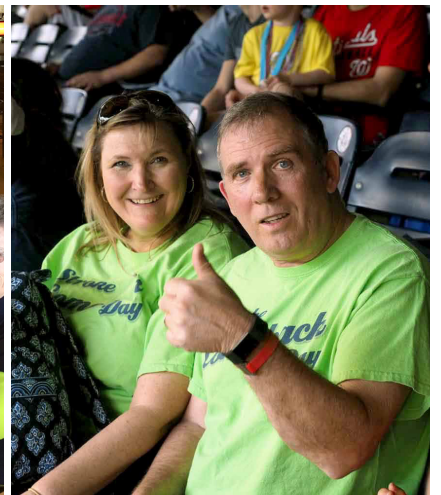


TAKE A LOOK BACK AT 2018



Stroke Comeback Center Mission

To provide ongoing and personally meaningful programs within a supportive and peer-driven environment **that is affordable for all stroke and brain trauma survivors**, enabling them to achieve their maximum potential.

"I come here because I want to get better so I can go back to school and live my dream."

Cyril T., Stroke Comeback Center member

A MESSAGE FOR OUR SUPPORTERS

Dear Friends,

In 2018, we opened the doors to a second Stroke Comeback Center in Rockville, MD. We are thrilled to now offer services and support to stroke survivors and their families on both sides of the Potomac River. This second center is the culmination of a multiyear, collective effort by our board of directors, our professional team, our volunteers, and most of all, our supporters. It is a dream come true to have a second “home away from home” where our families feel comfortable and respected. With your help, we hope to continue to enrich and expand our services in both Vienna and Rockville, serving families living with the lasting effects of aphasia and those with cognitive challenges.

As we welcome new survivors into our community, the need for scholarship funds ever increases, along with our commitment to our families as the only community based organization serving this population in the DC metro area. We continue to focus on our mission of providing long term services to adult survivors of stroke and brain trauma, regardless of ability to pay.

We are proud to present to you our 2018 Annual Report. As you browse through its pages, you will meet several of our members and learn how your generous support makes everything we do possible. Please follow our progress throughout 2019 via our newsletters, website and social media. We are so grateful for your friendship and support. It makes our community stronger with each passing year. Again, our sincere thanks for helping us open the door to a brighter tomorrow.

With appreciation and warm regards,



Darlene Williamson
Stroke Comeback Center,
Executive Director and Founder



A long term goal of the Stroke Comeback Center was realized in 2018 . . .

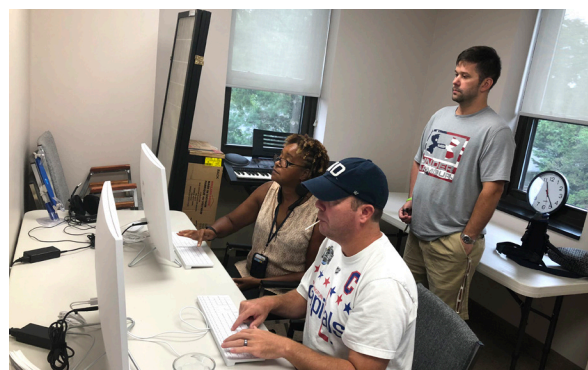
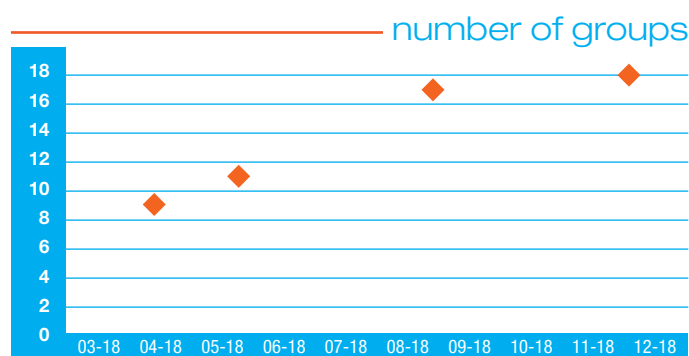
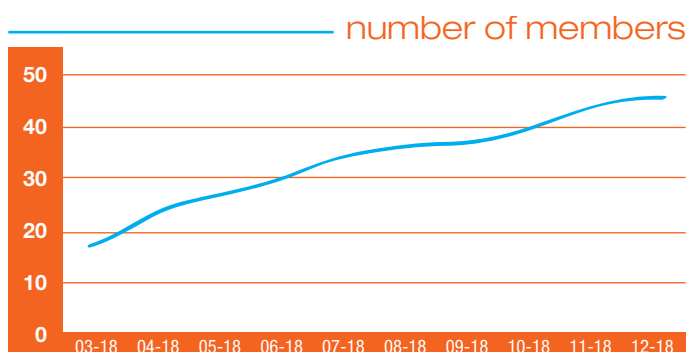


In March, 2018 a second Stroke Comeback Center opened in Rockville, MD. This much needed expansion serves survivors and families living in Maryland and DC and those with specific cognitive needs. The Center now provides services and support to survivors and their families on both sides of the Potomac River.

