



2022 ANNUAL REPORT



**Serving those affected by
brain injury through
advocacy, education,
outreach & support.**

BIAK's mission for 38 years.

We care about brains.

Prevention



The best way to prevent a brain injury is through prevention. That's why BIAK has taken the initiative to provide properly fitted bicycle helmets to youth and adults across the Commonwealth. In partnership with Bikes or Bust, a collaboration between Toys for Tots and Metro United Way, BIAK once again joined forces to ensure children in our

community received helmets along with their donated bikes. Additionally, BIAK has continued its participation in the annual Hike, Bike, and Paddle event in Louisville on Memorial and Labor Days. BIAK has distributed hundreds of helmets to participants at this event alone. New for 2023, BIAK extended its prevention efforts by partnering with Norton Children's Hospital and the Safe Kids Louisville coalition to supply helmets to various organizations involved in bike give-a-ways across the entire state. Through these efforts, BIAK has successfully distributed 2,000 helmets across the Commonwealth, effectively working towards the prevention of brain injuries.

Survivor Dinner

BIAK organizes an annual banquet, that provides an opportunity for survivors and their families to commemorate their remarkable journey towards recovery. This joyous gathering serves as a heartfelt recognition and acknowledgement that overcoming a traumatic brain injury entails immense bravery, unwavering determination, and profound faith from both the survivor and their cherished support network. It's an event you will not want to miss!



Fundraising Events

For the past two decades, BIAK has proudly hosted its signature event, the Brain Ball, with each year surpassing the last. This year, we celebrated the grand 20th anniversary with a Derby in November theme, an occasion that was nothing short of unforgettable. We took



this opportunity to pay tribute to our esteemed Mary Varga Award recipients from the past, recognizing

their outstanding contributions. Moreover, this remarkable event served as a platform to raise crucial awareness about brain injury while also raising funds to support our mission.

Continuing the momentum, on the Saturday after Derby, BIAK supporters enthusiastically gathered at E. P. "Tom" Sawyer Park for our highly anticipated Run, Walk, and Roll for Brain Health. The devotion and enthusiasm displayed by the participants were truly awe-inspiring. Diverse teams, comprising individuals, organizations, and brave survivors of brain injury, proudly represented themselves in this noble cause. Together, we united with a shared purpose: to honor our brain injury survivors, raise awareness, and raise funds to support our mission.



Support Groups

BIAK offers support groups for brain injury survivors, brain tumor survivors, military veterans with brain injuries, and caregivers. We understand the importance of accessibility and inclusivity, which is



why we provide both in-person and online support groups. This allows us to reach individuals across a wide geographical area, ensuring that no individual feels isolated or alone in their journey towards recovery.

BIAK also supports and consults with many support groups across the Commonwealth. Through their collaborative efforts, BIAK is truly making a positive impact in the lives of brain injury survivors and their loved ones.

Education

For 36 consecutive years, BIAK has proudly organized the Brain Injury Summit. Designed to provide continuing education to brain injury professionals, this comprehensive event features a day filled with enlightening presentations delivered by esteemed experts. As the Summit's popularity continues to soar, we have successfully introduced virtual attendance alongside the traditional in-person format. We are proud to offer continuing education to Speech-Language Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, Nurses, Case Managers, Counselors, Psychologists, and Social Workers.



In 2023, the Summit's theme, "Interventions for Brain Injury Recovery," embraced the latest, evidence-based, practical approaches to improving outcomes after an Acquired Brain Injury. Attendees learned about the effects on cognition for those with an ABI and long-term COVID; how brain injury affects the various types of memory; tools to help address aphasia and communication disabilities; strategies to meet the need for behavioral supports; managing spasticity after brain injury; and resources to assist persons with visual deficits after a brain injury.

Committed to inclusivity, we strive to employ innovative methods that ensure equal access to vital information after brain injury. Our mission is to empower individuals, broadening their understanding and equipping them with the knowledge required to navigate the complex world of brain injury recovery.

Advocacy

BIAK has been a relentless advocate for individuals affected by brain injury for more than two decades. In our early years, we played a significant role in the establishment of vital brain injury services that are available today, such as the KY TBI Trust Fund and Medicaid Waivers. We also partnered with KHSAA to create comprehensive return to play protocols following concussions.



