The Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA) hosted the 23rd Annual State Affiliate Leadership Conference in November 2018. During the conference, BIAA celebrated the outstanding performance of the Brain Injury Associations of Massachusetts and Kansas & Greater Kansas City for advocacy; Pennsylvania for communications; South Carolina for fundraising; and Georgia, Michigan, and Virginia for Programs and Services. The Leadership Award for Chief Volunteer Officer went to Darcy Carroll from the BIA of Virginia and for Chief Staff Professional to Nicole Godaire from Massachusetts.

BIAA is pleased to celebrate the organizational and personal accomplishments of our affiliates and their leaders. However, we know the holidays can be tough for those who have experienced great loss. I encourage everyone, especially caregivers, to take care of themselves throughout the holiday season. For those for whom the holidays are especially difficult, I hope you will become inspired to create a new life for yourself in 2019 and beyond.

In the meantime, I hope you will join me in sending our thoughts and prayers to the millions of people in California who experienced devastating wildfires this fall. I’m confident that given enough time, they will re-build their homes and their lives – perhaps not exactly as before, but in what we all understand to be a “new normal.”

And finally, I’ll take this opportunity to once again thank the generous donors who support the Brain Injury Association of America and our mission to improve recovery and the quality of life for all people affected by brain injury and to promote a cure. Our work is ambitious and our resources are limited, so every single dollar helps. We’re proud to recognize those who have made recent donations, and we ask everyone to give whatever amount they can afford – no matter how large or small. To make your donation, visit biausa.org/SupportBIAA.

You have my best wishes for a happy and safe holiday.

Susan H. Connors, President/CEO
Brain Injury Association of America
Brain injury affects the day-to-day challenges of seemingly simple tasks, like making a cup of coffee, sending an email, or saying “I love you,” for more than three million Americans who have traumatic brain injuries or strokes each year.

Although many individuals with brain injury receive life-saving medical care and rehabilitation services, forty percent of Americans hospitalized annually with traumatic brain injury have at least one unmet need for services one year after injury – long after coverage for medical rehabilitation has ended. These include improving memory and problem solving, managing stress and emotional upsets, controlling one’s temper, and improving one’s job skills.

Perhaps even more devastating for brain injury survivors is social isolation, made more impactful by lack of return to work, where we tend to spend most of our time with others. Considering that less than half of persons with brain injury successfully reenter the workforce and that rates of depression rise as the years pass, it is evident that there is a gap in services. Rehabilitation professionals, concerned family members, and persons with brain injury struggle with these challenges.

In the early 2000s, advocates banded together and found inspiration at Clubhouse International. Clubhouse International is an organization dedicated to providing support in the community for adults with serious mental illness. Much like persons with brain injury, people living with serious mental illness oftentimes face difficulty returning to their communities after the hospital and must navigate continued services on their own.

The Clubhouse International philosophy was established more than 70 years ago and has since grown to more than 300 mental health clubhouses and 17 brain injury clubhouses around the world. Those working with brain injury survivors formed the International Brain Injury Clubhouse Alliance (IBICA). IBICA received its formal identity in 2005 and its member clubhouses currently extend from as far east as New Jersey, north to Canada, and as far west as Texas.

IBICA is a nonprofit membership organization that supports the development, training, quality, and stability of Brain Injury Clubhouse programs across the United States and Canada. IBICA serves as the primary advocate for the adaptation of Clubhouse International standards of operation, which have been successfully applied within the mental health community since the flagship location opened in New York in the 1940s.

The mission of IBICA is to support and advance an international collaborative network of standards-based Brain Injury Clubhouses for people impacted by brain injury.

Brain injury clubhouses exist to support the realization of meaningful and productive life in the community after acquired brain injury. A brain injury clubhouse is a place for adults with brain injury who no longer receive traditional medical rehabilitation but find no resolve in staying home without a sense of
Its vision is that people impacted by brain injury worldwide will have access to lifelong support and the highest quality of life through Brain Injury Clubhouses.

purpose. Although each Clubhouse program bears its own unique identity and funding sources, the following core values are consistently honored:

**The Power of Membership**

At the Clubhouse, survivors of brain injury are considered Members, not patients, and thus claim responsibility for making program decisions and directing the daily operations of the Clubhouse. Membership is empowering and provides each person with the confidence needed to reenter the community and live more independently. Members understand that their contribution to the program is needed.

**The Work-Ordered Day**

The Clubhouse day is structured around meaningful work in a work unit. Members choose to complete tasks that directly support the operations of the Clubhouse – from training volunteers to advocating for brain injury services, writing a newsletter article, cleaning the facility, or preparing lunch. Members are encouraged to solve problems and control the sequence of projects within work units, leading to improved cognitive skills.

(continued on page 6)
Peer Relationships

Members work side-by-side with staff at the Clubhouse and interact with staff and volunteers as peers. Through this relationship, Members receive necessary support while still maintaining ownership over their service planning at the Clubhouse. For many Members, friendships that develop within the program are the most valuable piece of recovery and strongly impact quality of life.

Lifelong, Voluntary Membership

Clubhouse membership offers survivors of brain injury consistent, long-term support that is available for as long as the Member needs or desires. Many brain injury clubhouses do not rely on typical insurance (nor its limitations) and instead supplement program income through fundraising efforts. Lifelong membership also supports hope for continued brain healing long after traditional medical supports have been exhausted.

Recently, a Brain Injury Clubhouse Member shared this with IBICA: “I truly believe that if it wasn’t for the Clubhouse, my condition would have steadily worsened. Instead, I found this to be a safe place and an organization where the people will accept me for who I am: emotionally broken, anxious, confused, and worst of all, scared. The Clubhouse was the only place besides my home that I felt safe. Being by myself day after day was a pathetic and awful existence. But because of the Clubhouse, I am now going to embark on something that is incredibly important to me – educating and generating greater awareness about brain injury and its consequences.”

IBICA appreciates the opportunity to answer additional questions about its history, mission, vision, and especially values inquiries from community groups interested in starting their own Clubhouse programs. Please visit www.braininjuryclubhouses.net for additional information, to send an inquiry, or to find a Clubhouse program near you.

IBICA programs track outcomes and are pleased to share the following:

- Brooks Clubhouse in Jacksonville, Florida, has served more than 300 persons with brain injury since opening in 2008 and has helped 71 Members reenter the workforce.

- Synapse House in Elmhurst, Illinois, houses a social enterprise bakery “Flour to Empower” run by its Members and 56% of Member families report improvement in caregiver burden.

- ADAPT Clubhouse in Alexandria, Virginia, reintegrates 100% of Members back to the community through volunteer work at a homeless shelter, a nursing home, a community garden, and the local farmer’s market.

- Brain Injury Network of Dallas (BIND) in Plano, Texas, provides wellness activities five days a week and 76% of Members report stable or improved quality of life after attending the clubhouse for four months.

IBICA program Directors and Members gather annually to teach, train, and grow clubhouse programs.
NOW AVAILABLE

BRAIN INJURY FUNDAMENTALS

ANNOUNCING AN ALL-NEW ACBIS TRAINING AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAM FOR DIRECT CARE STAFF AND INDIVIDUAL CAREGIVERS.

