



**word.**

2017/18

## Message from Robert Kroll, Chair of the Board and Margit Pukonen, Interim Executive Director

### WELCOME TO OUR 2017-18 ANNUAL REPORT



Robert Kroll



Margit Pukonen

Imagine... you're sitting at a meeting or out with a friend and trying to talk but the words just don't come out. You are completely blocked. Or your child is talking to you and you simply cannot understand the words they are trying to say. This is a daily experience for the people we see at The Speech & Stuttering Institute.

We are so proud and grateful that we are continuing to make such a powerful difference in the lives of the people and families that we serve.

This past year we continued our renowned clinical therapy programs, treating 353 people, 311 (88%) of whom were children, which resulted in over 3600 visits to SSI! Clients who have gone through our programs have told us about the life changing and dramatic improvement in their communication abilities, resulting in better overall health and quality of life at home, school, work, and within their community.

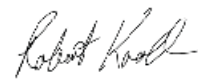
As part of our designation from the Ministry of Child & Youth Services as a Centre for Training & Development we have developed evidence-based care pathways for professionals in the Preschool Speech and Language Services Program. We continue to train our colleagues across Ontario in the principles of these care pathways, thus providing the foundation for the highest quality of care to children and their families in this government funded program.

We invite you to read about these activities and more in this, our latest Annual Report.

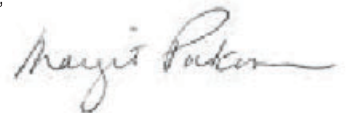
We want to thank you, our donors and community, for the incredible support that has made it possible for us to be a leader in improving the quality of life for those with speech and stuttering challenges.

Together we look forward to continuing to offer our unique brand of excellence in care, education and research to help serve our clients best!

Thanks for reading,



Robert Kroll  
Board Chair



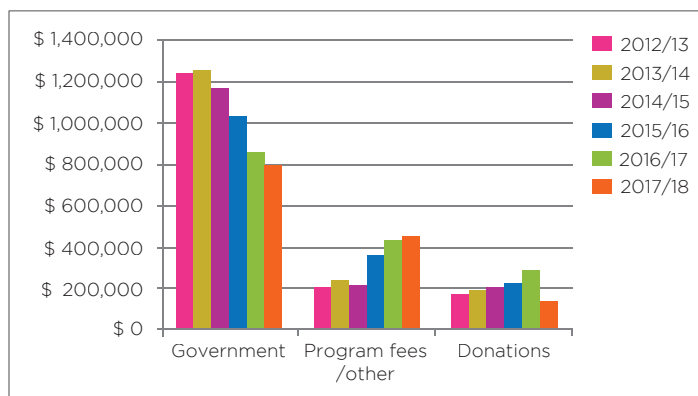
Margit Pukonen  
Interim Executive  
Director

#### The Speech and Stuttering Institute Board of Directors

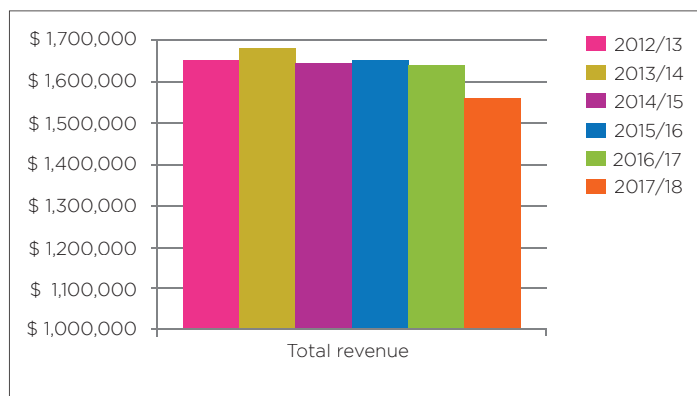
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# Financial Resources

