EVERY 18 SECONDS... YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

The Brain Injury Association of Missouri (BIA-MO) is recognized as a leader in advocacy, education, survivor and family support, and recreation. The climb to recognized leadership didn’t happen overnight. And it didn’t happen in a vacuum. It happened because of your Membership and your commitment to be part of the Voice of Brain Injury.

Every 18 seconds someone sustains a brain injury. Someone’s life is changed forever. Another child, adult or family faces an uncertain future.

Every 18 seconds - a statistic that you can change. Membership in the Brain Injury Association of Missouri is making a difference every day, all across our State.

With your Membership, survivors of brain injury and their families have access to services, receive support and education to face new challenges, and celebrate accomplishments in their lives.

With your Membership, we are reaching and impacting survivors and their families, professionals, caregivers, and the general public.

With your Membership, we are educating coaches, school personnel, parents, and athletes about sports concussions. Elected officials are now aware of the needs of survivors.

Renew your Membership or become a first-time Member today. Every 18 seconds - a statistic you can change.

Family memberships begin at $35. Professional memberships are as low as $75 for individuals and $200 for organizations. Corporate Members can choose to have a link from our website for a $500 donation.

Make your Membership matter by sending your donation with the form on page 7 or make your gift online at www.biamo.org.

ADVENTURE AND TRADITION IN A NEW CAMP LOCATION

The 31st Annual BIA-MO Donald Danforth Jr. Wilderness Camp will be another amazing experience for survivors of brain injury – this time at a new camp location with more exciting new adventure opportunities.

Knowing the Donald Danforth Jr. Wilderness Camp provides many fun camp experiences, we will continue that tradition at our new location of Sunnyhill Adventure Camp in Dittmer, Missouri from May 31 – June 5, 2015.

There will be the usual activities of swimming, arts and crafts, campfires, sports, Bar-B-Q dinner, karaoke and dancing. Campers will also have a chance to test their sense of adventure on challenges like the zipline, rock climbing wall, paddleboat riding, organized nature walks, and an alpine tower.

Activities, of course, are adaptive for each Camper’s abilities. The cabins at Sunnyhill are fully accessible and nursing staff will disburse medications.

All this fun and adventure is just $390 for survivors of brain injury living in Missouri and $475 for non-Missouri residents! Hard to imagine? Yes. And not quite true. The actual cost is higher but donors, sponsors and foundations help keep the cost affordable for survivors and families. Camp Fee Assistance

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5
MAUREEN’S MESSAGE

March was national Brain Injury Awareness Month. In Missouri we had several activities to increase awareness about brain injury and the Brain Injury Association of Missouri (BIA-MO).

A highlighted activity was our Brain Injury Fact of the Day media campaign. This campaign involved a different Brain Injury Fact being aired on radio stations and posted on BIA-MO social media of Facebook and Twitter. Additional information about the Brain Injury Fact of the Day was listed on our www.biamo.org website with links to resources.

In partnership with the Missouri AgrAbility Project, three radio stations in rural Missouri aired the Brain Injury Fact of the Day. The St. Louis area Brain Injury Fact of the Day was supported by The Rehab Institute of St. Louis.

Nearly 300 radio commercial spots along with three on-air interviews were aired in Central, Eastern and Southwest Missouri. This outreach increased awareness and encouraged survivors and families to contact BIA-MO for information, support and referral to community resources.

When we say awareness most people associate that with making people familiar with the term “brain injury.” There is much more than that and there are many opportunities to increase awareness about brain injury and BIA-MO.

Awareness of brain injury definition, causes and effects. This may be a presentation to a group, school or at a Conference. It may also be short personal conversations or media outreach. This outreach and education are essential for individuals and the general public to understand the frequency of brain injury and its impact on daily life for more than 115,000 Missourians with a long-term disability due to brain injury. It is also important to get children and adults to recognize the causes in order to reduce the risk factors of brain injury.

