



BRAIN INJURY
ASSOCIATION

OF NEW YORK STATE



2023
ANNUAL
REPORT

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.



**BRAIN INJURY
ASSOCIATION**

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BIANYS STAFF

Eileen Reardon, *Executive Director*
Allison Barna, *Membership Coordinator*
Tory Chalmers, *CBIS, Resource Facilitation Coordinator*
Kristin Griffin, *Director of Finance & Administration*
Michelle Kellen, *Professional Development Manager*
Christina LeBeau, *Director of Advocacy & Engagement*
Joshua Sedgwick, *Finance and Administration Manager*
Jeanne Shary, *Rockland Recreation Coordinator*
Karen Thomas, *CBIST, Senior Director of Programs*

FACTS COORDINATORS

Laleene Ali, *CBIS*
Diana Erno, *CBIS*
Kelly Hindes, *CBIS*
Jessica Morley, *CBIS*
Zazel O'Garra
Alexis Rutty, *CBIS*
Toniann Tumminaro, *CBIS*
Jan Wollney, *CBIS*

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** 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:

I describe 2023 as a year of growth and boundless successes.

SUCCESS #1: We are pleased to announce that we secured funding in the NYS Budget to develop a Continuum of Care for Resource Facilitation. This program assists survivors over the age of 22 to navigate the complex systems and identify supports in their community to live within the most least restrictive environment.

SUCCESS #2: In partnership with the New York State Athletic Trainers Association (NYSATA), BIANYS developed a Concussion Education Program named COPE (Concussion, Outreach, Prevention, Education). COPE provided in person educational programs across NYS to educators, parents, athletic trainers and other key school personnel on the identification and understanding of concussion.

SUCCESS #3: BIANYS recognized the continued struggles of brain injury survivors during a year of high inflation. So, the organization took on an aggressive fundraising campaign to completely underwrite the scholarship for a survivor to attend the Annual Conference in June 2023, including transportation and hotel stay. This was a first for the organization and was underwritten partly with the Go Blue! Campaign in recognition of Brain Injury Awareness Month. The effort was a complete success and was able to send over 75 participants to the Annual Conference.

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 allow us to continue to be stronger advocates, participants and supporters. 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, appearing to read "Eileen Reardon".

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



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Gundersen".

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

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2023

- Hosted our first in person Advocacy Day since the Covid-19 Pandemic. Nearly 200 individuals, family members and community supporters packed The Well at the Legislative Office Building and shared their experiences, met with legislators, and showed their support for brain injury awareness. Individuals were able to share their story with the audience
- Kicked Off the first Statewide Chapter! Members across the state of New York can meet in the virtual world to socialize and engage with other survivors. Often, a guest speaker joins to provide insight and support
- In partnership with NYU Rusk, we implemented the inaugural Brain Injury Symposium in March. Health Care Professionals received professional education, as well as Certified Education Credits
- Worked on building the program structure for the Continuum of Care for Resource Facilitation Program. This included purchasing a new database to track all the Helpline inquiries and cases that enter both the Continuum of Care and FACTS Program
- Partnered with the NYS Department of Health Bureau of Occupational Health and Injury Prevention to assist in developing a Return to University that included tours of local universities, development of roundtables to share ideas and development of a manual on best practices of returning a student to academics after sustaining a concussion
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ADVOCACY


2023 Advocacy Day
March 8, 2023



CONCUSSION INITIATIVE

- The Concussion Initiative Advisory Committee remains very active with 31 members and is currently recruiting 5 new members
- Continued action and support for the Concussion Management Awareness Improvement Act with constant outreach and education for the 2023 bill (A1977 Fall/S2867 Hoylman-Sigal)
- Ongoing meetings with members of the Senate and Assembly Education Committees
- Actively engaging with other School based Organizations for support

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 3 professional development webinars were held- there were 131 registrations
- Annual Conference- 156 people attended. This was an increase from 125 that attended in 2022. Also, for first time scholarships covered the hotel room. There were 99 people who attended under scholarship in 2023 an increase of 37 attended in 2022 funded by a scholarship
- Brain Injury Symposium- 2023 was the first time we had a hybrid Brain injury Symposium. There were 80 people who registered and attended either in person or virtually. The sessions were also available on demand after the symposium
- COPE- There were 8 in person presentations with 1 virtual presentation in 2023-24. There were about 300 people who attended the presentations

CONTINUUM OF CARE

- Over 30 meetings were held with Members of the NYS Legislature as well as the Division of Budget and the Executive Healthcare team.
- BIANYS' proposal to create a Continuum of Care for Neuro resource Facilitation in New York State (NYS) successfully was awarded \$300,000 of the \$1 million ask from a Legislative add in the FY 2024 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



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 2023, 55 new families were enrolled in the FACTS program, 1119 total families were served throughout the year (duplicated) and 10,761 hours were dedicated to serving these families.

