BIA-MO 13TH ANNUAL STATEWIDE CONFERENCE

It is not surprising that the premier educational opportunity for professionals who provide care for individuals with a brain injury is sponsored by the Brain Injury Association of Missouri.

This year’s 13th Annual Statewide Conference scheduled for October 5-7, 2017, promises to be another outstanding and not-to-be-missed event. The Conference will be at a new location – the Marriott St. Louis West in Chesterfield, Missouri, with easy access to outstanding restaurants, shopping and outlet malls.

National and local experts share current research, innovative therapeutic strategies and best practice treatments to further develop knowledge and skills to improve the quality of life for survivors of brain injury.

Sessions on Thursday, October 5 and Friday, October 6 will focus on topics of most interest to healthcare professionals, rehabilitation specialists, social workers, vocational counselors, physicians, psychologists, mental health professionals, case managers, service coordinators, and others who provide care for persons with brain injury.

On Saturday, October 7, a special Survivor and Family Seminar will be held for persons with brain injury and their families. The BIA-MO Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon will also be held on Saturday.

Keynote Speaker John Corrigan, PhD, ABPP, is a professor at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center and director of the Ohio Valley Center for Brain Injury Prevention and Rehabilitation. Dr. Corrigan also serves as the project director for the Ohio Regional Traumatic Brain Injury Model System, a multi-center, longitudinal research program. He will present “The Public Health Burden of TBI” at the BIA-MO Conference.

Brian Keith Day, MD, PhD, is a neurologist with Washington University in St. Louis and BJC HealthCare. With the Washington University Center for Advanced Medicine, Dr. Day specializes in epilepsy and seizures in adults. He is also an assistant professor with the Washington University School of Medicine and has had several studies published in medical journals. His keynote presentation at the BIA-MO Conference will be “Post Traumatic Epilepsy and Seizures from Brain Injury.”

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WILDERNESS CAMP – THANK YOU

Saying “Thank You” doesn’t seem to go far enough when individuals, foundations, and sponsors give so much to make the Donald Danforth Jr. Wilderness Camp available. This amazing adventure is only possible with your support. So, we’ll say it anyway: THANK YOU.

The Donald Danforth Jr. Wilderness Camp provides recreational opportunities for campers to overcome challenges, to enjoy social time with others facing new life with brain injury, and to get away from the ordinary of every day. It’s about zip-lining, alpine tower climbing, swimming, fishing, paddle boats, arts and crafts, sports, dinner dance, and karaoke...all adapted to the personal needs and physical abilities of each Camper.

This BIA-MO Camp is a week of fun, challenges, and learning to adapt for the person with brain injury. It is also a week of respite for family members and caregivers. And none of it could happen without the support of generous donors.

Campers were also part of the fundraising action with the Walk Float Swim activity. Campers arrived at Camp with their sponsors’ commitments in hand and then began to meet the challenges. Through this fundraiser, Campers raised more than $1,700 to support the BIA-MO Camp. Campers completed a total of 1,092 laps around the camp grounds and in the pool. It was truly a rewarding event far beyond the dollars raised.
MAUREEN’S MESSAGE

Brain Injury Association of Missouri (BIA-MO) is not just a community-based organization. It IS a community ... a community of hundreds of volunteers who serve as members of the board of directors, speakers, recreation coordinators, fund raisers and office assistants. Volunteers are survivors of brain injury, family members, health and service providers and community volunteers. All of our services rely on their commitment to function.

Each year we honor individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to the brain injury community. Your help is needed. You know or probably have worked with people who have made a significant impact for you or the community as it relates to brain injury.

Please nominate an individual, a group of individuals, companies or organizations you feel deserving of a BIA-MO Annual Award.

In 500 words or less, tell us why you feel the person is deserving of the BIA-MO award and how the brain injury community has benefited from the efforts of the nominee. Submit your nomination or nominations (yes, you may nominate more than one individual and in more than one category) by September 15 along with contact information. Awards will be presented during the BIA-MO 13th Annual Statewide Conference Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 7, 2017 in St. Louis.

