



The **Speech
& Stuttering**
Institute

ANNUAL REPORT
2022-2023

Transforming lives for lasting change.

Contents

Message from the Executive Director..... 2

About SSI 3

2022-23 Highlights..... 4

Subsidy Program..... 5

Financials 6

Donors and Supporters 7

Community Connections..... 9

Board of Directors 10

How to Support SSI..... 11



Message from the Executive Director

Thank you for taking the time to read about the important work that took place at The Speech & Stuttering Institute (SSI) from 1 April 2022-31 March 2023.

With the support of our generous donors and dedicated Board of Directors, the SSI team was proud once again to deliver the services and activities that are key to our identity and mission.

Most importantly, SSI offered our highly sought after clinical therapy services, serving children with speech disorders and individuals of all ages who stutter. By maintaining a hybrid of virtual and in-person sessions, clients in our local community and across Ontario were able to participate in assessment, treatment, and follow-up with SSI's Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs). All of our fundraising efforts went directly to supporting SSI's clinical programs. The support we received from individuals, foundations, and local partners not only helped us to maintain accessible fees, but also allowed us to offer financial subsidies to clients/families who could not otherwise afford the treatment they need.

Alongside directly supporting clients, SSI worked to build the capacity of other clinicians (SLPs and support personnel) to serve the clients they work with. Through our in-house professional education workshops, our colleagues learned about intervention for young children with motor speech disorders and school-age children who stutter. Through our provincially-funded training programs, SLPs and support personnel in Ontario's Preschool Speech & Language Program and School-Based Rehabilitation Services participated in SSI's self-paced e-learning courses on evidence-informed best practices for preschoolers with motor speech and fluency disorders. To follow-up on these rich learning experiences, SSI clinicians then shared their expertise, built over decades of experience and study, via live webinars and on-demand resources designed to help clinicians support children with communication disorders and their families.

The motivation to sustain SSI's role in our community comes not just from the satisfaction of making a difference for the clients and colleagues we help, but also from the confidence placed in us by those who contribute to our efforts each year. Thank you for supporting SSI!



Elissa Flagg, MHSc, PhD, SLP(C), Speech-Language Pathologist
Interim Clinical & Executive Director
The Speech & Stuttering Institute

**The ability to express oneself
clearly and confidently can
completely transform an
individual's life.**

About SSI

The Speech & Stuttering Institute is a registered charity and non-profit organization. Our team is dedicated to supporting clients with speech production and fluency challenges.

Our Team

- 14 SLPs (part time and full time)
- 1 Clinical Administrator
- 1 Administrative Manager
- 1 Director of Development
- 1 Executive/Clinical Director

Our Mission

The mandate of The Speech & Stuttering Institute is three-fold:

- To provide clinical service;
- To educate and train professionals throughout the province;
- To engage in cutting edge research to unearth the root causes of speech related challenges in order to find the most effective treatment methods.

Our Clinical Services

SSI's in-house clinical programs offer assessment, treatment and follow-up for:

- children with speech production difficulties through our **Children's Speech Therapy Program**
 - individual therapy with parent/caregiver participation
- preschoolers who stutter through **Preschool Fluency Program**
 - individual, parent-mediated therapy
- school-aged children who stutter through our **School Age Fluency Program**
 - individual, group, and intensive therapy options with parent/caregiver participation
- teens and adults of all ages who stutter through our **Adult & Teen Stuttering Therapy Programs**
 - individual, group, and intensive therapy options, plus client refresher programs
- Our SLPs also offer **consultation services** to clients/clinicians regarding speech and fluency disorders.

SSI offers both in-person and telepractice-based clinical services. Our SLPs are licensed with the College of Speech-Language Pathologists of Ontario (CASLPO) to serve clients throughout the province.

SSI also provides motor speech assessment and treatment for children receiving publicly-funded speech therapy services within Toronto's Preschool Speech and Language Program through the lead agency, Surrey Place.

