

From Investment to Impact
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A Report Prepared for
Tedy's Team









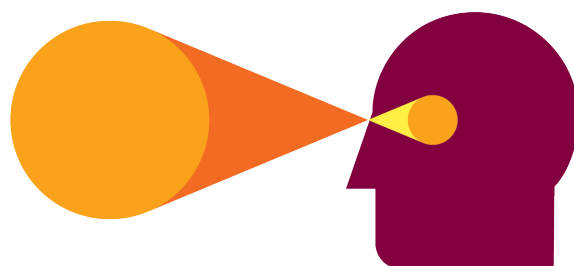
Stroke Rehabilitation: Caring for the Whole Patient

At Shirley Ryan AbilityLab, we provide intensive therapy to more stroke survivors than anyone else in the world. Our pioneering approach to stroke rehabilitation prioritizes early, high-intensity therapy to achieve better, faster patient recoveries.

Our doctors, nurses and therapists are experts in treating a variety of conditions across the full spectrum of stroke severity. As a result, patients of all ages and backgrounds come to us for stroke recovery — including those who experience typically presenting strokes as well as complex complications such as locked-in syndrome; those who travel from all corners of the globe to receive our care; and those who come from low-income backgrounds who might otherwise face barriers to accessing high-quality rehabilitation.

In Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) to date, we have treated more than 4,000 patients with stroke across our levels of care — inpatient, DayRehab and outpatient therapy. In fact, patients with stroke comprise approximately 20% of total inpatient admissions and 30% of total DayRehab admissions.

Thanks to the generosity of Tedy's Team, we not only have improved our patients' coordination, communication skills, mobility, strength and endurance through therapy. We also have helped them return to meaningful lives after stroke.





Patient & Family Housing: Staying Together During Long Recovery Journeys

Each year, families travel to Shirley Ryan AbilityLab from far distances so their loved ones can receive the very best rehabilitation care. Many of these families often face practical challenges, such as finding suitable temporary housing that is convenient, accessible and affordable. Additionally, many of our patients present with highly complex diagnoses that require long stays, including those who have experienced a stroke.

34 patients and families
from **14** states have
received **1,069** overnight stays



Serving More Patients Than Ever Before

With support from Tedy's Team in this last year, our patient and family housing program has provided 34 patients with stroke and families with accommodations at the Hyatt Centric Chicago Magnificent Mile. Families have traveled from 14 states — Florida, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Tennessee, Wisconsin and downstate Illinois. This program not only reduces a significant financial barrier for families, but also allows them to enjoy the comforts of home while staying focused on their loved one's recovery.





LIFE Center: Providing Family Resources & Education After Stroke

Since 2003, the Henry B. Betts, MD, LIFE Center has provided opportunities for learning, innovation and empowerment for our patients, their families and the community. Through comprehensive educational resources offered free of charge, patients and families are better informed — and better equipped — to navigate recovery and transition back to the community after rehabilitation.

341 patients and family members
have received critical stroke
education and recovery resources



Support from Tedy's Team has been invaluable to the LIFE Center's outreach to our stroke community.

Individualized Education

In 191 personalized visits, 145 patients who experienced a stroke have received individualized education pertinent to their recovery. The LIFE Center also has provided resources to an additional 196 family members and conducted eight child-friendly sessions regarding stroke recovery, empowering 15 kids and family members to play an integral role in their loved one's support team.

