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Membership Application for the Brain Injury Association of Missouri

Your dues include membership in the Brain Injury Association of Missouri which entitles you to a copy of its national and state newsletters. There have been many gains toward awareness of brain injury and the development of brain injury rehabilitation in Missouri. Your dues are essential for us to continue positively affecting the lives of many people.

*This is your organization. We look forward to your continued support!
Yes, I want to be a member of the Brain Injury Association of Missouri, Inc.*

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY	ANNUAL DUES
Entry*	\$ 5
Basic	\$ 35
Professional	\$ 50
Corporate	\$200

Your brain injury connection is: Survivor Family Caregiver Other

Make checks payable to BIA-MO and mail to: 10270 #100, St. Louis, MO 63132 OR use your credit card.

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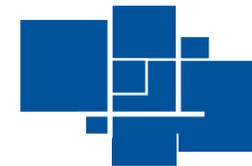
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Membership in the Brain Injury Association of Missouri is open to everyone!

**Survivors/family members with limited resources.*



Brain Injury Association
of Missouri, Inc.

Connections

Creating a better future through brain injury prevention, research, education and advocacy.

**Special Points
of Interest**

**St. Louis
Chapter
Celebrates
25 Years!**

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BIAA Partnership with ABC Journalist Bob Woodruff

by Susan Connors, President/CEO BIAA

The Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA) has entered into a partnership with ABC Anchor **Bob Woodruff** and his family to raise awareness of brain injury and to administer the newly created **Bob Woodruff Family Fund for TBI** to assist servicemen and women and their families affected by the war in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Bob Woodruff sustained a serious brain injury as a result of an improvised explosive device while on assignment for ABC News in Iraq in January 2006. Although he received superior care, Bob, his wife Lee, and their extended family recognize that many individuals with brain injury do not receive the services and supports needed to regain their independence. They also understand the lack of funding in the public, private and military sectors, and best of all, they want to help.

Public Awareness Activities included an ABC News one-hour special called, *To Iraq and Back*, which aired on February 27, 2007. It focused on Bob's blast injury and similar injuries sustained by servicemen and women. The documentary included a critical look at the unmet post acute needs of blast injury survivors. *In an Instant*, a personal memoir of Bob & Lee's journey toward recovery was released by Random House on February 28, 2007. The BIAA will carry the book in its on-line bookstore and will circulate the book tour schedule to affiliates as it becomes available.

March was Brain Injury Awareness Month, and Bob Woodruff filed a series of reports for World News, Good Morning America and Nightline throughout the month of March. The reports covered various aspects of brain injury and included some of the individuals featured in BIAA's "Living with Brain Injury: As Diverse As We Are" Brain Injury Awareness Month campaign. Thank you's go out to Judy Avner from BIA of New York State and Philicia Deckard from BIA Illinois for their assistance in coordinating participants. We are also deeply indebted to Pat Radice from Constand Communications Group for her work with the ABC News producers.

Woodruff Family Fund for TBI came about as Bob, Lee and the extended Woodruff family are aware of, and rather appalled by, the lack of funding for community-based services for individuals who sustain brain injuries. In an effort to "give back" to the people who saved Bob's life, the family has established the Bob Woodruff Family Fund for TBI. Just like Gary Chiaverotti's Lynn Fund and Ernie Irvan's Race 2 Safety, the Woodruff Fund will be administered by the BIAA.

As envisioned, the Fund will raise money through events, speeches and corporate solicitation. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of *In an Instant* will go to the Fund as well. Donations will be used to make grants to

nonprofit organizations serving members of the military who have sustained a TBI. In some circumstances, funds may be used to provide direct financial assistance to military personnel and their families and/or grants for medical research, public education, awareness and prevention of TBI.

All moneys received in connection with the Woodruff Fund will be "restricted" to the Fund's designated purposes; however, BIAA and its affiliates will be eligible to compete for grant awards if our programs/services meet the application criteria.

