MEMBERSHIP MATTERS!

It sounds like a broken record. Like an inbox filled with the same message again and again. So at the risk of the same old same old: Brain Injury Association of Missouri makes a difference every day. And Membership matters!

There’s really no better way to say, “Please become a Member or renew your Membership today.”

This newsletter is filled with exciting examples of how BIA-MO is impacting the lives of survivors and their families, professionals, caregivers, and the general public.

Education programs for coaches, school personnel, parents, and athletes are changing the way concussions are recognized and treated. Elected officials now take notice when advocates testify. Laws are being shaped to protect against long-term injuries that impact medical costs for everyone. Local and national media listen when we speak and partner with us to broadcast our important message.

BIA-MO is a recognized leader in advocacy, education, survivor and family support, and recreation. We Are The Voice of Brain Injury.

Every 18 seconds someone sustains a brain injury. Someone’s life is changed forever. Through your Membership, you become the survivor’s voice -- speaking up as the person faces new challenges and celebrates accomplishments.

Renew your Membership or become a first-time Member today. Family Memberships begin at $35; Professional memberships are as low as $100 for individuals and $200 for organizations. A Corporate Membership, with your company’s link from the BIA-MO website, is only $500.

Go to www.biamo.org and make your Membership gift online. Or use the envelope enclosed in this newsletter.

Dare I say again: Brain Injury Association of Missouri makes a difference every day. And Your Membership Matters!

SPORTS CONCUSSIONS: FACTS, FALLACIES AND NEW FRONTIERS

The local newspaper reporters were there. TV cameras rolled. And Executive Director Maureen Cunningham was in high demand for interviews. It was a very busy January and February for the Brain Injury Association of Missouri.

The Sports Concussions: Facts, Fallacies and New Frontiers Seminars sponsored by BIA-MO have become must-attend events for paid and volunteer coaches of elementary, middle and high school sports, athletic directors, licensed athletic trainers, school nurses, and administrators. The 2016 Seminars were held in Cape Girardeau, Columbia, Kansas City, St. Louis and Springfield. This is the third year for the annual seminars and attendance continues to grow.

Knowing the signs and symptoms of a possible concussion in youth is the first step in reducing the risk of short- and long-term effects and protecting student athletes from possible additional injury. Public awareness of the dangers of brain injury, including concussions, is making a difference. Guest speakers and athletes who participated in this year’s Seminars provided invaluable information.

As much as the media coverage was appreciated and helps raise awareness about concussions, it was even more important to have this year’s nearly 800 participants attend one of the BIA-MO Sports Concussions: Facts, Fallacies and New Frontiers regional seminars. They are the real audience...and youth athletes are the real winners!

MAUREEN’S MESSAGE

When brain injury happens, there are so many questions. Sometimes the questions are answered. Other times there is no “good” answer or no answer at all. The survivor, family and friends feel empty. They feel alone and overwhelmed by the thought of what needs to be done and what tomorrow may bring.

They are not alone, once they learn about the Brain Injury Association of Missouri. We are here to offer support, education, recreation and advocacy. But they need to know about us.

March is Brain Injury Awareness Month. But brain injuries happen every month, in fact every minute of every day. Will you please help survivors and families know they are not alone? Will you please help professionals know that BIA-MO is a resource for their patients, clients and consumers? Will you help increase awareness about brain injuries and prevention?

This can be accomplished in easy ways that will have a big impact:

- Incorporate the Brain Injury Association into a conversation with family, friends and co-workers. This conversation could be about services, your Membership or legislation.
- If you use social media, include BIA-MO as one of your friends on Facebook (Facebook.com/bia.missouri) and Twitter (Twitter/BIA_Missouri)
- Share print and electronic information with family, friends, professionals, co-workers and acquaintances who may have opportunities to use or share information about BIA-MO. For example give this newsletter or The Challenge to your church, doctors’ office or community group which may have a Member impacted by brain injury.
- Financially support BIA-MO through Membership, recommend BIA-MO for grant or matching gift funding from your company, or participate in Bowling for Brain Injury.

Thank you for thinking about BIA-MO and all the ways you can help.

IN MY OWN WORDS

By Andrea Buening

On May 16, 1997, I was a middle school teacher with a wonderful life owning horses, a farm, and raising two active kids, an all-star high school volleyball player and a 9 year old son. May 16, 1997, my world was destroyed.

I was hit head on by a driver who was passing on a hill, on a two-lane road with no shoulders. Neither me, nor my son were wearing seat belts.

