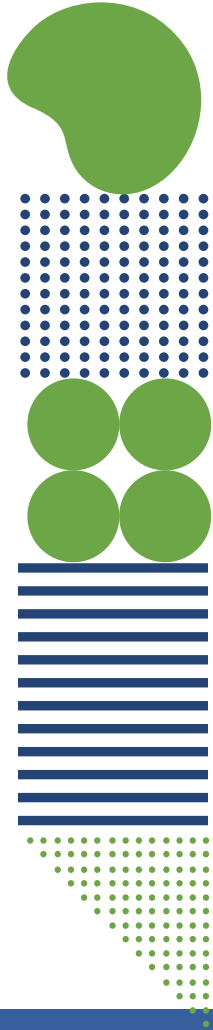


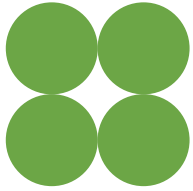
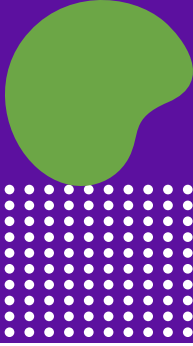
ANNUAL REPORT



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

20
23

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Words from our Executive Directors



**Angie Maier, SLP and Jessica Wald, SLP
Co-Executive Directors**



Minnesota Connect Aphasia Now's mission of improving the life participation for individuals impacted by aphasia was our core focus in 2023. We reached new milestones of growth in both program opportunities and participants (persons with aphasia and care partners) served. The MnCAN community - including speech-language pathologists, volunteers, graduate students, donors, leadership staff and the Board of Directors - all played a vital role in providing high-quality and dedicated programs for persons with aphasia and their care partners.

We are so fortunate to be a part of the next generation of MnCAN leadership. We assumed our roles in July 2023 and since then, we have been hard at work supporting the programs we love. In addition to our leadership roles, we assume our professional role as speech-language pathologists as we continue to facilitate weekly aphasia conversation groups. We believe in this nonprofit organization and are so passionate about offering programs and groups where persons with aphasia can connect, learn, gain confidence, and feel supported.

We have a rich history of working together dating back to 2008 when we worked side-by-side as speech-language pathologists at a local hospital. We complement each other's strengths and collaborate together in our leadership roles.

We are proud of all that MnCAN has accomplished over the past 10 years. Our founding director, Julia Halvorson, is still a close friend and valued resource. We are committed to taking MnCAN into the future so we can continue to provide life-changing aphasia care to all people. We look forward to expanding and strengthening our programs in 2024.

We are so grateful for the team of staff, donors, volunteers, persons with aphasia, and care partners who will join us on this journey.

*With gratitude,
Angie Maier and Jessica Wald, MnCAN Co-Executive Directors*

Mission and Vision

Connecting the Aphasia Community

Living with Aphasia

At least two million people in America have aphasia and only 9 percent of people have ever heard of aphasia, according to the National Aphasia Association.

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

Primary Progressive Aphasia (PPA), also a form of aphasia, is a language disorder that gradually impairs a person's ability to speak or comprehend language. PPA is a type of frontotemporal dementia (FTD) that is caused by degeneration of the frontal and temporal lobes of the brain. MnCAN offers education, connection, and support for families experiencing PPA.

Communication inability or difficulty can cause devastating isolation. We can offer HOPE.

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.



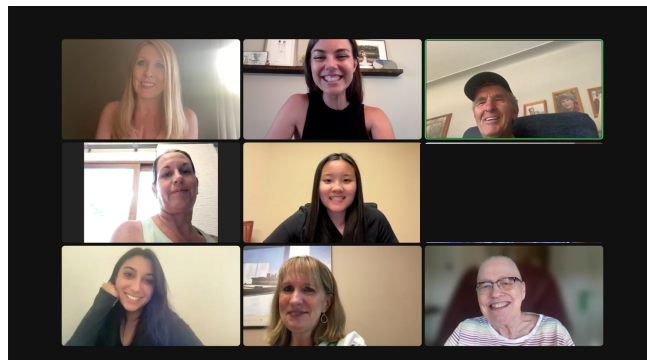
Speak Up! Young Adults Support Group participants with facilitator Jessica Wald



PPA Staying Connected class with facilitator Carly Cauley

Why MnCAN?