Bob Woodruff's brother, Dave Woodruff, will act as chairperson of and appoint an 8-member Board of Trustees to oversee fundraising and grant-making activities for the Fund. Dave Woodruff will serve as the liaison from the Fund to BIAA's Board of Directors. In compliance with authority granted at the 2005 Annual Meeting of Members, BIAA will seek State Assembly Steering Committee approval of Dave Woodruff's appointment to the national Board. A concerted effort is being made to ensure that BIAA and the Fund do not compete for the same donors.

Bob & Lee Woodruff as Honorary Spokespersons, where appropriate, allowable and as time permits, Bob Woodruff and members of his family may participate in BIAA programs and services, such as presenting at an annual conference, testifying before Congress and recording public service announcements. Additionally, from time-to-time, BIAA may use certain "intellectual property rights," including Bob's name, likeness, and the Fund's name and activities in connection with BIAA's publicly disseminated materials, including grant applications, donor solicitations and general communications. Since BIAA will be required to obtain approval for each appearance, solicitation or communication, I will personally receive, prioritize, and coordinate such requests on behalf of BIAA and its affiliates. Our goal with respect to appearances will be to maximize the Woodruff Family's limited availability by steering them toward events that garner national exposure.

As you can imagine, the opportunity to work with the Woodruff Family as an ally of the Brain Injury Association of America was an exhilarating process. I am very grateful to Wayne Gordon, Mary Hibbard and the rest of the staff at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine for making the introduction. I sincerely hope that Bob's willingness to partner with us and discuss his injuries will inspire other public figures, celebrities and athletes to do the same.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (703) 761-0750 x267. In the meantime, please accept my thanks for all you do to create a better future.



President's Message

HELLO AND HAPPY SPRING!

Along with spring comes awards dinners. St. Louis and Springfield have been privileged to honor a number of volunteers including survivors, family members, friends, and businesses. What a wonderful opportunity for the BIA to be able to acknowledge these amazing people. As with any organization, without our volunteers we would not exist. YOU are the HEART and SOUL of our organization! THANK YOU – THANK YOU – THANK YOU for the many hours you have donated to BIA!

Another thing that comes with spring is the end of the legislative session. As always, this is constantly a challenge. With Medicaid reform, ticket to work, the motorcycle helmet repeal, etc., we have had our hands full. Our advocacy through MARF (MO Association of Rehab Facilities) has been extremely helpful. They are a constant presence in Jefferson City making sure that our Senators and Representatives are aware of our needs. Again, a big THANK YOU to all of you who have taken the time and energy to call your Senators and Representatives on behalf of our concerns regarding the various bills presented this year. Hopefully, by the end of the session, more good than harm will have come to pass.

I hope that all of you have marked your calendars for our Fall Conference October 3-6. The committee is putting in many hours to ensure that there are speakers who have significant data to share – helpful facts and figures that will be useful to anyone who deals with someone who has a brain injury. These conferences have grown each year. We think this year, with the change in location to St. Charles, it will be even better than before. There's so much to see and do in this area, that we hope you will be able to take advantage of this opportunity.

On Friday, Oct. 5, we will hold our annual awards dinner, which will feature a wonderful meal, and a chance to thank our special volunteers who do so much for all of us during the year. Saturday, Oct. 6 will be dedicated to TBI survivors, families, and friends. The sessions on this day will deal with topics that are relevant to issues that TBI survivors and their family members face on a daily basis.

I would also like for you to mark down Saturday, October 13 on your calendar, especially if you like Bar-B-Que. Our annual BBQ contest in Columbia will be held that day. I can smell the sizzling already. It's a great day for families, so come and enjoy! There will be more information available later in the summer.

Our 25th anniversary is well under way, and I feel so privileged to be able to share it with you.

Lynne Unnerstall

Connections

Lynne Unnerstall
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Please send your tax deductible contribution to the above address.



Trivia Night Gold Sponsor Allsup, Inc. Social Security Innovations

and collaborated with area organizations for a series of workshops for caregivers. Groups of survivors participated in the Disability March-Rallies sponsored by Paraquad to celebrate the Americans with Disabilities Act; the chapter collaborated with the Recreation Council to bring helmets and safety advice to bicyclists in the Moonlight Ramble.

