Dear Friends,

Our hometown of Pittsburgh is often called the “City of Bridges” as the countless roadways spanning our rivers and streams allow us to connect, bringing our neighborhoods together as one big ‘Burgh community. While reflecting on our work as we planned for the 2019 National Conference here in Pittsburgh, we saw our organization similarly - full of bridges that connect our various groups of supporters to create one unified apraxia community. From parents to professionals, from college students to children with apraxia, from Pennsylvania to California to Australia to Brazil, the bridges you help us build bring together everyone who is invested in the lives of children with childhood apraxia of speech (CAS).

In 2018, we worked to strengthen our bridges. Our Professional Advisory Council is now more involved than ever, with 21 experts on CAS helping to shape our knowledge about apraxia while ensuring our families and speech professionals are receiving the best information available. The newly upgraded and updated Apraxia Kids website and webinar platform makes moving information to the families who need it quicker and easier. In December, we trained our first cohort of Volunteer Outreach Coordinators who are bridging the gap from our national network to their local communities.

Looking to the future, we will build new bridges to stakeholders we know are missing from our conversations. Our strategic plan, approved in late 2018, outlines a commitment to building new relationships with the medical community as we know pediatricians are often the first people parents ask about issues with childhood development. We are also working hard to connect with more university speech programs in order to prepare future speech-language pathologists. And we are dedicated to improving our outreach to school-based therapists who serve nearly all of our children at some point in their journey and operate in a unique setting.

Our experts are the families and professionals who share their wealth of knowledge and experience. We simply provide and strengthen the bridges so that families everywhere can have access to the most up-to-date information and the best care possible for childhood apraxia of speech. Apraxia Kids is dedicated to creating and sustaining a healthy apraxia community because it is the only way we can ensure that every child has a chance to find their voice.

Apraxia Kids is pleased to share our progress and looks forward to our future as we continue to bridge and grow our community. Thank you for your continued commitment to our organization.

Angela Grimm
Executive Director

How Your Donation Made An Impact

- Programs & Services: 77%
- Administrative: 18%
- Fundraising: 5%
A NEW LOOK

2018 was a year of change for Apraxia Kids. With the help of key stakeholders throughout our apraxia community, we launched a new brand and logo, putting our mission front and center. With a new brand came many changes throughout the year.

Informational materials remain a free resource for our families and professional community. This past year, we updated our brochures and rack cards along with creating a new parent folder—distributing more than 45,000 pieces.

Our online presence is our backbone, helping us to connect with families near and far. With the support of the foundation community, a new and improved website was created at the end of 2018, allowing easier access to information and resources.

And finally, a three-year strategic plan was developed launching new initiatives along with enhancing our current priorities, growing our impact and serving more families.

438,000 Apraxia-Kids.org website visitors
1,500,000 page views on Apraxia-Kids.org

AWARENESS

Apraxia Kids envisions a world where every child with apraxia of speech reaches their highest communication potential through accurate diagnosis and appropriate timely treatment. Raising awareness means that upon receiving a diagnosis, parents know that an apraxia support system exists and speech therapists know how to support children with CAS and their families.

Not satisfied with just one day, in 2018 we expanded to our first Apraxia Awareness Month. Our social media challenge saw thousands of supporters share about their experiences every day, helping others to understand life with CAS. With new free print resources distributed far and wide, we believe more people than ever are learning about childhood apraxia of speech.

1st Apraxia Awareness Month
3000 free webinars viewed
34 Apraxia Awareness Day Proclamations

2018 marked the 11th year of our biggest local fundraiser and awareness event, the Walk for Apraxia®. Walk day is all about celebrating the lives and hard work of our kids, our apraxia stars, who work so hard every day to overcome childhood apraxia of speech.

$1.1 million raised
13,705 participants
1,208 apraxia stars
65 events in 33 states and 2 provinces

“Until three months ago, we had never even heard the word apraxia. We are just beginning our journey in helping our son find his voice, and we wanted to attend the Walk for Apraxia® so that others with CAS and their families know that they are not alone. We had an unforgettable time at the Walk for Apraxia and we cannot thank Apraxia Kids enough for creating this walk, establishing this community and for being the most incredible resource that has given us confidence, educated us, and has helped us so much as we have begun our journey of living with apraxia."

