



AMERICAN SPEECH-LANGUAGE-HEARING FOUNDATION

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YEAR IN REVIEW

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Breaking Records and Reaching New Heights..... 3
- Supporting Communication Science Careers..... 4
 - Record-Breaking Awards and Funding.....4
 - Awardee Reflections.....5
- Expanding Our Reach: New Initiatives and Events..... 6
 - Furthering the Impact of Facilitated Dialogue.....6
 - Foundations and Innovations in Artificial Intelligence Summit: The Future Is Now*6
 - Special Funding for Artificial Intelligence6
 - ASHFoundation *Amplifying Voices* Fundraiser.....7
 - Introduction of New Funds and Inaugural Awards7
- Sustaining Our Reach: Continued Efforts..... 8
 - Ongoing Workshops and Series.....8
 - ASHFoundation *HBCU-HSI Series*8
 - ASHFoundation *Virtual 5K Walk/Run*.....8
 - An Evening With the ASHFoundation: Honoring a Legacy, Inspiring Our Future*9
- Communicating Our Message 10
 - ASHFoundation *News: Digital Newsletter*10
 - ASHFoundation *Blog: Voices That Inspire*10
 - ASHFoundation on Social Media.....10
 - ASHFoundation on *ASHA Stream: Real Stories, Real Change*.....11
- Deepening Our Impact..... 12
 - Legacy Giving—Enhanced12
- Welcoming New Innovators 13
 - Board of Trustees.....13
 - ASHFoundation Staff13
- Breaking Records: Thank You for Our Year of Impact..... 14

BREAKING RECORDS AND REACHING NEW HEIGHTS

The ASHFoundation supports innovators in communication sciences and disorders (CSD) by funding promising students, researchers, and clinicians who are exploring bold ideas to transform the discipline and improve people’s lives. In 2025, we enhanced our work and strengthened our mission by reaching new audiences, offering learning opportunities and events, and raising disbursing more than \$1 million toward innovative impact

\$1.3 MILLION AWARDED



The ASHFoundation provided substantial funding to support groundbreaking research in CSD.

87 RECIPIENTS



We supported **innovative researchers, students, and clinicians** who are advancing hearing, speech, language, voice, and swallowing.

SUPPORTING COMMUNICATION SCIENCE CAREERS

The ASHFoundation funds critical research and education in the CSD discipline, investing in innovative projects and bold ideas from students, researchers, and clinicians.

In 2025, our milestones included:

- Record-breaking awards and funding
- Expanded special events programming
- Increased awareness and engagement campaigns
- Many successful ASHFoundation initiatives

RECORD-BREAKING AWARDS AND FUNDING

This year, the ASHFoundation Board of Trustees responded to challenges brought about by federal budget cuts that left many CSD researchers without essential funding. With a **record-setting total of submissions**, the ASHFoundation faced a significant increase in the research grant category.

With leadership, creativity, and a proactive response from the Board, the ASHFoundation distributed a record-breaking **total of more than \$1.3 million**, providing vital support during a time of uncertainty.

THROUGHOUT OUR **79** YEAR HISTORY,
THE ASHFOUNDATION HAS AWARDED MORE THAN
\$15.6 MILLION TO MORE THAN **2,785**
STUDENTS, RESEARCHERS, AND CLINICIANS!

Building on this momentum, the ASHFoundation also launched a new **Need-Based Emergency Funding** mechanism to aid students and early-career investigators affected by terminated federal support. This initiative intends to distribute **an additional \$150,000** through individual scholarships of up to \$10,000 per recipient for educational or research purposes.

AWARDEE REFLECTIONS

“Thanks to the ASHFoundation’s support, this work aims to identify features of Childhood Apraxia of Speech in Spanish–English bilingual children, which will provide important clinical information that can improve diagnostic accuracy and ensure that bilingual children receive appropriate services to support their speech-language development.”

— Julie Case, 2025 Clinical Research Grant recipient



This funding supports our work to develop a personalized approach to fine-tune cochlear implant programming by adjusting electrodes that make speech harder to understand. Our goal is to improve listening in everyday settings and enhance communication, social engagement, and quality of life for adults with hearing loss.”