Awareness of ways to reduce risks and to prevent brain injuries. This second-level of education is more in-depth and intended to increase knowledge and to implement action steps related to preventing short and long-term effects of brain injury. For example, concussion education is made available for coaches, athletic directors, licensed athletic trainers, school nurses, administrators, parents and athletes. Other examples include classroom presentations to school-age children about bicycle helmets, seatbelts and other safety practices. Prevention is the only cure for brain injury.

Awareness of best practices in treatment, rehabilitation, community support, vocational options, and other care services for persons with brain injury. This level of understanding of brain injury is essential for professionals of various disciplines who provide care on a daily, weekly, monthly or periodic basis. Continuing education is necessary for this fuller understanding of current treatment options regarding brain injury. The BIA-MO Annual Statewide Professional Conference is the ideal opportunity for professionals to gain this level of awareness about brain injury. If you are a professional providing brain injury care, you can increase your awareness of brain injury at this level by attending this Conference. Survivors and family members can also encourage the professionals who provide their care to attend the BIA-MO Conference.

Awareness does not only relate to a level of understanding, it is also important with regard to help available. Too often survivors and family members do not become aware of BIA-MO for months or years post injury. They feel alone, so many questions and so few answers. Building awareness and support for individuals and families can be accomplished by survivors, family members, and professionals capitalizing on opportunities to share information about BIA-MO services. These personal conversations, social media postings, blog comments, social groups, or other outreach opportunities may be the start of one – or many – survivors or family members knowing they are not alone.

Awareness does not only involve outreach to individuals, families, groups, professionals and the general public. It involves YOU being actively involved with the Brain Injury Association of Missouri. Knowing what support is needed for the implementation of all of the levels of awareness and making your commitment of financial support, volunteer time, and outreach efforts is essential to meet our goal of “increasing awareness of brain injury and BIA-MO.”
“AgrAbility and the Brain Injury Association of Missouri (BIA-MO) work together to keep farmers and ranchers in the saddle and on the tractor,” said Maureen Cunningham, Executive Director of the Brain Injury Association of Missouri.

The United States Department of Agriculture’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture provides funding to 21 land grant universities, including the University of Missouri. These funds help the growing number of farmers and ranchers with disabilities remain active in production agriculture.

“The AgrAbility program enhances the quality of life for farmers, ranchers and other agricultural workers with disabilities by helping them overcome barriers to continue their chosen professions in agriculture,” said Karen Funkenbusch, director of the Missouri AgrAbility project at the University of Missouri (MU).

The AgrAbility program provides assistive devices and technology recommendations to farmers and ranchers so they can continue working in a more efficient, effective, and safe environment.

“It’s about cultivating success in agriculture, employment, and rural life for persons with disabilities and their families. The AgrAbility mission is to enhance and protect quality of life and preserve livelihoods. The AgrAbility philosophy represents the very ideals that define American agriculture. It’s about supporting and promoting growth and independence. It’s about no-limit thinking and the can-do spirit. Ultimately, AgrAbility is all about hope!” Funkenbusch said.

Faculty and staff from MU’s human environmental sciences and agricultural engineering extension, Lincoln University Cooperative Extension, Innovative Small Farmers Outreach Program and Brain Injury Association of Missouri partner to provide education, on-site farm assessments, off-site visits, technical assistance and recommendations and resource materials to farmers, ranchers, farmworkers and family members who are limited by any type of physical, cognitive, illness-related disability or chronic health condition.

Missouri AgrAbility also partners with the University of Missouri Kansas City School of Pharmacy on the University of Missouri campus, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Rehabilitation Services for the Blind, USDA Farm Service Agency and Missouri Arthritis & Osteoporosis Program.

Funkenbusch said that a person with a disability might have a physical or mental impairment that limits their day-to-day activities. Disability examples include difficulties with mobility, sight or speech, amputation, blindness, chronic pain, deafness, health conditions, hearing impairments, heart conditions, respiratory diseases, spinal cord injury, traumatic brain injuries or visual impairments.