I hit the windshield and was thrown halfway out of the car. My son was trapped in the car, thinking I was dead for an hour and a half because I was in a coma. As I had no health insurance, Missouri Healthnet (Medicaid at that time) was my only option which put my family in high gear to gain my eligibility.

I was in that coma for 7 weeks. I lost the life that I knew INSTANTLY. I have a severe brain injury that impacts MY life, my family’s lives, and 17 screws in my hip that cost Medicare thousands of dollars every year.

My injuries and my son’s injuries would have been prevented had we been wearing seat belts. I needed services then and now that I never needed before the crash. For the next year and a half, the services I needed cost the State of Missouri a phenomenal amount of money, all because I had the freedom of choice.

Crashes, such as mine and others, cost Missouri hundreds of thousands of dollars that could be prevented with a Primary Seat Belt law, an All Driver Texting Ban, and maintaining Missouri’s Motorcycle Helmet law.

GIFT ALTERNATIVES

If you are considering a 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: 43-1264556.

For more information about planned giving options, please contact your financial planner or Maureen Cunningham, BIA-MO Executive Director, 800-444-6443, 314-426-4024 or MCunningham@biamo.org.
The Brain Injury Association of Missouri (BIA-MO) Survivor and Family Regional Seminars provide helpful information, practical suggestions and support for life with brain injury.

The same sessions are presented at each of the Regional Seminars with sessions beginning at 8:30 am and concluding by 3:00 pm. Attendance is free, but REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. Lunch is provided with registration.

**SOUTHWEST**
April 2, 2016
Catherine McAuley Conference Center
Mercy Medical Center
Springfield, MO

**WESTERN**
April 16, 2016
CenterPoint Medical Center
Independence, MO

**EASTERN**
October 15, 2016
St. Charles Convention Center
St. Charles, MO

*Brain Injury 101*
Pre-seminar session for individuals and families recently impacted by brain injury or years post-injury with unanswered questions.

*Know Yourself*
How to be self-aware and understand your reactions to others.

**Breakout Sessions**
*Survivor Facilitated Discussion*  
*Family Member Facilitated Discussion*
Topics include marital and other relationships; Questions you wish you knew to ask earlier about brain injury.

*How to Tell Your Story*
Tips to improve your storytelling skills.

*Personal Advocacy*
Hints for Success in advocating for yourself.

*Legislative Update and Action*
Become aware of legislation that elected officials are considering that may affect you or the prevention of brain injury. Discuss your role in advocacy to make a difference.

**Breakout Sessions**
*Adjusting to Relationship Changes*
How to manage the impact of brain injury on relationships with family, friends, coworkers and neighbors.

*Getting Ready for Work*
Pre-employment skills and employment options.

The BIA-MO Survivor and Family Seminars are organized by local committees comprised of survivors of brain injury, family members and professionals. There is no cost for attendees but registration is required.

**REGISTER NOW**

*On-line:* www.biamo.org

*Phone:* 800-444-6443 or 314-426-4024.

*Mail:* BIA-MO, 2265 Schuetz Road, St. Louis, MO 63146

Name ___________________________________________________________________________  Phone _______________________________
Address: __________________________________________________________________________ Email _______________________________
City/State/Zip ___________________________________________  Number Attending ________________
As the Wheels on the Bus go round and round, Campers arrive at the BIA-MO Donald Danforth Jr. Wilderness Camp with a feeling of excitement...many already humming their favorite campfire songs. Survivors who attend the Camp come with a sense of Going on a Bear Hunt perhaps Down by the Riverside or for a week of Camptown Races or Off We Go into the Wild Blue Yonder.

The Donald Danforth Jr. Wilderness Camp truly is that much fun!

But all kidding aside, the BIA-MO Camp is a week-long, organized outdoor experience for survivors of brain injury. It’s an opportunity for challenge, adventure and independence specifically adapted to individual needs and abilities. Campers can enjoy swimming, sports, zipline, Alpine Tower, and paddle boats. There’s a dinner dance, nature walks, arts and crafts, and a Bar-B-Q supper. For the talented, or just plain daring, Karaoke night might be just your thing. Can’t you almost hear Kumbaya, Kookaburra, and B-I-N-G-O around the campfire? Oh! What a Beautiful Morning can be heard in the distance as family members and caregivers have a week of respite at home.

The BIA-MO Camp will be held at Sunnyhill Adventure Camp in Dittmer, Missouri with camp dates of May 29 – June 3, 2016.

There’s a file in the BIA-MO office of thank you notes and amazing stories from Campers over the years attesting to the fact that this camp is Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes above any other.

