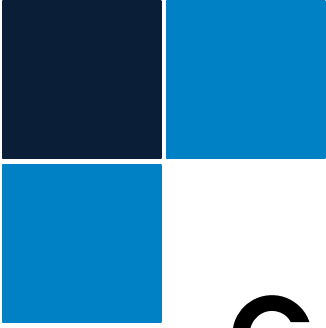


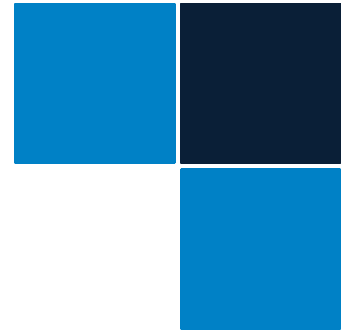




Contents

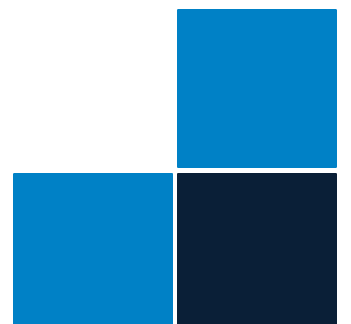
- **Mission**
- **Leadership Message**
- **Staff and Board of Directors**
- **2024 Highlights**
- **Financial Summary**
- **Programs and Services**
- **Contact Us**





The Brain Injury Association of New York State (BIANYS) is a statewide nonprofit membership organization dedicated to advocating for individuals with brain injuries and their families. Since 1982, BIANYS has provided education, advocacy, and community-based support services to help improve outcomes for both children and adults living with brain injury.

Our mission is to support, educate, and advocate for people and families impacted by brain injury and to minimize brain injury through prevention.





A message to our community.

For over four decades, the Brain Injury Association of New York State has stood alongside survivors, caregivers, families, and professionals, offering connection, support, and a voice for change.

In 2024, we celebrated a milestone years in the making: securing state funding for the Continuum of Care for Neuro-Resource Facilitation, ensuring brain injury survivors and their loved ones have access to the support they need every step of the way. We also expanded our Concussion Outreach Prevention Education program, providing vital training to communities across New York.

This report tells the story of what we achieved, *together*. It is a testament to the power of a united community and a reminder that every voice matters. Thank you for being part of this journey and for helping us build a future of hope, strength, and resilience.

On behalf of Bob Gundersen, President of the Board of Directors, and the entire Board, thank you for your steadfast support. Together, we have built a stronger, more connected community, and we look forward to the future we will continue to shape, *side by side*.



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



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



The Brain Injury Association of New York State continues to grow and evolve to provide the programs and support that individuals and families need. This progress would not be possible without the dedication, passion, and steadfast commitment of the staff and Board of Directors, whose leadership makes the mission a reality

Association Staff

- Eileen Reardon, *Executive Director*
- Laleene Ali, CBIS, *FACTS Coordinator*
- Allison Barna, *Membership Coordinator*
- Michael Barrett, *FACTS Coordinator*
- Tory Chalmers, CBIS, *Resource Facilitation Coordinator*
- Emily Creamer, *Intake and Resource Facilitator*
- Diana Erno, CBIS, *FACTS Coordinator*
- Kristin Griffin, *Director of Finance & Administration*
- Kelly Hindes, CBIS, *FACTS Coordinator*
- Michelle Kellen, M.Ed., *Professional Development Manager*
- Christina LeBeau, *Director of Advocacy & Engagement*
- Jessica Morley, CBIS, *FACTS Coordinator*
- Alexis Rutty, CBIS, *FACTS Coordinator*
- Joshua Sedgwick, *Finance and Administration Manager*
- Jeanne Shary, *Rockland Recreation Coordinator*
- Karen Thomas, CBIST, *Senior Director of Programs*
- Toniann Tumminaro, CBIS, *FACTS Coordinator*
- Jan Wollney, CBIS, *FACTS Coordinator*

Board of Directors

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Robert Gundersen, President• Judy Delasi, 1st Vice President• Kristine O'Rourke, 2nd Vice President | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Joe Vollaro, Ph.D., Treasurer• Kaiti Pierce, Secretary |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paul Akers, LMSW• Londina Cruz• Barry Dain• Michael Hayes **• Brian Im, MD• Wendell Miller, LMSW, LPTA | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maureen O'Brien **• Conan O'Rourke• John Quinan• Andrew Siegel, Esq.• Jamie Ullman, MD• Alexandra Verni ** |