For more information, contact Karen Funkenbusch at funkenbuschk@missouri.edu, 800-995-8503 or contact any local University of Missouri Extension office.

Zane Volkman always wanted to be a horse trainer. A week before his senior year in high school Zane was in a serious accident.

Zane fell nine feet on his head at a livestock center in August 2012. Young riders working cattle there enjoy riding horses under overhead pipes jutting from the barn and swinging from them.

He’d done it dozens of times before, but this time the momentum propelled him into the air and hurled him to the ground. He sustained three brain bleeds and a broken back.

Zane stayed out of the saddle for six months – “the longest six months of my life” - as he and his family learned to adapt to the new Zane.” He received the BIA-MO Jim and Lori Winter Scholarship in 2014 to help with his college expenses.

Despite challenges, Zane graduated high school on time, fifth in his class. He is attending equine ranch management at Northeastern Oklahoma A & M College and during the summers he works with horses on a Howard County ranch.

“Just because you have a brain injury, it doesn’t mean you can’t perform at your full potential.” – Zane Volkman
BIA-MO BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2015

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A PERFECT GAME

If you’ve got a little spare time and feel like striking it rich for BIA-MO, here’s your chance to roll a perfect game. It’s time to get your team together and start rolling in the cash. Bowling for Brain Injury is June 20, 2015.

It’s easy to participate. You and your team can bowl at the Brunzwick Zone – Chesterfield or in Springfield at Enterprise Park Lanes. You can be an absentee or virtual bowler. You might choose to sponsor a bowler or team with a donation. Or perhaps you want to be a corporate sponsor of the event. Any way you frame it, it’s a perfect score for individuals living with the challenges of life with brain injury.

Sign-up now at www.BowlingForBrainInjury.org or complete the form on page 7 of this newsletter.

Being careful not to step over the foul line, here are a few steps to take before you hit the lanes:

- Mark your calendar for Saturday June 20, 12:00 noon – 2:00 pm
- Register at www.BowlingforBrainInjury.org
- Invite five people to join your team (each team is a total of six bowlers)
- Build your webpage and ask friends and family for support (it’s easier than you think, especially through email)
- Each team is expected to raise a minimum of $500. Raise more and you can win a lot of good prizes and provide more support for services offered by BIA-MO.
- Each team of bowlers will receive a pizza, pitcher of soda and free rental of bowling shoes.

If you want to support this fun-filled event without picking up a bowling ball, check out the options at www.BowlingForBrainInjury.org. Corporate sponsors are recognized on the Brain Injury Association websites for Missouri and our national organization (BIAA.org).

You don’t have to be a scratch bowler or know the difference between an open frame and a baby split. No worries about gutter balls or crossing the foul line. Just bring your best effort and have fun. Let’s spare no time...strike up some fun...and roll a perfect game for survivors of brain injury and their families.
By Nathan R.

It was a typical night in a small college town. On February 22, 2014, I was walking home around 1:30 in the morning. I was used to walking everywhere - to class, to work and definitely home after a night at the bars.

It was on the street corner just one block from my house that two boys verbally accosted me with rude remarks. I ran to the median of the road. Their abuse continued. I am not sure if it was impaired judgment, being enraged by the boys, or maybe some of both. Regardless, I stepped off the median directly into the path of a car. I was struck, rolled onto the hood, and shattered the windshield with my head.

My brain was bleeding profusely; I was in a coma for six days. I had to begin anew in many aspects - walking, speech, continence, even vision. In addition to broken bones, I had a traumatic brain injury (TBI).

My recovery has been quite remarkable and I am so thankful for that. In less than a year, normalcy has begun to return. Mentally, I feel myself. I have long been fascinated by Spanish and now plan to pursue a degree in it, along with my goal of a degree in Textile and Apparel Management.

My brain functions well in the structure of education, so pursuing something I have developed a true passion for excites me. Receiving the Jim and Lori Winter Scholarship helps me gain a sense of independence that I had only just begun to develop at the time of the accident.

