group Communication Treatment Visits: 2311
 Individual Speech-Language Treatment Visits: 153
 Reading & Writing Classes: 492
 Painting/Drawing Classes: 529
 Fitness & Relaxation Classes: 882
 Educational Stroke Group Series: 242
 Information & Referral (includes phone, mail, and e-mail): 1956
 Web site hits to date: 41,000+

ORGANIZATION & CORPORATE DONATIONS

Bay Area Port Services, LLC
 Benefit Associates
 Desert Shadows RV Resort
 Disabled American Veterans
 Good Shepherd United Methodist Women
 In Dulci Jubilo
 International Association of Fire Fighters-Local #55
 Kaiser Permanente—Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc.
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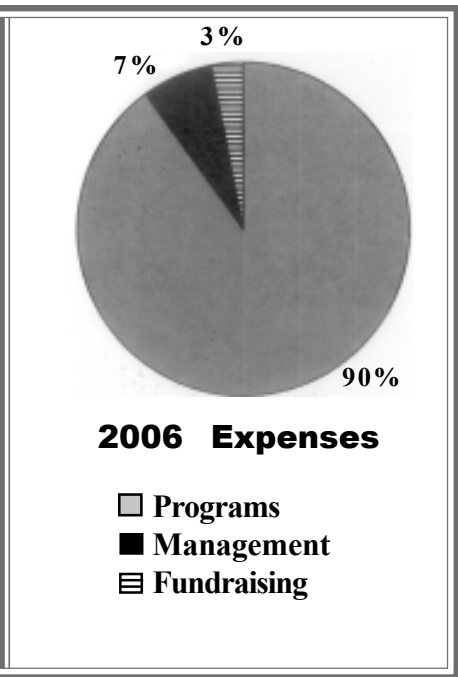
IN-KIND DONATIONS

Albertson's—Oakland
 Banana Blossom Restaurant—Oakland
 Berkeley Bowl Marketplace
 Compadres Restaurant—Oakland
 Crogan's Restaurant—Oakland
 Italian Color's Restaurant—Oakland
 La Strada Restaurant—Richmond
 Long's Drugstore—Rockridge, Oakland



2006 Revenue Sources

- Service Fees
- Indiv. Contributions
- Grants
- In-Kind
- Other



2006 Expenses

Neldam's Bakery—Oakland
 Pac & Save—Emeryville
 Pastino's Restaurant—Oakland
 Peet's Coffee & Tea—Oakland
 Klaudia Promessi—Oakland
 Rite-Aid—Montclair, Oakland
 Safeway—Rockridge, Oakland
 Shreve & Co.—San Francisco
 Svenhards Swedish Bakery—Oakland
 Trader Joe's—El Cerrito
 Ultimate Grounds—Oakland

MATCHING GIFTS

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 Cisco Systems

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Speech-Language Pathology Services:
 Ellen Bernstein-Ellis, Roberta J. Elman, Susan Adair Ewing
 Administrative Services: Roberta J. Elman
 Computer Services: Steven G. Fry
 Newsletter Design & Layout: Morris Older

DONATED PROGRAM SPACE

City of Oakland, Downtown Senior Center

Tenth Anniversary

Continued from page 2

challenges, frustrations, and victories that everyone in the room had faced or had been part of. This was truly a poignant part of the day's events and their testimonies were met with enthusiastic applause and tears of understanding.

Ellen Bernstein-Ellis then pulled further on our heartstrings with her slide presentation, highlighting many of the faces and activities that have made up the ACC's 10 years. Nods of recognition, laughter, and even some tears filtered through the room as we remembered the joys and the milestones, and had the chance to see again some friends no longer with us.

Finally, we all retired across the hall to enjoy some good food and even better company. Not just company,

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10th Anniversary

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 but an extended network of close friends and professionals, all who have become the Aphasia Center of California's family. Everyone in attendance, it seemed, had a compelling story. And more impressive, everyone exuded a compassion and joy that

came from the heart— hearts that had been broken and afraid, that had shared and rediscovered through a connection with the Aphasia Center.

We talked and talked— lots of talking, especially for a group of people with a language disorder! We ate and laughed. And we

celebrated the success and growth of the Aphasia Center of California for the last 10 years. As a visitor from the East Coast, I extend my congratulations to the Aphasia Center of California, and to each and every one of you who has become a part of this magnificent journey.

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Continued from page 4

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