



Brain Injury Alliance of Washington

MINDMATTERS

PREVENTION ■ SUPPORT ■ EDUCATION ■ ADVOCACY

September 2021

MindMatters is a
publication of BIAWA



Brain Injury
Alliance
WASHINGTON

Our Mission: To increase public awareness, support, and hope for those affected by Brain Injury through education, assistance, and advocacy.

WHAT'S NEW

Message from BIAWA Board President Becky Minaglia

As I reflect on the year in the rearview mirror, I realize that the recurrent theme I keep coming back to is **gratitude**. I would first like to thank the BIAWA leadership and staff for expertly navigating the changes and challenges we've all experienced these past 18 months. I am so proud of the way they have been able to pivot quickly to turn planned live events into successful remote events. They have adjusted to the never ending changes while continuing to provide vital support to people living with brain injuries and their families.

I would also like to thank the dedicated board of directors who spent the past year developing a strategic plan to help guide the organization. We spent a lot of time getting to know our survivor and supporter communities to identify outstanding needs and making intentional plans for the future. A significant amount of time was given by the entire board, who are all volunteers, on top of already busy schedules. I am honored to be a part of such an amazing group of people who share a common vision and mission.

And of course a thank our mighty community. BIAWA would not exist without the support you provide! Your contributions allow BIAWA to provide FREE resources to those whose lives have been affected by brain injury, including personalized resource management, Brain Health and Wellness classes, and prevention and advocacy support. As we continue to work through challenges and adjust to an ever changing landscape, your support is more important than ever. We look forward to celebrating with you all at the Brain Injury Gala on Saturday, November 6th. Thank you for your continued support!

Brain Health and Wellness staying (mostly) virtual for Fall 2021! (see page 9)

Do you need help making a COVID-19 vaccination appointment?

Please call the BIAWA Resource Line at 877-982-4292.

Connect with Us!

We utilize the following social media platforms to share information on upcoming opportunities, resources, and fun photos from our community! Visit us to stay up to date on what BIAWA is doing in your community.



@BrainInjuryWA



@braininjurywa



YouTube @BrainInjuryWA

New Tool Spotlight: Resource Locator Map



BIAWA Resource Locator Map

Have you heard the news? BIAWA has launched a NEW [Resource Locator Map](#) on our website.

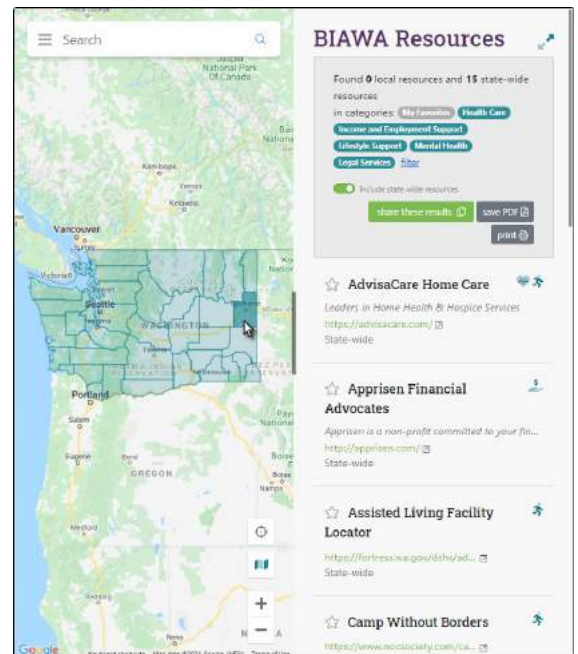
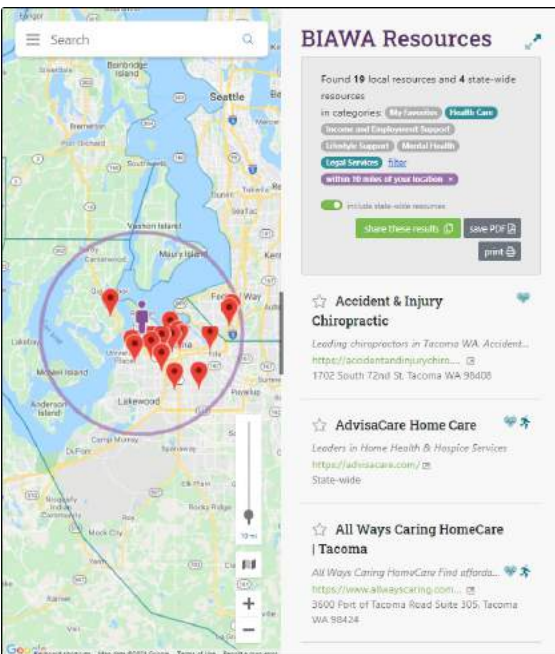
Finding resources just got easier!

