



Apraxia/Kids®
Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2021
August 1, 2020 – July 31, 2021

**Impacting the
voices of
tomorrow!**



Dear Friends,

On behalf of our Board of Directors, Professional Advisory Council, and dedicated staff, I am pleased to share our 2021 Annual Report, highlighting the successes of this past year.

As we began a new year, our hope was to return to a sense of normalcy with in-person events and educational gatherings. We were fortunate to have some of our Walk for Apraxia events take place in person this past fall. However, many of our activities remained virtual. Although this was not initially our desired outcome, we are pleased to share that this enabled us to serve more, spreading our mission on a global front working together, all while **Impacting the Voices of Tomorrow.**

Thanks to your support, we accomplished so much more than we envisioned, by expanding educational opportunities, developing new resources for our families, and creating new platforms for engagement. We are thrilled to share just a few highlights of our accomplishments, including:

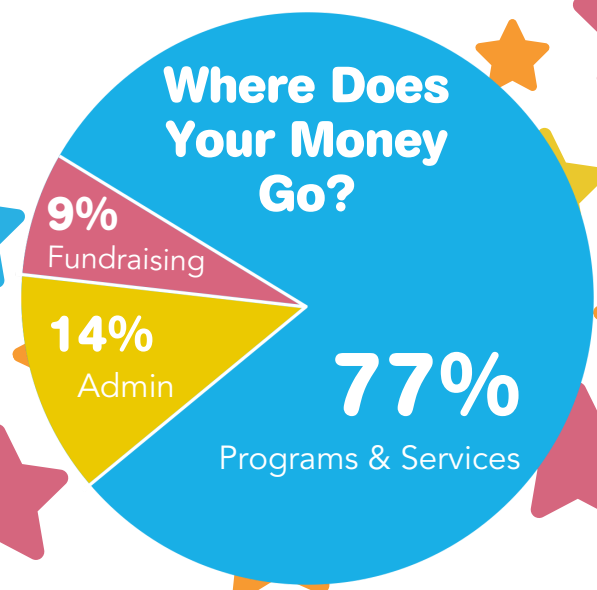
- Hosting our first ever Virtual National Conference, bringing together a record 832 attendees worldwide
- Spreading awareness throughout our community, walking together in person and virtually, to celebrate 801 Apraxia Stars
- Creating resources such as our new Be the Voice kits, downloadable brochures, and free learning opportunities through Facebook Live presentations and our website

Looking ahead, we are committed to increasing our impact by developing new ways to engage our entire community both in person and in a virtual setting. Apraxia Kids is dedicated to upholding our core values of support, education, awareness, advocacy, and research, **Impacting the Voices of Tomorrow.**

We look forward to sharing our successes with you throughout the year because, together, we can do so much!

Thank you for your continued commitment to our organization.

Angela Grimm
Executive Director



Education

Education is critical to advancing the mission of Apraxia Kids and is available as updated printed materials, recorded webinars, articles, and live group trainings. It is critical for our apraxia community to have resources and the best evidence-based information.

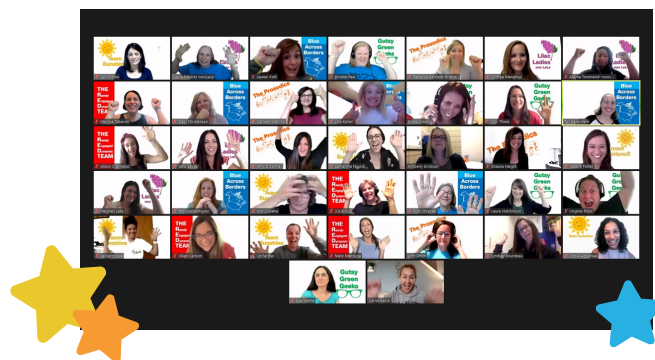
National Conference

The 2021 Apraxia Kids National Conference pivoted to an online format early in the year. 117 Conference Scholarships and Hardship Grants were awarded to assist families to attend. New features, along with favorite stand-bys, were well attended. A bonus feature was that nearly all 38 sessions were recorded and made available for on-demand viewing throughout the entire month of July. It was amazing how interactive all attendees were, and the stories of the connections that were made through the virtual platform were touching.



Intensive Training Institute

The Intensive Training Institute (Boot Camp), which was postponed from 2020 to 2021 due to COVID-19, transitioned to an entirely virtual platform with Canadian and U.S. boot campers and instructors participating together. During the fall of 2020 and spring of 2021, the instructors conducted 8 Journal Club meetings. All 31 attendees who decided to complete the virtual boot camp survived 5 long days of Zoom meetings! Each camper completes a case study to demonstrate critical thinking and application of the learning that took place before officially becoming an Apraxia Kids Boot Camp Graduate.



Continuing Education

The demand for virtual education has never been higher. Over the last year, we provided online training to numerous groups across the United States through live presentations as well as through the Apraxia Kids online Webinar Platform. A new track for school-based speech-language pathologists was also established. The webinars in this track focus on providing services to specific age groups in the schools. Educational modules have been developed that include several webinars to watch, followed by a live question and answer session with an apraxia expert.

