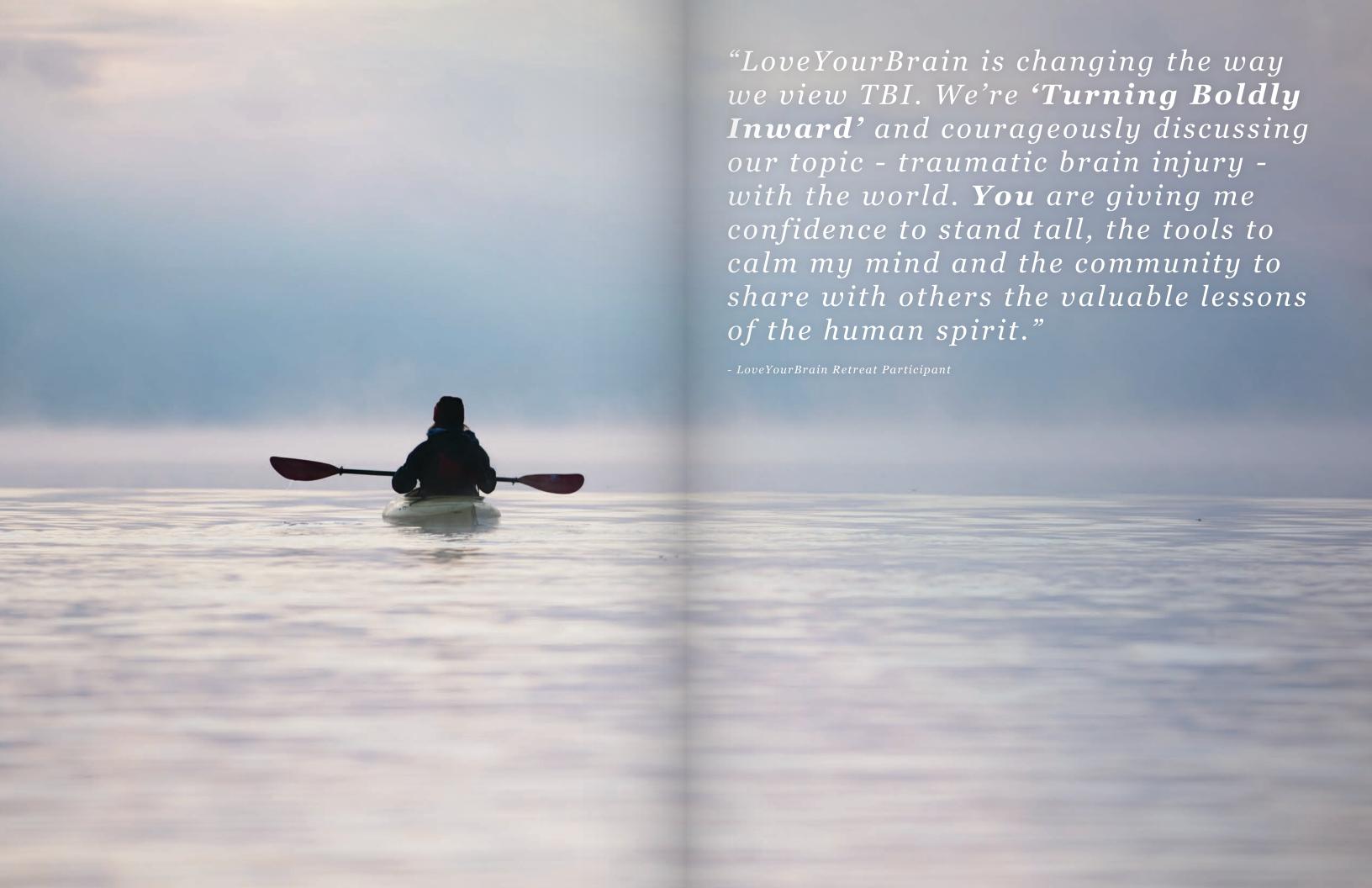


2018/2019 ANNUAL REPORT







OUR MISSION

LoveYourBrain is a nonprofit organization that improves the quality of life of people affected by traumatic brain injury (TBI).

OUR VISION

We envision a world where everyone affected by TBI is connected to a compassionate community.

