What Your Dollars and the ABTA Mission Do for Brain Tumor Patients

It was a low point in his life when Juston discovered the American Brain Tumor Association (ABTA). After a difficult surgery to remove a grade III anaplastic oligodendroglioma, Juston experienced severe depression.

Thankfully, Juston called the ABTA. “That one call to the ABTA changed my life,” Juston says. “They talked with me and sent me resources that helped tremendously. At that time, our hospital didn’t have a neuro-oncologist let alone a support group, so I remember feeling lost and alone until I called the ABTA.”

Juston felt so connected that he has been engaging with the ABTA for over ten years. He attended several Patient & Family Conferences in Chicago, was trained as an ABTA volunteer and was one of the first to complete ABTA’s new Support Group Facilitator Training Program. “The training was phenomenal,” said Juston. “A brain tumor diagnosis doesn’t mean that you have to stop living, and as support group facilitators, we can be that light, that force that encourages others to lace up their boots and go.”

Juston’s inspirational story exemplifies why the ABTA continues its commitment to deliver education, resources and support.
**Research**

*Increase career development and support for brain tumor researchers*
- $2,783,397 contributed to research programs, which included the funding of research grants and special projects.

**Advocacy**

*Increase voice of those impacted in public and health policy decisions*
- Led efforts with Congress to include brain tumors in legislation and research funding.
- Engaged brain tumor advocates in outreach to congressional representatives.

**Access**

*Increase patient and caregiver access to information*
- Provided needed information to patients and caregivers through a variety of mediums. In FY16 there were over 2 million visitors to the ABTA web site, the CareLine saw a 10% increase in callers, and views of ABTA webinars were up 12%. Membership on ABTA’s online support community, Connections, grew from 7,000 to 10,000.

**Providers**

*Increase clinician awareness of issues faced by brain tumor patients and families*
- Began offering continuing education credits for nurses and social workers through the Support Group Facilitator Training Program.
- Continued to distribute brain tumor clinical practice guidelines for both adult and pediatric patients through a collaboration with the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses (AANN).

**Capacity**

*Ensure ABTA’s capacity for impact*
- Increased revenue by 12%.
- Over 2,100 volunteers actively engaged with the ABTA.