The chapter provided many families for the Support Partners initiative, designed to provide support to individuals/families "new to brain injury" — while the survivor was still in the hospital. The chapter also hosted Information Days, gathering experts in many fields to share their knowledge with individuals, families, and professionals interested in knowledge and insights. And in 2003, Lori's "torch" of leadership passed to a new executive director, **Scott Gee**, who brought new insights, perspectives, and leadership to BIA-MO and to the chapter.

In early 2005, **Trudy Rider** was hired as a full time program assistant in order to help with general office duties. She is assisted by many long-time volunteers who continue to help out in the office on a weekly basis.

Later that same year, under Scott's leadership, the Brain Injury Association of Missouri hosted its first ever annual statewide conference at Tan-Tar-A in the Ozarks. Last year, over 180 attendees were introduced to cutting edge technologies, innovative strategies and state of the art information related to traumatic brain injury. This 4-day annual conference continues to bring in nationally recognized



Trivia Night Best Decorations "Elvis Table" Cheryl & Bob Radil, Kathie & Stel Pontikes, Karen Orton, Gary & Toni Evans (Sue Orton not pictured)



Trivia Night Gold Sponsor **Martha C. Brown**-on right, Oelbaum & Brown Attorneys-at-Law

speakers covering topics from current trends in research & treatment, TBI statistical information, educational and therapeutic programming, advocacy, pediatric and geriatric issues, promoting positive changes in behavior and community access.

Other day-long seminars are also held throughout the state to provide opportunities for brain injury survivors and family members to listen to and network with brain injury professionals from the state of Missouri.

The Donald Danforth, Jr. Wilderness Retreat in Eldon, MO provides persons with brain injury with an exciting week of recreational and social activities. For the more than 75 brain injury survivors attending each year, the camp brings many special moments. It also gives valuable respite time for the survivors' family.

To date, the golf committee, chaired by **Sue Orton**, has taken the annual tournament to levels no one dreamed about 20 years ago (enough that Scott had to make good on his promise to shave his head if the tournament raised more than \$80,000). A Columbia BBQ, chaired by BIA board member, **Aimee Olmstead**, and a St. Louis Trivia Night have also been added to the annual fund-raising repertoire. Long-time volunteer, **Eileen Hahn**, still helps to plan and host monthly social/recreational activities for the St. Louis area. Our many statewide support groups with their individual social/recreational activities continue to flourish as well.

After twenty five years, the Brain Injury Association of Missouri, as well as the St. Louis Chapter, continues to grow and expand while still striving in its mission to reduce the incidence of brain injury; promote acceptance, independence, productivity of persons with brain injury; and to support their families.

SAVE THE DATE

Brain Injury Association of Missouri, Inc.
20th Annual St. Louis
Charity Golf Tournament
August 19, 2007
Forest Park Golf Course





Alan Jones (l), President/Owner of Kennelwood Village, presents a check to Doug Ehlers and Scott Gee (r), Executive Director of the BIA, on March 18th at Kennelwood's corporate office.

traumatic brain injury can be for both the injured and the family. Kennelwood has raised tens of thousands of dollars to assist those whose lives are forever changed by a brain injury. We surpassed the \$100,000 mark three years ago in donations, and we are striving to reach another \$100,000 in years to come with the support of the entire community.

25 Years and Counting

by Mary Bernickus

The St. Louis Chapter, BIA, began in 1982, soon after the National Head Injury Foundation began. Dr. Kenneth Smith, Chief of Neurosurgery at St. Louis University Hospital, asked Peggy Goldfader, a neuropsychologist there, to set up a program for the hospital's patients with brain injuries. More than 60 people attended the first meeting, and 80 attended the next one.

Committee meeting alternated with monthly informational meetings, and membership continued to grow. Fund-raisers included collecting aluminum, garage sales, raffles, and a Kathryn Beich candy sale. Madelyn and Toots Willen sold some property, donating the proceeds to the chapter (with some strings). Within two years, the mailing list had grown to 400.

