

2024-2025



Impact Report

Momentum Across Nebraska

Two Years: *One Story of Impact*

During 2024 and 2025, the **Brain Injury Association of Nebraska** grew, adapted, changed its name, strengthened its team, expanded education, improved referral pathways, and kept showing up for Nebraskans affected by brain injury.

We are putting two years of highlights into one report because the work did not stop neatly at the end of a calendar year — and, if we are being honest, neither did the to-do list.

This report brings together a period of *transition, team growth, statewide service, stronger partnerships, and powerful storytelling*. It is a snapshot of steady work, meaningful change, and hope made visible across Nebraska.

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Letter from Leadership

Dear Friends and Supporters,

The past two years have been full of movement for the Brain Injury Association of Nebraska.

Some of that movement was easy to see. Some of it happened quietly in phone calls, referral forms, trainings, support groups, team meetings, and one-on-one conversations with Nebraskans who were trying to understand life after brain injury.

This report brings together *highlights from both 2024 and 2025*. We are sharing them in one place because the work did not pause neatly at the end of a calendar year. It kept *moving, growing, shifting, and strengthening* — just like our organization.

In 2024 and 2025, we continued doing what BIA-NE has always done: showing up for individuals with brain injury, families, caregivers, professionals, and communities across Nebraska. We helped people find resources. We helped families understand what brain injury can mean. We trained professionals to recognize brain injury when it may otherwise be missed. We strengthened partnerships in schools, behavioral health, justice, health care, and community-based services. And we kept working toward a future where Nebraskans living with brain injury can thrive in their communities.

We also moved through an important organizational transition. In 2024, following changes at the national level, our board approved the transition from Brain Injury Alliance of Nebraska to Brain Injury Association of Nebraska. Our name shifted, but our purpose did not. We remain deeply rooted in Nebraska, committed to statewide service, and focused on prevention, education, advocacy, and support.

These years also reminded us how powerful stories can be.

At our 2025 Nebraska Brain Injury Conference, we shared the updated *Forever Shaken documentary*. It was emotional, honest, and deeply moving. It helped people understand the lifelong impact of abusive head trauma in a way that statistics alone never could. And yes, it made people cry. Peggy included. Obviously. That is not exactly breaking news around here.

We also welcomed photographer and storyteller John Noltner, creator of *A Peace of My Mind*. Through portraits and personal stories, John helped capture the lived experience of brain injury in a way that was insightful, inspiring, and educational. Those photos have become more than a conference exhibit. They are now *a traveling exhibit, moving across Nebraska* and sharing the stories of individuals, families, and caregivers affected by brain injury.

In 2025, we continued lifting up the voices of Nebraskans affected by brain injury through Journeys of Hope and other storytelling efforts. We held our *first-ever annual appeal concert event at the University of Nebraska Omaha*, bringing people together through music, community, and a shared commitment to making brain injury more visible. These moments helped people connect not only with our mission, but with the real lives and stories behind it.

Behind those stories is a growing team doing steady, practical work across the state. Our Resource Facilitators helped individuals and families navigate systems that can feel overwhelming. Our staff built relationships with professionals and community partners so more people know where to turn. We expanded screening efforts, improved referral pathways, and continued helping organizations understand that brain injury is not rare, simple, or always obvious.

We also expanded the ways people can support one another. In 2025, BIA-NE received a grant through Vocational Rehabilitation to *grow our Peer Mentoring Program*. That program has expanded significantly, connecting more survivors of brain injury with trained peer mentors and extending support to caregivers as well. Because sometimes the most powerful support comes from someone who can say, “I understand,” and truly mean it.

Our systems-change work also grew in important ways. In 2025, we began the first year of our *Sherwood Foundation-funded juvenile justice program*, focused on helping partners better identify and support youth with possible or probable brain injury. Many young people in the justice system have histories of brain injury, but those injuries are often missed, misunderstood, or mistaken for behavior problems. Through this project, BIA-NE is helping systems respond with more understanding, better tools, and more effective support.