Bia-MO Conference – Survivor Keynote Announced

Joanne Cohen will inspire professionals, survivors and family members during the Brain Injury Association of Missouri (BIA-MO) Annual Statewide Conference. This year’s Conference will be October 15 – 17, 2015 at the St. Charles Convention Center in St. Charles, Missouri.

Joanne was in a car crash in the Bahamas in 1992 that left her unable to walk. A year later she discovered many of her personal challenges were due to her traumatic brain injury (TBI) from that accident and two brain injuries from previous rear-end accidents four and ten years prior to the “BIG” one in 1992. She has overcome many obstacles and has exceeded medical diagnosis, leading to a remarkable and inspirational story and recovery. It is with this experience that she has related to many survivors of brain injury, their family members, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans, and professionals who serve these populations.

She has more than 30 years combined experience in coaching, consulting, organization development, facilitation and training. She designed and implemented an exceptional Leadership Pipeline Program. In addition, she provides clients with excellent resources for understanding and managing change.

Joanne is a Senior Organizational Consultant for CTAT at Rocky Mountain Human Services. She designs and facilitates Survivor Series training sessions for survivors of brain injury and she is a certified Bootstraps Asset Building Education Facilitator and Trainer. She was a liaison to the National Service Inclusion Project, “Operation ABLE Community,” to engage wounded, ill or injured soldiers-in-transition and veterans in National Service as a pathway to employment.

Joanne is people, relationships and results oriented. She appreciates the potential in everyone and is committed to the success of all. Joanne will share her personal experience, knowledge and expertise with professionals at the BIA-MO Conference on Friday, October 16 and the survivor and family seminar audience on Saturday, October 17.

To learn more about the BIA-MO Conference, visit www.biamo.org or request a brochure to be sent in August 2015 by contacting the BIA-MO office at Conference@biamo.org or 800-444-6443.

The Brain Injury Association of Missouri is on Facebook. facebook.com/bia.missouri
BIA-MO SUPPORT GROUPS OPEN FOR SURVIVORS AND FAMILY MEMBERS

Cape Girardeau – First Monday at 7:00 pm. Cape Girardeau Public Library, 711 N. Clark, Cape Girardeau/63701

Columbia – Second Thursday at 7:00 pm. Rusk Rehab Center, 315 Business Loop 70 W, Columbia/65203

Hannibal – Second Tuesday at 6:30 pm. Marion County Services, 3175 Palmyra Rd, Hannibal/63401

Independence – First Tuesday at 7:00 pm. Trinity Episcopal Church, 409 N. Liberty, Independence/64050

Joplin – Second Tuesday at 12:00 noon. Independence Living Center, 2639 E. 34th Street, Joplin/64804

Kansas City – Second Tuesday at 7:00 pm. Hillside Christian Church, 900 NE Vivion Rd, Kansas City/64118

Kirksville – First Monday at 6:30 pm. Fellowship Baptist Church, 1701 Jamison, Kirksville/63501

Rolla – Last Tuesday at 6:30 pm. Christ Episcopal Church, 1000 N. Main, Rolla/65401

Springfield – Third Tuesday at 5:30 pm. Alternative Opportunities, 2626 W. College, Springfield/65802

St. Charles – Second Thursday at 7:00 pm. St. Joseph Health Center, St. Charles Room, 300 First Capitol Drive, St. Charles/63301

St. Joseph – Third Thursday at 3:30 pm. MERIL, 4420 S. 40th Street, St. Joseph/64503

St. Louis (West/Northwest) – Third Wednesday at 7:00. BIA-MO Office, 2265 Schuetz, St. Louis/63146

St. Louis (South/Southwest) – Third Tuesday at 7:00 pm. St. Clare Health Center, Conference Room E, 1015 Bowles Ave, Fenton/63026

For more information 800-444-6443

SPORTS CONCUSSIONS SEMINAR SUCCESS

When BIA-MO hosted our first sports concussion seminars four years ago, there was no way of knowing how quickly it would grow. Today it is one of the premier events on the subject of sports-related concussions in youth and teens.