The Brain Injury Association of America’s Academy of Certified Brain Injury Specialists (ACBIS) is pleased to announce the launch of Brain Injury Fundamentals, an all-new training and certificate program designed exclusively for non-licensed direct care staff, family members, and individual caregivers. The training course covers essential topics such as cognition, medical complications, and medication safety and management.

In addition, the program addresses the burden that many families coping with brain injury face on a daily basis.

WHO TAKES THE COURSE?

- Transitional/Residential Rehabilitation Workers
- Skilled Nursing Staff
- Nursing Assistants
- Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Staff
- Home Health Aides
- Day Treatment Center Workers
- Adult Foster Care Workers
- Family Members

LEARN MORE AT WWW.BIAUSA.ORG/FUNDAMENTALS
You wake up every morning certain that your life will remain relatively stable over the years. Then one day, you have a bad accident. When you awake after the accident, you are surrounded by nurses, tubes, beeping monitors. You are shocked – something serious has happened, but you aren’t able to remember exactly what occurred. You find it hard to speak or move. You are staring down a future of doctors, rehabilitation, and uncertainty.

But time and resilience march on. After you are diagnosed with a brain injury, you receive wonderful support and treatment and get a little better each day. You are encouraged by your progress as time passes, but you still think about the job you have lost and the friends who have stopped calling. You feel guilty about the injury’s effect on your family, and you feel powerless to care for them as you did before the accident.

YOU WANT MORE OUT OF LIFE

The desire to make your life better is rooted in two basic human needs that guide your behavior: the need to feel connected to others around you and the need to contribute to your community. In other words, the need to receive and show love as well as the need to be constructive rather than feeling inadequate. These are powerful needs that can propel you to create a better life.

As you recover from brain injury, you begin to want more out of life. You may feel constrained, however, by your inability to follow conversations, to remember things, and to do physical activities that were once effortless. You feel lonely but reluctant to leave the house, so you withdraw into your own world of TV, reading, eating, and doctor’s appointments. Greater isolation and loneliness set in. Your basic need to feel connected to others goes unmet.
As humans, we try hard to avoid isolation and loneliness by creating expansive lives through school, friendships, sports, art, religion, and family. After a brain injury, your world shrinks. You can quickly withdraw into isolation and loneliness, which feel like shackles that constrain recovery.

YOU CAN BREAK FREE FROM LONELINESS

The good news is that you can break free from loneliness and expand your world again. Having a life of meaning and achievement can help you feel worthwhile and productive after a brain injury. You can have a renewed sense of control over your life, which is important to your recovery.

First, you need to learn how to create relationships from scratch. When you were a kid, you probably had a large variety of friends because you were around people your age each day. You had classmates, teammates, and neighborhood kids next door. These are called relationships of proximity; relationships that are quick to develop because you see the same friends each day. You don’t have to seek out people in unfamiliar places; your friends are at your doorstep. If you lose connection to work, school, and other groups after brain injury, you need to learn how to find places to meet people. In general, many adults complain that they have fewer friends as they get older and often question why. As we age, we tend to lose the daily proximity to people that helps us form friendships when we’re young, and we need to learn how to find friends on our own by getting involved in different groups. The Breaking Free from Loneliness Discussion Questions at the end of this article can help you get started.

BE MORE ACCEPTING OF YOURSELF

As a person with a brain injury, you may hesitate to explore new activities and meet new people because you have trouble getting around, following conversations, or finding the right words. You may worry about what others think of you. The likelihood is that many people are more understanding than
you think, and that you are more critical of yourself than others are of you. Keep in mind that people will connect to your character, kindness, and interests, regardless of how well you speak or remember names and faces. Like you, they too have a need to connect and feel appreciated.

**PREVIEW SOCIAL SITUATIONS**

If you find yourself hesitant to seek new opportunities to meet people, you can use a method called previewing. Let’s say that you are invited to a party at a neighbor’s house and you’re worried about feeling overwhelmed by the noise and conversations. Before the party, you should sit quietly and imagine the faces of the people attending. Select a few people you want to speak with and what you want to discuss with them. Imagine having each conversation. When you go to the party, you should have those conversations, then decide if you want to stay or leave. Previewing helps you imagine how to make a socially overwhelming situation more enjoyable because you prepare for it ahead of time.

**PLAN WAYS TO EXPAND YOUR LIFE**

Work with a friend or family member to answer the Breaking Free from Loneliness questions on the next page to determine how you want to expand your world.

Whatever you choose to do outside the home to rebuild your life, make sure you incorporate the activities into a scheduled routine each week. For instance, you may go to the gym from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Monday, you take a painting class every Tuesday from 4-5 p.m., and so on. By incorporating your activities into your routine each week, you are more likely to follow through and be consistent.

**YOU SHOULD SHARE YOURSELF WITH THE WORLD**

While many things may change after your brain injury, your two basic needs – connecting with others and contributing – will remain. Fulfilling these needs can help you break free from loneliness, expand your life, and share yourself with the world.
Before your brain injury, what did you enjoy doing in the following areas?

Family activities: ______________________

Hobbies: ______________________

Socializing with friends: ______________________

Spirituality: ______________________

Volunteering: ______________________

Work: ______________________

Exercise: ______________________

Sports and recreation: ______________________

Arts: ______________________

What other activities or interests do you have now that you did not have before your brain injury?

List the steps you need to take to get started (such as calling or emailing someone, signing up for something, etc.).

How can you get involved with those activities outside the home each week on a regular, consistent basis?

Based on the lists above, select the top three activities that you want to consistently do with others outside the home.

Michael Cerreto, M.S., CPCRT, CSC, LDR is a Certified Cognitive Rehabilitation Therapist with A Talented Mind Clinic in Richmond, Virginia. Learn more about Michael at www.atalentedmind.com.
SELECTING THE RIGHT APP WHEN YOU HAVE A BRAIN INJURY

By Michelle Ranae Wild, M.A., Making Cognitive Connections

Have you ever thought, “There are so many apps – how do I choose?” With well over a million mobile applications in Apple’s App Store and Google’s Play Store, it’s no wonder. Let’s start with some interesting statistics and then explore some questions you might want to ask as you search for apps.

DID YOU KNOW?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>80</td>
<td>The average smartphone owner has 80 apps installed on his or her smartphone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81%</td>
<td>81% of all U.S. mobile phones are smartphones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63%</td>
<td>63% of users stop using an app within the first month</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It’s amazing that 81% of mobile phones are smartphones! That means most of you probably have a smartphone of some type. Whether you have an Apple or an Android device, there are some key things you should consider before you choose an app:

• What do you want the app to do and why?

Living with a brain injury is a daily challenge. You may be struggling with self-regulation, memory, and/or executive functioning issues, such as planning, organizing, strategizing, and time management, all of which affect you in your everyday life – at home, school, and work. You will want to look for apps that specifically address some of these challenges, such as a calendar app that helps you see when you are double-booking yourself, an app that helps you manage your energy, or an app that helps you identify and track the strategies you use and rate how effective they are in various situations. It’s important to identify your struggles and to find apps that can help address these issues. Before you download an app, you can review app-related information provided in the app store, such as a list of features, user reviews, and some app screen captures. This information can be very useful in figuring out if certain apps will help with the challenges you’ve identified.
• Where did you hear about the app or who recommended the app? Does the person understand brain injury?

