

Peer-to-Peer Aphasia Advocacy



Mark Harder, Jim Burd, Jenn Derry, Crystal Laughlin, Denise Mendez

Introduction:

Aphasia Peer-to-Peer Advocacy brings purpose and empowerment to people with aphasia. Get The Word Out! Aphasia! Is not just a catch phrase – it is a calling. People with aphasia want the public to know the word "aphasia" and what it means to people like: fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers, nieces, nephews, friends, or the person at the café counter.

Discussion:

Aphasia Peer-to-Peer Advocacy and benefits can be categorized into three main areas:

& Advocacy

1) Support Networks

3) Empowerment

- Peer-to-Peer support groups provide a space for individuals with aphasia to share experiences and coping strategies. These groups can reduce feelings of isolation and foster community.
- Digital platforms provide a means for individuals with aphasia to connect across distances, share resources, and offer mutual support.
- 2) Education & Awareness
- Peers can exchange pamphlets, articles, and online resources to raise awareness about aphasia and effective communication strategies.
- Collaborating with organizations to promote aphasia awareness through events and social media can improve community understanding and support.
- Programs that teach individuals with aphasia how to express their needs and preferences effectively empower them to take charge of their communication.
- Experienced individuals with aphasia can mentor newcomers, helping them navigate challenges and advocate for their rights.

Conclusion:

Peer-to-Peer Advocacy in aphasia not only provides emotional and practical support but also fosters a greater understanding and empowerment within the community. These categories and examples highlight the importance of collaborative efforts in enhancing the lives of individuals affected by aphasia.