— Meisam Arjmandi, 2025 Clinical Research Grant recipient

“ASHFoundation support will help my team understand how social determinants of health (SDOH) influence outcomes in autism. Findings can support quality of care by providing information to inform practice, such as what SDOH to include in screening and the priorities of autistic people for receiving care—a key part of evidence-based practice.”

— Teresa Girolamo, 2025 New Century Scholars Research Grant recipient



This scholarship will allow me to dedicate more time to community service and voluntary work. It will also support my collaboration with speech-language pathologists (SLPs) and the Ghana Stammering Association through the Ghana Stammering Project, providing mentorship for SLPs and enhanced services for persons who stammer.”

— Emmanuel Addo, 2025 Graduate Student Scholarship: International Student Scholarship recipient

EXPANDING OUR REACH: NEW INITIATIVES AND EVENTS

Furthering the Impact of Facilitated Dialogue

In celebration of ASHA's Centennial, the ASHFoundation hosted a two-day interactive event—*Advancing CSD Through Facilitated Dialogue: Impact and Future Innovations*. This event brought together 36 thought leaders, emerging professionals, and dedicated contributors in the exploration and practice of structured dialogue and collective decision making.

The gathering was an opportunity for participants to apply ASHFoundation-supported research topics to address the complex challenges facing our discipline.

At this two-day event, attendees

- engaged in meaningful deliberation,
- earned practical tools for inclusive and thoughtful conversations, and
- discussed a future where collaborative decision making is central to advancing our communities and professions.



Foundations and Innovations in Artificial Intelligence Summit: The Future Is Now

Thanks to support from Reality Labs Research at Meta, the ASHFoundation hosted a two-day event exploring artificial intelligence applications in CSD. More than 100 experts participated—including researchers, interdisciplinary scholars, doctoral students, and federal representatives. The event featured keynote presentations, Spark Talks, and Grand Challenge Discussions (where small groups explored emerging research opportunities).



Special Funding for Artificial Intelligence

To keep our fingers on the pulse of research needs in the discipline, the ASHFoundation initiated a special Call for Proposals related to artificial intelligence in both the New Century Scholars Research Grant (\$25,000) and the New Investigators Research Grant (\$10,000).

Amplifying Voices. Every Dollar Counts!

Amplifying Voices Fundraiser

In May 2025, the ASHFoundation raised more than \$5,000 through its digital fundraiser, *Amplifying Voices*. Coinciding with *National Speech-Language-Hearing Month*, the campaign emphasized that donations of any size contribute meaningfully to advancing innovation in CSD.

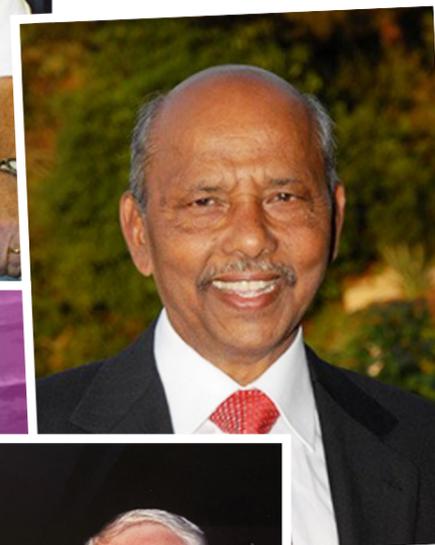
INTRODUCTION OF NEW FUNDS AND INAUGURAL AWARDS

ASHFoundation established the following new funds and inaugural awards in 2025 to support exploration and growth.



Dr. Lawrence D. Shriberg Memorial Scholarship Fund

Supporting an investigator's research aligned with the work of the late Dr. Shriberg—including speech sound disorders, childhood apraxia of speech, phonetic transcription, and genetic conditions affecting speech.



Dr. Sadanand Singh Scholarship Fund

Supporting a new Graduate Student Scholarship (\$5,000) for a graduate student pursuing research aligned with the work of the late Dr. Singh by contributing to evidence-based practices in speech, language, or hearing.



Drs. McLean, Yoder, Schiefelbusch Fund in Severe Communication Disabilities

Supporting a New Century Scholars Doctoral Scholarship (\$10,000) for a student whose research focuses on the communication needs of individuals with severe disabilities, an area to which Drs. McLean, Yoder, and Schiefelbusch dedicated their long careers.

