The Brain Injury Association of Missouri (BIA-MO) is proud to support the educational goals of survivors of brain injury. Each year our corporate and individual donors partner with BIA-MO to provide financial assistance for survivors who are continuing their college or trade school education.

The SSM Health Rehabilitation Network Educational Scholarships for 2017 were awarded to Centilus Buchanan and Alise Houston. Centilus is pursuing a career in Informational Systems from the University of Missouri - St. Louis. Alise is studying for a dual degree in Elementary and Special Education from Western Governors University before beginning her student teaching in January 2018.

Designated and general donations to BIA-MO fund the Jim and Lori Winter Scholarship which honors the longtime service of the late Jim Winter and Lori Winter. Amy Hartley is the 2017 recipient and is completing her studies at Ozark Technical College with future plans for psychology studies.

Congratulations to the BIA-MO Educational Scholarship recipients and a special thank you to SSM Health Rehabilitation Network and individual donors who make these scholarships possible.

For information about applying for a 2018 scholarship, visit the BIA-MO website, www.biamo.org.

Your donation to support the BIA-MO educational scholarships may be sent to BIA-MO, 2265 Schuetz Road, St. Louis, MO 63146 or made online at www.biamo.org. Please include “scholarship” in the memo or comment section to ensure your donation directly supports the educational goals of persons with brain injury pursuing their post-secondary education.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4
MAUREEN’S MESSAGE

Thank you. These two simple words convey so much – appreciation, recognition and importance.

Thank you to the hundreds of volunteers who fulfill the Mission of the Brain Injury Association of Missouri (BIA-MO). Support Group Facilitators lead the groups in discussions, Advocates contact elected officials about important legislative issues, and Board Members ensure resources and effectiveness of our services.

Thank you to Committee Members and at-event educational programs. Without your efforts to find speakers and sponsors as well as share information about the programs, more than 750 survivors, family members and professionals may not have the opportunity to gain knowledge about brain injury and its impact on life. Plus, another 850 youth sports coaches and school personnel would not increase their awareness about the importance of recognizing and properly managing a possible concussion for youth.

The Bowling for Brain Injury Committee Members make this event a success by encouraging fundraising bowlers, putting together teams, securing sponsors, and helping at the event.

The fundraising volunteers for Bowling for Brain Injury also have a major role in the Mission of BIA-MO. They ensure money is available to implement services. Every $2,500 raised is the amount of van transportation to Camp for survivors from across Western and Central Missouri. Every $1,000 raised by a fundraising volunteer is equivalent to keeping the Information & Referral Service available for one month. Every $500 raised is like hosting an informational exhibit booth or sending a resource packet to 50 families impacted by brain injury.

Thank you to all donors and Members of the Brain Injury Association of Missouri. Every donation makes a difference. The BIA-MO Mission would not be possible without the thousands of gifts each year. Please know with every gift – your Membership, a year-end donation, event sponsorship, monthly or quarterly gift, or Memorial tribute – you are helping others.

Your generosity helps survivors and families know they are not alone when life is turned upside down. You provide education so more people understand brain injury, improve ways they recognize and treat brain injuries, and help individuals adjust to life with brain injury. You are the reason legislators prevent brain injuries and deaths by maintaining the Missouri all-rider motorcycle helmet law. You make laughter and independence happen at the BIA-MO Donald Danforth Jr. Wilderness Camp.

Thank you. All volunteers and supporters of the Brain Injury Association of Missouri are appreciated. Your support and involvement are recognized as the basis of being able to fulfill our Mission. You are important in continuing BIA-MO services and outreach.

TIME FOR CAMP

It is too early to pack your bags but it is not too early to circle the dates on your calendar and start planning for the Donald Danforth Jr. Wilderness Camp hosted annually by the Brain Injury Association of Missouri (BIA-MO).

The BIA-MO 2018 Camp will be held May 27 through June 1 at Sunnyhill Adventure Camp in Dittmer, Missouri. Registration packets will be available in early 2018.

The BIA-MO Donald Danforth Jr. Wilderness Camp is a week-long, organized outdoor Camp experience that provides fun, laughter and adventure for survivors of brain injury. Results are independence, trying new activities, and just having fun.

