



# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



*Fostering Connection and Friendship*

*Supporting Aphasia and*

*Primary Progressive Aphasia*

*Encouraging Life Participation*

*Finding Purpose and Confidence*

# Mission and Vision

## ***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.

## A Message from our Executive Directors

In 2025, Minnesota Connect Aphasia Now remained deeply committed to our mission of enhancing life participation for individuals impacted by aphasia. Over the past year, we achieved meaningful growth, expanding both programs and fundraising to better serve our community.

The strength of MnCAN remains in the community. Speech-language pathologists, volunteers, graduate students, generous donors, leadership staff, and our Board of Directors each played an essential role in delivering high-quality, compassionate programming and support for individuals with aphasia and PPA and their care partners.

It is a privilege to support this community and we are continually inspired by the resilience and determination of those we serve.

*With gratitude,*

*Jessica Wald and Angie Maier,*

*MnCAN Co-Executive Directors*



# Leadership Team

## **Board of Directors**

In 2025, the MnCAN Board of Directors consisted of ten active members who met nine times throughout the year to provide strategic leadership, governance, and organizational oversight. The Board reflects a diverse range of expertise, including finance professionals, business leaders, medical specialists, and individuals living with aphasia, ensuring both professional insight and lived experience inform MnCAN's direction.



## **Executive Directors and Staff**

MnCAN is led by Co-Executive Directors and speech language pathologists, Angie Maier and Jessica Wald. In July, MnCAN hired Nicole Davis as a Staff Speech-Language Pathologist, with designated hours devoted to program facilitation and supporting the Co-Executive Directors.



## **Group Facilitators**

MnCAN had eleven speech language pathologists and one clinical social worker facilitate groups in 2025. Our facilitators make strong connections with MnCAN participants and care partners in order to support them with expert care and compassion.



# Programs and Services

- **Sixteen** Aphasia Conversation Groups
- Coffee Club
- Book Club for People with Aphasia
- Talk to Me Aphasia Drama Club
- Care Partner Support Group
- Staying Connected Education Class for Primary Progressive Aphasia
- Primary Progressive Aphasia Support Group
- Primary Progressive Aphasia Care Partner Support Group

## Participant Experiences



**"MnCAN allows me to be myself. I have challenges and it's easy to be critical of myself and the groups allow me to be me. The conversations allow me to help and support one another."**

~Ralph, MnCAN Participant~

**"It's very reassuring to know that there's an entire organization of experts to offer help and back you up."**

~ Lianne, MnCAN Care Partner~

**"I also really enjoy talking with people, but PPA has made that very difficult, but I try anyway. What brings me joy is when I can communicate at all with others."**

~ Ruth Ann, MnCAN Participant~

**"MnCAN is a positive experience, I enjoy lots of friendships."**

~Bruce, MnCAN Participant



**"I really like all the people that I've met. Everyone has been so nice and welcoming. When I first started, I was apprehensive, but it has become an important part of my week."**

~Justin, MnCAN Participant~

**"I am so grateful to be part of this supportive community, and to connect with others going through the same experiences."**

