



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY  
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER™

# News Release

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Arts Summer Program Offers Creative Outlet for Individuals with Aphasia**

*June is Aphasia Awareness Month*

Public speaking causes fear and anxiety for many of us, but for the two million people in the United States with aphasia who have lost all or some ability to use words, just trying to communicate is difficult.

June is Aphasia Awareness Month, and to bring attention to the condition, the [Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center \(TTUHSC\) School of Health Professions Stroke and Aphasia Recovery \(StAR\) Program](#), in partnership with the [Texas Tech University J.T. & Margaret Talkington College of Visual & Performing Arts \(TCVPA\)](#) held the Summer Aphasia Arts Program, a two-week arts camp that focuses on visual art, choir and theater. At the end of the program, they held a final performance and art exhibit.

“The summer arts portion of the StAR P

The summer arts camp is an extension of the StAR Program, a nine-month initiative that runs September through May. Corwin, who is the director of the StAR Program, said it is comprised of 10 groups of three to six aphasia members who meet weekly and practice together to improve their ability to converse, read, write, type, speak and understand. Members may participate in person or online.

This is the first year the StAR Program has teamed up with TCVPA.

“Our collaboration with the StAR Program Summer Arts camp this year is a first for the Talkington Coll

getting dressed. When he began coming to the summer program, he, on his own, woke up every morning, showered, shaved, dressed and was ready to get on the van and come to the Aphasia Summer Arts Program. His demeanor changed. His disposition improved. We hope that were able to gift him and he certainly gifted us with his presence.”

Collazo reflected on how the program has helped him.

“I’d just be at home. And then when I started with this, then learn more about the therapy ... and then to learn more about aphasia. And then as I learn