



BIANYYS

2022 Annual Report



**BRAIN INJURY
ASSOCIATION**
OF NEW YORK STATE

OUR MISSION:

The mission of the Brain Injury

Association of New York State is to

support, educate and advocate for people

and families impacted by brain injury and

to minimize brain injury through

prevention.



CONTENTS

- 05** **Message from the
Board President
and Executive
Director**
- 06** **Highlights from 2022**
- 07** **Advocacy**
- 08** **FACTS Program**
- 09** **Family Fund &
Helpline**
- 10** **Professional
Development**
- 11** **Building our
Community**
- 13** **Financial Summary**



BIANYS STAFF

Eileen Reardon, *Executive Director*

Allison Barna, *Membership Coordinator*

Tory Chalmers, *CBIS Intake & Resource Facilitator*

Debbie Chilandese, *Director of Finance & Administration*

Michelle Kellen, *Professional Development Manager*

Christina LeBeau, *Director of Advocacy & Engagement*

Jeanne Shary, *Rockland Recreation Coordinator*

Karen Thomas, *CBIST, Director of Family Services*

FACTS COORDINATORS

Laleene Ali, *CBIS*

Diana Erno, *CBIS*

Kelly Hindes, *CBIS*

Jessica Morley, *CBIS*

Zazel O'Garra

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Toniann Tumminaro, *CBIS*

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Alexandra Verni **

Natalie Wimberly, *Psy.D.*

** Indicates District Board Members. Each of these Board Members are elected by BIANYS Members to represent one of the seven districts in New York State.



MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friend and Supporter of the Brain Injury Association of New York State:

So, how can we describe 2022? Simply, it would be the “Year of the New!” New way of providing support and services post-COVID. While we continued to incorporate precautionary measures to keep our participants safe, we started to come back to in-person programming and events. We are still exploring the “hybrid” world incorporating technology to reach more brain injury survivors and caregivers across the state.

In 2022, BIANYS started to create a 5-year Strategic Plan to build the idea of growth and prosperity. There are many goals to be reached by 2028, including increasing its visibility and strengthening the organization’s outreach and support services to individuals with brain injury and their families across the state.

VISION

The vision of BIANYS is a community in which all individuals with brain injuries and their loved ones have access to the care and support needed to maximize their quality of life, and in which brain injury is minimized through awareness and prevention efforts.

This Annual Report provides a retrospect to the activities, accomplishments and achievements made by the organization. It truly demonstrates the work of many. The dedication and strength of all of us working together to have created the “Year of New!” Help us to obtain the Vision that can only make the Brain Injury Association of NYS stronger and those we serve more resilient.

With Deepest Respect and Appreciation,



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Eileen Reardon".

Eileen Reardon, Executive Director
Brain Injury Association of New York State



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert Gundersen".

Robert Gundersen, Board President
Brain Injury Association of New York State

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2022

- Hosted a **Virtual Advocacy Day**. More than 100 individuals, family members and community supporters shared their experiences, met with legislators and showed their support for brain injury awareness. We kicked off Brain Injury Awareness Month in March 2022 with press conference with New York State Athletic Trainers Association to highlight the importance of Concussion Education.
- Held our first in person event at our **Annual Conference** in June 2022 in Saratoga Springs with great excitement and celebrated our ability to be back together since the Covid-19 pandemic began.
- Implemented an **Advisory Committee** of brain injury survivors to provide feedback on BIANYS initiatives and be a voice for other survivors and caregivers in their community.
- Establish **The Samantha Goldsmith Fund** to provide a one-time grant to assist brain injury survivors and their families with unforeseen expenses and costs related to the life changing events tied to brain injury. Created in 2022 to honor Samantha “Sammy” Goldsmith. The Samantha Goldsmith Fund recognizes the bright memory of a young, loving woman that succumbed to complications of a severe TBI.
- Partnered with the NYS Department of Health Bureau of Occupational Health and Injury Prevention to assist in developing a **Return to Work Program** that included the development of a video for businesses to better understand the challenges of returning to work after sustaining a concussion.
- Elected three new **District Reps** for the BIANYS Board of Directors for in the New York City, Capital and Central New York regions!
- BIANYS Celebrated its **40th Anniversary** with a yearlong celebration of reunion parties, special events and media tours. Each decade was highlighted with BIANYS’ accomplishments and programs. Volunteers, donors, brain injury survivors and caregivers took a trip down memory lane and shared all their special moments. A special logo to highlight the milestone was designed.