You may hear about apps from friends and family members because they have heard about an app or they use it themselves and like it. Unfortunately, this doesn’t mean the app will work for you. You also might get a list of apps along with brief descriptions from a service provider or clinician. These lists can be very helpful because these professionals know about brain injury and may be able to provide some direction as to how you could benefit from an app.

• How does one app compare to other similar apps?

There are often multiple apps that do the same thing. For example, you could download literally hundreds of different note-taking apps. The problem is that people download multiple apps that do the same thing and either (1) end up with information in many different places, which becomes an organization and memory nightmare; or (2) end up with too many apps on their home screens and can’t find what they need, also a nightmare. Instead, compare similar apps recommended by reliable individuals and choose one that meets your needs. Give each new app a chance – you’ll need time to use it and practice with it to know if it’s going to work for you.

• Is there training available?

One of the best ways to learn to use an app is through trainings or tutorials. Look for online training available through the app developer, YouTube videos, blogs, and webinars. These options, however, may not meet your needs because they tend to be fast, incomplete, and overwhelming for persons with brain injury. Instead, look for trainings and blogs available through rehabilitation professionals who know how to use apps and understand brain injury. It is important to get lots of focused practice with the app during training so you can learn to use it effectively in your everyday life.
• Does the app have staying power?

Be sure to consider an app’s “staying power” before selecting it. It’s not always the latest apps that are the best; in fact, sometimes new apps may not last long in the marketplace and as a result can negatively impact the user. Apps that get frequent updates may also be difficult to work with as you will sometimes have to re-learn to use them. Some factors associated with “staying power” include:

• How long has the app been around?
• How frequently is the app updated?
• Does the app add new features or only fix bugs?
• Does the look and feel of the app stay the same across updates?

Here are a few other things to consider as you make decisions as to which apps to download:

Don’t be fooled by “free” apps. There are indeed free apps; however, many of them require “in-app purchases” to get the functionality you really need.

Beware of ongoing subscriptions. More and more apps are moving to subscriptions. This means that you pay either monthly or yearly for the app, which makes it much more expensive in the long run.

Use one app for many things. If you find the right app, it can be used for a variety of purposes so that you end up learning one app and using it in various areas of your life. For instance, a good note-taking app can be used to record audio, take notes in a class or meeting, create a shopping list, create a task analysis, save files, etc.

There are many benefits to using smart devices as cognitive prosthetics after an injury. They can help you with memory, sequencing, planning, organization, and lots of other cognitive tasks. However, due to your injury, you will want to look for apps that are practical, easy to use, and applicable to many aspects of your life. They should also be accessible, convenient, not visually overwhelming, and should have a consistent user interface to eliminate confusion.

Hopefully the questions above provide you with a place to start as you look for apps that can help after your brain injury. The apps below can help with many of the executive function issues you deal with on a daily basis:

• BEST Suite – three apps in one: PaceMyDay, ReachMyGoals, and StrategizeMyLife
• Notability
• Inspiration Maps
• Week Calendar

The cost of all these apps is less than $35.00, yet you’ll be surprised at what a difference they will make in your life!

---

LEARN HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR HEALTH WITH ALTERNATIVE TREATMENTS

In Rethink, Redo, Rewired, Anthony, a Motorcycle Trauma Survivor, shares how he used Natural Alternative Treatments like Kangen Water and Laser Therapy to heal his brain and body in ways that pharmaceuticals couldn’t.

- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Sleep Disorders
- Anxiety & Depression
- Headaches
- Chronic Pain
- Gastro Problems

Order the book today at: http://rethinkredorewired.com
Father Inspires Son to Give Generously

By Stephanie Cohen, M.S., Development Manager, Brain Injury Association of America

As a psychology professor, Steven Roberts, Ph.D., is well aware of the complexities of the human brain. In addition to his background in psychology, Steven has also been personally affected by brain injury. His father was physically assaulted, resulting in a brain injury, and he was in a semi-conscious vegetative state for the final two years of his life. This experience changed how Steven viewed the human brain. He hopes that more people will learn about how brain injuries can alter someone’s entire reality.

“The brain is infinitely important and unimaginably complex, and I can think of few things worse than suffering a traumatic brain injury. It is therefore critically important for us to advance awareness, research, treatment, and education of such injuries, and to improve the lives of every single human being who is or who will be affected by them,” Steven shares.

After watching a documentary on brain injury where he learned about the Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA), Steven became a monthly donor to the organization. Steven hopes that his donations, in memory of his father, will help educate people about BIAA. As he explains, “You can’t support something you aren’t aware of,” so letting people know about the organization is one of his main priorities.

To become a monthly donor like Steven, contact us at development@biausa.org.
Honor Roll of DONORS
August 1, 2018 – October 31, 2018

HONORS

In honor of Amy McVary
Mrs. Carolyn Niosi

In honor of Blake Hutto
Mr. & Mrs. Don and Mary Duncan

In honor of Anthony Curtis
Active Autobody, Inc.

In honor of Anthony Loudermilk
Mr. & Mrs. Guy and Theresa Loudermilk

In honor of Charles Shoaf
Mrs. Tammy Shoaf

In honor of Darcie Smith Lang
Ms. Darcie Lang

In honor of David Dellucci
Ms. Nilufer Anlar

In honor of Eric P. Allen
Ms. Alice Allen

In honor of Humayun Mirza
Ms. Zareen Taj Mirza

In honor of Jenna Cummings
Ms. Lea Albertson

In honor of Josephine H. Detmer
Ms. Zareen Taj Mirza

In honor of Karen
Mr. & Mrs. Michael and Helen Harbowski

In honor of Karl Lankford
Ms. Norma Lankford

In honor of Kevin Hodgkinson
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond and June Hodgkinson

In honor of Krissy
Slim Roundtree

In honor of Michael Donovan
Ms. Katie Liesener

In honor of Michelle Marie Turchiano
Mr. Kenneth Parker

In honor of NeuroRestorative Clubhouse - Standish
Custom Ink, LLC

In honor of Patrick Bush
Mr. Mark Bush

In honor of Paul E. Crincoli
Ms. Eugenia Crincoli

In honor of Rhiannon Rose Scott
and my clients
Ms. Gina Labbate

In honor of Ronald M. Wright
Ms. Charisse Henley

In honor of Ryan Stoller
The Smith Family

In honor of Scott Braham
Mrs. Rena Hudson

In honor of Scotty
Dr. Debra Luczliewicz

In honor of Stephanie Ramsey
Dr. John Corrigan

In honor of Timothy Cusick
Ms. Deborah Cusick

In honor of U.S. Veterans with TBI
Ms. Diana Gustavson

MEMORIES

In memory of Archana Dey
Ms. Susan Begalka

In memory of Carlos Velasco
Mr. Aric Vander Werff

In memory of Charlene Miller
Mr. Ronald McConkey
Mrs. Gloria McConkey

In memory of Charles Walde
Mr. Robert Arnold

In memory of David Cone
Mrs. Linda Garrelieck

In memory of David Prendergast
Mr. & Mrs. Eric and Melissa Allen
Ms. Vidya Bala
Mr. Bob Brown
Ms. Michele Chadwick
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Garner
Mr. & Mrs. David and Lenette Swaim

