

CONNECTIONS

FALL 2009

5TH ANNUAL BIA-MO STATEWIDE CONFERENCE— JOIN US SEPTEMBER 30–OCTOBER 3, 2009

The Brain Injury Association of Missouri 5th Annual Statewide Conference is an educational opportunity for healthcare professionals as well as survivors of brain injury and their families. This year's conference, September 30 through October 3, will be held at St. Charles Convention Center in St. Charles, Missouri. This is the only conference in Missouri established to specifically address issues relating to brain injury.

The conference theme, *Creating a Better Future*, features nationally and locally recognized speakers. Keynote speakers include Col. (Select) Michael Jaffee, MD, Director of the Defense of Veterans Brain Injury Center; Senator Robin Wight-Jones, 5th Senatorial District of Missouri; Jay M. Uomoto, Ph.D, University of Washington; and Darcy L. Keith, *The Queen of Survival*.

Conference sessions on Wednesday through Friday will focus on topics of interest for healthcare professionals, rehabilitation specialists, physicians, neuropsychologists, vocational rehabilitation coordinators, social workers, case managers and others who work in the field of brain injury. On Saturday, October 3, a special seminar will be offered free of charge for survivors of brain injury and their families.

Session topics include:

- Current Legislation and Promoting the Impact of Grassroots Efforts
- Understanding Guardianship
- Memory Compensation Following Brain Injury
- Helping Families Get the Most Out of IEPs
- Identifying and Managing Vision Problems Following Brain Injury
- An Introduction to Traumatic Brain Injury: Medical, Neuropsychological, and Behavioral Correlates
- Driving After Brain Injury
- Sports Concussion: The Hidden Challenge

The Saturday sessions will also include a panel of long-term survivors of brain injury who will share their experiences; and another panel of professionals to answer questions.

New at this year's conference is a Survivors' Creativity Showcase & Sale. This is a unique opportunity for survivors of brain injury to display and sell their artwork, and for conference guests to purchase gifts for themselves and loved ones.

The Exhibit Hall will be open throughout the conference with service providers, government agencies and non-profit organizations available to discuss their programs and services.

At the Awards Luncheon and BIA-MO Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 3, key supporters, volunteers and survivors will be recognized for their efforts in creating a better future for individuals with brain injury and their families. The luncheon and meeting are free. Registration is required.

We hope you will participate in the BIA-MO 5th Annual Statewide Conference. There are many ways to become involved:

Your Sponsorship helps keep this conference affordable for professionals in the field of brain injury and free for survivors and families attending Saturday sessions.



For attendees, the conference is a great opportunity to learn more about brain injury for families, friends, and clients as well as yourself.

Continuing Education Units may be available for nurses, speech pathologists, case managers and rehabilita-

tion service providers/vocational counselors.

A BIA-MO conference rate of \$129 plus applicable taxes per night has been negotiated at the Embassy Suites St. Louis—St. Charles Hotel. The hotel is adjacent to the St. Charles Convention Center. Reservations must be made by September 10, 2009, to receive this special conference rate.

Attendance registration for the BIA-MO 5th Annual Statewide Conference is requested by September 14, 2009. Visit our website at www.biamo.org for registration information or call 314-426-4024 or 1-800-377-6442.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT SPONSORSHIPS OR EXHIBITING WITH THE BIA-MO 5TH ANNUAL STATEWIDE CONFERENCE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.BIAMO.ORG OR CALL THE BIA-MO OFFICE AT 314.426.4024 OR 1-800-377-6442.

MAUREEN'S MESSAGE



MAUREEN CUNNINGHAM
BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF MISSOURI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This past year as executive director of the Brain Injury Association of Missouri has flown past so quickly I hardly had time to turn the calendar pages, much less mark all the successes and support from every corner of the state.

Thank you for a wonderful and results-filled first year with the Brain Injury Association of Missouri (BIA-MO).

This past year has included successful events such as the 21st Annual Charity Golf Tournament and Boots & Spurs. Our annual statewide

conference was praised for the quality of speakers and variety of topics. The BIA-MO Family Seminar educational program in Springfield was free for survivors and families, thanks to our sponsors. And that was just the first few months of my first year.

Our first annual Membership Campaign increased awareness of the importance of membership and helped launch the Membership Memo newsletter. The Donald Danforth Jr. Wilderness Camp was filled with activities and laughter throughout the day, and singing, talking and laughing into the night. The most recent success – and one we should all applaud - is our strong grassroots efforts and collaborations with various organizations that resulted in Governor Jay Nixon's veto of Senate Bill 202. This bill keeps Missouri's universal helmet law strong and saving lives.