- MnCAN is the only nonprofit organization in Minnesota dedicated to programs for people with aphasia and primary progressive aphasia.
- People with aphasia are connected through small groups that are consistent over time, allowing meaningful relationships to develop.
- Group participants offer support and encouragement to one another because they understand life with aphasia differently than care partners or professionals.
- Our tuition remains affordable, with scholarships available.
- We view aphasia from a long-term perspective; progress and confidence continue as long as participants keep working at communication.
- We believe communication is designed for social interaction AND transaction of messages.
- MnCAN participants can stay in our programs as long as they feel it is beneficial.
- The Life Participation Approach to Aphasia (LPAA) is emphasized to guide people to develop new life goals and work towards them with group support.
- People with aphasia are supported using the Supportive Conversation for Adults with Aphasia (SCA) communication method.
- Program participants report improved confidence in social activities.
- All programs are facilitated by licensed speech-language pathologists.
- People with aphasia practice functional strategies and adaptations for everyday communication.



Virtual Conversation Group participants

Silver
Transparency
2023

Candid.

Candid provides comprehensive data and insights on nonprofit organizations.

MnCAN Team



Board of Directors

In 2023, MnCAN welcomed board president Lynette Lamb, a care partner of a MnCAN participant; a new treasurer, Jeannie Bridgeman, a previous MnCAN participant; and three new board members: Gus Avenido (a MnCAN participant), Nancy Zugschwert, and Jane Anderson.

Looking forward, we plan to grow our board further to expand diversity, outlook, background, and knowledge.

Leadership Team

In June 2023, MnCAN welcomed as Co-Executive Directors MnCAN staff members Angie Maier and Jessica Wald. Carly Cauley was hired as the Communications and Outreach Coordinator. We are fortunate to have professionals of their experience leading our nonprofit organization.



Angie Maier, MA, CCC-SLP
Director of Operations and Programs



Jessica Wald, MA, CCC-SLP
Director of Advancement and Communications



Carly Cauley, MA, CCC-SLP, Outreach and Communications Coordinator

SLP Team



Krista Petersen MA, CCC-SLP
Speech Language Pathologist / PPA Support Group Facilitator



Leah Snow MA, CCC-SLP
Speech Language pathologist/Aphasia Conversation Group Facilitator



Mary Strom, MA, CCC-SLP
Speech Language Pathologist / Coffee Club Group Facilitator



Sheen Chiou, Ph.D., CCC-SLP
Speech Language Pathologist / Aphasia Conversation Group Facilitator



Jill Dimitri, MS, CCC-SLP
Speech Language Pathologist / Aphasia Conversation Group Facilitator



Amber Beyer MS, CCC-SLP
Speech Language Pathologist/Aphasia Conversation Group Facilitator

Programs and Services

- Aphasia Conversation Groups
- Coffee Club
- Talk to Me Aphasia Drama Club
- Confident Communicators Gavel Club
- Care Partner Support Group
- Staying Connected Education Class for Primary Progressive Aphasia
- Speak Up! Young Adults Support Group
- Primary Progressive Aphasia Support Groups



2023 by the numbers

Thanks to the generosity of individual and corporate contributions, MnCAN made a big difference!

300

Community connection opportunities for people with aphasia

100+

People with aphasia or care partners served through our programs

400

Hours served by our dedicated volunteers

68

Speech-Language Pathology Graduate School students trained

9

Speech-Language Pathologists on our team

8

MnCAN Board Members

400+

Individual and Corporate Donors

2023 Growth and Development

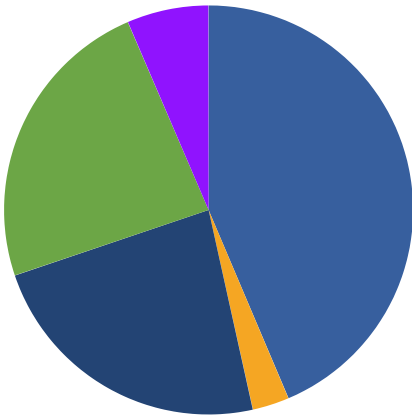
- Added two new **conversation groups**
- Our Staying Connected class for Primary Progressive Aphasia was offered 3 times in 2023, benefitting 17 people with PPA plus a care partner
- Welcomed over 45 new participants and/or care partners into our programs or support groups
- Hired new co-executive directors and a staff contractor
- Hosted our most successful gala to date with over 175 attendees and over \$69,000 raised for MnCAN
- 100% of our Board of Directors are MnCAN donors

Financial Review

REVENUE

MnCAN relies on individual donors and has continued to develop relationships with supporters over the past ten years. Our future goals include focuses on planned giving, top-tier donors, and sustaining donors.

