



Brain Injury Alliance

N E B R A S K A



2017 Annual Report





Nebraskans,

Just the other day a good friend happened to mention that he had taken a terrific fall from unknowingly stepping on “black ice”. He landed flat on his back and popped his head on the concrete; but there were no visible injuries. We hope none later appear. I warned him about the potential for brain injury and encouraged him to get checked out. I encounter similar stories frequently.

You very likely know someone who has sustained a brain injury.

The problem with brain injury, or concussion, as we often call it, is that the resulting after affects do not often manifest themselves until later. The longer one waits, the longer and harder the healing and rehabilitation become, and the costlier it is to individuals, to insurance, and to Nebraska.

Right now, the Brain Injury Alliance of Nebraska (BIA-NE) is the only organization providing training, awareness to the public, and a guidance for resources that those injured, and their families, need to heal physically and emotionally.

Thanks to the Nebraska Department of Education—through Nebraska VR (Vocational Rehabilitation)—the BIA-NE has a grant to fund resource facilitation. The goal is to help individuals with a brain injury to navigate a complex system to integrate them back into communities as productive citizens. The federal grant is up for renewal. Whether the federal government will fund Nebraska again is anyone’s guess.


The State of Nebraska does not fund a formal program for brain injury education and support.

As a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization the BIA-NE operates on funds from grants, contracts with local entities interested in training and program development, and donations from generous citizens. We need your help. Here’s what you can do:

- Go to our website www.BIANE.org for information.
- Like our Facebook page and follow us.
- Support our efforts to seek state funding to establish a statewide sustainable brain injury program.
- Give us your ideas on how to better support Nebraskans with brain injury.
- Get involved with our programs.
- DONATE to our organization.

Brain injury is only a fall, an automobile accident, a sports concussion, or a myriad of potential accidents away from changing your life, and the lives of those you love, forever. Help others, help yourself, be prepared. Support the Brain Injury Alliance of Nebraska.

Sincerely,



Roger P. Lempke
President

Mission

To create a better future for all Nebraskans through brain injury prevention, education, advocacy, and support.





Testimony - Amanda Vick

Amanda Vick, mother of Jonathon

Just three weeks after turning 16, my son, Johnathon was driving on a country road and had a severe accident. He was immediately air lifted to Sioux City, IA, was in a coma, had a bleeding spleen, broken shoulder and ribs, and a collapsed lung. He was in a coma for two months while in the ICU, had a craniotomy, was on a ventilator, got several infections and pneumonia and weighed under 100 pounds.

During his ICU stay, our insurance company wanted to send him to the local nursing home with no rehabilitation. I fought very hard over the years to get my son into places that could help him and where he could continue rehabilitation.

From the very beginning, a Brain Injury Alliance of Nebraska (BIA-NE) resource facilitator offered suggestions on locations and different avenues to try and generally sharing my frustration for the lack of resources we could afford.

Insurance limits means that Johnathon is now home in Wayne, NE. He still is battling health problems and we have challenges getting tests, treatment and therapies accomplished in a rural area, specially with limited financial resources. However, we know we the BIA-NE is committed to helping survivors and their families like us get resources, overcome hurdles and be heard.

Board Members

President: **Roger Lempke**, Major General (ret) –Lincoln

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Ashley Hatheway, CPA, CFO, Art Jetter & Co.–Omaha

Michelle Hawley-Grieser, Mother of individual with brain injury–Lincoln

Jim Peterson, Cass County Commissioner and Owner/Manager Midwest Insurance Exchange –Eagle

Sharon Royers, Individual with brain injury –Omaha

Danielle Wagoner, Lochland Country Club –Hastings

Brandon Verzal, Father of individual with brain injury –Lincoln

Joshua Winkelmann, Individual with brain injury –Lincoln

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Supporters of Brain Injury Alliance of Nebraska,

Yet another year has come and gone. Thank you for your continued support and dedication to Brain Injury Alliance of Nebraska.

In 2017 we tried a couple of new things to add to our list of accomplishments.

