

In only a few weeks, the COVID-19 pandemic impacted communities in unprecedented and puzzling ways. No corner of our society has been left untouched, including nonprofit organizations. Statistics are showing that volunteer activity is likely to dramatically decrease due to the pandemic. In an effort to continue our mission to provide advocacy, support, education and resources to stroke survivors and their families, SSEEEO needed to change our approach by redesigning our outreach & education initiatives.

Advocacy – Board Members meet virtually to identify 2020 - 2022 strategic planning to enhance SSEEEO’s goals and objectives. Strategies include; agile and nimble operations, identify survivor needs post- acute care, establish third-line of care partnerships, etc.



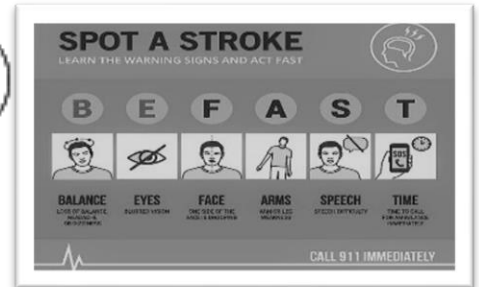
Education – Stroke Rehabilitation building on *Stroke Survivor; Needs, Wellness and Warning Signs* poster/abstract with results showing additional therapy needed which may be due to therapy caps, patient out-of-pocket expenses, cultural or rural differences. **Young Stroke** presented at IEMTA conference prior to COVID-19 & continue to virtually meet, planning activities and starting a blog post.



Support – Stroke Survivor 2 Survivor (SS2S) saw a significant increase with many more isolated than usual. Virtual procedures created & volunteers continue calls while complying with HIPPA & COVID-19 guidelines.

“Hi there, I’m so happy to have found y’all! My friend (age 32), suffered a stroke about 3 years ago and has been bounced around from (very bad) nursing home to (very bad) nursing home. She’s struggling emotionally, and trying to live as independently as possible but has no resources. I was hoping to discuss any resources I could connect her with including the peer run phone support. Thanks so much for your reply! Attaching the form. It’ll mean the world to her to talk to someone else who’s been there. Thanks for the update! She was so excited to fill me in and sounds like it helped a lot. Please pass along a big thank you from me to Mark!” - Sam

Resources – Website redesign making it easier to navigate, more resources & new podcast series *Stroke Matters*.



A special thank-you to our sponsors and donors who continue to support our mission – Advocate Aurora Health, Northwestern Medicine Lake Forest Hospital, Vista Health, AbbVie YourCause, Facebook/Network for Good, Tuesday Giving Donors and Kirkland & Ellis, LLP.

To sustain SSEEEO, we will need support from current and future donors which is particularly critical in times of crisis like COVID-19. For over 15 years SSEEEO has been making a difference but now more than ever new funding will be vital for us to maintain and improve on our programs and support. Please consider a donation at www.sseeo.org.

Sincerely,

SSEEEO Board of Directors,

Randy Crabtree, John Hunt, Christina Miller, Michael Victor, Angie Keister, Jim Geminer, Mark Egelston, Charu Nagar, MD, and Christine Somberg.