

ANNUAL REPORT

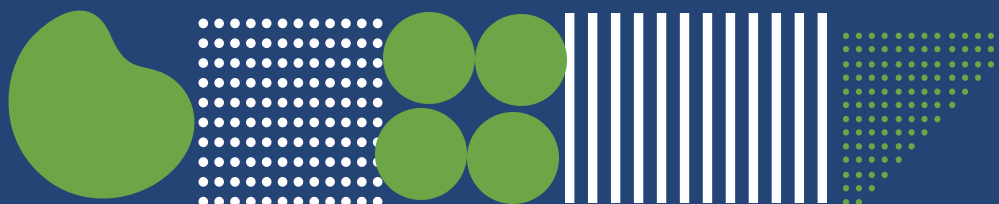
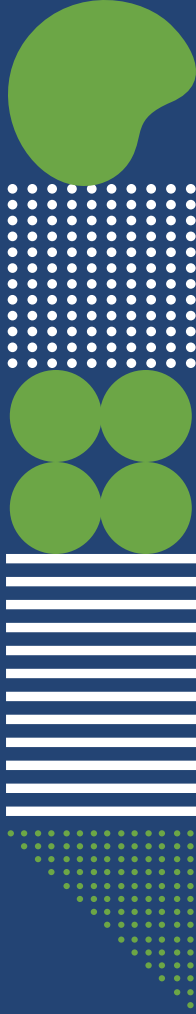


Building Strong *Connections* of Support
Encouraging new *Life Goals*
***Living Successfully* with Aphasia**
Fostering opportunities for *Progress*

20
21

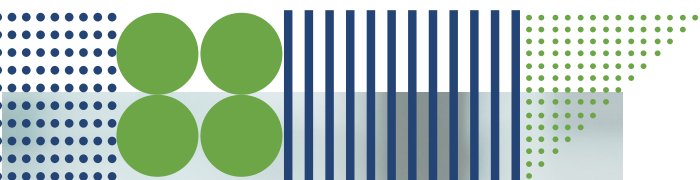
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**"Because of you-
generous donors and
supporters- people
with aphasia in MN
have found a safe
place to find hope and
continued growth in
their journey with
aphasia"**

**Julia Halvorson
Executive Director**



Words from our Executive Director

Minnesota Connect Aphasia Now's (MnCAN's) commitment to "building strong connections of support and fostering opportunities for progress" shined through the many achievements of 2021. We are at a pivotal stage of growth and have demonstrated a committed vision to move our mission forward.

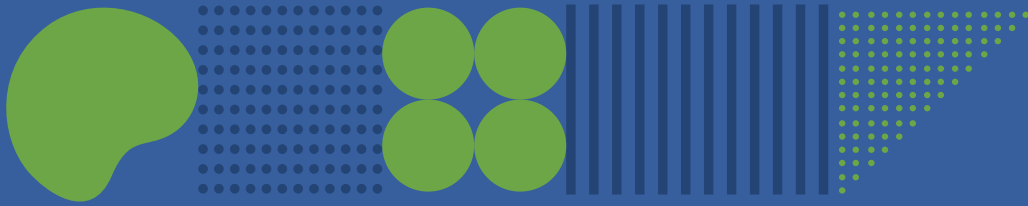
The addition of 2 part-time leadership staff and the increased diversity of programs are evidence of that commitment and our growing sustainability. Working with persons with aphasia both on our board and as co-facilitators and developers of several new programs is exciting. It is life participation at its core!

We are very proud that our impact far exceeds our size. The reason for this is the expertise of our speech pathologists, our volunteers, board members and staff. Even more importantly, it is an expression of the passion we have for the people we serve.

We look forward to strengthening our programs, and diversifying participation by expanding MnCAN's referral network, with specific attention to rural areas and underserved communities. The pandemic has taught us that virtual programs can work for many and will continue to be part of our services even after we can meet again safely in our community sites.

We are grateful for the staff, funders, volunteers, and partners who help bring this vision to life.

Julia Halvorson
Executive Director



Vision & Mission

Connecting the Aphasia Community

Living with Aphasia

Two million people in America have aphasia. Yet many don't even know what it is.

Aphasia affects the ability to speak, read, write, and understand what others are saying. It is most often caused by stroke, brain injury or progressive neurological condition.

The inability to communicate can cause devastating isolation.



Our Mission

The mission of MnCAN is to improve the life participation of individuals impacted by aphasia through comprehensive programs, education, peer connections and community support.



Our Vision

People with aphasia actively participate in life without barriers.

What Makes MnCAN Unique?

- MnCAN is the only nonprofit in MN dedicated solely to programs for people with aphasia.
- People with aphasia are connected through small groups that are consistent over time, allowing relationships to develop
- The Life Participation Approach to Aphasia (LPAA) is emphasized to guide people to develop new life goals and work towards them with the group support
- Confidence is increased to encourage more life participation OUTSIDE of the group setting
- All programs are facilitated or closely supervised by speech pathologists.
- People with aphasia practice functional strategies for everyday communication



MnCAN Team

Board of Directors

In 2021, MnCAN secured four new board members. We were excited to add representatives of our participants by the recruitment of a person with aphasia and a care partner of someone with aphasia.



Cindy Busch,
PhD, CCC-SLP
President



Seth Johnson
Board Treasurer



Linda Johnson
Board Secretary



**Jeannie
Bridgeman**
Board Member



**Garry
Woessner**
Board Member



Stoney Rostad
Board Member



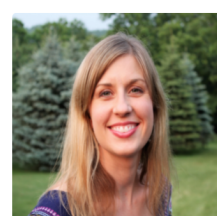
Barb Baker
Board Member

Leadership Team

MnCAN made a commitment in 2021 to expand staffing to increase our outreach to more participants and programs, and to develop more efficient systems for training students, volunteers and speech pathologists. This will ultimately result in better service and growth for the people we serve and programs we provide.