Activities for survivors began—regular swim sessions began in the Florissant Civic Center pool, Gene Orr, father of a survivor, volunteered to teach adaptive karate classes (one morning and one evening) each week. Overtures were made for survivors statewide to use Wonderland Camp at Lake of the Ozarks, with the first session in June 1984; many rehab and health care professionals were included in the volunteer staff. An adult day program with emphasis on dealing with neurobehavioral and other cognitive deficits began, with the

SAVE THE DATE

3rd Annual Fall Conference

October 3-6, 2007

St. Charles Embassy Suites

original price for the three-days-per-week sessions was \$5 per day. It soon became apparent that tuition at that rate wouldn't support the program. A decision had to be made to prioritize—small-scale supports for many people or the day program?

The "day program" became its own non-profit but continued to operate in the chapter office. A group of volunteers staffed the office to keep it open most weekdays. The chapter sponsored a bus to transport campers from the metro area to the mid-Missouri camp. The chapter sponsored a summer picnic and winter holiday party, offering "fun for all" to its agenda.

The Chapter's Golf Tournament, first in the area exclusively for women, began, with Red Schoendist's wife Mary, as honorary chair. Within a few years, however, tournament organizers decided that the "women only" event was no longer unique and invited men to play, doubling the player possibilities and the funds raised for the chapter.

The chapter offered several support groups—north, mid-county, west, and south, by this time. Attendance at the support groups waxed and waned, but volunteers persevered. The chapter hosted occasional state-wise conferences where experts in the field of brain injury shared information and "tips" with Schools began to deal with students who had brain injuries. Missouri Senator Edwin Dirck, whose neighbor had a brain injury, helped families and others to advocate for the Missouri Head Injury Advisory Council, giving additional opportunities for advocacy and, eventually, for funding for services.

The winds of change were blowing in the developmental disability community, and brain injury began to be recognized as a unique disability. In 1992, Missouri's definition of developmental disability changed to a "functional" one, allowing many survivors of brain injury to access services which they had previously been denied. In the same year, the chapter hired a full-time Coordinator of Survivor and Family Services and moved to its present location. A pediatric support group was begun; the chapter sponsored the first Roll 'n Stroll A Thon, brainchild of survivor Kelly Lane and of longtime volunteer and occupational therapist Lisa Avery. The chapter invited service providers to inform families of help available for survivors in Points of Light events at the St. Louis County Government Center. The chapter also participated in three Katy Trail bicycling fund-raisers.

Changes at the MHIA (state level) prompted a decision to move to St. Louis to share space and rent. That move forced the Academy for Head-Injured Adults, as the day program was now known, to depart for separate space; the separation was difficult for both groups, but the Academy became the Center for Head Injury Services, in another Overland location. At the same time, financial constraints ended the Coordinator's services, and the chapter down-sized into a team of committee chairs.

Tim Imhoff, chapter chair, led the "back to basics" group with the mantra "no burn-out if we all do our bit." Luckily, with a short time, the state association, now also reorganized, hired a new executive director with large organization expertise but enthusiasm for small-scale operations: within a short time Lori Winter had the state association and the St. Louis chapter on the track to positive things. Rick Gregory was also hired part time as a volunteer coordinator.

The golf tournament continued to grow, and volunteers on the chapter's committees continued to do their bit. Under Maureen Magrath's direction, a committed and sometimes changing group of social workers formed the information and referral committee that gave advice to hundreds who called the office for help. The chapter participated in Brain Awareness Weeks at the St. Louis Science Center

Brain Injury Advocates Demand Greater Access, Fewer Barriers To Cognitive Rehabilitation

Brain Injury Association of America issues call for immediate action in support of 5.3 million brain injury survivors and their families to bridge treatment gap

McLean, Va., January 8, 2007 — The Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA) today released a position statement that calls on lawmakers and private sector payers to eliminate barriers to access and delivery of cognitive rehabilitation treatment for patients with acquired brain injuries.

