

# HEADLIGHTS

## Inside This Issue

Board President Message	2
SC BILC Message	3
Board of Directors / Staff	4
Board Past President Message	5
2021 Life with Brain Injury Conference & Sponsors	5
Meet Your Board of Directors	7
Brain Injury Awareness Month Virtual 5K Run, Walk & Roll	9
Community Sponsors	10
Brain Injury Safety Net	12
Upcoming Trainings	13
Survivor Story	14
NAMI	15
Website Overhaul	16
Shop Raise/Amazon Smile	17
Volunteer Highlight	18
BIASC Awards through BIAA	19
DHEC - Division of Injury & Substance Abuse	21
Support Groups	22
Honorariums & Memorials	24

[www.biaofsc.com](http://www.biaofsc.com)



# MESSAGE FROM THE 2022 BIASC BOARD PRESIDENT



Good day to you! I feel honored to be the incoming President of the BIASC Board of Directors.

I am a native of a town in northern New Jersey. I attended Clemson University and earned my master's degree from the University of Oregon in 2005. My graduate program in Communication Disorders and Sciences could not have better prepared me for my career in the field of neurorehabilitation. I was lucky to study under some of the "greats" in my field. I learned how to navigate the interplay of science and creativity which is needed for individualization of cognitive rehabilitation. More importantly, I learned to recognize and appreciate what I don't know, which is an important life theme - there is always room for growth.

After a few years working in the medical arena in Atlanta, moving to South Carolina in 2007 felt like a homecoming- Go Tigers! The upstate has been a wonderful place for making friends, playing tennis, taking long hikes and raising my labradoodle, Salida. I worked both in the inpatient setting and at the Outpatient Brain Injury Program for Roger C. Peace Rehabilitation Hospital of Prisma Health. Through the American Academy of Certified Brain Injury Specialists, I became a Brain Injury Specialist in 2009 and a Trainer in 2014. Also in 2014, I became the Supervisor of Therapies for the Outpatient Brain Injury and Young Stroke Program, a community and work re-entry program in Greenville, South Carolina. Through the years working with persons with brain injury, I have come to understand the great privilege and responsibility that is being a clinician. Being given a patient's trust and permission to examine their function, thoughts, and personality in order to support their work toward life participation, self-advocacy, access of their community, maintaining and developing relationships, or returning to work or school is a profound gift.

I served on the American Speech Language Hearing Association's Government Relations and Public Policy Board from 2018 - 2020. During this work, I gained an appreciation for the value of connection with other professionals, the importance and impact of advocacy at many other levels than what I had previously conceptualized and experience speaking with legislatures and legislative staff. Our state needs the Brain Injury Association of South Carolina to not only exist, but also to successfully pursue efforts in self-advocacy, individual advocacy and systems advocacy so that the neurorehabilitation programs like our Outpatient Brain Injury Program in the upstate are able to help persons with brain injury experience their best life.

I am excited for the opportunity that the BIASC has gifted me with this role, for all that I will learn and for the work that I will get to do to support that BIASC's mission: to create a better future through brain injury prevention, research, education and advocacy. It is with much admiration and gratitude that I thank my predecessor, Sherry Caldwell, for her service to the BIASC as she is a volunteer leader, tremendous advocate, and wonderful human being. Sherry led this organization through a time like no other and she did the work-building relationships,

asking the right questions, making tough decisions, participating in all the fundraising, and even physical labor when needed. She has set the foundation for the BIASC's financial sustainability plan and I whole heartedly aim to follow her example of working hard at work worth doing!

"Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing"- Theodore Roosevelt.

## MESSAGE FROM THE 2022 SC BILC CHAIR

Greetings Everyone!

I am so happy to be serving this year as the Chair of the South Carolina Brain Injury Leadership Council (BILC). The SC BILC's mission is to provide leadership and promote services and resources across the state that empower persons with traumatic brain injury, and that those services and resources are accessible and appropriate to their needs and preferences. The BILC coordinates and promotes brain injury services statewide, advances education and advocacy, and builds consensus to support needed programs and policies. Our focus this year has been on mental health services for survivors of brain injury and their caregivers. Addressing mental health after a traumatic event, injury or illness can be a challenging journey in and of itself then combine that with living through a pandemic and the needs become even more magnified. The Brain Injury Leadership Council is committed to learning more about how to make these services more connected across our state, identify the access issues and seek out resources that can help brain injury survivors feel less isolation and loneliness and more connection and community across South Carolina. If you are a brain injury survivor, caregiver or professional interested in serving on the BILC, please feel free to contact us at [SouthCarolinaBILC@gmail.com](mailto:SouthCarolinaBILC@gmail.com).



Elizabeth DuBose

### SOUTH CAROLINA BRAIN INJURY LEADERSHIP COUNCIL Quarterly Meeting Dates for 2022

All are welcome to attend. Some CEU's are offered in some meetings. Contact Melissa Ritter at [MRitter@ddsn.sc.gov](mailto:MRitter@ddsn.sc.gov) to be added to the email list for meeting notifications.

