



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

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 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

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 2022, over 300 people requested assistance through our information line and website. Requests come from family members, health care professionals and individuals affected by a brain injury and include 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

Since COVID 19 has waned, support groups throughout Kansas and the metro area have begun meeting in-person again. There are 17 Brain Injury Support Groups throughout Kansas & the Greater Kansas City metro. A new group in Hays began in the fall of 2022. 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



BIAKS-GKC held a Family & Survivor seminar on November 5 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 2022. Plans are to resume programming in 2023. 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



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

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.

2022 Grants

BIAKS has received a one year grant from the **John W. & Effie E. Speas Memorial Trust** for the general operations of the organization. Funds have been designated to be used to enhance the 40th year commemoration for BIAKS, including updated logo, a new video and an event to honor and bring together brain injury survivors.

Additionally, BIAKS received an unrestricted educational grant from **PhRMA**.

BIAKS-GKC in second year of 5-year ACL grant

In 2021 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. BIAKS-GKC serves 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.

Statewide TBI Needs Assessment

To better understand challenges and barriers individuals with a brain injury, as well as their family members/unpaid caregivers experience, BIAKS-GKC in conjunction with the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability (KDADS) conducted a statewide survey to help identify services that are available and valuable as well as potential gaps in assistance and or resources. The surveys were targeted for individuals with brain injuries, caregivers and healthcare professionals and were developed as part of the ACL grant.

Professional Development



On August 4 & 5, BIAKS-GKC held an in-person Professional Conference at the KU Edwards Campus in Overland Park, Kansas.

Topics presented at the conference focused on: Identifying common effects of injury, including visual function and cognitive changes and interventions for treatment; the caregiver role in rehabilitation as well as interventions for caring for the caregiver; the effects of social isolation and the role of the community on quality of life and the long-term effects of COVID and ways to treat. Over 90 healthcare professionals from Kansas, Missouri and other areas of the country participated in the conference. 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.

Special Events

Going The Distance for Brain Injury Run

The 2022 Memorial Day Run—Going The Distance for Brain Injury—was held on May 30 at Loose Park. The run brought out 600 runners on a lovely, sunny 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. The 2022 run honoree was Police Officer Tyler Moss, shot in the head while on duty in 2020.



Thank you to our major sponsors: Country Club Bank, Stinson, Altec, Garney Construction, Husch Blackwell, Levy Craig Law Firm, LifeStreams, Lockton, Massman Construction, Nutter Home Loans, Shamberg, Johnson & Bergman and Whitney & Kate Sunderland.

A special thank you to Media Sponsor 94.9 KCMO and In Kind Sponsors: Betty Rae's Ice Cream, Brandon & Brandon, Cosentino's Price Chopper, Home Grown, Garry Gribbles Running Sports, Minds Matter, SpeedPro Imaging and University Health.

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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On With Life

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We gratefully acknowledge the following grants

- John W. & Effie E. Speas Memorial Trust, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee
 - Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services
 - PhRMA

2022 Board of Directors

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Staff:

Robin Abramowitz, Executive Director, Bev Jacobson, Development Director, Julie Luttman, Program Director

Brain Injury Association of Kansas and Greater Kansas City 2021 Financial Highlights

SUPPORT, REVENUE & OTHER INCOME:

Government Grants, Contributions & Misc. grants	\$68,125
Going the Distance Run	\$80,192
Conference, seminars and training	\$39,335
Membership dues	\$5,435
Miscellaneous income	\$64,337
Total Support, Revenue & Other Income	\$257,424

EXPENSES:

Program Services:

Education and awareness	\$134,613
Information and referral	\$26,966
Prevention	\$12,938

Total Program Services **\$174,517**

Supporting Activities:

General and administrative	\$34,765
Fundraising	\$34,838

Total Supporting Activities **\$69,603**

Total Expenses **\$244,120**

ASSETS

Current Assets:

Cash	\$57,668
Grant Receivable	\$71,211
Other receivable	\$8,050
Prepaid expenses	\$0

Total Current Assets **\$136,929**

Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation \$0

Other Assets:

Lease deposit \$1,477

TOTAL ASSETS **\$138,406**

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities:

Accounts payable	\$3,704
Payroll withholdings	\$350
Accrued expenses & deferred liabilities	\$5,495
Refundable advance	\$0

Total Current Liabilities **\$9,549**

Net Assets:

Unrestricted net assets	\$102,904
Temporarily restricted net assets	\$25,953

Total Net Assets **\$128,857**

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS **\$138,406**

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.