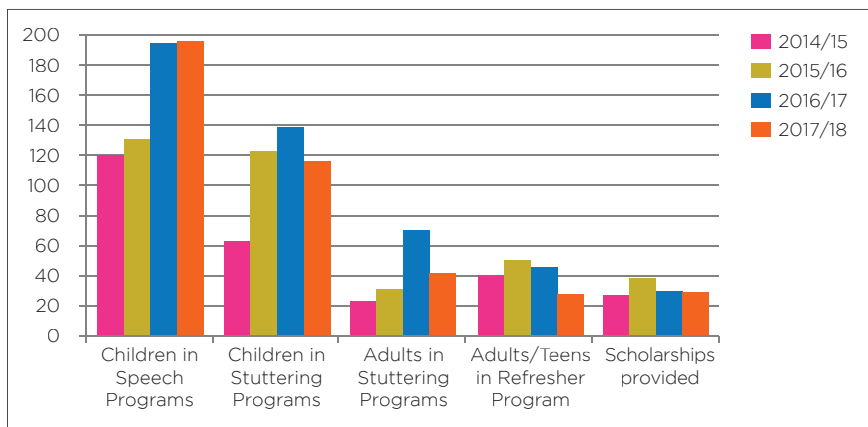
## REVENUE BY TYPE



## REVENUE BY YEAR



## CLIENTS SERVED



## BALANCE SHEET SUMMARY

(in thousands)	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
<b>Assets</b>	721	737	770	649
<b>Liabilities</b>	29	25	71	24
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	692	712	699	625

## Highlighting our Longest Standing Volunteer: George Shields



Did you know that The Speech & Stuttering Institute would likely not be here today, or in fact have not been

created, if it was not for the dedication and drive of George Shields? George is a devoted East York Barbershopper and founding chairman of the Harmonize for Speech Fund. It was George's vision and recognition of the need for an organization for those with speech challenges that helped create SSI (formerly the Speech Foundation of Ontario). In 1977, the Speech Foundation of Ontario was established with

George's assistance to foster the development of innovative therapy programs and to support education and research in the field of communication disorders.

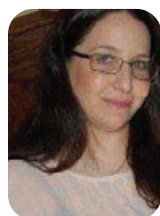
In the early 1980's, with George's tireless fundraising efforts, the Speech Foundation purchased and equipped a house at 93 Grenville Street and launched its first clinical program. Since then George has remained very active as a donor, fundraiser, former chair and current vice-chair of our Board of Directors. In fact, George has rarely missed a meeting in the past 40 years!

We are not the only benefactor of George's kind generosity; George

was honoured with the Order of Canada for being "outstanding in his contributions to make life better for the "frequently forgotten", the speech disabled, giving incalculable hours of his working and leisure time and making both personal and financial sacrifices so that this group, which comprises an estimated eight percent of the Canadian population, can speak out and be heard."

Our appreciation for this amazing man cannot be overstated. We are honoured to have him on our board and incredibly grateful for his dedication to all those with communication challenges.

## RESEARCH & EDUCATION



Elissa Flagg

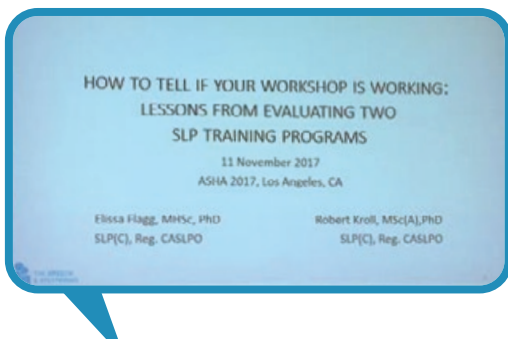


Robert Kroll

The Speech & Stuttering Institute is currently engaged in a province-wide training initiative for clinicians within Ontario's 31 Preschool Speech and Language Programs. These professional education workshops, based on proposed care pathways developed by SSI subject matter expert clinicians, focus on assessment and treatment of both motor speech disorders and stuttering in preschool-aged children. This training initiative is also the focus of a unique program evaluation strategy that we developed to monitor training program outcomes.

Together, SSI Research Scientist Dr. Elissa Flagg, PhD, and former Executive Director Dr. Robert Kroll, PhD, presented a seminar at the 2017 ASHA Convention titled "How To Tell If Your Workshop Is Working: Lessons From Evaluating Two SLP Training Programs". Over 14,000 Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists from around the world attended ASHA 2017, which created an excellent opportunity to share our research with a diverse audience of colleagues. This line of research has helped us to monitor how specialized training can increase clinicians' confidence and skills, and has also provided us with a better understanding of service delivery for preschoolers with speech and stuttering disorders in Ontario.

