



**Brain Injury
Alliance**
N E B R A S K A

2022



Annual Report

Building moments worth celebrating

Building Moments **Worth Celebrating**

A Letter from Our Executive Director & Board President

*“The more you praise and celebrate your life,
The more there is in life to celebrate.”*

~ Oprah Winfrey

Dear Friends and Supporters,

2022 was a milestone year for us, brimming with significant accomplishments and a dash of flair that made it truly unforgettable. Our virtual conference was a hit! Attendees, speakers, and sponsors showered us with praise for our engaging topics and seamless presentations. Discussions flowed, minds were enlightened, and it was an absolute triumph.

But let’s talk about Blazing Trails – our Omaha event was a fantastic showcase of spirit and support from the Omaha Metro community. Meanwhile, our rock stars from North Platte took things up a notch with a horse ranch adventure that had everyone grinning ear to ear. Kudos to MenDi and Shir for making it a hoot with their kiddos!

Plotting our strategic moves in Lincoln was like orchestrating a symphony. A full day of brainstorming left us exhausted, invigorated, and brimming with plans fueled by our collective passion for the cause. Witnessing the room buzzing with action was a testament to our shared commitment.

Our new Peer Mentorship Program is the crown jewel of our year, fostering connections between brain injury warriors to navigate challenges together. Plus, our partnership with Douglas County Youth Corrections is groundbreaking, broadening our scope to support high-risk populations.

2022 saw our training sessions reaching fever pitch, breaking records like a boss! Our Resource Facilitation team was on fire, powering our outreach initiatives to soaring heights.

Your steadfast support has been the bedrock of our success, and we’re geared up for the journey ahead. As we dive into new adventures, your partnership remains the driving force behind our unwavering commitment to the brain injury community in Nebraska.

With heartfelt thanks,



Mark Russell
Board President



Peggy Reisher, MSW
Executive Director

“People overcoming the odds is actually a really important part of humanity, and I don’t think we kind of get to celebrate that as much as we should.”

~ Taika Waititi

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Gina Simanek, MA, LMHP

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and Southeast Nebraska Region

Brenda Horner

Resource Facilitator,

Central Nebraska Region

MenDi McCuiston

Resource Facilitator,

Western Nebraska Region

Shir Smith

Resource Facilitator,

Western Nebraska Region

Our Impact (By the Numbers)



357

Total individuals served in 2022.

31 years old

Most common age of people served from 338 records (with age listed) in 2022.

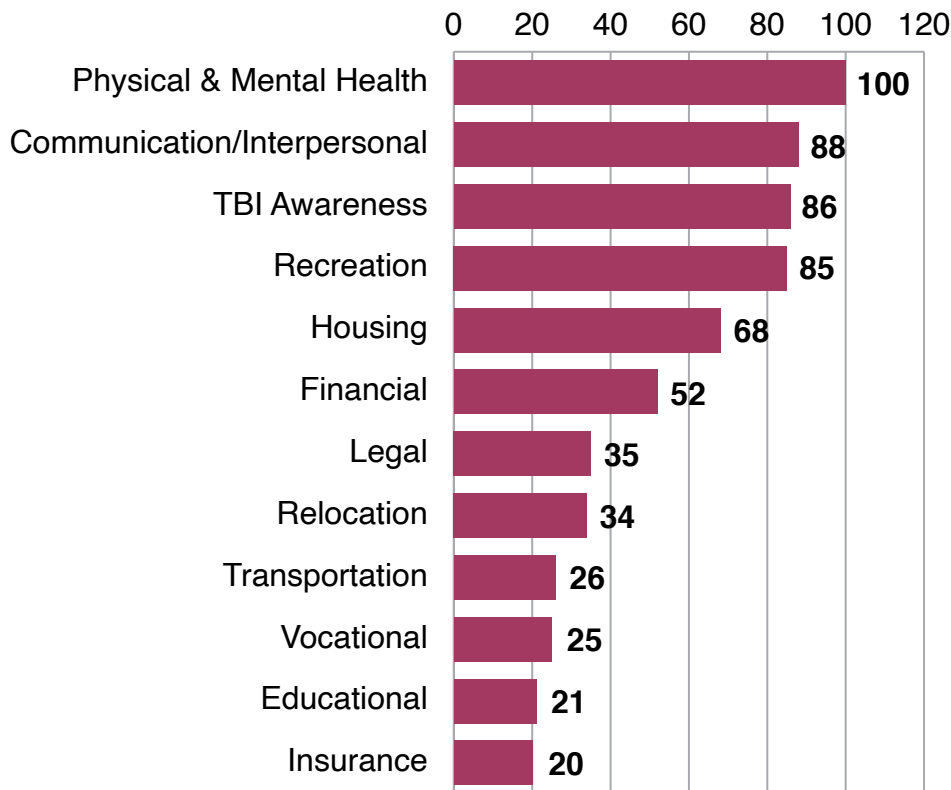
120

Existing cases.