In FY19, LoveYourBrain served 1,160 people impacted by TBI through our Yoga and Retreat programs, educated 3,401 individuals through trainings and outreach opportunities, and provided 140,000 unique visitors with our web-based resources (available at loveyourbrain.com).

TO OUR VALUED COMMUNITY,

Every 11 seconds, someone sustains a traumatic brain injury (TBI). 10 years ago, Kevin was one of them.

As a family, we know that TBI leads to whole person challenges, including physical, emotional, and cognitive impairments. People often have difficulty reconnecting to their "normal" way of life, such as interacting with people and staying active. This predisposes them to depression, failed relationships, lack of motivation, low self-efficacy, and unemployment.

On top of that, this injury is relatively "invisible" - many people look the same, which makes it even more difficult and isolating to try to adjust. In fact, in 2020, TBI is predicted to be the #3 leading cause of death and disability.

After leaving the hospital, there are very few resources to help those with TBI figure out how to function in their new life, with their new brain.

With thousands of supporters on our side, that's where LoveYourBrain comes in...

Thanks for being in our community.

WITH GRATITUDE





THE PROCESS THROUGH WHICH WE CONNECT PEOPLE IS ONGOING

LoveYourBrain believes that mindfulness, yoga, and community are essential to transforming the wellbeing of people with TBI and their caregivers. That's why we pioneered our Yoga and Retreat programs - offered across North America - to empower our community with new tools, resources, and connections. Because when we do, the TBI community can better access their resilience, embrace who they are now, and reach their full potential.

Jackie teaches the LoveYourBrain FUNdamentals Yoga Class. 4 times annually, she serves up to 13 people with TBI and their caregivers with our evidence based 6-week series.





These classes take place at our Partner Studios. Partner Studio owners serve as business leaders, advocates for the TBI community, and a go-to resource in their city.

Lexi volunteers at the LoveYourBrain Retreat. She donates her time, skills, energy and love to help us serve our community

Tom attends the Yoga series after returning from the LoveYourBrain Community Retreat. Later, he participates in the LYB Teacher Training. He remains connected to those he met at the retreat with, like Beckett, and brings the community-building skills he developed into his yoga series.



Stefanie attends the six-week LoveYourBrain Yoga program, along with her wife, Bethany.



Bethany is able to connect with Stefanie in a new way, while healing and balancing her own journey. Bethany is also eligible to attend our Caregiver Retreat.





In their class, they're able to connect with other individuals and caregivers, like Jeff and Jen, and Tom.





I first learned about LoveYourBrain (LYB) very early

in my TBI journey. I didn't know much about my injury and Post Concussion Syndrome, but I connected to Kevin Pearce's story of recovery - it was amazing and inspiring.

I was really nervous about the first LYB Yoga session. I was afraid of getting dizzy, losing my balance and falling. Would I be able to follow all the directions? What if I get physically or cognitively exhausted?

But by the end of that first session I felt it would all be okay. When a particular pose was challenging, our instructor showed me how to adapt to a more manageable and safe position. I could do it.

In class, there were others of all different ages and abilities, some months or years past their TBI. There were caregivers who were spouses or parents. There were even two teachers from my wife's school district. I was not alone. My wife and I were not isolated. There was a community out there and we were meeting them.

There's something about graduating' from traditional Cognitive Therapy and Vestibular Therapy that made me think I was all set, and there was nothing more to do to get better. But there were still a lot of challenges.

Don't get me wrong, it was hard. I was exhausted after each session. I wobbled, sweat, and cried. Sometimes I

just had to take a break and lie down. But the benefits were greater than the struggles.

Socially, I was no longer isolated at home. Physically, I improved my range of motion, balance and some of my pain even decreased. Emotionally, I learned ways to process the grief of losing the old me and the confusion of meeting the new me with the support and guidance from our LYB Yoga Teacher and the other participants in class.

There WAS a way to keep improving and I had found it.

Best of all, I was doing this all next to my spouse. I had the TBI but she was also feeling the effects as a caregiver. My Cognitive and Vestibular Therapies had concentrated on me, but she was also in need of support and guidance.

Now, she had a way to begin her own recovery. It helped me, it helped us.

LYB has brought a new and better dimension to life after TBI.