The goals of this educational program are simple: educate coaches, athletic directors, licensed athletic trainers, school nurses and administrators about concussions in youth and how to reduce the risks of long-term effects for children and teens. Sports Concussions: Facts, Fallacies and New Frontiers regional seminars were held in January and February 2015 at five locations: Cape Girardeau, Columbia, Kansas City, Springfield and St. Louis. Attendance increased from 2014 by 25 percent to nearly 1,000 participants across Missouri.

This annual free seminar is organized and hosted by BIA-MO in partnership with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services/TBI Grant, University of Missouri – Kansas City Institute for Human Development, Missouri State High School Activities Association, Missouri School Boards’ Association, Missouri Athletic Trainers’ Association, Missouri Association for Rural Education, and the Missouri Association of School Nurses.

Clearly, there is interest, need and willingness to learn how to better protect youth and young athletes from sports-related concussions. It is also clear that Brain Injury Association of Missouri is recognized as a leader in education and advocacy... a responsibility we take seriously.

Statewide and regional sponsors also help keep this program free of charge for schools and sports teams.

The Sports Concussions: Facts, Fallacies and New Frontiers seminar held in Columbia, MO is available to view through the Brain Injury Association of Missouri website at www.biamo.org.
“Shop Till You Drop.” How often have you heard that!?

Now the only dropping you have to do is into an easy chair. Just log on to your computer and Shop Through The Heart. It’s a simple way to support the Brain Injury Association of Missouri, buy gifts and necessities you were going to purchase anyway, and do it all from the comfort of your own home.

Here’s how Shop Thru the Heart works:
1. Simply go to www.biamo.org and click on BIA-MO Shop Thru the Heart logo on the left, or enter http://www.shopthrutheheart.com/c/?braininjuryassoc-mo in your internet browser
2. Visit the BIA-MO internet mall by registering yourself or your company. You may also use the BIA-MO login email: shopthrutheheart@biamo.org and password: GOSHOP
3. Purchase what you were already planning to buy.
4. Know you are making a difference by supporting BIA-MO. A percentage of your purchase is donated to BIA-MO to help support our programs. There’s NO COST TO YOU!

A few clicks and your purchase is on its way to you and a donation is on its way to BIA-MO. And you didn’t have to write a check or leave the comfort of your easy chair.

COUNT ME IN!
REGISTRATION AND DONATION COMMITMENT

MEMBERSHIP (from page 1)

My annual membership is a
☐ New Membership ☐ Renewed Membership
☐ Points of Light ($500 or more)
☐ Corporate Membership ($500 or more) with link from BIA-MO
  Website address for link: ____________________________
☐ Corporate/Organization ($200 or more) without link
☐ Professional ($75 or more)
☐ List my Professional Membership on BIA-MO website
☐ Family/Individual ($35 or more) ☐ Survivor of brain injury (free)

BIA-MO CAMP (from page 1 and 5)

Camper Application
☐ Please send me a Camp Application

Sponsor-a-Camper
☐ Full Scholarship - $390 or more
☐ Partial Scholarship - $ ________ donation

BOWLING FOR BRAIN INJURY (from page 4)

Sponsorship for ☐ Springfield ☐ St. Louis ☐ Statewide
☐ Trophy $10,000 ☐ Perfect Game $5,000 ☐ Kingpin $2,500
☐ Attorneys Strike Back $1,500 ☐ Spare $750

Bowling Team for ☐ Springfield ☐ St. Louis
☐ Absentee (not bowling at event)

ANNUAL STATEWIDE CONFERENCE (from page 5)

Sponsorship
☐ Co-Host $10,000 ☐ Track $5,000 ☐ Lunch $3,000
☐ Keynote $1,000 ☐ Break $500

Professional Conference Registration
☐ BIA-MO Member $135 ☐ BIA-MO non-Member $185

Name ____________________________________________
Day Phone ( ____ ) ________________________
Company/Agency __________________________________
Address __________________________________________
_______________________  Apt # _________
City ____________________ State _____ Zip Code _______

Payment: Check payable to Brain Injury Association of Missouri or credit card.