This work is not always flashy. It is often one conversation at a time. One family at a time. One training, one support group, one referral, one screening, one “I finally understand what is happening” moment at a time.

They add up to stronger systems. They add up to more informed providers. They add up to families feeling less alone. They add up to people with brain injury having a better chance at support, stability, and hope.

We are grateful to every donor, partner, board member, volunteer, staff member, support group facilitator, advocate, and community member who made this work possible in 2024 and 2025. Your support helped us continue showing up across Nebraska — in cities, rural communities, schools, hospitals, jails, behavioral health programs, family homes, courtrooms, concert halls, and everywhere brain injury is present but not always recognized.

Because of you, hope is visible.

With gratitude,

Peggy Reisher, MSW
Executive Director

Tami Soper, PHD
Board President

[Meet The BIA-NE Team On Our Website](#)

At A Glance

Below are key data highlights of our statewide impact and the vital work of our Resource Facilitators across the state.

As part of our commitment to transparency and accountability under the Brain Injury Assistance Act of 2022, we also compile a more detailed report with Partners for Insightful Evaluation and share that data with the Brain Injury Oversight Committee. For those interested in a deeper dive into our statewide efforts and outcomes, we encourage you to review the full reports on our website.

[Browse Resource Facilitation Reports](#)

2024

495

Total individuals served through Resource Facilitation



940

Referrals and resources were provided to clients



157

Nebraska Brain Injury Conference attendees



\$16,511

Raised through our Annual Appeal

117

Blazing Trails participants



366

Brain injury screenings recorded with 6 partner agencies



66

Trainings conducted across Nebraska



2025

492

Total individuals served through Resource Facilitation



1,715

Resources shared with clients



166

Nebraska Brain Injury Conference attendees



\$17,837

Raised through our Annual Appeal

143

Blazing Trails participants



248

Brain injury screenings completed through the OBISSS



61

Trainings conducted across Nebraska



Finances: 2024

Financial Activities

Revenues & Support

Contributions & Grants	\$ 1,199,642.00
Conference & Fundrasing Event Sponsorship	\$ 30,775.00
Fundraising Events	\$ 13,918.00
Increase in the Beneficial Interest in Assets Invested By Others	\$ 9,717.00
Interest	\$ 24,300.00
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$ 97.00

Total Revenue & Support \$ 1,278,449.00

Net Assets Released from Restrictions \$ 152,277.00

Expenses

Program	\$ 1,126,486.00
Management	\$ 77,743.00
Fundraising	\$ 21,717.00

Total Expenses \$ 1,225,946.00

Increase in Unrestricted Assets \$ 204,780.00

Restricted Net Assets

Grants	\$ 51,265.00
Conference & Fundraising Event Sponsorship	\$ 3,900.00
Net Assets Released From Restrictions	\$ (152,277.00)

2024 Year Summary

Increase In Restricted Assets	\$ (97,112.00)
Total Increase In Net Assets	\$ 164,197.00

Net Assets at Beginning of 2024 \$ 1,246,923.00

Net Assets at End of 2024 \$ 1,354,591.00

Financial Position

Current Assets

Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 876,919.00
Accounts Receivable	\$ 352,379.00
Prepaid Expenses	\$ 32,623.00
Grants & Pledges Receivable	\$ 17,651.00
Beneficial Interest In Assets Invested By Others	\$ 175,875.00
Total Assets	\$ 1,387,266.00

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$ 20,650.00
Other Accrued Expenses	\$ 12,025.00
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 32,675.00