In memory of Dr. Irving Feigenbaum
Mrs. Shirley Feigenbaum

In memory of Edmond Siegel
Ms. Sheryl Stolzenberg

In memory of
Elizabeth Hewitt McCarty Davis
Mr. John Mulligan

In memory of George W. Freas
Mr. Philip Enders
Mrs. Robyn Julian
Janice Lessman and Perry Funk
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen and Marie Morgan
Mr. & Mrs. Lewis and Janet Smith
Ms. Marie Smyth
In memory of Heyward Russell Casper, Sr.
Ms. Jane Hawkins Cauthen
Ms. Carol Glass
Ms. Cynthia Martin Farlow
Mr. Hubert Wilder

In memory of J. P. Liggott
Mr. & Mrs. Joe and Joanne Long

In memory of James "Lefty" Clark
Mrs. Carol Gribick

In memory of Jan Gravlee
Mr. & Mrs. Pete Hodo

In memory of Jared Harlan Feigenbaum
Mr. & Mrs. Robert and Roberta Feigenbaum
Mrs. Shirley Feigenbaum

In memory of Jeffery S. Dethlefs
Mr. Marshall Bond
Mr. & Mrs. Doug and Jane Bosse
Mr. & Mrs. Clark and Karen Eads
Ensemble Leadership Team White
Mr. Michael Haar
Miss Heather and Miss Ava Mardis
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Reynolds
Mrs. Irene Zemenides

In memory of John Burns Windsor III
Mr. & Mrs. John and Elizabeth Windsor

In memory of Joseph F. Hart
Ms. Jane Johnston

In memory of Karen A. Reitter
Ms. Linda Bryant
Ms. Mary S. Reitter

In memory of Karissa Peters
Ensemble Leadership Team White
Mihovk-Rosenacker Funeral Homes, Inc.
Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan and Maureen Ward
Mrs. Nancy Zarick

In memory of Laine Trubikoff
Mr. & Mrs. Alan and Adrieanne Silver

In memory of Larry Bennett
Mr. & Mrs. Paul and Barbara Martin

In memory of Leslie C. Wise
Ms. Maureen Wise

In memory of Lynos K. Swanson
Mr. & Mrs. Larry and Patricia Johnson
Ms. Monica Musich

In memory of M. Bernice Reitter
Ms. Mary S. Reitter

In memory of Maria Andrianopoulos
Mrs. Irene Zemenides

In memory of Martha Sharkey Spinelli
Ms. Sherry Crowl
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick and Albina Hannigan
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas and Mary Jane Pagano
Mr. & Mrs. Gregory and Theresa Waters

In memory of Michael Christopher Carey
Ms. Rosemary Carey

In memory of Michael E. Bedard
Ms. Debbie Buitron

In memory of Michael Richard Lostaunau
Mr. Soma Bockelman
Ms. Barbara Traum

In memory of Nicholas E. Popovich
Mr. & Mrs. James and Elizabeth Niehaus

In memory of Nicholas Vandoeselaar
Mrs. Lou Ann Cook
Ms. Tracy Frowein

In memory of Paul Lazarus
Ms. Shirley Cohen

In memory of Paul S. Cohen
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald and Debra Barker

In memory of Paul Vilbig
Anonymous

In memory of Roberta
Mrs. Donna Zides

In memory of Sky Lelo
Mrs. Vicki Skeers

In memory of Todd William Neil
Mr. & Mrs. Merlon and Sheila Amadon
Amoskeag Beverages
Mr. & Mrs. Glenn and Patricia Ashworth
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce and Janet Benoit
Mr. & Mrs. James and Dianne Chamberlin
and Jessica
Dr. & Mrs. Ronald and Madeleine Ducham
Mr. & Mrs. Bud and Linda Kelly
Ms. Natalie Levitan
Mr. Michael Makemant and Ms. Nancy Plauche
Mrs. Kelly Munro
Mr. & Mrs. James and Susan Neil
Red Parka Pub
Mr. & Mrs. Mark and Michaelanne Rowen
Ms. Sharon Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Edmond and Pam Talbot

In memory of William Palmtag
Mr. & Mrs. James and Joan Palmtag

SUPPORT

In support of the Brain Injury
Association of America's Birthday
Ms. Dawn Neumann

In support of Pass the Bass
Anonymous
Mr. Robert Coffee
Ms. Brooke Houston

In support of Ride for Lou
Mr. Top Gibbons
Ms. Christine Hyslip
Mr. Felix Jordan
Mrs. Deirdre McCaul
Ms. Susan Murray
Mrs. Carolyn Nee-Kavanaugh
Mrs. Jodi Watson

In support of the Christopher Conklin
Memorial Golf Tournament
Mr. & Mrs. Gordon and Doris Conklin
Ms. Valerie Manzo
Mr. & Mrs. Brian and Heather Walker
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas and Joanne Walker

Special thanks to individuals
who raised funds for or donated
in support of the National Brain
Injury Information Center.

(continued on page 18)
FUNDRAISERS
Ms. Adriana Angiolillo
Ms. Marla Beeson
Ms. Debbie Ennis St. Clair
Jamie Konrath
John Strand
Special Tree Rehabilitation System
Jeff Albright

DONORS
Ms. Carol Austin
Mr. Mike Beeson
Mrs. Carol Bisset
Mr. Michael Bush
Mr. Jon Curtis
Mr. William Dane
Ms. Shana De Caro
Mr. Alan Dishlip
Ms. Kimberly Hannan
Ms. Emily Hubert
Ms. Lynnette Hubett
Mr. Eduardo Lopez
Mr. Glenn Marcus
Ms. Mary Scott Rossi
Ms. Juli Star-Alexander
Mr. Bob Treat
Andi Volchok
Mr. & Mrs. Larry and Liz Volchok
Ms. Amy Zellmer

BIRTHDAY FUNDRAISERS
The Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA) is grateful for the individuals listed below who held fundraisers benefitting BIAA through Facebook for their birthdays. A complete list of donors to these fundraisers will be included in BIAA’s 2018 Annual Report.