The cost for Missouri residents is $390 and $475 for non-Missourians. However, this cost is often unaffordable for some survivors to attend. In addition, the actual cost for this week of adventure and relaxation, including cabin accommodations, meals and snacks, is $750 per Camper. This means that BIA-MO must depend on additional support to keep camp affordable.

If You’re Happy and You Know It, now is your chance to make it possible for a survivor of brain injury to go to the BIA-MO Camp this year. Open your checkbook or go online (www.biamo.org) to Sponsor-A-Camper. Your donation of any amount will make a difference for a Camper who can Make New Friends and feel at Home on the Range. This is no Hokey Pokey. It’s a win-win for everyone.
Six years ago, lifelong Shelby County farmer Chris Allen had a brain aneurysm and hemorrhagic stroke that threatened his life and way of living.

Today, Chris continues to farm with help from University of Missouri Extension’s AgrAbility program and Brain Injury Association of Missouri. AgrAbility offers education, assistance and support to farmers, ranchers and farm workers with disabilities and their families to overcome barriers and succeed in their chosen agricultural professions.

Chris knows how a brain injury changes life. When Chris returned home after a lengthy hospitalization, his healing had just begun.

Everyday tasks like reading a tape measure became complicated and frustrating. He was disorganized, forgetful, easily fatigued and sensitive to pain. He couldn’t hear well.

His wife Sherry Nelson, AgrAbility co-coordinator for the Northeast Region and Human Development Specialist at MU Extension, contacted Missouri AgrAbility to help Chris continue to farm.

He rides an all-terrain vehicle to check cattle and row crops and uses a hearing aid. He changed equipment to reduce work time and fatigue; working smarter not harder. Ergonomic seats on equipment bring relief. Back-up screens on tractors increase visibility and safety.

AgrAbility recommended adaptive devices to lessen fatigue and arthritic pain. An iPad records conversations, tasks, and facts and figures. He calls it his “portable brain.”


But when you have to reroute your brain processes, it is very fatiguing and that effects how you process information. People don’t see or understand that.”

Today, Chris continues to farm and serves as an advocate for the Brain Injury Association of Missouri and AgrAbility program. He tells his story at Brain Injury support groups, workshops, and conferences.

For more information about Missouri AgrAbility
Call: 800-995-8503
Go to: http://agrability.missouri.edu/
The Brain Injury Association of Missouri (BIA-MO) has had many successes this past year. We increased attendance at support groups and educational programs and had more calls for Information & Referral Services.

Our Brain Injury Fact of the Day campaign is another success as it increases awareness, prompts calls for information about community resources, and encourages attendance at support groups. This radio outreach campaign succeeded through sponsorship from the Missouri AgrAbility Project. The Brain Injury Fact of the Day campaign is currently underway for 2016 and having even more success with radio commercials, public service announcements and interviews on numerous stations across Missouri.

The Annual Statewide Professional Conference continued to be a premier educational opportunity for professionals of various disciplines. With increased attendance and exceptional sessions, knowledge shared will result in best-practice care for survivors of brain injury.

New in 2015 was the awarding of the SSM Rehabilitation Network Educational Scholarships which expands our direct support for educational opportunities for survivors of brain injury. This scholarship program provided two $750 awards to survivors of brain injury for post-secondary education expenses as they pursue education and training to create a better future.

The Brain Injury Association of Missouri is successful because of collaboration with many organizations and groups. These collaborations include groups representing survivors, family members, service providers, agriculture, civic organizations, military personnel, medical care, youth sports, schools and more. Our collective efforts are more effective than BIA-MO working alone.

Our success also includes that our Executive Director, Maureen Cunningham, has been elected by her peers from across the country to serve as the Chair for the Affiliate Section of the Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA). In addition, she was elected to the Board of Directors of BIAA. Maureen will now expand her service for survivors of brain injury to the national level. On behalf of the BIA-MO Board of Directors, I commend Maureen for her leadership in Missouri and representation at the national level.

These successes highlight the commitment of our Board of Directors, all of our program, event and office volunteers, our donors, and our staff who serve survivors of brain injury, family members, professionals and the community. Thank you to all of you!
THE VOICE OF BRAIN INJURY IN ACTION

Calling ourselves The Voice of Brain Injury is not a title or slogan we’ve adopted to sound good or make our Members feel good about their connection to Brain Injury Association of Missouri. Nor is it a marketing tool to pump up what we do. Not just claiming, but truly being The Voice of Brain Injury is the very core of who we are and who we represent.