SUSTAINING OUR REACH: CONTINUED EFFORTS

Ongoing Workshops and Series

The ASHFoundation maintained current initiatives—such as the *Historically Black Colleges and Universities–Hispanic Serving Institutions Workshop* and the *Virtual Connections Series*—to share its mission and programs in interactive formats. These efforts fostered dialogue on future priorities and expanded awareness. Continuous engagement to educate CSD students and professional about the mission and programs remains essential.

ASHFoundation HBCU-HSIs Series in 2025

DATE	INSTITUTION
February	Hampton University
March	NOVA Southeastern University
April	University of Houston

ASHFoundation Virtual 5K Walk/Run

The ASHFoundation's 6th annual *Virtual 5K Walk/Run* united more than 1,000 loyal supporters, students, and newcomers who helped raise more than \$45,000! A highlight of the year, this event provides a meaningful opportunity for students and supporters to engage to engage with the ASHFoundation. This year, we were excited to offer 151 sponsored student registrations.



BY THE NUMBERS

1,079 REGISTRANTS | **94** TEAMS

151 SPONSORED STUDENT REGISTRATIONS | **\$45,016** TOTAL AMOUNT RAISED



An Evening With the ASHFoundation: Honoring a Legacy, Inspiring Our Future

Each year, a dedicated group of supporters gather at ASHA's Convention to enjoy dinner, receive and present awards, and celebrate the ASHFoundation's mission. This special event honors cutting-edge research and innovation in communication sciences and the recognizes the support that fuels advancements in audiology and speech-language pathology.



COMMUNICATING OUR IMPACT

In 2025, the ASHFoundation amplified its messages across digital platforms, publications, and events.

ASHFoundation Focus: Digital Newsletter

Building on the successful launch of *ASHFoundation News*—our digital newsletter—in 2024, the ASHFoundation broadened its reach by including a featured blog post, an award recipient spotlight, a message from leadership, program updates, and development news in each issue.

ASHFoundation Blog: Voices That Inspire

The quarterly blog continued to serve as an effective platform for elevating diverse perspectives and highlighting research-focused content in 2025. Two posts—February and November—were the year’s most widely read, underscoring strong interest in research grant guidance and advocacy-centered topics.



ASHFoundation on Social Media

The ASHFoundation social media accounts continue to grow and provide a space where we

- engage with our supporters and
- educate the next generation of innovators about our mission.

Through our social networks, we

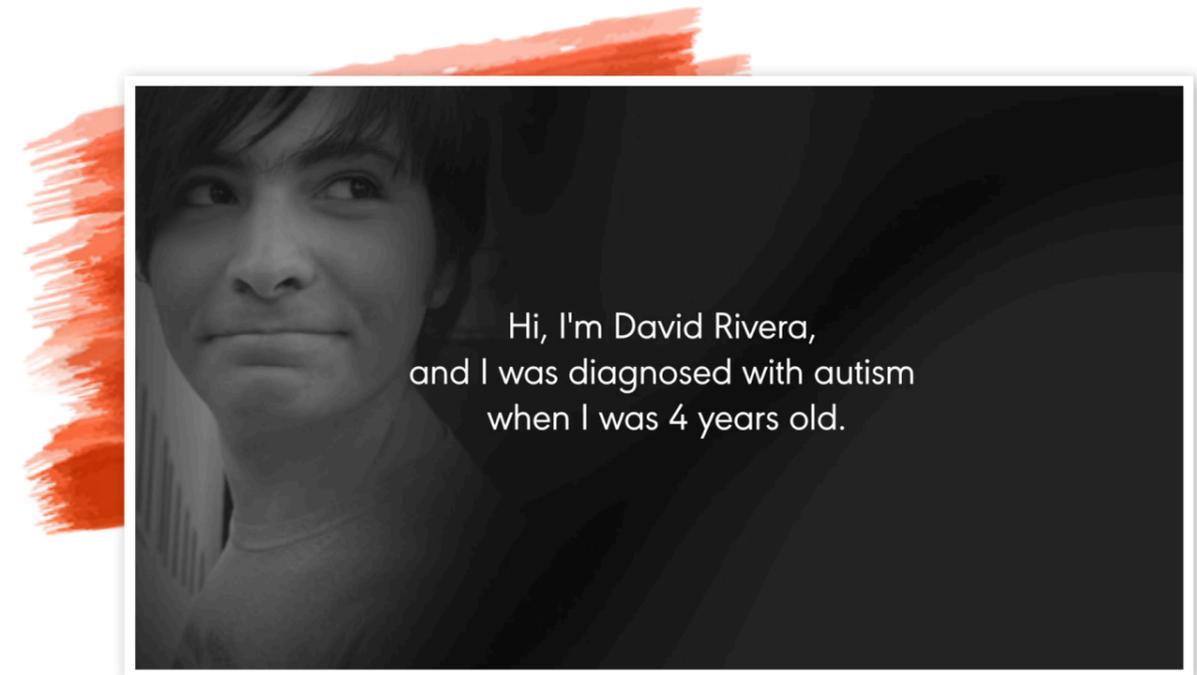
- feature awardees and their impactful work,
- amplify important and timely opportunities to engage with the ASHFoundation,
- and join the CSD community in honoring mission-related recognition days and months.

