

Testimonials from Aphasia and Communication Disabilities Volunteers

“Volunteering for the March of Dimes Canada as a group communication facilitator has exposed me to a wide variety of clinical populations, including adults with aphasia, apraxia, dysarthria, and progressive neurological disorders. Together with a speech pathologist and a communication disorder assistant, I worked on improving client's cognitive abilities, confidence, memory, and motor skills by means of supportive communication strategies, technology, and personal history books. This clinical exposure has vastly expanded my knowledge and appreciation of the speech therapy profession, and reinforced my commitment to pursue a career in speech language pathology. I am excited to continue my journey of becoming a speech language pathologist as a graduate student at the University of Toronto. I would like to thank SLP Ruth Patterson and CDA Leesel Smith for their patience, advice, wealth of knowledge, and continuous support along the way.”



Serg Fazy lau, ACDP Volunteer

"It has been an absolute privilege to volunteer at ACDP as a communication partner over the past year. The experience has been extremely educational and highly rewarding. I have learned a great deal from every single client, volunteer, CDA and SLP I was fortunate enough to work with. The variety of no-cost workshops offered to volunteers are also very informative. Volunteering at ACDP solidified my desire to enroll in the CDA program and, I believe, was a strongly contributing factor in my acceptance to the program."



Kim Cummings, ACDP Volunteer

“I have been going to training sessions and volunteering with the ACD program. Volunteers for this program are treated with the utmost respect. Each volunteer is given a chance to lead group sessions, if they choose, and are encouraged to use their talents and skills to enhance the discussions and activities for the clients. At the ACD program volunteers are given the opportunity to be an integral part of the planning and success of the weekly group sessions. It has been a wonderful experience to get to know the clients. It has helped me see the importance of how improving communication for clients can help them regain some independence in their lives.

Another wonderful benefit of being a volunteer has been the chance to go to the training sessions offered from time to time. Again volunteers are able to learn and become better at their role through these sessions.

The volunteer hours and the training I believe were very important to my success in being chosen for the CDA program at Durham College. I am so grateful for the time I have been able to be a part of this program and to be able to be a part of participating in sessions with the amazing clients who attend the ACD program.”

Colleen Brown, ACDP Volunteer

“Those of you planning to be future SLPs, I hope you’ve noticed that those are all essential skills to becoming an outstanding rehabilitation specialist. Those of you entering other healthcare professions, this is an excellent experience that will make you more comfortable in a community healthcare setting. Those of you just looking to give back to your community, why not head to (ACDP) and make some new friends who will definitely appreciate your presence and contributions. Regardless of your reason for volunteering, ACDP works towards bettering the lives of people on a daily basis - not just the lives of clients, but also the lives of volunteers like you!”



Saniya Dang, ACDP Volunteer

“My volunteer experience was one worth taking; it taught me about myself and what I needed to do to make those around me more comfortable. Most importantly it showed me that happiness is truly what you make of it, and the clients at (ACDP) prove that. There is always a shoulder to lean on, an ear to listen, a voice to give advice, and someone who understands. I am truly blessed to have had such an experience.”

ACDP Volunteer