History of Organization

Brain injury rehabilitation and available resources are a recent phenomenon. Until the 1980's, more than half of those who sustained a brain injury died; many others were released from the hospital with a simple, “Good luck”. The consequent emotional, physical, mental and financial hardships to the survivors and their families were not even acknowledged--let alone addressed by the community and social service agencies.

In response to these needs, the sister of a survivor founded the Kansas Head Injury Association in 1982. Mary Pat Beals recruited a group of 23 volunteers comprised of survivors, family members and professionals. With an annual budget of $3,000, the group incorporated in Kansas that same year, and became the fourth chartered state association of the National Head Injury Foundation. The mission was to improve the lives of all head injured persons, coma to community. Mary Pat Beals was hired as the Association’s first paid Executive Director in 1985.

The late 1980's saw the focus and programs of the Association mature. An emphasis in 1987, facilitated by a grant from a Kansas State Department, was placed on prevention of brain injury. Survivor and family assistance programs continued to be critical to addressing the needs of constituents.

The agency established a reputation as a resource and referral network. Support groups and a Survivor’s Council were active. An 800 number was added for families in crisis. Volunteers were active as legislative advocates for survivors and family members and assisted in passing legislation that made “de-institutionalizing” survivors more financially viable. A resource book, *Traumatic Head Injury: Cause, Consequence and Challenge*, was published in 1987 by BIAKS to assist those affected by brain injury learn more about this injury. The “Redbook” continues to be widely distributed and is a valuable resource for brain injury survivors and their families and also is sold on the BIAKS website.

Since our inception, advances in emergency medicine, trauma care have reduced the number of deaths caused by brain injury, and have increased the number of people living with the consequences of brain injury.

Our Mission

The mission of the Brain Injury Association of Kansas and Greater Kansas City is to improve the quality of life for those affected by brain injury. As the only organization in Kansas and Greater Kansas City area serving individuals with brain injury, their loved ones and the professionals who treat them, we work to create a better future through prevention, education and advocacy.
Current Programming

Research indicates men are more likely to sustain a traumatic brain injury than women. Even so, men, women, children and teenagers of both genders, are equally at risk. Traumatic brain injury can touch anyone’s life—anywhere, anytime. BIAKS sponsors the following programs to continue our mission to improve the quality of life for those affected by a brain injury.

Information and Referral Program

BIAKS is part of the National Brain Injury Information Center through Brain Injury Association of America. A toll-free number provides access for all Kansans and those in the Kansas City Metro who need prompt, accurate information regarding brain injury. In 2017, over 300 people requested assistance through our information line. Calls received have included: assistance in finding professionals that are familiar with the effects of brain injury; referral sources for the next step in the recovery process and specific information about brain injury and its effects.

Support Groups

There are 21 Brain Injury Support Groups throughout Kansas & Greater Kansas City. A brand new support group was organized in Hays, KS as a result of the Family and Survivor Seminar held there in October by BIAKS. Approximately 300 individuals participate in support groups monthly. BIAKS assists support group facilitators on an as needed basis. Information about these groups can be found on the BIAKS website- www.biaks.org.

Survivor and Family Seminars

BIAKS held three seminars in 2017: Kansas City in April; Hays in October and Prairie Village in October. The seminars offered survivors, their families, as well as professionals working in the rehabilitation field, an opportunity to learn more about brain injury, discover resources in the community and meet others facing similar issues on the road to recovery.

Bicycle Helmet Safety Prevention Program

BIAKS fitted and provided 982 helmets to children in need and participated in 16 safety events this year. Volunteers offered safety tips on the appropriate way to wear a helmet to children and their parents.