ADVOCACY

CONCUSSION INITIATIVE

- Concussion Initiative Advisory Committee remains very active with 36 members.
- Continued action and support for the Concussion Management Awareness Improvement Act with constant outreach and education for the 2022 bill (A2564 Fall/S1074 Hoylman).
- Multiple meetings with members of the Senate and Assembly Education Committees

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Webinars-There were 3 webinars last year over 70 participants.
- Annual Conference First time back in person. 117 attendees.
- Medical Symposium was virtual there were 57 attendees.
- CEUs we added Licensed Psychologists to our CEUs. So now we give CEUs for the State of New York in the following areas: Physical Therapy and Physical Therapy Assistants, Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists, CTLE, Social Work, Occupational Therapy and Occupational Therapy assistants and Licensed Psychologists.

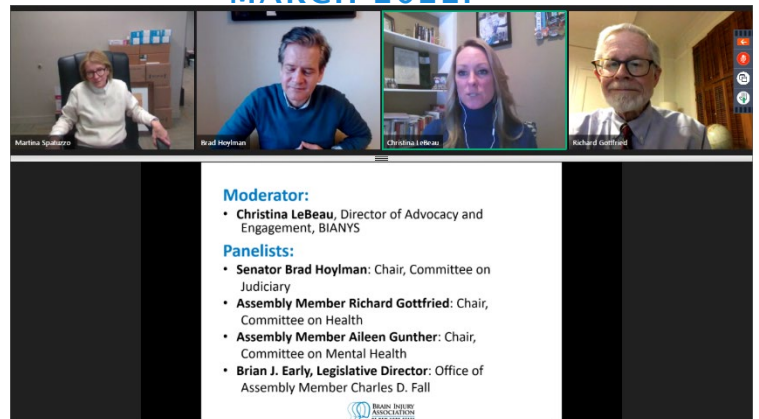
CONTINUUM OF CARE

- BIANYS drafted a proposal to create a Continuum of Care in New York State (NYS) and requested funding through the NYS budget.
- The Proposal addresses three areas: Prevention, Education and Services.
- Multiple Health Care Systems in New York State were engaged to advocate for the Continuum of Care.

LEGISLATIVE SUCCESSES

- Met virtually with approximately 50 elected officials over the 2022 session to garner support for TBI survivors and their families.
- Successful Virtual Advocacy Day spread over three days – 2/28, 3/1 and 3/8 with over 50 virtual attendees.
- Met twice virtually with the Executive Branch and the Division of Budget to discuss the need for the Continuum of Care for Resource Facilitation for survivors over the age of 22.
- Monitored 43 bills during the legislative session.

VIRTUAL ADVOCACY DAYS THROUGHOUT THE MONTH OF MARCH 2022!



FACTS

Funded by the Office for People with Development Disabilities (OPWDD), the FACTS Program is a state-wide support program for families and individuals who sustain a brain injury prior to age 22. This free program is available in addition to waiver services and provides connection to community resources, community education, prevention, and advocacy.

FACTS Coordinators are employees of the Brain Injury Association of New York State and are located in 8 regions across the State.

In 2022, 55 new families were enrolled in the FACTS program, 1039 total families were served throughout the year (duplicated) and 10,467 hours were dedicated to serving these families.

Consistent with BIANYS's goal to ensure access to resources regardless of eligibility, the FACTS program served 509 individuals in 2022 who were not eligible for the FACTS program.

OUTREACH PLANS

FACTS Coordinators worked with the Director of Family Services to develop individual outreach plans to increase awareness, participation, and referrals.