Currently, we are actively collaborating with The KY TBI Trust Fund to introduce the REAP Program. This groundbreaking initiative aims to equip Kentucky's secondary school educators with the most effective methods for ensuring a smooth transition back to the classroom after a concussion. Additionally, we are at the initial stages of developing a program aimed at enhancing the judicial system's ability to effectively handle individuals affected by brain injury. Shockingly, estimates from CDC reveal that this population may range between 25% and 87%!

Outreach

BIAK continues to provide outreach to survivors and families who have been impacted by brain injury. Year to date, BIAK has received 754 referrals from local and regional hospitals, community providers, and other sources. Because brain injury is an unexpected crisis that catches families off guard, we continue to focus heavily upon assisting families right from the start, offering them resources and guidance to navigate through this difficult period and make tough decisions. We continue to receive generous support from UofL Health and Norton Healthcare who recognize the value of this support in enhancing medical care and aiding in the recovery process. Our focus on hospital outreach lies at the core of our mission, and throughout the years, we have been touched by numerous testimonials where individuals or their loved ones credit BIAK with making a significant impact on their recovery journey.

In 2023, BIAK received a grant from the TBI Trust Fund to support the implementation of REAP concussion management protocols to ensure students safely return to the classroom after a concussion, focusing on Kentucky's diverse, rural, and underserved population.

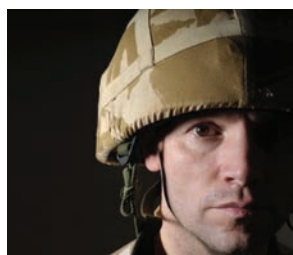
Across The Commonwealth

BIAK diligently serves the needs of all residents in Kentucky, regardless of their location. Our board members comprise individuals from diverse backgrounds across the entire Commonwealth.



Collaborating seamlessly with the TBI Trust Fund, the Department for Aging and Independent Living, KSPAN, KIPRC, Healthcare Professionals, and numerous State Agencies, we ensure that our services span the entire state.

Veteran Outreach



In response to the growing prevalence of brain injuries among returning service men and women, BIAK took immediate action in 2005. Thanks to a generous grant from the Kentucky Legislature, we pioneered the publication of a Military Resource Journal, reaching out to veterans as they came back home to identify hidden injuries and provide vital resource information to their families. Additionally, we organized seminars and fostered collaboration with the VA to ensure comprehensive support for our servicemen and women.

Recognizing the evolving nature of the situation, BIAK has adapted its approach accordingly. Though the number of soldiers returning with brain injuries has dwindled, the lingering effects of past injuries, as well as new challenges arising from conventional means, remain a top priority for us. At BIAK, we deeply understand the unique needs and resources available to veterans, allowing us to better serve them.

In tandem with our esteemed partners, we launched a groundbreaking initiative called Service Members, Veterans, and Family Talks (SMVF Talks). This innovative online group convenes monthly, giving its members, drawn from all corners of the state, an invaluable platform to discuss services, therapies, and issues directly affecting them. Moreover, our individual engagement with veterans and their families further strengthens our commitment to their well-being.

Letter from Our Leaders

It was a great honor in January to begin a term as President of the Executive Board of Directors for BIAK. As a healthcare leader and speech-language pathologist, I have spent my professional career helping adolescents and adults recover from traumatic and acquired brain injuries. Being a part of someone's recovery journey and guiding them through the many challenges they face is a responsibility I take very seriously. I am proud to share that our organization and its commitment to our mission of serving those affected by brain injury is stronger than ever!

It is an exciting time to be a part of BIAK. We have successfully navigated several changes over the past year with overwhelming success. Our new Executive Director, Bobby Paisley, has fully transitioned into his leadership role and is fully committed to our mission. Efforts have been made to expand our prevention efforts by strengthening existing partnerships and formulating new ones. We have revitalized the Annual Run, Walk, and Roll event to share our mission with even more individuals in the community by adding a 5k run. Advocacy efforts are underway to help students return to the classroom following concussion, and members of our board are working to develop a program to serve those impacted by brain within the judicial system.