- Stefanie LoveYourBrain Yoga Participant I saw The Crash Reel a few years before my brother Jeff's accident, but I never thought my family and I would go through something so similar. When Jeff was hit by a car training for the NYC marathon, suffering a very serious TBI that left him in a coma for two weeks, I instantly thought back to Kevin's story and sent him an email, hoping that he could shed some light on this state of darkness we were in. He responded,

Hi Jeff, always know anything is possible, and always remember to love your brain. Be patient, be loving and be kind to yourself.

Jeff was still in a coma at this time, and I really needed to be reminded that anything truly is possible. This was also what Jeff needed to hear when he woke up from the coma confused, scared and frustrated. It was a beautiful thing to feel the support of LoveYourBrain during this time.

LoveYourBrain was a great healing experience for my brother, AND a great healing experience for



caregivers and family. Before finding LYB, life was hectic that there was not much time to really process anything.

In the LYB Yoga program, we were able to openly discuss what happened and decompress in a peaceful environment.

I didn't truly know the meaning of the word 'resilience' until I saw Jeff progress so quickly and with so much determination. I was there for it all from brain surgeries to not being able to walk, to his first steps on his own. In November, Jeff ran the NYC Marathon, and I ran alongside to support him.

LoveYourBrain also helped me realize how resilient I was during this time. When the accident happened, I was a senior in college, trying to balance time at hospitals and rehab centers and school work.

LoveYourBrain showed me that yes, it is ok to cry and feel pain and emotion, but I can't let it stop me from achieving my goals, being there for Jeff and the rest of my family, and living a happy life.

LoveYourBrain helps families heal and move past traumatic experiences, and invites you to bond with other people who have been through something similar. That has helped us feel less isolated.

- Jen

Caregiver to her brother, Jeff, LoveYourBrain Yoga participant





I first learned about LoveYourBrain at

a networking event from a local chiropractor who shared that one of the very best ways a person living with a TBI can promote healing is through yoga. However, he was having trouble finding a studio that provided the right kind of yoga for the TBI population.

Now, my yoga studio, Hot or Not New Mexico, is NM's first and only LYB Partner Studio! To date, we've hosted 8 LYB Yoga series, and along the way, we've established ourselves as a go-to resource for yoga for TBI in our community.

Being a LYB Partner Studio means I have met amazing people, attended informative talks by innovative and caring professionals in the neurosciences, and find myself advocating for people living with TBI in daily conversations with people.

Being a LYB Partner Studio means being awestruck by some of the challenges our LYB students face every day, which helps us to live in gratitude, but also in a space of learning.

We can teach our students yoga, but our students teach us about grace, acceptance, compassion, empathy, about the strength of the human spirit, and the reminder that life is a priceless gift.

Hot or Not Yoga NM's Vision is that our community sees us as a pillar of integrity, learning, nurturing, healing, and community involvement and has a reputation for acceptance and progress in New Mexico. Our partnership with LYB has helped us achieve that vision.

