



2020 YEAR IN REVIEW!

Highlights & More...



THANK YOU!

2020 has been a challenging and *extraordinary* year, in so many ways. SAY has been able to provide our groundbreaking programs through it all, and we've not only kept our community connected and creating - the family has grown! The silver lining of this past year has been our ability to reach even more young people who stutter.

From the bottom of our hearts to yours, thank you! We cannot do this work without the support of our SAY community - we cannot do it without you! Thank you!

-Noah Cornman, *Executive Director*



CONFIDENT VOICES

Our nationally recognized and award-winning year-round Confident Voices program provides youth with opportunities to share their voices in an affirming environment that is free from shame and judgment.

Our participants develop friendships with a diverse group of peers who stutter, and form relationships with supportive adults who help them to understand the value of their voices and find the courage to express them.



SONGWRITING

September 2019 – January 2020

SAY kids and teens wrote and performed original songs under the guidance of teaching artists and professional musicians. Some songs were funny, some were serious... and all of them were amazing! The program culminated with a sold-out LIVE concert at Joe's Pub at The Public Theater on January 19, 2020!

SAY: The Stuttering Association for the Young



SHORT PLAYS

December 2019 - March 2020

SAY kids and teens collaborated to write original short plays, with settings ranging from the classroom to outer-space, and storylines full of comedy, drama, and intrigue! The program culminated with a week of theater rehearsals and four LIVE performances starring our participants, with talkbacks immediately following. Performances were held at The 52nd Street Project's 5 Angels Theater in late February and early March!

“*SAY is being supportive through these tough times by having open arms if I ever needed anything.*

SAY has given me a place of comfort and safety. I can be who I am and express my feelings and let go of thoughts that I can never let go of in the outside world.”

- A SAY Participant



OUR COLLECTIVE TRANSFORMATION

When the world locked down in late March this year, amidst countless uncertainties, we knew one thing for sure: we were going to be there for the young people who stutter who depend on the SAY community.

SAY staff immediately began to rethink how to get our programs to the community who needs them. We quickly trained ourselves in online-learning best practices to best suit the needs of our participants.

While the programs looked a little different, the feeling and energy didn't change. Our work remained and remains strongly on target: to help children who stutter discover a genuine sense of self-love, empowerment, and human connection.



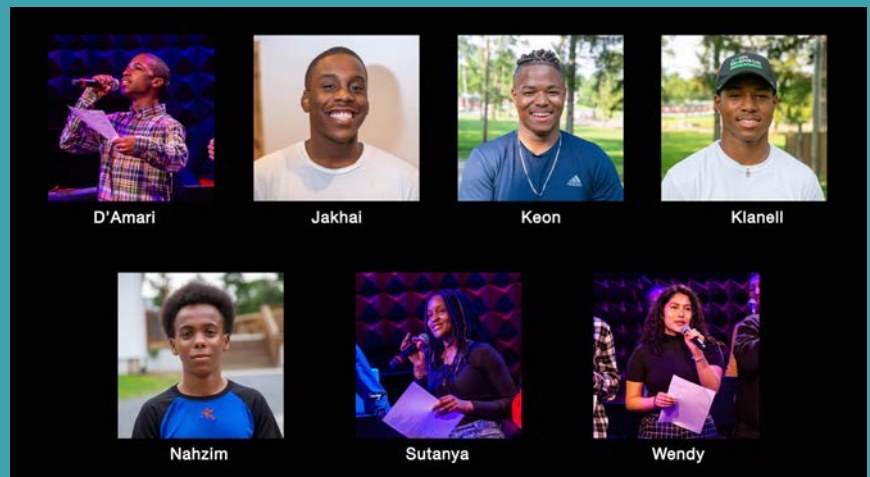
MENTOR PROJECT

April - June 2020

Working over Zoom, SAY kids and teens were grouped with adult/alumni mentors who stutter, to create special projects of their own design, guided by our TAs. This year we placed less emphasis on the final performance and more on working with the children to decide on the message they wanted to share with the world and finding the best means of expression. The results amazed us, including both traditional works such as skits or songs, as well as new elements such as spoken word and discussions of visual art!

GRADUATION PROJECT & CEREMONY

July 2020



We were sadly unable to host our live One-Act performances this year, but that didn't stop us from giving our graduating participants a chance to shine! This year SAY created... The Graduation Project.

