



EXCITING NEWS

SSEEO's Commitment to Stroke Support



AHA North Dakota staff training for the SSEEO SS2S program

SSEEO is collaborating with The American Heart Association/American Stroke Association to expand stroke support in North Dakota with SSEEO's Stroke Survivor2Survivor (SS2S) telephone support program.

The American Heart Association/American Stroke Association announced a statewide commitment for its Mission: Lifeline Stroke initiative to expand and enhance stroke care in North Dakota. This initiative will build upon the gains achieved in the past 10 years of successful work by the existing North Dakota Stroke Task Force. The project will enhance many critical elements of an optimal stroke system of care, including a rural peer-to-peer stroke survivor support network. SSEEO's Stroke Survivor2Survivor(SS2S) telephone support program will be implemented as a peer-to-peer support network to encourage and support stroke survivors in North Dakota.

On February 20th, SSEEO hosted The American Heart Association/Stroke Association staff for an all-day training at Advocate Sherman Hospital. The staff were able to observe the SSEEO SS2S telephone support calls and get their questions answered by the trained volunteers and hospital stroke coordinator.

A special thank-you to Advocate Sherman Hospital and SSEEO volunteers Jim Geminer, Craig Walsh and Donna Kruse, Stroke Coordinator for your dedication to the SSEEO SS2S program and to the stroke community.

April is National Volunteer Month

Thank You

In honor of National Volunteer Month, [SSEEO](#) would like to thank all the volunteers who have spent countless hours giving one of the greatest gifts "their time".



A special recognition to the SSEEO Board of Directors who provide organizational planning, direction and ensure SSEEO's resources are managed effectively. They are stroke survivors, caregivers and others who have been touched by stroke. The Board of Directors spend weekends and evenings attending board meetings, conference calls and sharing the SSEEO message to businesses and local organizations.

**"Volunteering is at the very core of being human.
No one has made it through life without someone else's help."
Heather French Henry**

Special Thanks

Vista Medical Center

Thank you Vista Medical Center!
Since 2011, Vista Medical Center has been a partner and supporter of the [SSEEO](#) mission to provide advocacy, support, education and resources to stroke survivors and their families.



Vista Medical Center is northern Lake County's first hospital to be accredited by the Joint Commission as a Primary Stroke Center. This means patients can expect early assessment of stroke symptoms, rapid diagnosis and treatment and individualized stroke prevention.

A special thank you to the employees of Vista Medical Center for including [SSEEO](#) in their Vista Gives Campaign for the last four years.

SSEEO Toll-free Lunch and Learn Series

We Would Love to Hear from YOU!

The [SSEEO](#) Toll-Free Lunch and Learn Series builds community, provides support and shares information by connecting stroke survivors, caregivers, health professionals and other stroke stakeholders. Over the years we have held calls on a variety of topics including nutrition, medications, disability, transportation, caregiving and so many more. We are always interested in new topics.

[Please click here to submit your idea for the next call coming up in May.](#)



Advocacy News

Federal Policy Wins, There is a lot to Celebrate!



-Expanding the Use of Telehealth for Individuals with Stroke (Previously known as the FAST Act): This provision will greatly expand access for telehealth services for individuals presenting stroke symptoms. There will no longer be artificial geographic barriers blocking access to telehealth services and will allow more and better treatment options for stroke survivors.

-Medicare Part B Therapy Caps for Stroke Survivors: Provisions in this bill will permanently repeal the annual Medicare payment cap (limit) on outpatient therapy services, including physical therapy, speech pathology and occupation therapy which are medically necessary for survivors of stroke. This allows for far greater access to these critical therapy services.

-NIH Research Funding: Congress has committed to an increase of \$1 Billion in each of the next 2 years for NIH research funding, continuing a trend of investment in health research, which could help save countless lives. While this is less than the \$2 Billion yearly increase we sought, we're confident we can get a further increase down the line. After years of having the NIH budget slashed as part of partisan politics we have now secured a commitment to increase funding for the third year in a row!

[*AHA You're the Cure](#)

SSEEO

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