- Marisol

Owner, Hot or Not Yoga, New Mexico LoveYourBrain Partner Studio

UNITED STATES

Practice Works*
Birmingham, AL

Blue Yoga Nyla Little Rock, AR

Kharma Life Center* Phoenix, AZ

Ume Yoga Oakland, CA

RESILIENCE San Diego, CA

The River Denver, CO

Live Beyond Limit Fort Collins, CO

Samadhi Yoga Manchester, CT

The Yoga Shala* Washington, DC

Lotus Yoga* Jacksonville, FL

The Peaceful Peacock* Orlando, FL

Pineapple Yoga Sarasota, FL

evolation yoga Atlanta, GA

Room to Breathe Chicago, IL

Embarque Yoga Indianapolis, IN

ASANA Charlestown Charlestown, MA

Bodhi Yoga* Farmington, MI

Om Prana Yoga* Parkville, MO

Yoga on York* Baltimore, MD Good Medicine Collective*
Portland, ME

Hilltop Yoga Lansing, MI

Yoga Motion Wellness Academy* Bozeman, MT

Evolve to Harmony Omaha, NE

Mighty Yoga Lebanon, NH

Alluem Yoga Cranford, NJ

Honor Yoga Pennington, NJ

Hot or Not Yoga NM Albuquerque, NM

Jamie Surya Yoga Sparkill, NY

REAL Human Performance Cincinnati, OH

Seven Studios Columbus, OH

PranaShanti Yoga Centre Ottawa, ON

The Yoga Lab Bend, OR

Unfold Studio Portland, OR

Blue Buddha Healing Arts Exton, PA

Wake Up Yoga Philadelphia, PA

Salt Power Yoga Seven Fields, PA

Epic Yoga* Brentwood, TN The Atrium Houston, TX

MelMarie San Antonio, TX

Full Circle Yoga & Therapy* Salt Lake City, UT

Sangha Studio Burlington, VT

Falls Church Wellness Center Falls Church, VA

CANADA

Modo Yoga Winnipeg Winnipeg, MB

Shanti Hot Yoga Studio* Halifax. NS

The Willow Studio * Peterborough, ON

Union Yoga + Wellness Toronto, ON

Ashtanga Yoga Montreal Montreal, QC

*New for FY19!



One Friday evening, I was contemplating signing up for a 200 hr Yoga Teacher Training. Instructing was never the reason, but I did want to delve more into this world of relaxation, acceptance, and improving one's outlook. Then, my youngest son Luke, an avid skier and snowboarder, called. "Mom, you and dad have to watch The Crash Reel. It's us!"

We watched the movie that mirrored our eldest son Rob's recovery from a motor vehicle accident. Through a lot of tears, we felt compassion for the Pearce family.

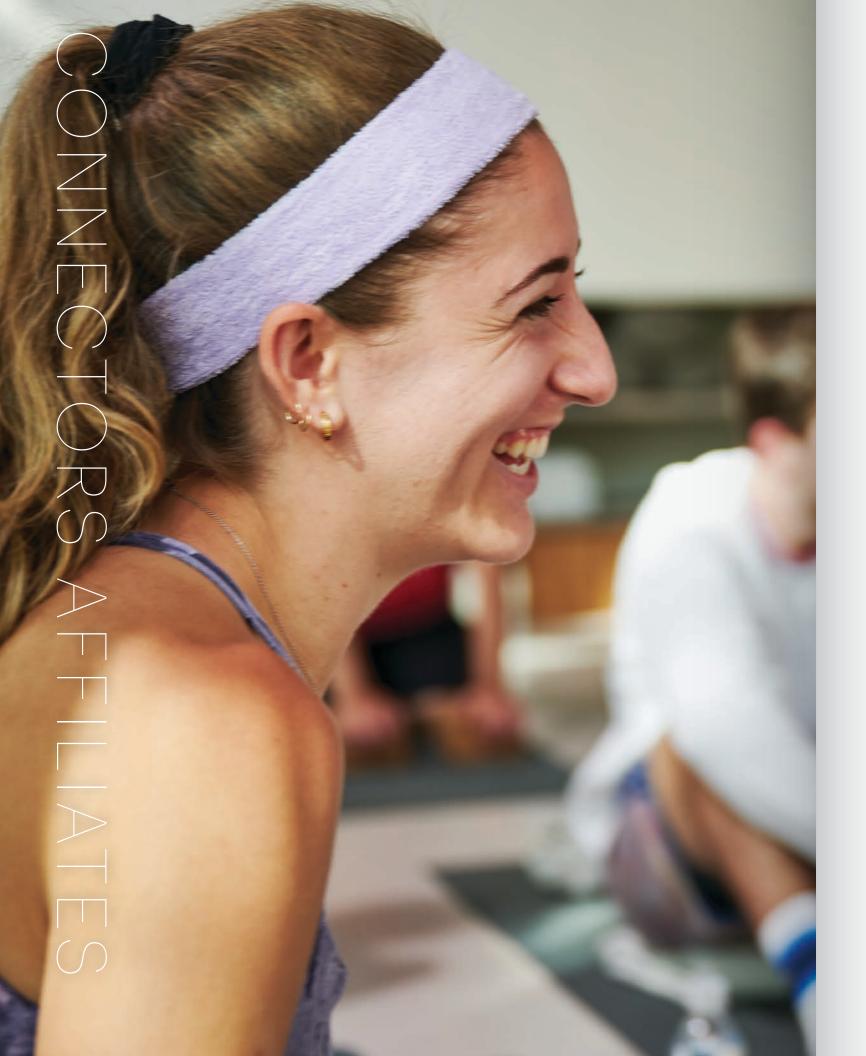
I am now instructing my third LoveYourBrain Yoga Series! Becoming a LoveYourBrain Yoga Teacher has empowered me to put aside my fear of public speaking, knowing how this program can change the lives of our students. LoveYourBrain prepares the quotes, themes, and meditations for each week of our Yoga series, and this helps instructors like me provide a series that builds on physicality, provides space for discussion, and builds community.