Join us in being a part of the digital community supporting innovation in CSD!

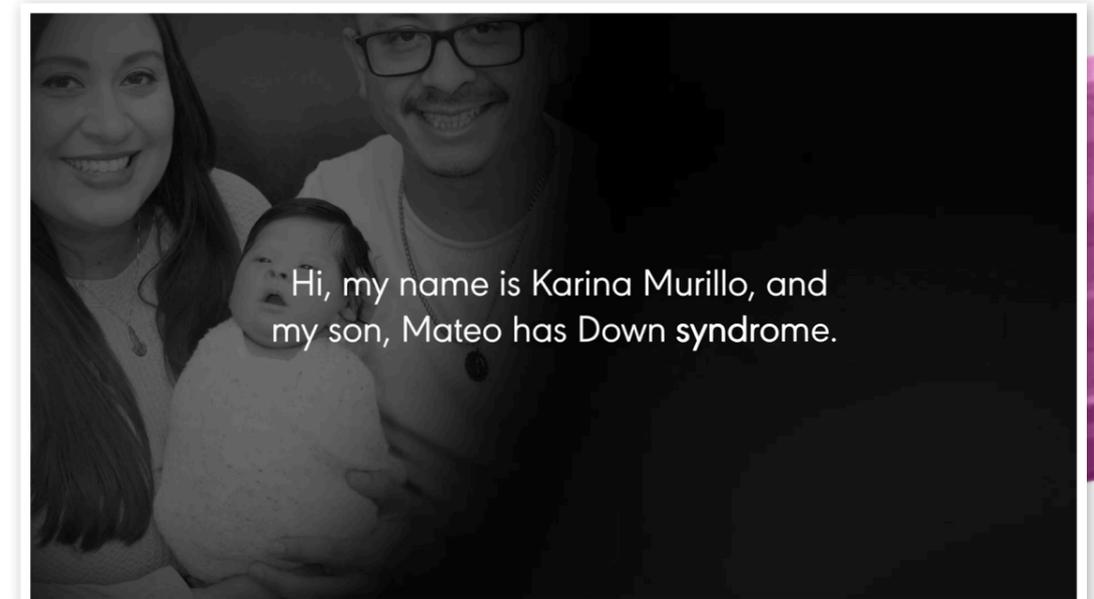


ASHFoundation on ASHA Stream: Real Stories, Real Change

Reaching supporters and future research grant applicants through storytelling is one of the many ways that the ASHFoundation spreads the word about the impactful work we do. Building on momentum from 2024, the ASHFoundation produced two additional impact videos in 2025. These videos highlight personal stories from individuals with communication disorders and demonstrate how ASHFoundation-funded research directly influences assessment, treatment, and quality of life.



David Rivera shares his experience as a person with autism.



Karina Murillo explains what it's like raising a son with Down syndrome.

DEEPENING OUR IMPACT

The ASHFoundation established a new fund for scholarships and research: the Dr. Joan Bruno Augmentative and Alternative Communication Research Fund (AAC). This fund was established in recognition of Dr. Bruno's accomplished career as a speech-language pathologist and a visionary leader in AAC. This endowed fund will support selected New Century Scholars Doctoral Scholarship and New Century Scholars Research Grant awards for students and investigators who are conducting AAC-related research.