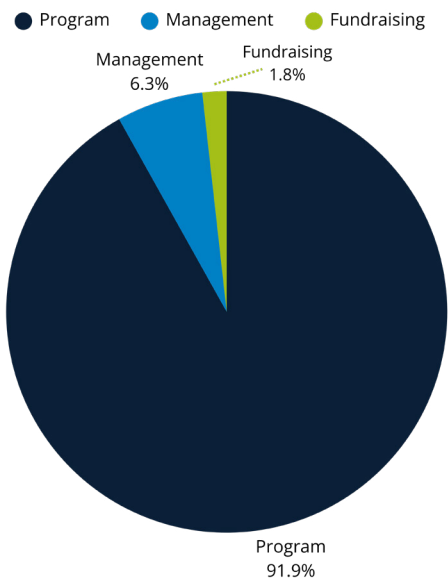
Net Assets

Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 1,297,941.00
Restricted Net Assets	\$ 56,650.00

Total Net Assets \$ 1,341,591.00

Total Liabilities & Net Assets \$ 1,387,266.00

2024 Expenses



Finances: 2025

Financial Activities

Revenues & Support

Contributions & Grants	\$ 1,548,852.00
Conference & Fundrasing Event Sponsorship	\$ 33,579.00
Fundraising Events	\$ 14,376.00
Increase in the Beneficial Interest in Assets Invested By Others	\$ 15,089.00
Interest	\$ 31,291.00
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$25.00

Total Revenue & Support \$ 1,644,212.00

Net Assets Released from Restrictions \$ 0.00

Expenses

Program	\$ 1,146,982.00
Management	\$ 67,506.00
Fundraising	\$ 23,111.00

Total Expenses \$ 1,237,599.00

Increase in Unrestricted Assets \$ 406,613.00

Restricted Net Assets

Grants	\$ 0.00
Conference & Fundraising Event Sponsorship	\$ 0.00
Net Assets Released From Restrictions	\$ 0.00

2025 Year Summary

Increase In Restricted Assets	\$ 0.00
Total Increase In Net Assets	\$ 406,613.00

Net Assets at Beginning of 2025 \$ 1,354,591.00

Net Assets at End of 2025 \$ 1,761,204.00

Financial Position

Current Assets

Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 1,485,986.00
Accounts Receivable	\$ 127,570.00
Prepaid Expenses	\$ 25,198.00
Grants & Pledges Receivable	\$ 4,000.00
Beneficial Interest In Assets Invested By Others	\$ 122,783.00
Total Assets	\$ 1,765,537.00

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$ 4,333.00
Other Accrued Expenses	\$ 0.00
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 4,333.00

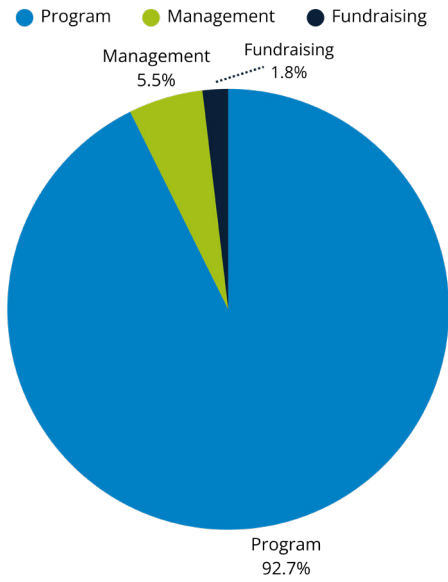
Net Assets

Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 1,468,571.00
Restricted Net Assets	\$ 292,633.00

Total Net Assets \$ 1,761,204.00

Total Liabilities & Net Assets \$ 1,765,537.00

2025 Expenses



In keeping with BIA-NE’s financial trends from past years, over 90% of every dollar received supports programs & services that directly benefit Nebraskans affected by brain injury.