Cognitive Rehabilitation: The Evidence, Funding and Case for Advocacy, addresses the fact that an overwhelming majority of brain injury survivors have cognitive impairments, or thinking problems and that they often have challenges accessing the treatment modality that has been shown through research to benefit them the most: cognitive rehabilitation. Cognitive impairments interfere with the brain-injured patient's ability to function effectively in school and at work and also have an impact on their personal relationships. Access to cognitive rehabilitation is a way of helping brain-injured patients regain function in areas that are essential for a return to independence and a reasonable quality of life.

"Cognitive rehabilitation can help people regain their independence, but many insurance companies deny coverage claims and public health agencies limit the scope, duration and timing of treatment," said Susan Connors, BIAA President and CEO. "Patients with brain injury and family caregivers suffer because of lack of access to this important treatment modality."

Cognitive rehabilitation is a systematically applied set of medical and therapeutic services provided by physicians and allied health professionals to improve cognitive functioning after brain injury. The treatment requires patients to work through thinking exercises that restore attention, memory, word recall and other language abilities. Brain injury survivors also learn to use tools to help with planning, organization and daily activities such as calendars, pagers, alarms or PDA's.

"The benefits of cognitive rehabilitation have been discussed in more than 700 published research studies and are evident in positron emission tomography (PET) scans and other neuroimaging techniques," said Dr. Douglas I. Katz, Brain Injury Programs Medical Director at Braintree Rehabilitation Hospital in Braintree, MA, and first author of the BIAA's position statement. "Numerous scientific organizations and professional societies have adopted treatment guidelines and acknowledged the value of cognitive rehabilitation."

The BIAA believes that cognitive rehabilitation should be provided by the existing national network of qualified practitioners who have fulfilled the requirements for certification and licensure in their respective fields. Dr. Mark J. Ashley, Chairman of the Board of BIAA

The Brain Injury Association of Missouri in keeping with the privacy standards set by the Better Business Bureau of Missouri wishes to let its members know that we do not share donor information with anyone, nor do we provide addresses or phone numbers of our members outside of our organization. Donors' names are listed in our annual report, however, unless otherwise specified.

and President/CEO of the Centre for Neuro Skills headquartered in Bakersfield, CA, cites the current needs of the ever-increasing number of servicemen and women returning from Iraq with blast brain injuries as an immediate opportunity to demonstrate the advantages of accessing this service provider network. "The Veterans' Administration has advocated for advancing rehabilitation throughout its history and stands to lead the way to promotion of better treatment availability for our servicemen and women," said Ashley. "The opportunities for substantial functional improvement associated with cognitive rehabilitation are especially relevant for these returning heroes. While the Veterans' Administration does not currently have the capacity to treat the large number of servicemen and women returning with traumatic brain injury, it should consider contracting with civilian partners and providers in the private sector who have been providing these services for many years to the nonmilitary sector."

The BIAA acknowledges the need for additional research on the benefits of cognitive rehabilitation for brain-injured patients. It also believes that the need for further exploration into the benefits of cognitive rehabilitation should not be used as an excuse to withhold payer support for treatment. "Many people who sustain brain injuries make remarkable recoveries when they get the appropriate treatment," said Dr. Gregory J. O'Shanick, BIAA Medical Director and President/Medical Director of the Center for Neurorehabilitation Services, PC in Richmond, VA. "We can learn much more about what works through additional research, but we need Congressional support to do so. The Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Model Systems, housed in the U.S. Department of Education's National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, hasn't had a pay raise in years. It is time to increase our investment in applied research as well as examine coverage denials and payment practices in the public and private sectors as related to treatment for victims of both traumatic and acquired brain injury."

Moving forward, the BIAA advocates the following priorities to provide a more comprehensive continuum of care for brain-injured patients:

- Expanded public and private payer coverage of sufficient scope, duration and intensity to accommodate the changing and long-term needs of patients with brain injury
- Expanded clinical education and certification for allied health practitioners who work with brain-injured patients
- Increased emphasis on research
- Improved integration of cognitive treatment in public vocational and social services
- Greater attention to the particular needs of brain-injured children in special education so they can move seamlessly throughout their lives within a comprehensive, coordinated system of care that is designed to improve their level of functioning, independence, and, ultimately, give them back some of the skills and abilities stolen by their brain injury.