LETCHWORTH/ ROCKLAND COUNTY RECREATION PROGRAMS

The Letchworth/Rockland County Recreation programs offer opportunities for individuals with brain injury to socialize and participate in a variety of community-based activities. There are a variety of recreational and social opportunities scheduled throughout the month including: dinners, movies, crafts, bowling, visits to bookstores, outdoor activities, coffee with conversation, and much more.

In 2022, The BIANYS Letchworth/Rockland Country Recreation Program dedicated 217 hours to social and recreational programming which enhanced the quality of life for the participants.



FAMILY FUND

Established in 2007, the Brain Injury Association of New York State's Family Fund is designed to provide a one-time financial commitment to a New Yorker with a brain injury or a family, possibly a caregiver, who provides care to an individual with a brain injury. Every application is viewed case-by-case, knowing that one person's immediate and critical needs may differ from another.

In 2022, the Family Fund reviewed requests for \$11,932.47 from 30 applicants across 13 New York State counties. Of that, \$7,420.48 was approved to support 22 grantees.

Counties served: Bronx, Broome, Cortland, Dutchess, Kings, Monroe, Onondaga, Orange, Queens, Richmond, Suffolk, Ulster and Westchester

BELOW ARE JUST A COUPLE OF WAYS THE FAMILY FUND HELPED:

- Fees to assist with a service animal
- Adjustable mattress and personal items
- Art supplies to assist with therapy
- Support for job training and testing
- Gastronomy tubes
- Tablet and laptops
- Housing and rental assistance

HELPLINE

BIANYS offers a variety of resources to support individuals and their families affected by brain injury.

In 2022, BIANYS staff received 610 family helpline calls assisting individuals, family members and caregivers across New York State. We responded to 247 e mail inquiries through info@bianys.org

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

62

CBIS (Certified Brain Injury Specialist) review sessions were offered 3 times per year in a newly adapted virtual format educating a total of 52 professionals for this voluntary national certification through ACBIS (The Academy of Certified Brain Injury Specialists). We were able to train professionals across New York State as well as reach New Jersey, Nevada, and California.

BREAKDOWN OF CBIS TRAINING IN 2022

March 20, 2022	6 trained
June 6, 2022	31 trained
November 15, 2022	15 trained



BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY

GO BLUE! CAMPAIGN

In honor of Brain Injury awareness month, BIANYS continued our Go Blue! Campaign. BIANYS partnered with organizations across New York State to generate awareness and funds to support the organization's programs and services. Funds raised supported the Scholarship Program, which assists in sending brain injury survivors and their caregivers to the Annual Conference.

MARCH ON FOR BRAIN INJURY

In 2022, our March On for Brain Injury Walk was an incredible success thanks to our passionate volunteer committees, as well as all our honorees who shared their personal stories and connection to brain injury. Hundreds of enthusiastic participants and supporters laced up their sneakers and walked in solidarity in Rochester, Hudson Valley, Long Island and New York City!

More than \$98,000 was raised through the combined walks to support individuals and their families impacted by brain injury throughout New York State.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE & PROFESSIONAL SYMPOSIUM

BIANYS 40th Annual “One Voice for Brain Injury” Conference and Medical Symposium returned to the Holiday Inn in Saratoga Springs, NY, June 8-10, 2022. Professionals, brain injury service providers and survivors from across the state were invited to get a first look at industry trends and information to better support and serve individuals and their families impacted by brain injury. Attendees celebrated BIANYS’ 40th Anniversary with an 80’s themed party!