Our Training Programs

In addition to offering in-house professional training workshops for SLPs and support personnel, SSI is funded by Ontario's Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) to train clinicians across the province's Preschool Speech and Language Programs in the Motor Speech Treatment Protocol and the Preschool Fluency Pathway - Indirect Treatment Protocol (ITP), both developed at SSI.

SSI has been recognized by the Ontario government as a "Centre of Training and Development" as a result of the Institute's many years of conducting research to inform our evidence-based speech and stuttering therapy programs.

2022-23 Highlights

425

individuals treated.
Over 80% of our clients are children.
Over 3700 therapy sessions delivered.

39

subsidies for clients in financial need.

100%

of clients indicated that they would
recommend SSI to others.

468

clinicians trained
in SSI's provincial training programs.

3

fundraising campaigns:
Giving Tuesday
Annual Appeal
The Great Canadian Giving Challenge

Board Room Renovation

Sponsored by Harmonize for Speech



4

In-House Professional Training
Workshops

79

Clinicians Trained
64 SLPs/14 CDAs

Subsidy Program

SSI's subsidy program allows us to offer reduced fees to clients/families in demonstrated financial need. It is our goal to never turn away anyone who can benefit from our services due to inability to pay.

SSI is committed to reducing barriers to equitable access to speech and stuttering therapy.

The impact of SSI's subsidy program can be felt in these words of gratitude offered by subsidy recipients.

My twins have a severe speech issue that has impacted every aspect of their growth and development. Because of your very generous donations, my daughters have been able to get therapy at SSI and we are already noticing progress like I never imagined. They are now able to communicate their needs and express feelings as opposed to before when they would just cry or scream because we had no idea what they were saying!

Our family truly appreciates you enabling us to get this very valuable service at SSI.

Thanks to the donors, I was able to begin adult group therapy sessions at a subsidized rate. Since I started the weekly sessions, I have learned and practiced new ways of speech. As a result, I have been able to speak more fluently and stutter less.

The subsidy is particularly important for me as a newcomer to Canada with relatively meagre resources. I am grateful to the donors for the subsidy, and my clinician for her patience and encouragement so far.

I want to thank you for making it possible for my daughter to participate at The Speech & Stuttering Institute to improve her speech and fluency. She has really improved since she began receiving this support. It fills me with joy to witness the progress she has made, so thank you for making it possible.

It means a lot to me that she was able to begin working on her speech development so early in life, because it has meant that her confidence hasn't suffered. I had feared that her speech challenges might have led to problems for her in the future, such as from bullying, or from timidness or low confidence.

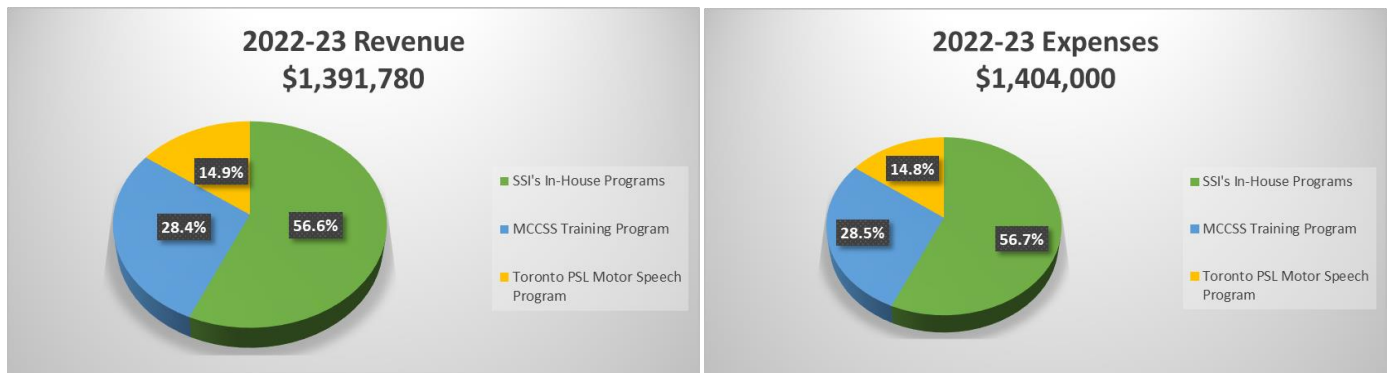
I would not have been able to offer my daughter this level of care if it were not for your kind and generous help, so thank you ever so much!

