

The SAY: Voice

The Stuttering Association for the Young

NEWSLETTER



The Paperback Project



Live Reading Events

2021 Year in Review

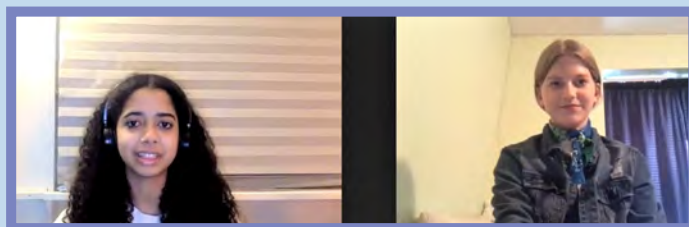
Highlights & More!

Confident Voices

is SAY's award-winning, after school & weekend Creative Arts Program that empowers, emboldens, and inspires young people who stutter, ages 8-18.

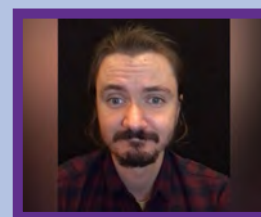
The Spoken Word Project February - March 2021

Confident Voices' first-ever **Spoken Word Project** began early in February, inviting participants to share their powerful voices through original poetry, verse, and other spoken-word methods. This 7-week program closed with 2 amazing **Virtual Poetry Nights** during the last weekend of March.



Spoken Word Moments February - March 2021

Our weekly **Instagram Live** poetry celebration featured staff, alumni, and special guests who stutter performing a selection of poems we love during the seven weeks of **The Spoken Word Project**.



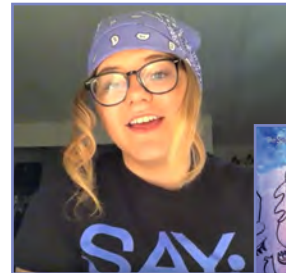
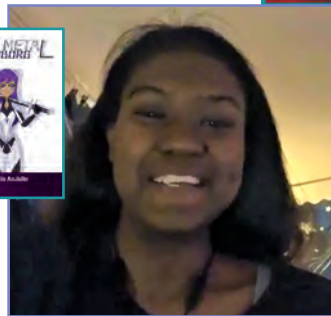
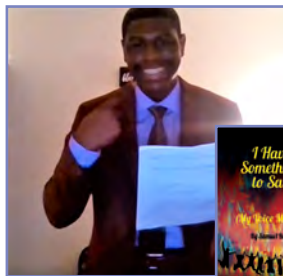
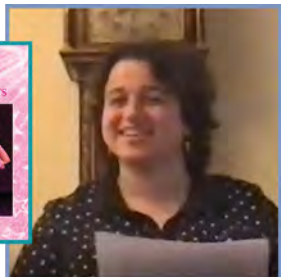
The Mentor Project April - June 2021

The **Mentor Project** connected kids and mentors who stutter to collaborate on multi-faceted artistic works, including skits, poetry, puppetry, music, visual arts, and more! We wrapped up with an unprecedented three nights of **Virtual Final Shares** to showcase the incredible pieces our participants and mentors created together.



The Paperback Project July 8 & 9, 2021

For this inaugural program, 13 of our **2021 Confident Voices** graduates spent five months writing original paperback books, professionally bound and printed by SAY! Each unique book was introduced and presented by **The Paperback Project** authors during two **Live Reading Events**.



2021 Graduation Ceremony July 16, 2021

The SAY: Class of 2021

Our very special week-long graduation celebration culminated in a moving ceremony in recognition of **SAY's Confident Voices 2021 Graduating Class** and all that they have accomplished and contributed to our community, and beyond!