These accomplishments are just the beginning as excitement and anticipation builds for 2010.

The Brain Injury Association of Missouri is currently conducting a strategic plan. Through a grant, we are utilizing a professional planning consultant who recently conducted surveys with numerous individuals associated with BIA-MO.

Survey participants included survivors and family members who participate in our programs, volunteers who work in various capacities with the organization, donors who make financial contributions, and representatives of service providers in the field of brain injury. The survey captured individuals' perceptions of BIA-MO and their suggestions for our organizational future.

The Board of Directors is assessing the survey results to determine priorities for BIA-MO for the next three years. This strategic plan will be the basis for three more results-filled years as together we serve individuals with brain injury, their families and caregivers as well as the community.

There are several ways you can prepare for the initiatives of the BIA-MO strategic plan.

- (1) Share information about BIA-MO and our services with at least one individual within the next week.
- (2) Make a financial contribution to BIA-MO so funding is available for strategic initiatives.
- (3) Encourage your family, friends and business associates to become members of the Brain Injury Association of Missouri.
- (4) Help reduce printing and postage costs by receiving newsletters, mailings, and other important information electronically. Please send an email to Betsy Liberatore at BLiberatore@biamo.org.

UPCOMINGEVENTS

JOURNEY FOR HOPE WALK & 5K RUN

September 19, 2009

8:00am Registration

1:00pm Bob Bennett Benefit Concert

Mathewson Exhibition Center, Missouri State Fairgrounds, Sedalia, MO

To raise awareness and support brain injury programs across Missouri. BIA-MO will receive 50% of the proceeds from this event.

For more information contact Brenda Kurz, 660-829-1426.

BIA-MO 5TH ANNUAL STATEWIDE CONFERENCE

September 30 –October 3, 2009

St. Charles Convention Center, St. Charles, MO

September 30 – Friday, October 2, 2009

BIA-MO Members	\$135	Survivors	\$60
Non-Members	\$185	Student	\$65
Family Members	\$75		

Saturday, October 3, 2009
Seminar and Awards Banquet
Free – Registration Required

Registrations requested by September 15, 2009.

Reservation deadline at the Embassy Suites Hotel – St. Charles is September 10.

Registration and Sponsorship information available at www.biamo.org or by calling 314-426-4024. Toll-free number is 1-800-377-6442.

BOOTS AND SPURS

October 17, 2009

Cedar Creek Conference Center
New Haven, Missouri

Golf - 3:00 pm shotgun start
Two-person 9-hole scramble

Evening Activities:
Dinner, Texas Hold'em
Tournament, Live Band

Hotel Accommodations on a first-come first-serve basis.

For additional information
www.bootsandspurs.net

2009 ADVOCACY REPORT

Governor Jay Nixon vetoed Senate Bill (SB) 202! Thank you to the many individuals who contacted Governor Nixon to encourage him to veto SB 202, which would have repealed Missouri's all-rider motorcycle helmet law. **Our voices were heard!**

In his statement on July 2, 2009, regarding his veto, Governor Nixon said, "In terms of lives and of dollars, the cost of repealing Missouri's helmet law simply would have been too high. By keeping Missouri's helmet law intact, we will save numerous lives, while also saving Missouri taxpayers millions of dollars in increased health care costs. Keeping our helmet law in place was the safe and cost-effective choice for Missouri."

Other highlights of the First Regular Legislative Session of the 95th Missouri General Assembly include additional funding for vocational rehabilitation and the Department of Mental Health.

House Bill (HB) 2 will allow the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) to utilize a state-match of \$403,311 to draw down all available funding for vocational rehabilitation services for Missouri residents. In addition, federal stimulus money will be used to provide vocational rehabilitation services to decrease the DVR Wait List (HB 21). DVR programs also received supplemental funding of \$5.7 million (HB 15).

Through HB 10, the Missouri Department of Mental Health (DMH) received an increase of \$15.4 million for Caseload Growth and Caseload Growth Cost-to-Continue. This \$15.4 million is divided among Developmental Disabilities (DD), Comprehensive Psychiatric Services (CPS) and Alcohol and Drug Abuse (ADA) programs.