** Indicates District Board Members. Each of these Board Members are elected by BIANYS Members to represent one of the six districts in New York State. District Board Members are required to be personally impacted by brain injury or be a family member of a person who has sustained a brain injury. District Board Members are responsible for sharing the needs and activities of the district with the Board of Directors and for representing the Board of Directors within their assigned district



2024 Highlights

- **Advocacy Wins:** In 2024, BIANYS secured state budget funding to sustain two critical initiatives: the Continuum of Care for Neuro-Resource Facilitation (COC) and the Concussion Outreach Prevention Education (COPE) program. These victories were made possible through the collective efforts of our community.
- **Strengthening Connections:** Hosted “Meet & Greet” on Long Island and in Rochester to reintroduce the Brain Injury Association of New York State, foster new partnerships, and connect directly with individuals and families seeking support.
- **Expanding Capacity:** Created and filled two new positions: *Resource Facilitation Coordinator* and *Intake and Resource Facilitator*, to strengthen the Continuum of Care for the Neuro-Resource Facilitation Program (COC). These roles enhance outreach efforts and provide direct support for case management, ensuring individuals and families receive the guidance and resources they need.
- **Expanding Prevention Education:** Surpassed the milestone of 1,000 individuals participating in Concussion Outreach Prevention Education (COPE) sessions since the program’s launch in 2023, building awareness and strengthening community understanding of concussion prevention.
- **Breaking Down Barriers:** Expanded the annual scholarship program to include travel accommodations, ensuring that distance was not a barrier to participation. As a result, more individuals and families were able to join, learn, and connect—reflected in a 41% increase in attendance over 2023.
- **Advocacy in Action:** Christina LeBeau, CBIS, Director of Advocacy, was appointed by the Governor to the Traumatic Brain Injury Services Coordinating Council, helping to shape long-range goals and strengthen services for individuals with brain injury and their families across New York State.