Survivors of brain injury can experience social and recreational activities such as zip-lining, alpine tower climbing, swimming, fishing, arts and crafts, sports, dances, talent show and more. Activities are in an accessible setting and are adapted to the personal needs and physical abilities of each Camper.

First-time Campers find the courage to face new challenges, while returning Campers offer encouragement. Many Campers attend year after year to enjoy outdoor activities and to socialize with others who truly understand their challenges, frustrations and accomplishments.

While Campers enjoy time with others, family caregivers have a week of respite. This time away from daily responsibilities of caring CONTINUED ON PAGE 10
THIS ONE IS THE BEST!

“There have been several sessions that I think ‘This is going to be the best one of the Conference,’ then the next session is just as good or better.”

That’s what people are saying about the Brain Injury Association of Missouri 13th Annual Statewide Conference in October 2017.

“John Corrigan could be the Keynote Speaker each year and I would keep coming back.”

From the speakers, presentations, number of attendees, discussions, and responses from professionals, survivors and caregivers—this year’s Conference was a success!

“I have learned more at this Conference in just one day than I have learned at several conferences combined.”

These types of comments are what has helped the Brain Injury Association of Missouri (BIA-MO) Conference grow year after year. And it continues to be considered the premier educational opportunity for healthcare, rehabilitation, vocational, residential, and community support professionals in Missouri who are providing care for persons with brain injury.

The BIA-MO 13th Annual Statewide Conference featured national and local experts. John Corrigan, PhD, ABPP, professor with The Ohio State University and Director of the Ohio Valley Center for Brain Injury Prevention and Rehabilitation, presented the Public Health Burden of TBI.

Then, Brian Keith Day, MD, PhD, a neurologist with BJC HealthCare and the Washington University Physicians Group in St. Louis, served as a Keynote Speaker on Friday, October 6 to present a session on post traumatic epilepsy seizures following brain injury.

The Conference concluded with Carter “Cardinal Cowboy” Rethwisch, a motivational speaker and survivor of brain injury, inspiring and encouraging professionals with his message of perseverance and his zeal for life.

The Conference presented another outstanding educational opportunity for professionals who provide care for persons with brain injury. Continuing Education Unit (CEU) credits were available for a variety of professional disciplines.

This Conference is made possible in partnership with Sponsors including the Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services, Missouri AgrAbility Project, SSM Health Rehabilitation Network, Mercy Rehabilitation Hospital, Missouri Association of Rehabilitation Facilities (MARF), NeuroRestorative, St. Louis Children’s Hospital, Sunovion Pharmaceuticals, Tim Imhoff and Rachel Dietz, TRISL (The Rehab Institute of St. Louis), Maryville University Department of Communication Disorders, and Preferred Family Healthcare.

“I attend a lot of Conferences and this one is the best.”

The BIA-MO 14th Annual Statewide Conference will again be dedicated to providing education for professionals on current trends in innovative therapeutic strategies, cutting-edge and best practice treatment options, and research specifically relating to brain injury. Plan to attend in October 2018.

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.

To make a gift of stock to BIA-MO you may need to provide your attorney or financial planner with our Federal Tax ID: 43-1264556.

For more information about donating stock, please contact your financial planner or Maureen Cunningham, BIA-MO Executive Director, 800-444-6443, 314-426-4024 or MCunningham@biamo.org.
BIA-MO LEADERSHIP TEAM RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARDS

The Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA) recently recognized the outstanding leadership of Maureen Cunningham, Executive Director of the Brain Injury Association of Missouri and David Dyck, DO, President of the Board of Directors. The prestigious national recognition awards were presented at the BIAA Annual Leadership Meeting on November 9, 2017.

Maureen Cunningham received the State Association Leadership Award for Chief Staff Professional of the Year 2017. This award is in recognition of her success in financial stability by taking BIA-MO from a revenue deficit of more than $100,000 in 2008 to total revenue of more than $400,000 in 2016. In addition, the services and programs of BIA-MO have expanded to include concussion-related education, a return of the Survivor & Family Seminars to Western Missouri, distribution of more educational scholarships for persons with brain injury to continue their post-secondary education, and development of a partnership with the Missouri AgrAbility Project.

