



Brain Injury Connections

of the Shenandoah Valley

755 Martin Luther King Jr. Way

MSC 9020

Harrisonburg, VA 22801

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ANNUAL REPORT Fiscal Year 2018



On July 1, 2018 Brain Injury Connections of the Shenandoah Valley, Inc. became the new name for Crossroads to Brain Injury Recovery, Inc. Our primary service is to provide intensive case management, life skills training, and behavior supports for persons with brain injury.

Brain Injury Connections of the Shenandoah Valley Mission:

Enhancing the lives of individuals affected by brain injury through cultivating connections with information, services and resources.

Our Core Values include:

- **Respect**
- **Collaboration**
- **Integrity**
- **Innovation**
- **Cost-Effectiveness**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Brain Injury Connections of the Shenandoah Valley, Inc. (BICSV) is delighted to provide the following annual progress report for your review. We are excited to highlight our results as persons served continue to make great strides in maintaining independence and increasing participation in productive activities.

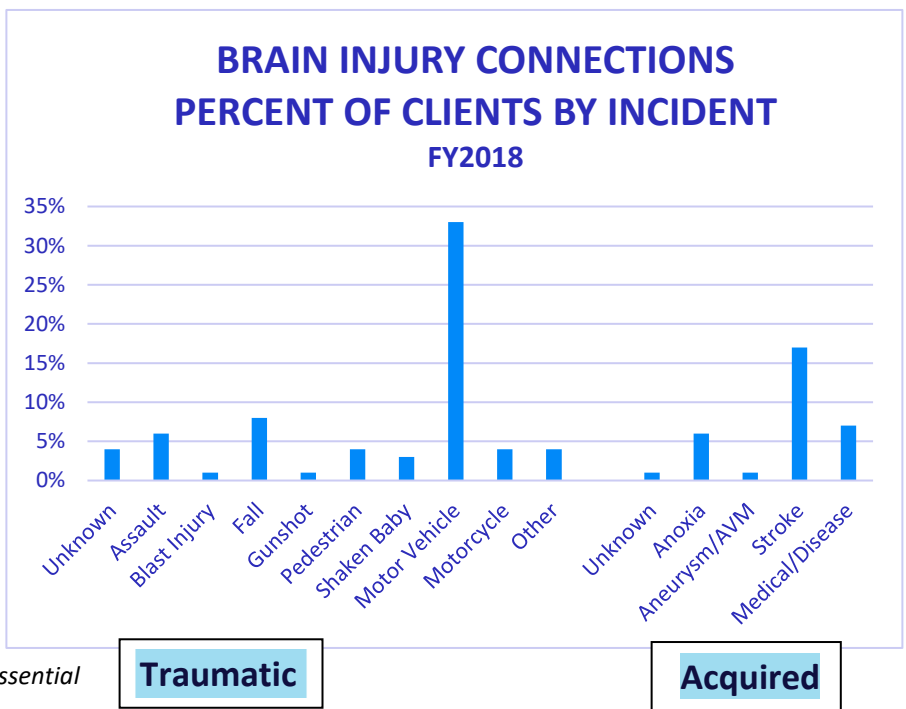
Brain Injury Connections provides community-based services for individuals affected by brain injury in the Central Shenandoah Valley. Services may include:

- Case Management
- Community Support Services (Life Skills Training)
- Behavioral Support Facilitation
- Education, Outreach & Advocacy
- Professional Case Consultation

An **Acquired Brain Injury (ABI)** is defined as “an injury to the brain that has occurred after birth and is not hereditary, congenital or degenerative. The injury commonly results in a change in neuronal activity, which affects the physical integrity, the metabolic activity, or the functional ability of the cell. The term does not refer to brain injuries induced by birth trauma.”

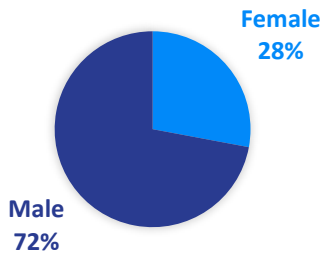
A **Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)** is a type of Acquired Brain Injury. TBI is defined as “an insult to the brain, not of a degenerative or congenital nature but caused by an external force, that may produce a diminished or altered state of consciousness, which results in an impairment of cognitive abilities and/or physical functioning. It can also result in the disturbance of behavioral or emotional functioning. These may be either temporary or permanent and cause partial or total functional disability or psychosocial maladjustment.”