In addition, \$2.2 million was allotted for DMH to provide in-home services for approximately 300 young adults with developmental disabilities who are transitioning out of the public school system into DD services.

Advocacy and educating elected officials are critical in the Brain Injury Association of Missouri's efforts to reduce the incidences of brain injury, to promote acceptance, independence and productivity of persons with brain injury, and to support their families and caregivers. Your help is needed as we continue to educate elected officials in Jefferson City and our communities about the challenges and realities of living with brain injury.

To receive Advocacy Alert emails regarding legislative issues that may affect survivors of brain injury and their families, please contact the Brain Injury Association of Missouri at Staff@biamo.org, 314-426-4024 or 1-800-377-6442.



BELIEVE IT OR NOT

Most people agree that the economy has been better than it is today. Some of you also may remember a time when it has been worse.

Many stock portfolios have recently seen significant decreases, but gains are starting to return. This is good news. Many of these portfolios include stocks that have continued to produce returns or have returned to an appreciated level. Some reports say that many stocks, even today, are higher than their value in 2002.

If you are considering a year-end gift to the Brain Injury Association but writing a check would be a hardship, consider donating appreciated stock. Through stock donations you receive a tax deduction for the value of the donated stock on the transaction date.

You can also plan for a future gift through a bequest in your will or

beneficiary on a life insurance policy. These planned gifts can be an exact dollar amount, a specific shares of stocks, a percentage of your investment portfolio, or the remainder of your assets after distribution to family members.

When you include BIA-MO in your will or other planned giving options, please provide your attorney or financial planner with our Federal Tax ID: 43-1262556, and our current mailing address: Brain Injury Association of Missouri, 10270 Page Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63132.

For more information about planned giving options, please contact your financial planner or Maureen Cunningham, BIA-MO Executive Director, 1-800-377-6442, 314-426-4024 or MCunningham@biamo.org.

BIA-MO PROGRAM PARTNERS

As you plan your year-end gift and/or prepare your company's 2010 budget, please remember the Brain Injury Association of Missouri *Program Partners* gift. Your *Program Partners* gift will help the 3,000 individuals and families served by the Brain Injury Association of Missouri (BIA-MO) each year.

Program Partner gifts can support the implementation of any services or a specific program offered by BIA-MO. Services include information about community resources, emotional and social support, and recreational activities for survivors of brain injury.

Education programs help survivors and their family and friends accept and fully live their new life with brain injury. Education and training for healthcare professionals increases knowledge about brain injury and effective methods of treatment. Outreach and advocacy efforts focus on prevention of brain injury.

Your support as a *Program Partner* will make a difference for individuals and families affected by brain injury. *Program Partners* will be recognized at events and activities related to your partnership and on the Brain Injury Association of Missouri website, www.biamo.org.

Following is a list of ways you can be a *Program Partner* and make a difference for 3000 individuals and families living with brain injury.

Points of Light Leadership Gifts

An annual Points of Light leadership gift of \$500 or more supports all programs of the Brain Injury Association of Missouri.

Support and Recreational Programs

Support Groups

Support Group Partners sponsor a local support group for families recently affected by brain injury and those experienced with living with brain injury. Support groups gather each month to discuss their frustrations, challenges and successes as well as gain insight and support. (\$1,500 sponsorship)



Donald Danforth Jr. Wilderness Camp

Camp Partners underwrite this unique week-long organized activity specifically for adults with brain injury. Sponsorship opportunities include: *Wilderness Partner* (\$5,000), *Campfire Partner* (\$3,500), *Transportation Partner* (\$2,000), and *Wonderland Dance Partner* (\$1,000).

Social Activities

Party Partners provide opportunities for survivors and family members to enjoy activities in a social environment with those who truly understand life with brain injury. (\$1,500)

Educational Programs

Statewide Professional Educational Conference

Conference Partners help keep this educational program affordable for professionals in the field of brain injury. Opportunities include: *Host Sponsor* (\$5,000), *Event Sponsor* (\$2,500), *Keynote Sponsor* (\$1,000) and *Break Sponsor* (\$500).



