



A Bicycle Accident Sends Rider, Lucky Jollye, Spilling Into New Career








Brain injury survivors often start their narratives with the date of the incident, accident, or injury. The next sentence may lead with something like, “The following is hearsay because . . .”

For William “Lucky” Jollye, 42, he will tell you that on October 6, 2012, he was riding his bicycle in downtown Greenville, his hometown, “periodically stopping at various places to watch college football with my friends.”

The next part, he said, is not clear because he suffered from “four or more weeks retrograde amnesia.” The Nichols, SC, resident shared that he thinks he “was moving on to the next stop when either a car stopped abruptly in front of me or backed out of a parking spot on Main Street without my awareness.”

“I hit the car and flew over the handlebars of my bicycle hitting my forehead on a guardrail,” he continued. “I broke my jaw and fractured my skull leaving me with a subdural hematoma on my frontal lobe resulting in a traumatic brain injury.”





Jollye said when he was on the sidewalk in the middle of Greenville, “unconscious and bleeding from my ears” he was taken to the Level I trauma center, Greenville Memorial where he was put in medically induced coma for three days.

The now Licensed Physical Therapist Assistant transferred to ICU for 10 days before moving to Roger C. Peace Rehabilitation Hospital for more than a month and a half.

Jollye, who now serves on the Board of Directors with the Brain Injury Association, expressed his gratitude for the services the agency provides.

“Staff from the BIA of SC consoled my father and put him in contact with the right people to facilitate my rehabilitation stay and helped him find those offering grants during the time I was hospitalized,” the advocate said. “I received a Post-Acute Rehabilitation grant from the SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (DDSN), so I was able to go to inpatient rehab at Roger C. Peace Rehab. Hospital.”

Since 2012, Jollye’s experience has helped him to shift gears in his personal and professional life as he continues to advocate for other brain injury survivors as a volunteer with the state BIA. He also completed his education to become a certified Physical Therapy Assistant in 2019.