

The Brain Injury Association of Iowa



Brain Injury Support Network (BISN)

The mission of the Brain Injury Support Network is to provide individualized information, education, support and guidance to persons with brain injury and their families. This support may be offered to the family and/or individual at the time of acute hospitalization and beyond.

The BISN is a unique program where an individual (Peer-Mentor), who is a "veteran" of a life experience, is matched with another person (Partner) to provide the support needed to best cope and/or adjust to the challenges associated with their brain injury.

The Brain Injury Association provides ongoing guidance and training to the Peer-Mentors to ensure that Partner's are empowered to make informed decisions with a better understanding of brain injury and it's effects.

What can Peer-Mentors expect?

- BISN peer-mentors will receive a one day training to further define their roles and responsibilities as a volunteer of this program.
- BISN peer-mentors will provide regular contact to partners by phone or e-mail and record your contacts.
- BISN peer-mentors will receive regular guidance and support from the BISN coordinator to ensure the appropriateness and quality of that partnership.
- BISN peer-mentors will have the opportunity to make a difference in someone's life.

What can Partners expect?

- BISN partners will have the opportunity to receive individualized support adjusting to life with a brain injury.
- BISN partners will have regular contact over the phone or by e-mail with a peer mentor who has been matched with them based on a variety of issues including interests, type of injury, or geographical needs.
- BISN partners will receive ongoing support and encouragement from their peer-mentor.

Who To Contact?

For more information, contact:

Marianne Fitzpatrick
BISN Coordinator
Brain Injury Association of Iowa
7025 Hickman Road, Suite 7
Urbandale, Iowa 50322
Toll Free: (800) 444-6443
Direct Line: (515) 331-8960

You can call or go to the Brain Injury Association website @ www.biaia.org to view a referral form and guidelines to consider if you are interested in becoming a peer-mentor.