Mr. Adam Albaugh
A. J. Michaels
Ms. Alexandra Antzoulato
Ms. Alexis Johnson
Ms. Allie Robinson
Ms. Allison Trivigno
Ms. Amanda Anders
Ms. Amanda Claire Jones

Mr. Amanda Lasek
Ms. Amanda Newman
Ms. Amanda Williams
Ms. Amy McCrady Mitchell
Ms. Angela Barbery
Ms. Angie Marie Hopkins
Ms. Ashley D. Adams
Ms. Ashley Murray
Ms. Ashley Nicole
Ms. Baileyann Berg
Ms. Becky Spaulding
Ms. Beth Gilbert
Mr. Blake Parker
Blame John
Mr. Brendan Steiger
Ms. Brianna Blackfire
Ms. Caitlin Dawn Jelsma
Ms. Cara Martinez
Ms. Carmen Nicole
Ms. Caroline Gavin
Ms. Caroline Jordan
Ms. Carrie Connelly
Ms. Carrie Mosher
Mr. Charles Jackson
Ms. Chelsea Pearson
Chris Whirl
Ms. Christine Trey-Shanklin
Mr. Christopher Pridgen
Ms. Daisie Ann Laflamme
Mr. Dane Udas
Mr. Dan-knee Cambuel
Ms. Diana Dardeen Cole
Ms. Dora Anne Davis
Mr. Dylan Haddix
Ms. Elba Santiago-Singh
Ms. Emily Aisner
Ms. Emily Parker
Mr. Francisco Javier Campos
Ms. Gina L’Abbate
Jamie Feil
Mr. Jason Storm
J-dogg Holland
Ms. Jean Edith
Ms. Jean Noterman
Mr. Jeff Pitts
Mr. Jeff Powers
Ms. Jennifer Lee
Ms. Jennifer Thorne

Mr. Jeremy Riley
Ms. Jessica Phillips
Mr. John Grcic
Mr. & Mrs. Juan and Kristy Trubac
Ms. Julie Post-Smith
Kanon Knaphus
Ms. Karlyn Swole Marie
Keeley Hibdon
Mr. Keith Pederson
Ms. Kimberly Munsey Carlton
Ms. Kirsten Patton
Ms. Kristian Paz
Ms. Kristin Dunaway
Ms. Lauren Hanlon
Ms. Lindsay Sosnowski
Ms. Lindsey Wilde
Ms. Luisa Marie Thane
Mr. Luke Ray
Lynde Doup
Magical Michelle
Ms. Margaret Diaz
Ms. Mariah Lopes
Ms. Marisa Craven
Ms. Marissa Braden
Mr. Mark Pormen
Mr. Mark Razniewski
Mr. Michael Hill
Mr. Michael Kearns
Ms. Michelle Lynch Evans
Mr. Mitch Candy-Jesus Adams
Ms. Molly Barr
Ms. Nakia Martin Alexander
Mr. Nate Patton
Mr. Nic Medina
Mr. Nick Smisek
Ms. Nicole Amber
Ms. Nicole Skadden Trotto
Ms. Paige Grasser
Ms. Pamela Diller Rudnicki
Ms. Rachel Lynn Epps
Mr. Randy Summers
Ms. Rebecca Bearden Welsh
Ms. Rebecca M. Hernandez
Ms. Rebekah A. Mohney
Ms. Regan Pasko
Ms. Rhonda Rhoads
Ms. Robin Bing Gostic
Russok Kay

Mr. Riley
Ms. Jessica Phillips
Mr. John Grcic
Mr. & Mrs. Juan and Kristy Trubac
Ms. Julie Post-Smith
Kanon Knaphus
Ms. Karlyn Swole Marie
Keeley Hibdon
Mr. Keith Pederson
Ms. Kimberly Munsey Carlton
Ms. Kirsten Patton
Ms. Kristian Paz
Ms. Kristin Dunaway
Ms. Lauren Hanlon
Ms. Lindsay Sosnowski
Ms. Lindsey Wilde
Ms. Luisa Marie Thane
Mr. Luke Ray
Lynde Doup
Magical Michelle
Ms. Margaret Diaz
Ms. Mariah Lopes
Ms. Marisa Craven
Ms. Marissa Braden
Mr. Mark Pormen
Mr. Mark Razniewski
Mr. Michael Hill
Mr. Michael Kearns
Ms. Michelle Lynch Evans
Mr. Mitch Candy-Jesus Adams
Ms. Molly Barr
Ms. Nakia Martin Alexander
Mr. Nate Patton
Mr. Nic Medina
Mr. Nick Smisek
Ms. Nicole Amber
Ms. Nicole Skadden Trotto
Ms. Paige Grasser
Ms. Pamela Diller Rudnicki
Ms. Rachel Lynn Epps
Mr. Randy Summers
Ms. Rebecca Bearden Welsh
Ms. Rebecca M. Hernandez
Ms. Rebekah A. Mohney
Ms. Regan Pasko
Ms. Rhonda Rhoads
Ms. Robin Bing Gostic
Russok Kay
Ms. Samantha Hampton
Ms. Sarah Dethlefs Tallet
Ms. Shannon Wooten
Mr. Shawn Morris
Shawnee Woolwine
Ms. Shayla Nguyen
Ms. Shelley Dale
Sidra Rednall
Ms. Susan Burns
Ms. Suzanne Sibner
Ms. Sylvia Nurick Blumberg
Ms. Tammy Bower Englert
Ms. Taryn L.
Ms. Tonia Bisson
Ms. Tracie Devault
Mr. Tyler James Givens
Mr. Tyler Monkoski
Mr. Victor Espinoza
Mr. Willie Davie
Yelena Goldin Frazier

Mr. David Edwards
Ms. Deborah Einhorn
Mr. Jerry Einolf
Mr. Aaron Epstein and Ms. Leora Wenger
Naureen Fisher
Mr. Dennis Fogarty
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence and Elizabeth Forte
Mr. Kenneth Freeman
Ms. Donna Gail
Dr. & Mrs. Rolf and Leslie Gainer
Ms. Lori Geer
Ms. Andrea Gilliard
Mr. & Mrs. Kirt and Catherine Grochowski
Ms. Monique Gumbs
Ms. Andrea Harrison
Mr. & Mrs. Vernon and Donna Hirt
Mr. Bob Huff
Ms. Jessica Huneycutt
Ms. Christina Hutchence
Mr. Ira Jefferson
Mr. Jon Johnson
Ms. Sonya Jordan
Dr. Christopher Kelly
Ms. Janet King
Mr. Tom Kurosaki
Ms. Marisa Lala
Mr. Ben Loft
Mr. Elliot Lubar
Mr. & Mrs. John and Florence Luna
Magellan Cares Foundation
Mr. Collin Maland
Ms. Sarah Mandes
Ms. Amanda Mast
Ms. Jo Ann McCalister
Mr. David McGlone
Mr. Nic Medina
Mr. & Mrs. Harold and Patricia Milam Jr.
Ms. Annette Miller
Ms. Laura Miller
Ms. Tricia Moore
Ms. Cathy Moran
Ms. Linda Moraed
Mr. Carlos Moreno
Ms. Judith Nadelman
NeuroRestorative
Mr. & Mrs. Dave and Elaine Nokes
Dr. Robert Novy
Mr. John Nowak

Mr. & Mrs. Stephen and Susan Pace
Mr. & Mrs. Robert and Martha Page
Ms. Karen Park
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel and Lori Pattermann
Ms. Beth Perry
Ms. Teresa Piskator
Ms. Lori Pujol
Ms. Joyce Rebar
Mr. & Mrs. Walter and M. Jean Reeves
Ms. Lisa Riczko
Asia Rios
Mr. Steven Roberts
Robin Hill Farm
Mr. Mark Ronza
Mr. Rob Sargent
Dr. Ariel Savitz
Ms. Adeline Scaliarini
Mr. James Schmitt
Ms. Lisa Sievers
Ms. Linda J. Smith
Mrs. Sally A. Smith
Dr. Whitney Sunderland
Ms. Kala Thaivalappil
The Garrett and Mary Moran Family Foundation
The Pew Charitable Trusts Employee Matching Gifts Program
Ms. Jessica Ticzon
Ms. Emily Tran
Trust
Mr. Philip Vanaria
Ms. Diane Waller
Ms. Robin Waters
Ms. Margaret Wiermanski
Ms. Judith Will
Ms. Jessica Wilson-Silas
Mr. Simon Younger
Ms. Jean Ziegenhorn

Thank You!