Financials

SSI derived its revenue in 2022-23 from 3 primary sources:

- In-House Programs (clinical services, in-house professional training workshops, and fundraising)
- MCCSS Training Program (preschool motor speech/fluency training for publicly-funded clinicians)
- Toronto PSL Motor Speech Program (direct motor speech assessment/treatment for Toronto's PSL)

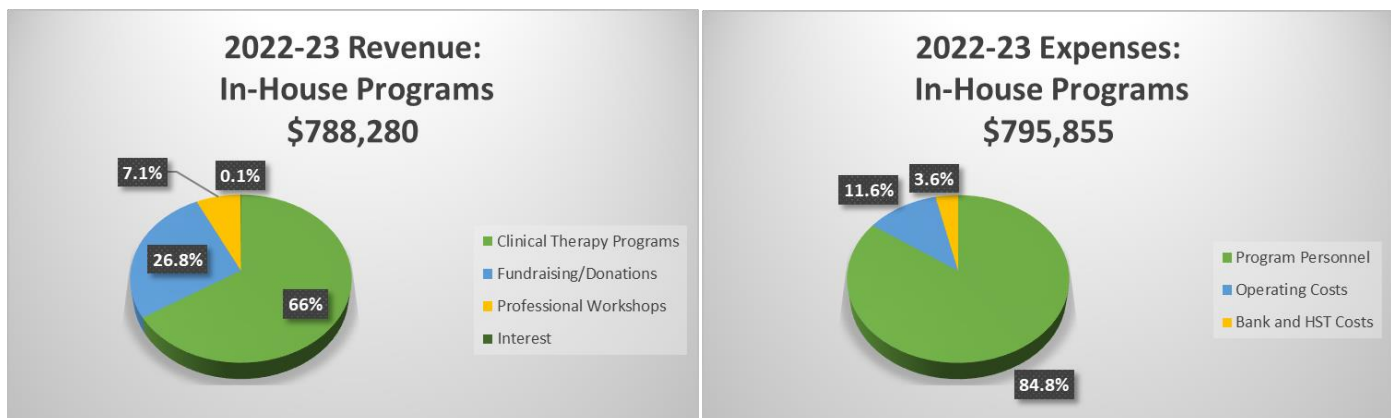
The latter two programs are self-contained (i.e., each service contract directly covers the associated program expenses). This means that fundraising and donations exclusively and directly support the sustainability of SSI's In-House Programs, specifically our clinical therapy programs, including the subsidy program for clients/families in financial need.



Revenue for SSI's In-House Programs comes from 4 primary sources:

- Clinical Therapy Program Fees
- Fundraising/Donations
- Professional Workshops
- Interest

These revenue sources must cover program personnel salaries, operating costs, and business costs.



Fundraising/donations are key to [bridging the gap](#) between the expenses of running our rigorous clinical and training workshop programs, and the revenues raised. The expertise, experience, knowledge and dedication of SSI's team allow us to offer our unique services to our community of clients and clinicians.

As a non-profit organization and registered charity, SSI deeply values the support of the individual donors, foundations, and companies that help us to fulfill our mandate.

Donors and Supporters

SSI gratefully acknowledges the following donations received between April 1st, 2022-March 31st, 2023.