Amount $_____________
Visa or MasterCard # ______________________
Exp Date ___________ V-Code (on back) _________________

Cardholder billing address (if different than above) _______________ Zip Code __________

Mail to 2265 Schuetz Road, Saint Louis, MO 63146-3409
or fax credit card information to 314-426-3290
SURVIVOR AND FAMILY SEMINARS 2015

FAQ: What’s in every corner of the State? Not to be missed? And absolutely FREE!?

Answer: BIA-MO Family & Survivor Regional Seminars 2015!
That’s right. Once again, Brain Injury Association of Missouri hosted educational opportunities featuring local experts who provided information and practical suggestions to help survivors and families face challenges of life with brain injury.

The Southwest Regional Seminar, held on March 21, and the Western Region on April 25 were proclaimed worthwhile events. There’s still time to register for the Eastern Region Seminar on October 17, 2015. The seminar begins at 8:30 am and concludes at 3:30pm.

The same topics are presented and discussed at each seminar. This year’s sessions include:

- Brain Injury 101
- Loving the New Me
- Making and Keeping Relationships
- Building Therapy into Your Day
- The Elephant in the Room – Intimacy and Sexuality
- Guardianship Codes – Proposed Changes
- Ask the Specialists Panel

These seminars are designed to bring help and hope to individuals and families newly impacted by brain injury and those many years post-injury. Come spend October 17 with us to learn helpful information, identify resources and gain support from others who understand.

There is no charge for the seminar but advance registration is required and lunch is included.

It will be information you don’t want to miss this year – or next. And it’s FREE!

To register for the Eastern Seminar on October 17, 2015 or to make sure you receive information for the 2016 seminars, complete the Registration Form on www.biamo.org.
Another year has come and gone. And 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. Our service areas of support, education, recreation and advocacy provided help, hope and healing for more than 7,000 individuals throughout Missouri in 2014. 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. One highlight was the addition of a support group in Kirksville in northeast Missouri. Total attendance at support groups has grown to an estimated 1,000 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. In addition, social activities are held monthly throughout the State. Approximately 700 survivors of brain injury and family members enjoyed these Recreational programs in 2014.

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 2014 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.

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 and their families.

The Survivor and Family Seminars are also a success with the same topics 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 2014. Nearly 900 coaches, licensed athletic trainers, athletic program directors, school nurses and administrators attended one of the five seminars offered throughout Missouri. This seminar focus was “Concussion Management: The Team Plan” written by Dr. Joseph Waeckerle which was complemented with additional sessions on concussion care and prevention.

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.

Two paid staff members work with more than 300 volunteers involved in the fundraising, program implementation, community education, and advocacy efforts of the BIA-MO.

BIA-MO Financials 2014 (unaudited)

- Net Assets, Beginning of the Year $282,409
- Total Revenue and Support $291,975
- Total Expenses $288,754
- Net Assets, Projected End of Year $285,630

BIA-MO is a 501(C)3 non-profit organization. Consistently 90 percent of every dollar donated 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 below the national average of 25 percent.

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.
Courage Award

Zane Volkmann sustained his brain injury while horseback riding his senior year of high school. He is recognized for his hard work, courage and faith which kept him in the saddle for the ride of his life as he graduated high school and built a horse training business. His courage is also obvious through his participation in media interviews about his brain injury and helmet safety.

Tim Short shows his courage every day with his motto of “it is never too late to set goals and work towards them.” His brain injury happened about five years ago when a gust of wind slammed a board against his back, causing Tim to fall off the roof. He had to relearn how to eat, talk, walk, to care for himself, and drive. As goals are reached – he sets more and reaches them too.

