



Advancing Brain Health

- ◆ Preventing injuries
- ◆ Inspiring hope
- ◆ Promoting understanding



**Brain Injury
Alliance**
ARIZONA

Making the Invisible Visible Since 1983

SUPPORT | EDUCATE | ADVOCATE | PREVENT | INSPIRE



Brain Injury Alliance
ARIZONA

OUR MISSION

The Brain Injury Alliance of Arizona is a social benefit organization dedicated to creating a better future through brain injury prevention, advocacy, and education. We support, connect, and empower brain injury survivors and caregivers on their journeys to recovery.

OUR HISTORY

In 1983, the Brain Injury Alliance was founded in Tucson by a group of parents who joined forces to network and assist their pediatric and adult children who had survived brain injury. They were particularly interested in identifying and working with professionals who truly understood the complex journey that life-after-brain-injury.

Today, this statewide organization has programs for Veterans, those who experience interpersonal violence, people with substance abuse issues, and individuals who are justice-involved or homeless.

All staff members who work with clients are Certified Brain Injury or Peer Support Specialists, trained in trauma and suicide prevention.

WE SERVE



The Brain Injury Alliance of Arizona

improves quality of life for persons living with a brain injury and their families by providing vetted brain injury-specific providers, resources, information, and support.



Fulfilling Our Mission

- ▶ Comprehensive clearinghouse of brain injury information and statewide resources
- ▶ Connect families and professionals to appropriate resources
- ▶ Statewide network of support groups
- ▶ Services in both English and Spanish
- ▶ Online directory of service providers
- ▶ Peer support
- ▶ Educational conferences, workshops, and trainings for professionals, caregivers, and survivors
- ▶ Public awareness and education
- ▶ Legislative and public policy advocacy
- ▶ Prevention outreach, and education

Causes of Brain Injury

Traumatic

- ▶ Motor vehicle accidents
- ▶ Falls
- ▶ Firearms
- ▶ Struck by or against
- ▶ Blast injuries

Acquired

- ▶ Stroke
- ▶ Aneurysm
- ▶ Infection
- ▶ Anoxic/Hypoxic
- ▶ Chemical/Drug-induced



Populations that have a greater propensity for traumatic brain injury include children, seniors, victims of domestic violence, servicemen and women, individuals experiencing incarceration, addiction, and/or homelessness.

The Brain Injury Alliance receives referrals to reach out to these populations in a variety of ways—from survivors, family members, hospitals, rehabilitation facilities, specialty courts, and social service agencies.

What we do

SUPPORT

- » **Brain Health Resource Center:** An online database of resources for survivors and caregivers at biaaz.org
- » **Brain Injury Family Support School Program:** Supporting school-aged children with brain injuries and their families
- » **Butters Fund Pet & Service Animal Program:** Helps survivors stay with their four-legged friends while recovering from brain injury
- » **Camp Can-Do:** A four-day adaptable camping experience in the cool pines of northern Arizona for adults 18+
- » **Living Life Fully after Brain Injury:** Introductory educational series for individuals living with brain injury, and their caregivers.
- » **Peer Support:** Training for behavioral health professionals that is recovery-centered, relationship-focused, and trauma-informed to enhance their treatment of brain injury survivors
- » **Resource Facilitation:** Conducting needs assessments with individuals living with brain injury and their families to help define their goals and move forward in their recovery journey
- » **Support Groups:** Provides survivors of brain injury and their families safe, supportive environments to share experiences, concerns, and information
- » **Living Well After Brain Injury Utility Fund:** Safety net for survivors who need help with utility bills, rent, and post-eviction storage units
- » **Neuro Info-Line 888-500-9165:** Certified Brain Injury Specialists are available to answer general questions and make crisis referrals
- » **Veterans Navigator:** Advocacy for military veteran service members as well as assistance
- » **State Opioid Response Team:** Blue-ribbon group utilizes wraparound services to help those with opioid dependence

EDUCATE

- » **Acquired Brain Injury Education:** Training for human service organization case managers to help identify brain injuries
- » **Professional Conferences and Continuing Education:** For medical, social service, occupational, and speech therapy professionals

ADVOCATE

- » We partner with the Congressional Brain Injury Task-Force and local and state governments to further education and awareness of brain injury by procuring state and federal grants that expand cutting-edge and critical funding.

PREVENT

- » We provide education to first responders on de-escalation techniques, as well as awareness outreach for teachers and community members. Our helmet dispersal program aims to avert recreational TBIs.

INSPIRE

Jim Ledgewood was 25 years old and at the top of his game. He had recently completed his bachelor's degree in architecture from Cal-Poly and moved to Arizona to pursue his first job, settle down, and purchase a home. This dream was shattered when he stepped outside a bar to get some fresh air and was struck by a random bullet.

For the next four years, Jim worked diligently to rebuild his life. Blind and deaf on his left side, he continued to struggle with the remnants of a traumatic brain injury. But that was just the beginning. He recalls, "my fuse was shorter. I fixated on things that irritated me, which caused more emotional problems. I had memory issues, high anxiety, and was easily distracted."

Seven years later, Jim finally received the appropriate diagnosis from a neuro-psychologist and began rebuilding his life with help from the Brain Injury Alliance. Today, he is actively involved in public advocacy, speaking on behalf of victims of crime with the Arizona Attorney General's Office and the Arizona State Bar, and as a keynote speaker at the Brain Injury Alliance's annual Rays of Hope Conference. Jim is currently a co-facilitator of the Alliance's Brain Cave men's support group that helps him, and others like him, along their lifetime journey of recovery.

His advice: "Seek support from professionals and others who understand brain injury and focus on the positive."



How we are funded

Since our humble beginnings, we have relied heavily on government contracts, which has limited our scope of work. Now in our next stage of growth, we are diversifying our funding base to expand our education, prevention, and advocacy programs.

Each year, the Brain Injury Alliance hosts the Brain Health/CEO Leadership Breakfast and Brainiac Bash, a soiree to support brain health. Other annual events include Run for Brain Health, Veterans Brain Health Run, Brain Health Symposium, and Concussion Awareness Day.

87% of every dollar raised goes directly to support our programs.



How you can help



GIVE TIME

- ▶ Clerical work in our office
- ▶ Database work in your home
- ▶ Help at a special event or program



GIVE TREASURES

- ▶ Make a monthly gift
- ▶ Consider making Brain Injury Alliance a beneficiary in your bequest
- ▶ Attend one of our dynamic fundraising events and/or make a donation



GIVE TALENT

- ▶ Join a committee
- ▶ Plan a friend-raising event or peer-to-peer fundraiser
- ▶ Offer your expertise



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