

Adler Aphasia Center Aphasia Awareness Month Activities June 2010

Aphasia Awareness Day at PNC Bank – June 4th

The Adler Aphasia Center partnered with PNC Bank to get the word out about aphasia. AAC members, volunteers, and staff manned tables at 14 locations in PNC Bank's Southern Bergen County district. PNC purchased balloons and provided space and the Adler Aphasia Center provided the expertise. Over 300 customers and approximately 70 staff members learned about aphasia that day. The event was so successful that we're looking forward to repeating it in the northern part of the district soon!



Aphasia 101 – Community presentations – June 15th & 16th

Adler Aphasia Center members delivered "Aphasia 101" talks to Maywood, NJ municipal staff and to employees and friends of Teaneck, NJ insurance firm Singer Nelson Charlmers. Members explained about aphasia and stroke, discussed warning signs and preventative measures, shared personal experiences with aphasia, and explained tips to improve communication. Both talks were very well received. One audience member commented, *"It was a very good presentation. I had not heard of aphasia. It was much easier to understand what it is and how it affects people when you see and hear people who have it."*



Aphasia Spirit Days at the Adler Aphasia Center – June 16th & 17th
Members wore their aphasia t-shirts, buttons, and other gear to spread the word about aphasia.



Aphasia Awareness Month – New Jersey resolution passed – June 21

Adler Aphasia Center founders Mike and Elaine Adler went to Trenton to receive the proclamation from the New Jersey Senate declaring June *Aphasia Awareness Month in NJ*.

Aphasia Awareness happy hour at Mama Mexico restaurant in NYC – June 22nd

Adler Aphasia Center volunteers Josh Straus, Robin Straus, and Dana Gorman organized a happy hour aphasia awareness/fundraiser event at a popular Mexican restaurant in midtown Manhattan. All proceeds went toward the Center's scholarship fund.



Advocacy Group spearheads letter-writing campaign – June 2010 – present

New Jersey Senators Loretta Weinberg and Diane Allen and Assemblypersons Valerie Vainieri Huttle, Gordon Johnson, Connie Wagner, and Joan Voss introduced a bill in the NJ Legislature (#S1931 and #A2811) to establish a New Jersey Aphasia Study Commission. This commission would assess the prevalence and needs of people with aphasia and their families in NJ.

The Adler Aphasia Center's Advocacy group alerted center members about the pending legislation in Trenton and spearheaded a letter-writing campaign to state legislators to support the bill.

The Advocacy group has drafted a sample letter encouraging NJ legislators to support this bill.

If you live in NJ, please contact your representatives to express your support for the bill. We invite you to download the sample letter, sign it, and send it to your local representatives. Feel free to use the letter as is or personalize it. Share it with your friends/family in NJ and encourage them to write to their legislators, too. Click here to download the letter:

http://www.adleraphasiacenter.org/pdf/NJ_Aphasia_Legislation_Letter.pdf

Click here to read the full text of the bill:

http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2010/Bills/S2000/1931_11.PDF

To look up NJ legislative districts by city/town, click here:

<http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/districts/municipalities.asp>

For your NJ legislators' contact information, click on your district on this map:

<http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/districts/njmap210.html>