**5,188 clock hours
of continuing
education credits
processed for 1,641
participants**

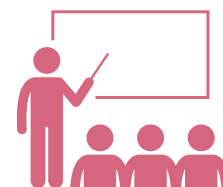


**3,850
Virtual
Education
Series
views**



10,500 webinar views

**70+ SLPs
trained in live
online
sessions**



**275 SLP students attended
live online trainings**

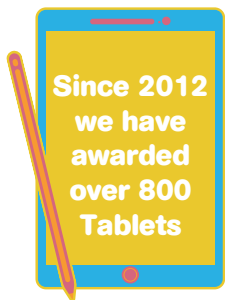
Support

Apraxia Kids remains committed to providing support to our families and professional community as they navigate their apraxia journey. Our organization began as an online community and 21 years later, this remains a foundational piece of Apraxia Kids. With the support of volunteers worldwide, a variety of specialized and local online support groups are available for families and professionals. Through these groups, our goal is to enable conversation and engagement not only amongst community members but with Apraxia Kids as we continue to share evidence-based information and provide support.

**81,769
individuals
follow Apraxia
Kids on social
media**



**54 Online Support Groups
with over 51,000 members**



Throughout this past year, we continued to support our families with our Speech Tablets for Apraxia program, all while adding new and updated resources to our website.

Several items have been extensively updated in the Resource Guides section of the Apraxia Kids website. The App Guide was updated in 2021 by our partners at the Department of

Behavior and Developmental Pediatrics at Penn State Hershey Medical Center for families to get information on the best tablet apps for use in communication or speech therapy practice. In addition, the Apraxia Books for professionals and families list grew tremendously in 2021, and now has 16 books for children which are written specifically about apraxia along with myriad other books about going to speech therapy, positive social-emotional well-being, and other communication challenges.

The SLP Directory has new CEU requirements and has been updated so that each listed speech-language pathologist can include information on different languages they speak and offer services in, a photo of themselves, and their availability for multiple locations (including teletherapy).



**Over 700 SLPs
are now listed in
the directory
with over 800
locations**

**41 SLPs offer
services in
additional
languages**



**19 additional languages
are offered by our
bilingual therapists
including Spanish,
French, German,
Russian, Italian, Hebrew,
Farsi, Hindi, and more!**

**Over 700 new
families received
our New Parent
Folder**



**1.542 million
visitors viewed
content on our
website**

**5,300 brochures
were mailed across
the world spreading
awareness**



<https://www.apraxia-kids.org/>



Community

Working collectively with our volunteers, Apraxia Kids continues to spread awareness of childhood apraxia of speech, as well as the resources available through Apraxia Kids. We know childhood apraxia of speech affects over 300,000 children across the United States. Apraxia Kids continually works to bring apraxia into the light so that every newly diagnosed family may have an easier journey to find answers and gain the support necessary for the successful treatment of childhood apraxia of speech.

Over the last year, Apraxia Kids has worked to address the disparity of diagnosis, treatment, and information about CAS for diverse communities under the guidance of our Diversity and Inclusion Task Force (DITF) which is made up of parents and professionals representing Black and bilingual communities. Based on input from the DITF, we are adding inclusive language, information, and media to our website and social media platforms, we recruited and received submissions of research grant proposals from students from diverse backgrounds, and we are providing educational opportunities to groups of professionals serving rural communities and children with language, cultural, and socioeconomic diverse backgrounds.

Awareness Month

In May 2021, our community united once again for Apraxia Awareness Month by spreading awareness, wearing blue, and advocating for our mission. With their help, we received proclamations in the following:



3 Countries

172 Cities, Counties, and Municipalities

44 States/Provinces

In addition, \$109,000 was raised on Apraxia Awareness Day on May 14th supporting our mission.

Be the Voice

The Be the Voice initiative grew into a key element of resources that supporters can use to raise awareness and funds for Apraxia Kids. Be the Voice makes it easy for our supporters to put their ideas into action for a good cause. Additionally, in 2021, Be the Voice expanded its reach by now offering Event, Classroom, and SLP Kits. Each kit is loaded with subject-specific resources and tools to enhance awareness or fundraising efforts by those who request materials.

2021 Kits requested:

- 33 Event Kits
- 156 Classroom Kits
- 260 SLP Kits



Walk for Apraxia

The Walk for Apraxia® is the largest fundraiser supporting children with childhood apraxia of speech. The Walk for Apraxia celebrates the lives and hard work of our kids, our Apraxia Stars who work so hard every day to overcome childhood apraxia of speech.

In 2021, we walked in person and virtually across North America spreading awareness and raising over \$589,000 to support the programs and services of Apraxia Kids.

89 Walks

**6,010
participants**

**801
Apraxia
Stars**





Impacting the voices of tomorrow!

OUR STAFF

Angela Grimm, Executive Director
Laura Moorer, Vice President of Programs
Earnie Sotiropoulos, Director of Digital Strategy
Carly McNeely, Walk Manager

Amanda Stein, Program Manager
Allison Breisinger, Marketing Manager
Amy Salera, Community Engagement Manager
Heather Vallone, Executive Assistant

OUR BOARD

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Edy Strand, Ph.D., CCC-SLP
Nancy Tarshis, M.A., M.S., CCC-SLP
Shelley Velleman, Ph.D., CCC-SLP

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.