

## What is Resource Coordination?

The only certainty when it comes to brain injury is that nothing is for certain. Regardless of your personal outcome, there comes a day for all brain injury survivors in

their recovery when the medical staff are gone, and you and your family feel alone. That is why Alabama Head Injury Foundation has seven Resource Coordinators across our state.

An AHIF Resource Coordinator's goal is to be there when you leave the hospital or rehab facility, to help guide your path in those first few pivotal months following discharge. They answer questions and offer suggestions to make the transition as effortless as possible, so you can focus on your primary goal...recovery.

### Not Just Answering Questions

Resource Coordinators help answer questions. Can my loved one still drive? Do I need outpatient therapy? Will my insurance cover the costs? Will my child need special support at school? How do I get the durable medical equipment I need? What kind of financial support is available to my family?

*"I feel as if I am empowering individuals and families impacted by TBI to live rather than just survive."*

**- Cat Barlow, S Central AL (1.5 years)**

*"As a fellow TBI survivor, I can say that without AHIF, I would not be where I am today!"*

**- Debi Dean, NW AL (16 years)**

In addition to answering these questions, AHIF Resource Coordinators help you find the resources you need to become your own self-advocate. And, AHIF Resource Coordinators will stay with you for the long-haul. Brain injury is not a temporary event, and AHIF Resource Coordinators will keep working with you for as long as you need their services.

### Brain Injury Requires a Long-Term Relationship

As you continue your recovery, AHIF Resource Coordinators will work to engage you in support group meetings to help prevent the social isolation often experienced by survivors and their families. They will talk about our camp program and respite care services.

### How Do I Find My Resource Coordinator?

AHIF lists its Resource Coordinators, divided by geographic regions across our state, on our website at [www.ahif.org](http://www.ahif.org). You can also call the AHIF office at (205) 823-3818 or 1-800-433-8002. AHIF services are provided free of charge. AHIF strives for positive outcomes for our consumers, and it might just help you meet needs you never knew you had.

*In this newsletter, you will find personal quotes from our seven Resource Coordinators about why they chose this service for their career and how long they have been in this role.*

*"Working for AHIF is the best job I have ever had. Being in a position to make even a small difference in the life of someone who is hurting is a big deal to me. I love my job!"*

**- Pat Motley, E Central AL (13 years)**



## A Note from our Executive Director

Now almost two years into my time as Executive Director of AHIF, I am confident in the direction that AHIF is moving, and my role in helping guide its direction. But, as the legendary Clint Eastwood character Dirty Harry famously said, "A man's got to know his limitations." I recognize that some of the financial struggles facing AHIF due to losses of state funding require the help of an expert who understands the legislative and court procedures. Thankfully, I have identified that man and his name is Bill Fuller. AHIF recently entered into a partnership with Bill Fuller, who now serves as Legislative Counsel for AHIF, helping us reach out and share our story with a combination of legislators, judges, court clerks, district attorneys, and others who need to hear about AHIF.

Bill is careful to share not only the incredible work that AHIF is doing in helping those with traumatic brain injury across our state, but also the consequence if there was not AHIF to provide these services. He is also detailing the changes that have taken place in the municipal court systems that have led to reduced funding for both Alabama Head Injury Foundation and the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services.

Mr. Fuller served as a state senator for many years, and was responsible for introducing legislation that initially provided funding support for the services AHIF provides. He shares a tremendous passion for brain injury survivors and for the extensive network of family members serving in the role of caregiver as well. AHIF is grateful for the opportunity to work with Mr. Fuller, and look forward to positive results from this relationship.

## AHIF starts an Auburn University Student Board

As AHIF worked to establish its Auburn Regional Board, we knew we needed to include a connection to the student body at Auburn University. After reaching out to a professor in the pharmacy school with a connection to AHIF, AHIF was contacted by six students who all had a personal testimony linking them to TBI. After a few more inquiries, AHIF has now established a Student Board who will work to help create awareness and to raise funds for AHIF. These members are:

Samantha Bridges	Kali Camerio
Nic Ellison	Tate Hall
Taylor Horton	Jill Jacobs
Katherine King	Amit Shah
Ellen Spain	Ashlee Walters

*"I feel I have impacted many lives and helped people while advocating for them to receive the resources that they need whether it be financial, emotional, referrals to others that can assist them and, most of all, just to let them know that AHIF is there to assist them with their needs."*

**- Terrie Causey, SE AL (17 years)**

## AHIF creates a Wiregrass Regional Board

AHIF recently formed a new Regional Board in the Wiregrass area to help promote awareness regarding the prevalence of traumatic brain injury (TBI) in the local area, introduce prevention strategies for TBI, and raise local funds to help provide care for TBI survivors. The initial members are:

Kelsey Barnard	McDavid Flowers
Ryan Hendrix	Nancy Horne
Davis McLaughlin	Kim Rogers
Zach Rogers	

## Your Contributions Make It All Possible...Thank you!

### KBR uses casual Fridays to raise funds for AHIF

KBR, a global technology and engineering corporation with a local office in Birmingham, sold tickets to employees that allowed them to wear blue jeans to work during the month of October. The revenue from these ticket sales was given to local nonprofits, including more than \$1,000.00 to Alabama Head Injury Foundation. We are grateful to KBR for their generosity and their clever method of support.



