



ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025

Transforming lives for lasting change.

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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 2024-31 March 2025.

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.

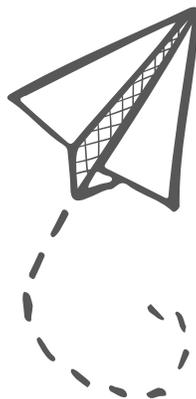
Most importantly, SSI offered our highly sought after clinical therapy services, serving children with speech disorders and individuals of all ages who stutter. By maintaining a hybrid of virtual and in-person sessions, clients in our local community and across Ontario could participate in assessment, treatment, and follow-up with SSI's Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs). All 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 clinicians (SLPs and support personnel) across Ontario to serve their clients. 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, highlighting the importance of their continuous professional development.

The motivation to sustain SSI's role in our community comes from the satisfaction of making a difference for the clients and colleagues we help and the confidence placed in us by those who contribute to our efforts each year. Thank you for supporting SSI!



KEVIN KOZAK, CPA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
THE SPEECH & STUTTERING INSTITUTE



About SSI

The Speech & Stuttering Institute, founded in 1977, is a registered charity and non-profit organization. Our team is dedicated to supporting clients with speech production and fluency challenges.

Our Team

- 20 SLPs (part-time and full-time)
- 1 Clinical Administrator
- 1 Administrative Manager
- 1 Executive Director

Our Mission

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

- To provide excellent **clinical service**;
- To **educate** and **train** professionals throughout the province;
- To engage in breakthrough **research** 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 of 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.



2024-25 HIGHLIGHTS

6 professional training workshops
270 Clinicians trained
(SLPs/CDAs)

Over \$40,000 in
subsidies paid
for clients in
financial need.

1709 clinicians trained
in SSI's provincial
training program

3 Fundraising Campaigns:
Giving Tuesday,
Annual Appeal, and the
40+ Years Yacht Club Celebration

100% of clients indicated that
they would recommend SSI to others.

40+ Years
of Service

4719 therapy sessions delivered
Over 400 individuals treated
Over 80% of our clients are children

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 because of their inability to pay.

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



Letter 1:

My family and I are very grateful for your donations. Your generous donations have enabled my children to catch up on their speech skills which have helped them in other areas of their development as well. One of my children had a severe speech disorder where she was not able to express her thoughts, feelings or even incidents at school. She would cry out of distress and was always irritable.

Although she still makes some sound errors, our family, her teachers and classmates are now able to understand and communicate with her. Throughout our time at SSI, we have seen 3 amazing therapists who have helped my children improve their speech skills tremendously and have educated me on spotting and working on their errors. At each session, we would receive homework which we would complete daily at home. Improving speech disorders is hard work but your kind help has made it a smoother journey.

I truly appreciate the treatments we received at SSI and also appreciate the generous contributions made by the donors. Thank you!

Letter 2:

Dear Donor,

Thank you so much for helping my daughter receive speech therapy for childhood apraxia of speech. The sessions have really helped her—she’s speaking more clearly, and we’ve seen steady progress.

This therapy has had a positive impact on our whole family. Her therapist has been supportive, kind, and celebrates every step forward with her. It’s been amazing to see how proud she feels after each session.

We truly couldn’t have accessed this support without your generosity. Thank you for making a real difference in her life.

Sincerely,

A Thankful Parent

Letter 3:

I’m writing to sincerely thank you for your generous support of the subsidy program at The Speech & Stuttering Institute. Because of your donation, my child was able to receive speech therapy that has made an incredible difference in their life and in ours as a family.

Before starting therapy, my child often struggled to express themselves clearly. It affected their confidence and made social situations more difficult. Since beginning therapy, we’ve seen amazing progress. They’re speaking with more ease, more confidence, and they’ve even started raising their hand in class to participate in something that never happened before.

Our speech-language pathologist was a wonderful guide throughout the process. She created a warm, supportive environment that helped my child feel safe and motivated. Her dedication and care made all the difference.

This therapy has not only helped improve communication skills it has helped our child feel more like themselves. We are so grateful for the financial support that made this possible. Your kindness helped open a door that we otherwise may not have been able to walk through. Thank you for being part of our journey. Your generosity has truly made a lasting impact.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Letter 4:

Dear Anonymous Donors,

Our son has come along leaps and bounds since we began Speech and Language Therapy for stuttering in 2023. Born with a tongue-tie, and a traumatic birth, his speech has been a concern since he began talking at around the age of 1. His Dad has a stutter/ stammer, and a tongue-tie which unfortunately was not picked-up when he was a child back in the 1980-90s.