The Brain Injury Association of Missouri (BIA-MO) is a leading advocate for individuals with brain injury. We focus on a broad range of issues affecting the community. Through the efforts of our professional staff and countless volunteers, BIA-MO is a leader in educating elected officials about the needs of survivors of brain injury and their families in order to ensure the availability of adequate funding and services. Our focus on legislation to prevent brain injuries has resulted in the enactment of laws that protect the public from uncertain futures living with brain injury.

Sometimes our efforts include supporting specific legislation and other times it is about opposing a bill. Below is the list of 2016 legislation we are monitoring.

Prevent Brain Injuries and the Short- and Long-Term Effects

Sports Related Youth Concussions

Support House Bill (HB) 2388 to reduce the risk of concussions for youth of all ages in school and community leagues. If passed it will: require education about the signs and prevention of concussion for coaches, contest officials, parents and youth participating in school, municipal, non-profit or business youth sports leagues; require immediate removal of youth from play or practice when a concussion is suspected; and allow return to play only after authorized by a licensed healthcare professional trained in the evaluation and care of concussions.

Oppose Senate Bill (SB)940 and SB1050 – There is no “gold standard” testing for concussions. Legislating the use of baseline or sideline testing puts youth at greater risk of short and long-term effects of concussions due to a medical decision of a concussion/brain injury being diagnosed by non-medical personnel (parents or student assistants), inaccurate administration or evaluation of the testing, and the high cost to schools and teams.

Motorcycle Helmet Law

Oppose HB 1464/SB694/SB851 which would repeal the current All-Rider Motorcycle Helmet law that requires riders of all ages to wear helmets when riding motorcycles on Missouri roads. The statistics are clear: Helmets save lives! The medical cost for injured un-helmeted riders is more than double for those of injured riders wearing helmets. Almost 50 percent of motorcyclists injured or who died in a motorcycle crash did not have private health insurance and their medical bills were paid from Medicaid or other public assistance health care fund. Public opinion polls show that 84 percent of Missourians support universal helmet laws.

Brain Injury Services

FY17 Appropriation

The $750,000 of general revenue currently in the House Budget is needed for the implementation of the Brain Injury Waiver. With the Federal-match the result would be nearly $1.3 million to provide services for survivors of brain injury. This Waiver application, if approved, would expand an array of services that could include early intervention for critical rehabilitation and support services to provide better opportunities for survivors to live, work and be active in the community.

You can be part of The Voice of Brain Injury – contact your Missouri elected officials to share our advocacy messages of prevention and support for brain injury services.

GIVE STL DAY

Please mark your calendar for the St. Louis Community Foundation’s third annual Give STL Day on Tuesday, May 3. The Brain Injury Association of Missouri is participating again this year.

On that day, St. Louisans will be encouraged to visit www.givestlday.org and donate to nonprofits of their choice. Please be with us as the community comes together to encourage nonprofits – and make a Give STL Day donation to the Brain Injury Association of Missouri.

Honorarium and Memorial Gifts

In Honor of:
Teddy Jayne
Patti Jayne

In Memory of:
John Blass
Lori Winter
Josiah (Joe) Robertson
Laura and Charles Barnes
Mrs. Donald Danforth Jr.
Mary Kay and Byron Utterback
Lori Winter
Earl Viets
Patti Jayne
NATIONAL FUNDRAISER SUPPORTS LOCAL AFFILIATE

Now in its third year, Bowling for Brain Injury is fast becoming one of our most successful fundraisers. This national signature event promises to continue growing because it’s easy and fun!

There are two fundraising components and everyone can help support both.

First, Corporate Sponsorships are needed. Businesses both small and large can be sponsors. Organizations, professionals, service providers, suppliers, or anyone willing to be part of community efforts regarding brain injury should commit your support today. The marketing benefits are many -- both on the business side and on the compassion side.

Secondly, Event Participation is needed. Here’s where the fun rolls down the alley aimed at making a perfect score. Companies and individuals build a team of up to six bowlers. Each team then invites friends, relatives, coworkers and acquaintances to support their efforts with a donation. Through emails and a webpage, teams educate donors about the causes and prevention of brain injury, the impact of brain injury on families and survivors, and the resources available through the Brain Injury Association.

You will be amazed to find out how many friends, relatives, coworkers and acquaintances want to support your efforts to prevent brain injuries, increase awareness, and provide services for survivors, family members and professionals.

