



**Brain Injury  
Alliance**  
ARIZONA

# Miracle Men Team-Up to Raise Money for Brain Injury Support Services

Jim Ledgewood will be the first to admit he is fortunate to be alive. In January 2006, while enjoying a night out with friends at a local bar, a hollow-point bullet, fired by a man shooting at random in Glendale, struck him in the face. The bullet exploded upon entry, severing a facial nerve and destroying his inner eardrum. The bullet then traveled to the back of his head, where it nicked his carotid artery, causing bleeding around his brain. The bullet also damaged Jim's frontal and temporal lobe. Despite the trauma, Jim was back at his work desk three months after the violent attack.



Jason & Jim are two TBI survivors from the valley who are determined to help others



Throughout his journey as a survivor of brain injury, Jim was looking to connect with others who had been through a similar experience. There was just one

problem: Jim was practically a medical anomaly. 90 percent of people shot in the head die, often before they are even brought to the hospital. Of those who do make it to the emergency room, roughly half of them die there. Of those fortunate enough to survive a gunshot wound to the head, 50 percent will suffer post-traumatic seizures for the rest of their lives. Many will become severely disabled, both physically and cognitively.

After SWAN Neurological Rehabilitation referred him to the Brain Injury Alliance of Arizona for additional resources on living life with a brain injury, Jim attended BIAAZ's Annual Rays of Hope Conference. When BIAAZ's Executive Director Carrie Collins-Fadell heard about Jim's story, she knew just who he needed to connect with Jason Taylor.

Jason was a fellow medical anomaly living in the valley. The similarities in their stories struck Jim, and he reached out to Jason. Just like Jim, Jason had been out a local bar watching a friend's band play when he was shot in the head during a random act of violence in March 2011. A hollow-point bullet exploded in his cerebellum, leaving him in a coma. After a lot of hard work at Rehab without Walls

Rehabilitation and sheer determination, Jason also beat the odds and returned to work. Jim and Jason were able to meet, and have since forged a friendship. One of their many topics of shared interest was how they could help other survivors dealing with a brain injury.

Now, the duo will be co-chairing BIAAZ's first-ever Run, Walk, & Roll event, which will take place April 14, 2018 at Kiwanis Park in Tempe. Participants will be able to sign-up for the one-mile, 5k, or 10k events. Early registration is only \$35 per person. Both Jim and Jason believe that everyone's efforts to raise money by walking, running, or rolling will help the Brain Injury Alliance of Arizona fulfill its mission of serving thousands of families a year who have been impacted by brain injury.



**Brain Injury Alliance  
ARIZONA**

# RUN, WALK & ROLL

Join us for the inaugural  
Run, Walk, & Roll to  
support BIAAZ programs

**Saturday,  
April 14, 2018  
at Kiwanas Park, Tempe**

## Register Today!

[biaazwalkandroll.org](http://biaazwalkandroll.org)

### REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

You can register for a 10K, 5k,  
or 1 mile fun run/ walk

**Early Bird  
registration includes  
a t-shirt and a  
medal for \$30**

*To learn more about our affordable sponsor and vendor opportunities, contact Sally Taft at [outreach@biaaz.org](mailto:outreach@biaaz.org). Please contact Faes Ibrahim with registration questions at [Operations@biaaz.org](mailto:Operations@biaaz.org)*