Dr. David Dyck was awarded the BIAA State Association Leadership Chief Volunteer Award. He has served as Vice President of Nominations and accepted the leadership role of President of the Board in 2017. Dr. Dyck is actively involved with the fundraising and program expansion of the Brain Injury Association of Missouri. He gives of his time to serve on committees and participate in educational programs. Dr. Dyck participates in Bowling for Brain Injury and is a Points of Light Member. He is also a continuous ambassador for BIA-MO by sharing information with colleagues and is exceptional at leading the Board of Directors to fulfill the Mission of BIA-MO.

Congratulations to Maureen and Dr. Dyck. This is a national honor and well-deserved recognition.

SPRINGS CONCUSSION SEMINARS 2018
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1.

Springfield. Each Regional Seminar will include the same topics and will be offered between January and February 2018 – FREE OF CHARGE.

The 2018 topics include:

• Changing Your Concussion Culture
• Concussion Facts and Fallacies
• New Frontiers in Research
• International Concussion Group Consensus Guidelines
• How Does Your Team/School Compare – Know the Data?
• Concussion Case Studies

Sponsorship and exhibit opportunities are available for these exceptional Seminars. For information about becoming a Sponsor, contact Maureen Cunningham or Alyssa Weissman at the BIA-MO office, 314-426-4024 or 800-444-6443 or concussions@biamo.org.

To attend, the Seminar is free, but pre-registration is REQUIRED. Online registration will be available December 1, 2017 at www.biamo.org or you may email us at concussions@biamo.org for additional information.
LEGACY OF LIFE

Most of us go through life one day at a time, focusing on daily tasks of work, doing our chores, and living within our routines. Not much thought is given to how we are influencing, impacting or inspiring others. All of us are important and all of us are affecting other people in some way.

What is your legacy?

Are you having an impact by serving others to help them achieve their goals? Are you influencing others through your positive attitude, assistance or compassion? Are you inspiring others through your actions of help or accomplishments, despite challenges of life with brain injury?

What can your legacy be?

Your life can continue to influence others beyond eventual death. You can have an extensive impact for others, those you know and ones you don’t. Your planned gift – a Legacy of Life for Brain Injury gift – can be the inspiration of help, hope and healing for individuals and families living with brain injury.

How can you make your Legacy of Life?

1) Send a note to someone who has influenced you to express your appreciation and share how the person has impacted you.

2) Decide what you want your Legacy of Life for Brain Injury to be. How do you want to be remembered? How do you want to be the help and hope for individuals impacted by brain injury?

3) Determine which planned giving option best ensures your Legacy of Life for Brain Injury.

Memorial Gifts

Inform your family of your wishes for memorial donations to the Brain Injury Association of Missouri (BIA-MO).

If possible, include the BIA-MO mailing address of 2265 Schuetz Road, St. Louis, MO 63146 and website of www.biamo.org in the obituary notice. Pre-addressed envelopes can be available at funeral-related services, upon request.

Will Bequest

Include the Brain Injury Association of Missouri in your Will, as a benefactor. Your donation can be a specific dollar amount, a percentage of your estate, or the remainder of your estate.

A bequest is an excellent option to provide for your loved ones as well as make a donation to BIA-MO, since you define the distribution of your estate.

To ensure your donation to the Brain Injury Association of Missouri is allocated as intended, include the BIA-MO Employee Identification Number (EIN) of 43-1264556 and our address of 2265 Schuetz Road, St. Louis, MO 63146 in your Will.

Life Insurance Beneficiary

List the Brain Injury Association of Missouri as a beneficiary in a life insurance policy.

This planned giving option can be an affordable way to make a significant gift to BIA-MO since you decide the premium payment amount that fits into your budget. The life insurance policy can be a new or existing policy.

When the policy benefits are paid, your donation will then be received by the Brain Injury Association of Missouri. Our EIN of 43-1264556 and the address of BIA-MO, 2265 Schuetz Road, St. Louis, MO 63146 should be included in the life insurance policy beneficiary section.

