



Maine Brain Aneurysm Awareness - Time for Reflection!

At the end of the year, let us take this opportunity to look back at 2016 and forward to 2017.

2016 Accomplishments:

Awareness Committee; held 8 monthly meetings with 8-12 people in attendance planning and organizing.

Support Group; 10 meetings in 2016 with an average of 12 people in attendance. Since the group's inception in Feb. 2014, a total of 31 survivors, 49 interested people/caregivers, and 26 medical professions have attended one or more meetings for a total of more than 400 folks. Our thanks go out to our facilitator – Sara Schrock, Neuro Patient Navigator, MMC

Dance for Awareness; March - 150 people raising over \$4.100 for Maine Awareness.

BIAA Brain Injury Resource Fair; March – BA Support Group booth with over 120 attendees in Augusta

UNUM non-Profits Day; March – KAT-Walk & Karo-5K promotion booth. Thanks to Art & Sandy

NB13 Film Premiere; May – BA awareness presence at documentary film's two night premiere

Stroke Conference; May – BA awareness booth with over 170 attendees – 8-10 BA survivors

NASCAR Race; July – our logos on car #52, BA interviews carried on NBC & SiriusXM broadcasts

Special Presentation; August – Jason Crigler, AVM survivor talk and Q&A, 35 attended

Nolan's HERO 5K; September - major BA awareness presence with over 250 people in Pittsfield

KAT-Walk & Karo 5K; September – over 325 people at event, 21 survivors and families, 17 official teams, over 500 people donated over \$21,500 to benefit the on going efforts of the Maine Brain Aneurysm Awareness.

Greenwood 5K; December - Participated with BA survivor Maureen McCool and hosted a 5K Run & Walk in Farmington with over over \$400 raised for Maine BA.

Initiatives for 2016; Three new and exciting initiatives were budgeted and implemented.

1) Two Scholarships were established at the University of New England to be awarded at the conclusion of the 2016/17 school year. These \$1,000 scholarships are named in the memory of our Kimberly Tudor (KAT) & Karolina Kurka (Karo) and will be going to deserving medical students in the fields of Neuroscience or Occupational Therapy.

2) We established a \$3,000 revolving fund to help Maine families affected by Brain Aneurysms with meal vouchers, gas cards, and hotel vouchers. The Social workers and Patient Navigators at MMC are administrating this program to assist Maine BA patients/families.

3) From the 2015 KAT-Walk and Karo-5K proceeds, we funded a \$5,000 research grant to Dr. Robert Ecker, Medical Director of Maine Medical Center’s Neurosciences Institute. This 2016 Research Grant will support preparation, specific imaging, and publication submission expenses related to Dr. Ecker’s research studies, which evaluate the effectiveness of various brain aneurysm treatment methods.

Since its inception 8 years ago, the Maine Brain Aneurysm Awareness Committee has raised and donated over \$75,000 going directly toward Brain Aneurysm Research.

Brain Aneurysm Publicity; Our mail list is over 1,100 names. The MaineBA.org website is kept fresh and current. Our Facebook page currently has 674 followers and had over 110,000 views of the 169 newsworthy postings in 2016. Thanks to Heidi for over 375 tweets this year resulting in 3,550 profile visits and over 65,700 impressions. We prepared and printed new brochures including “*Ten Things Brain Aneurysm Survivors Want You To Know*” and we had made “Survivor” & “BA Awareness” buttons.

Outreach; We continued our outreach and communications with several national organizations including the Joe Niekro Foundation and The Bee Foundation. We are particularly pleased to be supporters of the newly formed Lisa Colagrossi Foundation, and are happy to call its founder, Todd Crawford a good friend and ally. In its first year, Todd has done amazing on a national level of raising Brain Aneurysm Awareness and saving lives. We were honored to represent the MBAAC at the TLCF inaugural “Cerebral Affair” gala in NYC in September. It was the first of its kind to bring together BA survivors, patients, families who have suffered loss, Medical Professionals, celebrities, and financial supporters. Though Todd’s appearances on National Radio, Sirius XM, and TV shows like Glen Beck, Fox & Friends, ABC Good Morning America, Fox-The Real Story, Dr. Oz, and many more – the message is finally getting the national attention Brain Aneurysms need and deserve. Look for great things with TLCF in the coming year.

Goals for 2017:

Continue to fund our initiatives of Scholarships, Family Financial Assistance, and Research Grants.

Increase numbers of survivors and supporters attending the monthly Support Group meetings.

Conduct a questionnaire mailing to Maine BA patients, survivors, and Medical Professionals to improve our understanding of their needs and desires, so we can better serve the BA community in Maine.

Continue to prepare and have printed several brochures or booklets to be used as handouts regarding signs & symptoms, detection & treatments, and survivor help guides.

Participate in more Medical conferences and other opportunities to raise awareness.

*As always, our overall goal is to **HELP SAVE LIVES** through **Brain Aneurysm Awareness, Education, and Research**. A heartfelt thank you to all for making 2016 such a wonderful success and we look forward to working together in 2017.*