



Rebuilding communication. Transforming lives.

ACC Connection

Volume 17 Issue 1 ♦ Spring 2014

“All of us want to do well. But if we do not do good, too, than doing well will never be well enough.”

--Anna Quinlen

Brains and Beauty

*By Roberta J. Elman, Ph.D.
President and Founder,
Aphasia Center of California*

The first thing you notice about ACC speech-language pathologist Loran Tolbert is her beautiful smile and poise. Loran has been dancing since age 3 and her many hours of practice, including as a current member of the Ross Dance Company, have provided her with the unique grace that comes when innate talent combines with dedication and hard work. Raised in Inglewood, California, Loran’s parents encouraged her and her sister to work hard in school and try all types of extracurricular activities.

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Speech-language pathologist Loran Tolbert (center) with ACC members Martha Lynch (left) and Susan Taira (right)

Join our 12th Annual “Walk to Talk” Raise Funds and Awareness!

What: The Aphasia Center of California’s 12th 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 28th, 2014. Walk registration will begin at 9:45am.

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

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. You can register or sponsor a walker online via our website: www.aphasiacenter.org Please contact Roberta Elman (510) 336-0112 to receive a walk packet or for more information.

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Our Mission Statement: *The mission of the Aphasia Center of California is to enhance communication skills, quality of life, and overall well-being for all those affected by aphasia.*

Thank You to Our Generous Donors

August-December 2013

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

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Brains and Beauty

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Loran says that her backyard resembled a playground with many different options including tetherball, swings, a pool, tree climbing, foursquare, and basketball. Loran excelled in academics, graduating from Notre Dame Academy in Los Angeles before beginning college at Florida State University where she received a Bachelor's degree in Communicative Disorders. Loran then headed back to California for graduate school, earning a Master of Science degree in Communicative Disorders from San Francisco State University.

We first met Loran in 2007 dur-

ing her graduate studies, when we selected her for an externship at the ACC. Loran quickly established a wonderful rapport with all of the ACC members and her work ethic and intellectual curiosity made her a quick learner. A few years later, we had the opportunity to invite Loran to join the ACC as a part-time speech-language pathologist—we were thrilled when she said yes!

Loran loves seeing ACC participants embrace the Center as they become connected to one another and more involved in the organization. She says, "ACC members instantly feel a sense of community and acceptance." Her favorite moment at the ACC happens when a communication

group member with more severe aphasia is able to communicate his/her thoughts to others in the group. She says, "That individual member is gratified along with all the other members—we have all worked together to help someone communicate a thought, want, or a need. It really makes my heart smile!"

Loran's biggest project is coming very soon—she and her husband Jeremiah are expecting their first baby in May. We can't wait to meet this new addition to the ACC family—baby Tolbert will definitely have a very large extended family of ACC aunts and uncles! Loran, thanks for all you do for people living with aphasia!

Aphasia Center News

Education and Training Around the World

Aphasia Center of California's staff members are frequently invited to provide training to speech-language pathologists throughout the world. During the last year, we have hosted healthcare professionals from around the world who will be bringing our ideas and techniques home to start their own aphasia groups. We continue to write and present our work so that other healthcare professionals can replicate our programs in their own communities. Although the Aphasia Center programs may be physically located in California, our philosophy and clinical techniques continue to impact lives around the world!

Do you shop at Lucky, FoodMaxx or Savemart?

Lucky, FoodMaxx, and Savemart will donate money to the Aphasia Center of California every time you shop! Just call the Aphasia Center and ask us to mail you a Shares Program card. It's super simple, doesn't cost a thing, and you don't need to give any personal information. Each time you buy groceries, you just hand your Shares Program card to the clerk, and Lucky, FoodMaxx and Savemart will automatically donate 3% of your total grocery bill to the ACC. So please call us today to get your free Shares Program card and start helping the ACC every time you buy groceries!! To get your Shares Program card, please call us at 510-336-0112,



A Japan Connection

Dr. Kazuyo Tanji traveled from Japan in order to consult with the Aphasia Center of California. Dr. Tanji is eager to learn more about aphasia group treatment. He is a neurologist and runs two aphasia groups in Japan along with a speech-language therapist. This photograph shows Dr. Tanji standing on the left with the ACC's Wednesday morning aphasia group members. Dr. Tanji--thanks for being such a wonderful neurologist. We really enjoyed getting to know you!