Award categories are:

• **Courage Award** - Honors the success of an individual with brain injury.
• **Bill Buell Memorial Award** - Honors a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor or Case Manager who has provided outstanding service to the brain injury community within or outside of his or her employment responsibilities.
• **Point of Light Award** - Honors an individual who has provided outstanding service to persons with brain injury. Nominations must be made by an individual with brain injury.
• **Volunteer of the Year** - Honors an individual who has furthered the Mission of the Brain Injury Association of Missouri through his or her volunteer service with the organization.
• **Legislator of the Year** - Honors an elected official representing citizens of Missouri who has supported the prevention of brain injuries, services for survivors of brain injury or their families, or supported issues important to the brain injury community.
• **Service Excellence Award - Community Service** - Honors an individual or organization for exceptional service within the brain injury community.
• **Service Excellence Award - Prevention** - Honors an individual or organization for lasting contributions in brain injury prevention.
• **Service Excellence Award - Public Relations** - Honors an individual or organization for outreach and educational efforts that have increased awareness of brain injury, needs within the brain injury community, and the Brain Injury Association of Missouri.
• **Lifetime Achievement Award** - Honors an individual or organization for significant contributions and long-term impact to the brain injury community.

ADVOCACY – SERVICES ARE AT RISK

Thousands of survivors of brain injury in Missouri need Medicaid for healthcare and community supports. These individuals often have long-term disabilities such as limited mobility, vision, hearing or balance impairments, mental health disorders and much more. The services needed are at risk of being eliminated or reduced due to budget cuts.

The current proposed Federal FY18 Budget includes block grants and per capita caps for Medicaid. Block grants and per capita cap funding are when the Federal government has a pre-determined amount for the State of Missouri to provide.

Historically, the amount of money for block grants and per capita cap funding does not increase – EVER. The amount received in year one is the same as in year 10, 20 and so on. The result will be cuts in services for survivors of brain injury who need healthcare and community supports through Medicaid to live within the community. The alternative is individuals living in nursing homes at a higher cost to taxpayers.

The Brain Injury Waiver was a promising option for survivors of brain injury to receive rehabilitation and transitional support services within their home. This hope is now gone, or at least delayed, with the veto of House Committee Bill (HCB) 3 in June 2017.

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IN MY OWN WORDS

Name: Tim S. and wife Michelle
City/State: Raymore, MO
Source of Brain Injury: Work Injury- fall on concrete steps.

EXPLANATION OF MASK (TIM):
I go between good days and bad days. Each day is emotional whatever it brings. I am blessed with a support system that lets me be me, even in my “burden” world. One side of my mask shows the bad while the other the good. The good is my wife, the strongest person I know, my six kids, grandson, friends and the Lord Jesus. The bad side shows that I’m broken and struggle with how to fix it. Some days I need direction just to do the simple things of life. I grieve at the loss of what I used to be and try to make sense of all of this. I am thankful that it wasn’t any worse than it was. We search every day for what works and what doesn’t work. I’m also thankful for Kelly and Jen, my therapists. They make me work hard. No excuses. I love my dogs too. They help me more than they know.

REFLECTION OF MASK (MICHELLE):
He faces physical and emotional challenges. There are difficulties in tasks that used to be routine. But he is still him – and I love him.
IT’S MORE THAN ABOUT BOWLING

So you think Bowling for Brain Injury is just about rolling a 12-pound ball down a beautifully crafted wooden lane and (hopefully) knocking down a few pins? Maybe you see it as fun with your family on a Saturday afternoon. Or perhaps it’s an easy, already-organized event you can participate in with friends and co-workers and help increase awareness of brain injury all at the same time.

It’s all of that, but, that’s just a survivor of brain injury to groups for survivors and their and parents about the signs professionals with the current about letting survivors and alone and that help is just a legislators understand the been injured and need a little the surface. It’s about sending Camp, organizing support families, educating coaches of concussions, providing best practices of care. It’s families know they are not phone call away. And helping needs of individuals who have help from time to time.