237

New people served.

Common Barriers Experienced in 2022 (Number of Times Recorded)



650

Total number of barriers experienced by the individuals recorded in 2022.

121

New people served had one or more barrier documented in 2022.

602

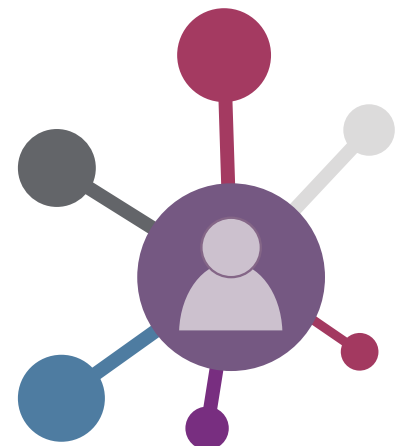
Total number of referrals provided to 125 individuals.

Most Common Referrals

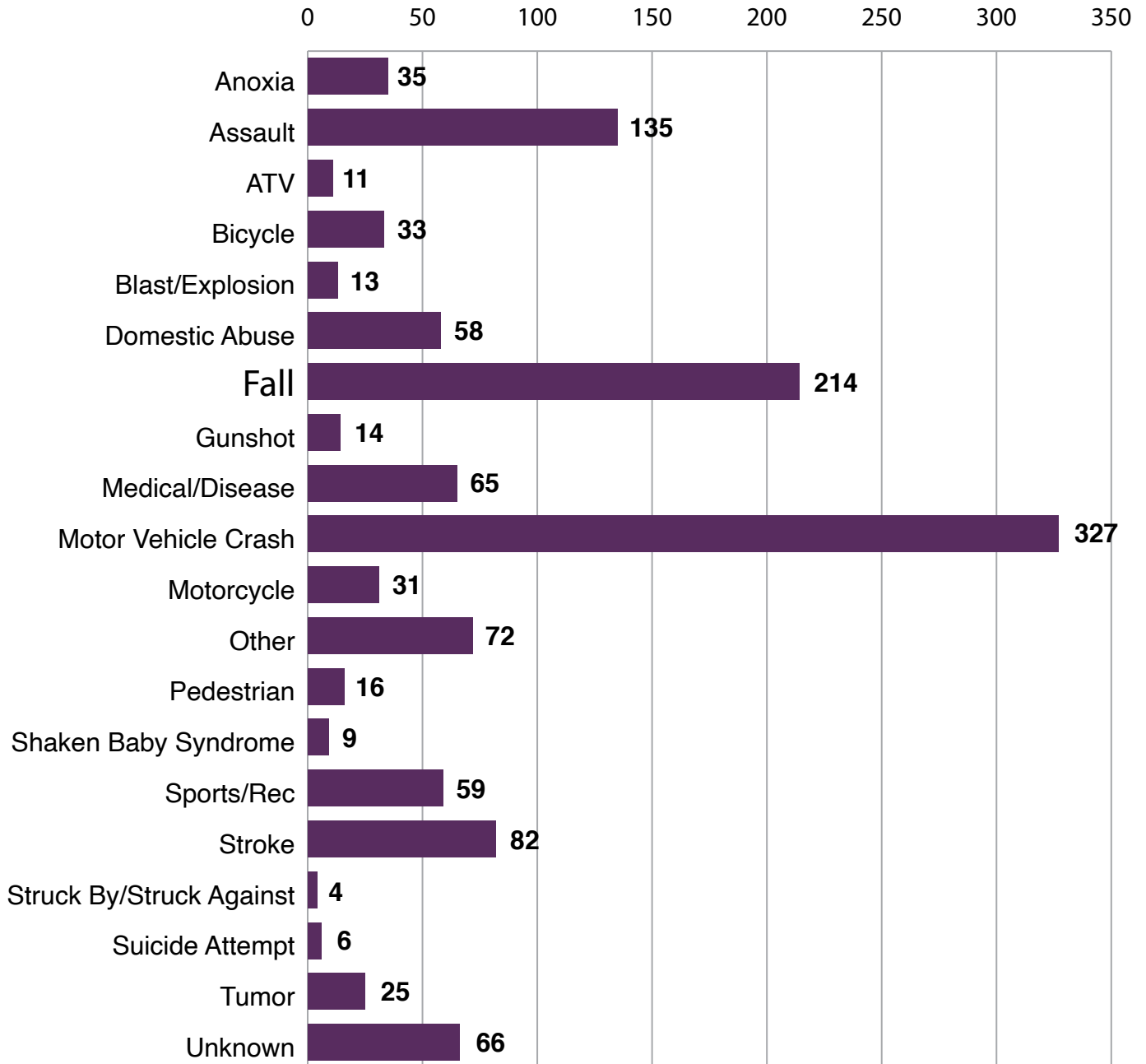
Brain Injury Basics (15%)

Neuro Resources (13%)

Support Groups (11%)



Common Causes of Injury 2009 - Present (Number of Times Recorded)



566

Brain injury screenings recorded among **12 partner agencies** from **July - December 2022**.