Consistent with BIANYS's goal to ensure access to resources regardless of eligibility, the FACTS program served 764 individuals (duplicated) in 2023 who were not eligible for the FACTS program.

OUTREACH EVENTS

FACTS Coordinators were very visible in the community in 2023. They participated in health fairs, transition fairs, Disability Awareness Day, NYS School Nurses conference, a Caregiver Conference at the VA, and prevention programs including a bicycle rodeo.

LETCHWORTH/ROCKLAND COUNTY RECREATION

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: picnics in the park, game night, coffee and bookshop socialization, bowling, movies, and crafts just to name a few.

In 2023, The BIANYS Letchworth/Rockland County Recreation Program dedicated 208 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 2023, the Family Fund reviewed requests for \$10,608.61 from 32 applicants across 16 New York State counties. Of that, \$8,735.02 was approved to support 30 grantees.

Counties served: Albany, Bronx, Broome, Dutchess, Kings, Nassau, Niagara, Oneida, Onondaga, Otsego, Putnam, Queens, Rockland, Suffolk, Ulster, and Westchester.

GRANTS INCLUDED:

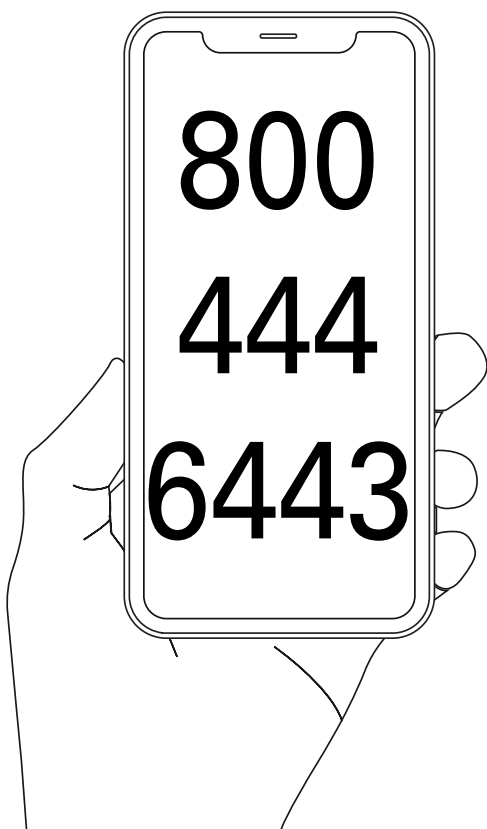
- Moving expenses
- Laptops and tablets
- Medical supports like shower chairs and therapy machines
- Air purifiers and air conditioners
- Furniture
- Surgery for support animal
- Exercise equipment
- Housing and rental assistance

SAMANTHA GOLDSMITH FUND

Created in 2022 to honor Samantha "Sammy" Goldsmith, the Samantha Goldsmith Fund recognizes the bright memory of a young, loving woman who succumbed to complications of a severe TBI.

The Samantha Goldsmith Fund will provide a one-time grant of up to \$5,000 to assist brain injury survivors and their families with unforeseen expenses and costs related to the life-changing events of brain injury. Applications are reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

In 2023, the fund provided over \$18,000 to four applicants in New York State. Funds assisted in ramps for homes, bathroom modifications, and specialized equipment not covered by insurance.



HELPLINE

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

In 2023, BIANYS staff received 662 family helpline calls assisting individuals, family members and caregivers across New York State. We responded to 326 e-mail inquiries through info@bianys.org

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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CBIS (Certified Brain Injury Specialist) review sessions were offered 3 times per year in a newly adapted virtual format educating a total of 15 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 2023

March 31, 2023	2 Trained
June 23, 2023	3 Trained
November 17, 2023	10 Trained

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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 2023, 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 and Long Island!

More than \$95,000 was raised through the combined walks to support individuals and their families impacted by brain injury throughout New York State.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE & PROFESSIONAL SYMPOSIUM