Megan Petra first shared her courage with support group attendees as she listened and discussed her brain injury caused by being hit by a car while riding a bike her senior year in social work school. Her words of encouragement inspired others as she completed her PhD in social work. She now shares her courage with students at the University of Toledo.

Dolores Coble fought through her challenges of brain injury to fulfill her dream of owning and operating her own authentic Mexican restaurant. Her courage, determination and compassion resulted in the opening of Mama Loca’s in Ash Grove in September 2010. In addition, she is willing to educate others by sharing her brain injury story and hiring individuals with disabilities.

Points of Light Award

Andrea Buening is a beacon of light for everyone she meets, especially survivors of brain injury. Her personal experience, education and compassion shine as she goes the extra mile for survivors. Her knowledge of resources is extensive and she is always eager to share information and experience that may be helpful to others. Her commitment is also shown through involvement with education, support and advocacy.

Service Excellence Award – Community Service

Wendy Moore, Bobbie Jo Turner and Rita Zotto serve survivors of brain injury as Service Coordinators for the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services Adult Brain Injury Program. Their service goes beyond the employment responsibilities. They serve on the planning committee for the BIA-MO Survivor and Family Seminars to identify speakers, encourage attendance, work the day of the seminar and serve as presenters. Their knowledge, care and dedication for survivors of brain injury are excellent service for the community.

Service Excellence Award – Prevention

Harvey Richards is recognized throughout Missouri for his passion to reduce the risk of concussions for youth athletes. He is the Associate Director for the Missouri State High School Activities Association and his brain injury prevention efforts focus on education for coaches and other team personnel. Harvey is a leader for legislative issues on Missouri’s concussion law.

Service Excellence Award – Public Relations

Karen Funkenbusch and Linda Geist are a power-team for raising awareness about brain injury, the Brain Injury Association of Missouri, and the Missouri AgrAbility Project. Linda writes feature articles for local, state and national newspapers and magazines highlighting the success of AgrAbility clients who sustained a brain injury. Highlighted stories in 2014 were the horse riding accident and helmet education efforts of Zane Volkmann and the impact of the brain injury caused by an aneurysm for farmer Chris Allen and his family.

Lifetime Achievement Award

George “Brick” Johnstone, PsyD, is nationally recognized for his publications, research and training for clinicians regarding brain injury. Dr. Johnstone recently completed a prestigious fellowship at Princeton University for his expertise in spirituality following brain injury. In addition to these professional accolades, he is appreciated by survivors of brain injury and family members for his compassion and dedication to helping them understand brain injury. Dr. Johnstone is a true gift to the brain injury community.
DONOR RECOGNITION  Thank you to all of the individuals, organizations, corporations and foundations that contributed to the Brain Injury Association of Missouri in 2014. 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.

27th Annual Charity Golf Tournament – It’s About the Mission
This year’s virtual tournament raised more than $35,000 with 100 percent of all donations directly supporting the BIA-MO Mission.

Platinum Tee Sponsor
Cedar Creek, New Haven, MO

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John D. McGuirk’s Irish Pub

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Merrill Lynch – Jay Feuerbacher
Michael Noetzl
Sue and George Orton
The Lertiz Company
Diane and Bob Trame
Stefil Nicolaus & Co - Keith Thompson

Brain Injury Awareness Day
Educate Missouri State Legislators about issues important to the brain injury community and constituents.

Sponsors
Missouri Association of Rehabilitation Facilities
The Center for Head Injury Services

BIA-MO 10th 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
SSM Rehabilitation Network, An SSM Select Medical Partnership

Keynote Sponsors
NeuroRestorative
St. Louis Children’s Hospital
The Rehabilitation Institute of St. Louis
Tim Imhoff and Rachel Dietz

Break Sponsors
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NIH at Brookhaven Hospital

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Quality Living, Inc. (QLI)
R!KC – Rehabilitation Institute of Kansas City
Rusk Rehabilitation Center
Saint Francis Medical Center
The Center for Head Injury Services
United Access

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 $1,690 to support programs of BIA-MO.