Time: 1:15 – 3:15 p.m.

March 24 (via Zoom)

June 23 (Location/Zoom TBD)

September 22 (Location/Zoom TBD)

December 15 (\*week early due to holidays) (Location/Zoom TBD)

# BIASC BOARD OF DIRECTORS / STAFF

*Marty Van Dam, President  
Greenville*

*Lucky Jollye,  
Nichols*

*Sherry Caldwell, Past-President  
Cross Hill*

*Michelle Moore,  
Charleston*

*Andrew Gowdown, President Elect  
Mt. Pleasant*

*Joyce Davis,  
Executive Director*

*Larry Lucas, Treasurer  
Columbia*

*Kristi Hartwell,  
Program Coordinator*

*Anne Iriel,  
Chapin*

*Rachel Kaplan,  
Safety Net Program Coordinator*

*Dede Norungolo,  
Easley*

*Von Mulherin,  
Administrative Professional*

*Jasmine Norris,  
Columbia*

*Jennifer Ross,  
MSW Intern*

## **2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING DATES**

BIASC Board of Directors meeting dates are below. Meetings are held the second Thursday of every other month. Meetings are currently via Zoom at noon until 1:00pm. Join Zoom Meeting Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88578206780?pwd=VGNR50FUc0YwcHNZMWhZMEUzVmJGZz09>

Meeting ID: 885 7820 6780, Passcode: 007625

One tap mobile:

+13126266799,,88578206780#,,,,\*007625# US (CHICAGO)

+16465588656,,88578206780#,,,,\*007625# US (NEW YORK)

**Thursday, February 10, 2022**

**Thursday, April 14, 2022**

**Thursday, June 9, 2022**

**Thursday, August 11, 2022**

**Thursday, October 13, 2022**

**Thursday, December 8, 2022**

## **Upcoming Events**

**Brain Injury Fundamentals Classes - Every Wednesday in February, 9am - 12/noon**

**Brain Injury Awareness Month - March 2022**

**Life with Brain Injury Conference - Friday, July 29, 2022**

**Brain Injury Specialist Classes - Every Tuesday in March, 4pm - 6:30pm**

**Virtual 5K Run, Walk & Roll - March 20 - 26, 2022**

**Readers of The HEADLIGHTS** realize we have experienced another year of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as funding challenges. Despite the funding challenges, the Brain Injury Association of South Carolina (BIASC) has had incredible success in advocating for brain injury survivors, their family members and caregivers. The advocacy efforts led by Joyce Davis, Executive Director, the Board of Directors, and survivors have been remarkable!

BIASC was approved for funding by the South Carolina State Legislature for the **first time in the history of the organization** for fiscal year 2021 through June 30, 2022. The funding will flow through the budget of the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS). The funding approved by the State Legislature is non-recurring and we request your help in contacting your senator and house of representative member(s) advocating for recurring funding for next fiscal year (07/01/2022 through 06/30/2023). You can access the South Carolina Legislature to learn the contact information for your senator and representative by searching the following: <https://www.scstatehouse.gov/legislatorssearch.php>

BIASC is very excited to report the receipt of a grant from the South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (SCDDSN) this year. We also appreciate the “Legacy Community Sponsorship” from PRISMA HEALTH and the following Bronze Sponsors: Heart of the Carolinas, Larry Lucas Insurance Agency/State Farm, Learning Services, National Safety Council Southeastern Chapter, Parham, Smith & Archenhold, LLC, Attorneys at Law, Rosen | Hagood, Attorneys at Law, and The Law Office of Kenneth E. Berger.

This is my final letter as BIASC President as Marty Van Dam will fill my seat in January 2022. I have thoroughly enjoyed my years as President and advocating for services and supports for survivors and family members. Looking back, in February 2020 along with Carolann Newton and Joyce, I met with Lieutenant Governor Pamela Evette to discuss the needs of BIASC and our experiences as family members of survivors with brain injury. Through her guidance and recommendations, I met with my legislators. I have continued to meet with legislators and contact them by phone and email through the COVID-19 pandemic. I encourage every Board member to advocate for funding through their legislator(s).

I will continue as Past-President to look to the future of working to achieve funding for you and my hope is that you will too!

***Sherry Caldwell***

## 2021 LIFE WITH BRAIN INJURY CONFERENCE



BIASC, in collaboration with the SC Brain Injury Leadership Council, hosted the 2021 Life with Brain Injury Conference in July via Zoom. BIASC was able to provide 19 scholarships for brain injury survivors and caregivers to attend at no cost, thanks to the SC Developmental Disabilities Council. Keynote speakers were Dr. Sheldon Herring from Roger C. Peace Rehabilitation Hospital, Prisma Health, in Greenville, SC, and Tina Campanella, Director and CEO of Quality Trust for Individuals with Disabilities in Washington, DC. Certified Brain Injury Specialists were able to receive 8 Continuing Education Credits. Breaks included mini presentations by exhibitors and sponsors. Next year, we are planning to host the conference IN-PERSON! It will be held on Friday, July 29, 2022, at R2i2 in Columbia. So, SAVE THE DATE!