15TH ANNUAL JOURNEY OF HOPE GALA

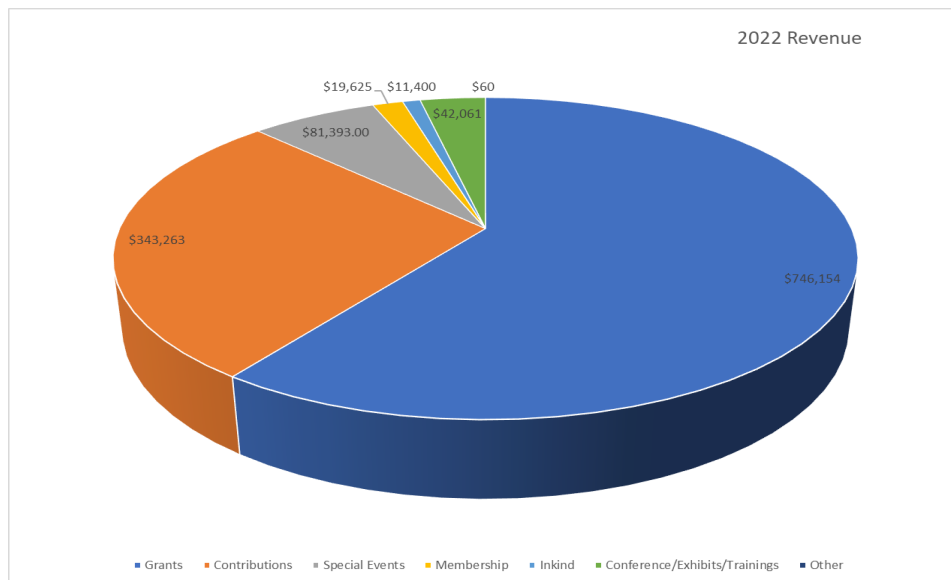
The Brain Injury Association of New York State (BIANYS) hosted the 15th Annual Journey of Hope Gala at the Midtown Loft and Terrace on Thursday, November 18th. Attendees enjoyed an evening of celebration of the courageous individuals and families impacted by brain injury across the state.

Since its inception, more than \$1.3 million dollars has been raised through the annual gala with proceeds supporting programs and services provided by the organization.

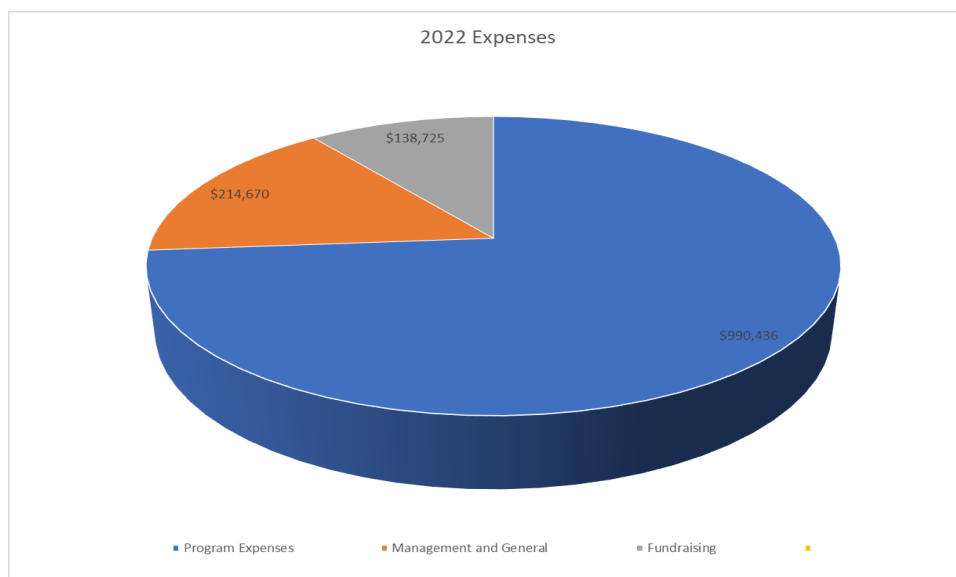


2022 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

SUPPORT & REVENUE



EXPENSES



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*TO ALL OF OUR DONORS,
THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT OF
BIANYS PROGRAMS AND
SERVICES.*

”

**BOB GUNDERSEN,
BIANYS BOARD PRESIDENT**



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