A couple of new features:

You can search by county.

You can search by what is close to you.

Searching by category is much easier.



You can drop and drag the location pin once its on the screen.

You can share a link of the resources you fine.

You can save your search results as a PDF.

We need your feedback!

Your input helps us continue to make improvements so that we can best serve our community.

Please send feedback to info@biawa.org OR call the Resource Line at 877-982-4292

By September 24th.

UPCOMING EVENTS



The 13th Annual Brain Injury Art Show will be held at the [Renton History Museum](#)
November 2021—February 2022.

Only survivors of Brain Injury who live in Washington State are eligible to submit artwork for this show.

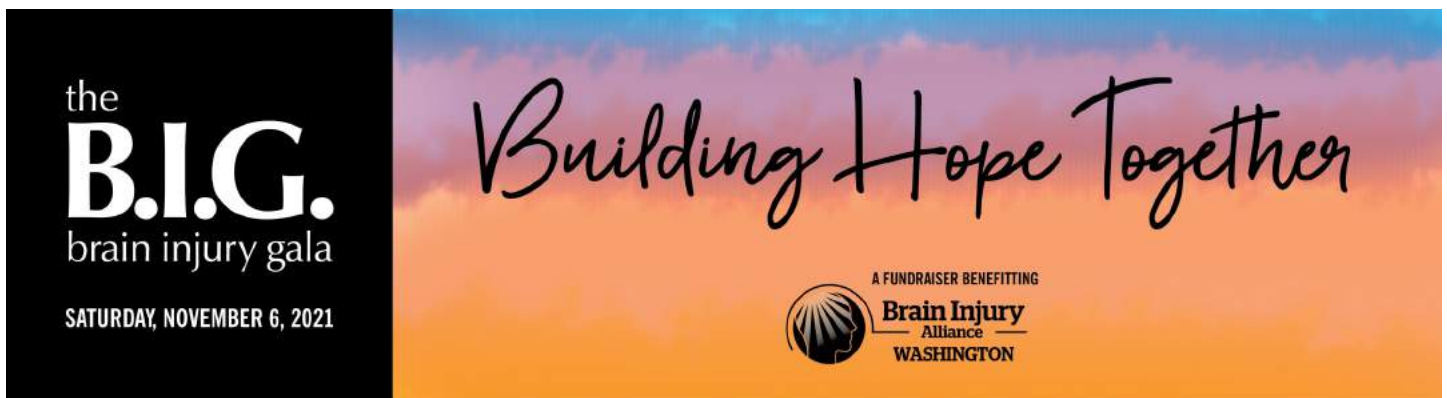
Size Restriction: no larger than 36x36 inches (including frame) due to gallery space limitations.

Art of any medium will be accepted, with the exception of video work. A limited number of 3D pieces will be accepted due to gallery space limitations.

Deadline for Artist Application has been EXTENDED to **Friday, September 24th.**

[Apply Here](#)

Questions? Contact Bridget at Bridgett@biawa.org



14th Annual B.I.G. Event (Brain Injury Gala)

Presented by [Special Needs Group at UBS](#)

[Purchase Tickets Now!](#)

Saturday, November 6, 2021

Westin Seattle

Honorary Chairs: [Nelson Langer Engle](#)

Each year BIAWA is able to provide a limited number of scholarships for Brain Injury Survivors to attend the Gala at a very low cost. This opportunity is available for survivors who are experiencing financial hardship.

[Gala Scholarship Application](#)

For the health and safety of all attendees and staff, we ask that all Gala attendees be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

PAST EVENTS



Take Me Out To The Ball Game!