Signing up for a new program, perhaps doing yoga for the first time, entering a room where you know no one. This can be overwhelming, especially for someone living with the effects of brain injury. But the 'magic' occurs from a series designed to empower others to regain a feeling of acceptance, through the creation of community.

Resilience and Community are the cornerstones of LoveYourBrain Yoga. The students are the bricks, each one bringing their own story. The house is built with every new story shared. LoveYourBrain creates a world more accepting, forgiving, empathetic, and loving.

- Kim

LoveYourBrain Yoga Teacher



COMMUNITY CONNECTORS

These dynamic individuals harness their past experience with TBI to promote and advocate for the LoveYourBrain message in their community.

Adam Bullough Shannon Carlson Stephanie Congo Felise DiMartino David Fischer David Jevotovsky Beckett Johnson

Steve Kuhn Nate Lacroix Abby Linn RJ Lisander Tom Longest JoAnna Lund Thomas Mascia

Trisha Meili John Menges Mary Nelsen David Phillips Sarah Renberg Wendy Waldman Amy Zellmer

CLINICAL CONNECTORS

A network of TBI rehabilitation specialists who raise awareness about and refer patients to the LoveYourBrain Yoga program nearby their health service. Partnering with clinicians is essential to the sustainability and expansion of our community based program.

Debra A. Fournier Sherrie All, PhD Shannan Asselta Anneke Bender Dee Bosileivac Susan Bowman Burpee Trisha Brabender Jill Brooks Barbara Capone Katie Cassady Margot Catizzone Tina D'Amato Joan Danks Suzanne Drake Wolfe Jennifer Elaine Speer

Lauren Elizabeth McGee Jacquelyn Farrell Kathryn Farris Mary Finck Jennifer Fischer Cathy Fisher Allison Frederick Puja Gohel Liz Huls Ariella Kaplan Kelly Krese Ingrid Larson Heather Lesniak Amanda Lyons Ashley Marrapode

Kerry McGinn Elise Meade Richelle Moore Debbie Moore Heather Nearing Jennifer O'Neil Kate Pie Megan Potter Peggy Reisher Mandie Schake Erika Silverman Julie Sum Jackie Thomas Kelsey Watters Katie Weathers

CLINICAL AFFILIATES



Indianapolis, IN



Baltimore, MD











Omaha, NE Austin, TX

Surrey, BC



106 INDIVIDUALS WITH TBI AND CAREGIVERS SERVED ON FOUR RETREATS IN FY19



PARTICIPANTS JOINED US FROM 20 US STATES

Canada
California
Wisconsin
Massachusetts
Vermont
Michigan
Illinois

Nebraska
Virginia
Louisiana
Connecticut
Maine
New Hampshire
Ohio

Rhode Island Georgia Washington DC New York New Jersey Maryland Pennsylvania



LoveYourBrain (LYB) brings a strong sense of

community among those who feel divided, and their programs allow for healing and release of pain for everyone. The strategies of caring for your mind, body, and soul are essential to everyday life, and serve to connect people who may not have a deep understanding of each other. LYB allows people to express vulnerability in order to connect, heal, and transform experiences.

As the founder and director of Camp Cranium, a week-long overnight summer camp for children with brain injuries, it was clear that my mission was similar to LoveYourBrain's, yet we were reaching different ends of the spectrum of brain injury. As two of our graduated Camp Cranium campers were set to attend a LYB Retreat in Maine, I decided to volunteer my services as the Retreat Nurse for the week.

Volunteering for LYB really impacted my life. It brought focus and motivation to gain a deeper understanding of what individuals with brain injury need and desire.

It also helped me to connect in a different way than I have been able to in my role at Camp Cranium. I have begun to implement some of the mindfulness strategies from the retreat into our week at Camp Cranium as I realized how critical it can be for coping. Personally, it helped me as a caregiver to understand

my role and limitations in my relationship with my brother, and in supporting our campers and their families. As I look back, volunteering for the LYB retreat was an essential, pivotal experience, and I hold immense gratitude in my heart from that week.