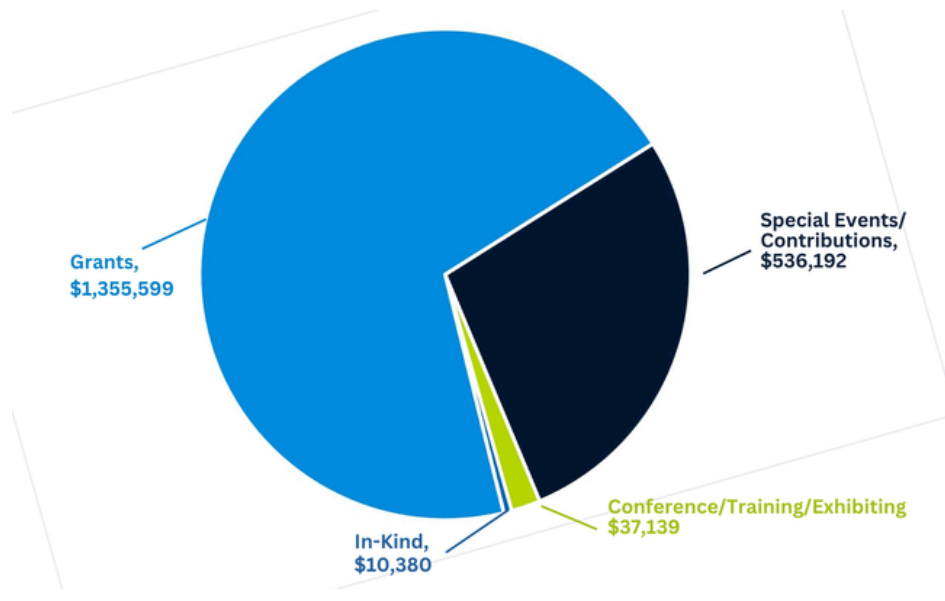




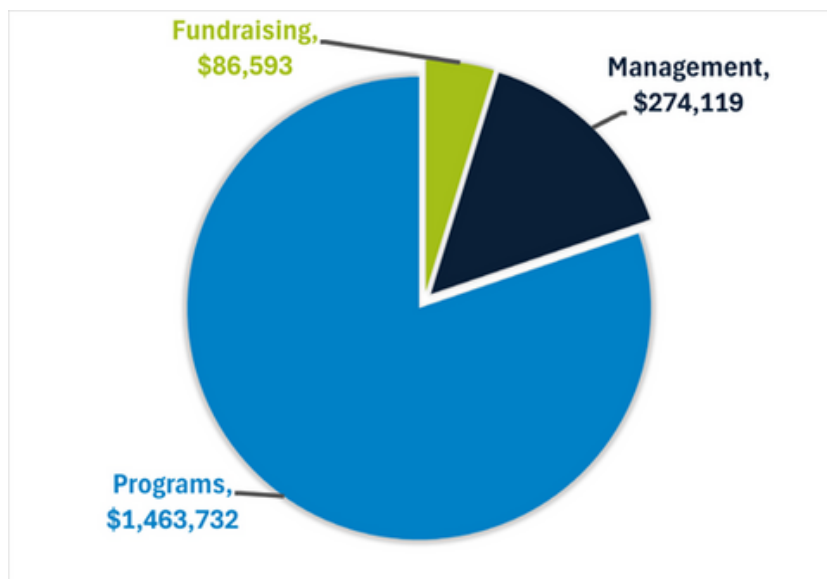
2024 Financial Summary

The Brain Injury Association of New York State closed fiscal year 2024 with a positive change in net assets of \$130,555, supported by \$1.94 million in revenue and \$1.82 million in expenses. The Board of Directors voted to strengthen the Association's investment portfolio, now exceeding \$230,000, as part of a long-term strategy to safeguard the mission. In addition, the organization advanced planned giving efforts, with four donors in 2024 committing to include BIANYS in their wills, a testament to the community's lasting support.

Support and Revenue:



Expenses:





Programs and Services - Educate

The Brain Injury Association of New York State (BIANYS) is committed to providing education that meets people where they are, whether they are brain injury survivors, caregivers, or professionals working in the field. Our programs range from hands-on in-person learning to flexible webinars and a growing online library, all designed to offer support, continuing education credits, and vital information.

In 2024, BIANYS expanded its educational reach through multiple platforms:

Brain Injury Symposium

Delivered in a hybrid format, the 2024 Symposium brought together **115 attendees**, including 65 in person at NYU Langone, for timely updates on brain injury care and research.

Annual Conference

Our flagship event, the 2024 Annual Conference, was held in June in Saratoga Springs. The gathering drew **225 participants**, a 41% increase from the previous year. Thanks to 101 scholarships, 135 individuals were able to attend, ensuring broad access and representation from across the state.

COPE (Concussion Outreach Prevention Education)

In 2024, BIANYS delivered **15 COPE** presentations across 13 counties, engaging **557 participants**. Since its launch in 2023, the program has **reached over 1,100 attendees** in 22 counties, raising awareness and strengthening concussion response.

Webinars

Our professional development webinars continue to provide accessible, high-quality training for practitioners statewide. In 2024, BIANYS offered three webinars, with **173 individuals** registering to sharpen their skills and expand their knowledge.

Through accreditation from the Academy of Certified Brain Injury Specialists (ACBIS), the Brain Injury Association of New York State offers Certified Brain Injury Specialist (CBIS) training. This unique program prepares participants for the exam through a six-week lead-up of weekly study tips, webinars, and structured home study aligned with the *Essential Brain Injury Study Guide*.

In 2024, BIANYS hosted **three CBIS training sessions** (March, June, and November), resulting in **46 professionals trained**. These trainings not only advance the careers of participants but also strengthen the network of dedicated brain injury specialists across New York State, directly improving care and outcomes for survivors.





Programs and Services - Advocacy

Legislative Advocacy

The Brain Injury Association of New York State hosted its annual **Advocacy Day** in March to coincide with Brain Injury Awareness Month. More than 100 representatives gathered in the “Well” of the Legislative Office Building to share their stories, meet with lawmakers, and demonstrate support for the brain injury community. The day also featured community programs sharing resources, inspiring speakers, and a moving performance from a local day program chorus.

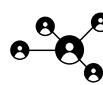
Legislative Success:



Met with over 50 elected officials to garner support for TBI survivors and their families.



Monitored 56 bills during the 2024 session.



Continued to build relationships with administration leaders, including Kim Hill, Chief Disability Officer.



Secured funding for Concussion Outreach Prevention Education (COPE) funding.

The Brain Injury Association of New York State established the **Concussion Initiative Advisory Committee** in 2017 as an interdisciplinary effort to address the many issues surrounding concussion. The committee brings together 38 health care, education, and advocacy professionals from across the state, united by a shared commitment to strengthening concussion education and care for all New Yorkers.

In 2024, the Concussion Initiative Advisory Committee:

- Continued its active support of S.549 (Hoylman-Sigal), legislation to update school concussion management and response protocols;
- Participated in ongoing meetings with members of the New York State Senate and Assembly Education Committees;
- Strengthened collaboration with school-based organizations to advance concussion awareness and support.