(Brain Injury Association of America, *The Essential Brain Injury Guide*, Edition 4.0).



Operating Highlights

CLIENTS BY GENDER
FY2018



During FY2018

Brain Injury Connections
served 83 unique individuals.

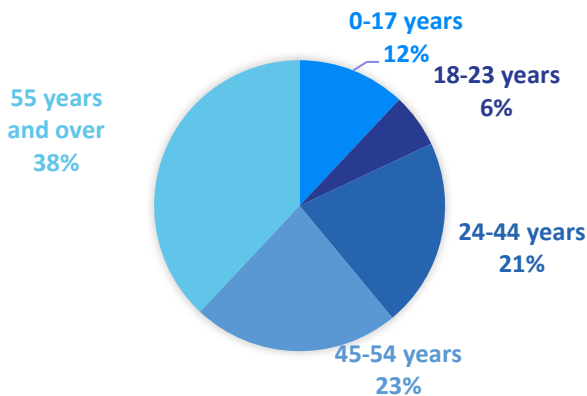
54 Active

14 Follow Along/Drop In

15 Consultations

There is no cost to the individual for case management services, and we are committed to serving those with the greatest need and the least resources first.

CLIENTS BY AGE
FY2018



In Fiscal Year (FY) 2018¹ Brain Injury Connections piloted a pediatric brain injury case management program. We are pleased to report that we will be expanding this service in FY2019 thanks to a Commonwealth Neurotrauma Initiative (CNI) Trust Fund grant managed by the Virginia Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services.

Brain Injury Connections of the Shenandoah Valley is also excited to welcome **Page** and **Shenandoah Counties** to our service area beginning in FY2019.

¹ Brain Injury Connections of the Shenandoah Valley, Inc. operates on a fiscal year that is from July 1 until June 30

During FY2018 Brain Injury Connections staff ensured all clients had a person centered, **Individualized Service Plan (ISP)** that demonstrated involvement of persons served.

Client goals related to Productive Activity, Independent Living, and Residential Setting that were targeted for completion were achieved at an astounding rate.

Total Client Set Goals Achieved for FY2018

- Independent Living: 88% client achievement
- Productive Activity: 91% client achievement
- Residential Setting: 100% client achievement

100% of clients served in FY2018 accessed needed services and resources.



100% of clients served in FY2018 were assessed for assistive technology needs and received applicable training as needed. Many clients use a variety of devices from day planners to smart phones to assist them with memory and organization, including medication management.

Every year we conduct an annual client satisfaction survey. During FY2018:

- 91% of respondents agreed that their Case Managers understood their needs.
- 89% of clients surveyed are satisfied with the services we are providing.
- 83% agreed that Brain Injury Connections has made it easier to access information, services, and resources.
- 81% of clients surveyed agree that services met their expectations.
- 81% of respondents saw an improvement in quality of life.

Community Impact

Brain Injury Connections -- 52 Community Impact Activities in FY2018 Highlights include:



In **September 2017** we partnered with the Virginia Department of Education Training and Technical Assistance Center (T/TAC) Region 5 to present a full day seminar for teachers and school administrators entitled, "[Pediatric Brain Injury Training and Education: Little Brains, Big Problems](#)." The materials and training were designed to assist children and educators in the classroom.

October 2017 marked our third annual Zombie Run for Brains. Nearly 300 people participated in the event that allowed runners to avoid zombies at Fear Forest.



Our organization's founder, Pat (Wilkins) Harrison rotated off the board this year. Pat's selfless commitment and advocacy helped hundreds in our community. On **November 2** we held a seminar in Pat's honor called "[Smart Eating: How Healthy Foods Keeps Your Brain Healthy](#)." Thank you to all who attended and to our guest speaker, Augusta Health's Jane Blosser, MS, RD, CDE who discussed healthy eating and healthy brains. Local businesses provided door prizes. [The Friendly City Food Co-op co-sponsored the event](#) and provided an assortment of healthy foods.

In **March 2018** our Harrisonburg office changed locations. We are pleased to continue our affiliation with JMU's Institute for Innovation in Health and Human Services (IIHHS).



April 2018 marked our third CARF survey. As a result, we were awarded accreditation from CARF International for a period of three years for our Community Services Coordination program. This is the third accreditation that the organization has been awarded since it was founded in 2005.