Revenue Sources

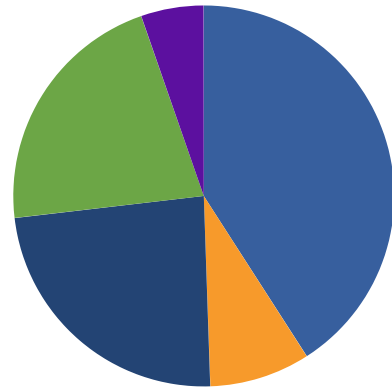


- Individual Contributions (43.63%)
- Grants (2.91%)
- Program Income (23.28%)
- Event Contributions (23.73%)
- Sponsorships (6.46%)

EXPENSES

MnCAN values high quality programs facilitated by expert staff. We are proud of our ability to use resources as conservatively as possible, while still maintaining sustainability and excellence.

Expenses



- Program Expenses (40.92%)
- Professional Contractor Services (8.54%)
- Operating Expenses (23.7%)
- Fundraising Expenses (21.51%)
- Scholarships (5.32%)

2023 Source of Funds

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| Individual Contributions | \$100,051 |
| Grants | \$6,666 |
| Program Income | \$53,357 |
| Event Contributions | \$54,401 |
| Sponsorships | \$14,800 |

2023 Use of Funds

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Program Expenses | \$91,500 |
| Professional Contractor Services | \$19,100 |
| Fundraising Expenses | \$48,100 |
| Operating Expenses | \$53,000 |
| Scholarships | \$11,900 |

From Our Participants

"MnCAN is great because I hear other people with aphasia like me. I know it's good for you to be around those people."

- Anne, MnCAN participant



What do long-time MnCAN participants Rob, Mark, Julie, and Bruce love most about MnCAN?

"Friendship, community and laughter."

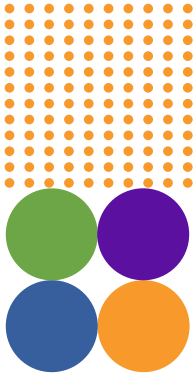


"I love MnCAN...their groups have helped me after my stroke and with aphasia by helping me with speaking, reading, spelling and writing. I have been to three groups: Gavel Club (Toastmasters), Drama Club and Conversation Group and it has really helped my aphasia. I love MnCAN, group facilitators, volunteers, college students and my friends in the groups."

- Tiffany, MnCAN participant



Looking Ahead



Thank you for being part of the MnCAN community. Whether you are new this year or have been with us over the past 10 years, we are glad you are here! We are humbled and grateful for this strong and connected community. We look forward to having you by our side as we venture ahead into an inspirational 2024.

As the need for support and connection continue to grow, we anticipate new aphasia conversation groups will be created to meet participants' needs in 2024.

We look forward to diversifying participation by expanding our referral network with specific attention to BIPOC communities. We will continue outreach efforts to build relationships with referral partners, community supporters, healthcare systems, and universities across the state of Minnesota.

We will continue to demonstrate excellence in our programs, staff and board members as we strengthen our leadership teams. Our focus on aphasia awareness and education within the MnCAN community and beyond will continue to be a priority.



We have taken feedback from our participants and care partners, and plan to make our registration process and forms more aphasia-friendly. We are busy working behind the scenes to make all of our internal processes and systems more efficient and up-to-date to allow for future growth.

With your continued support, we can continue to offer high-quality, invaluable aphasia care to our community of strong, dedicated and hard-working participants.



Please join us as we celebrate and honor the foundation that has been laid over the past 10 years and look forward to "breaking barriers" for people with aphasia in 2024.

People with aphasia CAN because of MnCAN!



www.mncan.org
contact@mncan.org
612-524-8802

Save the Date



2024 MnCAN Break the Barriers for Aphasia Gala
September 29, 2024

**Please join us as we continue to celebrate
10 years of MnCAN in 2024**




Memories

A Decade of Great Moments

Join us as we look back on our journey
MnCAN's 10 Year Anniversary
2014-2024 and beyond