4) Implement Your Legacy of Life for Brain Injury

Discuss your Legacy of Life gift with family members and your attorney. Besides memorial designated gifts, your attorney or estate planner will need to be involved with writing your planned gift to the Brain Injury Association of Missouri.

To learn more about estate planned giving options, contact your attorney or Maureen Cunningham, Brain Injury Association of Missouri Executive Director, at 314-426-4024 or MCunningham@biamo.org.
SERVICE AND COURAGE: THE HEART OF BIA-MO

Commitment, courage and service are the very heart of Brain Injury Association of Missouri (BIA-MO). As an organization we provide support, education, recreation, and advocacy for survivors of brain injury, their families, caregivers, professionals and individuals who may need our help in the future.

Each year we recognize individuals who exemplify the Mission and goals of BIA-MO. These special people make a difference every day for survivors impacted by brain injury.

Lifetime Achievement Award

The Brain Injury Association of Missouri is pleased to recognize Andrea Buening with the Lifetime Achievement Award. Andrea has lived with brain injury for 20 years and has courageously overcome many challenges. She is always willing to educate others about brain injury and to share her compassion, sincerity, wealth of information about resources, and depth of knowledge with survivors and their families, elected officials, professionals, and the general public. She has served on many committees and given countless presentations. Andrea truly is a lifetime achiever!

Courage Award

At the heart of BIA-MO are Courage Award honorees who have found the courage to achieve their goals, despite challenges that brain injury can create.

Mike Bigogno was given only a ten percent chance of survival. With his fighting spirit, Mike beat the odds, graduated college and now teaches physical education. Plus he won the Iron Man Challenge in July 2017 – just five years after his brain injury.

Stan Cross sustained significant impairments following his brain injury. Despite limitations, he shares his great sense of humor and loves to work, socialize and educate others about brain injury. He is a true inspiration.

Dollie Eaton was in a near fatal car crash in July 2012 and sustained a TBI, severed her spinal cord and is legally blind. She relearned how to walk, talk and think. Dollie is an inspiration through her volunteer service and words of encouragement.

Nathan Franklin has surpassed doctors’ expectations after his accident and overcomes challenge after challenge. A fully accessible home allows Nathan to be independent and active. He is one of 20 highlighted athletes celebrating the Disabled Athletes Sports Association 20-year anniversary.

Zach Frith’s brain injury occurred in 2005 during a high school football game. But he hasn’t let it stop him from changing the lives of others as he speaks to groups about brain injury. Zach feels his brain injury is not an excuse, but an opportunity to do better.

Don Hatfield’s exceptional courage started with service in the U.S. Army, where he sustained a brain injury in a military-related event. He now exhibits courage in how he copes with brain injury and provides community service to others and his family.

John Patterson was an over-the-road truck driver in 1998 when he stopped to help a woman and her child who were running from an attacker. As he protected them, the attacker beat John with a baseball bat. He sustained serious injuries, including a brain injury. His courage of helping others continues with volunteering.
Bill Buell Memorial Award
Like Bill himself, the Bill Buell Memorial Award honorees exemplify compassion and dedication to help survivors of brain injury move their lives forward and reach their vocational and life goals.

Becky Johnson, during a flood in the West Plains, Missouri area, called each survivor she works with to make sure they were safe and if they needed anything. This dedication and the motivation she provides sets her apart.

Loretta Sparks is known as a caring and devoted case manager. She goes above and beyond with all of her clients, to make sure resources are beneficial and to help survivors find confidence and self-worth, despite limitations.

Point of Light Award
The Point of Light Award is a special recognition because the nomination must be made by a person with brain injury.

Curtis Jones, MSW, LCSW, is a Counselor and is recognized by his clients for listening, giving good advice and going above expectations. He has professionally worked with survivors of brain injury for 15 years.

Kristy Friedrich sustained a brain injury in a fall in 2014. She is continually helping others at the support group meetings and social outings. Kristy is described as a “light at the end of a tunnel.”