Through Bowling for Brain Injury, you are reaching out, touching lives and making a difference with BIA-MO services.

Donald Danforth Jr. Wilderness Camp

The Donald Danforth Jr. Wilderness Camp is a week-long organized outdoor experience for persons with a brain injury. It provides opportunities for fun, friendship and new adventures. Family members receive respite from daily caregiving responsibilities.

Legislation

The Brain Injury Association of Missouri is a leader in grassroots advocacy to the availability of adequate services for survivors of brain injury and to prevent brain injuries.

“We wish no one needed the services of the Brain Injury Association of Missouri, but they do.”

Regional Seminars

BIA-MO Survivor and Family Regional Seminars provide helpful information, practical suggestions, and support for life with brain injury. Regional Seminars are held in Southwest and Western Missouri in the Spring each year and in Eastern Missouri during October.

“I met some great people last year at this event that have given me opportunities, support, and new resources.”

Sports Concussions: Facts, Fallacies and New Frontiers

Training for coaches, school personnel, licensed athletic trainers and others involved with youth sports to enhance knowledge of concussion recognition, management and prevention to reduce risks for youth.

“We are participating in Bowling for Brain Injury to help the Brain Injury Association of Missouri continue their great work of preventing brain injuries, educating coaches about concussions, and helping families adjust to life with brain injury.”

Thank you for your participation and support.
BIA-MO 13TH ANNUAL STATEWIDE CONFERENCE
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Carter “Cardinal Cowboy” Rethwisch, a survivor of brain injury, is a motivational speaker and local St. Louis celebrity who is often seen at St. Louis Cardinals games in his signature red cowboy hat. Carter survived a car crash involving a drunk driver, was on a ventilator in an induced coma after having a seizure, and was given less than 50/50 chance of surviving. As a Keynote Speaker for the BIA-MO Conference, the Cardinal Cowboy will share his message of perseverance and his zeal for life.

The Keynote Speakers should be enough to make this Conference worth attending. But the additional sessions take it to an even higher level of importance.

Topics include:
- Augmentative Communication and Assistive Technology
- Pediatric Brain Injury and Transition to Adult Services
- Behavior Modification
- Executive Functioning Deficits
- Accessing Resources
- Veterans and Agriculture

Importance of Screening and Identification of Brain Injury

Dealing with Denial in Recovery

The Registration Fee is $220 for Professionals. There is discount rate of $170 for Professional Members of BIA-MO. Family Members may attend Thursday and Friday for a fee of $90. The fee for survivors of brain injury or students is $65 for October 5 and 6, 2017.

Conference Sponsorships are also opportunities. Please financially support this Conference to keep it affordable for professionals who will benefit by attending or have an exhibit to share information about your services. All Sponsorships include signage during the Conference, full page recognition in the Conference Program, and a thank you during the Welcome Address as well as in the BIA-MO newsletter and on our website.

Sponsorship levels include:
- Co-Host Sponsor — $10,000
- Track Sponsor — $5,000
- Lunch Sponsor — $3,000
- Keynote Sponsor — $1,000
- Break Sponsor — $500

The Full Conference Exhibitor Fee is $385. Advertising options include full ($100) and half ($75) page ads in the Conference Program Book.

For more information or to receive the Conference Registration Brochure, contact the Brain Injury Association of Missouri at Conference@biamo.org, 800.444.6443 or 314.426.4024.

I WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Please use this form to make a difference or request more information.