Full copies of the position paper, *Cognitive Rehabilitation: The Evidence, Funding and Case for Advocacy*, can be obtained by visiting the Brain Injury Association of America website at www.biausa.org

If you have questions, please contact Patricia Radice, 313-964-4437 or pat@ccgdetroit.com



Five New Members Elected to The Brain Injury Association of Missouri Board of Directors

The Brain Injury Association of Missouri is pleased to announce that we elected five new board members to the Board of Directors at our January 20, 2007, meeting in Jefferson City. The new members include: **John Bennett**-Manager of Business Development at the Missouri Rehabilitation Center, Mt. Vernon, MO; **Jerry A. Klein, P.C.**-Attorney & Counselor-at-Law, Clayton, MO; **Nancy Lange**-TBI Survivor, Williamsville, MO; **Carey Pawlowski, PhD**-Rehab Psychologist at the Rehabilitation Institute of Kansas City, Prairie Village, KS; and **Dottie Taylor**-MO State Hwy Patrol, Waynesville, MO. Each member will serve a 3-year term.

The Brain Injury Association of Missouri Announces Winners of the 2007 Jim & Lori Winter Scholarships

The Brain Injury Association of Missouri Board of Directors is pleased to announce the winners of the 2007 Jim & Lori Winter Scholarships that were chosen at its meeting on May 12 in Jefferson City, MO. These scholarships are awarded to assist individuals who have sustained a brain injury with post-secondary education or training costs. Funds may be used for courses at a community college, university, or a vocational or technical training school.

This year's recipients are:

Zachary Jones of Strafford, MO, who is a 19 year old TBI survivor and artist. Zachary has already sold 25 paintings and wishes to continue his education at Drury University in Springfield. He would like to become a full time artist or art teacher. His other goal is to have his artwork displayed in a gallery.

Deborah Nothdurft, who is a 36 year old Columbia resident. Deborah is a lab technician at ABC Laboratories and wants to study bookkeeping. She also served on the Missouri Governor's Brain Injury Advisory Board, appointed by Mel Carnahan.

Tiffany Slusher, who is an 18 year old TBI survivor from Lexington, MO. Tiffany wishes to study fashion merchandising at a small liberal arts college, where she can receive more one-on-one attention.

Each will receive a \$500 scholarship to pursue their interests.

The Brain Injury Association of Missouri established this scholarship fund in the name of Jim & Lori Winter to honor their dedication to the association. Lori Winter joined the organization in 1996 as Executive Director. During her tenure, with her husband Jim volunteering by her side, they worked to rebuild the state organization. They continually went above and beyond in advocating for individuals with brain injuries. Lori retired from the organization in 2003.

To qualify for a Brain Injury Association scholarship, applicants can contact the Brain Injury Association at 314-426-4024 for an application, or download the application that is on our website at www.biamo.org

BIA-MO St. Louis Chapter Celebrates 25th Anniversary at Awards Dinner

The Brain Injury Association of Missouri-St. Louis Chapter celebrated its 25th Anniversary Awards Dinner on Saturday, March 24, at the Embassy Suites Hotel, St. Charles, MO. The BIA was pleased to host over 70 members and their guests for this milestone event. The evening was hosted by BIAMO Executive Director, Scott Gee, and Board President, Lynne Unnerstall.

The following awards were presented during the evening:

Special Recognition of Service-Office and Support Group Volunteers—Bruce Balbach, Chris Cinense, Doug Ehlers, Eileen Hahn, Kelly Lane, Laura Morrow, Bob & Pat Murphy, Bev Rubenstein



Photos, clockwise from top left: Executive Director, **Scott Gee**, and Board President, **Lynne Unnerstall**, welcome members and guests. **Second photo:** Volunteer Service Awards from left-**Bev Rubenstein**, **Pat Murphy**, **Bob Murphy**, **Tim Wilson**, **Chris Cinense**, **Lori Winter**, **Doug Ehlers** & **Eileen Hahn**. **Third photo:** Original BIA members **Nancy Koenig** and **Barb Headrick** receive recognition. **Fourth photo:** **Lynne Unnerstall** presents the Service Excellence Award to **Jamie Gatz**. **Top right:** **Jo D Duncan** receives the Making a Difference Award from **Lynne Unnerstall**. **Bottom right:** **Dr. Rodney Thorley** is presented with the John Doronzo Memorial Award. **Bottom center:** **Peggy Barco** receives the Roberta Sheldon Award as her daughter, **Angela**, looks on. **Bottom left:** **Lynne Unnerstall** presents the Corporate Commitment Award to **Alan Jones**, President Kennelwood Village/Invisible Fence, Inc.

when she was referred by a local Dr. She also served two terms on the board of directors.