# THANK YOU TO OUR 2021 CONFERENCE SPONSORS, EXHIBITORS AND ADVERTISERS

## CONFERENCE SPONSORS



**SOUTH CAROLINA**  
Developmental Disabilities Council

## EXHIBITORS

***South Carolina Equipment Distribution Program***  
Columbia, SC

***Able South Carolina***  
Columbia, SC

***Rehab Without Walls***  
Augusta, GA

***South Carolina Assistive Technology Program***  
Columbia, SC

***Roper Rehabilitation Hospital***  
Charleston, SC

***ThinkFirst South Carolina***  
Charleston, SC

## ADVERTISERS

***South Carolina Respite Coalition***  
Columbia, SC  
***Encompass Healthcare***  
Columbia, SC

***The Comet***  
Columbia, SC

# BIASC BOARD OF DIRECTORS - WHY DID YOU JOIN?



Andrew Gowdown - As a longtime legal advocate for brain injury survivors and their families, I want to do more to help support these individuals and to educate others about the importance of brain injury prevention and awareness.



Anne Iriel - I wanted to join the BIASC Board to support the ongoing efforts to bring awareness regarding brain injury and ensure the provision of much needed resources for survivors, family members, caregivers and providers.



Dede Norungolo - My personal experience as a survivor led me to seek a role as an advocate ... as board member I feel I can be an ally for others.



Jasmine Norris - I wanted to join the BIASC Board to make a difference in the lives of those struggling with brain injuries after experiencing firsthand how hard it can be to deal with an invisible injury.



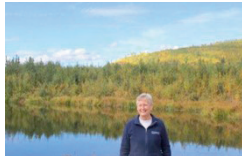
Larry Lucas - I joined the Board of BIASC because I wanted to help with Fundraising. Soon after joining, a family member had a stroke and I really experienced what the BIASC does for the community. I've been involved ever since then....



Marty Van Dam - I wanted to join the board because there are so many unpublicized needs of persons with brain injury and their caregivers in our state. I'd like to be a voice in the effort to improve their lives.



Michelle Moore - I wanted to join the BIASC board because as a speech language pathologist treating Brain Injury survivors, I see the needs of BI survivors and their caregivers firsthand. The need for resources, advocacy, and support is great and BIASC works tirelessly to meet those needs.



As a family member of a TBI survivor, to ensure survivors, family members and caregivers receive the resources and supports they need in their communities.



William "Lucky" Jollye - I wanted to join the BOD to give back to the BIA who did so much for me during my recovery after my TBI & to be a voice for other brain injury survivors.





## Brain Injury Awareness Month – March 2022

The Brain Injury Association of SC will join with the Brain Injury Association of America in March 2022 to recognize and promote Brain Injury Awareness Month. The theme for 2022-2023 is **More Than My Brain Injury**. BIASC is planning activities for March and would love to have your help! We will be creating various social media posts across our accounts throughout the month, including Tik Tok! The BIASC Tik Tok will be a platform where we can feature our own members as well as other content providers who share their stories of life with brain injury. If you have a Tik Tok account and follow any creators that you find helpful in your journey, or, if you would be willing to create Tik Tok videos to share that we can promote as part of our initiative, please email BIASC Intern, Jennifer Ross, at [rossjw@email.sc.edu](mailto:rossjw@email.sc.edu). Keep your eye on our emails and social media posts in the next few months as we continue to plan the activities for the month. If you have any ideas or suggestions, those are welcome as well and may be emailed to the same address above. We look forward to working with you to create an awesome Awareness Campaign in the Spring.

BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS  
MONTH VIRTUAL 5K RUN,  
WALK, AND ROLL

**MARCH  
20-26  
2022**

MORE INFORMATION COMING  
SOON AT [WWW.BIAOFSC.COM](http://WWW.BIAOFSC.COM)

**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**

# Thank You to Our 2021 Community Sponsors

## Legacy



## Platinum



## Gold



## Silver



Southeastern Chapter



### Your sponsorship provides:

- \$25 sends a resource toolkit, including the *Living with Brain Injury-A Practical Guide* to a family learning to manage the trauma of life with brain injury, and to individuals who call the help-line
- \$40 provides a concussion tool kit which includes an SC REAP Manual for a school professional, nurse, physician, or family
- \$50 provides a scholarship for a brain injury survivor to attend the statewide conference
- \$50 provides help and hope to a brain injury survivor or a family member by connecting them to Certified Brain Injury Specialists and Resources at BIASC
- \$50 provides a Visibility Project Resource Bag including *Waiting to Clear* to new brain injury patients in SC's Level I Trauma Centers
- \$100 provides the Brain Injury Fundamentals Training to caregivers

**PRISMA** HEALTH.

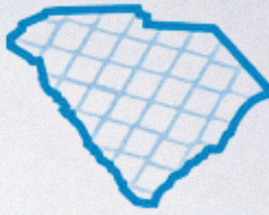
## Inspired to help you be your healthiest you

At Prisma Health, we're dedicated to supporting your healthcare needs. We're making healthcare exceptional for everyone across the Midlands and Upstate. With more access to the highest level of care, research innovations and patient education, we're committed to helping you be your healthiest you.

