



**APHASIA CENTER**  
— of West Texas —

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Aphasia wreaked havoc on my dad's identity and life. In an instant, his confidence leading a board meeting, computing a mathematical equation, or cracking a joke all vanished as he struggled to say his own name. His stroke led to a terrifying loss of self-expression. For some, aphasia can also steal language over time before taking other cognitive functions. Either way, aphasia is devastating, baffling, and often lasts a lifetime. This communication disorder knows no boundaries of age, gender, race, or profession.

My dad's plight with aphasia could have ended in the horror of no longer having his voice included in everyday conversations. He would have faced a world of misjudgment leaving both of us caught in a future without hope. Instead, West Texans changed our lives. 20 years ago, I met respected speech-language pathologist, Beth Crawford and CNA, Shun Kelley plus other experts in healthcare, nonprofit governance, business, and community leadership. Each altered the future. These trailblazers agreed, if aphasia ever strikes my life, I want an ongoing community of support right here and I want it for every West Texan.

In 2003 all the way to 2023, that commitment has never wavered. Aphasia Center members are equipped with vital aphasia education, adaptive communication strategies, and friends who walk in their shoes. With over 2000 people served, people with aphasia and their loved ones can thrive.

It's with the utmost humility I ask for your help in giving individuals coping with aphasia the transformative education and relationships that my dad and I experienced. I hope the day never comes that you or your loved one can't speak, read, or write normally. Yet if it does, I want the Aphasia Center to be here for everyone. Please join me in giving today so the Aphasia Center will continue strong and confidently into its next 20 years.



With immense gratitude,

*Kathryn Shelley*

Kathryn Shelley  
Co-founder, Grants Director

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This year's annual report, **Raising Our Voices – Twenty Years Strong**, shows the clear impact of your investment.  
**TAKE A LOOK!**

To watch an example of the life transformation that's possible because of the Aphasia Center of West Texas, scan the QR Code.