BIAKS is proud to collaborate on major safety events with HCA Overland Park Regional Medical Center, Stony Point South Elementary School PTA, Kansas City, KS Public Schools Parents as Teachers, and Senator Shalonn ‘Kiki’ Curls Annual Health and Safety Fair to provide helmets with the Consumer Product Safety seal to children ranging in age from toddler through teen.
**Awareness and Advocacy**

**BIAKS** has built collaborations among metro and statewide groups that share similar goals, including: a consortium that collectively serves people with neurologic disabilities; KC Ability Expo which reaches people of different abilities and a work group that addresses traumatic brain injury on a statewide basis.

On March 22, BIAKS hosted **Brain Injury Awareness Day/Pie Rally** in Topeka for constituents from around the state to meet with their legislators and convey the importance of supporting laws that promote independence for survivors and build awareness about this ‘silent epidemic.’ 100 constituents attended this event. 30 masks and narratives from BIAKS' **Unmasking Brain Injury** project were displayed.

**Unmasking Brain Injury**

The aim of Unmasking Brain Injury is to give survivors a voice and the means to educate others of what it’s like to live with a brain injury and to show others that persons living with a disability due to their brain injury are like anyone else, deserving of dignity, respect, compassion and the opportunity to prove their value as citizens in their respective communities.

BIAKS piloted The Unmasking Brain Injury project with 30 brain injury survivors. Survivors produced a hand-decorated mask and an accompanying narrative describing their experiences living with a brain injury. More photos and accompanying narratives are on the BIAKS website, [http://unmaskingbraininjury.org/kansas/](http://unmaskingbraininjury.org/kansas/). Completed masks were mounted and exhibited at Legislative Day in Topeka, KS, the March Professional Conference and the Amy Thompson Run VIP Celebration.

**Professional Development**

Each year BIAKS conducts an annual conference for professionals working with individuals affected by brain injury. This year’s conference, **Beyond Rehab: Succeeding at Life**, focused on the Past, Present and Future of Brain Injury Therapy.

The two-day event was held at the Kansas University Edwards Campus in Overland Park, March 30-31, 2017. Approximately 160 professionals attended. Their professions included nurses, occupational therapists, physicians, physical therapists, speech language pathologists and social workers.

BIAKS convenes an every-other month lunch ’n learn for Kansas City Brain Injury Case Managers Consortium to discuss ways to improve the quality of care for survivors of brain injury.

BIAKS also offers a **Certified Brain Injury Specialist (CBIS)** national certification program that establishes best practices for the training of individuals working with this population. Because of the wide variety of unique skills and knowledge required of those who treat persons with brain injury, certification is designed to address specific training issues in brain injury services and to complement other existing credentials.
Special Events

30th Amy Thompson Run for Brain Injury

The Amy Thompson Run for Brain Injury (ATR) has been one of the oldest premier family runs through some of Kansas City’s most beautiful neighborhoods. It became an important tradition for Kansas Citians who knew Amy Thompson and were familiar with her story, or had a loved one affected by brain injury. The run was started in 1988 by friends of Amy’s to lend support and to let her know she was not alone. The run benefits the Brain Injury Association of Kansas and Greater Kansas City.

The 2017 Run celebrated its 30th year and was held in Kansas City’s historic Loose Park, on Memorial Day, May 29, drawing over 1,700 participants and spectators. Events included: 8K, 5K, 2K Walk for Thought and the Kiddie Dash. NFL Hall of Famer and former Kansas City Chiefs offensive guard Will Shields was the honorary chair for the Walk for Thought. Zeke Crozier, former Army National Guardsman, gravely injured when his helicopter went down in Afghanistan in 2011 was the 2017 BIAKS Amy Thompson run honoree. We are grateful to all our sponsors and donors. A special thank you to Founding Sponsor Country Club Bank for their many years of support.

Though 2017 was the last year the run will be named the Amy Thompson Run, BIAKS is pleased to announce that the Memorial Day Run will continue in 2018, renamed as Going the Distance for Brain Injury.