With Gratitude To Every Donor & Every Funder

The work highlighted in this report was made possible by an entire community of generous people, families, businesses, foundations, & community partners who believe that no Nebraskan should have to navigate life after brain injury alone. Because of space limitations, the following list recognizes donors whose cumulative contributions totaled \$100 or more during each year. We receive gifts through many different sources and platforms, some of which do not provide us with complete donor contact information. While we make every effort to identify, thank, and accurately recognize everyone who supports our work, there may be donors whose names we were unable to include. **Whether your name appears here or not, please know that your generosity mattered, your support was appreciated, and your gift helped make this work possible.**

Individual Donations

2024

\$6,000 - \$3,000

Tom & Peggy Reisher

\$2,999 - \$1,000

Charles Taylon MD Lloya & Don Fritz
Laurie Jessen Roger & Shirlee Lempke

\$999 - \$500

Brett Young Mark Russell
James Brady Rondi Kinney

\$499 - \$200

Alan Schwartz Kay Wenzl
Dr. Adam & Tiffany Kafka Scot & Rita Adams
James Russell Lippincott

\$199 - \$100

Anna & Blake Cole Kanani Reed
Bob & Patty Krzycki Mark & Barbara Schardt
Dave & Colleen Duryea Michala Witas
David Troupe Shari Grof-Topp

2025

\$6,000 - \$3,000

Tom & Peggy Reisher

\$2,999 - \$1,000

Dan Pierce Lloya & Don Fritz
Laurie Jessen

\$999 - \$500

James Brady Rondi Kinney
Kathryn Friedman William Smisek

\$499 - \$200

Brett Neely Scot & Rita Adams
Dave & Colleen Duryea Sharon Royers
Dr. Adam & Tiffany Kafka Tami Soper

\$199 - \$100

Adam Gehringer Janice & David Merritt
David Troupe Lisa Graff
Dr. Jeffrey Scott Cooper Michala Witas
Frank & Michele Foley Paul & Marilyn Dongilli
James Russell Lippincott Paula Dodds & Matt Koebensky

Corporations, Foundations, & Sponsors

2024 Foundations & Corporations

Debby Durham Family Foundation The Acklie Charitable Foundation
Sherwood Foundation Phrma
The Hawks Foundation Rembolt Ludtke LLP
DF Dillon Foundation Mission Lifeline Post-Acute Stroke
Irene & Joseph Malek Charitable Trust Schneider Electric

2024 Nebraska Brain Injury Conference Sponsors & Exhibitors

Kearney Visitors' Bureau Quality Living, Inc. (QLI)
CHI Health: St. Elizabeth - Nebraska Heart Nebraska Chiropratic Physicians Association
Madonna Rehabilitation Hospitals Bryan Health
Nebraska Total Care Nebraska Voc Rehab
Northpoint Nebraska

2024 Blazing Trails for Brain Injury 5k/1mi Run, Walk, Roll Sponsors

Dowding, Dowding, Dowding & Urbom Law Offices Nebraska Chiropratic Physicians Association
Millard Lumber Inc. Rembolt Ludtke LLP
Vetter Senior Living Scheels
NAPA Omaha BDG

2025 Foundations & Corporations

Debby Durham Family Foundation Nebraska Elks Associations
Sherwood Foundation Phrma
The Hawks Foundation Mapes
DF Dillon Foundation Access Bank
Lincoln Parks & Rec Foundation Schneider Electric