Stroke Recovery & Prevention Groups

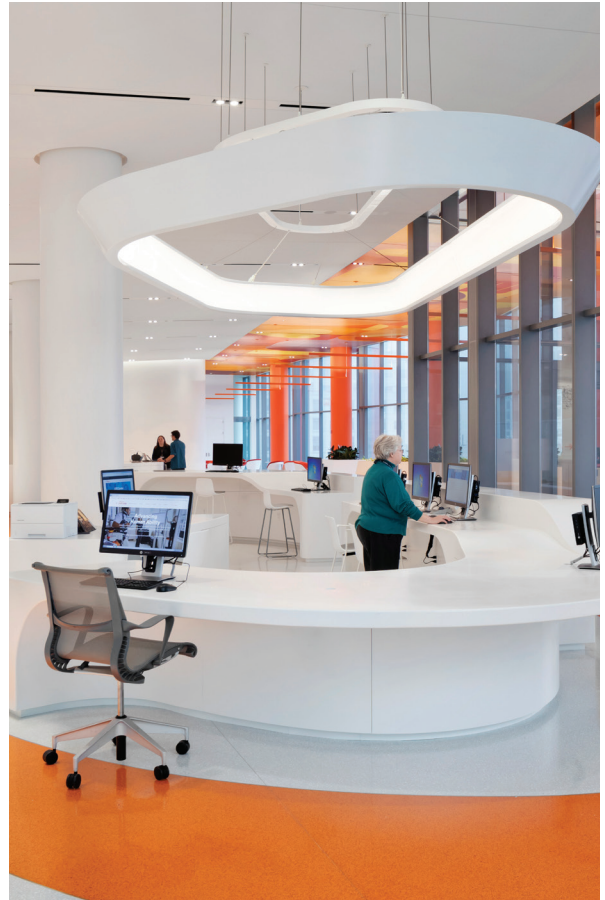
Educators have taught evidence-based practices to 78 patients and 18 family members via weekly stroke recovery and prevention groups, which focus on mastering recovery and reducing the risk of future strokes. We offer both in-person and virtual stroke support groups so patients and caregivers who reside outside of Chicago can attend, and the meetings usually include a guest speaker or a guided, therapeutic conversation facilitated by our clinicians.

Peer Mentorship

In 37 personalized visits, peer mentors (who previously survived a stroke themselves) have met with 29 patients and 21 family members — sharing their personal experiences to offer encouragement, connection and support throughout recovery.

New DayRehab Training Initiative

The LIFE Center has piloted a new program — Stroke 101: Train the Trainer — an initiative to prepare staff to host stroke-specific patient education groups in our day rehabilitation locations.





Caring for Our Community: Financial Assistance After Stroke

We are dedicated to providing the highest-quality care regardless of a patient's ability to pay. Through Caring for Our Community, our financial assistance program formerly known as Charity Care, our most vulnerable patients have access to a full range of inpatient, DayRehab and outpatient services, as well as to the creation and fitting of orthotic braces; participation in recreational therapy; and use of assistive technology.

29 patients
have received **\$52,135**
in unreimbursed care to date



In FY26 to date, we have provided \$52,135 in unreimbursed care to 29 patients who recently experienced a stroke, with great thanks to continued support from Tedy's Team. This assistance ensures that low-income patients have access to high-quality stroke care — enabling them to live healthier, fuller lives that are not defined by their financial circumstances.





Aphasia: Rebuilding Communication, Connection & Confidence After Stroke

As you know, rebuilding communication skills is a key part of stroke recovery, especially among those who experience aphasia — a condition that can occur suddenly after a stroke and that can significantly impact a person's ability to communicate with their loved ones, understand language, read and write.

Enrolled **1** participant who
otherwise would not be able to
afford the **\$25,000** program



For the past 25 years, the Center for Aphasia Research & Treatment at Shirley Ryan AbilityLab has been at the forefront of providing individuals living with aphasia with enriching opportunities to practice communication; make social connections with others in the community; learn and have fun in a supportive environment; and maintain a sense of dignity and enhanced quality of life.

Intensive Comprehensive Aphasia Program

In speech-language therapy, patients with aphasia work hard to recover communication and language skills lost due to stroke. And, recent studies have shown that individuals with aphasia benefit from intense treatment provided over a short period of time.

However, it can be challenging for individuals to find therapeutic interventions to address chronic impairments from aphasia once rehabilitation — and insurance coverage — comes to an end.