BIA-MO Membership

☐ Points of Light ($500 or more)
☐ Corporate Membership ($500 or more)

Link from BIA-MO:

☐ Corporate/Organization ($200 or more) without link
☐ Professional ($100) ☐ Family ($35) ☐ Survivor (Free)

Donald Danforth Jr. Wilderness Camp

☐ Send me a Camp Packet in February 2018
☐ Sponsor-A-Camper

☐ Full Scholarship ($390) ☐ Partial Scholarship ($____)
☐ Walk-Float-Swim Sponsorship $_____

Annual Conference Registration

☐ Professional Non-Member ($220)
☐ Professional BIA-MO Member ($170)
☐ Family ($90)
☐ Survivor of Brain Injury ($65)

Conference Sponsorship $_____ ☐ Exhibiting $_____

Survivor & Family Seminar Registration

☐ Saturday, Oct. 7 (Free) # of people attending ______

Survivor & Family Seminar

☐ Add me to the outreach list so I may register in 2018

Networking Coffee for Professionals

Send information for:

☐ St. Louis ☐ Springfield

Advocacy

☐ Add me to the Advocacy Alert email list.

General Donation $________

Please contact me:

Name__________________________
Day Phone: (_____) _____________
Company/Agency ________________________________
Address ____________________________ Apt # ______
City ___________________ State _____ Zip Code ______

Donation Payment, if applicable: Check payable to Brain Injury Association of Missouri or credit card.

Visa/Discover/MasterCard # _______________________
Exp Date _____ V-Code (on back) _______
Cardholder billing address (if different than above)
____________________________________ Apt # ______
City ___________________ State _____ Zip Code ______

Mail to BIA-MO, 2265 Schuetz Road, St. Louis, MO 63146-3409, make your donation or request more information online at www.biamo.org or fax this completed form to 314-426-3290.
By Linda Geist and Karen Funkenbusch, MU Extension.

Recent college graduate and survivor of brain injury Zane Volkmann is riding high in the saddle. He has a job in a field he loves as a ranch manager with Wiese Farms in Harris, Missouri.

The New Franklin native sustained a brain injury and broken back in August 2012 while riding his horse. Volkmann was about to begin his senior year of high school when the accident happened.

His family, church and friends supported him as he recovered and graduated from high school. He never gave up his dream of working as a horse trainer and farrier.

Volkmann went on to graduate with an associate’s degree in equine science and ranch management from North East Oklahoma A&M College with the help of the Jim and Lori Winter Scholarship through the Brain Injury Association of Missouri (BIA-MO). He worked as a farrier and horse trainer to help with college expenses.

Throughout college, he also received services from Missouri AgrAbility Project and Missouri Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Nominations for the 2017 Jim and Lori Winter Scholarship and other awards are accepted through September 15, 2017 at www.biamo.org.

To learn more about Volkmann’s ride to success and Missouri AgrAbility, go to http://extension.missouri.edu/news.

**BIA-MO MISSION**

*The mission of the Brain Injury Association of Missouri is to reduce the incidence of brain injury; to promote acceptance, independence and productivity of persons with brain injury; and to support their families.*
SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY FOR SURVIVORS

When life gets interrupted because of a brain injury, it’s often difficult to get back on track. Finding new ways of handling daily life, interests, job opportunities, and educational options can be challenging. The Brain Injury Association of Missouri (BIA-MO) has been a resource for survivors, their families and professionals for nearly 35 years. And opportunities for hope and healing continue to evolve and change.

BIA-MO is pleased to offer educational scholarships for survivors wishing to pursue post-secondary education. We partner with local supporters to provide the SSM Health Rehabilitation Network Educational Scholarship and the Jim and Lori Winter Scholarship for survivors of brain injury. Applicants need to submit only one application and for it to be considered for each scholarship. The submission deadline is September 15, 2017.

Scholarships are available for survivors of brain injury who are residents of Missouri wishing to attend a two-year college, four-year college or university, or vocational/trade school. Funding can be used for expenses directly related to post-secondary education including tuition, room and board, books, and required class material such as workbooks or specialized tools.

The application process is easy. Simply download and complete the application cover sheet from the BIA-MO website (www.biamo.org). Full details are available on our website; or call 314-426-4024 or 1-800-444-6443.

SSM Health Rehabilitation Network Educational Scholarship is a corporate scholarship of SSM Health Rehabilitation Network-Select Medical Partnership established to assist survivors of brain injury on their road of recovery through encouragement and support for post-secondary education. The SSM Health Rehabilitation Network Scholarship program offers two $750 post-secondary educational scholarships for survivors of brain injury.

