

Q & A



**Brain Injury
Alliance**
ARIZONA

with BIAAZ's New Operations Coordinator, Faes Ibrahim

Faes Ibrahim joined the Brain Injury Alliance team in the spring of 2017 as their operations coordinator. He has smoothly transitioned into his new role with the BIAAZ, assisting with the maintenance of the enormous resource facilitation database and sustaining the office's day-to-day operations. Faes recently was able to expand his job description by helping with BIAAZ's signature events, such as the Rays of Hope survivor conference, which is attended by over 350 people annually, and Camp Can Do, a four-day camp for survivors of brain injury located near Payson.



Q Tell us about yourself and your career path.

A After graduating from the University of Arizona with a public health background, I wanted to dive right into a career where my skills and passion could co-exist with helping an organization prosper. Well, it wasn't much of a smooth sail after graduating, and I ended up landing a job as a Hospital Discharge Analyst instead. I found myself doing work where my skills shone, but my ability to grow and passion to strive went unfulfilled. It wasn't until a few months into the job that I discovered an available opportunity to work for the Brain Injury Alliance of Arizona (BIAAZ) as an Operations Coordinator.

Q What interested you about being a part of the non-profit sector?

A What drew me to the non-profit sector was the idea of helping individuals and families who may not know how to begin looking for resources or help. By joining the BIAAZ team, I could do fulfilling work with a purpose.

Q Why did you want to join the BIAAZ team?

A The BIAAZ presented an opportunity to join a team that has so much experience and knowledge about the non-profit sector. By joining, not only will I be able to learn more about this process myself, but



Operations Coordinator Faes Ibrahim played a big role at Camp Can Do this year, ensuring that camp was a fun and safe experience.

also sharpen my current skills and realize my passion to help others co-exist. My work may not directly correlate with helping individuals who have a brain injury, but by carrying out my various responsibilities, I help the team to run on full cylinders. I try to ensure the BIAAZ is effective in finding and keeping up with resources, and efficient in getting the information out to communities that are affected by some type of brain injury.

Q What is day-to-day life like in your position?

A When it comes to helping run an office that serves over 3,000 Arizonians with brain injuries and their families every year, I'm constantly doing a little bit of everything. I make sure the office materials are fully-stocked, IT issues are resolved, and the database is updated and maintained. Additionally, one of the projects I am currently working on is promoting BIAAZ membership.

Q What are some job-related goals you have for 2018?

A Some of my goals as operations coordinator are to help make the office more effective and efficient by maintaining databases, creating different ways to keep track of our resource facilitation inventory, and simply spreading the joy of helping others!

Q What do you like to do in your down time when you are not working?

A I am a simple man, so during my spare time, I enjoy the little things in life, like playing basketball, hiking, and exploring new places throughout Phoenix. I love how diverse Phoenix has become, with so many cultures, foods, and music intergraded within it. As once said by David Binder, "Festivals promote diversity; they bring neighbors into dialogue; they increase creativity; they offer opportunities for civic pride; they improve our general psychological well-being. In short, they make cities better places to live."

Q You recently participated in Camp Can Do. What was that like?

A It was great! Coming to camp for the first time, I didn't know what to expect, so I kept an open mind and let the ball roll. By the end of the four-day program, I found myself inspired by the campers who shared their stories, challenges, and triumphs. The campers found silver linings in their own situations and prospered from them, which shows the word "can't" is truly not in their vocabulary. In all, I am grateful I was given the opportunity to participate and grow as a professional and an individual!