WWW.BIAUSA.ORG 19
New Date: Brain Injury Awareness Day on Capitol Hill is March 13, 2019

The Congressional Brain Injury Task Force will host Brain Injury Awareness Day on Capitol Hill on Wednesday, March 13, 2019. Please save the date and join the Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA) in Washington, D.C., to advocate for access to care for individuals with brain injury. As in years past, there will be a brain injury awareness fair in the Rayburn House Office Building Foyer followed by a briefing and reception in the Gold Room in the Rayburn House Office Building. Visit www.biausa.org for more information.

TBI Act Sent to the President for Signature

The U.S. House of Representatives passed the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Reauthorization Act of 2018, H.R. 6615 Dec. 11. The bill was introduced by Congressional Brain Injury Task Force Co-chairs Reps. Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-N.J.) and Tom Rooney (R-Fla.). The Senate favorably passed the TBI Reauthorization Act Dec. 18. The Senate version of the bill was voted on by the House of Representatives Dec. 19. The bill is to be signed by the President before the Christmas break.

The Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) voted in favor of S.3657, the TBI Program Reauthorization Act of 2018, Nov. 29. The Senate bill was introduced Nov. 27 and is sponsored by Sens. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) and Bob Casey (D-Pa.).

The bill reauthorizes programs administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ (HHS) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Administration for Community Living (ACL) through fiscal year 2024. The legislation allows CDC to establish a concussion surveillance program and authorizes an additional $5 million each year for implementation and administration of the program. The bill also specifies that the State Partnership Grant and the Protection & Advocacy Grant programs will be administered by ACL. The authorization level for the State Grant program was increased from $5,500,000 to $7,321,000 for fiscal years 2020 through 2024, and the state grants for protection and advocacy services from $3,100,000 to $4,000,000 for fiscal years 2020 through 2024.

BIAA Attends the Celebration of NIDILRR’s 40th Anniversary

ACL hosted a 40th anniversary celebration of the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) Oct. 18 in the Great Hall of the Hubert H. Humphrey Building in Washington, D.C. BIAA attended the event, which brought together directors from throughout NIDILRR’s history, featured accomplishments and contributions made to the field by NIDILRR grantees, and focused on the future direction of disability, independent living, and rehabilitation research.
Democrats Fail to Overturn Rule on Short-term, Limited Duration Insurance Plans

Senate Democrats unsuccessfully attempted to overturn the Trump Administration’s rule allowing short-term, limited-duration health insurance plans – referred to as “junk plans,” which are not required to cover people with pre-existing conditions and often exclude basic health services including emergency care, rehabilitation, mental health, prescription drugs, treatment for substance use, and maternity care. The measure failed in a 50-50 vote with Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine) joining the Democrats.

President Signs FAA Bill that Includes Passengers with Disabilities Bill of Rights

President Trump signed the Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization Act of 2018. The law includes the Airline Passengers with Disabilities Bill of Rights and increases civil penalties for harm done to passengers with disabilities or their wheelchairs and mobility aids, in October. The bill requires airlines to use “plain language” to spell out the rights of passengers with disabilities and includes provisions to ensure passengers with disabilities receive timely assistance and seating accommodations if requested. The law requires airline employees and contractors to undergo training on its bill of rights, as well as training for Transportation Security Administration (TSA) officials regarding screening passengers with disabilities. The law also directs the Department of Transportation to set a final rule for service animals on planes in the next 18 months, including service animal definitions and minimum standards.

President Signs Spending Bill

President Trump signed fiscal year 2019 appropriations for the Departments of Defense (DoD), Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (LHHS). Several continuing resolutions (CR) funded the remaining government programs until December 2018. At press time, a CR for the remaining programs in 2019 is unsure.

(continued on page 22)
This is the first time in more than 20 years that Congress has passed a LHHS appropriations bill and the first time in more than ten years that it has passed a DoD appropriations bill prior to the end of the fiscal year. As reported previously, Congress appropriated level funding for the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Act programs with regard to ACL State Partnership Grant and Protection & Advocacy TBI Grant programs as well as the CDC National Injury Center TBI program. The bill provides a $4 million increase to ACL’s NIDILRR to fund competitive grants to advance research that help individuals with disabilities, with a particular emphasis on seniors, to maintain or improve independence. The DoD appropriations included additional funding for TBI and psychological health research.

**BIAA Opposes CVS Caremark Drug Coverage Policy**

BIAA joined more than 90 organizations in sending a letter to CVS Caremark opposing a new policy that would discriminate against individuals with disabilities and chronic illnesses. CVS recently announced that it would offer new insurance plans that exclude drugs if they exceed a subjective “cost-effectiveness” measure. This approach discriminates against people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups, including older adults, because it assigns higher value to people in “perfect health” than people in less-than-perfect health.

**CDC Releases New Guideline on Pediatric Mild Traumatic Brain Injury (Concussion)**

CDC’s new Pediatric Mild Traumatic Brain Injury (mTBI) Guideline was published in JAMA Pediatrics. The Guideline consists of 19 sets of clinical recommendations that are applicable to healthcare providers who care for patients with mTBI in all settings, and seeks to improve the care of young patients with this injury. The report includes five key practice-changing recommendations:

1. Do not routinely image pediatric patients to diagnose.
2. Use validated, age-appropriate symptom scales to diagnose mTBI.
3. Assess for risk factors for prolonged recovery, including: a history of mTBI or other brain injury, severe symptom presentation immediately after the injury, and personal characteristics and family history (such as learning difficulties and family and social stressors).
4. Provide patients with instructions on returning to activity customized to their symptoms.
5. Counsel patients to return gradually to non-sports activities after no more than two to three days of rest.

**House Democratic Caucus Elects Leadership**

The House Democratic Caucus elected Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) to serve as Speaker of the House next year, a position she previously held from 2007-2011. Democrats also elected Reps. Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) as Majority Leader and James Clyburn (D-S.C.) as Majority Whip. The House will hold a floor vote for leadership positions Jan. 3, when the new 116th Congress convenes. The Democratic party won the majority in the House of Representatives in the midterm election; majority in the United States Senate remained Republican.
FLORIDA

The Brain Injury Association of Florida (BIAF) is proudly closing 2018 with many successes. BIAF concluded its 2018 Camp TBi season having held five regional camps throughout the state: Winter Park, Plantation, Deland, Panama City, and Mt. Dora. The regional format enabled BIAF to reignite the greatest hallmarks of Camp TBi while increasing the accessibility of camp and sharing the benefits with almost twice as many survivors and caregivers as last year’s statewide camp. Please visit www.biaf.org for the 2019 Camp TBi schedule.