[PrismaHealth.org/Inspired](https://PrismaHealth.org/Inspired)



22-0206



**BRAIN INJURY  
SAFETY NET**

**FEBRUARY 2019 - OCTOBER 2021**

**SC REAP  
MANUALS  
DISTRIBUTED**

**8,064**



**>4,296  
NUMBER OF  
PROFESSIONALS  
WHO RECEIVED  
RESOURCES**

**55  
EXHIBITOR EVENTS  
AND/OR  
TRAININGS ON  
BRAIN HEALTH AND  
CONCUSSIONS**

# Upcoming Brain Injury Trainings

The **Brain Injury Fundamentals** course will be held via Zoom in the month of February 2022 each Wednesday from 9:00am-12:00pm. This training and certificate program is designed to address the unique needs and challenges of those who care for or encounter individuals with brain injury. This includes non-licensed direct care staff persons, facility staff, family members and friends, first responders, and others in the community. The training course covers essential topics such as cognition, guidelines for interacting and building rapport, brain injury and behavior, medical complications, safe medication management, and families coping with brain injury. \$50 registration fee; Free to non-paid caregivers.

The **Certified Brain Injury Specialist** course will be held via Zoom in the month of March 2022 each Tuesday from 4:00pm-6:30pm. If you have had 500 hours of currently verifiable direct contact experience with individuals with brain injury which included formal supervision or has been conducted under a license and have a high school diploma or equivalent, you may be eligible to become a Certified Brain Injury Specialist. \$100 registration fee which includes application, instruction, and exam. (This is a discount of \$135.00). Participant is responsible for purchasing the Essential Brain Injury Guide textbook at a discounted rate of \$90.00.

For additional information or to apply to attend a training course, please contact Kristi Hartwell at [coordinator@biaofsc.com](mailto:coordinator@biaofsc.com) or 803-731-9823. Space is limited.

\*Continuing Education Units will be provided to social workers for the Brain Injury Fundamentals course only.



**Kay Brooks, MA, CBIST**

Director, Head and Spinal Cord Injury Services  
Thrive Upstate  
Past-President, Brain Injury Association of South Carolina



**Ella Durham, MRC, NCC, CCM, CCTP, CBIS**

Certified Case Manager  
Midlands Regional Rehabilitation Hospital



**Meghan Trowbridge, LISW-AP, CBIST, C-ASWCM**

Assistant Director, Center for Disability Resources, South Carolina University  
Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities  
Research Assistant Professor



**Marty Van Dam, MS, CCC-SLP, CBIST**

Supervisor of Therapies, Roger C. Peace Outpatient Brain Injury & Young Stroke Program  
Prisma Health - Upstate  
President-Elect, Brain Injury Association of South Carolina



## BRAIN INJURY SURVIVOR SPOTLIGHT

Who would have thought that on July 5, 2018, our lives would forever change? Our youngest son, Jason McDonald, was walking home late at night when, suddenly a drunk driver that did not even stop hit him. Fortunately, someone was able to identify the individual. The young man was arrested and released on bond for his fourth DUI charge. At that moment as a parent, I remembered thinking how lucky the man was to be able to walk away without having any broken bones or major injuries. Mostly, not even having any remorse about what he did to our family.

My husband and I received a call about 5:00 AM that morning. We were informed that our son Jason was involved in a hit and run accident. Currently, Jason was on life support, and we needed to come to the hospital as soon as possible. All my husband and I could think about on our way to the hospital from Sumter to Columbia was, is our son going to die, why would somebody leave his lifeless body on the side of the road, and how could God allow this to happen. In addition, during this time we did not have a good relationship with our son, due to his current lifestyle to include drinking and other illegal activities. We got to the hospital and was informed by the physician that our son had a severe traumatic brain injury known as (TBI). All I can remember was seeing him hooked up to all of these wires and tubes and I just began to pray, asking God for his life.

An amazing act occurred when I called my son's name, Jason, he immediately reacted by twitching and moving. It was in that moment I knew God had heard my prayers. A few days later Jason was able to come out of his coma but was still having seizures. He knew we were his parents but displayed some mild cognitive deficiency. In addition, Jason was having and still has short-term memory loss. My husband and I made the difficult decision to bring our adult son home so that we can provide him with all the rehabilitation services he would need. That first year was a very difficult year for the three of us. We all had to learn how to live together and learn about (TBI) and how to deal with our son's seizures. Jason is an adult with mild cognitive deficiency and can easily be manipulated by fair-weather friends. As a social worker, I knew that before we can begin to help our son, we first had to deal with his demons. Therefore, we took steps to put him into a drug and alcohol rehabilitation program. As a family, we also seek out services such as counseling, support groups, and other holistic services that could enhance our knowledge and resources regarding TBI.