We are blessed to have SLP and many other types of therapy known and widely available now, so we can give our son the best possible chance to live his fullest life. Your generosity to fund families like ours, to enable our child to receive SLP within our financial constraints, is praiseworthy.

We would not have been able to afford the SLP services otherwise, so we wish to honour your generosity and selflessness in helping our family.

The SLP Therapist we worked with, has been the hands and feet to your generosity, helping us to help our son grow his speech, give him confidence and encouragement in his speech development, and walked with us through many months of therapy and challenges. Our son's speech has improved through 2024-25 and as he completes his JK year at school we are thankful he is more confident in his speech, many of the tools and techniques provided by [your clinician] have contributed to this improvement.

We hope you can see the fruit of your giving, and this encourages you to help fund other families.

Letter 5:

I am writing to attest that speech therapy has been highly effective in improving my son's communication skills. Your kindness has touched my heart.

Your generosity has made a significant imprint on my Son, and I will never forget your thoughtfulness.

Thank you so much for your unwavering support and encouragement. Your kindness inspires me and my son. My son has made significant progress with speech therapy.

Financials

SSI derived its revenue in 2024-25 from 3 primary sources:

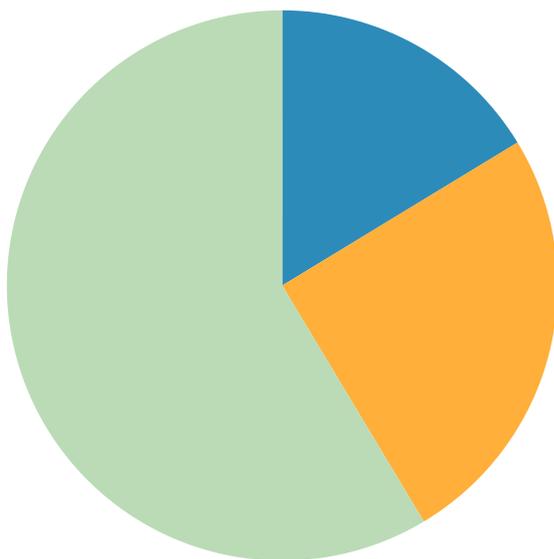
- In-house programs (clinical services, in-house professional training workshops, and fundraising)
- Ontario’s Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) Training Program (preschool motor speech/fluency training for publicly funded clinicians)
- Toronto Pre-School Learning (PSL) Motor 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.

24/25 Revenue

= \$1,278,316

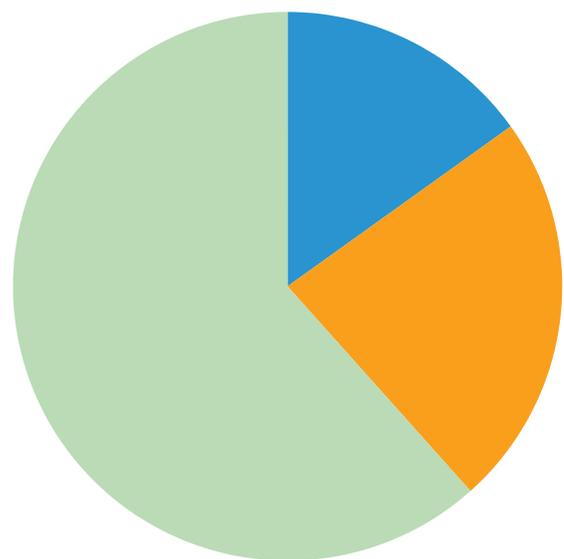
- Toronto PSL Motor Speech 16.3%
- MCCSS Training 25.1%
- SSI’s In-House 58.6%