2025 Nebraska Brain Injury Conference Sponsors & Exhibitors

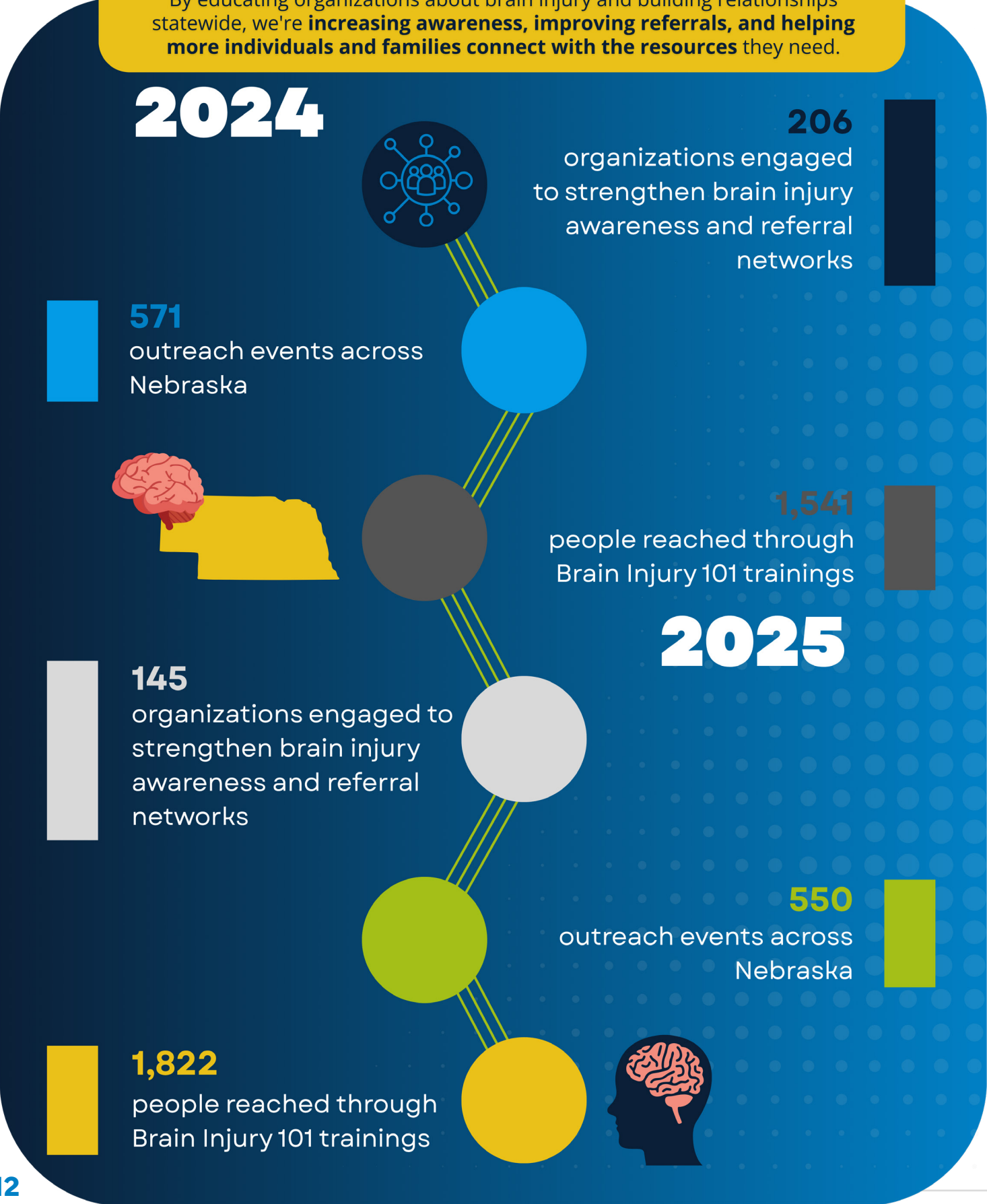
Kearney Visitors' Bureau Northpoint Nebraska
Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska Quality Living, Inc (QLI)
CHAD Nebraska Physicians Association
Madonna Rehabilitation Hospitals International Autoimmune Encephalitis Society
Nebraska Medicine Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association
Nebraska Chiropratic Physicians Association Caretech, Inc
Nebraska Total Care Midwest Bath Co.

2025 Blazing Trails for Brain Injury 5k/1mi Run, Walk, Roll Sponsors

Atwood, Holsten, Brown, Deaver, Spier, & Israel Law Firm Nebraska Medicine
Burton Prosthetics Scheels
Kuper, Block & Paumer Vetter Senior Living
Millard Lumber Inc. LivaNova

Education & Outreach: *Building Understanding*

Every partnership helps strengthen Nebraska's network of support. By educating organizations about brain injury and building relationships statewide, we're **increasing awareness, improving referrals, and helping more individuals and families connect with the resources** they need.