Jeremy's Journey

A story of contagious positivity in the face of challenges

Have you ever met someone whose positive attitude was so contagious that you couldn't help but smile and notice a new bounce in your step after spending time with them? One such person is Jeremy Wolzen.

In 2022, our organization visited QLI and I had the opportunity to meet Jeremy. Jeremy is no stranger to many of our team members. He does lots of volunteer work with the BIA-NE and he is a huge supporter of our Blazing Trails event. During a tour of the facility, Jeremy welcomed us into his room to show us the projects he was working on and to share his journey with us.

Jeremy was in a car accident 20 years ago that changed his life, and quite possibly for the better.

Before the accident, Jeremy took a job working construction soon after he graduated high school in which he learned how things were made. After a couple of years in the workforce, he decided to give college a try, but a summer opportunity took him in a different direction—diesel mechanics. Working as a diesel mechanic was rewarding, but after a couple years, he found himself pulled back into the construction world. There, he performed construction management as part of a risk management team to ensure the building plans were being followed by the contractors.

Jeremy was living his best life and enjoying the money he was making—when things took a drastic turn.

After the accident, Jeremy spent 84 days in a coma and four months in Madonna recovering and struggling with the idea that he might never walk again. Jeremy's family played a big part in his recovery and helped him to stay positive despite the struggles he was facing to regain his mobility.

Jeremy expressed his appreciation towards his family, saying that they are a close-knit family, and that he would not be where he is if it were not for them. Their support encouraged him to find his faith, which has helped him with his positive mindset and has given him a method to his "madness." Jeremy explained to me that he keeps his mind busy, so it doesn't wander into negative thinking. "Your life is always what you make it," and if you give him lemons, he is going to make the best lemonade possible.



(Above:) Jeremy Wolzen

With the encouragement and support of his family and his positive mindset, Jeremy learned how to transition from a wheelchair to a bed to a chair, then also into an automobile seat. Therapy continued moving forward and Jeremy began to walk. He was still a bit unsteady and as much as he wanted to regain his independence, he still needed support for walking. After a fall one night, he was placed in a net bed, so he didn't get up without assistance and fall again, but he was mobile without a wheelchair, something he was told was beyond his reach.

Jeremy transitioned to QLI, where he now lives.

Jeremy now spends his days volunteering at Immanuel hospital doing dishes, working out and spending time in the gym, participating in a cross-fit class that has been adapted at QLI for individual abilities, attending church and bible study, and riding his bike when the weather permits. Jeremy might not drive a car again, at least not in the city, but he enjoys his life and likes the person he has become.

Jeremy's family has put together a photo album that shows his recovery process from the beginning, he has come a long way and is proud of the progress he has made. Looking at the pictures, you can see the determination on his face, it's no surprise he has overcome his obstacles and is living his best life.

What an amazing example of positivity and courage!



(Above:) Jeremy Wolzen holding the flag for the National Anthem at the 2021 Blazing Trails for Brain Injury event.

Finances

Financial Position

Current Assets

Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 699,550.00
Grants & Pledges Receivable	\$ 165,815.00
Prepaid Expenses	\$ 18,180.00
Restricted Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 134,807.00
Other Assets	\$ 85,599.00
Total Current Assets	\$ 1,103,951.00

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$ 13,437.00
Other Accrued Expenses	\$ 7,788.00
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 21,225.00

Net Assets

Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 842,601.00
Restricted Net Assets	\$ 240,125.00
Total Net Assets	\$ 1,082,726.00
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$ 1,103,951.00

Financial Activities

Revenues & Support

Contributions	\$ 130,104.00
Grants	\$ 406,989.00
Fundraising Events	\$ 24,084.00
Conference & Training Fees	\$ 18,520.00
Decrease/Increase in Investments	\$ (12,398.00)
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$ 902.00
Total Revenue & Support	\$ 568,201.00

Net Assets Released from Restrictions

\$ 566,957.00

Expenses

Program	\$ 745,267.00
Management	\$ 19,534.00
Fundraising	\$ 17,432.00
Total Expenses	\$ 782,233.00
Increase in Unrestricted Assets	\$ 352,925.00

Restricted Net Assets

Grants & Contributions	\$ 550,000.00
Conference	\$ 8,000.00
Net Assets Released From Restrictions	\$ (566,957.00)

2021 Year Summary

Decrease In Restricted Assets	\$ 8,957.00
Total Increase In Net Assets	\$ 343,968.00

Net Assets at Beginning of 2022 \$ 738,758.00

Net Assets at End of 2022 \$ 1,082,726.00

Financial Supporters

Corporations, Foundations, & Sponsors

Advanced Chiropractic & Neurology

Atwood, Holsten, Brown, Deaver, Spier, & Israel Law Firm

Berkshire & Burmeister Attorneys At Law

Cada, Cada & Jewson

Dowding, Dowding, Dowding & Urbom Law Offices

Fraser Stryker PC LLO

FYZICAL Therapy & Balance Centers

Gallner & Pattermann, P.C.