Her biggest frustration up to that time was trying to uncover the resources that would lead her to find what she needed to know about brain injury. The educational system presented many obstacles for her son Robbie, because his brain injury did not fall into the appropriate categories. And although her husband, Charles, had a very successful career, his employer didn't really understand or accommodate Charles when his deficits became more pronounced after age 50.

Ethel considers her greatest success to be founding the Disability & Benefit Consulting Services business. Since there were multiple agencies for her to deal with originally, she said that "she wanted to make it easier for TBI survivors and their families to receive the help they need and to prevent them from falling thru the cracks." The one thing she would like most people to know about brain injury is that "it almost never presents the same symptoms in any two people".

Kennelwood Presents Check to BIA

Kennelwood Village presented the Brain Injury Association of Missouri a check for \$4,500 this past week. These dollars were the proceeds from our 25th Annual "Santa Comes to the Pets" charity event. Kennelwood gathered over 400 customers to celebrate the holiday season with heart-warming photos of pets, families and Santa. After six photo shoots at six Kennelwood locations during November and December, 2006 proved to be another successful year. Award-winning photographer Greg Smith of Garden Studios snapped the captivating pet photos that make this project enchanting year after year.

The question often arises why we have chosen to work with the BIA of MO as opposed to a pet-related organization. Several years ago, a close member of our Kennelwood family sustained a brain injury after being struck by a car while crossing the street. Therefore, we have adopted this cause to raise awareness regarding how

& Tim Wilson. Also Margaret Culver, Lisa Mouser, Carol Ponciroli, Deb Turley and Lori Winter

Service Excellence Award—**Jamie Gatz**

Making a Difference Award—**Jo D Duncan**

Corporate Commitment Award—**Alan Jones**, Kennelwood Village/Invisible Fence, Inc

Roberta Sheldon Award—**Peggy Barco**

John Doronzo Memorial Award—**Dr. Rodney Thorley**

Special recognition was also given to Nancy Koenig and Barb Headrick, who were among the original members that founded the Brain Injury Association. The celebration culminated with a music video presentation, which commemorated 25 years of people, events and volunteer service to the Brain Injury Association of Missouri.

Ethel Campbell Wins Brain Injury Association of Missouri Special Recognition Award for Service

The Special Recognition Award for Service was presented to **Ethel Campbell** by **Executive Director, Scott Gee**, at the Brain Injury Association of Missouri-Springfield Chapter's 25th Annual Awards Dinner at the Clarion Hotel, Springfield, MO, May 5, 2007.

Ethel Campbell was born in the Springfield area and attended Drury University. Although currently retired, she spent many years serving as the executive director of a nationwide ministers' retirement fund. She was also the founder and owner of Disability & Benefit Consulting Services, which helps TBI survivors and their families navigate the system and receive their social security and Medicaid benefits, etc.

Ethel's family members consist of her husband Charles, who sustained a brain injury at age 7, and son Robert (Robbie), who was diagnosed with a brain injury at birth.

Ethel became involved with the Brain Injury Association in 1990,



MISSOURI

Cape Girardeau

- Meetings are the first Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m., at Healthpoint Plaza/SE Outpatient Rehab, 2126 Independence St. Contact: Cathy Tanksley (573)651-5825 or (573)986-4411.

Columbia

- Meetings for survivors and families are the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m., at the Rusk Rehabilitation Center. Contact: Lisa Scott (573)817-4780.

Fulton

- Fulton Support Group meets the last Tuesday of the month from 4-5 p.m., at Calloway Health Dept. Contact: Tyyna Bailey (573)826-0200.