Brain Injury Connections of the Shenandoah Valley is maintaining two active [support groups](#) facilitated by our Case Managers. The groups have expanded their involvement with local students to help



facilitate community activities. In FY2018 our support groups participated in activities including:

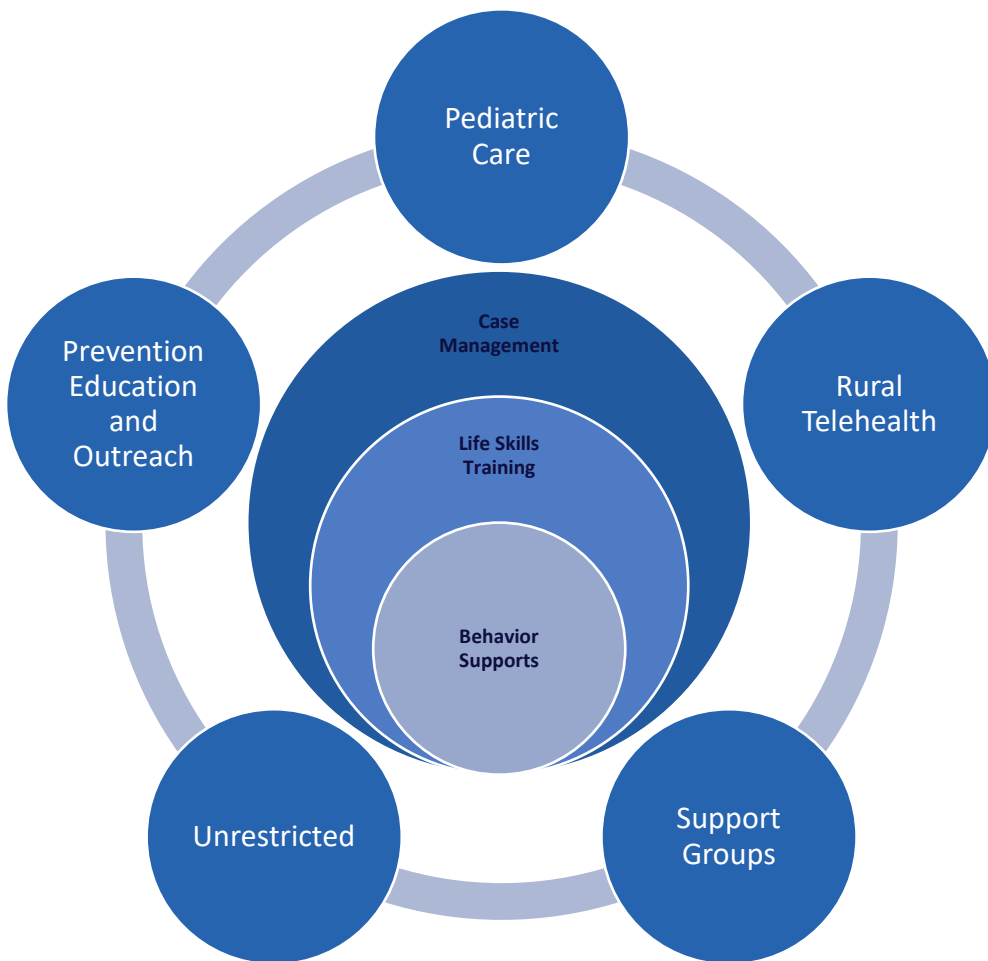
- Visits from therapy dogs;
- Unmasking Brain Injury art project;
- Bowling activity;
- Decorated cookies;
- Visited an equine therapy farm; and
- Chair yoga.



We appreciate the community support for these support groups! We thank the many guest speakers and businesses that have donated meals, goods and their space for the monthly activities. If you, or your business, are interested in providing a financial or in-kind donation, please contact our office.

Looking Ahead to FY2019

“Circles of Support” is the main service provided to clients. It combines intensive case management, life skills training, and behavior supports for persons with brain injury. In FY2019 we would like to grow sponsorship for our entire program, and specifically increase resources for our pediatric clients, rural health needs, and support group activities.



CLIENT PROFILE – MEET ANDREW

Andrew sustained a severe traumatic brain injury after being thrown from a car during a motor vehicle accident when he was very young. His injuries resulted in paralysis on one side, and needing to use a wheelchair. Andrew developed a seizure disorder, experienced multiple vision field cuts, required a feeding tube, and had difficulty with short-term memory.