Survivor and Family Seminar – St. Louis (October 3, 2009) or Springfield (March 27, 2010)

Seminar Sponsors ensure this program remains free for survivors and families as they seek to understand the changes in their lives and explore options to make informed decisions. Opportunities include: *Host Partner* (\$2,500), *Keynote Partner* (\$1,000) and *Break Partner* (\$500)

Community Education and Outreach

Prevention Education

Prevention Partners support helps educate community, school and civic groups on ways to not become one of the 3.7 million individuals who sustain a brain injury each year. (\$1,500)

BIA-MO Newsletter

Newsletter Sponsors helps reach more than 2,000 individuals who receive the BIA-MO newsletter in both print and electronic format. (\$2,000)

For more information about *Program Partner* opportunities and affiliated recognition, please contact Maureen Cunningham, BIA-MO Executive Director, at 314-426-4024 or MCunningham@biamo.org.



THANK YOU FOR CAMP

The BIA-MO Donald Danforth Jr. Wilderness Camp was a week full of fun and activities for 86 campers.

We thank the individuals, organizations and foundations that provided scholarship assistance for many of the campers. Donations to the Brain Injury Association of Missouri throughout the year help underwrite expenses to keep this program affordable for survivors and their families.

Frank G., a first-time camper, shared his appreciation.

Thank you for letting me go to camp. I had fun and hope I can go again next year.

Frank G.

P.S. I really liked the boat rides. The campfire was fun so was Trivia Night and the bar-b-que. I had fun meeting new people. Hope I get to go next year.



PLAY "FORE" THE FUTURE PROVIDES FOR THE FUTURE

The Brain Injury Association of Missouri 22nd Annual Charity Golf Tournament was held on Sunday, August 23 at the Norman K. Probst Community Golf Course in Forest Park, St. Louis. This was a day of fun and golf, but the purpose was the future.

Proceeds from Play "Fore" the Future help provide services for survivors of brain injuries and their families. The Brain Injury Association offers Informational & Referral Services to help survivors and families find community resources during the roller-coaster of uncertainty in the days, months and years following brain injury. Our support groups help individuals and families know they are not alone as they face new challenges, overcome obstacles and celebrate advancements. Campers at the Donald Danforth Jr. Wilderness Camp enjoy a week of outdoor activities that are adapted for their abilities.

In addition to a four-person scramble 18-hole golf tournament, golfers enjoyed lunch, silent and live auctions and a putting contest. There were

also on-course contests such as the longest drive, closest to the pin and the ever popular game and Mulligans. More than 80 golfers participated in Play "Fore" the Future and survivors of brain injury won!

This annual golf tournament is BIA-MO's largest fundraising event, raising more than \$50,000. Sponsors, golfers and program advertisers made this event a success. Platinum Sponsors for the 22nd Annual Charity Golf Tournament were Cedar Creek Conference Center and Dobbs Tire and Auto Centers.

Special thanks to the Golf Co-Chairs Gayla and Jim Bernardini, each committee member and all of the volunteers. This event was successful through your efforts.

Plan to join us for the BIA-MO 23rd Annual Charity Golf Tournament to be held in 2010 in the St. Louis area.



**BIA-MO is a membership organization.
Please join at BIAMO.ORG**

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PLEASE DO NOT DELAY!

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BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION AWARD NOMINATIONS

Each year the Brain Injury Association of Missouri honors individuals and organizations that have made an outstanding contribution in the brain injury community. We are currently asking for your help identifying individuals or organizations deserving of recognition in a variety of areas.

Each nomination should include: Name and contact information for the nominee; a 500 word or less statement of why you feel the person is deserving of the award and how the brain injury community has benefitted from the efforts of the nominee; and your name and contact information. More than one person can nominate an individual or organization.

The BIA-MO Awards include the following: **Courage Award** to honor the success of an individual with brain injury.

Point of Light Award to recognize the outstanding service to persons with brain injury. Nominations must be made by an individual with brain injury.

Volunteer of the Year

Legislator of the Year

Lifetime Achievement Award to honor an individual or

organization that has given everlasting contributions to the brain injury community.

Service Excellence Award – Prevention honors an individual or organization that has made outstanding efforts for the prevention of brain injuries.

Service Excellence Award – Community Service honors an individual or organization whose service is exceptional within the brain injury community.

Service Excellence Award - Public Relations honors an individual or organization whose outreach and educational efforts have increased brain injury awareness.

Bill Buell Memorial Award honors a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor or Case Manager for his or her outstanding service to the brain injury community.

Submission deadline is September 15, 2009. Nominations should be submitted to Lisa Scott at Lisa.Scott@healthsouth.com or Rusk Rehabilitation Center, 315 Business Loop 70 West, Columbia, MO 65203. For questions, Lisa can be reached at 573-817-4780.