Giving Confidence \$25,000+

The Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation
Menkes Charity Golf Classic
Rama Gaming House

The Catherine and Maxwell
MEIGHEN FOUNDATION



Giving Voice \$10,000+

CIBC Children's Foundation
Harmonize For Speech
The JP Bickell Foundation



J.P. Bickell
Foundation



Giving Spirit \$5,000+

The Alice and Murray Maitland Foundation
Bloomberg, Lawrence
The George Lunan Foundation

Lexus on the Park
Anonymous Donor



Giving Strength \$1,000+

AirBoss of America Corporation
Canadian Online Giving Foundation
Elfar, Mohamed
The Frederick J. Hennessey Foundation
IBM Employee Charitable Fund Campaign
Kozak, Kevin

Long, Oliver
Mahood, David
Rose, Paul
Youngs-Ransom, Roberta
2 Anonymous Donors



Giving Encouragement \$500+

Bhattacharyya, Dilip
Cancelli, Robert
Cecillon Family
Flagg, Elissa (in honour of the SSI Staff)

Hoffer, Stacey
Ientile, Frank
Ng Family
SLP Journal Club

Giving Friendship \$0-499

Arnone, Ricardo
Baccellieri, Mike
Bagozzi, Carol
Bass, Alan
Berg, Katherine
Bertsoukakis, Pierre
Bloom, Jeff
Brazier, Bonnie
Bresinger, Nancy
Bridgeport Asset Management
Capizzano, Gino
Csillag, Andrew
Duclos, Michelle
Dylnsky, Myron & Olena
Figel, Chris

Manoharan, Pria
Martella, John
McCarthy, Valerie
Medsup Canada (in kind donation of PPE)
Mersereau, Terence
Morningstar, Gary
Muto, Anna
Pukonen, Margit
Radocchia, Joe
Rajendram, Isaac
Ranganathan, Swetha
Ratnasinghe, Indunil
Ritins, Andrejs
Rudkin, Natalie (in honour of Jon Garcin)
Say What? Speech Therapy

Fishbein, Bernard (in memory of Barbara-Meissner Fishbein)
 Flagg, Mitchell
 Fornasier, Cristina
 Hall, Dana
 Hamann, Paul & Colleen (in honour of Isabel Hamann)
 Hamilton, Suzanne
 Herusch, Doris
 Hiebert Rempel, Lily
 Hoffer, Linda
 Iarocci, Paul (in honour of Isabel Hamann)
 James, Ronald
 Karam, Loriellen
 Mahood, John
 Malone, Dora

Silvera, Alexis
 Simons, Chris (in honour of Uncle Boonaze)
 Skera, Tefik
 Somodi, Charles
 TEAMFROST
 Walker, Jean & Brian
 Wilk, Ronald
 Williams, Kathy
 Wolle, Dana
 Ying, Edith
 Yoannou, Mary (in honour of Jack Giamou)
 YRDSB-SLP (in memory of Donald Hoffer)
 Yu, Andrea
 Anonymous (in memory of Ramsay Twal)
 20 Anonymous Donors

Please contact us to report any inadvertent errors or omissions from the above list so that we can make a swift correction.

[Giving Partnership](#)



SSI participates in Ontario’s Charitable Gaming program, governed by OLG/OCGA. Charitable gaming offers a gaming and entertainment experience that preserves and enhances funding for local charitable organizations by sharing a portion of the proceeds with the local community.

Our sincere thanks to the **Rama Gaming House**, and to the SSI volunteers who made it possible for us to take part in this valuable initiative:

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| Swetha R | Jenny Q |
| Aaron D | Dana H |
| Loriellen K | John M |
| Kevin K | Trevor G |
| Shawn G | Rita T |
| Adesina O | Nicole M |
| Alisha I | Manseerat K |
| Hema R | |

SSI is a Registered Charity
Legal Name: The Speech and Stuttering Institute
Registered Charity #:119159358RR0001
Year of Incorporation: 1977

Community Connections

SSI's dedicated team of clinicians, along with the support of our long serving administrative staff, make our clinical services and professional training programs possible. Throughout the year, SSI staff [also take the opportunity for community involvement](#). Here are some of the highlights from 2022-23:

April 2022

- Speech program clinician Dana Wolle welcomed U of T SLP placement students as part of SSI's Preschool Motor Speech Program with Surrey Place/Toronto Preschool Speech and Language Program

