



ANNUAL REPORT 2021

HELP, HOPE, HEALING

History of Organization

Prior to 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 1982, in response to these needs, the sister of a survivor founded the Kansas Head Injury Association. 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. 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 1990's brought changes in terminology. The national organization became the Brain Injury Association of America to better identify the significance of this type of injury. Our organization followed suit by changing its name to the Brain Injury Association of Kansas and Greater Kansas City (BIAKS-GKC).

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 served 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 the agency to assist those affected by brain injury learn more about this injury. The "Redbook" has been revised several times since its initial publication and continues to be widely distributed. It is a valuable resource for brain injury survivors and their families and is sold on the BIAKS-GKC website.

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

Our Vision/Mission

Our vision is to support people living with brain injury to live their lives to the fullest. Our mission, as the only non-profit organization in Kansas and Greater Kansas City area solely focused on individuals with brain injury, their loved ones and the professionals who treat them, is to provide ongoing brain injury advocacy, education and resources.

Recent statistics indicate that more than 21,000 individuals living in Kansas and the Greater Kansas City metro area sustain a brain injury annually. Research indicates individuals 65 years and older sustained the highest percentage of TBI deaths and hospitalizations; TBI-related emergency room visits were most common among children 14 years and younger. 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-GKC sponsors the following programs to continue our mission to improve the quality of life for those affected by a brain injury.

Current Programming

COVID-19 UPDATE

Despite COVID-19 challenges that have required programming adaptations because of Health Department guidelines, the Brain Injury Association of Kansas and Greater Kansas City (BIAKS-GKC) has continued to provide programs and services for those affected by brain injury, their families and healthcare professionals.

Information and Referral Program

BIAKS-GKC 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 2021, over 300 people requested assistance through our information line and website. Request have come from family members, health care professionals and individuals affected by a brain injury. Requests have included: information regarding the Kansas brain injury waiver, assistance in finding health care professionals familiar with the effects of brain injury; referral sources for rehabilitation facilities, mental health professionals, legal resources, specific information about brain injury and support group availability.

Support Groups

Because of COVID-19, many support groups throughout Kansas and the metro area have been meeting via teleconferencing and as of late summer, a few have resumed in-person meetings. Some groups have not been meeting at all, but support group leaders routinely check in with their members for wellness visits. Two new support groups in Lawrence are currently meeting via Zoom. There are 21 other Brain Injury Support Groups throughout Kansas & the Greater Kansas City metro. Over 300 individuals participate in support groups monthly. BIAKS-GKC assists support group facilitators on an as needed basis. Information about these groups can be found at our website-www.biaks.org.

Survivor and Family Seminars



For the first time in 2 years, BIAKS-GKC held a Family & Survivor seminar on November 13 from 9 am to 2 pm at Menorah Medical Center. Approximately 70 individuals attended from around the region. Participants had the opportunity to gather in break-out sessions for both survivors and caregivers. The day, which included a light breakfast and lunch, provided presentations on aging with a brain injury, assistive technology and working with a brain injury. Thank you to our host Menorah Medical Center and major sponsor Meadowbrook Rehabilitation Hospital for your support.

Bicycle Helmet Safety Prevention Program



As a result of COVID-19, bicycle rodeos, fairs and school assemblies were not scheduled in 2021. Plans are to resume programming in 2022.

BIAKS is proud of our past collaboration with State Farm and BikeWalk KC to help prevent brain injuries. Presentations at elementary school assemblies provided properly fitted bicycle helmets and educated children about bike safety and the importance of wearing a helmet.

Advocacy



BIAKS-GKC frequently sends out news briefings to members and other constituents on legislative issues that impact those with disabilities and brain injuries. Our agency has built collaborations among metro and statewide groups that share similar goals. Partners include a consortium of health care professionals that serve people with neurologic and physical disabilities, a statewide work group that addresses traumatic brain injury and organizations working to prevent brain injuries.

On Feb. 28, 2019, Kansas Governor Laura Kelly signed a Proclamation recognizing March as Brain Injury

BIAKS-GKC Awarded a 5-year grant

Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) applied and received funding for a Traumatic Brain Injury State Partnership Program Grant administered by the Administration for Community Living (ACL) and authorized by the Traumatic Brain Injury Act of 2018.

The TBI Act was enacted in 1996 to provide for the conduct of expanded studies and the establishment of innovative programs with respect to traumatic brain injury. This legislation allowed for the implementation of a state grants program to improve access to health and other services for people with TBI's. State agencies receive federal funding to develop and enhance services, systems and infrastructure that serve people with TBI's.

The purpose of this five-year grant is to create and strengthen person-centered, culturally competent systems of services and supports that maximize the independence and overall health and well-being of all people with TBI across the lifespan, their family members, and their support networks.

BIAKS-GKC will serve as the main contractor in helping KDADS increase the infrastructure in the state in order to better serve the needs of all affected by brain injury.

Professional Development



This fall BIAKS-GKC held two virtual conferences on Oct. 8 and Nov. 5. Originally scheduled as an in-person event for Wichita, KS, the Oct. 8 conference migrated to the virtual platform when COVID rates remained high throughout the state. Each conference focused on different topics and participants were able to earn up to 8.5 CEU's. The virtual conference format included recordings of each session allowing participants to access sessions at later times, if they were unable to attend the live events.