Camp TBi attendees listen to the welcome session.

Camp TBi volunteers celebrate a successful event.

(continued on page 24)
With fiscal review and strict management, BIAF now commits 91 cents of every dollar directly to its programs, services, and resources, an increase of 6 percent from last year. Furthermore, BIAF resource facilitation coordinators are on pace to make more than 4,000 unique connections with brain injury survivors and their families in 2018.

The Rocchio family and the brain injury community lost a great advocate and hero, Tim Rocchio, earlier this year. Tim was the son of the BIAF’s founder, Carolyn Rocchio. Tim will always exist in our memories, our hearts, and our laughter.

Special Note: The BIAF would like to extend our sincerest thanks to all of those that reached out to us in the wake of Hurricane Michael. Thankfully, BIAF staff families and executive offices sustained minimal damage. We thank you all for your concern and continued support of BIAF!

MAINE

The Brain Injury Association of America – Maine Chapter (BIAA-ME) held its ninth annual conference, “Defining Moments in Brain Injury,” at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in South Portland Oct. 16. Susan Connors, BIAA’s president and CEO, gave the keynote. Tina and Tom Callahan, accompanied by music therapist Patricia Mulholland, delivered the Beverly Bryant Memorial Lecture. Approximately 275 people, including nearly 80 survivors and family members, attended the conference. BIAA-ME also held its fourth Bowling for Brain Injury℠ event, which took place Dec. 2 at Spare Time Portland. For more information about BIAA-ME, visit www.biausa.org/maine.
MASSACHUSETTS

The Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts (BIA-MA) is thrilled to announce that it advocated for and secured an additional $750,000 dollars, for a total of $16,364,075, on behalf of the Statewide Head Injury Program under the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission. The additional money will maintain current services and supplement the Head Injury Treatment Services Trust Fund.

In an outside section of FY ’19 budget, the state legislature voted to re-establish the Brain Injury Commission. The Commission will review data concerning the epidemiology of brain injury, make findings regarding the status of rehabilitative support services, and make recommendations regarding the improvement of support services.

Unfortunately, the legislative calendar did not provide enough time to pass the Cognitive Rehabilitation bill. This bill, which BIA-MA will continue to champion, would require commercial health insurance plans to cover cognitive rehabilitation for persons with brain injury. The bill will be re-filed in January 2020.

MICHIGAN

The Brain Injury Association of Michigan’s (BIAMI) 38th Annual Fall Conference broke its attendance record with 1,688 attendees and 150 exhibitors. The conference featured a panel on the Flint Water Crisis and a Voter Rights Training presentation for persons with disabilities. The Flint Panel provided an overview of the events that caused the crisis, what remains to be done, and how the brain injury provider community can help. The Voter Rights Training was one of many training presentations that took place across the state during August and September covering voters’ rights, voting options available to people with disabilities, and available options and ideas to ensure a person’s right to vote.

BIAMI was fortunate to have two terrific keynote speakers, Amy Blankson and Chris Ulmer. Ms. Blankson spoke on happiness in a digital era and is the best-selling author of “The Future of Happiness.” Mr. Ulmer’s keynote included moving interviews and testimonial videos that he has taken of kids living with special needs across the country.
MISSOURI

More than 150 professionals attended the Brain Injury Association of Missouri (BIA-MO) 14th Annual Statewide Professional Conference in Chesterfield Oct. 4-5. National and local experts addressed best practices in rehabilitation as well as medical and mental health care. The conference agenda featured employment options for individuals with brain injury in rural and urban communities, examined the brain injury continuum of care, and discussed self-advocacy in a healthcare setting.

The post-conference Survivor & Family Seminar provided 175 individuals with practical suggestions for life with brain injury. The seminar featured an awards luncheon and annual meeting recognizing survivors of brain injury, key volunteers, and community leaders for their courage, prevention efforts, and fundraising to create a better future for persons with brain injury and their families in Missouri. Kathryn Dixon received the 2018 BIA-MO Lifetime Achievement Award for her exceptional impact as a Support Group Facilitator for more than 30 years. BIA-MO also presented educational scholarships to six survivors of brain injury pursuing post-secondary education.

These scholarships are supported by SSM Health Rehabilitation Network, Griggs Injury Law, and the BIA-MO Jim & Lori Winter Scholarship Fund.

BIA-MO collaborated with the Missouri AgrAbility Project at the Missouri Rural Health Conference Aug. 22-23 to inform health care, social work, and community professionals about agriculture as a self-employment option for the individuals they serve. For more information, visit www.biamo.org.

NORTH CAROLINA

The Brain Injury Association of North Carolina (BIANC) created an Online Crisis Management and De-escalation course, found at www.biancteach.net, to promote positive interactions between individuals with brain injury and first responders, including law enforcement, emergency response staff, and firefighters, in crises. The training course delivers a deeper understanding of brain injury and the brain, details experiences of individuals with brain injury and their family members, and presents practical scenarios and strategies for first responders. Senior Training Officer MJ Macario narrates the training. Working for the Raleigh Police Department at the Raleigh Police Training Center, Officer Macario has prepared hundreds of recruits for the rigors of police work. His advice to fellow officers is, “Be ready, be patient, be professional! The formula is simple – treat everyone as you would want to be treated in similar circumstances.”

BIANC continues to collaborate with local management entities and managed care organizations, law enforcement, and first responders to enhance knowledge and understanding of brain injury and promote the availability and importance of the training course. Visit www.bianc.net for more information about this free training course.
PENNSYLVANIA

The Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania (BIAPA) held Brain Injury Awareness Day Sept. 15 in Harrisburg with great success! Kevin McDonald and Melissa Carmen did an amazing job planning and organizing the day, which began with a Brain Injury Awareness Rally at the Pennsylvania State Capitol. More than 80 individuals visited legislators to educate them about the needs of individuals with brain injury. A panel of brain injury survivors and caregivers shared their experiences later in the day, followed by a reception honoring retiring Sen. Stewart Greenleaf (R-Bucks), a longtime champion for the brain injury community in Pennsylvania.

RHODE ISLAND

The Brain Injury Association of Rhode Island (BIARI) celebrated its emerald anniversary at the Hidden Treasure Gala, held at the Providence Biltmore Sept. 28. More than 200 friends attended the gala in celebration of the 35 years that the Association has dedicated to increasing awareness of brain injury and its consequences and providing education and advocacy in the community. As emerald symbolizes growth and reflection, the evening celebrated the growth of BIARI as well as reflecting back to its beginnings. To that end, BIARI honored one of its founders, Linda Densmore, with the BIARI Founders Award. After Linda’s husband sustained life-threatening injuries, including a traumatic brain injury, her life and the life of her family were catastrophically changed. Linda sought assistance for support and guidance and, finding no resources in Rhode Island, reached out to the Massachusetts Head Injury Association. It was then that she and a dedicated group of volunteers created what is now known as the Brain Injury Association of Rhode Island.