When we first started our journey of dealing with Jason's TBI, we had no knowledge of what to expect or do. I then took the opportunity to learn as much as I could about TBI. In addition, I wanted to know how people could still have a purposeful and normal life. The first thing that my husband and I did was take him to a neurologist that specialized in seizures and then, we also sought other services to help with stabilizing his mood swings and other mental health deficiencies caused by the TBI.

My husband and I promised that we would never allow Jason's TBI to be an excuse for him not reaching his full potential. We never allowed Jason to use his TBI as a crutch to him. Through

services like Vocational Rehabilitation and in Central Carolina Technical College, Jason was able to enroll in school and will be graduating with an associate degree in Computer Science May

2022. I now know that God makes no mistakes. Jason is now the young man my husband and I raised with the morals, values, and integrity he learned. Jason has come a long way, especially with the guidance, love, and support from his father, before he died last month. His father expressed how proud he was of him, and he wanted him to continue towards gaining his independence and living a good and successful life.

Jason also completed the Fatherhood Coalition Program to help him to be a better parent for his daughter and as a result, Jason is now getting visitation rights with his daughter. As Jason's mother, I used to cry and question God every night in my bed about my son and his TBI. But now, I don't see his TBI as a tragedy. As I mentioned before God makes no mistakes and I now see Jason's TBI as a triumph. Jason is now alcohol and drug free. He still has mild seizures and short-term memory loss. However, he has devices such as a smart pen to help with his memory and medications for his seizures. However, the most important thing out of this whole ordeal is that God gave us a second chance and before my husband died, Jason and his dad had an opportunity to rectify their close relationship again and I know now that his father is smiling at him from heaven.

By Deborah and Jason McDonald

## Educating Law Enforcement about Traumatic Brain Injury



*Lucky Jollye (middle front row), board member of the Brain Injury Association of SC and brain injury survivor, educates law enforcement in Myrtle Beach, SC about traumatic brain injury.*

The Brain Injury Association of SC has collaborated with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) South Carolina to provide education on traumatic brain injury since 2015 and to date a total of 1035 officers have been trained. BIASC volunteers, including professionals, brain injury survivors, and caregivers, from across the state teach law enforcement about brain injury through presentations and sharing personal stories. The trainers emphasize the importance of how the brain is affected after a traumatic brain injury (TBI) and demonstrate how law enforcement can best interact with someone who may show common signs of TBI which are often similar to a person who appears intoxicated or has other behavioral challenges.

Trainers provide current statistics on the various causes of brain injuries. They also describe the various functions of the brain and how the physical, cognitive, and emotional effects of a TBI can significantly alter the way a person interacts in their environment. This training is a great opportunity to increase the awareness of the incidence of TBIs. "We are very thankful to have the Brain Injury Association of South Carolina attend our Crisis Intervention Team trainings. This organization brings such an awareness to first responders about TBIs." NAMI SC

# NEW LOOK FOR BIAOFSC.COM



At the end of the summer this year you may have noticed a change to the Brain Injury Association of South Carolina website. We worked with a company called Sustainable Media to completely overhaul the site in a way that builds a more cohesive user experience and is more visually appealing. On our new site you can easily find out more about our programming, local and national resources, as well as get information about support groups in your area. There is even a new section on the site that provides you with different research trials and articles!

We pride ourselves on being an accessible resource for TBI and concussion survivors, families and caregivers, and professionals who support individuals living with brain injuries. Part of being an accessible resource to the community is ensuring that our website is accessible to individuals with various disabilities, which includes visual disabilities. On the bottom right-hand side of the website, you will see an accessibility logo. This logo is an accessibility widget called UserWay, which allows website visitors to customize their experience and change some settings to fit their needs. This includes color contrast of the website, reading the website aloud, changing the font and size, etc. We know that brain injury can impact people in various ways, and Brain Injury Association of South Carolina is committed to creating content that anyone, regardless of disability, can access and utilize. You will also find that our YouTube videos have Closed Captioning on them, and photos on the website have alternative text (a verbal description of the image shown on the screen) to ensure that everyone can understand and enjoy them!

We look forward to creating more improvements as we enter into 2022 and value feedback from you. This is a resource and site for you; we want your voices to be heard!



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Brain Injury Association of South Carolina receives funding from various sources, such as statewide grants, national grants, funding from the SC legislature, and financial partnerships with other statewide organizations. However, we would not still be in existence after twenty-three years (can you believe we were founded in 1998?!) without support from you – brain injury survivors, caregivers, family members, friends, and professionals that support individuals living with brain injury every single day.