### Zaxby's provides food for Birmingham support group

If you want good attendance at a support group meeting, you have to serve some food. With Zaxby's providing the food at the November 19th Birmingham support group meeting, attendees were sure to be found. AHIF wants to thank the Zaxby's at 2735 John Hawkins Parkway for their generous gift of food for the AHIF support group.



## How your giving helps AHIF help others

Jeff was injured in 2009 at age 41 in a motor vehicle accident where he sustained a severe head injury. Sadly, he and his wife divorced soon after the accident and, with no one to care for his needs, he was placed in a nursing home. Jeff's aunt came forward and soon obtained guardianship. Shortly after, she brought him into her home.

AHIF Resource Coordinator Teresa Roberts secured \$5,000 from a local resource to provide a pivot chair for the aunt's van and a vendor who discounted the installation. Teresa also secured a sliding board, bedside commode, walker and hospital bed. Additionally, Teresa obtained donated therapies through the local wellness center and obtained free medication and diapers for Jeff. Teresa was also to obtain a waiver that allowed the aunt to hire private help for personal care needs and respite care through AHIF.

Over the next few years, the challenge of caring for Jeff in her home led to Jeff's aunt alternating multiple times between keeping him home and returning him to the nursing home. Teresa continued working with the family throughout.

Jeff's aunt recently decided she cannot continue to care for Jeff in her home. On the advice of Teresa, the aunt is seeking to move Jeff to a special facility in Mississippi with experience in caring for TBI survivors, providing the best situation for Jeff.

*"I believe we are all born with the need to do for others and resource coordination allows me to meet this need but also provides a lifeline for those whose lives have been forever changed by a TBI. Without AHIF, many would go the journey alone lacking the information, advocacy and community supports they need."*

**- Teresa Roberts, SW AL (15 years)**

## AHIF announces changes to its support group meetings

AHIF is pleased to announce the creation of a new support group meeting in the Huntsville area. This support group is a monthly meeting, held on the third Monday of each month at 1:00 p.m. at Southside Baptist Church in Huntsville.

AHIF is also pleased to announce the development of a new support group for Walker County. AHIF once had an active support group in the area, and is excited about the ability to begin this group again. AHIF will be announcing the first meeting of this group on

its website.

For some time, AHIF has been conducting two support groups in the Auburn area. As the needs of our consumers in Lee County have changed, AHIF has determined it to be the best course of action to combine these two support groups into one. The new location and time of the combined support group will also be announced in the next few weeks.

For more information on this support group,

please call the AHIF office at (205) 823-3818 or 1-800-433-8002.

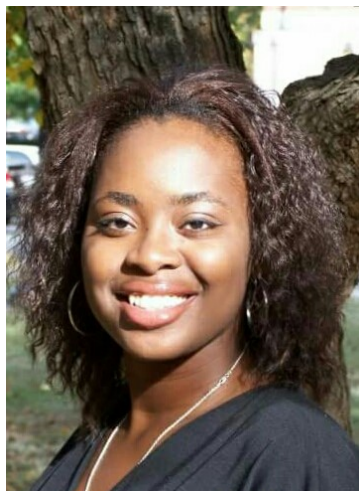


## AHIF welcomes a new Resource Coordinator to its staff

### Nicole's Contact Information:

E-mail: [nbrown.ahif@gmail.com](mailto:nbrown.ahif@gmail.com)

Phone: (662) 425-2804



### Nicole Brown

AHIF is proud to announce the arrival of Nicole Brown as the new Resource Coordinator for the west central Alabama area. Nicole will provide support to brain injury survivors in Tuscaloosa,

Shelby, and eight other west Alabama counties.

Nicole is a licensed social worker with a MSW from The University of Alabama, and comes to us from the Montgomery Public School System.