Bowling for Brain Injury will be held in St. Louis and Springfield on June 18, 2016. Sponsorships are coming in and teams are already forming. Here’s what some are telling potential supporters:

• You are receiving this email because I believe you care about people.
• The lasting effects of brain injury may not always be visible or obvious.
• Brain injury affects the person injured and his or her family.
• Our family journey of life with brain injury began with a car crash. Life was turned upside-down, with highs, lows, disbelief, and everything in between.
• The Brain Injury Association cannot do it alone.
• Please support my fundraising efforts for Bowling for Brain Injury.

Now is not the time to sit back and think about being a Sponsor or organizing a team. It’s time to act...go to www.bowlingforbraininjury.org or call BIA-MO at 314-426-4024 today. The best news of all: Your Sponsorship and Bowling Fundraising increases awareness and supports services in Missouri!
STATE OF THE ASSOCIATION 2015

The Brain Injury Association of Missouri (BIA-MO) had many successes serving survivors of brain injury, family members, professionals in the care and prevention of brain injuries, and the community during 2015.

Our service areas of support, education, recreation and advocacy provided help, hope and healing for more than 7,000 individuals throughout Missouri in 2015. Through the involvement of many, our services continue to strengthen and expand. Together, we make a difference every day.

Support

Primary success of BIA-MO within our Support services is our Support Groups. These groups throughout Missouri continue to be the life-line of support for many survivors and families. They can connect with others who have been impacted by brain injury. They know they are not alone and are learning from each other. During 2015 two additional support groups were added – one in Downtown Kansas City and one in West Plains. Total attendance at support groups has grown to nearly 1,100 individuals.

Another success of our Support programs is our Information & Referral Service. Calls and searches for information regarding brain injury and referrals to community resources continue to increase as we helped more than 1,000 individuals find answers. This does not even include individuals who found answers in our printed material or on our website.

Recreation

The Donald Danforth Jr. Wilderness Camp continues to be a highlight of the Brain Injury Association of Missouri. The Camp added adventure activities of a zipline and alpine tower in 2015. These new adventures, along with traditional outdoor camp activities, resulted in more Campers attending.

In addition, social activities are held monthly throughout the State. Approximately 700 survivors of brain injury and family members enjoyed these Recreational programs in 2015.

Organization and Administration

The Brain Injury Association of Missouri has an all-volunteer Board of Directors that has overall accountability for the organization. Our Board is comprised of survivors of brain injury, family members, professionals in the field of brain injury, business professionals and community volunteers.

Three paid staff members work with more than 300 volunteers involved in the fundraising, program implementation, community education, and advocacy efforts of the Brain Injury Association of Missouri.

Advocacy

Our service area of Advocacy is more of a long-term “systems” approach with a focus on the prevention of brain injury and access to services for survivors.

The highlight success of our Advocacy efforts in 2015 was maintaining the Missouri all-rider motorcycle helmet law to prevent brain injuries and deaths. Additional efforts focused on revenue for services for survivors of brain injury.

Missouri State general revenue of $350,000 was appropriated for a Brain Injury Waiver. Unfortunately, by the end of 2015 this revenue was restricted and not available to implement the Brain Injury Waiver. Advocacy for this important mechanism for access to services for survivors continues.

Education

The success of the BIA-MO Annual Statewide Professional Conference continues to be a highlight of our Education programs. Attendance continues to increase, reaching 150 professionals of various disciplines who provide trauma care, rehabilitation, community support, independent living, mental health and other services for survivors of brain injury and their families.

The Survivor and Family Seminars are also a success with the same topics being offered in Southwest, Western and Eastern Missouri. Attendance at each Seminar is consistent at 100 per seminar.

The growth of the BIA-MO Sports Concussions: Facts, Fallacies and New Frontiers Seminars was again a success in 2015. Nearly 900 coaches, licensed athletic trainers, athletic program directors, school nurses and administrators attended one of the five seminars offered throughout Missouri. The Keynote Session featured Dr. Mark Halstead, Director of Washington University Sports Concussion Clinic, presenting “Return to Learn Protocols” at each of the five regional seminars. Additional sessions focused on concussion care and policies.

These successes were only possible through the generous support and partnership from individuals, corporations, foundations, community organizations and government services. Thank you for making a difference through help, hope and healing for survivors of brain injury and their families.
**BIA-MO ANNUAL AWARDS 2015**

The dedication and efforts of many individuals make a difference in and for the brain injury community. The Brain Injury Association of Missouri (BIA-MO) is proud to honor a few special individuals each year at our Annual Awards Luncheon.

**Courage Award**

Andrew Booth sustained his brain injury during military service in Iraq when a 375-pound helicopter blade fell on his head. He was reinjured while swimming, but toughed out his military service for another year. Andrew used his courage to serve. Then persist through medical services. He is now like the Courageous Lion in the Wizard of Oz – a Veteran that knows no Battle will Go Undefeated!