Jeremiah



Samuel



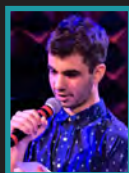
Sam



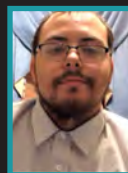
Tereza



Clare



Josh



Josh



Derick



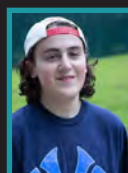
Lexi



Autumn



Jared



Evan



Erikson



Daniella



Erick



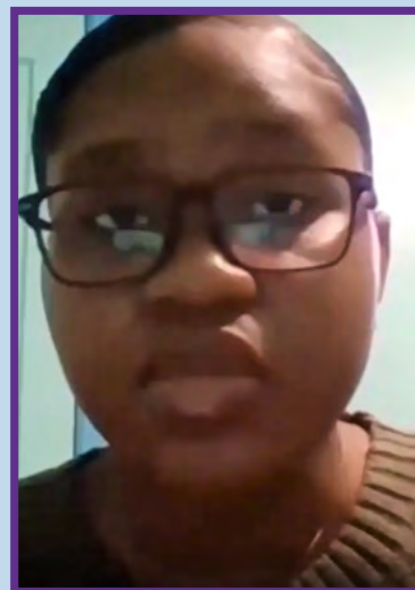
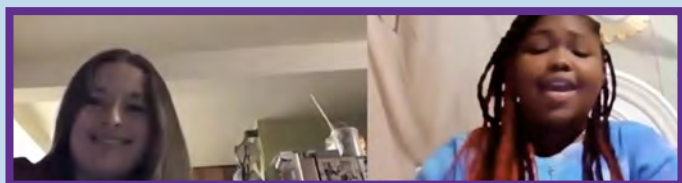
Michael



Kianna

Confident Voices Online: Fall Project October - December 2021

Our 8-week **Fall Project** invited young people who stutter to connect virtually and explore diverse storytelling techniques, including monologues, creative writing, improvisation, skits, visual art, poetry and more, all focused on expressing their unique voices and making art that matters to them. Each group celebrated their original pieces with family and friends during a 3-night **Virtual Share!**



SAY:DC

The Stuttering Association for the Young

2021 began with our weekly **SAY: DC** Zoom sessions, where we explored creative storytelling and art projects. In January and February we got on a poetry kick and spent multiple sessions crafting haikus and other short-form poems together. The creativity and imagination was off the charts!

Once the weather warmed up and Springtime was upon us, we started meeting in a local park where we soaked up the friendship and vitamin D while playing the signature game invented by the SAY: DC kids, called 'Kiffleball'.



September was a time of excitedly prepping the SAY: DC headquarters for the first in-person programming there since we renovated in early 2020. On Saturday, October 16 we finally welcomed three small mixed-age cohorts of children and teens to the studio and had an absolutely amazing time making wondrous sculptures, playing with Legos, creating Artist Trading Cards, and just hanging out.

Over the course of the Fall season, new participants joined on a regular basis and the community continued to grow and thrive as we explored sculpture, knitting, weaving, mixed-media, sensory play, painting, storytelling, and more.

Spending time at beautiful, light-and-color-filled SAY: DC every week was incredibly joy-inducing and inspiring. Welcoming new participants and their families felt so fulfilling, and we never tire of the gasps of delight when new friends walk through the door and are greeted with the breathtaking views of the DC cityscape from our panoramic windows.

After enduring rough and uncertain pandemic times, we all feel humbled and grateful to be there. As the year wound down, we collaborated on an epic printmaking project, making kaleidoscopic gelatin mono-prints from Autumn leaves we gathered from the surrounding neighborhood. It was a perfect meditation on Thanks in a space that finally felt like home.



CAMP SAY: Summer 2021!

A Summer Camp for Young People Who Stutter

August 2-16, 2021

SAY was overjoyed to return to Camp SAY IN-PERSON this summer, safely bringing over 135 young people who stutter together to form profound connections and discover their voices.

Camp SAY is an ACA-Accredited, 2-week, summer camp for young people who stutter, ages 8-18. Camp SAY combines a high-quality, traditional camp experience with specialized programs and activities that help kids and teens who stutter develop confidence and independence, improve communication skills, and form important lifelong friendships.



Who attends CAMPSAY:?

Since its inception, no child has ever been turned away from SAY due to a family's inability to pay. SAY provides over \$750,000 in support annually so children from all backgrounds can attend Camp SAY. This year 92% of families received aid. SAY places a strong emphasis on inclusion and equity, and this year there was an extraordinary need.



Due to the pandemic, many SAY families struggled financially, lost work, suffered significant illness, and even lost loved ones.

That's why this year it was absolutely paramount that Camp SAY provide in-person access to our community of support and perseverance, no matter the cost.

Making memories with our **CAMP SAY:** family!

Campers enjoyed a variety of traditional camp activities like team sports, pool time, and arts & crafts, while also participating in SAY's unique creative arts programming designed to empower young people who stutter.



The magic doesn't stop when camp ends!

