



**Brain Injury
Alliance**
ARIZONA

Childers and Coventry's Own Jay Mankey is the Latest Addition to the BIAAZ Services for Vulnerable Populations Committee

If someone were to ask Jay Mankey if he gives a care, the answer would indubitably be yes— after all, he's spent nearly his entire working career caring for people in one form or another.

As an active airman in the U.S. Air Force for four years, Jay learned about his love for helping others when, during two of those years, he was stationed overseas on the island of Terceira in the Azores, an island chain owned by the country of Portugal, and assigned to work in the environmental health units in the hospitals. This experience led him to pursue his passion for the medical field upon his discharge from the Air Force.

A Pittsburgh native, Jay completed his nursing program training and graduated from Western Area Vo-Tech, located in "Steel City" itself. Now, his firm benefits from his 16 years of long-term care experience, as well as his time spent as a former hospice nurse at Hospice of the Valley.

Currently, Jay is utilizing his vast knowledge of the medical field in his position as a care manager at Childers and Coventry, a company that provides care management and fiduciary services, which can include guardianship and conservatorship. He's been with them for the past nine years and takes his position quite seriously. "My responsibility is to take care of the medical and psycho-social needs of our clients," he informs. "It's very similar to a case manager, except there's more in-



teraction on my end." Some such interactions include speaking with clients' physicians, going to doctor appointments, responding day or night to emergency room visits, and researching facility placement options.

Also incumbent on Jay as a representative of Childers and Coventry and as a care manager is his ability to effectively communicate with the company about the clients' needs. His main priority is reporting the physical and health status of those in his care to allow Childers and Coventry to make well-informed decisions that are in the best interest of those whom they serve. Typically,

individuals receiving the type of services Jay and his employers provide are either court-ordered to have them or are paid for by family members who are unable to provide direct care to their loved one themselves. "We [care managers] are either there to support them [the clients] in their need for financial management or health care, or to speak for them if they are unable to do

so for themselves," Jay shares. In his line of work, he finds himself mainly overseeing clients with dementia, but he has also worked, both in the past and present, with individuals with traumatic brain injuries (TBIs), as well as other disabilities.

Although Mr. Mankey enjoys providing high-quality care management while on the clock, he has also maintained a strong community presence as well. Just this past year, he retired after 12 years of coaching football for several Phoenix Area High Schools, including Valley Vista, St. Mary's, and Shadow Mountain. "High School football was the closest I've felt to being back in the military," he admits.

Jay's latest venture into community service involves his induction as the latest committee member for the Brain Injury Alliance of Arizona's Services for Vulnerable Populations Committee. Jay is excited to get started, and honored that Carrie Collins-Fadell, executive director of BIAAZ, asked him to join. Carrie called Jay a natural choice to join the BIAAZ leadership team as a committee member. "As a small statewide non-profit, we rely on our leadership members to use their connections to open doors, bring new ideas, and assist us in strategically implementing programs and outreach," Collins-Fadell says. "The Services to Vulnerable Populations Committee will look at how we are reaching and impacting Arizonians whose situations can be precarious, such as the homeless, veterans, domestic violence survivors, and those battling addiction."

Part of Jay's decision to come aboard as a council



Jay, shown here with members of The Random Gingers after their camp performance, was a huge help at camp and even revealed a talent- he has a wonderful singing voice.

member stems from his positive experience as a volunteer for the 2018 session of BIAAZ's annual summer camp, Camp Can Do, where campers and volunteers alike can participate in campfires, themed dinners, arts and crafts, fishing, a talent show, and more. Jay owes finding out about camp partly to Childers and Coventry, as they are a partner organization with BIAAZ, as well

as through Sean Badding, the owner of several group homes specifically designed to support those with TBIs. One of Jay's clients lives in one of Sean's homes, and many of Sean's residents attend camp every year. After talking with Sean about the camp and getting permission from his boss to go, Jay made his way up to Whispering Hope Ranch in Payson to see what all the fuss was about. "Camp was great!" Jay says enthusiastically. "The interaction with campers was a n experience you can only appreciate by doing. If someone tells you about it, it's nothing compared to doing it yourself." Jay was also impressed by how the campers always had a smile on their face and seemed to be grateful for everything the volunteers did for them. "From the Camp Director Barbara Correll down to Faes (BIAAZ's operations coordinator), everyone was great; all the volunteers were amazing," he confirms.

In his spare time, Jay, a lifelong sports fan, counts among his hobbies not only watching them, but collecting memorabilia as well, including game programs, autographs, and player cards, most especially baseball cards. He also has a wonderful wife, Sharon, who also works in the care industry with people who have dementia in a memory care facility. He is very proud of the fact that in 2015, she was named the National Certified Nursing Assistant of the Year and was presented the award at a national conference in Des Moines, Iowa. Mr. Mankey and Sharon have lived in Arizona for the past 26 years, and he says he has no plans to ever leave. "It's where I'm supposed to be," he says.