Dee Crider took a day-by-day approach to progress through her recovery and lives independently after being injured in a car crash in 1989 and again in 2005. Others had little hope for her recovery, but she succeeded through her optimism, her faith, support of her husband and son, collaboration with her medical team, productive and healthy lifestyle, and exceptional courage.

Christy Owens felt lost and devastated at the time of the car crash that caused her to sustain a brain injury. But, she did not give up. She started volunteering, attending speech therapy, participating in BIA-MO support groups, exercising and eating right. Choosing not to drive, she now rides the bus and has become friends with many of the drivers on her routes.

Aaron and Amanda Pearson cope with their personal struggle of brain injury recovery at a very public level. Aaron, a police officer for the Springfield department, was shot while on duty and sustained a brain injury. They participate in media interviews and public events about his brain injury to help raise awareness by sharing their personal story with the public. He works hard every day to recover from his brain injury, with his wife Amanda right by his side.

Amy Shapiro authored the book, *The Music That Gave Me a Voice*, sharing personal accounts of her life with brain injury, which she has triumphed through since birth. Through music, she developed skills and confidence that help her overcome obstacles and now she reaches out to individuals of all ages and various disabilities to help them achieve their goals through music.

**Points of Light Award**

Stefani Morris-Davis knows no barriers when it comes to helping survivors of brain injury start or live a new life with brain injury. She travels extensive distances and in a variety of living arrangements to help survivors of brain injury receive needed services. Her efforts to help locate transportation, make housing arrangement, schedule appointments and more is appreciated by everyone she serves.

**Legislator of the Year**

State Representative Marsha Haefner recognizes why services for survivors of brain injury are important. Her leadership for $350,000 of general revenue for a Brain Injury Waiver during the 2015 legislative session is a huge step forward. Her initiative, creativity and dedication for a Brain Injury Waiver is strong and impressive as she continues to move a Brain Injury Waiver forward in the state budget process.

**Service Excellence Award – Community Service**

Cynthia Dragoo shows exceptional traits of work dedication and skills in serving survivors of brain injury at Preferred Family Healthcare - Springfield. She contributes a great deal with her knowledge of resources and is a role model and motivator. Her energy and smile light up the day for everyone she serves.

Robert Wilson goes above and beyond his job duties to ensure survivors have as much support as possible – regardless if it is service coordination, rehabilitation services or assisting with a unique situation. His compassion and dedication for survivors of brain injury to access available services is both recognized and appreciated.

**Bill Buell Memorial Award**

Nancy Day has an influence that goes above and beyond for every client she serves as a Vocational Counselor with R!KC – the Rehabilitation Institute of Kansas City. In addition to working directly with clients, she coordinates needed services for the client with other agencies, even before the person goes to work, which improves their employment outcomes.

Julie Harker raises awareness about brain injury and its impact in farming and ranching communities through Brownfield Ag News for America and Learfield Communications. Her stories have included Veterans returning from military combat with brain injury succeeding in agribusiness, advocacy efforts on behalf of Veterans for returning to rural Missouri, and teenager Zane Volkmann turning his brain injury into an opportunity to raise awareness about horseback riding and helmet safety.
Volunteer of the Year

Kathryn Dixon has facilitated the Brain Injury Association support group in north Kansas City for 25-plus years. She shares her personal experiences of brain injury to help others adjust to and improve their life with brain injury. Her care and knowledge are appreciated by all who attend the support group.

Lifetime Achievement Award

Toni Goelz has been making a difference for 37 years in her work as a physical therapist for children who sustained a brain injury. Families she has helped truly appreciate her embracing the service she provides in helping their loved ones with brain injury. Some might even call what she does, a miracle. One family summarized her service this way “Her compassion coupled with her professional demeanor is forever etched in our minds. Toni is truly amazing and an inspiration to us all.”

BIA-MO Educational Scholarships 2015

Financial support for survivors of brain injury to pursue post-secondary education.

Jim and Lori Winter Scholarship - Honors the long-time volunteer leadership of Jim and Lori Winter for strengthening the Brain Injury Association of Missouri and is supported by donations to BIA-MO.

Jaime Marulanda – Tom Rose Dog Training School

SSM Rehabilitation Network Education Scholarship

Corporate scholarship of SSM Rehabilitation Network - Select Medical Partnership to assist survivors of brain injury on their road of recovery through encouragement and educational support.