Legacy Giving—Enhanced

We updated the ASHFoundation Legacy Leaders program to better educate the community about planned giving and encourage people to include the ASHFoundation in their estate plans.

To support this effort, we developed new resources: a Legacy Leaders booklet and an introductory brochure.

We hosted our first Legacy Leaders luncheon at the ASHA Convention, bringing together current and prospective Legacy Leaders. The gathering provided an opportunity to thank supporters for their commitment and to discuss the program's future.

Where Your Legacy Meets Tomorrow's Breakthroughs

A Guide to Legacy Giving and Lasting Impact

Who is a Legacy Leader?

Legacy Leaders are people who have chosen to donate to the ASHFoundation through a planned gift—sometimes called an "estate" or a "legacy" gift. They include:

- Gifts by Request (e.g., a will or living trust).
- Gifts by Beneficiary Designation—including retirement accounts, life insurance policies, donor-advised funds, and gifts of assets such as appreciated securities or property.

You can seamlessly incorporate a planned gift into your financial strategy—often with meaningful tax advantages—but the impact goes far beyond finances. A legacy gift is a powerful statement of your belief in the potential of communication sciences. It's a chance to champion discovery, support future breakthroughs, and help create a world where more people are heard and understood.

"Together, we can continue to advance accomplishments in the communication sciences by supporting future leaders and, in turn, enhancing individual lives. Being a Legacy Leader is one vital method of giving back to our professions that have been so good to all of us."

— ROBERT E. HANYAK, A.U.D., CCC-A, ASHA FELLOW

For a guide to legacy giving or to leave a planned gift to the ASHFoundation, please contact us at 301-296-8700 or foundation@asha.org.

WELCOMING NEW INNOVATORS

Dedicated Volunteers and Staff

Thank you to our volunteers and staff for your tireless work throughout the year to support and execute the ASHFoundation mission of bringing innovative research to the discipline.

Board of Trustees

In 2025, we welcomed four new members to the Board of Trustees:



Nancy L. Kuhles *Ryan McCreery* *Laura Purcell Verdun* *Linda I. Rosa-Lugo*



The 2025 ASHFoundation Board of Trustees: Back row (left to right): *Nia B. Potier, Robert Hanyak, Bernard Rousseau, Tommie L. Robinson Jr., Rene Utianski, Gregory L. Lof, Ryan McCreery, Nancy L. Kuhles, Janet Koehnke.* Front row (left to right): *Sharon E. Moss, Laura Purcell Verdun, Aliyah Hodges, Jessica Sullivan, Rita Patel, Swathi Kiran, Elise Davis McFarland, Stacy L. Williams, Sucheta Kamath, Vicki Deal-Williams.*

Not pictured: *Linda I. Rosa-Lugo*

ASHFoundation Staff

Our dedicated team works tirelessly to support the mission of the ASHFoundation.

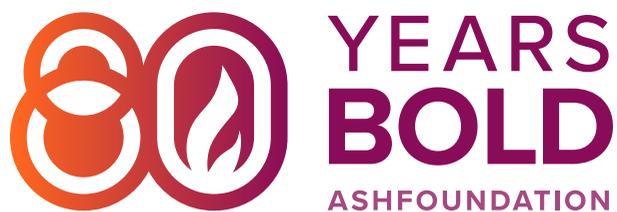


Allison Oakes Program Administrator *Elizabeth Shapiro* Director of Development *Emily Mercurio* Program Assistant *Kellie Rowden-Racette* Communications Manager *Penny Burke* Development Coordinator *Sharon Moss* Executive Director

BREAKING RECORDS: THANK YOU FOR OUR YEAR OF IMPACT

We thank our 2025 donors for their support and recognize them in our Annual Donor Book.

Join us in celebrating the ASHFoundation's 80th anniversary through our many upcoming initiatives and events—including Legacy Leaders, Fabulous Fundraisers, *National Speech-Language-Hearing Month*, Virtual 5K Walk/Run, Evening with the ASHFoundation, Amplifying Voices and the annual campaign. Let's spark even more innovation in 2026!



Keep the Momentum Going – Donate at ashfoundation.org



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