**We live to communicate!"**

~ Marilyn, MnCAN Participant~

# 2025 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

**130+**

People with aphasia participated in programs

**466**

Hours served by our dedicated volunteers

**50**

Speech-Language Pathology graduate school students completed internships

**53**

Financial scholarships granted

**11**

MnCAN Board Members

**381**

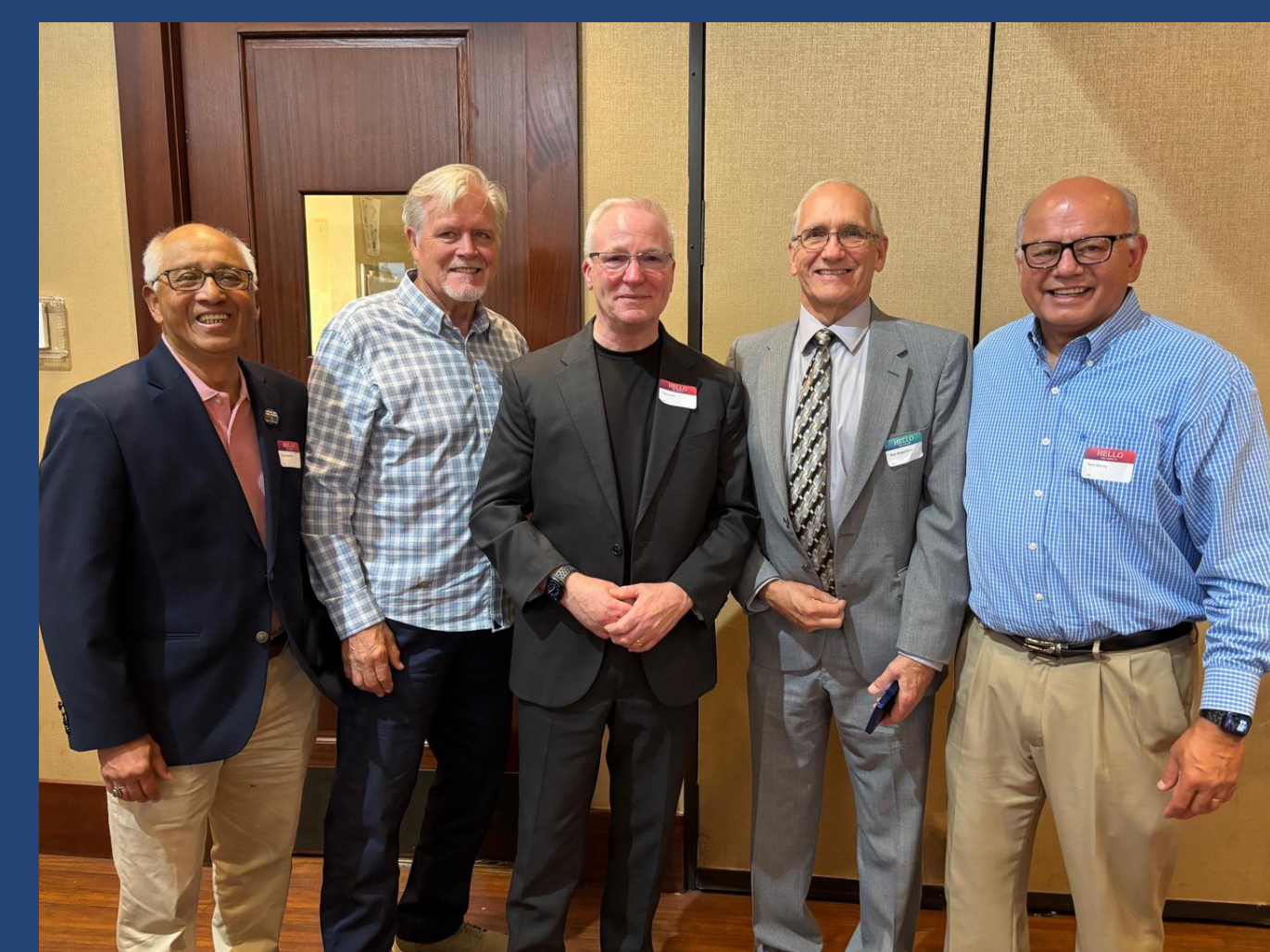
Individual and Corporate Donors

**90+**

Care Partners received support and resources from our programs

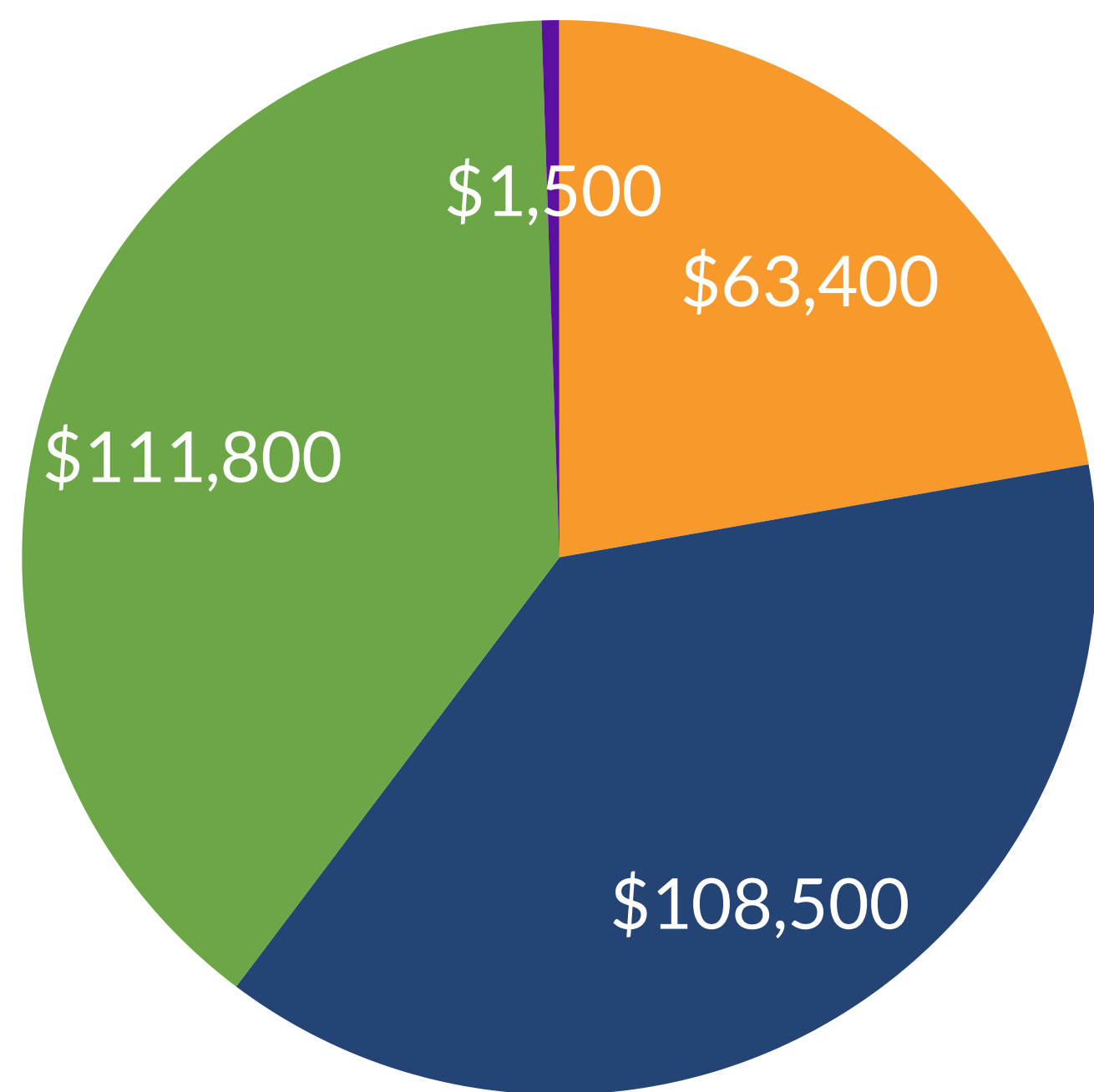
## Growth and Development in 2025

- Launched **two new in-person aphasia conversation groups** and a **PPA care partner virtual support group**
- Added **one new group facilitator**
- Welcomed over **40 new participants** into our programs
- Provided **\$9,340 in scholarships** to participants facing significant financial need
- Hosted our most successful Break the Barriers for Aphasia gala to date: a record **244 attendees** and **\$110,000 raised for MnCAN programs**
- Presented to **14 community organizations**
- Received contributions from over **200 community donors**
- Hosted social connection events with **210 total attendees**: monthly Coffee & Connections, spring brewery social, summer pizza party, winter holiday gathering



# Financial Review

## Revenue Sources



- Program Income (22.23%)
- Event Contributions (38.04%)
- Direct Public Support (39.2%)
- Other Income (0.53%)

MnCAN relies on individual donors and tuition payments to fund our programs.

Our future goals include: social life participation activities, expanding outreach and aphasia education, ongoing mental health support and resource availability, and growing programs to meet the needs of our community.