Volunteer of the Year - Youth
Conner Cox, at only 12 years of age, has shown his compassion by helping at the SEMO District Fair Booth hosted by the Cape Girardeau Support Group.

Service Excellence Awards
Service Excellence – Community Service
Employees of Lowe’s Store in Ozark, Missouri, shared their hearts of community spirit by organizing an employee-led collection of donations and took the initiative to purchase a hoveround scooter for survivor Stan Cross when they noticed him having difficulty walking across the parking lot to his job at a nearby store.

The Maryville University Department of Communication Disorders fills a community need with its speech therapy clinic and builds the self-confidence of clients by incorporating therapy into an on-stage production featuring the Clinic staff and clients.

Service Excellence – Prevention
Kitty Newsham, PhD, ATC, is honored for her work on the Sports Concussions: Facts, Fallacies and New Frontiers Seminars and her advocacy effort to educate elected officials about concussion related legislation.

Service Excellence – Public Relations
Kate Esley, MS, ATC, ITAT, is recognized for the concussion-related education she provides to numerous groups in Northeast Missouri to help them reduce the short- and long-term risks of concussions for youth.

Special Thank You
Thank you to Missouri Senator Dave Schatz and Missouri Senator Jill Schupp for their continued support of legislation and efforts to prevent brain injuries.
HONORARIUM AND MEMORIAL GIFTS

(August 1 – November 15, 2017)

IN HONOR OF

Sean Campbell
Shave a Life Fundraiser for brain injury
Chris and Mike Campbell
Tim Matlock
Greg Noonan
Michael Noonan
Angie Randazzo

Beth Dauber
Ralph Klink

Sarah Davis
Ralph Klink

Deb Turley
Ralph Klink

IN MEMORY OF

John C. Brandt
Deborah and Christopher Herling
St. Charles Christian Home Educators (SCCHE)
Nancy and Wesley Williamson
Betty Young

Carol Danforth
Melissa Acker
Kathleen and Tommy Alexander
Bunny and Hord Armstrong
Mrs. Melvin Bahle
Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Barksdale
Julia Barnes
Laura and Charles Barnes
Julie and Lee Bearman
Linda Bearman
Cynthia and Benjamin Bishop
Carol Bitting
Caroline and James Boldt
Sarah and Jason Brauer
Mary and John Brauer, III
Virginie and Henry Brightman
Jean and A. Van Brokaw, III
Gail and Peter Bunce
Nancy Burke
John Capps
Victoria Chabot
Katie and Charlie Claggett
Virginia Cornelius
Coronet Travel LTD
John J. Coleman Contractors LLC
Parker Condie, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Parker B. Condie, Sr.
Mrs. Donald Danforth, Jr.
Susannah and Donny Danforth, III
Lizzie and Chris Dorr
Margaret and John Dozier, Jr.
Terry and Clay Dunagan
Meghan Dyonzak
Robin and Curtis Engler
Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Ewing
Betty and David Farrell
Fetchfind LLC
Beth and Peter Flanigan
Elizabeth Freeman
Kathy and Andy Frost
Marianne and Martin Galt, III
Margaret Williams and Philip George
Sara and Eric Gilbert
Mary Gryska
Becky and Arthur Hailand III
Susan Hall
Marilyn Hawkins
Lilly Christy Busch Hermann
Charitable Fund
Meredith and Jim Holbrook
Holkekamp Foundation
Kathy and David Hollo
Lisa and Chris Imbs
Bettie Johnson
Sally Johnston
Phyllis and Stephen Kamenetsky
Joanne and Charles Knight
Dorotha Kresko
Dede and Donald Lambert
Mrs. Clinton Lane, Jr.
Ann Liberman
Mary Institute and Saint Louis Country Day School
Douglas Lilly, MD
Barbie and Bill Macon
Patrick Martin
Sondra Mauze
Anna and Charles McAlpin
Libby and Jim McDonnell, III
Jennifer McDonald
Mimi McDonald
Marian Mehan
Jamie Mendez
Catherine and Birch Mullins
Mary Ann and Forrest Murphy
Linda and John O’Hara
Joyce and Jules Pass
Cindy and Raymond Peters, II
Terry and Alden Pfleger
Jean Quenon
Jenny and Kent Rapp
Mary and Frank Rassieur
Michelle Reagan
Linda and Matthias Renner
Maureen and John Riffle
Bobbie Robertson
Cary and John Schaperkotter
Julie and Todd Schnuck
Eleanor Shaheen
Edward Simmons III
Susie and Joe Sivewright
Perry and Don Street
Julie and John Stupp, Jr.
Elizabeth Terry
Valerie Terry
Debbie and Jack Thomas
Margaret Thomas
Ellen and John Wallace
Ellen and Sanford Weiss