24/25 Expenses

= \$1,377,144

- Toronto PSL Motor Speech 15.1%
- MCCSS Training 23.3%
- SSI’s In-House 61.6%



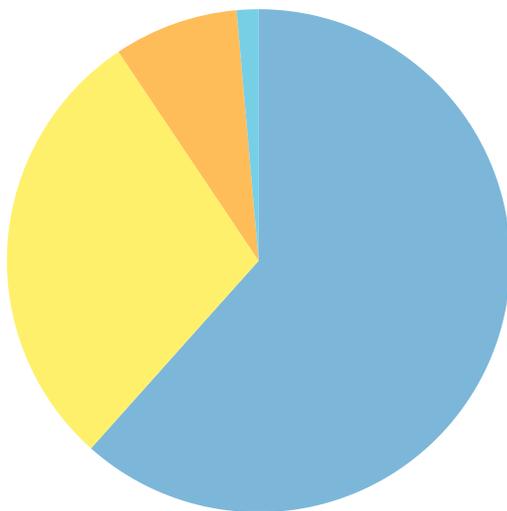
Revenue for SSI’s In-House Programs comes from 4 primary sources:

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

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

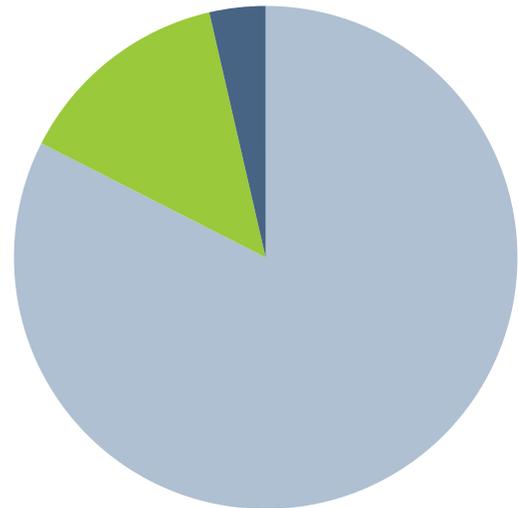
24/25 In-House Programs Rev
= \$749,816

- Clinical Therapy Program 61.6%
- Fundraising/Donations 29%
- Professional Workshops 8%
- Interest 1%



24/25 In-House Programs Exp
= \$848,644

- Program Personnel 82.5%
- Operating Costs 13.9%
- Bank and HST Costs 3.6%



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, 2024-March 31st, 2025.

Giving Confidence \$25,000+

- The Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation
- Rama Gaming House

The Catherine and Maxwell
MEIGHEN FOUNDATION



Giving Voice \$10,000+

- CIBC Children's Foundation
- Harmonize For Speech
- Anonymous Donor

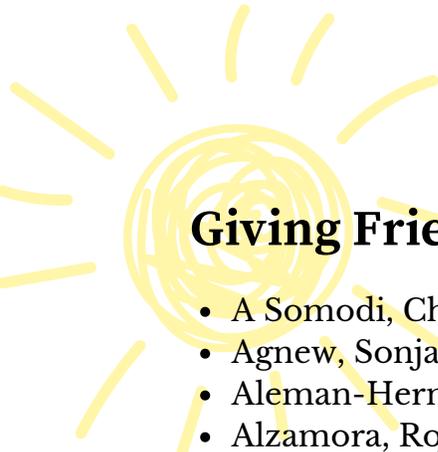


Giving Strength \$1,000+

- AirBoss of America Corp.
- Bloomberg, Lawrence
- ElFar, Mohamed
- Ientile, Frank
- Kozak, Andre
- Mahood, David
- Mahood, John
- Rose, Paul
- Smith, Barrie
- The Alice Murray Maitland Foundation
- Anonymous Donor

Giving Encouragement \$500+

- Ayuyao, Lea
- Aziz, Peter
- Bergman, Jack
- Bridgeport Asset Management
- Hiebert Rempel, Lily
- Hoffer, Stacey
- Kozak, Kevin
- Marcelle, Meersereau
- McCarthy, Valerie
- Ransom, Roberta
- Pukonen, Margit
- Skera, Tefik
- Wall, Douglas
- Anonymous Donor