As you're well aware, our Intensive Comprehensive Aphasia Program is one such way that community members can improve communication through further intensive therapy. This novel program is a self-pay, one-month immersive opportunity that costs nearly \$25,000 per participant to cover all individual, group and computer-based therapies.

In this past year, with support from Tedy's Team, one participant who otherwise would not have been able to afford the program completed the session.

The recipient of Tedy's Team's generosity is a Midwesterner in his 50s, the head of a large family with children ages 15-20. He experienced a stroke more than a year ago, and he came to us with moderate non-fluent aphasia; significant writing difficulties; and apraxia of speech, a neurological disorder in which the brain struggles to plan and sequence the complex muscle movements needed to speak.

After completing the program, he improved his word finding and was able to identify words in a picture-description task at an increased rate of eight to 20 "units." He also produced more grammatical sentences. Specifically, at the beginning of the program, he could write a two-word phrase, and, by the end, he was able to write a complete, five-word sentence.

These improvements carried over from the clinical setting to the community. In just one example, he became more successful at asking a retail employee for help locating items in a store — an important step toward independence in the community. This participant's story is a shining example of how this intensive program helps patients build greater confidence and stronger communication while living with aphasia.



Aphasia Community Groups & Programs

In addition to our Intensive Comprehensive Aphasia Program, the Center for Aphasia Research & Treatment also offers a broad range of in-person and virtual programs for participants with aphasia to practice communication skills. Programs include our conversation groups, our aphasia choir, supported volunteering opportunities with local not-for-profit organizations, and an aphasia book club with facilitated book discussions.

In FY26 to date, our aphasia community groups have provided enrichment activities for 124 participants from 18 states. These opportunities offer ways for those with aphasia to connect, learn and support each other.

“Connection is key to the aphasia community. Through our center’s programming, our participants connect with others who have gone through similar journeys, who are fighting in the same way to move forward and who really understand each other.”

— Leora Cherney, PhD,
Director, Center for
Aphasia Research & Treatment



Meet Jose: Healing Through Conversation

Wednesdays and Thursdays are Jose's favorite days of the week. That's when he participates in our aphasia conversation groups. The topics may sound simple — weekend plans, a favorite TV show, a recent vacation. Most people would call it small talk. But, for someone who has lost the ability to communicate due to post-stroke aphasia, there is no such thing as small talk.

Every word is a victory. Every conversation is meaningful.

In 2022, Jose was at his home in Chicago's western suburbs when he fell and couldn't get up — or speak. The 41-year-old had a stroke and spent a week in acute care before participating in intensive physical, occupational and speech therapy at our Arlington Heights DayRehab Center®.

The stroke left Jose with many physical challenges, but losing his ability to speak and express himself hurt the most. His wife, Sandra, recalled, "He couldn't tell us what he needed or how he felt. Doctor appointments were especially difficult. He would get frustrated when he couldn't explain what was wrong or answer questions. It broke my heart to see him try so hard."

Jose had to start over — relearning to speak, read and write in both English and Spanish. Through patience, hard work and family support, he slowly regained his voice and his confidence.

Our aphasia community groups — and especially the conversation groups — have played a key role. Jose has found a supportive space where he feels safe and accepted. He also has made meaningful connections with his peers.

He enjoys discussing cars, sports and his hobbies — crafting, photography and building model cars. The small talk that most people take for granted offers a vital connection for him.

"These groups have given him more than just speech practice," said Sandra. "They've given him hope, friendship, confidence and a reason to smile again. Every session reminds him that he's not alone and that recovery is possible."



Jose and his wife, Sandra

"Without Shirley Ryan AbilityLab, I wouldn't have the chance to make new friends."

— Jose



Building the Future, Together

Thank you for your continued confidence in our vision and investment in our mission. Because of your support, we are advancing what is possible in care, research and innovation. Together, we are shaping the future of stroke rehabilitation and creating new possibilities for those we serve.







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