Holly Hutchings
Patricia Jayne
Nancy Koenig
Cheryl Price
Barbara Sturmer
Helen Lee
Eileen and Harvey Hahn
Annabelle Mebruer
Cheryl Price
Fordney Smith
Pat and Joe Pelch
Burton and Dorothy Wehmeyer
Cheryl Price
Rick Wehmeyer
Cheryl Price
BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF MISSOURI
SUPPORT GROUPS

Join other survivors of brain injury and family members for a time of sharing and learning. You are not alone!

Cape Girardeau – First Monday of the Month at 6:00 pm
Cape Girardeau Public Library, 711 N. Clark, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Columbia – Second Thursday of Month at 7:00 pm
Rusk Rehabilitation Center, 315 Business Loop 70 W., Columbia, MO 65203

Hannibal – Fourth Tuesday of Month at 4:00 pm
Marion County Services, 12 Northport Plaza, Hannibal, MO 63401

Independence – First Tuesday of Month at 7:00 pm
Centerpoint Hospital, 19600 East 39th S, Independence, MO 64057

Independence, Male Survivors Group – Third Wednesday of Month at 7:00 pm
Centerpoint Hospital, 19600 East 39th S, Independence, MO 64057

Joplin – Second Tuesday of Month at 1:00 pm
Independent Living Center, 2639 E. 34th Street, Joplin, MO 64804

Kansas City (North) – Second Tuesday of Month at 7:00 pm
Hillside Christian Church, 900 NE Vivion Rd., Kansas City MO 64118

Kansas City (Downtown) – Second Thursday of Month at 3:00 pm
The Whole Person, 3710 Main St, Kansas City, MO 64111

Kirksville – First Monday of Month at 6:30 pm
Fellowship Baptist Church, 1701 Jamison St, Kirksville MO 63501

Rolla – Last Tuesday of Month at 6:30 pm
Christ Episcopal Church, 1000 N. Main St., Rolla, MO 65401

Springfield – Third Tuesday of Month at 5:00 pm
Preferred Family Healthcare, 2626 W. College, Springfield, MO 65802-4637

St. Charles – Second Thursday of Month at 7:00 pm
St. Joseph’s Health Center, First Floor, 300 First Capitol Dr., St. Charles, MO 63301

St. Joseph – Third Thursday of Month at 6:00 pm
MOSAIC Hospital, 5325 Faraon St., St. Joseph, MO 64506

St. Louis (Northwest) – Third Wednesday of Month at 7:00 pm
Brain Injury Association of Missouri Office, 2265 Schuetz Rd., St. Louis, MO 63146

St. Louis (South/Southwest) – Fourth Tuesday of Month at 7:00 pm
SSM Health St. Clare Hospital, 1015 Bowles Ave, Fenton, MO 63026
TIME FOR CAMP
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2.

for their loved one provides opportunities for family members to heal emotionally and rejuvenate physically and mentally.

Individuals with brain injury who want to attend the BIA-MO Donald Danforth Jr. Wilderness Camp should have the opportunity to do so. However, due to limited income or tight family budgets from high medical costs, out-of-pocket therapy payments, home modifications and other daily needs, about 60 percent of Campers are unable to pay the Camp Fee.

Through the generous support of grants and individual donations each Missouri-resident Camper is asked to pay only $390. The true cost is $750 per person. The Sponsor-A-Camper program has ensured that no Camper is unable to attend due to money.