1. We hosted our first annual Blazing Trails for Brain Injury, a run, walk, roll event. Given its success, we are gearing up for the second annual Blazing Trails on June 10, 2018. More details are listed in the report.
2. We partnered with Drive Smart Nebraska to promote seatbelt use by placing billboards in central and eastern Nebraska. Since motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death, injury, and brain injury in the US, this was a great partnership. We will be partnering to do this again in 2018.

Members of the brain injury community also spent time this last year discussing the vision for brain injury in Nebraska. Below is the vision the community developed:

- Individuals with brain injury have the necessary resources to pursue their recovery.
- Individuals with brain injury and their families have a statewide unified voice.
- Providers collaborate with statewide peer support for individuals with brain injury.
- Individuals with brain injury have support from a variety of state agencies.
- There is an elimination of stigma related to brain injury.

This vision is an ambitious one, one that can be met as we continue to collaborate and focus on the needs of those affected by brain injury. As this vision was developed we talked about the importance of strengthening the voice, the voice of those with brain injury.

As we move into 2018, we plan to expand opportunities for individuals and families to get more involved in building the Nebraska system through the development of a membership committee, our new Unmasking Brain Injury project, and chances for survivors to share their stories on our website.

We are excited to offer these opportunities and look forward to building the voice for brain injury across the state.

As we move into 2018 we ask for your continued support to help us achieve inspiring goals! Please accept our sincere thanks for your kindness and generosity in 2017.

Sincerely,



Peggy Reisher, MSW
Executive Director



Staff

Peggy Reisher, MSW, Executive Director
Cindy Evert Christ, Event Coordinator
April Edwards, Project and Marketing Associate

Chris Stewart, Resource Facilitator
Gina Simanek, MA, LMHP, Resource Facilitator

What we do...

BIA-NE provides a comprehensive array of prevention, education, advocacy, and support services.

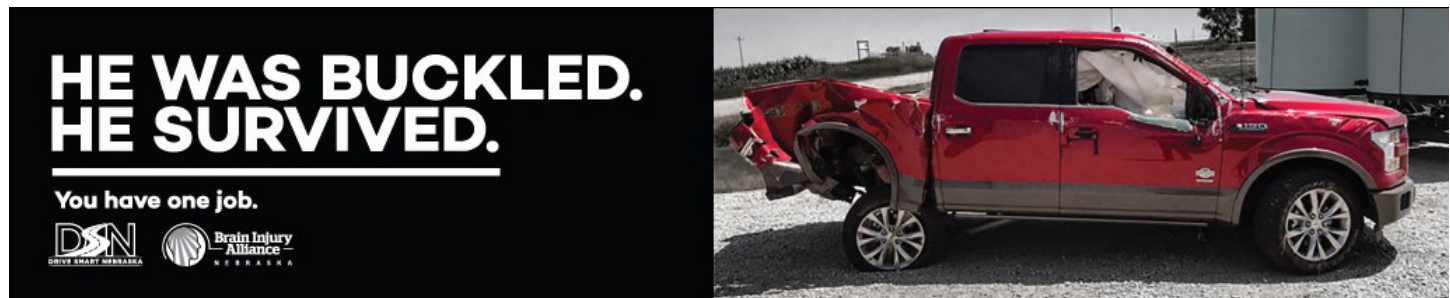
PREVENTION

Preventing Abusive Head Trauma:

BIA-NE captured the devastating stories of four children after being shaken as babies in a documentary, "Forever Shaken". This powerful 30-minute educational tool is being used by childcare advocates, schools, hospitals, and others to show the lifelong challenges that face children of Abusive Head Trauma. Forever Shaken has had over 87,000 YouTube views.

Promotion of Seatbelt and Occupant Restraint:

BIA-NE in partnership with Drive Smart Nebraska placed billboards in central and eastern Nebraska with the message, "He was Buckled. He Survived."



EDUCATION

Providing Comprehensive Brain Injury Information:

BIA-NE hosts an annual Brain Injury Conference which brings together over 200 professionals and individuals with brain injury and their families to learn about brain injury and industry standards.

Changing the Culture of Concussion:

The BIA-NE leads the Nebraska Concussion Coalition which creates statewide awareness of the need for concussion management. The focus is on educating coaches, parents, players, teachers, and health care professionals about the proper recognition and management of concussion. This was done via a media campaign which included social media, television and radio spots, and billboards.