Michael Bigogno – Missouri Baptist College, Masters of Arts in Teaching

Katrina Everhart – Frederick Community College, Associates of Applied Science in Emergency Management

BIA-MO Financials 2015 (unaudited)

Net Assets Beginning of Year, 2014 audit $347,351
Total Revenue and Support, 2015 unaudited $313,361
Total Expenses, 2015 unaudited $285,359
Net Assets, Projected End of Year 2015 $375,353

The Brain Injury Association of Missouri is a 501(C)3 non-profit organization. Consistently 90 percent of every dollar donated to BIA-MO provides programs of support, education, recreation and advocacy to offer help and hope for survivors of brain injury and their families as well as professionals and the community. Only 10 percent is administration and fundraising which is well below the national average of 25 percent.

DONOR RECOGNITION

Thank you to all of the individuals, organizations, corporations and foundations that contributed to the Brain Injury Association of Missouri in 2015. Your generosity made it possible to provide services for survivors of brain injury, their families and professionals throughout the state of Missouri. Each gift and sponsorship makes a difference.

28th Annual Charity Golf Tournament – Beat the Heat

This year’s virtual tournament raised more than $14,000 with 100 percent of all donations directly supporting the BIA-MO Mission

Platinum Tee Sponsor
Cedar Creek, New Haven, MO

Gold Tee Sponsors
John D. McGark’s Irish Pub

Social Sponsor
Cheryl and Keith Kowalczyk

Silver Sponsors
Melton/Ivie Family
The Rehabilitation Institute of St. Louis

Bronze Sponsors
Kennelwood Pet Resorts
Diane and Bob Trame
Merrill Lynch, Charlie Erker
Jim Longnecker
Midwest Automation

Whole Sponsors
E.M. Harris Construction
Lazerware Inc.
Merrill Lynch - Jay Feuerbacher
Michael Noetzel, MD

Caddy Special Gifts
John Butler
Patty and Steve Ackerman
Gloria and Michael Burns
David Flavan
Judy and Bob Grone
Pat and Joe Pelch
Vicki Procarione
Anna and Patrick Vatterott
Gordon Webb
Lori Winter

Greens Special Gifts
Martha Lane
Victoria and John Sharp

Club Special Gifts
Jean and Mark Jackson
Mary and Tom Leritz
Ann and Rick Allman

BIA-MO 11th Annual Statewide Conference

The only conference in Missouri established to specifically address issues relating to brain injury.

Co-Host Sponsor
Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services

Track Sponsor
Missouri AgrAbility Project
SSM Rehabilitation Network, An SSM Select Medical Partnership

Keynote Sponsors
Medi-Plex Healthcare Professionals
NeuroRestorative
St. Louis Children’s Hospital
The Rehabilitation Institute of St. Louis
Tim Imhoff and Rachel Dietz

Break Sponsors
Preferred Family Healthcare

Exhibitor Sponsors
Avanir Pharmaceuticals
Epic Health Services
Missouri Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions
Missouri Vocational Rehabilitation
Missouri Institute for Mental Health
Missouri Protection and Advocacy Services
NRI at Brookhaven
Oark Neuro Rehab Center
Pate Rehabilitation
Preferred Family Healthcare
Quality Living, Inc. (QLI)
RIKC - Rehabilitation Institute of Kansas City
Rusk Rehabilitation Center
St. Louis Children’s Hospital
The Center for Head Injury Services

Community Health Charities

Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)
Missouri State Employee Charitable Campaign (MSECC)
Company-based Campaigns

Payroll deduction donations were a convenient way for individuals to contribute $2,062 to support programs of BIA-MO.
Survivor and Family Regional Seminars 2015
Thanks to the sponsors who made it possible for these regional seminars to be free admission.

Sponsors
Mercy Rehabilitation Hospital – Springfield
MidAmerica Rehabilitation Hospital
Minds Matter, LLC
Missouri AgrAbility Project
Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
Missouri Family to Family Resource Center
Missouri Protection and Advocacy Services
Missouri Vocational Rehabilitation
Ransin Injury Law
Preferred Family Healthcare
Ozark Neuro Rehab Center

Sports Concussions: Facts, Fallacies and New Frontiers
Education for team and school personnel to reduce the risk of long-term effects of concussions.

Sponsors
Boost Physical Therapy and Sports Performance
Children’s Mercy – Center for Sports Medicine
CoxHealth
Excel Sports & Physical Therapy
Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services/TBI Grant
Missouri Football Coaches Association
Missouri Vocational Rehabilitation
Mizzou Therapy Services
Paraquad DEAF Way Interpreting Services
R!KC – Rehabilitation Institute of Kansas City
The Independent Living Center

Third-Party Events
Fundraisers hosted and coordinated by organizations or individuals with proceeds benefiting the Brain Injury Association of Missouri.