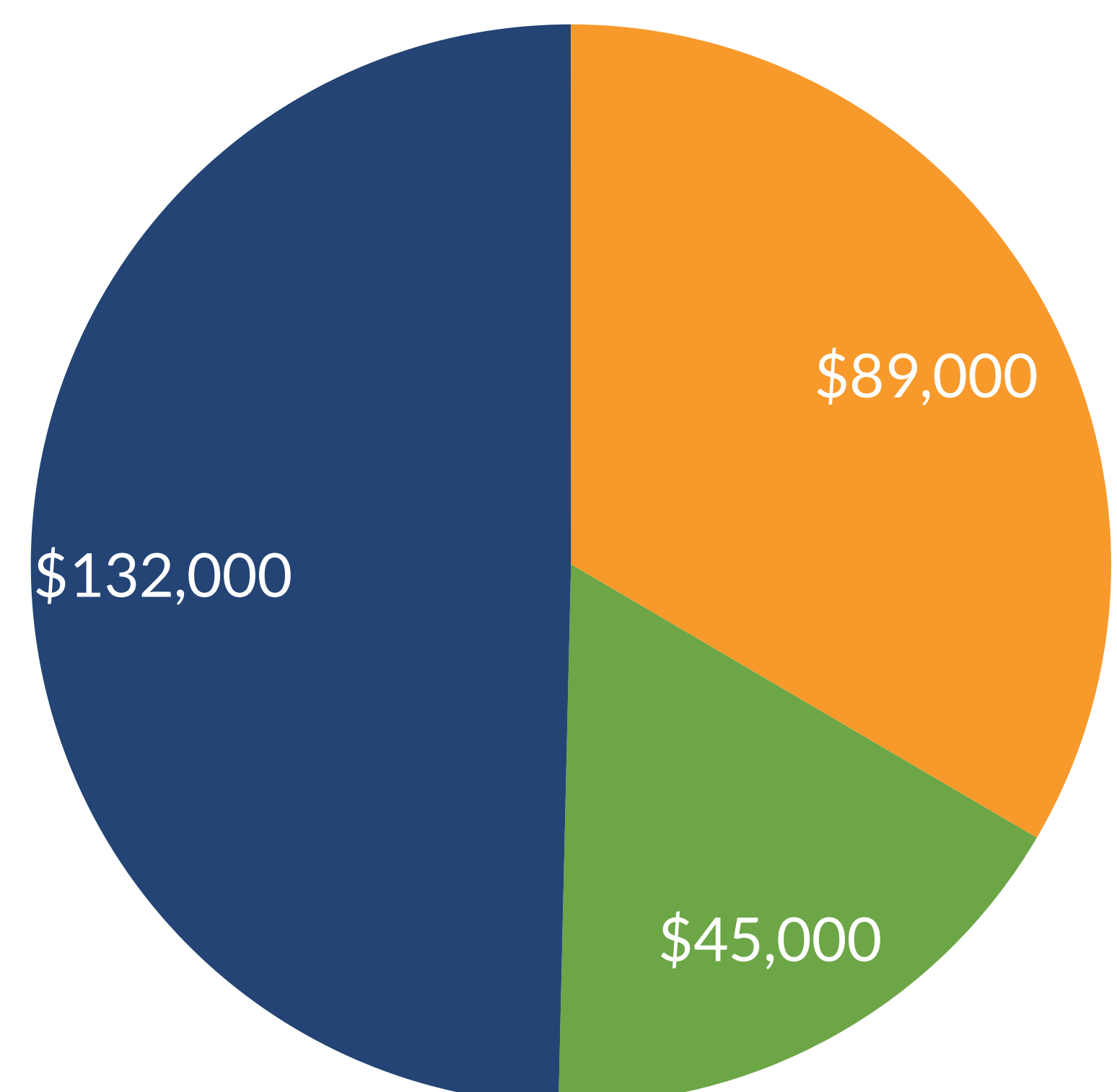
MnCAN had a successful 2025. The surplus revenue will be used to expand 2026 goals and financially invest in our future.

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.

\* MnCAN staff salaries are allocated to, and included within, each of the expense categories shown.

\* Amounts in both charts have been rounded for illustration purposes.

## Expenses



- Fundraising Expenses (33.46%)
- Operating/Administration Expenses (16.92%)
- Program Expenses (49.62%)

# Looking Ahead

## Take a sneak peek into some of MnCAN's goals for 2026:

- Partner with more community organizations to expand referral sources, open doors to more resources, and collaborate for whole person care
- Launch additional in-person aphasia conversation groups to meet needs of our community
- Create additional social opportunities for our community to gather and connect
- Expand our geographical reach to provide education and resources to individuals living with aphasia through outreach opportunities, establishing connections in greater Minnesota, and meeting the needs of our diverse community
- Provide education to those affected by aphasia including care partners, families, friends, and community members using aphasia-friendly materials and ideas
- Design a updated website to make it easier for everyone to navigate, learn, and connect

## Save the Date



**ANNUAL GALA**  
**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2026**  
2:00 PM – 5:00 PM  
Vadnais Heights Commons  
Vadnais Heights, Minnesota

Join us for an inspiring evening highlighting the positive impact of MnCAN and celebrating people with aphasia and primary progressive aphasia.



**MnCAN**  
living successfully with aphasia

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