Addressing Domestic Violence:

BIA-NE has provided brain injury training for professionals working with victims of domestic violence on aspects of brain injury and how to conduct the HELP Brain Injury Screening Tool with individuals served in domestic violence programs.

ADVOCACY

Leading Government and Legislative Advocacy:

BIA-NE monitors government and how it affects the brain injury community. BIA-NE works with policy makers for the benefits of those with brain injuries and keeps members informed of the issues that could affect their lives.

SUPPORT

Resource Facilitation:

Resource Facilitation Specialists, who, through strategic partnerships, provide individualized information, resources, and referral services to individuals and their families coping with brain injury. BIA-NE served over 300 unique clients in 2017.

Statewide Support Groups:

Volunteer facilitated Brain Injury Support Groups meet regularly in 15 locations throughout Nebraska.



June 9, 2017
Lake Zorinsky Park, Omaha, NE

Participant Breakdown – 173
 76 – Run | 82 – Walk | 7 – Roll | 8 – Virtual

Funds Raised \$16,839.92



At the inaugural Blazing Trails for Brain Injury, runners, walkers, and rollers of all ages came out to raise awareness and funding for brain injury in Nebraska. Participants were able to enjoy live music, get exercise and build relationships, all for a good cause! This family-friendly event was so fun, we decided to meet our friends at Lake Zorinsky Park again in 2018, check out the flyer on the back for more information!



BIA-NE wins \$85,000 grant from Women Investing in Nebraska (WIN).

This project is called Brain Injury and Domestic Violence: Making the Connection and Improving Care. Little research has been done on the incidence of brain injury related to domestic violence. By partnering for more in-depth screening, with Kate Higgins, Psy.D., a neuropsychology postdoctoral fellow at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Center for Brain, Biology and Behavior, important changes and advances can be made. Other collaborators include the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Center for Disease Control, Schmeeckle Research, Nebraska Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence, Friendship Home, Clinic with a Heart, and Voices of Hope.



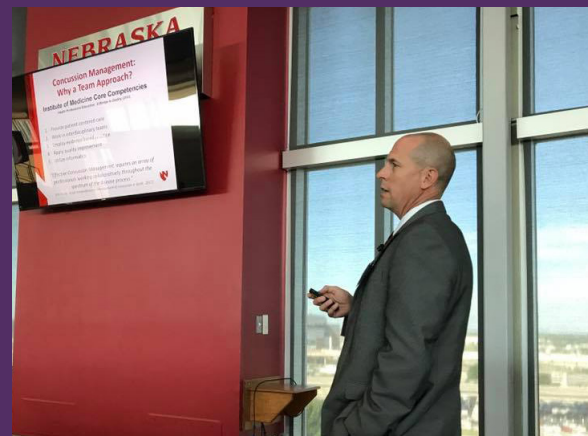
“WIN seeks out projects that apply bold new ideas and approaches to important issues in our state.”

-WIN Press Release



CONCUSSION AWARENESS & EDUCATION

BIA-NE, in partnership with Concussion Coalition members, held several events working towards changing the concussion culture, including four statewide *Concussion Discussions*, and a *Concussion Assessment and Management Symposium*. The Discussions were held in Hastings, Fremont, Lincoln and Omaha and featured a panel of healthcare specialists. The Concussion Discussions were free and open to the public. The Concussion Symposium was held July 17 on UNL's campus. This symposium was targeted for athletic trainers, physicians, nurses, speech-language pathologists, and any other medical or allied health professionals who work with acute or chronic concussion injuries. Additionally, the Alliance continued their multi-media Concussion Campaign, which involved the creation of six youth sporting videos urging “When in Doubt, Sit Them Out.” You can learn more at www.whenindoubtnebraska.org.



2017 Award Winners

Above and Beyond, Dale Johannes

This individual has gone above and beyond for all of us; giving tirelessly for brain injury causes, a leader in the true sense of the word; taking his own personal tragedy and turning it into a lifelong opportunity to educate, encourage, motivate, and inspire others.