Through the wrap-around support of Brain Injury Connections, Andrew’s medical team, school, and other local providers, Andrew was able to return to school. A Brain Injury Connections’ case manager worked with the family to help Andrew obtain services and modifications for his home. We also helped with adaptive equipment, including purchasing an iPad for Andrew to be able to increase participation in school activities, classroom lessons, and foster interaction with his teachers and peers.

Brain Injury Connections had the pleasure of helping Andrew graduate with his high school diploma. Andrew was the first person in his family to accomplish this great achievement!

FY2018 Funding Partners

Brain Injury Connections of the Shenandoah Valley, Inc. receives about 72% of our funding for core services through an appropriation of state general funds administered by the Virginia Department for Aging & Rehabilitative Services (DARS), through the Brain Injury Services Coordination (BISC) Unit.

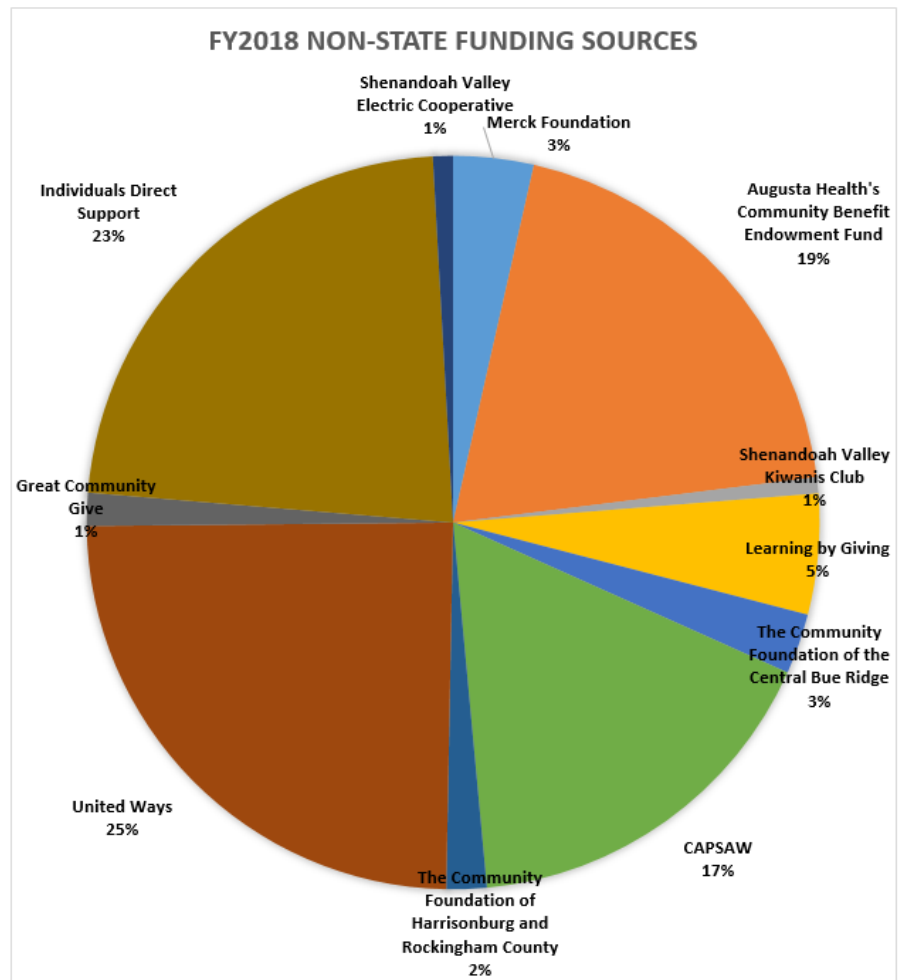


VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT FOR AGING AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

We are committed to building a true public-private partnership and creating a sustainable source of funding for our services, which is also a requirement from the state funding source.

Major Non-state funders and donors include:

- Augusta Health’s Community Benefit Endowment Fund,
- Community Action Partnership of Staunton, Augusta, and Waynesboro (CAPSAW),
- The Community Foundation of the Central Blue Ridge,
- The Community Foundation of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County,
- The Great Community Give,
- Merck Foundation,
- United Way of Greater Augusta,
- United Way of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County,
- Learning by Giving,
- Shenandoah Valley Kiwanis Club, and
- Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative.



Thank you to all of our sponsors and to **great supporters** from our community for making our programs possible!



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FY2018

7

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****Annual Report Revised 1/3/2019****



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