*"I hope my love of God and His goodness in my life permeates through the work I perform as a resource coordinator. I hope to be a vessel of service in my community."*



# Alabama Head Injury Foundation 2015 Annual Report

*Our Mission: To improve the quality of life for survivors of traumatic brain injury and for their families*

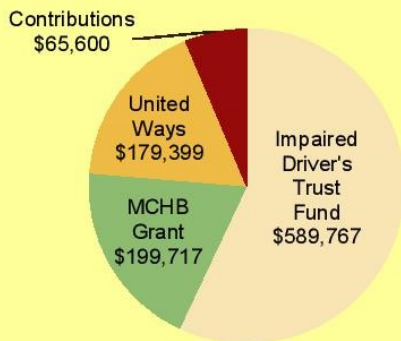


Financial Report

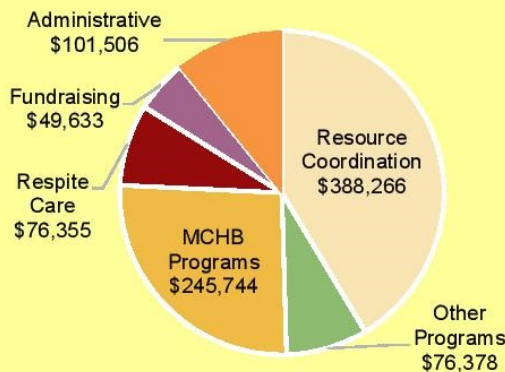
## 2015 Financial Highlights

- Increased philanthropic contributions by 48% from FY'14
- Held expenses to 93% of budget, thereby improving AHIF's overall financial position
- Generated a \$79,941 net income versus \$24,909 in FY'14

**Income Total - \$1,046,069**



**Expense Total - \$966,128**



*AHIF is committed to fiscal responsibility and maintains a 17% administrative cost, meaning 83% of all contributions go directly to programs and services.*



AHIF graduates its first Matter of Balance fall prevention class

2015 Accomplishments

## SUPPORT for survivors and caregivers

- 186 support group meetings held in 12 different locations statewide (26% increase)
- 3,457 total support group attendees (16% increase)
- 60 families provided with 4,547 hours of respite care

## Providing essential financial **ADVOCACY**

- AHIF's seven local Resource Coordinators secured \$617,633 in direct assistance for our consumers. Some specific items include:
  - \$17,627 for wheelchairs, walkers, etc.
  - \$21,403 for home modifications
  - \$59,640 in personal needs (food, clothing, etc.)

## Providing **DIRECT** services to consumers

- AHIF utilized its referral system to reach 130 new consumers in FY'15
- Provided direct support services to 1,082 consumers in FY'15

## Increase the **FOOTPRINT** of AHIF statewide

- Increased its Board from 13 to 15, representing eight cities across our state
- Added a new staff position to cover West Central AL
- Created additional Junior Board Chapters in Auburn, Dothan and a student Board at Auburn University
- Created new partnership with United Way of Etowah County

## Help AHIF continue to grow!

- Tell **five** people about AHIF in 2016
- Send us a **story** of how involvement with AHIF has touched your life
- Consider a first-time financial **gift**, continue your existing giving, or increase your annual gift in 2016



For more information, please visit our website at [www.ahif.org](http://www.ahif.org)



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**Our Mission:** *To improve the quality of life for survivors of traumatic brain injury and for their families*

**Our Vision:** *We envision a state where traumatic brain injury is prevented where possible and fully understood and supported where not.*

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U.S. POSTAGE

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PERMIT NO. 3246

**AHIF is a proud partner of:**

United Ways of Central Alabama,  
Lee County, Etowah County,  
Marshall County, and West  
Alabama



## AHIF seeks charitable support to replace lost funds from the state

If you are like most, you probably did not realize Alabama had an Impaired Driver's Trust Fund (IDTF), and it is our hope you have never contributed to this fund. It receives its revenue from fines associated with DUI fines across the state of Alabama. Since its original introduction in the early 1990's, it has served as a primary funding source for the support services provided by AHIF and the Alabama Department of Rehab Services (ADRS) to individuals living with traumatic brain injury. However, over the past five years, the reve-

nue from this fund has decreased by more than 55%.

At first glance, you would probably join us in celebrating this as a good thing, believing it means an overall decrease in DUIs. Even at the expense of funding for our programs, no one could find a negative if this were true.

However, the true root cause lies in the introduction of Deferred Prosecution programs in local municipal courts across our state, where first-time DUI can enter a one year program, pay their fines to the local court,

and have the DUI removed from their record.

AHIF is working diligently to identify possible ways to work with the municipal courts to recover this lost support. AHIF is deeply grateful to generous supporters across our state whose gifts help AHIF avoid cutting programs due to this large loss in state revenue.