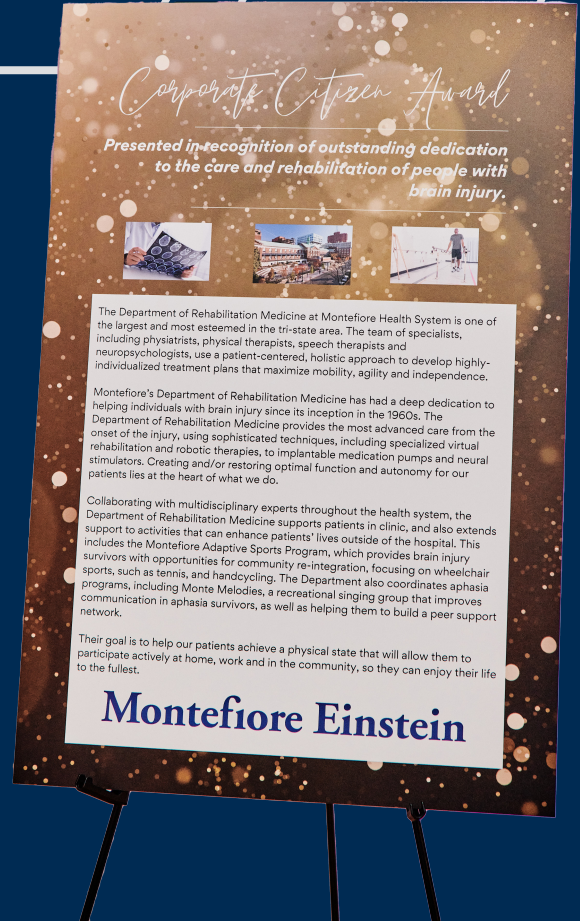
BIANYS' 41st Annual "One Voice for Brain Injury" Conference returned to the Holiday Inn in Saratoga Springs, NY, June 7-9, 2023.

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.

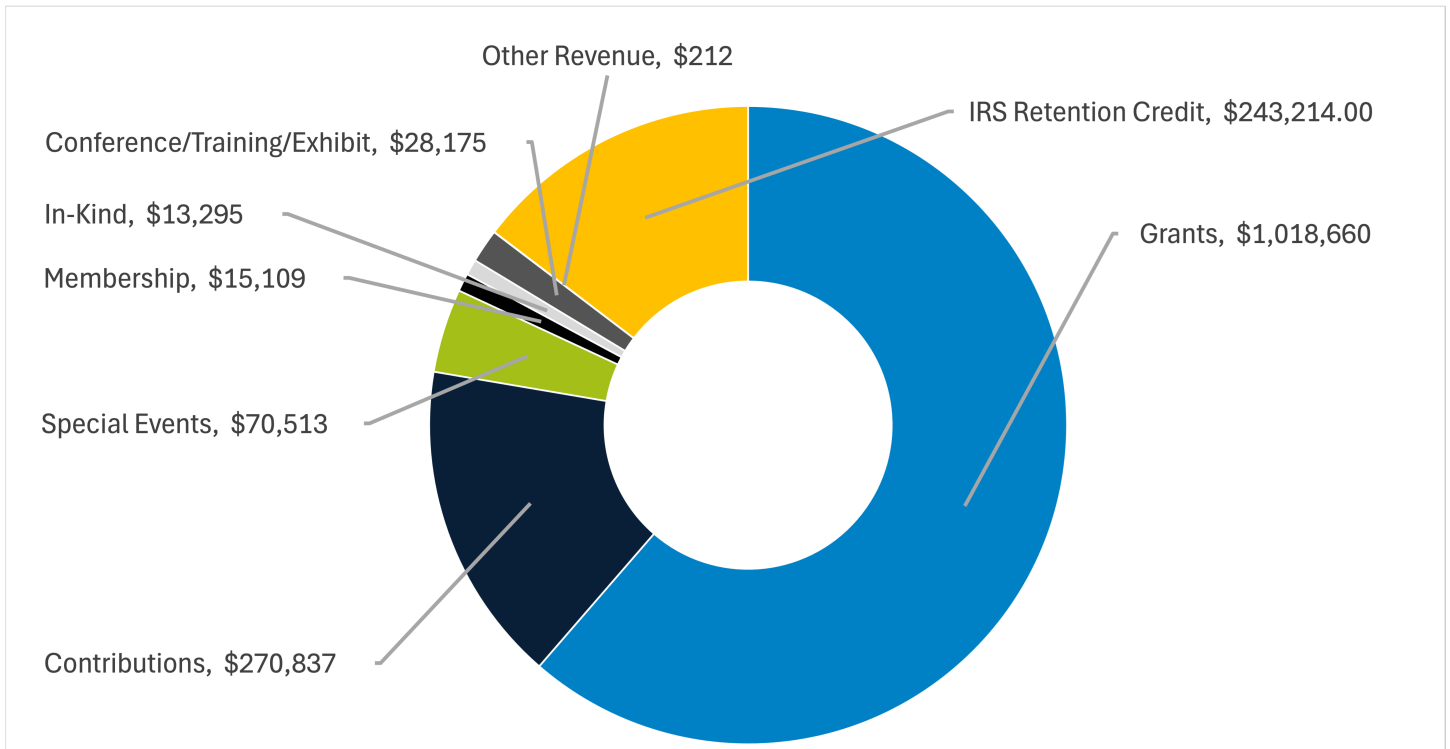
16TH ANNUAL JOURNEY OF HOPE GALA

The Brain Injury Association of New York State (BIANYS) hosted the 16th Annual Journey of Hope Gala at the Midtown Loft and Terrace on Thursday, November 8th. Attendees enjoyed an evening of celebration of the courageous individuals and families impacted by brain injury across the state.