Hannibal

- Meetings are held every third Thursday at 6:00 p.m., at the Hannibal Regional Center, 805 Clinic Rd. Contact: Mark Morton at (573)406-6620.

Jefferson City

- Meetings are the last Monday of every month at 3:00 p.m., at the Independent Living Resource Center, 3620 West Truman Blvd. Contact: Sandy Barbour (573)556-0400 or (877)627-0400.

Jefferson County/South St. Louis County

- Meetings are the third Wednesday of the month at 10:00 a.m., at the DRA Office, 420-B South Truman Blvd., Crystal City. Contact: Suzan Weller (636)931-7696 ext. 126 for more information.

Joplin

- Meetings for survivors and families are the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m., at St. John's Rehabilitation Center. Contact Bill & Penni Fallow (417)782-1232. Other meetings are the second Monday of the month at 5:30 p.m., at the Independent Living Center. Contact: Andrea Buening or Dan Rife at (417)659-8086.

Kansas City

- The meetings are the second Tuesday, monthly at 7:00 p.m., at the Hillside Christian Church. Contact: Kathryn Dixon (816)353-8754.
- Support Group meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m., at the Truman Medical Center-Lakewood. Contact: Dawn Tish (816)404-8426
- Support Group meetings are the first Monday of the month, 5:00 p.m., at the Rehabilitation Institute. Contact: Michele Tietz (816)751-7856. If interested in forming a new family support group, call Dr. Terrie Price at the Rehabilitation Institute (816)751-7732.

Rolla

- Peer Support Group meets on the last Tuesday of the month at Christ Episcopal Church from 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Contact: Deb Merrel, M.S. (573)364-6644

Sedalia

- The Sedalia Support Group meets the first Thursday of every month at Bothwell Hospital-3rd floor education classroom from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Contact: Nicole Davis (660)827-9577 or Dennis Gard at (573)200-0834

Springfield

- The Springfield Support Group meets the last Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m., at Lakes Country Rehab (Scenic & College). Recreational activities are held the second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m., at Lakes Country Rehab (Scenic & College). Contact: Marsha Rohrer (417)862-1753 St. Charles
- St. Charles County Family & Survivor Support Group meets the second Thursday of the month, from 7-9 p.m., at St. Joseph's Health Center, 300 First Capitol Dr., St. Charles. Call (314)426-4024 for more information.

St. Joseph

- N.W. Missouri Brain Injury Association meets the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m., 4420 S. 40th St. (MERIL). Contact: Lori Hansen at (816)279-8558 or (800)242-9326 for more information.

St. Louis

- Brain Tumor Support Group meets the third Thursday of the month from 6:30-8:30 p.m., at Wellness Community, 10425 Old Olive Rd., Creve Coeur. Contact: (314)238-2000 for more information.
- Hydrocephalus Support Group, P.O. Box 4236, Chesterfield, MO 63006. Contact: Debby Buffa, Executive Director, (636)532-8228.
- St. Louis Family & Survivor Support Group meets the third Wednesday of the month from 7-9 p.m., at the BIA office, 10270 Page Ave., St. Louis. Call (314)426-4024 for more information.
- Stroke Support Group, SSM Rehab (314)344-6460

ILLINOIS

Belleville

- Brain Injury Support System for Southern Illinois meets the third Friday of the month at 10:00 a.m., at Glad Tidings Church, 4180 Smelting Works Road, Swansea, IL Call Barbara Lea (618)616-1700 for more information.

Collinsville

- Collinsville Support Group meets the first Tuesday of the month, at 7:00 p.m., at Anderson Hospital, Maryville, IL. Call (618)346-6641 for more information.

Quincy

- Quincy, IL Support Group, now known as the Brain Trauma Awareness Organization Support Group, meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m., at Blessing Hospital. Contact: Margie Williams (217)223-8566 or Karen Campbell (217)223-5296.

KANSAS

Overland Park

- Overland Park Support Group meets the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m., at 7819 Conser Pl. Contact: Kelli Traylor (913)789-9900.