We worked with our One-Act participants, as well as other graduating seniors this July to create short, live

performances held over Zoom on July 22nd. Each participant gave five-minute heartfelt presentations that were a blend of poetry, spoken word, and traditional speeches to an audience of their families and the SAY community. This new addition to programming was so successful that we have decided to make it a permanent program!

SPECIAL OUTREACH & SUPPORT EFFORTS

This year, and especially this spring, was a highly stressful time for us all, but it was a particularly challenging time for young people who stutter. Participating in class through online learning can be incredibly difficult for a person who stutters.

Furthermore, many of the young people we work with are at a very vulnerable time in their lives, and being suddenly disconnected from our support network was not something we could allow.

To go the extra mile, SAY staff provided special, supplemental outreach efforts to ensure our community had the extra support they needed

MORNING SONG

SAY took a popular Camp SAY tradition and brought it to Instagram! Every morning at camp, we start the day by singing a popular song with the lyrics re-written to be about SAY. To help keep our community inspired and connected, SAY staff and special celebrity guests performed a live daily morning song over 2 months straight - 77 morning songs total, on Instagram - bringing the global SAY family together to start the day on the same note, no matter how far apart everyone is.



Clockwise from the top: Greg Naughton, Kelli O'Hara, James Monroe Iglehart, Krysta Rodriguez

“ I am grateful to SAY for so many reasons but my number one reason is that SAY has reassured me that my son will be okay in the world. Because of SAY he now has the tool kits he needs to speak confidently and not let his stutter be a deterrence.

During the pandemic, I have been very impressed by the positive energy and the push to continue to move forward and develop new creative solutions and ways to keep youth engaged so as to maintain a sense of normalcy for them. I have also enjoyed engaging in virtual therapy sessions and watching them explore this new platform!” - A SAY Mom ”

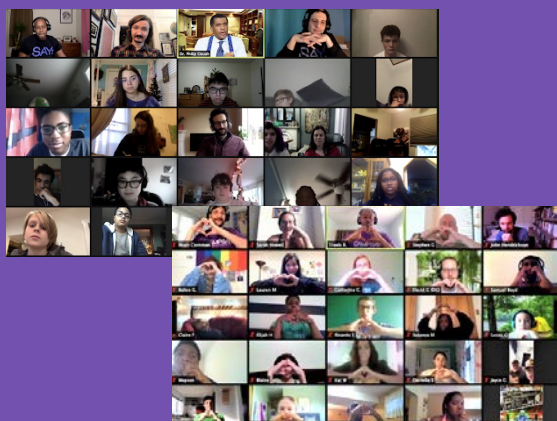


GLOBAL CAMPFIRES

SAY hosted a weekly virtual version of our very special Camp SAY Campfire on Sunday nights. Open to the entire SAY community, the virtual campfire was a grounding and therapeutic outlet for our community across the globe to come together to share and find genuine, human connection.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK & DRAWING PROMPT

SAY staff posted questions and drawing prompts to help our SAY kids stay involved every week! These engaging activities were open to all and helped us stay connected during some of 2020's most challenging months.



VIRTUAL Q&A SESSIONS

SAY hosted virtual Q&A sessions for SAY participants with the NBA's Michael Kidd-Gilchrist, the NFL's Brandon Shell, as well as CEO of Montefiore Medicine, Dr. Philip Ozuah, three highly successful adults who stutter! Also joining the SAY community this year, acclaimed poet Jordan Scott, comedian Drew Lynch, journalist John Hendrickson, and 13-year-old Brayden Harrington, who brought stuttering to the forefront when he introduced Joe Biden at the Democratic National Convention.

SAY: DC INSTALIVE SERIES

SAY: DC welcomed incredible SAY alumni to the Instagram airwaves for in-depth conversations with Taro Alexander and Leigh Pennebaker, further connecting the SAY community far and wide, new and old-school!

“SAY needs to continue to be available so young teens like me, who maybe feel isolated and stuck mentally, can have an environment to overcome those feelings like I did. There is no other business, organization, or company in the world that makes their participants feel as safe and at home as SAY does. - A SAY Participant”



CAMPSAY:

A Summer Camp for Young People Who Stutter

VIRTUAL CAMP SAY

August 2020

In late spring we decided that the risks of holding our annual summer camp in person were too great. The choice was made to design and host our first ever Virtual Camp SAY in August!

Camp SAY was offered free of charge for all 136 participants to ensure as few barriers to participate as possible. iPads were sent to campers needing technology to connect.