To ensure that you know the best ways to support our organization, we wanted to provide you with some effortless ways to help support, and ensure the continuation, of community programming.

### ShopRaise

Brain Injury Association of South Carolina is proud to announce a partnership with ShopRaise, an innovative and straightforward way to turn your everyday online shopping at over 1,000 participating retailers into support for our cause.

ShopRaise is an effortless way to make philanthropy part of your online purchases. From groceries and apparel to technology and travel – a percentage of everything you buy goes to support our cause. The best thing is the program is free, you do not pay any more for the items you buy, and you get access to all the best coupons and deals.

It's as easy as:

- (1) Download the (FREE) ShopRaise app: <https://ShopRaise.com/for/biaofsc>
- (2) Create a profile – you can sign in with both Gmail and Facebook profiles
- (3) Choose “Brain Injury Association of South Carolina” as your cause to shop through – do this by going to “find cause by type – charity NPO – and put our full organization name in the search bar
- (4) Browse the THOUSANDS of participating retailers, all of whom give a percentage of sales straight to us!

Participating retailers include (but are not limited to) the following: Old Navy, Walmart, Cabela's, Macy's, Kohl's, etc. and all online.

### Amazon Smile

Your support by shopping with AmazonSmile helps us continue to provide help and resources to individuals with brain injury and their families.

Amazon Smile Donates 0.5% of your purchase price to the BIASC. Bookmark the link <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/57-1068415> as you shop on Amazon.



# VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT

## Two of BIASC Volunteers Share Something Special



Some of you may remember Kelli Mills from a couple of years ago when she was the Administrative Professional at BIASC. Kelli was responsible for a lot of things while working with us, one of those was pulling together the annual newsletter. Since she left BIASC to work in a state agency in 2020, she has continued to volunteer her time putting the annual newsletter together. This really is such a tough job because you really have to have some consistency and know the history of what goes in our newsletter and how to get the correct information. She is very creative in her ideas for the newsletter and is passionate about the organization.

One of Kelli's hobbies is baking and fortunately for BIASC Director, Joyce, she enjoys everything that Kelli bakes especially her pound cakes. BIASC has another volunteer, Doris Davis, who likes Kelli's pound cakes more than Joyce. Doris Davis is our oldest volunteer at 88 years old and she loves Kelli's pound cakes. Mrs. Davis happens to be Joyce's mother-in-law! Mrs. Davis helps update materials for BIASC by placing address stickers in appropriate places and she stuffs our Brain Injury Visibility Bags which are given out at the Level I Trauma Centers in SC. Mrs. Davis takes pride and enjoys helping in any way she can and says it keeps her mind sharp! Joyce has always shared Kelli's pound cakes with Mrs. Davis and from time to time has asked Kelli to make an extra for her. Both of these volunteers enjoy pound cake and helping the BIASC. These are the type of people organizations like ours have to have to survive. Thank you, Kelli and Doris, for all your help this past year.



# BIASC Recognized at October Affiliate Conference

This year at the Brain Injury Association of America Affiliate (BIAA) Conference, BIASC was recognized twice during the Award of Excellence Presentation by BIAA CEO/President, Susan Connors. BIASC was given the **2021 Award of Excellence for Fundraising** for our advocacy with state legislators resulting in funding from the state legislature for the first time in its history. BIASC Board of Directors wants to thank its members, supporters, and the brain injury community for helping secure funds this year!

Our very own, BIASC President Sherry Caldwell, received the State Association Leadership Award for **Chief Volunteer Officer of the Year!** Below is the nomination letter that was submitted:

*Sherry Caldwell is from Cross Hill, SC, which is about an hour and fifteen minutes from our state capital. Sherry has worked in the field of disabilities and mostly in brain injury her entire career. She retired 2 years ago and has been on the Brain Injury Association of SC (BIASC) Board since 2010. She has served in several capacities since joining the board-treasurer, secretary, president-elect, and president. She even extended her presidency at the request of the board so the president-elect could learn an additional year under Sherry's leadership.*

*Over the last several years, BIASC has focused on diversifying funding streams. Since Sherry has been president, she has focused her talents and energy on securing funding through the SC Legislature. Through Sherry's leadership and direction in advocacy efforts, BIASC was appropriated \$100,000 in FY22 through a proviso under SC Dept. of Health and Human Services. This is a huge accomplishment for our organization and sets a precedence going forward of continuing the important work of diversifying our funding as well as continuing to increase awareness and importance of our organization in the state of SC. Sherry is a true role model for advocacy. She worked with the Executive Director tirelessly over the last 3 years in setting up face-to-face meetings with the Lt. Governor, state agency leaders and legislators. She has led efforts in sending letters, emails, and encouraging the other board members to do the same. BIASC also received help from members, survivors, caregivers, and supporters in getting the support of legislators. It was a difficult task throughout COVID but in a way, it actually allowed staff more time to focus on these efforts when fundraising in person was not an option. BIASC and the SC brain injury community would like to recognize Sherry for her leadership, time, and dedication to BIASC throughout the years-not just the last three years. She is so compassionate and knows what it takes to be not only a leader but also a caregiver for loved ones with brain injury. Sherry's brother experienced two brain injuries with the second one ending his life while rock climbing. Her father also experienced a brain injury from a fall in the last year as well. Sherry is truly a gem, and a huge part of why we have been able to not only survive but thrive in these last couple of years. She has challenged us to continue to take our advocacy efforts to the next level and this will make a lasting impact on the Brain Injury Association of South Carolina and the survivors and caregivers we serve.*



