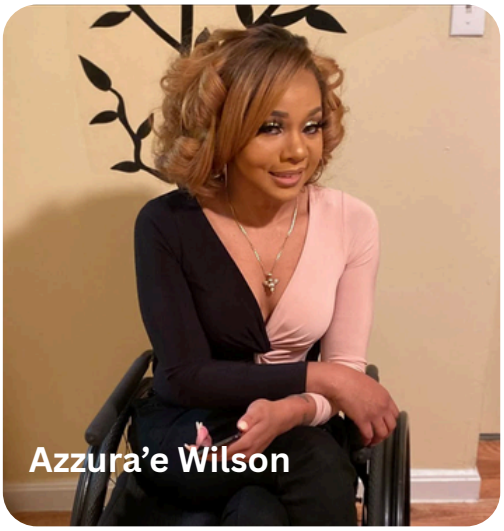
Journey of Hope Gala

Bryant Park Grill
November 12, 2026

Barry Dain Champion of Hope Award


Azzura'e Wilson

Azzura'e Wilson knows firsthand that surviving a brain injury is only the beginning of the journey.

At 15, Azzura'e was involved in a devastating car accident that left her with a traumatic brain injury and multiple serious injuries. After months in the hospital and rehabilitation, she returned home to a life that looked very different from the one she had known. The transition was filled with questions, challenges, and uncertainties, and those experiences would ultimately shape her purpose.

Today, Azzura'e is a brain injury survivor, a post-rehabilitation transition specialist at Westchester Independent Living Center, and an extraordinary advocate and voice for others living with brain injury. She understands that returning home is not the end of rehabilitation. For many, it is the beginning of an entirely new chapter, one that can require support, guidance, and someone who understands what it means to find your way forward.

Her goal is simple: **to be for others the person she needed when she was transitioning back into her own community.**

Through her work and advocacy, Azzura'e empowers individuals to recognize their abilities, find their voices, and see the possibilities that remain ahead. She has become a passionate advocate for stronger supports for people transitioning home after brain injury, including BIANYS's Continuum of Care for Neuro-Resource Facilitation.

Azzura'e brings lived experience, determination, compassion, and an unmistakable sense of purpose to everything she does. She is not only telling her story; she is using it to help make the road easier for those who will follow.

The Brain Injury Association of New York State is proud to honor **Azzura'e Wilson with the 2026 Barry Dain Champion of Hope Award** in recognition of her remarkable advocacy, leadership, and dedication to helping people affected by brain injury build lives filled with meaning, possibility, and hope.

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