To adapt to the online format, Camp SAY this summer was a blend of modified camp activities:

- group games
- teams
- morning songs
- virtual dance parties
- bunk chats
- intensive mini-courses (adapted from our virtual Confident Voices programs)



Prior to day one of Virtual Camp SAY, our programming staff assembled and mailed individualized "Camp-in-a-Box" care packages for each camper, containing a Camp SAY t-shirt and 15 separate activity envelopes for each day of camp.

This included art materials, a daily newsletter, 'dress up' items for theme days, a science pack for STEM projects like water clocks, Rube Goldberg machines, rubber band harmonicas and more.

Every day programs were centered on a themed word-of-the-day and began with a morning song, a group hello, and a preparation for the day's activities including team and choice-time options like science, basketball, theater, dance, creative writing & poetry, origami, and many more. Most days offered an evening activity such as a group movie screening, or a live interview and Q&A with a celebrity who stutters.

Camp SAY 2020 was far from "virtual" - the friendships and experiences were as real as can be!



CAMPSAY: ACROSS THE USA

Camp SAY Across the USA provided a weekend “mini-camp” experience for young people who stutter in cities across the country, such as Los Angeles, CA, Memphis, TN, and Orlando, FL.



CAMP SAY: *Memphis* ACROSS THE USA



SAY:DC

The Stuttering Association for the Young

When SAY: DC officially launched on December 7, 2019, we could have never predicted what a tumultuous time was just around the corner for all of us. On December 18 we signed the lease on our SAY: DC dream home and our open house/ grand opening/ribbon cutting was slated for March 14.

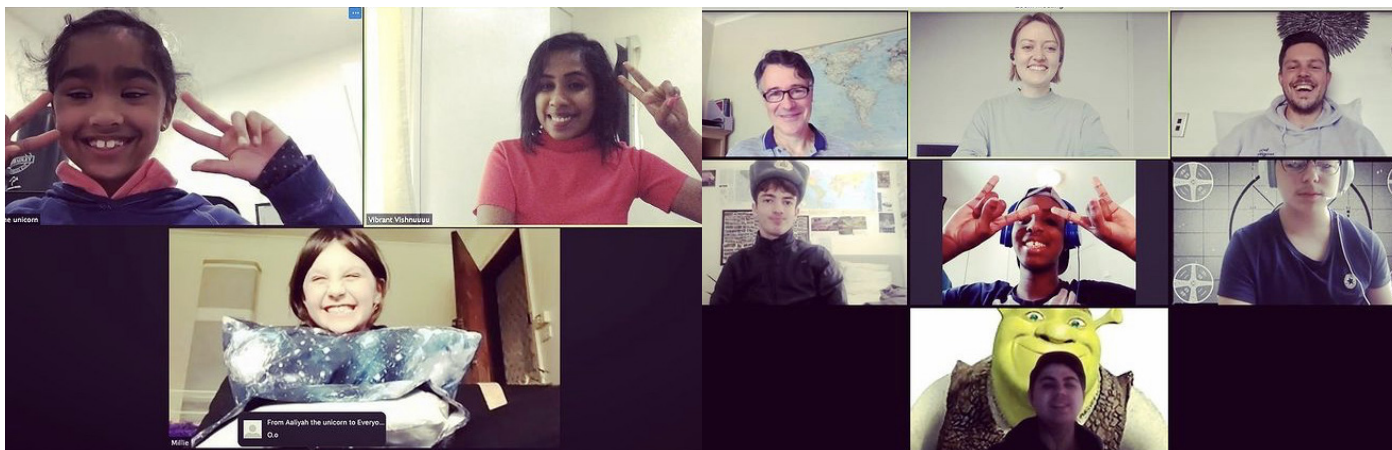
Three days prior, the city declared an official state of emergency and with that, COVID-19 changed everything!

We pivoted to online sessions immediately, and we were so grateful to be able to stay connected to our families in this way. Over the next few months, we also took the opportunity to use Zoom for one-on-one sessions with many of our participants and were able to bond with our kids and families individually in a lovely and substantial way.

This fall, we took advantage of spectacular weather to meet up for socially-distant outdoor gatherings at a local park. We have had a lot of fun playing wiffleball, frisbee and kickball together and commiserating over the new challenges everyone is facing as we settle into routines with distance learning and work-from-home!

Through it all, true to our mission, we've offered all of our programming free of charge and we will continue to do so. It is of the utmost importance to us to bring together a socio-economically and otherwise diverse range of the population, and we can't wait to get together into our new space in 2021!