Since volunteering for the LYB retreat, I've begun running small adult brain injury support groups here in Pittsburgh. I have been able to incorporate the core learnings from the retreat - including mindfulness, coping strategies, and yoga - into my sessions with the participants. And I'm now collaborating with our local LYB Partner Yoga Studio to provide a session for our support group. The participants have expressed how meaningful our sessions have been, and are always asking when we can meet again.

The mindfulness, yoga, and just pure moments of quiet and focus that we were able to experience at the LYB Retreat enabled me to truly investigate my own resilience as well as support it in others. These are unmatched coping strategies that serve to bring grounding and serenity in the midst of hurt, pain, and chaos. It is applicable to everyone who is struggling, not just those who have experienced a brain injury."

-Lexi

LoveYourBrain Volunteer

I first found out about LoveYourBrain through a panicked random search on TBI's. I'd just left the hospital after my TBI and really had no business being on

TBI's. I'd just left the hospital after my
TBI and really had no business being on
a computer, but I had no medical
coverage and therefore felt like I had
no help. I felt so alone and lost.

LoveYourBrain has been one of the key components in my healing and finding a new resilience within me to thrive in amazing new ways. At the first LoveYourBrain Retreat I attended, I found people who understood me and my injury. People who didn't judge me, but took the time to hold space for me and offer guidance on how to help me live with these new disabilities. LoveYourBrain introduced me to modalities I may have never considered, like yoga and nutrition. This experience is one of the greatest blessings of my TBI journey.

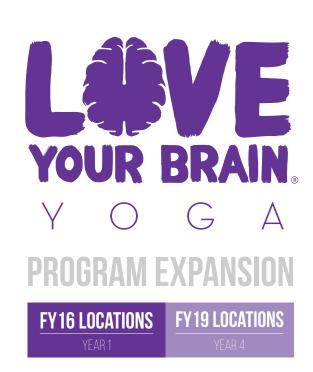
LoveYourBrain allowed me to process my injury in my own time and with others who were going through the same thing. I could see myself reflected in them, and that made me not feel so alone anymore. LoveYourBrain has also helped me embrace something I was already passionate about: helping others just like me. I never want anyone to have to go through the tough journey it has been due to lack of medical coverage, or lack of support. I now serve as a LoveYourBrain Ambassador, helping other people get connected to this healing, accessible community.

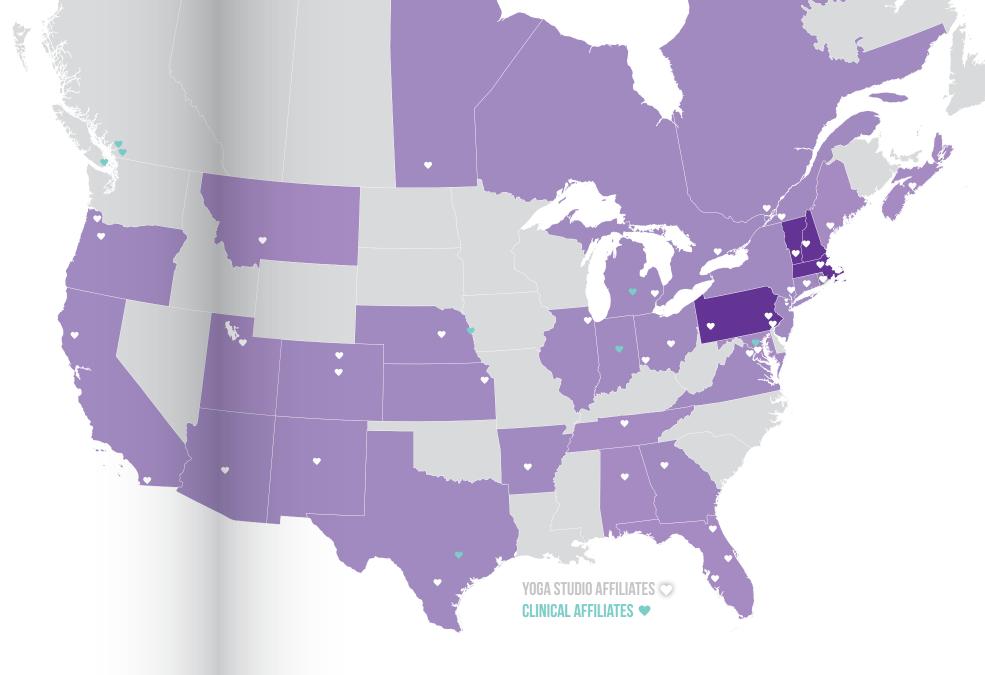
LoveYourBrain has made a better place for TBI survivors. They help show that when humans help humans, no matter their circumstances, we all flourish.