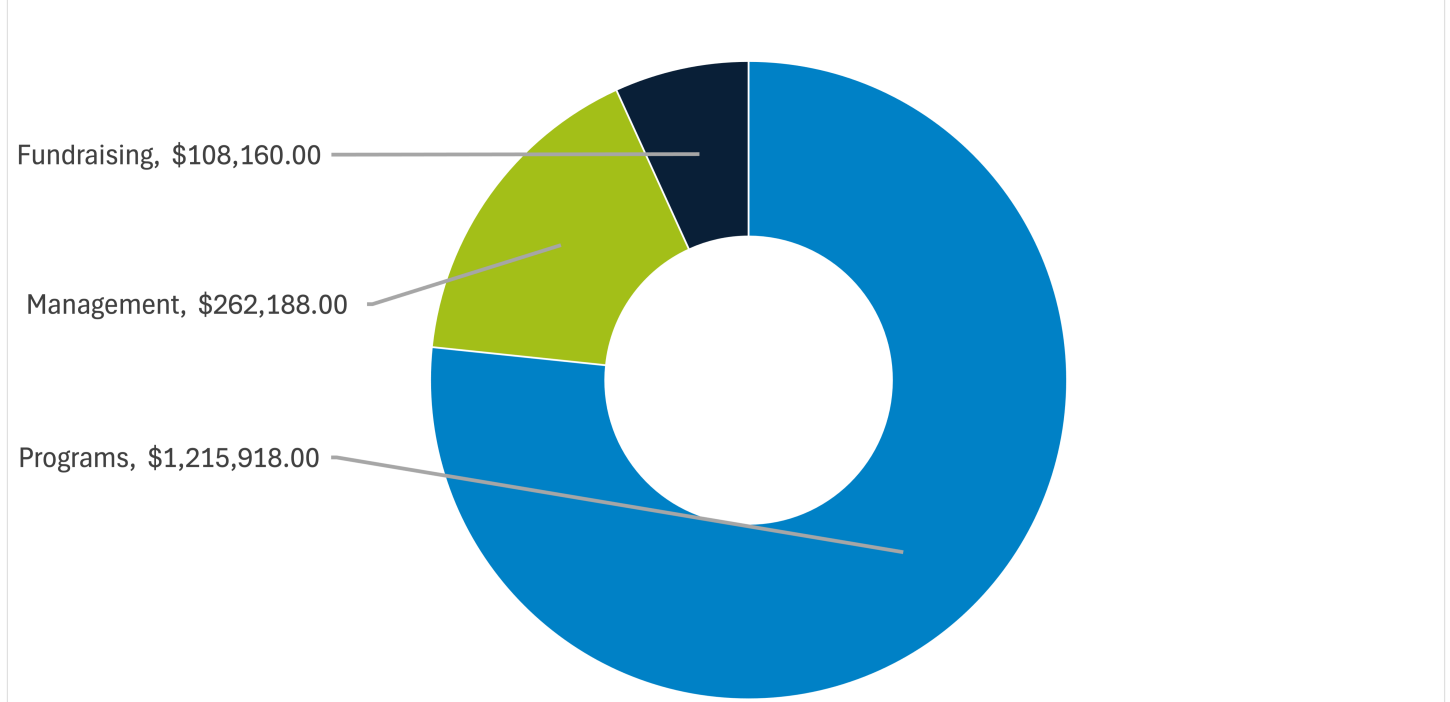
Since its inception, more than \$1.3 million dollars has been raised through the annual gala with proceeds supporting programs and services provided by the organization.



SUPPORT AND REVENUE



EXPENSES



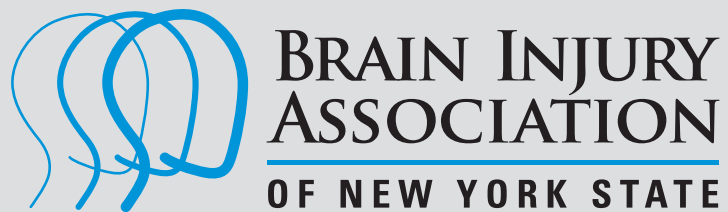
2023 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

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

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**Bob Gundersen,
BIANYS Board President**



5 Pine West Plaza, Suite 506
Albany, New York 12205
Phone: (518) 459-7911
Family Helpline: (800) 444-6443
Fax: (518) 482-5285
Email: info@bianys.org
bianys.org