Giving Friendship Up To \$499

- A Somodi, Charles
- Agnew, Sonja (Sunni)
- Aleman-Hernandez, Jesus
- Alzamora, Rojana
- Arnold, Julia
- Arnone, Ricardo
- Atputhajeyam, Bavika
- Baccellieri, Mike
- Bertsoulakis, Pierre
- Bianco, Danny
- Bitsakakis, Chris
- Boonazze, Uncle
- Burton, Craig
- Cadman, Tom
- Caners, George
- Capizzano, Gino
- Caporiccio, Dino
- Chandler, Steve
- Clucas, Kristy
- Contractor, Talib
- Coorsh, Matthew
- Csillag, Andrew
- Cudini, Carlo
- Cumberland, Alison
- DiBattista, Siglia
- Driscoll, Neil
- Dron, Diane
- Duclos, Michelle
- Dylinsky, Myron
- Dylinsky, Olena
- Eddy, Morris
- Figel, Slawomir
- Fisher, John
- Flagg, Elissa
- Frost, Kristine
- Gangadeen, Martin
- Goshulak, Debra
- Hall, Dana
- Haviva Davids, Diena
- Herusch, Doris
- Hoffer, Linda
- Hounsone, Todd
- Jahnke, Rene
- Karam, Loriellen
- Kelman, Jay
- Kienholz, Betty
- Kinder, Marni
- Kleine, Dorothy
- Kozak, David
- Lallh, Amar
- LeClair, Michel
- Levitan, Mark
- Levy, Martin
- Liebel, Susan
- Long, Oliver
- Loveless, Raquel
- Lowe, Andrew
- Luftig, Taylor
- Martella, Jim
- Martella, John
- Matthews, Mary
- McElroy, Doug
- McElroy, Karen
- McKenzie, Kepton
- Motta, Carlos
- Nashmi, John
- Newman, Harold
- Ng, David
- Petrolo, Vittoria
- Radocchia, Joseph
- Rajendram, Isaac
- Ratnasinghe, Indunil
- Rattray, John
- Ravinsky, Mindy
- Rizzo, Nancy
- Ruocco, Michael
- Sauri, Omar
- Scott-Sulsky, Lori
- Spavor, Carolyn
- Swanson, Jennifer
- Szczotka, Andrew
- Thomas, Tim
- Trucido, Patricia
- Turner, Robert
- Varley, Dean
- Wolle, Dana
- Anonymous Donors

Don't hesitate to 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:

Aroca-Ouellette, Natalia
Almora, Rojana
Aziz, Peter
Babbar, Prerna
Belfiore, Laura
Gunter, Shawn
Hall, Dana
Ientile, Erika

Karam, Loriellen
Kozak, Laurie
Kozak, Kevin
Mahood, John
Sauri, Omar
Tse, Clara
Wallis, Susanna

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

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 2024-25 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

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

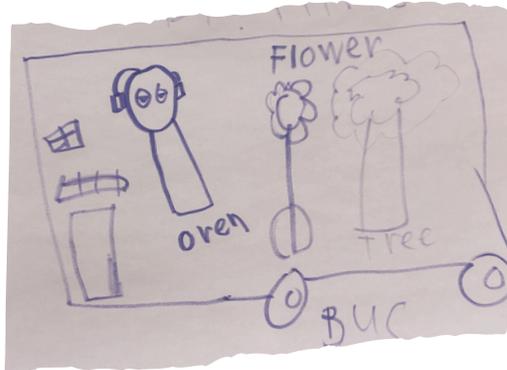
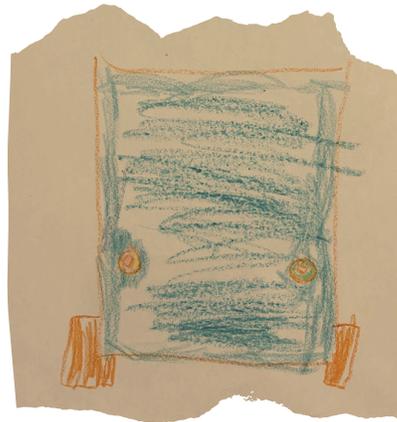
**Thank you to the SSI Board
for providing excellent guidance for
the benefit of SSI's stakeholders.**

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 to best serve clients with needs in these specific areas.

Community support is critical with no government funding for SSI's clinical treatment programs!



5 Ways You Can Support SSI

Make a direct donation

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

Donate Stock: Donate appreciated stocks, securities, or mutual funds

www.speechandstuttering.com/donate-stock/

Bequeath a Gift: Plan a legacy gift

www.speechandstuttering.com/bequest-gift/

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

Spread the word about SSI to encourage friends and family to make a charitable donation

Volunteer to support our Clinical Therapy Programs!

Email info@speechandstuttering.com for more information

Follow SSI on Social Media:



SpeechAndStuttering



@SpeechAndStuttering



The Speech and Stuttering Institute



The Speech
& Stuttering
Institute

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

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