In addition to the Ministry of Child & Youth Services funded training, The Speech & Stuttering Institute's senior staff continued to train professionals by presenting motor speech and fluency workshops at the Institute to speech language pathologists from our local community.



## CLINICAL SPEECH PROGRAMS

We provide individual speech therapy for children. Therapy develops the child's control of the physical movements required to produce speech in functional words and phrases the child needs to acquire. Therapy activities are designed to provide children with many opportunities to develop and practice new speech skills, while also supporting language and early literacy development.

Our team of speech-language pathologists has extensive clinical and teaching experience in the following areas:

- Speech production difficulties
- Articulation and speech sound disorders
- Motor speech impairments
- Late talkers
- Childhood Apraxia of Speech (CAS)

## CLINICAL STUTTERING PROGRAMS

Stuttering is a chronic neurological condition that usually begins between the ages of 3 and 6 and often persists through adulthood.

We provide a comprehensive range of services to individuals who stutter and their families. We offer parent-based programs for preschoolers, individual and group therapy for school aged children and intensive courses for teens and adults. We teach a variety of strategies and techniques to help our clients deal with the physical and psychological effects of stuttering and become successful communicators.

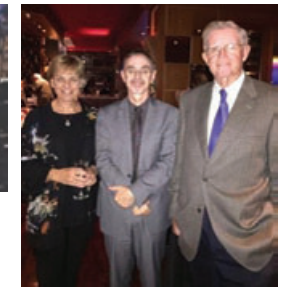
Our 3-week Fluency Plus intensive program is the only specialized and intensive treatment program for stuttering in the Greater Toronto Area and one of only a handful of such treatments worldwide.



## Events

### BOB KROLL RETIREMENT DINNER

In October, staff, family and professionals from all over came together to celebrate Bob's retirement and amazing 40+ year career.



### SSI GOLF CLASSIC



### MINUTE TO WIN IT



### SAVE THE DATE

#### SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 23, 2018

is the next "a million things I need to say" 1k/5k Walk & Run for Stuttering Awareness in support of The Speech & Stuttering Institute.

### WALK & RUN FOR STUTTERING AWARENESS



The 2017 Walk & Run was a *great* success as over 100 people attended this event. It was heartwarming to see so many families with young children walking and running with the adults. Together over \$13,000 was raised in support of SSI's clinical programs!

Greg O'Grady, the founder and coordinator of this event, is a graduate of SSI's Intensive Fluency program. Greg credits this for making an invaluable contribution in the quality of his life personally and professionally. In appreciation to Dr. Bob Kroll and to his staff at The Speech & Stuttering Institute, he suggested the first "a million things I need to say" 1k/5k Walk



Hon. Michael Coteau MPP,  
Greg O'Grady and Dr. Bob Kroll

& Run for Stuttering Awareness in 2012, and has worked tirelessly since then making this event successful and meaningful for persons who stutter (PWS), their family and friends.

He has continued in his dedication of this event in Toronto even after moving back to Newfoundland. In addition to the Toronto Walk & Run, Greg is currently planning the "a million things I need to say" Walk & Run for Stuttering Awareness for the stuttering community in Newfoundland in 2018.

## Our Community of Donors

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to all those who made donations. We are extremely grateful for their commitment and ongoing support of The Speech & Stuttering Institute.

### GIVING VOICE (\$10,000-\$24,999)

CIBC Children's Foundation  
Harmonize for Speech Fund  
The Catherine And Maxwell Meighen Foundation  
RBC Foundation  
The Rose Family  
Unity For Autism

### GIVING SPIRIT (\$5,000-\$9,999)

Anonymous  
Frederick J. Hennessey Foundation  
Alice And Murray Maitland Foundation  
William and Laurie Palamar

### GIVING STRENGTH (\$1,000-\$4,999)

John & Katherine Dorward  
Jackman Foundation  
Kiwanis Club of Toronto Foundation  
Robert & Fiona Kroll  
Paul L'Heureux

Terry & Marcelle Mersereau  
Minute To Win It Event  
Steve & Margit Pukonen  
Barry Smith  
Walmart Canada

Donations are listed in the fiscal year in which the gift is received.

Gifts received after March 31, 2018 will be recognized in the next Annual Report.