- Beckett

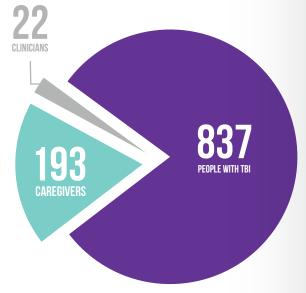
LoveYourBrain Retreat participant LoveYourBrain Ambassador



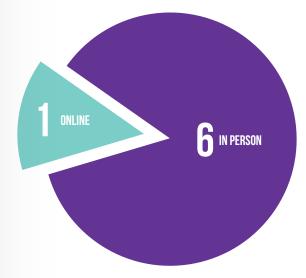




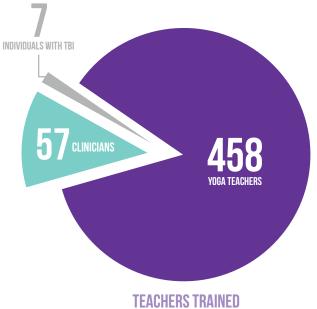
WE PROVIDED 132 LYB
YOGA PROGRAMS
(COMPRISED OF 792 YOGA
CLASSES), HOSTED 7
TEACHER TRAININGS AND
TRAINED 522 TEACHERS!



1,054 PARTICIPANTS ATTENDED LYB YOGA CLASSES (23% OF THESE INDIVIDUALS REPEATED THE SERIES)











MINDFULMARCH

MindfulMarch is LoveYourBrain's signature month-long awareness and fundraising campaign in honor of Brain Injury Awareness Month. We see March as an opportunity to bring awareness, connection, and resilience to TBI.

In March of 2019, we raised **\$151,745** thanks to the overwhelming support of **114** studios and individual organizers across the globe!

Together we held **103** donation bases classes, hosted **21** fundraising events, supported **12** individual campaign fundraisers, and got **696** members meditating all month long in the Meditation Challenge!



We recognize those in our community who champion our mission and invest in our future. A special thanks to these top donors and fundraisers:

\$25,000+

Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation Brett and Sarah Hershev lululemon | here to be Stephen McDonnell family The Mill Foundation Daniel E. Offutt, III Charitable Trust Simon Pearce

\$10,000+

Anonymous Peggy McDonnell Mark and Kathryn Whiteside

\$5,000 - \$9,999

David and Carol Adler Scott Falzone Fischer Family Gift Fund Josh M. Illig Louis Legacy Foundation John Mansfield John Murphy NBT Bank The River Power Vinyasa Yoga

Joseph Whitney

Amy Zellmer

\$1.000 - \$4.999 Addison Northwest School District Jay and Heather Benson Robert Cosariff Kate Durie Polly and Bob Flanigan Kaitlyn Ford Marianna Frame John Illick David Jevotovsky Thomas Kail Anna Lethen Priscilla Linn Martin MacDonnell David Nathan Meverson Foundation Moksha Yoga New Hampshire Charitable Foundation Simon and Patricia Pearce Cassie Piasecki Sara Ruiz Gary Simpson Judy Thomas Vermont Juice Company