BIAWA was on hand at Cheney Stadium as the Tacoma Rainier's beat the Las Vegas Aviators 6-4 in a late inning rally!

We also had a Survivor Outing to see the Mariner's take on Houston Astros at T-Mobile Park. M's won 1-0!



Brain Injury Golf Tournament

123 golfers teed off at Meridian Valley Country Club to support BIAWA's pediatric brain injury support and prevention program. There were lots of fun contests, a great silent auction, and socially distanced networking for all.



Thank you to all of our fabulous sponsors and volunteers!

WELCOME OUR NEW STAFF MEMBERS!



Avel Diaz: Resource Manager

Avel joined BIAWA in February 2021 as the new Central Washington Resource Manager. He graduated from Gonzaga University with a BA in Psychology and a Minor in Philosophy. Avel has over 9 years of experience working in social work and mental health. He enjoys helping others and believes that everyone ought to be treated with dignity and respect. Avel enjoys sports and collecting music on vinyl. He hopes to someday own his own record and sneaker store. Avel says that he has really enjoyed his time as a team member for this awesome organization (BIAWA!), and looks forward to many more years of serving the community and making a difference in the lives of individuals impacted by brain injury.

Bridget Toomey: Development & Events Coordinator

Bridget joined the BIAWA team in April 2021 as BIAWA's new Events & Development Coordinator. She brings a large special events background with her. Bridget says that she is excited to be part of growing the Development team to bring back in-person events. In her free time you can find Bridget eating something delicious or when the weather is right she is out of cell service hiking the Cascades, learning how to fly fish, or out kayaking. Bridget is looking forward to continuing the community work of BIAWA.



WELCOME OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS!



Sims Weymuller

Lawyer, Parent of Young Brain Injury Survivor

Sims is a partner at Schroeter Goldmark & Bender. He joined the BIAWA Board in May 2020.

For his entire career, Sims has litigated professional negligence (medical malpractice and legal malpractice), product liability, and catastrophic injury cases in both state and federal courts. Sims's product liability experience ranges from medical devices and consumer products to pharmaceutical mass torts. His medical malpractice cases include birth trauma, delayed diagnosis, and surgical error matters. He has a particular interest in brain and spinal cord injuries, and has developed a deep understanding of the needs of those who have suffered these types of injuries and the unique challenges they face. Sims lives in West Seattle with his wife and their two boys. When he is not practicing law, he can be found coaching youth baseball or stream side, casting flies to reluctant trout.



Melissa Carter

Lawyer

Melissa is the managing partner at Adler Giersch, a law firm dedicated exclusively to representing those with traumatic injuries with a specialty in brain and spinal trauma. She joined the BIAWA Board in June 2021.

Prior to joining Adler Giersch, Melissa represented insurance companies and defended at-fault parties in claims involving complex traumatic injury, insurance contract disputes, and commercial insurance disputes. During that time she conducted and complete well over 30 jury trials to verdict in state and federal courtrooms with cases involving traumatic brain injury, wrongful death, and insurance bad faith. As a partner at Adler Giersch, Melissa has joined her two professional passions of zealous trial advocacy and ensuring those harmed by others have a level playing field in their recovery of medical, physical, and economic loss. Melissa resides in Seattle with her husband and three children. In her spare time she enjoys long distance running and attending live music shows.



Taylor Vick

Son of Brain Injury Survivor

Taylor is a system engineer for Siemens. He joined the Board in May 2021.

At Siemens, he has had the opportunity to complete several high-profile automation projects in a wide array of facilities including hospitals, data centers, research laboratories, clean rooms, airports, pharmaceutical production, and cruise ships. Taylor is a long-time volunteer for BIAWA and has been the chair of the gala committee since 2019. Taylor's father is the survivor of a TBI by way of a ruptured blood vessel during brain surgery in 1999. Originally born and raised in Minneapolis, Taylor has been a resident of the PNW since 2014. He enjoys biking, running, and photography and has a passion for advocating for the rights and needs of others.

WELCOME OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS!



Alan Barronian, Doctor

Sheri Barronian

Parents of Brain Injury Survivor

Alan is an orthopedic surgeon at Proliance Southwest Seattle Orthopedics. Sheri worked as a pharmacist before having her second child. They joined the BIAWA Board in June 2021.