Healthy Blue Nebraska

LivaNova

Millard Lumber Inc.

Nebraska Medicine

Prentiss Grant LLC

Ranshir Revolving Door Rescue

Rembolt Ludtke LLP

Rotella's Italian Bakery

Union Bank & Trust - Lincoln

Nebraska Medicine

Northpoint Nebraska

United Healthcare

Debby Durham Family Foundation

Dillon Foundation

Irene & Joseph Malek Charitable Trust

Judith Anne Hansen Trust

The Acklie Charitable Foundation

Vetter Senior Living

Weatherguard Roofing

Blackbaud Giving Fund, YourCause

CAF America

First Northeast Bank of Nebraska

First Presbyterian Church

J&S Feedlot

Kroger

Lifestyle Orthotics & Prosthetics

Mission Lifeline Stroke

Pfizer

Phrma

U2CanRun, LLC

Werner Enterprises, Inc.

Healthy Blue Nebraska

CHI Health - St. Elizabeth / Nebraska Heart

CHI Immanuel Rehab Institute / Wellness Center

Madonna Rehabilitation Hospitals - Lincoln

Donors

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Tom & Peggy Reisher

\$2,999 - \$1,000

James Brady
Mark & Paula Jones
Sharon Royers
Charles Taylon, M.D.

\$999 - \$500

Jim Cada
Betsy Raymer
Alan C. Schwartz
Rolland Svec
Brett Young

\$499 - \$200

Mikaela Davis
Kathryn Friedman
Brett Hoogeveen
Dr. Adam Kafka
Rondi Kinney
Susan Lewis
James Lippincott
James & Colleen Peterson
Vince Powers
Tait Rief
Tom & Brenda Rief
John & Carol Smolsky

\$199 - \$100

Patrick Brennan
Colleen Duryea
Brian & Lori Essen
Matthew & Brittany Jensen
Janet McCartney
Jodi Reese
Carol Russell
Teresa Smith
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Justin Suhn
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David Troupe

\$99 - \$50

Randy Amundson
Denise Gehringer
Rage Geringer
Barry Harper
Kathy Hoell
Patricia Huguenin
MenDi McCuiston
Pamela Nicholson
Rebecca Adams VandenBosch
Kenneth Young

\$49 - \$25

Doug Hartmann
John & Cara Hilgert
Richard Larson
Shirlene Smith
LJ Taylor

Thank you for your generous support!

Your continued support helps us build support networks for individuals and families across the state of Nebraska who've been affected by brain injury.

We are grateful for your support and help in building a better future for brain injury in Nebraska.

Recognizing **Extraordinary Impact**

Each year at the annual Nebraska Brain Injury Conference, we take some time during the luncheon on Thursday to recognize and honor individuals who've had an extraordinary impact on the brain injury community.

In 2022, we honored the following individuals for their dedicated support of the brain injury community in Nebraska.

Chris Krull - Professional Advocate of the Year



In his work as a physical therapist in North Platte, Dr. Krull had been well trained to treat patients using the treatment philosophy of postural restoration. Over the years, Dr. Krull began to notice individuals with a history of brain injury would often revert to their old patterns.

Dr. Krull has taken it upon himself to learn more about the unique needs of those with brain injury and has become a true advocate and a well-sought-out professional when it comes to serving individuals with brain injury in the community.

We thank Chris for his dedication and leadership in improving the lives of those with brain injury in Nebraska.

Jordan Hallstrom & Joy Lewis - Above & Beyond Award

The Brain Injury Alliance of Nebraska is proud to honor Joy Lewis and her son Jordan Hallstrom with the “Above and Beyond Award.”

At age 18, Jordan was involved in a motor vehicle accident resulting in a traumatic brain injury. Jordan found himself becoming isolated after his injury. Joy struggled to support her son without hovering.

With the inspiration from Jordan, Joy has dedicated years to the development of LB Connect. LB Connect is a phone app that can help individuals in achieving their goals, maintaining their routines, and connections to others.

The time, the thought, and the passion Joy and Jordan have invested in this app is truly “Above and Beyond.”

We thank Jordan and Joy for their dedication and innovation to improving the lives of those with brain injury in Nebraska.





**Brain Injury
Alliance**

N E B R A S K A

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Mission

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