SAY: Australia

The Stuttering Association for the Young

SAY: The Stuttering Association for the Young was thrilled to welcome its first international arm, SAY: Australia in July 2019. SAY: Australia launched in Melbourne, AU, and established Australia's first organization dedicated to supporting young people who stutter.

Speech-Language Pathologists Rich Stephens and Dr. Elaina Kefalianos have applied the Confident Voices model to SAY: Australia to empower, embolden, and champion children and teens who stutter on the other side of the world!

2020 was SAY: Australia's first full year of programming, and despite the challenges of COVID-19, the programming continued, including virtual hangs, share projects, art shows, and more!

“SAY has helped, by showing me that they, like my family, care about me. I enjoy seeing photos of SAY staff working from home and I really appreciate being able to continue my speech therapy sessions virtually! - A SAY Participant”

Incredible Fundraisers!

KELLI O'HARA CONCERT

February 16, 2020, Irvington, NY

The Kelli O'Hara Benefit Concert for SAY at Irvington Theater was nothing short of spectacular!

A shining Kelli O'Hara, accompanied on piano by the brilliant Dan Lipton, absolutely dazzled the capacity audience with a moving and joyous show, full of music and memories. With Broadway favorites, beloved standards, and operatic ballads on the program, there was something for every music lover, including a moving tribute to the late, great Marvin Hamlisch.

Kelli and SAY alum Bella brought down the house when they performed a phenomenal duet of Sara Bareilles' BRAVE.



2020 Year in Review

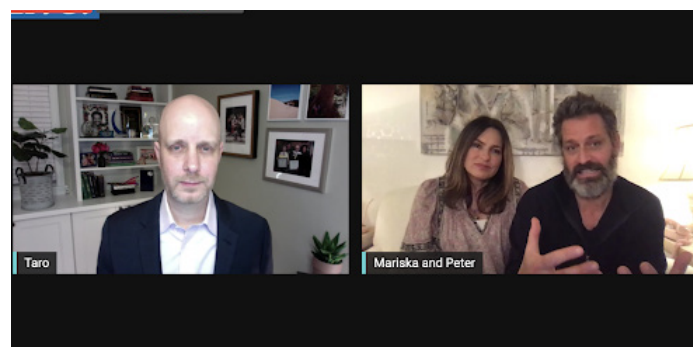


UNDER ONE MOON VIRTUAL BENEFITS

May 15, 2020 & December 8, 2020

SAY was not able to host any of our traditional annual fundraisers this year, but funding was still needed to continue providing our programs of support for the young people we serve. With generous involvement from our community and plenty of wonderful cameos, we were able to take our events digital!

SAY hosted two Under One Moon Virtual Benefits, livestream fundraising and variety performance presentations. Hosted by SAY Founder Taro Alexander and VP of Programming Travis Robertson (respectively) the events included songs, conversation, interviews, and a very special dance contest. Celebrities from the film, TV, music, and Broadway world joined in including Alex Brightman, Brandon Victor Dixon, Victor Garber, Heidi Gardner, Mariska Hargitay & Peter Hermann, Alex Lacamoire, James Monroe Iglehart, Dame Helen Mirren,



Greg Naughton & Kelli O'Hara, Everett Bradley, and Krysta Rodriguez. SAY participants sang songs, read poetry, and spoke about their stutter.

You can check out clips or watch the whole show on our (SAYorg) YouTube channel.



SAY: The Stuttering Association for the Young



CURRENT PROGRAMS!

FALL 2020 AND WINTER 2021 - SAY is heading into the new year at full speed!

CONFIDENT VOICES

This Fall we took our popular and long-running Short Play Project, and redesigned it to better integrate with online learning during COVID-19-related social distancing measures.

Currently midway through our 12-week Storytelling Project, young people who stutter are using their unique voices to explore a diverse spectrum of storytelling techniques, including: monologues, creative writing, improvisation, physical acting, skits, visual art, voice-over narration and playwriting.