Julia Halvorson,
MA, CCC-SLP
Executive Director



Alison Robinson
Development and
Communications Coordinator



Angie Maier MA,
CCC-SLP
Program Coordinator

Programs and Services

Since its beginning 8 years ago, MnCAN has grown from 6 conversation groups of 35 participants to 10 conversation groups, 5 specialty programs, and 3 support groups serving 102 participants and care partners in 2021.

With your support in 2021 we were able to:

- hire 2 new part time leadership team positions
- launch a Toastmasters for aphasia public speaking group
- start a weekly morning coffee club
- launch a 1-on-1 conversation partners program for people with severe and global aphasia
- add one new aphasia conversation group, totaling 10 community based groups (virtually)
- develop a Drama Club for people with aphasia
- contract with a mental health worker for our Primary Progressive Aphasia support group care partners to further serve their needs
- provide scholarships for program tuitions to over 20% of participants

2021 BY THE NUMBERS

334/24

Number of community connection opportunities for people with aphasia/care partners

102

Number of people served

57

Number of speech pathology graduate students trained in LPAA through MnCAN groups

13

Number of Speech Pathologists/mental health workers providing groups and programs

Financial Review

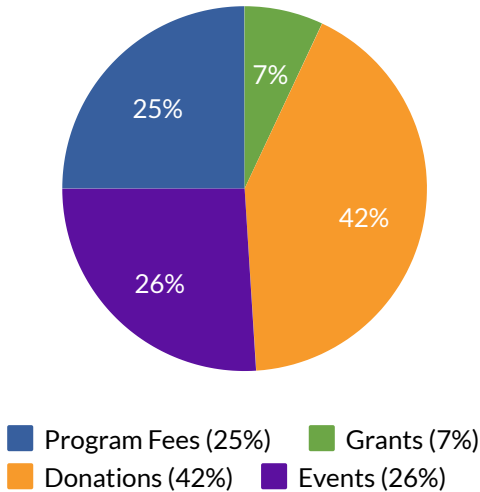
REVENUE

MnCAN relies on individual donors and has worked to develop relationships with supporters over the past 8 years. Our future goals include working with grant funders and foundations beginning in 2022.

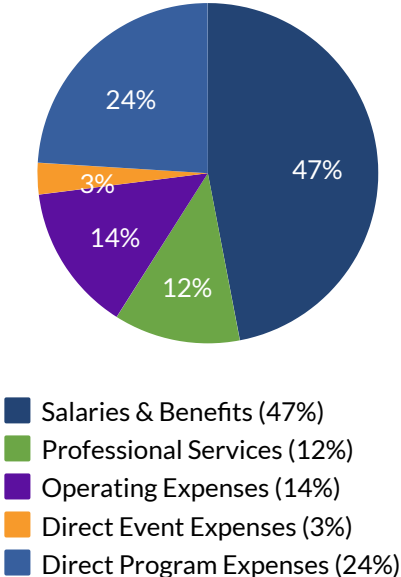
EXPENSES

We put much effort on developing and maintaining high quality programs facilitated by expert staff and contractors. We are proud of our ability to use our resources as conservatively as possible, while still building sustainability in all areas.

Revenue Sources



Expenses



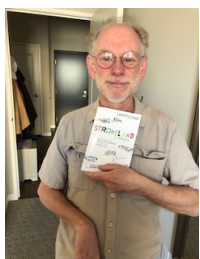
2021 Source of Funds

Individual Contributions	43,811
Corporate Contributions	3,082
Grants	8,024
Program Fees	27,380
Event	28,350
Other	693

2021 Use of Funds

Salaries and Benefits	51,040
Professional services	12,751
Operating Expenses	15,646
Direct Event Expenses	3,241
Direct Program Expenses	26,070

A Word from our Participants



An excerpt from *Strokeland* illuminates a visit to Rob's aphasia group and Lynette's eye-opening experience:

I don't often see Rob with his stroke friends so it was a revelation to watch them together at a MnCAN (Minnesota Connect Aphasia Now) meeting in late 2019. In most group settings, Rob hangs back and keeps quiet...Not so at this MnCAN meeting, where he lit up the very instant we entered the room, animatedly greeting each person in turn... It was good for me to see him this way again -- as a relaxed, popular leader -- after seeing him as limited for so long.

What Katie said about her dad's experience:

"This (MnCAN) group changed his life! I saw a dramatic improvement almost overnight."

"It's been a game-changer for him."



"I felt lost, and I didn't feel like things in my life just weren't the same. Two years passed and I didn't feel like I had any worth. About that time, I ran across MnCAN which gave me a bright spot in my life. Two years ago things got happier thanks to MnCAN" ~ Paul



MOVING FORWARD

Thank you for being a part of and/or learning about MnCAN's journey to raise up and encourage those struggling with aphasia. We leave you with these thoughts and goals for 2022:

We are already busy getting results from our first outcome measure survey using the Communication Confidence Rating Scale for Aphasia. This will equip MnCAN to show the greater community the true impact of its services on the lives of individuals with aphasia.

We will be expanding referral partnerships through community presentations, partner relationships & outreach all around Minnesota.

We seek to make interacting with MnCAN easier than ever in 2022 with more efficient systems, online forms and registrations and an updated website.

We expect to gradually return to in-person meetings for our 10 community groups. This will hopefully occur later in 2022, pending our donated sites' availability and replacing those we lost. That said, we plan to keep some of our programs virtual and will grow outstate using this model.

In the meantime, we will continue to "stay connected!"

Our newest program is just getting started!



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