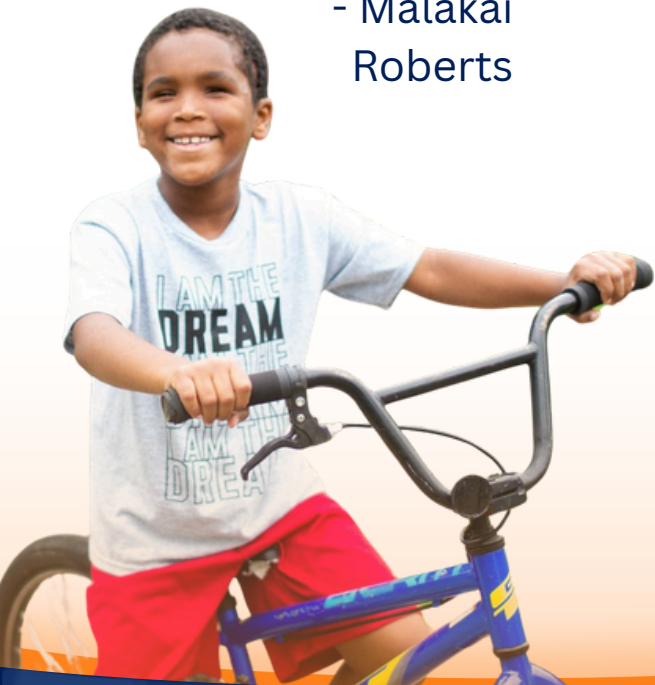




A piece from the newly released TBI storybook.

“Your world is what you make it.”

- Malakai Roberts



POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Malakai’s story highlights universal gaps: **unmet rehabilitation needs, lack of follow-up, caregiver hardship, and economic devastation.**

These insights form a compelling case for recognizing TBI as a chronic and notifiable condition.

Policy Need

Notifiable Surveillance

Rehabilitation Support

Caregiver Support

Rationale

Essential for monitoring long-term outcomes and system planning.

Consistent gaps globally demand investment.

Families carry the majority of TBI care burden.



Global Coalition for TBI

www.tbistorybook.com

Malakai’s Story

Malakai’s lived experience to drive global recognition of Traumatic Brain Injury as a **notifiable and chronic condition**



More information at:
www.tbistorybook.com



In December of 2020, Malakai Roberts (5 years old) was struck by a stray bullet in his home. He became blind, and had severe sinus damage, making him unable to smell or taste. He was in a coma, and woke up on Christmas Eve.

His mother, Cacy Roberts didn't know what to think. After recovery, Malakai has learned to adapt to his new way of living life thanks to his fearless attitude and family support.

"There have been many difficulties that Malakai and our family have had to deal with since his TBI. The extended hospital stay initially was difficult, and there have been many financial burdens that followed. In his situation, we were displaced for a period of time due to the fact that a crime had occurred and the details were unknown.

Another continuing factor has been educational support. The way he learned changed due to him no longer being able to see. We luckily had a volunteer to help him learn to read, move around, and understand how he will need to adapt. Not everyone is this fortunate to receive such support"

"We were grateful to have Malakai alive after such a sudden and extreme trauma, but we also didn't think about what the future entailed for not only his needs, but the family as well."

Malakai and his family have since moved states so he can attend a school that specializes in teaching blind students. He loves riding his bike, building things, history, math, and goalball (a sport for the blind). He has a smile of gold and a magnetic personality. Malakai has always had a positive attitude, making him popular, curious, and able to do anything he puts his mind to.

"Malakai's injury 6 years ago not only changed the trajectory of his life, but all of ours. The support that is required for the patient and the family does not end after leaving the hospital. It should go on for a lifetime, parallel to the lived experience of this condition."

- **Cacy Roberts, Malakai's mother**

UNDERSTANDING TBI

TBI presents immediate symptoms but evolves into long-term physical, cognitive, and emotional challenges. This section summarizes key aspects.

TBI is a lifelong condition—not a single acute event.

Immediate Effects

Loss of consciousness, confusion, emergency stabilisation.

Chronic Effects

Persistent fatigue, memory loss, depression, behavioural changes.

Rehabilitation Needs

Long-term physical and cognitive rehabilitation is essential.

Policy Urgency

Chronicity demands structured follow-up and national surveillance.

A newly published **Storybook** elevates voices of persons with lived experience (PWLE) whose narratives guide global advocacy towards recognizing TBI as a notifiable and chronic condition. These lived realities **illuminate the gaps, challenges, and opportunities within our health systems.**