



## BrainUp 2023 Take a Moment to Reminisce

Hello,

It's that time of year again where Danny and I get to share a few milestones that BrainUp has achieved in 2023!

The first milestone was that we were able to share our 8th annual walk/run together. We had a successful day this September 23rd, when over 1,500 participants making up over 70 teams came together to support BrainUp. Together we raised over \$560,000, exceeding our goal for the year! This is the most BrainUp has ever raised from our run/walk and we are so incredibly grateful for all your support!



[See All Pictures from the 5K](#)

*Please note that the teams are so important.*

*They are each participating on behalf of someone loved and fighting brain cancer or honoring the memory of someone lost.*

*We are a community, and we are grateful.*

## 2023 BrainUp 5K Run/Walk Honorees:

### Olivia Kresach Medal of Excellence:

Dr. Sean Grimm  
*Rush University Medical Center*

### Helping Hands Award:

Elizabeth Strus, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC  
*Rush University Medical Center*

Meg Schwartz, APRN  
*Northwestern Medical Group*

### Bravery Award;

Ben Owens  
Elizabeth Gamez  
Abdulah Hodzic  
Don Cameron  
Eric Surdy  
Brian Aggen

### Event Co-Chair:

Maggie Lakowske  
Alexa Brainin & Andrew Steidele

Our last milestone is to continue to grow as a community and as a charity!

For our 2024 run/walk we hope to raise \$600,000.

We thank you because your support is the reason this could be possible!

***"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members."***

**BrainUp is pleased to share with you that your donations for research are hard at work this year!**

From your contributions, BrainUp was able to grant a total of \$300,000 to **TWO** impactful studies in brain cancer research efforts:

**\$100,000 to Loyola University of Chicago Stritch School of Medicine, in partnership with American Brain Tumor Association**

Project: Maladaptive Effects of Aged Brain in Older Adults with Glioblastoma *Principal Investigator: Derek Wainwright PhD*

**\$200,000 granted to Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine**

Project: A Phase 1 adaptive dose escalation study of 3-AP(Triapine) in combination with temozolomide (TMZ) for patients with recurrent Glioblastomas

*Principal Investigators: Karan Dixit MD and Antique Ahmed PhD, both of Northwestern University*

Very impressed and grateful to everyone's generosity and support in advancing our mission!

Sincerely,

**Dan & Meg Kresach**

*Founders of Brainup*



**We are excited to see you again in 2024!**

[Donate Here!](#)

# Thank you to our 2023 Sponsors!

Team Raso  Olivia Kresach



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Chicago WINDOW GUYS



We would also like to highlight **FIVE** independent fundraisers that took place this year to boost even more support for brain cancer research!

In May, the “Spin for Brain Cancer” event at CycleBar Burr Ridge helped raise over \$14,000 for BrainUp. Thank you to our host, Amanda, and all participants, for riding their heart out for our great cause!

Also in May, the “Beauty Up for BrainUp” event in Orland Park generated over \$6,000 in funding for brain cancer research. Grateful to our host, Tracy's Beautique, for bringing people together in support of our efforts!

In June, the Hey Buddy Concert for Brain Cancer helped raise over \$27,000 towards our mission as well. A huge thank you to the hosts and the wonderful musicians for all that they did!

Lastly, we want to shout out the BrainUp Young Professionals BINGO Fundraiser and the Go Gray in May Soul Roots Wax Candle Fundraiser events, both of which combined raised nearly \$3,000!





# 2023 BrainUp® Out-Thinking Brain Cancer WALL OF COURAGE

*The BrainUp Wall of Courage is a group of remarkable brain tumor patients that have been hand selected by their doctors and nurses to serve as inspiration to the rest of the brain cancer community based on their courage and bravery throughout their medical journey.*

[Justin Shapiro](#)

[Kevin "Sody" Elias](#)

[Brian Toppel](#)

[Kim Qualizza](#)

[Dan Rinaldi](#)

[Judy Steidele](#)

[Jack Houze](#)

[Jen Cody](#)



**Interested in hosting your own event?**

Email Katy Rowe: [Krowe@PoweredbvProfessionals.com](mailto:Krowe@PoweredbvProfessionals.com)

**Don't forget to connect with us on Facebook and Instagram!**

**Help us reach our goal of 2000 followers!**

**@OutThinkingBrainCancer**



**BrainUp®**  
Out-Thinking Brain Cancer



*BrainUp is a not-for-profit public charity recognized by the IRS under 501(c)(3).  
BrainUp's EIN # is 47-5516802*

Questions?

Email [kara@poweredbyprofessionals.com](mailto:kara@poweredbyprofessionals.com) or call 401 -497-3876