The Camp SAY community stayed connected all year long thanks to SAY's monthly **Global Campfires** and the **2021 Camp SAY Reunion**, both hosted on Zoom to provide a safe, welcoming space of supportive listening, no matter the season.



The Spark Project

The Spark Project is a new initiative for SAY and Camp SAY alumni (19-25) and seeks to foster deep, authentic dialogue that goes beyond the surface and polarization of most online discourse.

Spark is now in its second season and thriving with two online sessions per week! All participants in The Spark Project are encouraged to be courageous and turn their deepest thoughts, questions, struggles, and inspirations into artistic creations. SAY provides a forum for creating process-based collaborative and individual original art that directly explores current events and responds to important issues facing the world. The project encourages hard-hitting works, vulnerability, and deep insight into the lives of young adults who stutter while illuminating paths forward towards a better world.



produced by the participants of Spark during their time in the program. SAY is proud to offer The Spark Project free of charge to all participants.



SAY: AU

The Stuttering Association For The Young

News!

In 2021 **SAY: Australia** successfully delivered three creative arts programs to participants from across the country both in-person and online:

- **The Spoken Word Project** (March-April)
- **My Share Project** (May-June)
- **The Playwriting Project** (October-December)



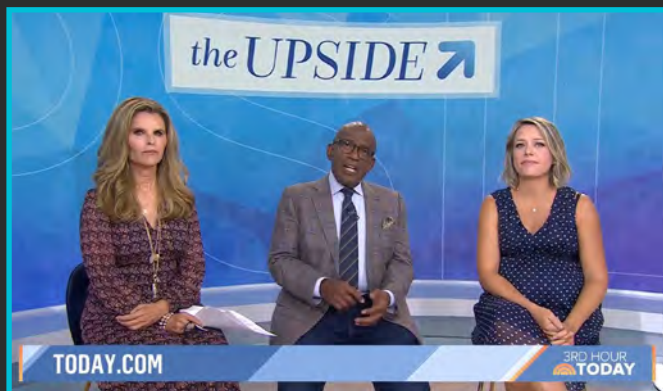
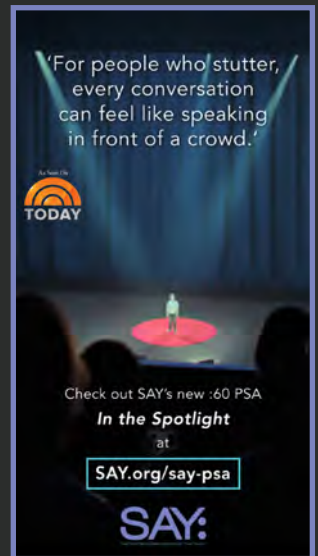
Live and virtual audiences witnessed original and powerful performances from young people who stutter from all over Australia.

Introducing *In the Spotlight!*

In early 2021, SAY began a purposeful partnership with award-winning agency **BBDO** that sparked what would become our powerful new :60 PSA, *In the Spotlight!*

For the more than 70 million people who stutter worldwide, every conversation can feel like speaking in front of a crowd: all eyes on you as you know what you want to say but cannot seem to get the words out.

This powerful new PSA aims to ignite an overdue national conversation around stuttering to raise awareness and share understanding about how to supportively listen to people who stutter, and give them as much time as they need to speak.



SAY: on TODAY
The Stuttering Association for the Young
September 22, 2021

BBDO was instrumental in securing SAY's September 2021 feature on NBC's **TODAY Show**. The segment included an insightful profile of Camp SAY, interviews with SAY's Vice President & Director of Camp SAY, Travis Robertson, and campers Kaitlyn and David, highlighting what makes Camp SAY such a special and transformative experience for young people who stutter.

TODAY also presented the world premiere of *In the Spotlight*, shining a bright light on stuttering awareness and conveying to a broad, national audience that people who stutter know exactly what they want to say – sometimes they just need a little more time to say it!



Takeover Tuesday with Chef Christina Tosi

January 5, 2021

SAY began 2021 with excitement when our friend and founder of **Milk Bar**, Chef Christina Tosi, invited us to take over her Instagram account of almost half a million followers! Our SAY community of friends, supporters, and young people who stutter contributed videos and stories to **#TakeoverTuesday**, bravely sharing their voices and letting the world know that it is really, REALLY okay to stutter!