Great News! The Aphasia Center Accepts Vehicle Donations

The Aphasia Center of California has teamed up with Donate For Charity, a company that specializes in processing vehicle donations for nonprofit organizations. Donate For Charity arranges for vehicle pickup, handles all the DMV issues, sells the ve-

hicle at auction, and distributes the net proceeds to Aphasia Center of California. So if it's time to replace an older car, or if you have a boat and trailer that are just taking up space in the garage, consider making a donation. You'll avoid the head-

ache of selling a used vehicle, help the Aphasia Center of California fund its ongoing efforts, and receive a tax deduction. When you're ready to donate, or if you have relatives or friends that wish to donate, simply call Donate For Charity toll-free at (866) 392-4483 or donate on-line at www.aphasiacenter.org. We hope you'll take advantage of this opportunity and help us expand our commitment to improving the quality of life for all those affected by aphasia.

Credit Card Donations Are Easy to Make!

Did you know that you can make a donation with your credit card to the Aphasia Center? It's easy to do! Just go to the Aphasia Center of California "Donate" button on the home page of our website: www.aphasiacenter.org. You can make a one-time donation or a monthly, quarterly, or annual recurring donation. All donations help us make a dramatic difference in the lives of those affected by aphasia.

Thank You to Our Generous Donors

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ACC 2013 Annual Report

2013 SERVICES

Total Visits: 4543
 Group Communication Treatment Visits: 1901
 Individual Speech-Language Treatment Visits: 62
 Reading & Writing Classes: 275
 Club Aphasia: 686
 Fitness & Relaxation Classes: 867
 Stroke Group & Choir: 550
 Information & Referral (includes phone, mail, and e-mail): 2019

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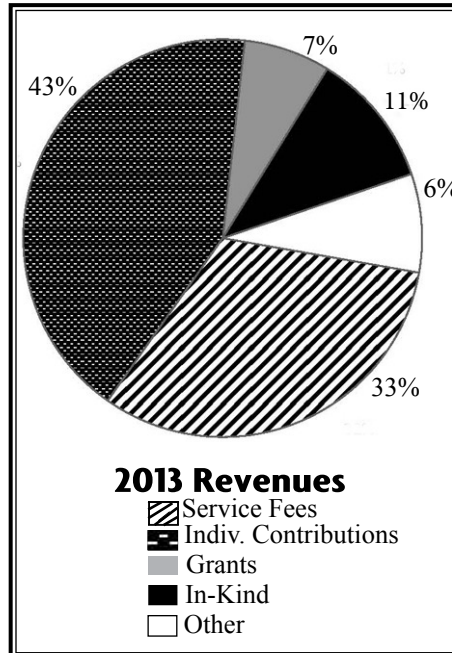
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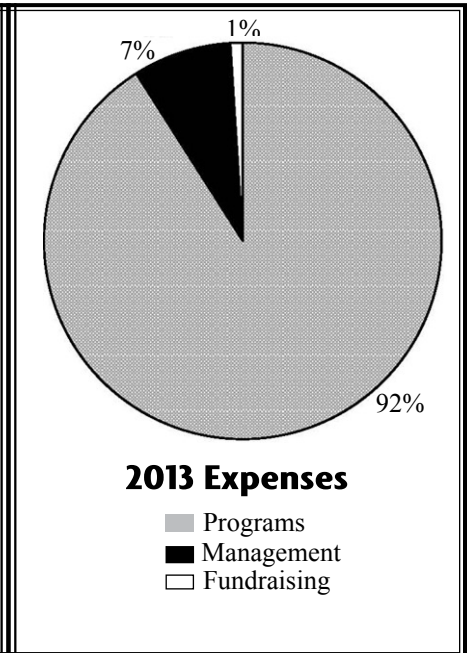
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 Leah's Closet—Martinez
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 Oakland Spice Shop
 Pac & Save—Emeryville
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 Pastino's Restaurant—Oakland



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