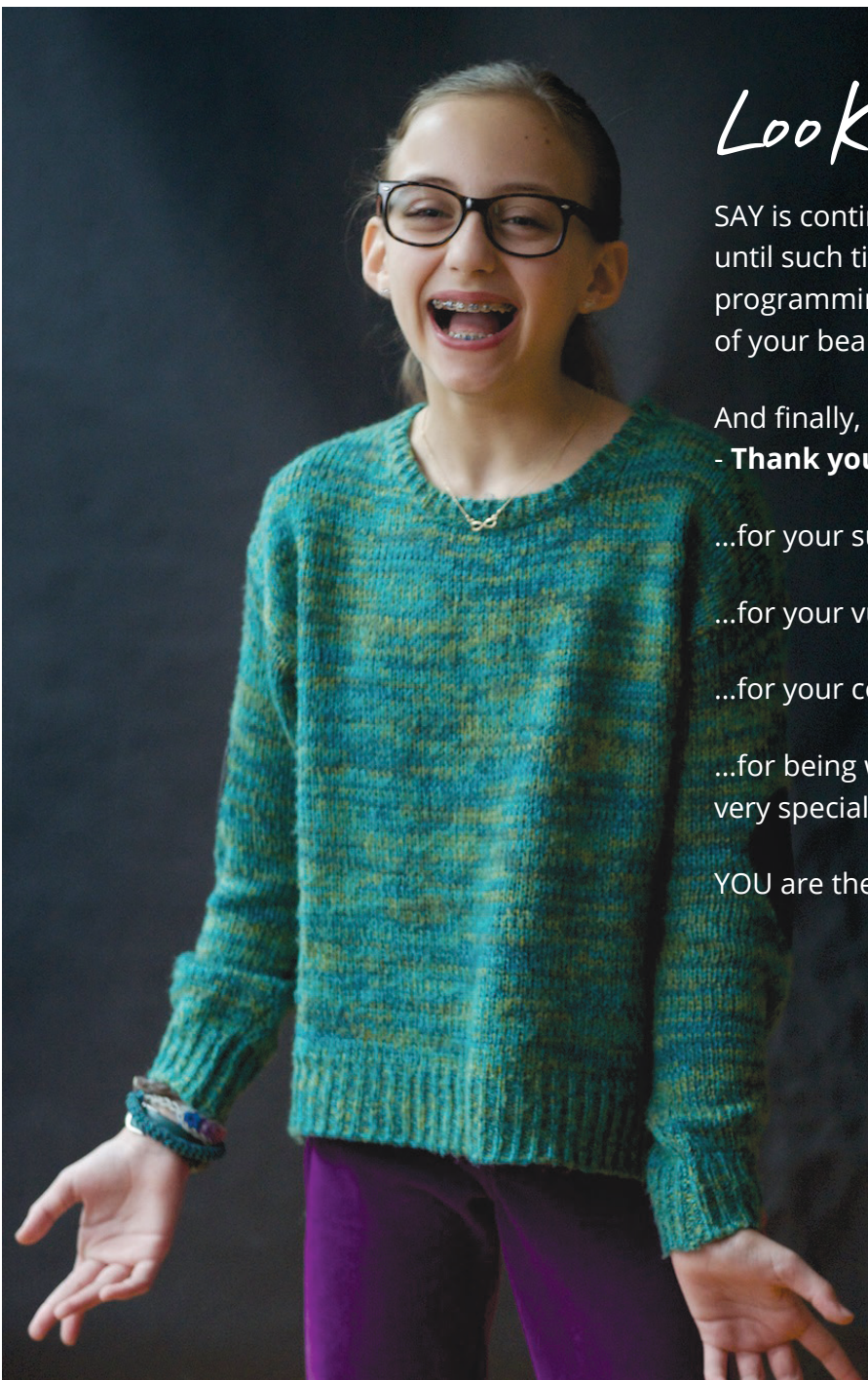
SPEECH THERAPY

SAY's new SLP, Fergie Cantos, is settled in and is providing sliding-scale Speech Therapy virtually to children-in-need. SAY is very excited to announce that Fergie is helping SAY to offer bilingual Speech Therapy in Spanish and English for the first time ever!

SAY: DC

SAY DC is proudly entering their second year of annual programming, providing arts education and critical stuttering support to the DC community!





Looking Forward

SAY is continuing to offer all programs virtually until such time as it is safe to return to our programming spaces. We can't wait to hear all of your beautiful voices again in person!!

And finally, from the bottom of our hearts
- **Thank you, thank you, thank you...**

...for your support and your involvement

...for your vulnerability and bravery

...for your compassion and care

...for being what makes this community so very special

YOU are the good news we need in the world!!!

SAY:
The Stuttering Association for the Young

WITH YOUR HELP, WE CAN DO MORE.

The power behind SAY's programs is not a secret. It is the radical belief that everyone deserves to be heard and each of us has value.

Simply put, at SAY we generally care about helping each other. SAY programs are a testament to the transformative power of compassion: to how much more the world needs, and to how much a little bit can do.

SAY.ORG/DONATE