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

Survivor and Family Regional Seminars 2014
Thanks to the sponsors who made it possible for these regional seminars to be free admission.

Sponsors
Bridges of Missouri
Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
The Whole Person
Tim O’Brien Memorial Fund,
Community Foundation of the Ozarks

Exhibitor Sponsors
Alternative Opportunities
Mercy Rehabilitation Hospital – Springfield
MidAmerica Rehabilitation Hospital
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Missouri Protection and Advocacy
Ozark Neuro Rehab Center
Kansan Inury Law
R!KC – Rehabilitation Institute of Kansas City
The Standing Company
United Access of Springfield

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

Sponsors
Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services/TBI Grant
UMKC – Institute for Human Development
Boone Hospital Center
Centerpoint Medical Center
Children’s Mercy – Center for Sports Medicine
Columbia Orthopaedic Group
CoxHealth
Nill Bros. Sports
ProRehab
Regional Brain & Spine
R!KC – Rehab Institute of Kansas City
Select Physical Therapy
St. Louis Rams
St. Louis University Hospital
SSM Physical Therapy

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

Brain Injury Awareness Run – Mount Vernon, MO
5K/10K Run and 1-Mile Walk raised more than $2,200 in Mount Vernon, Missouri through sponsorship and registration fees.

Racing for Recovery – Columbia, MO
Inagural 5K/10K Run and 1 Mile Walk provided almost $500 for rehabilitation and education for individuals with brain injury.

Walk-Float-Swim
Campers of the Donald Danforth Jr. Wilderness Camp logged laps around the camp grounds and in the pool to raise $1,570 through pledges. Kristen Hahn was the 2014 Top Fundraiser.

Glad to be Here Foundation
Speaking engagement donation of $1,300 at the recommendation of Rawlings Sporting Goods.

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

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

Youth Health Needs
Hermus Priger Charitable Foundation

Organization Programming and Operating
Abbott Laboratories Employee Giving
Community Foundation of the Ozarks
Geiger Ready-Mix, Inc.
Isle Capri Casino
Missouri Foundation for Health
LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Timothy Wadman

When I was asked to serve as the President of the Board of Directors for the Brain Injury Association of Missouri, my first thought was “How could I make a significant difference for individuals with brain injuries?” Then I reflected on how my father’s stroke affected me and my family and how important it is to provide education and support to families experiencing all forms of brain injuries.

Brain injury affects more than 18,000 individuals and families in Missouri each year and changes lives in an instant.

Prior to any type of brain injury families do not anticipate days, weeks and months in the hospital waiting, hoping and praying. Individuals and families do not anticipate the challenges during recovery and rehabilitation, but look forward to the outcomes as they regain abilities for daily living. Unfortunately, many survivors and families are not prepared for and may experience a gap in services when insurance maximums are reached, charity care not being available, or that they do not qualify for government programs or services.

There are also individuals whose brain injury was not initially diagnosed and they may struggle for days, months or years to access services due to their “invisible” disability.

The Brain Injury Association of Missouri (BIA-MO) serves survivors of brain injury, family members, friends and co-workers, professionals who provide care, and the community.

Our Information & Referral Services help survivors and families find programs and services for which the person may qualify. Support Groups are an excellent way to learn from others and know you are not alone. The BIA-MO Survivor and Family seminars are an excellent source of information about life with a brain injury. These and other programs make a difference for survivors and families.

Our Annual Statewide Professional Conference makes a difference too. Clinicians providing care for individuals with brain injury benefit from continuing education comparing best practices. The individuals they serve in-turn benefit from the “best practices” being provided.

I am honored to serve as your President of the Board of Directors for the Brain Injury Association of Missouri and privileged to “make a difference” for survivors and families of brain injury.