

### BACKGROUND

In 2013 the Brooks Rehabilitation Aphasia Center (BRAC) was conceptualized and awarded seed money to investigate the development of a community based program that would allow the integration of an Intensive Comprehensive Aphasia Program (ICAP) for People with Aphasia (PWA). Although the organization offered traditional outpatient therapy programs for PWA, the existing services were limited to the frequency and length of service dictated by insurance carriers. Most insurance providers did not reimburse intensive therapy (> 10 hours per week), group sessions (3-6 individuals) or chronic communication disability (>1 year post onset).

Brooks Rehabilitation had already developed an Adaptive Sports Program for persons with chronic physical disability, a Clubhouse for brain injured individuals, and a Neuro Recovery Center for specialized exercise and equipment for ongoing physical intervention post traditional therapeutic intervention. None of these existing community based programs specifically addressed the communication needs of PWA or incorporated a Life Participation Approach to Aphasia (LPAA) model for ongoing recovery.

This need led to the development of the BRAC which integrated with the existing community programs. BRAC offered a local option for an ICAP thus reducing the need for travel and lodging. The ICAP provided options for national and international PWA that did not have local programs. Both the community and the ICAP programs were developed to co-exist in the same location and provide support and integration of a Life Participation Approach to Aphasia (LPAA) recovery.

### DEVELOPMENT

	Staffing	Volunteers	Members Community	ICAP Participants	Students
2015	2 SLPs	0	24 Assessments Only		0
2016	1 Admin 3-4 SLPs	4	24-Opening 43- Year End	1	6
2017	1 Admin 4 SLPs	6	52	6	9
2018	1 Admin 4 SLPs 1-2 PRN SLPs	8	61	9	10
2019	1 Admin 4 SLPs 1-2 PRN SLPs 1 Satellite	10	65	10-12	12

Total Assessments to Date: 111

### PROGRAM FEATURES

- ❖ Operating Staff: Licensed FT, PRN SLPs and Administrator
- ❖ Ancillary Staff : Highly Trained and/or Certified in Area of Expertise
- ❖ Ancillary Programs:
  - Art, Music, Poetry, Exercise
- ❖ Computer and iPad Programs: Electronic support and training with many commercial Apps and Programs. Separate Computer Lab provided in Library.
- ❖ Volunteers: Completed Communication Partner Training and Job Specific Training
- ❖ Students: Full Time Master's Level Speech Pathology JU Students
- ❖ Communication Partner Training: Provided to all Volunteers, Students and Families. All SLPs certified in SCA
- ❖ Support Groups: Families, Friends, and PWA all Invited to 6-8 sessions per year
- ❖ Guest Lectures : Community and Professional Speakers 6-8 times per year
- ❖ Advocacy: Reaching out to the Community for Awareness of Aphasia
- ❖ Outings: 1-2 Outings per month inclusive of Community and ICAP
- ❖ Monthly Newsletters, Face Book Website and Member Produced Newscasts
- ❖ BRAC Interface with: Adaptive Sports, Club House, Neuro Recovery Center, Outpatient Therapy Programs
- ❖ Sliding Fee Scales for the Community Program: Range from \$10-\$40 per day.
- ❖ Satellite Community Programs: Expansion to other nearby communities, such as St. Augustine

### DISCUSSION

Both the BRAC Community Programs and the ICAP are designed to use LPAA model as the core in planning programs. The integration of the 2 programs allows ICAP members to experience broad range of activities and groups that might not be available in an ICAP only program.

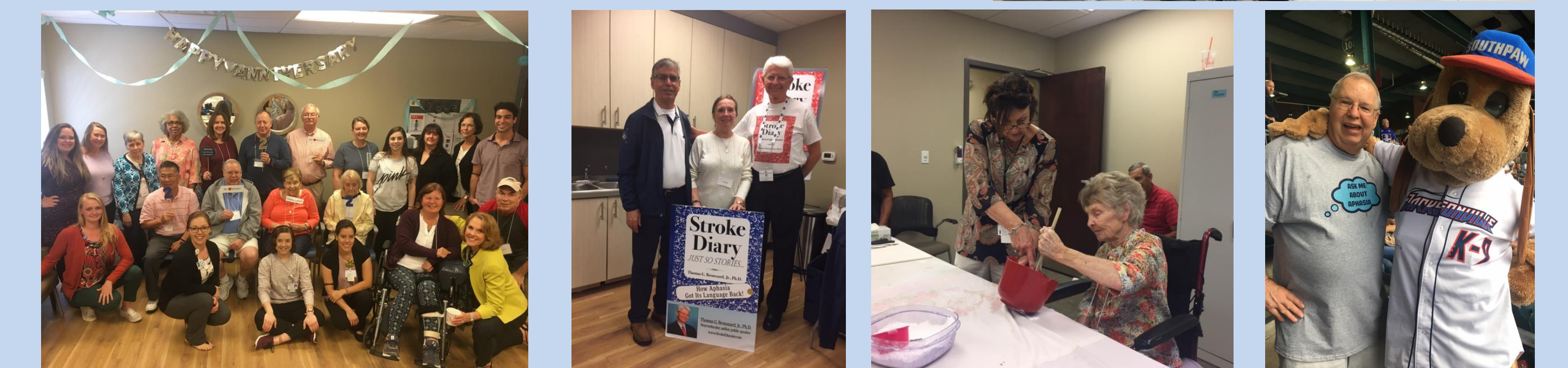
The communal activities of Coffee Chat and Lunch provide socialization with large groups of PWA.

Both Community and ICAP members are able to select groups that will interest them and foster re-engagement in functional life activities.

Some Groups are structured to provide varying amounts of support for reading and writing.

Volunteers and students provide the opportunity for individualized technology training and/or break out sessions to address specific communication needs.

See handout for listing of Community Groups



### SCHEDULES /GROUPS

### REFERENCES

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