**LARRY LUCAS INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.**

2100 GERVAIS STREET, SUITE A | COLUMBIA, SC 29204

# 2021 BIAA Awards of Excellence

Recognizing excellence in advocacy, collaboration, communications, fundraising, programs and services, management and affiliate leadership.

October 26, 2021

## State Association Leadership Award for Chief Volunteer Officer of the Year



**Sherry Caldwell**  
President

Brain Injury Association of South Carolina

## 2021 Award of Excellence for Fundraising



Brain Injury Association of *South Carolina*

Advocacy with state legislators resulting in funding from the state legislature for the first time in its history.

# TAKE BRAIN TO HEART





The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control's, Division of Injury and Substance Abuse Prevention expands programming, receiving two CDC cooperative agreements to expand data collection and prevention activities around traumatic brain injury.

DHEC's Division of Injury and Substance Abuse Prevention (DISAP) recently received funds through two CDC cooperative agreements with a focus on preventing traumatic brain injury: 1. The five-year CORE State Injury Prevention Program CORE SIPP grant, and 2.) The two-year CDC cooperative agreement, Public Health Programs to Address Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD), as part of the Building Our Largest Dementia (BOLD) Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act.

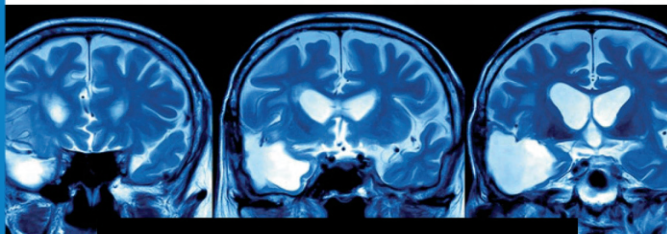
The CORE SIPP grant has three priority areas to include traumatic brain injury. The grant focuses on increased data collection, analysis and report and using said data to pinpoint and further prevention efforts. The CORE SIPP program manager and epidemiologist will work with the Brain Injury Leadership Council, Data and Information Systems Committee to facilitate meetings, working with the group to gather all relevant data, analyze data to target prevention efforts and identify populations disproportionately impacted by traumatic brain injury (TBI). The work of the grant focuses on data and the work of partners to target prevention interventions where they are needed most.

Through the BOLD grant, DISAP will work with the ADRD Resource Coordination Center Advisory Council, in accordance with SC statute 44-36-20, to implement a statewide ADRD strategic plan and educational campaign. The campaign will build upon the "Take Brain Health to Heart" educational campaign previously produced by DHEC that focuses on risk reduction and education as primary prevention measures. TBI is a known risk factor for ADRD and data from [two National Institute of Health studies](#) shows a 60% lower risk of developing ADRD among those with the highest number of healthy behaviors. These healthy behaviors include protecting one's head from injury, a high-quality diet, physical activity, not smoking, limiting alcohol consumption, and cognitive activities. As part of this risk reduction effort, DISAP will support and further the reach of TBI prevention efforts underway by partners such as the Brain Injury Association.

Please visit the [Take Brain Health to Heart](#) website or contact Emma Kennedy, Director of DISAP ([kennedeL@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:kennedeL@dhec.sc.gov)) to learn more about these initiatives.

	
<b>Fuel up Right and Break a sweat!</b> Participate in physical activity that raises your heart rate and increases your blood flow. Studies have found that physical activity reduces risk of cognitive decline.	<b>Butt out. Quit Smoking!</b> Smoking may increase your risk of cognitive decline. Quitting smoking can reduce risk to levels similar to those who have not smoked.
	
<b>Follow Your Heart!</b> Risk factors for heart disease and stroke such as obesity, high blood pressure and diabetes can negatively impact your cognitive health.	<b>Protect Your Noggin!</b> Use seat belts or child restraint systems designed for the age of your child. Wear a helmet when playing contact sports or riding a bike or motorcycle.

ROSEN | HAGOOD  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW



**Experience You Can Trust In  
Brain Injury Law**

When the unthinkable happens, you need compassionate, knowledgeable, and above all experienced counsel. The attorneys at Rosen Hagood have represented brain injury survivors, families, and caregivers for decades.