After years of advocacy, the Brain Injury Association of New York State was awarded \$300,000 to support the **Continuum of Care (COC) Neuro-Resource Facilitation Program**, officially implemented in 2023. In 2024, we continued to make significant strides in the New York State Budget, securing additional funding for the program. The COC provides critical support to brain injury survivors, their families, and caregivers, helping them access essential resources and services in their communities.





Programs and Services - Support

The **Family Advocacy, Counseling, and Training Services (FACTS) Program**, supported by the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), is a statewide initiative for families and individuals who sustain a brain injury before the age of 22. Offered at no cost and in addition to waiver services, FACTS connects participants to community resources, provides education and prevention programs, and advocates for their needs.

FACTS Coordinators, employees of the Brain Injury Association of New York State, serve families across eight regions of the state. In 2024, the program enrolled **78 new families**, **served a total of 1,037 families** throughout the year (duplicated count), and dedicated **9,057 hours** to supporting these families.

In 2024, FACTS Coordinators were highly visible in the community, participating in health fairs, school transition events, Disability Awareness Day, the Special Needs Expo, a falls prevention conference, the Albany County Bike Rodeo, as well as the March on for Brain Injury Walks, Advocacy Day, and the Annual Conference.

The **Letchworth/Rockland County Recreation** program provides individuals with brain injury opportunities to socialize and engage in community-based activities across Rockland, Orange, Westchester, and Sullivan Counties. Monthly activities include picnics, game nights, bowling, baseball games, movies, crafts, and culturally diverse dining experiences chosen by participants.

In 2024, the program dedicated **212 hours** to social and recreational programming, enriching the quality of life for participants.



The **Continuum of Care (COC) for Neuro-Resource Facilitation** was launched by the Brain Injury Association of New York State in 2023. Established to support individuals who sustain a brain injury at age 22 or older, and modeled after the FACTS program, the COC provides guidance, resources, and advocacy to help individuals navigate the complex landscape of brain injury recovery.

In 2024, the program **enrolled 37 new cases** and offered ongoing support to people across New York State. Services addressed a wide range of needs, including avoiding housing insecurity, navigating TBI Waiver enrollment, accessing mental health supports, locating specialty providers, and more. The COC responded to **420 helpline calls** and **366 email inquiries**, assisting **786 individuals** with resources related to support groups, services, benefits advisement, discharge planning, legal rights, and general brain injury information.



Programs and Services - Support

The Family Fund provides a one-time financial award to a **New Yorker with a brain injury** or a **family member**, including **caregivers**, who support an individual with brain injury. Financial hardship can intensify the challenges of recovery and ongoing rehabilitation. Each application is reviewed individually, recognizing that immediate needs vary from person to person.

Family Fund Priorities:

- **Enhance** the quality of life for individuals with brain injury and their families.
- **Strengthen** natural supports by fostering relationships with family and friends.
- **Support** the physical, spiritual, and emotional well-being of individuals with brain injury and their loved ones, particularly during times of crisis.

In 2024, the Family Fund received **33 applications** requesting a total of \$11,290. Of these, **24 applications were funded**, totaling just over \$8,000 in grants.

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 traumatic brain injury. The Fund provides a one-time grant of up to \$5,000 to assist brain injury survivors and their families with unforeseen expenses related to the life-changing impact of brain injury. Applications are reviewed on a case-by-case basis to ensure support reaches those most in need.

Since its inception, the Fund has received **19 applications** totaling more than \$88,000 in requests. Of these, 17 applications were approved, with **12 awards distributed**, providing nearly **\$56,000 in assistance** to survivors and their families.

Although no new awards were distributed this year, the Samantha Goldsmith Fund remains a vital resource of hope and relief for families navigating the often-unexpected challenges of brain injury.

“I am incredibly grateful to have discovered the Brain Injury Association of New York State. It has quickly proven to be an invaluable and much needed resource for my family as we navigate the care of our family member with TBI. Their advocacy, willingness to listen and ability to offer much needed resources has been a lifeline in our family's ability to access the right care and rehabilitation for our family member. Despite being presented with so many roadblocks in terms of accessing care, BIANYS has done nothing but their best in trying to guide and support us in caring for someone with TBI.”

- from a caregiver





5 Pine West Plaza, Suite 506
Albany, NY 12205
518-459-7911 - info@bianys.org
www.bianys.org

*Photos credited to AnneMarie Todd, Christian Rodriguez,
and staff of the Brain Injury Association of New York State.*

