ACE goes virtual
Due to the COVID pandemic, all ACE treatment has been provided virtually since March

ACE has been connecting with clients via Zoom, Skype, FaceTime, and Google Duo on phones, desktop computers, and tablets (whatever works!). Treatment sessions have been individual, small group, or client + spouse. Graduate Student Clinicians have been 100% supervised by experienced SLPs.

Outcomes from Fall ACE Telepractice:

Participants...
- Learned to ZOOM to meet with a support group, family members.
- Increased communication confidence (CCRS) from 10-30% range (March) to 40-60% range (December).
- Enjoyed learning how to use Google search.
- Wrote a word each day in planner to initiate verbal conversation.
- Increased number of words spoken to describe life events.
- Wrote checks accurately using a written guide.
- Produced job-related verbal questions.
- Continued treatment from home while recovering from knee surgery.

ACE mission:
- To assist people with aphasia and their families, to strengthen communication abilities and interactions, and improve life satisfaction and overall quality of life.
- To mentor graduate students in speech-language pathology to provide quality therapy for people with aphasia and their families.
ACE vision:

* provide a valuable SW Michigan community hub for social support and skill development for individuals with aphasia and their families

* serve as a referral resource for area SLPs who are discharging patients and would like them to have access to a communication-supported community.

* enable students to learn communication facilitation for individuals living with chronic aphasia and related cognitive-communication disorders based on Evidence Based Approaches, Life Participation, and Relationship Centered Care.

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ACE and Sustainability

Sandra Glista and Robin Pollens initiated the ACE program in 2003. It has provided a “home” for people living with aphasia and their families ever since. While the SLP graduate program remains fully enrolled, all university departments are facing financial challenges. Many of our clients are unable to work and face financial challenges of their own.

Clients in the ACE program currently pay a $50 semester activity fee to participate. We rely on donation funds to offset the costs, which include:

- Supervision
- Materials
- Technology supports
- Scholarships for clients to attend.

Help us to provide ACE scholarships! Donations of any amount are appreciated.

Please consider a donation to support the ACE program:

Checks can be written to:

WMU Foundation (with a note: “to support Dept of SLHS-ACE Program)

Mail to: Dept of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences
1903 West Michigan Ave. -5355
Western Michigan University
Kalamazoo, MI 49008

-Or-

Credit Card: Email robin.pollens@wmich.edu and she will send you an addressed, stamped envelope with a form to provide credit card information or to enclose a check.