Wichita conference presentations included, "The Challenges of Cognitive Impairment & COVID", "Mild Traumatic Brain Injury – Management Strategies in 2021", "Pediatric TBI", "Brain Injury & The Visual System", "Differential Psychiatric and Brain Injury Diagnosis" as well as a community resource panel and survivor story.

The statewide conference presentations included nationally known speaker Kim Gorgens, PHD, ABPP speaking on "TBI in Criminal Justice" and "TBI & Intimate Partner Violence." Other sessions included, "Criminal Justice in Mental Health Services, "Racial/Ethnic and Immigration-Based Disparities in the 10 years after TBI", and "Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in the Workplace." Both sessions also included brain injury waiver services updates from Kansas and Missouri. Over 150 healthcare professionals from Kansas, Missouri and other areas of the country participated in the conferences. Their professions included neuropsychologists, nurses, occupational therapists, physicians, physical therapists, speech language pathologists, social workers and state and federal law enforcement members.

CBIS

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.

New Website

In August, BIAKS-GKC launched a new website, funded by a grant from the John & Effie Speas Foundation. The new site was in development for over a year and has been designed to be easily accessed from mobile devices, easy to navigate, provide e-commerce capabilities, have an attractive format and enhance SEO. The BIAKS-GKC site includes resource information, event registration, support group listings and news articles. The website can be accessed at www.biaks.

Special Events

Going The Distance for Brain Injury Run

The 2021 Memorial Day Run—Going The Distance for Brain Injury--was held on May 31 at Loose Park. One of the first events allowed by the Kansas City, MO Parks Department as the COVID infection rate declined, the run brought out 600 runners on a cool and rainy Monday. Formerly the Amy Thompson Run, this event is one of the oldest premier family runs in the Kansas City area and is BIAKS-GKCs' largest fundraiser. The run was started in 1988 by friends of Amy's to lend support and let her know she was not alone. The run calls attention to TBI and the many individuals who have been affected by this injury. This year's run honoree was Terri Kern.



Thank you to our major sponsors: Country Club Bank, Stinson, Altec, Husch Blackwell, Levy Craig Law Firm, Lockton, Massman Construction, Meadowbrook Rehabilitation Hospital, Shamberg, Johnson & Bergman and Whitney & Kate Sunderland.

A special *thank you* to *In Kind Sponsors* Brandon & Brandon, Cosentino's Price Chopper, Garry Gribbles Running Sports, Hinckley Springs, Liberty Fruit, McBride Media & Marketing, Minds Matter and SpeedPro Imaging & Take 5 to Care.

Support

Volunteers



Hats off to the many volunteers who help BIAKS-GKC throughout the year. From assembling helmets, staffing committees, working in the office and manning the Memorial Day Run, our volunteers play a meaningful role in helping BIAKS-GKC fulfill its mission.

Membership

The BIAKS-GKC membership program assists us in providing educational events and services to all those affected by brain injury. All members receive a subscription to Brain Injury Association of America's publication, *THE Challenge*, quarterly BIAKS-GKC newsletter and information on upcoming events. BIAKS-GKC offers four membership levels:

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

Thanks to our Corporate Members for their support

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- Annette & Sam & Jack Swirnberg Charitable Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee
 - John J. Sullivan Jr. Foundation
- Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services
- UMB Financial Corporation Charitable Foundation

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Brain Injury Association of Kansas and Greater Kansas City 2020 Financial Highlights

SUPPORT, REVENUE & OTHER INCOME:

Government Grants, Contributions & Misc. grants	\$99,515
Going the Distance Run	\$49,080
Other Events income	\$14,529
Conference, seminars and training	\$38,570
Membership dues	\$8,245
Miscellaneous income	\$951
Total Support, Revenue & Other Income	\$210,890

EXPENSES:

Program Services:

Education and awareness	\$109,175
Information and referral	\$27,432
Prevention	\$11,844
Total Program Services	\$148,451

Supporting Activities:

General and administrative	\$33,948
Fundraising	\$23,419
Total Supporting Activities	\$57,367
Total Expenses	\$205,818

ASSETS

Current Assets:

Cash	\$107,081
Grant Receivable	\$50,119
Other receivable	\$0
Prepaid expenses	\$0
Total Current Assets	\$157,200

Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation

\$0

Other Assets:

Lease deposit	\$1,477
TOTAL ASSETS	\$158,677

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities:

Accounts payable	\$4,340
Payroll withholdings	\$298
Accrued expenses & deferred liabilities	\$7,086
Refundable advance	\$31,400
Total Current Liabilities	\$43,124

Net Assets:

Unrestricted net assets	\$88,410
Temporarily restricted net assets	\$27,143
Total Net Assets	\$115,553

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS **\$158,677**

A complete copy of financial statements audited by Marr & Company is available upon request from the Brain Injury Association of Kansas and Greater Kansas City, 6701 W. 64th St., #120, Overland Park, KS 66202 or on our website at www.biaks.org.