Juvenile Justice: *Looking Beyond Behavior*

In 2025, BIA-NE launched the first year of a Sherwood Foundation-funded juvenile justice program focused on identifying and supporting youth with possible or probable brain injury.

This work matters because brain injury can affect learning, memory, attention, communication, impulse control, emotional regulation, and decision-making. For young people, those changes may show up in ways that are easy to misunderstand — especially in systems that are already stretched, busy, and focused on safety, accountability, and behavior.

A youth who struggles to follow instructions may be seen as defiant. A youth who reacts quickly may be seen as aggressive. A youth who cannot remember what was explained yesterday may be seen as careless or unwilling. But sometimes, there is more going on.

Brain injury does not excuse behavior. But it can *help explain what support a young person may need* to understand expectations, build skills, participate in services, and move forward.

Through this project, BIA-NE is working with juvenile justice partners to strengthen brain injury screening, staff education, referral pathways, and practical support strategies. This work is possible because of strong collaboration with partners who care deeply about youth, families, and better outcomes.

No single system can do this alone. Better outcomes for youth happen when partners understand the whole picture — including brain injury.

This is systems-change work. It is not about lowering expectations for youth. It is about improving the way systems identify needs, communicate expectations, support learning, and help young people succeed.

With support from **The Sherwood Foundation** and in partnership with committed juvenile justice, education, health care, behavioral health, disability, and community partners, BIA-NE is helping bring brain injury awareness and practical strategies into juvenile justice settings — where better understanding can change not only how youth are seen, but how they are supported.

Traveling Exhibit: *Making Stories Visible*

Brain injury is everywhere — in our families, schools, workplaces, health care systems, justice systems, and communities. But too often, it is still misunderstood, overlooked, or invisible.

That is why BIA-NE is taking these stories on the road.

At the 2025 Nebraska Brain Injury Conference, BIA-NE welcomed photographer and storyteller John Noltner, creator of *A Peace of My Mind*. Through portraits and personal interviews, John captured the lived experiences of Nebraskans affected by brain injury — survivors, family members, caregivers, and advocates.

**Brain injury is often invisible.
This exhibit makes people stop and see.**



Each portrait invites people to stop, look, read, and connect. The exhibit helps viewers understand that *brain injury does not look one specific way*. It may affect memory, mood, communication, fatigue, relationships, work, school, independence, and identity. It may be visible in one person and completely hidden in another. But every story matters.

This exhibit belongs in places where people gather, learn, work, heal, and lead. Museums. Libraries. Hospitals. Clinics. Schools. Colleges. Public buildings. Community centers. Businesses. Courthouses. Conference spaces. Faith communities. Anywhere people need a better understanding of brain injury — which is, frankly, almost everywhere.

The exhibit is more than something to view. It is a conversation starter. It creates space for empathy. It helps professionals, neighbors, families, and community leaders see the people behind the diagnosis. It makes brain injury harder to ignore and easier to understand.

By hosting the *A Peace of My Mind* traveling exhibit, organizations can help bring brain injury awareness into everyday spaces across Nebraska. They can help educate their communities, reduce stigma, and remind people affected by brain injury that their stories matter.

This is what awareness can look like: a face, a story, a moment of recognition, and a community willing to see.

**Bring these stories to your community.
Suggest a host site by emailing:
info@biane.org**



Peer Mentoring: *Hope Through Connection*

Life after brain injury can feel isolating — not only for the person with the injury, but also for the family members and caregivers walking beside them.

There are appointments, questions, changes, frustrations, grief, progress, setbacks, paperwork, and a whole lot of “is this normal?” moments. Professional support matters. Resources matter. Education matters. But sometimes, what a person needs most is to talk with someone who has been there.

That is the heart of BIA-NE’s Peer Mentoring Program.

In 2025, BIA-NE received a grant through Vocational Rehabilitation to *expand peer mentoring across Nebraska*. This support helped the program grow significantly, reaching more survivors of brain injury and expanding to include caregivers as well.