May 2022

- Fluency program Team Lead Marni Kinder and Interim Executive Director Elissa Flagg reviewed capstone portfolio's for U of T's SLP program

July 2022

- Fluency program clinician Lea Ayuyao welcomed our Canada Summer Jobs participant to assist with the School Age Intensive Stuttering Program

November 2022

- Speech Program SLP Deb Goshulak guest lectured on motor speech for the students in Durham College's Communicative Disorders Assistant Program

December 2022

- SSI partnered with The Children's Book Bank to create a Little Free Bookshelf for our clients.
- Fluency program Team Lead Marni Kinder welcomed 8 U of T students to participate in SSI's one day Client Refresher program
- Speech program SLP Carolyn Spavor gave a virtual guest lecture on speech sound disorders for the brand new graduate program in Speech & Language Therapy in Ethiopia, through TAAAC (Toronto Addis Ababa Academic Collaboration)

January 2023


- Speech program SLP Carolyn Spavor completed training to serve as a publicly funded Communication Intermediary for people with communication disabilities who are involved in the justice system as victims, witnesses, or accused.

February 2023

- SSI Sponsored The Speech & Stuttering Institute Child Language Award for University of Toronto's SLP Master's Program
- Fluency program Team Lead Marni Kinder guest lectured on the Fluency Plus program for the students in U of T's SLP program

March 2023

- Fluency Clinicians Marni Kinder and Lori Scott-Sulky appeared on the Some Stutter, Luh! Podcast hosted by SSI Supporter Greg O'Grady
- Speech program SLP Carolyn Spavor facilitated three teaching clinics for students in U of T's SLP Master's Program



Thank you to the SSI
Staff for serving our
community!

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors provides strategic oversight to ensure that SSI fulfills the three core tenets of our organizational mission:

- To provide clinical services
- To educate and train professionals throughout the province
- To engage in cutting edge research to unearth the root causes of speech related challenges in order to find the most effective treatment methods.

Our 2022-23 board members volunteered their time and expertise to ensure another successful year.

Frank Ientile, Chair

Chief Financial Officer, AirBoss of America Corp.

George Shields, Vice Chair

Founder, Harmonize For Speech

Corey Anquetil, Director

President, Akaei Retail Consulting

Peter Aziz, Director

Senior Counsel, Torys LLP

Luc De Nil, Director

Professor, Department of Speech-Language Pathology, University of Toronto

John Fisher, Director

President & CIO, Bridgeport Asset Management

Dana Hall, Director


Teacher, Toronto District School Board

Loriellen Karam, Director

Realtor, Keller Williams Portfolio Realty

John Mahood, Director

Senior Account Manager, Consulting Services



Thank you to the SSI Board
for providing excellent
guidance for the benefit of
SSI's stakeholders.

How to Support SSI

Fundraising at SSI directly supports our therapy programs for clients with speech and stuttering challenges. Donations bridge the gap between the costs of delivering our rigorous clinical program and the revenue derived from client fees.

We serve our community by keeping our clinical fees below those recommended for SLP services in Ontario, and by providing subsidized fees to ensure that clients and families in financial need can access treatment. Our clinicians focus their practices exclusively on speech and stuttering disorders in order to best serve clients with needs in these specific areas.

With no government funding for SSI's clinical treatment programs, community support is critical!

5 Ways to Support SSI

1. Direct Donation

Make a *direct donation* through our website.

<https://www.speechandstuttering.com/donate/>

2. Donate Stock

Donate appreciated *stocks, securities or mutual funds*.

www.speechandstuttering.com/donate-stock/

3. Bequeath A Gift

Plan a *legacy gift*.

www.speechandstuttering.com/bequest-gift/

4. **Ask your company** to include SSI in its *employee or corporate giving programs*.

5. **Spread the word** about SSI to *encourage friends and family* to make a charitable donation!



Excellence in Clinical Service
Educating and training professionals
Engaged in breakthrough research

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