American Junior Golf Foundation
High school student Jessica Lewis raised money to increase awareness about brain injury through her participation in the American Junior Golf Foundation.

Gordana Ville Grill
Proceeds from 10 Percent Tuesdays fundraiser to underwrite support group outreach, Information & Referral Services, educational programs and advocacy efforts to serve survivors, family members, professionals, and the Southeast Missouri community.

Walk-Float-Swim
Camps of the Donald Danforth Jr. Wilderness Camp logged laps around the camp grounds and in the pool to raise about $1,000. Kristin Hahn was the 2015 Top Fundraiser.

Foundation and Corporate Grants
Provide funding for specific programs or all services of BIA-MO

Donald Danforth Jr. Wilderness Camp
Dana Brown Foundation Employees Community Fund of Boeing St. Louis
Fischer-Bauer-Knirps Foundation Knights of Columbus – Camdenton
Tim O’Brien Memorial Fund, Community Foundation of the Ozarks

Youth Health Needs
Bernice Priger Charitable Foundation Cardinals Care

Organization Programming and Operating
Abbott Laboratories Employee Giving Geiger Ready-Mix, Inc.
Missouri Foundation for Health

Honorarium and Memorial Gifts
(September 16 – December 31, 2015)

In Honor of:
John Crain and Family
EMC2 Corporation Forrest Sparke
Joanie Huelsing
Kim and Kristi Huelsing
Teddy Jayne
Patti Jayne
Merideth Roth
Rosemary and Michael Roth

In Memory of:
John Blass
Deborah and Edward Blass
Marjorie and Ned Blass
Mary Jane and Howard Brooks Brenda and Thomas Bucher
Marjorie and John Clark
Deb and Mark Cowart
Cindy and Leland Dawes
Mary Fakes
Pat Farnen
Patricia Fort
Myra and Richard Graves
Carol and Charles Gunn
Gary Gwinn
Brenda and Jim Hale
Billie Hobbs
Jane and Kirk Houdek
Mary Lou and Abner Jones
Susan Johnson
Cathy and Dave Ketterman
Randy Lamotte
Sandra and Robert Manning
Martinsburg Community Church, Ladies Aid
Priscilla and David Medley
Pam and Roger Metcalf
Holly and Robert Neske
Sandy and Martha Lee Robinson
Fern and Richard Penn
Claudette White
Mary Wise

John Headrick, MD
Missouri Baptist Medical Office Staff
Lenora Morrison
Pat Riney
Thomas Martin, PsyD
Rebecca and Brick Johnstone
Barbara Nemeth
Michele and Byron Hubbard
Carol Orthals
Mona and Chris Haller
Barbara Sickman
Cheryl Price
Rick Wehmeyer
Cheryl Price

Corporate Members
Bottaro, Kubin & Yocum, PC (www.kc-lawyers.com)
Bridges of Missouri, Inc.
Foam Supplies, Inc. (foamsupplies.com)
Kennelwood Pet Resorts (www.kennelwood.com)
McCollum and Griggs, LLC (www.mglawkc.com)
Mizzou Therapy Services (www.muhealth.org/services/therapy/)
R!KC – The Rehabilitation Institute of Kansas City (www.rehabkc.org)
Rational Systems, Inc. (actestmnw.com)
Sargent Construction Company (www.sargent-construction.com)
SSM Health - St. Joseph Hospital (www.ssmhealth.com/)
SSM Health - Saint Louis University Hospital (www.slu-specialists.com)
SSM Health - DePaul Hospital St. Louis (www.wolfglam.com)

Points of Light Champions
Leadership gift of $5,000 or more for organization sustainability and growth.

Mrs. Donald Danforth Jr.
William H. Danforth, MD
Sargent Construction Family

Points of Light Members
Annual gift of $500 or more to support all programs of BIA-MO.

Mrs. Melvin Bahle
Laura and Charles Barnes
Kimmy and Steve Brauer
Margaret and Steven Culver
Molly and Chris Danforth
Susannah and Donny Danforth III
Adele Dilschneider
Clayton Fenter
Kathy and David Hollo
Kerry and Bill Holekamp
Bette Johnson
Joanne and Charles Knight
Donald Tomlinson
Ramam Malhotra, MD
Libby and Jim McDonnell
Anne and Charles Mott
Lauren Schwarz, PsyD
H. Meade Summers III
Mary and Simon Tonkin
Connie and Ned Williams