Arthur Ashley Williams Foundation

\$500 - \$999

Andrew Arredondo

Rachael Barnard Jennifer Beighle Amy Black Norma Block Katherine Brown Julia Calhoun Nathaniel Chace Maxine Christopher Kathleen Davin Debby DeMartino Ashlev Desaro Linda Dickey-White Gail Donovan Katie Donzanti Prism Economics Irene Erdtsieck Justin Finley Eli N. Futerman Alison Dinney John Girard Mark Gorscak Marguerite Harden Jessie M. Hofstra Howie Howell Evelvn Johnson Peter Kidwell Elizabeth Kirby Ruby Knafo Michael Lamgna Lynn Lippert JoAnna Lund Catherine Lyons Kimberly Maddox Catherine Marich Elizabeth McGrath Marjorie M. McKinley Elizabeth McLaughlin Roaer Mortimer Jill Mulcachy Sara Norris Jennifer Painter Jennifer Rvan Michele Shone Linda R. Stone Jennifer Thomas John Walsh Susan Wilhelm Carol Wilson Lucas Wynn Katrina Zales Caledonia Spirits Inc. Jewish Communal Fund Mascoma Savings Bank Tim Scott Real Estate United Way of Deschutes White Light Foundation Samadhi Yoga Studio LLC The Capital Group Companies Charitable Foundation Gorman Family Fund Phoenix Wealth Advisors, Inc. Johnson & Johnson Matching Gifts

\$250 - \$499

J. Little Heating & Cooling Marsha Adler Susan Arritt Justin Boren Nonie Brady Mary Ellen Buckley Jean and Michael Buckley Jason Caldwell William Cesery Johnnie Chace Rina Chessin Jeri Citron Kerri Clawson Marjorie Cohn Joe Connors Matthew Crance Elizabeth A. Derraugh George and Marianne Durgin Christina Eisenberg Robert Ena Tami Faith Linda Forrest Marvin Gemas Samantha Gibson Kristin Glaser Jill Glazer Taya Glotzer Andrew Goldberg Renee Goot Tracy Gosson Jacqueline Griffiths Tammy Guihan Kerstin Henseleit Katlyn Hill Laura Johnson Steven Jones Honor Yoga Louise Keoghan Darcy Kiefaber Jo Kirsch

Kelly Krese Reggie Kronstadt Martha Lapham Dawn Leborane Hilarie Lockwood Susan Maluea Bill Matthews William Mazejko Charles McKinley Patricia Meili Jeanne Mudie Kimberly Musial Eugene Oddone Melissa Pavlovich Doug Perkowsky Ramsay Pierce Miki Quinn Penelope Pierce Miki Quinn Robert Radke Stanley Raine Meg Rehrauer Annie Robinson Anthony Roisman Sophia Sacknoff Phillip Schumacher James Sebring Kenneth Shaw Nancy Silberstein Wendy and Steve Silverman Rebecca Smith CJ Smith Kristen Sullivan McEntyre Jamie Surya Christy Swanson Jon Talotta Kristen Thomas Hailey Thompson Elizabeth Thompson Candace Tyson Spencer Wade Serena L. Wilson Modo Yoga Ann Winsor Laura Wise Jovce York Debbie Yberra Bar Harbor Bank & Trust Enhance Health Mighty Yoga The Atrium Yoga Studio Lotus Yoga of Riverside Southern Illinois University

Tudie Kirshner

Peer to peer fundraising helps LoveYourBrain elevate the stories and voices of the TBI community, and significantly impacts our ability to expand and sustain our programming.

TOP FUNDRAISERS FY19:

David Adler Conor Crippen Kelly and Stephen Davin David Jevotovsky

Thom Mascia Jenny Painter Ramsay Pierce Kaeleigh Pollard PranaShanti Yoga Centre Duncan Quinn

IN-KIND SUPPORT

Giant Rising Tide Co-Op SingleTrack Supply Co. Verve Coffee

Vital Choice Yeti

PHOTOGRAPHERS: Rob Coshow Elizabeth Griffin Steve Jones Photography

OUR TEAM DURING FY19

Kevin Pearce, co-Founder Adam Pearce, co-Founder and Executive Director Kim Baker Amber Davey

Abbie Eldridge Mary Fay Ari Havusha Kyla Pearce Ramsay Pierce

Courtney Ruoff Molly Sanchez Alyssa Talbot Megan Whiteside Shilo Zeller

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Patricia Pearce David Adler Jay Benson June Heston Geoffrey J. Vitt

ADVISORY TEAM

Michael Jager Doug Ulman Chris Giza David de Rothschild Duke Stump Roger Mortimer



PARTNERS









CORPORATE SPONSORS \$1,000+









FINANCIALS

Fiscal Year 2019 (July 2018-June 2019)

FY19 was our most successful fundraising year to date. We raised 16% more than projected and spent 9% less than projected. Moving forward, LoveYourBrain is in a strong financial position to continue to grow our core programs both intentionally and sustainably.