Volunteers

Hats off to the over 200 volunteers who help BIAKS throughout the year. From assembling helmets, staffing committees, working in the office and manning the Amy Thompson Run for Brain Injury, our volunteers play a meaningful role in helping BIAKS fulfill its mission.
Membership

Membership is available to anyone who wants to be a part of BIAKS. Funds from membership assist in achieving our mission of improving the lives of survivors of brain injury and their families. All members receive a subscription to Brain Injury Association of America’s publication, THE Challenge, quarterly BIAKS newsletter and information on upcoming events. BIAKS offers four membership levels:

- **Basic**: Complementary registration for Survivor and Family seminars
- **Friend of BIAKS**: Discount to Survivor and Family seminars
- **Professional**: Discount for Professional Conference
- **Corporate**: Organization link to the BIAKS website

Thanks to our Corporate Members for their support:

- Alliance Home Health Care Inc.
- Copley Roth & Davies, LLC
- Kansas Rehabilitation Hospital
- Meadowbrook Rehabilitation Hospital
- HCA Menorah Medical Center
- Mid America Rehabilitation Hospital
- Minds Matter
- Newman Regional Health
- NeuroRestorative
- North Kansas City Hospital
- Pate Rehabilitation
- Rehabilitation Hospital of Overland Park
- AbilityKC
- St. Lukes Marion Bloch Neuroscience Institute
- Select Specialty Hospital Kansas City
- The Dream Works

Brain Injury Association of Kansas and Greater Kansas City gratefully acknowledges the following grants:

- Anthem Amerigroup
- Dane G. Hansen Foundation
- John W. & Effie E. Speas Memorial Trust, Bank of America, N.A.
- John J. Sullivan, JR., Charitable Trust
- The McDonnell Foundation, Inc.
- The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA)
- Frank and Helen Wewers Family Fund
We would like to thank the following major sponsors of the 30th Annual Amy Thompson Run for Brain Injury:

Country Club Bank-- Founding Sponsor
A.L. Huber
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Husch Blackwell
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Lockton
Massman Construction
Neurosurgery PA
Platte Valley Bank
Shamberg, Johnson & Bergman
Stinson Leonard, Street

In-Kind
Brandon & Brandon Creative Resources & Marketing
2017 Board of Directors

2017 Board pictured include; front row: L-R-Anne Bowling, Susan Murray, Deborah Gutteridge, David Haydon. Back row: L-R-Connie Fahey Jeanette Boucher, Andre Kulikov, Chad Myers and Janet Williams. Not pictured: Logie Asebedo, Jeff Goldenberg, and Adam Krause

**Staff**

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Executive Director

Amy Gaier  
Program Director

Beverly Jacobson  
Development Director

Deborah Gutteridge, MS, CCM  
President  
NeuroRestorative

Anne Bowling  
Vice President  
Community Volunteer

Jeff Goldenberg,  
Treasurer  
Schifman Remley Associates

Andre Kulikov,  
Secretary  
Edward Jones

Logie Asebedo  
Dairy Advantage

Jeanette Boucher, OTR  
American Stroke Foundation

Connie Fahey, RN, CCM  
Fahey Case Management

David Haydon  
Community Volunteer

Adam Krause  
Krause & Kinsman Law Firm

Chad Myers  
Paola Community Center

Susan Murray, CBIS  
OCCK, Inc.

Janet Williams, PhD  
Minds Matter LLC
### SUPPORT, REVENUE & OTHER INCOME:

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<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>Contributions and grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amy Thompson Run</td>
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<td>Other Events income</td>
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<td>Conference, seminars and training</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous income</td>
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### EXPENSES:

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#### Supporting Activities:

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### ASSETS 2016

#### Current Assets:

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<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
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### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

#### Current Liabilities:

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<td>Payroll withholdings</td>
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<td>Accrued expenses &amp; deferred liabilities</td>
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<td>Deferred event revenue</td>
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#### Net Assets:

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<td>Unrestricted net assets</td>
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<td>Temporarily restricted net assets</td>
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**TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS** $178,762