



BIAI E-NEWS

*An electronic news source for members of the
Brain Injury Association of Indiana*

9.28.09

2009 BIAI Annual Conference a success!

BIAI hosted over 230 attendees spread throughout three concurrent tracks, 24 exhibitors, several poster presentations, and two outstanding keynotes.

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As BIAI's biggest fundraiser of the year; this generated much needed resources to keep programming strong. Thank you to the BIAI Conference Committee, Holly Russell (Committee Chair), the BIAI Board of Directors and many more volunteers on their hard work!

Please continue to read about our impressive group of award recipients this year!

CONGRATULATIONS 2009 BIAI AWARD RECIPIENTS!!

Perseverance Award :Jason Fishburn

The Brain Injury Association of IN wishes to honor an Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department Officer 6 year Veteran, who sustained a severe brain injury in the line of duty in July, 2008. Second generation Officer Fishburn was working to protect and serve our Indianapolis community when he was injured. His service and bravery are well known in our community, and he has earned great respect for his diligence, and single-minded focus throughout his rehabilitation and on-going recovery. He has pursued returned to work with the Indianapolis metropolitan Police Department in May 2009, and is currently serving with his father, Sgt Dennis Fishburn as co-chair for the group Citizens for Wishard. We honor Officer Jason Fishburn with the Perseverance Award.

Partner of the Year: RHI Foundation – Denny Armington

We are exceptionally pleased to announce this year's Partner of the Year Award is RHI Foundation. Throughout this past year, RHI Foundation has supported our association in numerous very important ways. Many RHI staff serve as volunteers for our numerous events and programs. In early 2009, the Foundation, in particular Mr. Jim Graham and Dr. James Malec assisted us with the HRSA Grant management. The Foundation provided counsel, support and direction in the submission of the 2009-2013 TBI Federal Grant, which was subsequently awarded in March. Lastly, RHI provided BIAI memberships to individuals with brain injury upon discharge from their rehabilitation facility, as well as supported the association with in-kind office and conference room accommodations. We are very appreciative of their support. This Partner of the Year award will be accepted by Denny Armington, CEO of RHI.

Legislator of the Year: Senator Vi Simpson

This year BIAI awards a Legislator who personally, and with her office representatives, provided advocacy on behalf of an individual with brain injury, through a difficult authorization and denial process. We appreciate and acknowledge the individual attention and perseverance. This year's recipient was recently re-appointed to the state Health Finance Commission, and also serves on the Select Joint Commission on Medicaid Oversight, Military Base Planning Council and Commission on Mental Health. The award this year is granted to Senator Vi Simpson. We have received a message that she is honored by the award and recognition, and wants to send her appreciation for the hard work being done on behalf of those with brain injuries.

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Grant Partner: Vocational Rehabilitation – Michael Hedden

From 2006 – 2009, BIAI collaborated with the Indiana Bureau of Rehabilitation Services, Vocational Rehabilitation to meet the objectives of the IN TBI Implementation and Partnership Federal Grant. Vocational Rehabilitation served as the grant lead agency. As a result of this partnership, each Vocational Rehabilitation office in Indiana now has a designated Brain Injury Specialist. Vocational Rehabilitation supported the education and professional development of 70 counselors by funding their attendance to the BIAI educational conference. BIAI is pleased to announce Vocational Rehabilitation as the Grant Partner of the year. This award will be accepted by Mr. Michael Hedden, who is the Director of Indiana Bureau of Rehabilitation Services, and is additionally the Co-Chairman with Dr. Lance Trexler on the newly formed Indiana Brain Injury Leadership Board.

Volunteer of the Year: Holly Russell – Chair of the Conference Committee

Volunteers are the absolute backbone to the prevention, education, support and advocacy activities that are completed by our association. Without those survivors, family members, and professionals who volunteer their time, ideas and expertise we would not be able to accomplish our goals. This year in particular called upon our volunteers to make great contributions. Because of our volunteers, we have met our goals on the strategic plan, and have made great accomplishments, despite our fewer resources. Therefore, this year, choosing the recipient of our volunteer of the year award was both challenging, and poignant. We are honoring Holly Russell as our Volunteer of the Year Award. Holly is the poster woman of volunteerism. She has served as the Chair of the Conference Committee, which as a group, completed every single detail for planning and executing all the events offered at this year's conference. She was consistent with keeping her energies focused throughout the year, with the result of a very high quality, well attended and exceptionally organized education conference, targeting the education needs of our survivors, family members, professionals and stakeholders – entirely completed by the time and commitment of volunteers. Holly is a full-time rehabilitation professional with many accolades and specialized training; she is a full time Mom, and she is a full-time supporter and volunteer of BIAI. We are extremely thankful for her commitment this year.

We're working hard to update and increase our mailing list... please refer a friend to receive BIAI E-News Updates!!

Support Group of the Year: For Parent's Group – Kathleen Munroe

The newest addition to the 14 BIAI Support Groups is offered for parents of children with acquired brain injuries, ages infancy to 21 years of age. This support group meets once monthly, and is focused entirely on the needs of parents who are raising and loving children who have acquired brain injury. The needs of caregivers are many and often it may seem like an overwhelming position. We wish to honor the For Parents of Children with Brain Injury Support Group which meets at the Pediatric & Adolescent Rehabilitation unit at Methodist Hospital, facilitated by Kathleen Munroe, as the Support Group of the Year.

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