*"The expansion to Rockville supports me personally.
The community in Maryland desperately needs the SCC."*

Anonymous, from the 2018 member survey

Rockville Center by the numbers





yvette wells

Yvette was enjoying life when a life altering stroke stopped her in her tracks in 2015. The stroke left her unable to walk and communicate effectively. In short, the stroke cost Yvette her independence. Yvette was left with no choice but to move in with her sister. While searching online for available community resources, her sister discovered the Stroke Comeback Center. Since 2016, Yvette has been taking communication and fitness groups at the Center, and enjoying a steady improvement in her speech and mobility. Each day, Yvette is taking back her independence. When the Rockville Center opened, Yvette jumped at the chance to attend groups close to home. "The Center gives me the opportunity to do something constructive for myself, independently." 2018 was a year of successes for Yvette. She not only moved out of her sister's house and returned to living independently, she also re-discovered her love of gardening and started her own custom fruit arrangement business.

Chris Vincent was a successful 27-year-old with his whole life ahead of him, working full time as a security officer for Redcoats, Inc. and volunteering as a Rockville firefighter. Tragedy struck in April of 2012, when he was hit on his motorcycle on his way to a firefighter meeting at the station. Chris spent two months in a coma and another 9 months in a rehab hospital. At two years post-onset in 2014, Chris found the Stroke Comeback Center. Chris attributes a large amount of his recovery to the Center. "When I came here, I had maybe 50 words. Now I can have a conversation. I may be hesitant, but that's okay. I have rejoined my life. The Center is life!" Chris currently takes classes at our Rockville Center and is an active volunteer with the Center, chairing the Consumer Advisory Council in both Rockville and Vienna.



chris vincent



joyce mccarty

Joyce McCarty was a 67-year-old attorney who had been practicing law for 30 years at a prestigious international law firm. She was working over 80 hours/week and nearing retirement when she had a stroke which rendered her, initially, speechless. A self-proclaimed introvert when she came to the Stroke Comeback Center, she wasn't convinced that a group-based approach was good for her. After a few weeks of participation, Joyce said, "I was less self-conscious. Everyone was nice and supportive, and I felt I could contribute and not be embarrassed." Less than a month after she joined the Center, Joyce began volunteering. Joyce was later invited to give the member keynote speech at Stroke Comeback's 2018 Benefit of Chocolate Gala. She was able to put aside feelings of insecurity that night and succeeded in captivating the entire room. To conclude a very successful 2018, Joyce was elected to serve on the Center's Board of Directors. She believes that being given the opportunity to volunteer has gone a long way to building her confidence. "The Center and the Executive Director treated me as if I could still think. The professional staff is unparalleled in their dedication and expertise. They are innovative and creative and always thinking of ways to make the Center better."

Rachel Harley studied zoology in New Zealand and received her Ph.D. in 2015. She then returned to the states to look for a job in her new field. During her job hunt, Rachel suffered a stroke at the age of 33. Rachel came to the Stroke Comeback Center in 2016 with the specific goals of improving her speech and communication skills. She currently is involved in the Center's book club and a communication group that focuses on vocabulary. Rachel fully embraces the group concept of the Center and appreciates the peer support she receives; "Working in a group pushes me further." Examples of the strides Rachel has made since having her stroke include getting her driver's license in 2018 and having the confidence to once again travel around the country to enjoy new experiences and challenges.

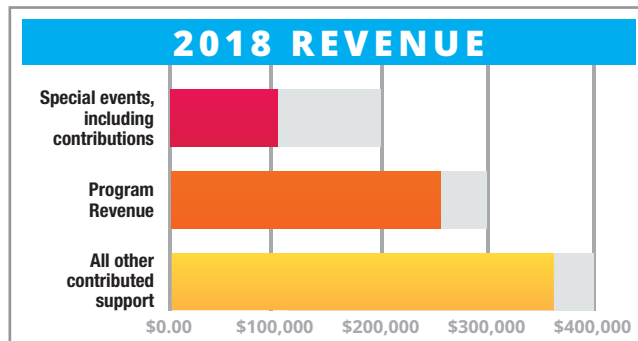


rachel harley

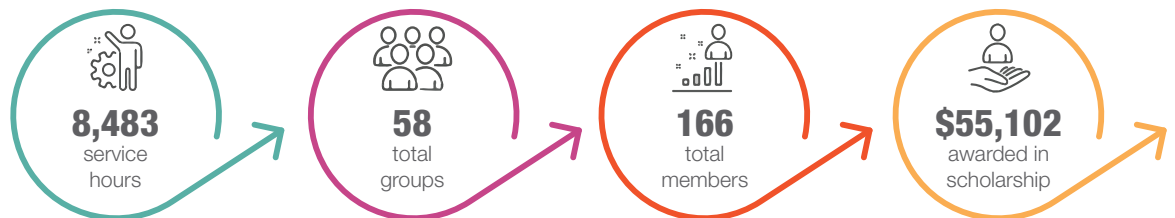
2018 AT A GLANCE

"Happy... Teamwork... Everybody together...like family!"