Jim and Lori Winter Scholarship honors the long-time volunteer leadership of Jim and Lori Winter for strengthening the Brain Injury Association of Missouri. Lori continues her volunteer service as a Support Group Facilitator for two groups. Donations to BIA-MO support the Jim and Lori Winter Scholarship Fund to provide two $500 scholarships for survivors of brain injury to pursue post-secondary education.

Submission deadline is September 15. Online, mail or fax submissions are acceptable. Don’t miss this opportunity to pursue your plans and achieve your education and career goals.

HONORARIUM AND MEMORIAL GIFTS

(April 1, 2017 – July 31, 2017)

IN HONOR OF
Beth Dauber
Ralph Klink
Sarah Davis
Ralph Klink
Father’s Day
Memorial Day
Mother’s Day
Cheryl Price
Teddy Jayne
Patti Jayne
Robert Melton
Page Melton Ivie
Meredith Roth
Rosemary and Michael Roth
Robert Scarlet
Michele Scarlet
Danny Speck
Speck Family
Deb Turley
Ralph Klink

IN MEMORY OF
John C. Brandt
Brenda and Dan Cowell
FAST Dorsey
Lucy Harr
Kristin Kostecki
Lake Saint Louis Swim Team
Liz and Dave Powitzky
Kathryn and Ricky Richardson
David Rudin
Lynn and Tim Streb
Teresa Wisnasky
Nancy Koenig
Mary and Bill Bernickus, Sr.
Martha C. Brown and Associates, LLC
J.D. Campbell
Debbie Cox
Laurie and William Donovan
Eileen and Harvey Hahn
Myrna and Jay Meyer
Scott Scholle
Sally Speiser
Eileen and Warren Speiser
Lori Winter
Annabelle Mebruer
Cheryl Price
Steve Long
Carman and Tom Duvall
Carol Ann Ortbals
Mona and Chris Haller
Henry Ruggeri III
Southview School PTO

Your Scholarship Application should include:
1) an essay of 500 words or less explaining how your brain injury has affected your life, describing your goals, financial need and how the scholarship will help you achieve your goals;
2) proof of acceptance at an educational institution;
3) list of financial resources to help pay for education; and
4) two letters of reference.
The *BIA-MO Survivor and Family Regional Seminars* are held across the State and offer the same topics at each location, for individuals and families recently impacted by brain injury, as well as those who are encountering new challenges many years post-injury. Seminars were held in the Western and Southwestern regions earlier this year. The Eastern Regional Seminar will be on October 7, 2017, in conjunction with the 13th Annual Statewide Conference. The location is at the Marriott St. Louis West in Chesterfield, Missouri.

Plan to attend and meet others who understand the challenges of life with brain injury. You are not alone.

The Brain Injury Association of Missouri (BIA-MO) Survivor and Family Regional Seminars provide much needed answers, education, support and comfort for survivors of brain injury. This year’s topics include:

*What’s the Diff?* includes discussion groups for survivors and a different group for family and friends that encourage dialogue about changes in your everyday lives after experiencing the impact of brain injury.

*Meet your Elected Officials* is an opportunity to educate State Senators and Representatives about issues important to survivors, families and the brain injury community.

*Dealing with Denial* in daily life can be helped by understanding the underlying reasons of denial that may influence your reactions to the changes, enhance relationships, and help in the recovery process.

*Adapting to a New Lifestyle* and a full life with brain injury is possible! Learn what has worked for other survivors and families through adjustments, changes and attitudes.

Keynote Speaker Carter “Cardinal Cowboy” Rethwisch is a motivational speaker and survivor of brain injury. He will provide encouragement and support for individuals with brain injury and their loved ones.

The BIA-MO Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon is part of this Seminar. Thanks to generous sponsors, this Seminar is free of charge for survivors and their families but registration is required.

Register online at www.biamo.org, complete the registration form on page 5 of this newsletter or call the Brain Injury Association of Missouri at 314-426-4024.