Through the program, trained peer mentors are matched with people who are looking for connection, encouragement, and practical support from someone with shared lived experience.

**Peer mentoring does not replace professional support.
It adds something different: connection, lived experience, and hope from someone who understands.**

For survivors, peer mentoring can offer hope from someone who understands the daily realities of life after brain injury. For caregivers, it can provide connection with someone who knows what it is like to support a loved one through change, uncertainty, and recovery.

This kind of support can be powerful because it is personal. It helps people feel seen. It gives people space to ask honest questions. It can reduce isolation, build confidence, and help families take the next step forward.

As the program grows, BIA-NE is looking for both mentors and mentees. Survivors of brain injury and caregivers can apply to be matched with a mentor. Those with lived experience who are ready to support others can apply to become trained peer mentors.

Because sometimes the most meaningful words are also the simplest: “I understand. You are not alone.”

**Learn more about BIA-NE’s Peer Mentoring Program
or apply to become a mentor or mentee at:
biane.org/peer-support**



Honoring Impact: 2024 Award Winners

Honoring Impact: 2025 Award Winners

Each year at the Nebraska Brain Injury Conference, we dedicate time to recognize and honor individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to the brain injury community. In 2024 & 2025, we were proud to honor the following individuals for their outstanding work in Nebraska.



Mark LeFlore - Professional Advocate of the Year

Since 2009, Mark Le Flore Sr. has dedicated his career to serving youth in Nebraska’s juvenile justice system. Through his leadership at the Douglas County Youth Center, Mark recognized the often-overlooked connection between brain injury and juvenile justice, helping establish a partnership with BIA-NE to improve awareness, education, and support for youth navigating these challenges.

Beyond his work at DCYC, Mark has been a steadfast advocate for system-wide collaboration and improved outcomes for vulnerable youth through his service on multiple juvenile justice committees. Thank you, Mark, for your leadership, partnership, and commitment to creating a better future for Nebraska’s youth.

Sue Cover - Spirit of Nebraska

In 2015, Sue Cover’s son, Sean, sustained a brain injury after experiencing violent seizures caused by an unregulated supplement. His injury, combined with addiction and gaps in available services, changed the course of his life and ultimately led to his tragic death in 2020. Through heartbreak, Sue transformed her grief into a mission to improve awareness and support for others facing similar challenges.



Today, Sue honors Sean’s legacy by advocating for individuals with brain injury and addiction, educating healthcare providers and community organizations, and providing backpacks filled with essential supplies and messages of hope to those in need. Thank you, Sue, for your compassion, advocacy, and unwavering commitment to helping others find support and dignity.



Ashley Hansen - Above and Beyond

In May 2022, Ashley Hansen’s family was forever changed when her son, Carson, sustained a severe traumatic brain injury in a devastating car accident. As Ashley and her family navigated rehabilitation, caregiving, and the challenges of accessing services, she became determined to help create a better future for other Nebraska families affected by brain injury.

Since then, Ashley has generously shared her family’s story, spoken on panels, participated in Blazing Trails for Brain Injury, and partnered with BIA-NE to raise awareness and advocate for improved support. Thank you, Ashley, for your courage, compassion, and unwavering dedication to the brain injury community.



At the 2025 Nebraska Brain Injury Conference, the Brain Injury Association of Nebraska presented its Impact Award to the four Nebraska families featured in the *Forever Shaken* documentary. Through their courage and willingness to share their personal experiences, the families of Chase, Ethan, Antonio, and Alexis have helped increase awareness of pediatric brain injury, giving a voice to challenges that are too often unseen. Their stories continue to educate, inspire, and foster greater understanding for families across Nebraska.

Learn more about the families behind *Forever Shaken* by clicking to read their stories or watching the documentary below.

- Chase
- Ethan
- Antonio
- Alexis





Mission

Create a better future for all Nebraskans through brain injury prevention, education, advocacy, and support.