Alan has practiced for 30 years at what is now St. Anne's Hospital in Burien (formerly Highline Hospital). His special interest is joint replacements of the hip, knee, and shoulder including minimally invasive hip and knee replacements. Alan also has a special interest in sports injuries including ligament reconstruction, foot and ankle reconstruction, and fracture care.

As a home maker, Sheri has provided love, support, and encouragement—and lots of food! - to her family.

Alan and Sheri live in Normandy Park and have 4 children. Their youngest, Seth, suffered a brain injury 9 years ago and is the reason they are passionate about services and support for those suffering from a brain injury. Alan and Sheri have known each other since they were 16 and have been married for 36 years. They love to snow ski, hike, bike, garden, and cook together.



Are YOU interested in giving your time and talent as a board member to BIAWA?

Contact us today to learn more.

206-467-4800

Our Vision: A world where Brain Injury is prevented, and every person already affected by its impact benefits from resources to maximize their quality of life.



Washinton Brain Injury — Resource Center —

A PROGRAM OF BIAWA

The Resource Line is available Monday
through Friday from 9:00 am — 5:00 pm

Call 877-982-4292

Are you having a hard time finding resources in your community for...

- Navigating the Medical System
- Applying for Social Security Benefits
- Developing Education Interventions
- Planning Vocational Training
- Finding Legal Help
- Talking to Loved Ones about Brain Injury
- Facing Any Complex Issue Related to Brain Injury

We're here to help! All of our services are FREE! Give our **Resource Line** a call to talk with a specialist who can point you in the right direction: **877-982-4292**

***YOU Can Make A Difference
in the Lives of Survivors of
Brain Injury***



When You Become a Brain Champion:

- Your monthly donation is automatic and paper-free
- Gifts will occur monthly on the date of your choice
- You can modify your gift at any time through our portal or by contacting us

All Brain Champions Receive:

- A subscription to our quarterly newsletter, MindMatters
- Discounts on BIAWA event tickets
- BIAWA Swag
- Knowledge that you are making a meaningful impact in the Brain Injury community

Learn more about our Brain Champion Membership Program [HERE](#).

If you are not in a place to donate right now, don't worry! Our Resource Center services will always be available free of charge. You do not need to be a member to utilize services or participate in events!

BIAWA PROGRAMS



Brain Health & Wellness

A PROGRAM OF BIAWA

The Brain Health & Wellness Program provides FREE classes on topics such as communication, relationships, health and fitness, cognition and memory, and social skills. Click on a class to register or go on our website at www.biawa.org/calendar to see all the classes and register! If you need help getting signed up, call 206-467-4800 or email Kylie at klijou@biawa.org.

Most classes are being offered VIRTUALLY online via Zoom for Fall 2021!

Registration is REQUIRED to participate in these classes.

Inspiring • Learning • Growing



Brain Injury Today PODCAST

The Official Podcast of the Brain Injury Alliance of Washington
Hosted by BIAWA Executive Director Deborah Crawley

All BIT episodes are available at BrainInjuryTodayPodcast.com



pact[®]

The
Pooled
Alliance
Community
Trusts[®]

Building Lifetime Trust

BIAWA has 39 years of experience in supporting individuals to achieve their highest quality of life. Recently, it was brought to BIAWA's attention that individuals receiving government assistance after sustaining a disabling injury often find themselves in a paradox where acquiring assets (e.g. from a dispute settlement) jeopardizes their qualification for government benefits.

To fill this gap, BIAWA has created The Pooled Alliance Community Trusts (PACT)[®] in partnership with leading investment and trust management firms including UBS Financial Services, Inc., True Link Financial, and The Zielke Law Firm (Trust Manager). Together, we provide Pooled Special Needs Trusts (for individuals affected by disability) as well as Pooled Basic Support & Maintenance Trusts.

PACT Trusts are open for enrollment. Please contact us via the form on our webpage PACTTrusts.org or email us at info@PACTTrusts.org or call 877-448-7228.

To get the newsletter sent to your mailing address, call Suzette at 206-467-4813

or email suzetteh@biawa.org