In order to successfully assist others, he has to first have a good sense of self. Having suffered a brain injury when he was just a teenager, he learned what it was like to accept and reinvent. He shares his story with others - more interested, though, in learning about them and what – together – they can do to implement change. He has taken his experiences a step further working, among other places, at QLI. His experience, knowledge, empathy, understanding, and perseverance ultimately led him to active duty on the Brain Injury Advisory Council.



Advocate of the Year, Lori Terryberry-Spohr

This individual seizes opportunities to not only show others that is should be done, but that it can be done. We all seek purpose in life. For those who have suffered a brain injury; that is much easier said than done. The road to recovery can seem hopeless; especially when faced with so many obstacles. It's at times like these when an individual needs an advocate; a kind, compassionate, knowledgeable, experienced, and determined professional with a 'can do' attitude.

In addition to her intelligence, she is one of those 'what you see is what you get' type people. There is no guesswork with her. She tells you like it is and does so with such grace and poise that you instantly trust her and want to keep trying... no matter how long it takes.

Physician Advocate of the Year, Robert Miller, M.D.

This is a physician who supports individuals as they walk through their recovery and is a role model for their peers. Dr. Miller not only provides excellent care for those with a brain injury, but support and representation as they walk through the process of recovery.

His knowledge and expertise in Emergency Medicine at Columbus Community Hospital has made a difference in countless lives. And while that would be enough for most people, it is just scratching the surface for this man.

When he's not at work, he's actively serving on various educational collaboratives like the Nebraska Concussion Coalition, a group of professionals from the across the state working tirelessly to educate and inform Nebraskans about brain injury.



Statement of Financial Activities

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$174,239
Accounts receivable	\$6,639
Grants receivable	\$134,372
Prepaid expenses	-
Total Current Assets	\$194,250
Total Assets	\$194,250
Accounts payable	\$5,973
Accrued Vacation	\$5,256
Payroll taxes payable	\$1,755

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	\$180,781
Temporarily restricted	\$485
Total Net Assets	\$181,266
Salaries payable	-
Total Current Liabilities	12,894
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$194,250

*Public Accountants 12-31-2017

TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS

Contributions and grants	\$154,643
Fee Income	-
Net assets released from restrictions	(154,643)
Increase (decrease) in temporarily	-
Total (decrease) increase in net assets	\$58,648
Net assets at beginning of year	\$122,618
Net assets at end of year	\$181,266

*Public Accountants 12-31-2017

UNRESTRICTED REVENUES and SUPPORT

Contributions and grants	\$208,062
Event revenue	\$14,900
Fee income	\$28,465
Miscellaneous revenue	\$904
Total Revenue and Support	\$252,331
Net Assets Released	\$154,643

EXPENSES

Program	\$275,473
Management	\$40,737
Fundraising	\$32,116
Total Expenses	\$348,326

Sponsors, Donors and Memorials

Corporations and Foundations

Ameritas
Allstate Insurance Company
Baer Foundation
Bryan Health
CHI Immanuel Rehabilitation Center
Cline Williams Wright Johnson and Oldfather LLP
Community Health Charities Un-designated Funds
Community Services Fund of NE
Debby Durham Family Foundation
Elkhorn Youth Football
Excel Rehabilitation, Inc.
First Presbyterian Church
GO Physical Therapy
Heels for Combat Boots
Holiday Inn
Kutak Rock, LLP
Lincoln Community Foundation
Midwest Special Needs Trust
Nebraska Medicine
Nebraska State Bar Association
Nebraska VR
Prentiss Grant LLC
QLI
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Revive Precision Chiropractic
Rotella's Italian Bakery, Inc.
Southeast NE AHEC
The Vetter Foundation
Thrivent Financial
Werner Enterprises

In-Kind

Hy-vee
Scheels
V2 Content
Wal-Mart

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Leslie & Marcia Corr
Lloyd & Beth Damewood
Earl & Marilyn Erks
Bob & Bobbie Frerichs
Carl Linda Gallagher
Sandy, Ted & Matt Grulke
Karen Hux
Elaine K Ifland
Harvey & Linda Lile
Don & Bev Mach
Molly Maronde
Scott Marshall
J. S. Masek
Marcia & Jerry Motz
Connie Munyon
Geoff and Jeanette Ronhovde
Jack & Janet Ronhovde
Jim & Grace Ronhovde
Ron & Kathy Ronhovde
Richard & Lois Ronhovde
Tom & Sue Ronhovde
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Bob & Patty Krzycki
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Tom & Peggy Reisher
Schneider Electric North America Foundation
Howard Shear