BIARI also awarded Veterans Assembled electronics (VAe) with the 2018 Corporate Partner Leadership Award. BIARI is proud to honor its past and celebrate the next 35 years of bringing awareness of brain injury and its consequences to the public, providing information and education, and supporting the needs of those with brain injury.

The National Partnership for Juvenile Services announced a position statement Sept. 21 entitled “Identifying and Responding to Youth with Brain Injury in the Juvenile Justice System.” The statement was informed by the work of the Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice Project, an initiative of the Pennsylvania Department of Health implemented by BIAPA. The purpose of the statement is to establish best practices within the state juvenile justice system. For more information about BIAPA’s work, visit www.biapa.org.

Linda Densmore receives BIARI’s Founders Award at the BIARI Hidden Treasure Gala.

(continued on page 28)
VERMONT

The Brain Injury Association of Vermont (BIAVT) attended the National Association of Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA) State of the States conference and met with Administration for Community Living (ACL) staff regarding the Vermont ACL grant. The workgroups are starting to work on the grant goals and BIAVT will be partnering with the State of Vermont.

The 30th Annual Brain Injury Conference Oct. 9 was well attended and received. The Governor’s Awards were given to Jodie Casarico for Survivor of the Year, Dawn Peeters for Professional of the Year, Burlington Subaru/Hyundai for Employer of the Year, and Bryce Healy for Caregiver of the Year.

BIAVT’s Annual Walk for Thought, rebranded as Walk and Roll for Brain Injury, occurs in Montpelier May 18, 2019. For more information, visit www.biavt.org.
All parents dread the phone call telling them that their child has been in an accident. When 16-year-old Kaitlyn Johanson was in a motor vehicle accident, her parents were in two different states. Her father, Brian, had just started a new job in Wisconsin and was completing his training in Ohio. Kaitlyn’s mother and brother were home in Minnesota. Brian flew back home to find his daughter on a respirator with a traumatic brain injury, neck injury, and skull and cheekbone fractures. "Kaitlyn’s Hope: One Family’s Journey through Traumatic Brain Injury" by Brian Johanson recounts the family’s long road to recovery after brain injury. The story practically gives readers a day-to-day account of Kaitlyn’s medical condition and her care, some of which was taken from real entries in the Johansons’ online health journals on CaringBridge, a website they used to update family and friends during trauma.

Brian needed to keep his new job, so he traveled to Wisconsin during the week and returned home on weekends. He writes about the frustration of not being there all the time for the family and marvels at his wife’s strength. Throughout the book, you see how Brian and his wife face medical ups and downs with poise and come to know their hopes and fears as if you’re sitting in the room with them.

The Johanson’s amazing support network – their family, their church, their neighbors, and the children’s school and activity groups – banded together to help. From hosting fundraisers to bringing meals and pet sitting, many people pitched in so the family could get through the roughest times.

Kaitlyn’s Hope provides a great description of brain injury rehabilitation and portrays the small, incredible progress made over the course of treatment. You have to laugh when Kaitlyn, who initially couldn’t talk, starts saying “no” to people, and the lengths that staff and family go to in order to get her cooperation.

Upcoming WEBINARS

David Strauss Memorial Clinical Webinar – Neuroendocrine Function after Brain Injury
January 10, 2019, 3 p.m. ET/12 p.m. PT
Lisa Kreber, Ph.D., CBIST, Centre for Neuro Skills

Business of Brain Injury Webinar – “But They Said I’d Be Rich!” Protecting Vulnerable Populations from Exploitation
January 16, 2019, 3 p.m. EST/12 p.m. PST
Katherine McKenzie-Meredith, Psy.D., and Brian White, MRC, M.S., LPC, CRC

Carolyn Rocchio Caregivers Webinar – Taste and Smell Issues after Brain Injury
January 31, 2019, 3 p.m. EST/12 p.m. PST
Ronald Devere, M.D., Taste and Smell Disorder Clinic

David Strauss Memorial Clinical Webinar – Spasticity after Brain Injury
February 7, 2019, 3 p.m. ET/12 p.m. PT
Cindy Ivanhoe, M.D., FACRM

Business of Brain Injury Webinar – Clubhouse Works! Full Participation in Rehabilitation
April 17, 2019, 3 p.m. EST/12 p.m. PST
Cindi Johnson, M.A., CBIST

News & NOTES

BIAA Releases New Brand Video

The Brain Injury Association of America’s (BIAA) new video describes the organization’s work against the backdrop of one young man’s injury and fight for recovery. The video features gunshot victim Michael Ross and his mother, Bridgette Brown, as well as the Association’s President and CEO Susan Connors, Board Chairman Emeritus Dr. Mark Ashley, and National Medical Director Dr. Brent Masel.

The video was filmed at TIRR Memorial Hermann Hospital and the Centre for Neuro Skills near Houston, Texas.

BIAA is grateful to Board member Shana De Caro and her partner Michael Kaplen, who nominated the Association for the all-expenses paid production by Crisp Video.

“We hoped to capture the reality of brain injury and its impact on everyone – the individual, the family, the treatment team – to emphasize why we do what we do at BIAA,” said Susan Connors.

You can watch the video on BIAA’s Facebook page or at www.biausa.org.

---

ADVERTISER INDEX

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advertiser and Website</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anthony Aquan-Assee Enterprises</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>........................................................................... <a href="http://www.anthonyaquan-assee.com">www.anthonyaquan-assee.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beechwood Rehabilitation Services</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>........................................................................... <a href="http://www.BeechwoodNeuroRehab.org">www.BeechwoodNeuroRehab.org</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hope Network Neuro Rehabilitation</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>........................................................................... <a href="http://www.hopenetworkrehab.org">www.hopenetworkrehab.org</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Lighthouse Neurological Rehabilitation Center</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>........................................................................... <a href="http://www.lighthouserehab.com">www.lighthouserehab.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montero Law Center</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>........................................................................... <a href="http://www.monterolaw.com">www.monterolaw.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainbow Rehabilitation Centers</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>........................................................................... <a href="http://www.rainbowrehab.com">www.rainbowrehab.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Tree</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>........................................................................... <a href="http://www.specialtree.com">www.specialtree.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation Programs for People of all Ages

There's no better place to heal!

With multiple residential programs, five treatment centers, a NeuroRehab Campus® and three vocational centers, Rainbow Rehabilitation Centers offers services that span nearly every aspect of brain injury rehabilitation and spinal cord injury rehabilitation. From hospital discharge to community re-entry, Rainbow Rehabilitation Centers has programs to treat each client with optimal care at every stage of their rehabilitation. There's no better place to heal!

To schedule a tour or to speak with an Admissions team member, call 800.968.6644

rainbowrehab.com
The Corporate Partners Program gives rehabilitation providers, long-term care facilities, attorneys, and other leaders in the field a variety of opportunities to support the Brain Injury Association of America’s advocacy, awareness, information, and education programs. BIAA is grateful to the Corporate Partners for their financial contributions and the many volunteer hours their companies devote to spreading help, hope, and healing nationwide.

For more information on how to become part of the Brain Injury Association of America Corporate Partners Program, please visit the sponsorship and advertising page at www.biausa.org or contact Carrie Mosher at 703-761-0750, ext. 640 or cmosher@biausa.org.