All of this would not have been possible without your support, the generosity of our sponsors, and the engagement of our board members. Whether it's the classroom, courtroom, hospital, or home, BIAK is truly making a difference in the lives of those affected by brain injury.



Letter From Our New Executive Director

I am both humbled and thrilled to address you as the new Executive Director of the Brain Injury Alliance of Kentucky. Effective January 1, 2023, I enter this esteemed position with a strong commitment to serve those affected by brain injury with diligence, empathy, and dedication.

First and foremost, I want to express my gratitude to all of you who have worked tirelessly to establish this incredible organization as a beacon of hope and support for individuals and families facing the challenges of brain injury. Under the exceptional leadership of my predecessor, the Brain Injury Alliance of Kentucky has made significant strides over the years. I am honored to have the opportunity to build upon this foundation and bring it to new heights.

My commitment to the cause of brain injury stems from a deeply personal experience. A close family member suffered a traumatic brain injury in 2021, and witnessing the struggles they endured ignited my passion for advocating for those affected by this often invisible but life-altering condition. This personal connection will drive me to ensure that the Brain Injury Alliance of Kentucky remains at the forefront of providing essential resources, education, and assistance to individuals, families, and communities impacted by brain injury.

As I step into this role, I want to share with you my vision for the future of our organization. I firmly believe in the power of collaboration, and I am dedicated to fostering partnerships with medical professionals, community and state organizations, and policymakers to advance our mission. By working together, we can raise awareness about brain injury, improve prevention strategies, enhance access to quality healthcare, and advocate for policies that protect the rights and well-being of individuals with brain injuries.

To achieve these goals, we will prioritize community outreach and education. I envision dynamic programs and initiatives that will empower individuals and families with knowledge and tools to navigate the challenges they face. Whether through support groups, educational workshops, or online resources, we will strive to ensure that no one endures the journey of brain injury alone.

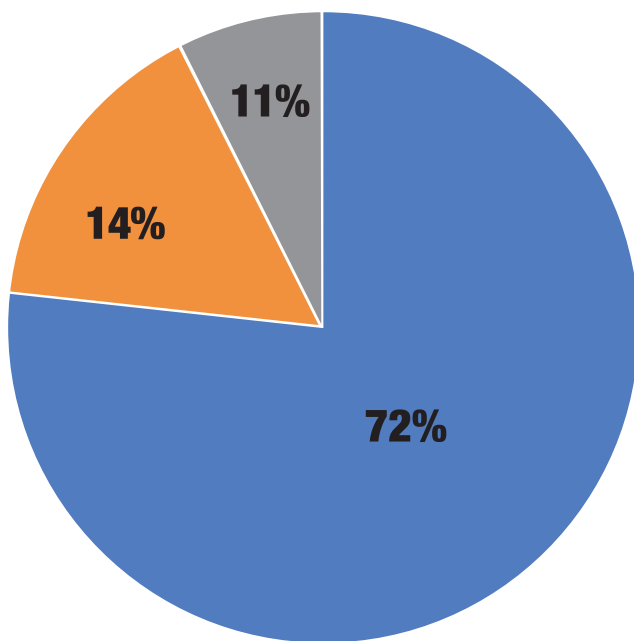
Finally, I commit to further strengthening our network of dedicated volunteers and professionals. Their compassion, knowledge, and unwavering commitment are the cornerstones of our success. Together, we will enhance our volunteer programs, cultivate opportunities for professional development, and embrace the diversity of talents and perspectives that enrich our organization.

In closing, please know that as the new Executive Director, I am wholeheartedly dedicated to serving you, our community, and individuals affected by brain injury. Together, we can bring a message of hope, resilience, and empowerment to all who need it. I eagerly look forward to collaborating with each of you and guiding our organization towards a brighter future.

Robert Paisley
Executive Director
Brain Injury Alliance of Kentucky

2022 Financial Report

Total Income **\$229,447**
Year End Assets **\$124,586**
Expenses **\$180,868**



Total \$180,868

- Program 72%
- Administrative 14%
- Fundraising 11%

Corporate Sponsors



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