Peggy B., Stroke Comeback Center member



**What
YOU
make
possible**



2018 ANNUAL MEMBER SURVEY

THE IMPACT OF YOUR SUPPORT ON OUR MEMBERS AND CAREGIVERS. In their own words...

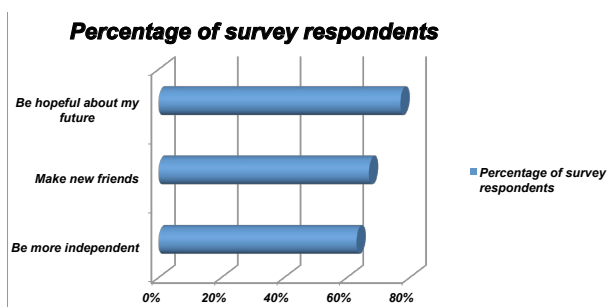
"Thank you so much for continuing to have the Stroke Comeback Center for all those who need it. It's an invaluable resource in the community..."

"The staff is tremendous and the Center does a wonderful job."

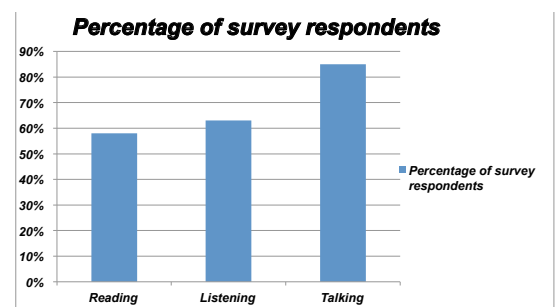
"SCC has filled a great need in our family. Thank you for being there to provide services and social opportunities "beyond" the conventional settings. "

"Thank you for continuing to strive to improve what you are doing!"

The Stroke Comeback Center has helped me to:



Programs at the Stroke Comeback Center have improved my:



*The list below recognizes those supporters who, over the course of their years as donors, have contributed a cumulative \$25,000 or more. The generosity of these lifetime donors has provided us with a foundation for our efforts. (* denotes support of \$50,000+)*

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IT TAKES MANY HANDS TO MAKE THE WORK WE DO POSSIBLE. THANK YOU TO ALL OUR COMMITTED SUPPORTERS.

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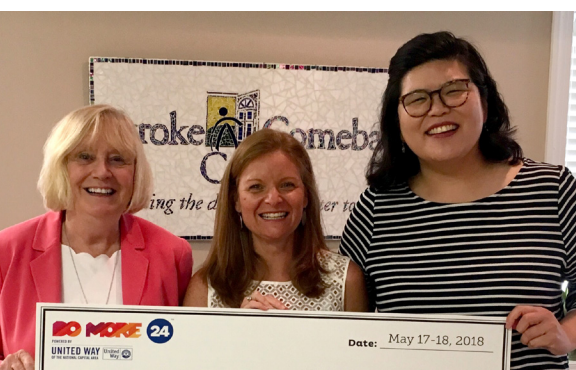
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These donors chose to make a direct impact on a survivor's future by adding their name to the 2018 Minds Matter Honor Roll. Their contribution offset the cost of a survivor's tuition for one or more nine-week class. THANK YOU FOR SHOWING SURVIVORS THAT ALL MINDS MATTER.

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"I love it. It's my home. When I go to the Center, I always feel so happy just being there because you get to talk with people and have conversations and never have to worry about saying the wrong word. It's insane how much I have learned."

Christie A., Stroke Comeback Center member

"My writing, reading and talking continues to get better because of the Stroke Comeback Center. I feel at home and understood; it's my favorite place."

Pat H., Stroke Comeback Center member

The Stroke Comeback Center believes that all MINDS do MATTER.
Thank you for sharing our commitment to survivors of stroke and brain trauma and their families.
Your support makes the Center a home away from home for our members and caregivers.

THANK YOU!



Opening the door to a brighter tomorrow

www.strokecomebackcenter.org

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145 PARK STREET, SE
VIENNA, VA 22180
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ROCKVILLE, MD 20852
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