### GIVING EXPRESSION (UP TO \$999)

Anonymous (5)  
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Peter Aziz  
The Bargains Group  
Pierre Bertsoulakis  
Lawrence & Frances Bloomberg Foundation  
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Bridgeport Asset Management  
Mohamed Camara  
Rocco Casullo  
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Ben Levitan  
Serguei Lissitsyn  
Oliver Long  
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Michelle McCulloch  
Lina Moss

The Ng Family  
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Cheryl Pollard  
Doris Rosenstock  
Sara  
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Irma Shapiro  
Molly Shoichet  
Alan Spector  
Nicole Spence  
Paula Square  
Cheryl & Barry Stulberg  
Bruce Kotowich  
Simon Thang  
Todd Tran  
Laureen Unroth  
Professor Jean F. Walker  
Ying Wang  
Kathy Williams  
Dana Wolle



## SPONSORS to the Walk & Run for Stuttering Awareness 2017

### GOLD SPONSOR

Richter Management Toronto

### SILVER SPONSOR

Menkes Developments

### BRONZE SPONSORS

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Flint Physiotherapy Clinic

### GIFT IN KIND SPONSORS

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Nine West Canada

Ontario Science Centre

Panera Bread

Purdys Chocolatier

Toronto Argonauts

## DONORS to the Walk & Run for Stuttering Awareness 2017

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Martin Allan  
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Cathy Allison  
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Tracy Allison  
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Margaret Barnes  
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Brent Beaulne  
Gavin Berry  
Dilip Bhattacharyya  
Sudipa Bhattacharyya  
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Robert Kroll  
Francis Kukwah  
Liselle Kukwah  
Katie Kwan

Claudia Labahn  
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Yean Tak Liu  
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Marian Makar  
Debbie Mantziouras  
Alexandra Markou  
Amanda Martino  
Sally Mazachowsky  
Edward McManus  
Deepanjali Mensinkai  
Jennifer Mercurio  
Maria Mila Milo  
Tamara Morrison  
Dianne Mullen  
Anna Muto  
Joanna Nakeff  
Cathy Ngo  
Michael Nolivos  
Lorna Novosel  
Amanda Nycz  
Dennis O'Grady  
Debbie O'Shaughnessy  
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Mary Yoannou  
Arsen Zakutyan  
Luana Zappitelli  
Klara Zoldos

# The Speech & Stuttering Institute is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of those with speech and stuttering challenges

## WHAT SETS US APART?

We have never turned away an individual in need of therapy because of an inability to pay. Families who demonstrate financial need and cannot afford our services are eligible for subsidies.

Our treatment approach is founded upon more than 30 years of clinical experience and research in the areas of motor speech/speech sound disorders and stuttering. Our approach to treatment has been recognized worldwide and published in scientific journals and textbooks.

The government has recognized The Speech & Stuttering Institute as a Centre for Training & Development and has contracted us to develop evidence-based care pathways for professionals in Ontario's Preschool Speech and Language Program. We train our colleagues across Ontario to apply the principles of these care pathways, thus ensuring the highest quality of care to children and their families in this program.

The stuttering program is the only specialized and intensive treatment program for stuttering in the greater Toronto area and one of only a handful of such treatment centres worldwide.

## THE SPEECH & STUTTERING INSTITUTE HELPS CHILDREN

### IMPROVE COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Clinicians at the institute are designated leaders in Ontario at developing treatment approaches for children with motor speech and stuttering disorders.

### DEVELOP CONFIDENCE & SELF ESTEEM

Improvements in children's fluency and speech (articulation) development have been linked to improvements in mental health.

### GAIN LITERACY SKILLS

Therapy activities are designed to provide children with many opportunities to acquire and practice new speech skills while also supporting language and early literacy development.

### PROVIDE A SUPPORT NETWORK

Through our group and camp programs children are relieved to realize they are not alone and develop support and relationships with their peers.

### BY ENGAGING IN RESEARCH

Our clinical research reflects a commitment to discovering the most effective treatment methods, in order to support both excellent clinical service and evidence-based professional training.



**THE SPEECH  
& STUTTERING  
INSTITUTE**

The Speech & Stuttering Institute  
2-150 Duncan Mill Road  
Toronto, ON, M3B 3M4  
P: 416-491-7771  
F: 416-491-7215  
E: [info@speechandstuttering.com](mailto:info@speechandstuttering.com)  
[www.speechandstuttering.com](http://www.speechandstuttering.com)