LEE HARTMANN

Kay Hartmann

MICHAEL MEYER

Karen Burmood



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\$5,000-3,000

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\$2,999 - \$1,000

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Joseph & Irene Malek
Roger & Shirlee Lempke
James & Colleen Peterson
Carolyn Urbom
Cindy Worster

\$999-\$500

Joseph Acierno
Scot Adams
Ashley Hatheway
Mark Jones
Brenda Lenz
Dorothy Menousek
Rene Orosco
Howard Shear

\$499-\$200

Matthew Janhnke
Anna Goeschel
Dale & Michelle Johannes
Bob Johnsen
Adam Kafka
Vicki Kinnan
Art Maerlender
Tait, Tom, & Brenda Rief
Sharon Royers
Brandon & Tiffany Verzal
Joshua Winkelmann

\$199 - \$100

Anne Armstrong
Karen Burmood
Jeffrey Elliott
Tom Grafton
Sandy, Ted & Matt Grulke
Barry Harper
Kay Hartmann
Todd Kinney
Jon & Cheryl Koeller
Bob & Patty Krzycki
Dr. Randy LaGrone
Janet McCartney
Sriram Ramaswamy
Susan & Dennis Riekenberg
Norma Register
Vernon & Joan Schaecher
Frank Velinsky
Danielle Wagoner
Nate Wieting
Amanda Wells

\$99 - \$50

Linda & Dr. Michael Adams
Carol & Tom Beran
Julie Corr
Leslie & Marcia Corr
Mike & Rosi Dowd
Bob Fischer
M Friedman
Denise Gehringer
Karen Hux
Elaine K Ifland
Terry & Anna Mae Newman
Amy Nissen
Dr. Michael & Marcie Meyer
Sally & David Ray
Jenny Thompson
Marilyn Burns-Schuler
Mark & Barbara Schardt
Suzanne Sughroue
Dave Young
Kenneth Young
Mark Zach

\$49 and under

Amy Eidenmiller
Earl & Marilyn Erks
Tracey Ernesti
LuAnn Franzluebbbers
Bob & Bobbie Frerichs
Micah & Jamie Fulmer
Carl & Linda Gallagher
Vernon & Jane Gibson
Denise Gilmore
Michele Haller
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Lloyd & Bonnie Hartmann
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Dennis Heinrich
Jeff & Ann Hoppe
Gertrude E. Hutton
David & Mary Jellen
Allen & Connie Johannes
Duane Kalisek
Sarah King
Allen & Adeline Kusek
Jeff Lehman
Marylouise Lehman
Harvey & Linda Lile
Don & Bex Mach
Marjorie Manglitz
Molly Maronde
Scott Marshall
Rusty McKune
J. S. Masek
Bonnie Menks
Ruby Miller
Wendy & Bernie Monbouquette
Marcia & Jerry Motz
Connie Munyon
Louise Nabb
Kathy Nelsen
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Gina Simanek
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Kathryn Stastny
Sharon Thernes
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Donald Von Seggern
Marilyn Wagner Feldman
Loren Warren
Kristy Weissling
Ruth Williams
Deb Winkelmann
Loree Woods
Reuben Worster
Jose Zamarripa-Hernandez



PO Box 22147
Lincoln, NE
68542



5K Run
7:00 AM - 9:00 AM

1-Mile Walk/Roll
8:30 AM - 10:00 AM

Sunday, June 10th, 2018

\$35.00/participant
\$45.00/day-of registration

Zorinsky Park Shelter #5
3808 South 154th St., Omaha, NE 68130

REGISTER TODAY!!

<https://runsignup.com/Race/NE/Omaha/BlazingTrailsforBrainInjury>

REGISTRATIONS PLACED AFTER MAY 14th ARE NOT GUARANTEED A T-SHIRT.



A Proud Member of



COMMUNITY
HEALTH CHARITIESSM
NEBRASKA