Backgrounder on

KBSTRONG Foundation

**What is Glioblastoma?** Glioblastoma took the life of one of Illinois best high school basketball coaches in recent years when Washington High School head basketball coach died from this terrible brain cancer. Glioblastoma is an aggressive type of cancer that can occur in the brain or spinal cord (Mayo Clinic). The main goal for the KBSTONG foundation is to bring more awareness to this rare form of cancer. The typical life expectancy after finding out someone has this form of cancer is 8 months. Kevin Browns battle lasted 10 months (fighting the fight). The worst part about this cancer is that there is still no cure.

**How KBSTRONG Started.** This foundation came to life in 2019 and has been doing fundraising ever since. The foundation does two main events in the city of Washington, Illinois that get a lot of attention. The first event is Brownfest which takes place at Five Points event center in Washington, IL. This is an all day festival that celebrates the life of Kevin Brown and also brings the community together for a day of remembering. This event is filled with a 5k in the morning, a bags tournament in the afternoon, and live music in the evening. The foundation also does a silent auction throughout the day as well. The second main event is The Kevin Brown Memorial Tournament of Champions (ToC). This is one of the biggest high school tournaments in the country that was also one of coach Browns favorite part of the season. This tournament is a 5- day tournament that is always played during the week of thanksgiving. This tournament brings in top talent from around the country to honor coach Brown and bring awareness to Glioblastoma to people all over the country. It is worth noting that 100% of profit goes back to the KBSTRONG foundation and then donated to cancer research in their name (KBSTRONG). It is no secret how cancer can affect someone’s life, and their loved ones. But rarely does someone getting cancer affect a whole community of 15,000 people. That is what glioblastoma did. Kevin Brown was one of an estimated 10,000 people to be diagnosed with glioblastoma each year (NBTS). And with a survival rate of only 6.8%, and the average life expectancy after being diagnosed is only 8 months, KBSTORNG is doing everything it can as a foundation to make sure that this form of cancer will soon have a cure, or treatment at the very least. In this past year alone, 2022, the KBSTRONG foundation has donated over $50,000 to cancer research in coach Brown’s name. The ultimate goal of the KBSTRONG foundation is to bring as much awareness to what Kevin Brown went through as possible. Coach Brown touched so many of his players and even people of Washington in so many different ways. But more importantly, the foundation wants to bring in and donate as much money as possible to continue to help fight the fight against glioblastoma. The foundation will continue to partner with different events to help reach these goals.

**What’s Next?** This year, the KBSTRONG foundation is hosting its 1st annual ‘Lunch and Learn’ at the five points center in Washington, IL. During the event, food will be catered in by The Brickhouse restaurant. There will also be guest speakers. These speakers will be people who have had experience with glioblastoma affecting their family and friends. There will also be cancer doctors speaking to give information on this type of cancer and what can be done as far as treatment. All proceeds made from the event will go to cancer research.

For more information, please visit <https://kbstrong-fightingthefight.com/>

**KBSTRONG Contact Information**

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**Background Source**

“About Glioblastoma.” *National Brain Tumor Society*, 15 Sept. 2022, https://braintumor.org/events/glioblastoma-awareness-day/about-glioblastoma/.

“Glioma.” *Mayo Clinic*, Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research, 4 Apr. 2020, https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/glioblastoma/cdc-20350148.

“Kb Strong - Fighting the Fight.” *KB Strong - Fighting the Fight*, 2019, https://kbstrong-fightingthefight.com/.