– Walk Participant
EDUCATION

Apraxia Kids is committed to providing evidence-based information on childhood apraxia of speech through our core programs such as our National Conference, Online Webinar Platform, and our Intensive Training Institute.

In 2018, we hosted another successful National Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina, bringing together 369 parents and professionals. We welcomed a record number of new parent participants who were embraced by our apraxia family. Thanks to the support of our community, Apraxia Kids awarded 32 full scholarships to ease the financial burden on conference attendees.

“The National Conference itself was nothing short of spectacular. The venue was top class and the environment was exhilarating! There was so much information available at our fingertips; literature, experts in the field of childhood apraxia of speech, parents and family members of those with apraxia of speech. It was just so surreal to see and be a part of such an amazing community and gathering of like-minded and similarly passionate people.”

– Conference Scholarship Recipient

We hosted another round of our Intensive Training Institute, also known as “Apraxia Boot Camp”, a 4-day advanced training program for speech-language pathologists (SLPs). Apraxia Boot Camp continues to be our premier educational opportunity for speech therapists who are dedicated to improving their clinical expertise in the diagnosis and treatment of childhood apraxia of speech. With the addition of 24 new SLPs, there are now 120 speech therapists who have completed our one-of-a-kind training.

“I have implemented both diagnostic and treatment strategies from boot camp. The greatest benefit to date has been being able to administer a more thoughtful, consistent, and thorough assessment for differential diagnosis of CAS, thanks to the resources learned through boot camp.”

– Boot Camp Graduate
FAMILY SUPPORT

Apraxia Kids is committed to providing support to our families as they navigate their journey. Whether online, in-person, or through an SLP, we continue to seek new ways to equip families with the resources they need to help their child receive appropriate apraxia care.

Our newest initiative, the Volunteer Outreach Coordinator Program, was developed as a response to the need we heard from our community for more localized support. While we have historically driven the conversation on a national level, we recognize the need for families to have resources where they live. Our pilot program of 15 volunteers from across the country, both parents and professionals, will set the stage for our future local support efforts.

“I wanted to become an outreach coordinator to help families find the joy in apraxia and to never feel alone in their journey, by connecting them to resources through Apraxia Kids and engaging both parents and professionals to strengthen their support network!”

“I believe our children are our future. It is up to us, as a community as a whole, to shape them into positive self-confident individuals by giving them resources and tools they need to succeed. I hope to build a strong network and community, which will ultimately lead to increased awareness about apraxia and a greater amount of resources, trained professionals and information needed to ensure every child with childhood apraxia of speech in my community has the chance to succeed.

– Volunteer Outreach Coordinators

We are pleased to share that in 2018 we provided 98 speech tablets through our Speech Tablets for Apraxia Program for children to use for speech practice and/or as a speech generating device.

And finally, our Speech-Language Pathologist Directory continued to expand allowing our families to find therapists with a reasonable level of experience and skill in evaluating a child with apraxia of speech a little closer to home.

“Thanks so much for awarding our daughter a Tobii Dynavox Indi tablet. This wonderful device will enable her to express herself to her family, teachers, and friends. This will be her voice for a long time, so we are teaching her to treat it gently and respectfully. Please accept our gratitude for your donation of a ‘voice’ to our precious child.”

– 2018 Speech Tablet Recipient
Our Vision
A world where every child with apraxia of speech reaches their highest communication potential. Every child deserves a voice.

Our Mission
Apraxia Kids is the leading nonprofit that strengthens the support systems in the lives of children with apraxia of speech by educating professionals and families; facilitating community engagement and outreach; and investing in the future through advocacy and research.

Our Staff
Angela Grimm, Executive Director
David Hammer, M.A., CCC-SLP, Vice President, Programs
Justin LeWinter, Vice President, Outreach & Engagement
Earnie Sotiropos, Director of Digital Strategy
Tara Olexa Madoni, Senior Walk Manager
Kara Bayer, Marketing Manager
Molly Kestner, Donor Relations Manager

Rachael Masterson, Outreach Manager
Carly McNeely, Walk Manager
Heidi Murray, Data Analyst
Heather Vallone, Executive Assistant
Amy Salera, Development Assistant
Christina Welsh, Program Assistant
Allison Breisinger, Marketing Assistant

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