Andrew D. Gowdown  
843.577.6726  
[www.rosenhagood.com](http://www.rosenhagood.com)  
15 Meeting Street, Suite 400 Charleston, SC 29401

## South Carolina Brain Injury Support Groups

**IMPORTANT!!** Due to the COVID-19, the Brain Injury Support Groups are each doing different types of meetings. Please contact the support group leaders in your area to receive up to date information about meetings and how you can participate!

**Online Young Adult Support Group** – ages 16-29. If you are interested in attending, please email [safetynetcoordinator@biaofsc.com](mailto:safetynetcoordinator@biaofsc.com)

### **Aiken Support Group**

**Meeting Place:** Aiken County Disabilities and Special Needs Board  
1016 Vaucluse Road, Aiken, SC

**Meeting Time:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

**Contact Person:** Keziah Jackson; [kjackson@aikenboard.org](mailto:kjackson@aikenboard.org)

**Phone:** 803-642-8840 office; 803-522-9350 cell

### **Chapin Brain Injury Support Group – Meeting via Zoom**

**Meeting Place:** Chapin American Legion Post 193  
102 Lexington Avenue, Chapin, SC

**Mailing Address:** Chapin Brain Injury Support Group  
Post Office Box 484, Chapin, SC 29036

**Meeting Time:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month, 6:00 p.m.

**Contact Person:** Joyce Davis; [joyce.davis@biaofsc.com](mailto:joyce.davis@biaofsc.com)

**Phone:** 803-731-9823

### **Charleston Area-Trident Head Injury Support Group – Meeting in person**

**Meeting Place:** Interim Healthcare  
3820 Faber Place Drive, Suite 200  
North Charleston, SC 29405

**Meeting Time:** 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month, 7:00pm – 8:30pm

**Contact Person:** Kyle Hopfensperger; [kwhopfen@aol.com](mailto:kwhopfen@aol.com)

**Phone:** (803) 767-7153

### **Columbia Brain Injury Support Group - Meeting in person**

**Meeting Place:** Encompass Health  
2935 Colonial Dr, Columbia, SC 29203

**Meeting Time:** 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

**Contact Person:** Ethan Taylor; [ethan.g.taylor93@gmail.com](mailto:ethan.g.taylor93@gmail.com)

**Phone:** 704-747-4141

**Greenville Brain Injury Support Group – Meeting in person**

**Meeting Place:** Thrive Upstate, HASCI (Head and Spinal Cord Injury) Resource Center

McAlister Square, Suite B-6, 225 S. Pleasantburg Drive, Greenville, SC

**Meeting Time:** 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of most months, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

**Contact Person:** Anne Medlock; [greenvilletbi@gmail.com](mailto:greenvilletbi@gmail.com)

Kay Brooks; [kbrooks@thriveupstate.org](mailto:kbrooks@thriveupstate.org)

**Phone:** 864-230-7821 and 864-230-7820

**Greenwood Brain Injury Support Group-Currently not meeting**

**Meeting Place:** Greenwood Regional Rehabilitation Hospital, Gardenia Room

1530 Parkway, Greenwood, SC 29646

**Meeting Time:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month, 11:30 a.m.- 1 p.m.

**Contact Person:** Alpana Pednekar; [alpanapednekar@ernesthealth.com](mailto:alpanapednekar@ernesthealth.com)

**Phone:** 864-330-1819; 864-330-1800

**Hartsville Brain Injury Support Group – Currently not meeting**

**Meeting Place:** Hartsville Memorial Library

147 W. College Avenue, Hartsville, SC

**Meeting Time:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Contact Person:** Danny Weaver; [weav2206@bellsouth.net](mailto:weav2206@bellsouth.net)

**Phone:** 843-861-5413

**Spartanburg/Lyman Brain Injury Support Group – Meeting via Zoom.**

**Meeting Time:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

**Contact Person:** Tanya Lambert; [tlambert1@scvrd.state.sc.us](mailto:tlambert1@scvrd.state.sc.us)

**Phone:** 864-249-8048 or 864-249-8030



## HONORARIUMS

*In Honor of Cody Hood by Rodney Harley*

*In Honor of Mike Simpson by John & Allison Simpson*

## MEMORIALS

*In Memory of Gene Church by Anne Arrington*

*In Memory of Gene Church by Philip Clarkson*

*In Memory of Gilbert Caldwell by Phil Clarkson*

*In Memory of Jeremy S. Nelson by Joanna King*

*In Memory of John Mortali by Diane Boudrot*

*In Memory of John Mortali by Deborah O'Connor*

*In Memory of John Mortali by Donna Olson*

*In Memory of John Mortali by Dwight Worrell*

*In Memory of John Mortali by Gail RiReinzo*

*In Memory of John Mortali by Robert & Eleanor Julianelle*

*In Memory of John Mortali by James & Sheila Bertini*

*In Memory of John Mortali by Ken & Pam Wilson*

*In Memory of John Mortali by Mildred Stier*

*In Memory of John Mortali by Patricia Shealty*

*In Memory of John Mortali by Judith Bellizzi*

*In Memory of John Mortali by Marilyn Shumaker*