CAMP SAY: *Memphis* ACROSS THE USA

March 27-28 & November 20-21, 2021

After enjoying another awesome virtual **Camp SAY: Across the USA - Memphis** in March 2021, we were stoked to join our friends at **The Orpheum Theatre Group** in November 2021 to welcome kids & teens who stutter from all over the mid-south region back to **The Halloran Centre** IN-PERSON for the first time since 2019 for a beautiful weekend of fun, creativity, and togetherness!



SPECIAL THANKS to **JOANN**

In 2021, SAY was so fortunate to begin a partnership with **JOANN Fabric & Craft Stores**! JOANN has generously provided our programs with craft supplies, costumes, games, decorations, and so much more to inspire our kids with endless creativity & imagination!

Thank you for being a model ally, JOANN!



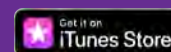
My BEAUTIFUL STUTTER

FROM EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS
PAUL RUDD MARISKA HARGITAY PETER HERMANN GEORGE SPRINGER



2021 saw the wider, international distribution of this award-winning independent documentary!

Stream in the U.S.  discovery+ Screen, rent or own WORLDWIDE  vimeo



2021 Special Events!

SAY hosted 2 live stream fundraising events in 2021, bringing our community together to enjoy beautiful performances, special guests, and to celebrate young people who stutter!

2021 Virtual Annual Gala May 13, 2021



SAY's first-ever **Virtual Gala** was a spectacular Live Stream Broadcast hosted by long-time SAY participants and alums, **Keon & Klanell Lee**. This unforgettable

evening featured performances from **Everett Bradley, Kelli O'Hara, Nicki Richards**, and the kids and community of SAY!

Dr. Cleavon Gilman is a person who stutters, a U.S. Navy Veteran, an Emergency Medicine Physician, and an outspoken public health advocate who continues to spread awareness about the coronavirus pandemic.



Cleavon Gilman, MD

SAY was thrilled to welcome Dr. Gilman LIVE to receive the **SAY: Hero Award** in honor of his enormous contributions to the health and safety of our country, and as a shining example to the stuttering community!

2021 Winter Benefit December 9, 2021



The brave storytelling, extraordinary performances, and beautiful moments from special guests **Dame Helen Mirren, Paul Rudd, Nicki Richards, Garlia Cornelia Jones, Danielle Leneé** and all of the SAY

kids, past and present, were a true joy to behold at our live stream **Winter Benefit**. We loved sharing this inspiring night with you!



How SAY Helps

Stuttering is a very unique challenge for anyone, but particularly a child. It is both invisible and not widely understood. Young people who stutter often struggle not only with verbal communication, but with shame, discrimination, bullying, and social isolation.

They may struggle with everyday activities, such as participating in class, speaking on the phone, ordering in restaurants, and making friends.

Many lose focus in school and abandon career aspirations perceived to be incompatible with stuttering.

Stuttering can even create feelings of fear and shame about one's own body. Often, all the fear and loneliness these young people have stems from the fact that they feel totally alone.

For 20 years, SAY programs have used theater, songwriting, and other arts education, as well as our two-week summer camp, to help young people (ages 8-18) transform their fear and shame from stuttering into empowering self-confidence that helps them succeed and reach their personal, academic, and professional goals.

In addition to top-tier, professional-grade arts training, SAY participants join a community of unconditional acceptance where they have as much time as they need to express their unique voices.

SAY is a community dedicated to showing young people who stutter that who they are is wonderful, beautiful, and nothing can ever change that. SAY is a community where a child can love their stutter as a thing that makes them unique. SAY is a community where a child can hate their stutter, but not hate themselves. SAY is a community where a child who stutters can finally feel like they are a valuable, complex, amazing human being, not limited one bit by the way they talk.



The Need

A core tenet of our mission is to provide quality programs to underserved families, regardless of their financial resources. More than 85% of the youth currently enrolled in our programs need financial assistance, and to date, no child has been turned away from our programs due to a family's inability to pay. SAY has provided more than \$7 million in financial aid, and last year alone, more than \$1,700,000 in programming costs were underwritten for low-income families.

Looking Forward

This spring SAY will begin hybrid programming - in-person & virtually - allowing us to connect with children who stutter from all across the country!

And we're so excited to welcome campers to Camp SAY's new home at Camp Eagle Hill in Upstate New York this summer!

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 genuinely 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](https://say.org/donate)