Please consider providing a Sponsor-a-Camper donation for a full scholarship of $390 or partial scholarship of any amount. Write “Camp” in the memo of your check or in the “comment” section of the online donation form at www.biamo.org to ensure your intent is known.

For individuals interested in attending Camp, registration packets will be available in early 2018. To request a registration packet, call 314-426-4024 or 800-444-6443 or email us at Camp@biamo.org. The Registration Packet can also be downloaded from the BIA-MO website at www.biamo.org after February 2018.

The BIA-MO Donald Danforth Jr. Wilderness Camp is a win-win for survivors, families and all who support this important program of the Brain Injury Association of Missouri. It is a 35-year tradition of fun, adventure and friendship – and you should be a part of it!
IN MY OWN WORDS

By Centilus B.

A Life Worth Walking Forward

I was around the age of four when I suffered a traumatic brain injury. From that moment, my life was changed dramatically from a child without any medical problem to having to go to speech and physical therapies and learning to walk properly.

The process was long, sometimes frustrating. But through the support of family and therapists at Children’s Hospital, I was able to succeed at my goal of learning to be able to walk with support of ankle braces. School was harder for me because of the brain injury.

I managed to complete my grade school and high school goals and graduated to further my education at Saint Louis Community College. There I explored the areas of Engineering and Computer Science. Even though the material was sometimes overwhelming, I never gave up and attained an Associates Degree.

Upon graduating from community college I decided to further my education in the field of Information Systems at the University of Missouri – St. Louis. My career goal is to be a computer programmer for Google or Samsung in the near future. The goal of my education cannot be achieved without sacrifice, such as the choice of not going to do leisure activities for the realization of a brighter tomorrow.

My financial resources are not plentiful and I go without supplies that I often need to ensure my success as a college student. The BIA-MO Educational Scholarship is an act of kindness that will never be forgotten and it will remind me that perseverance goes a long way. The thought of not having the proper school supplies or textbooks would no longer linger inside my head due to the security of a glorious gift from kind souls.

There once was a quote from Bruce Lee and he stated, “If you always put limits on everything you do, physical or anything else, it will spread into your work and into your life. There are no limits. There are only plateaus, and you must not stay there, you must go beyond them.”

So in conclusion of what life is – it’s each individual having the opportunity to be great in their own way despite what they were dealt in the beginning.

I WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Please submit this form to make a difference.

BIA-MO Membership
My annual Membership is a
___ New Membership ___ Renewed Membership
___ Points of Light ($500 or more)
___ Corporate Membership ($500 or more) w/link from BIA-MO
Website address for link: _________________________
___ Corporate/Organization ($200 or more) without link

Donald Danforth Jr. Wilderness Camp
___ Send me a Camp Registration Packet
___ Sponsor-A-Camper Donation
___ $390 Full Scholarship ___ Partial Scholarship of $ ___

Bowling for Brain Injury
___ Sponsorship
___ $10,000 Trophy ___ $1,000 Strike
___ $5,000 Perfect Game ___ $750 Spare
___ $2,500 Kingpin ___ $500 Lane
___ Register My Team _________________________

Sports Concussion: Facts Fallacies and New Frontiers
___ Send me Registration Information
___ Sponsorship
___ $5,000 Presenting Sponsor
___ $3,000 Lunch Sponsor
___ $1,000 Program Sponsor
___ $500 Break Sponsor

Networking Coffee for Professionals
Send me information for: ___ St. Louis ___ Springfield

Advocacy
___ Add me to the Advocacy Alert email list.

Year-End Donation $__________

Contact Information
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/American Express #

Exp Date ___________ V-Code (on back) ______________
Cardholder billing address (if different than above)
______________________________ Zip Code ____________

Mail to BIA-MO, 2265 Schuetz Road, St. Louis, MO 63146 or make your donation or request for more information at www.biamo.org.
SAVETHEDATES...
Mark Your Calendar and Register Today

For Sponsorship and registration information regarding these events, visit www.biamo.org, email info@biamo.org, or call the BIA-MO office at 800-444-6443 or 314-426-4024

SPORTS CONCUSSIONS: FACTS, FALLACIES AND NEW FRONTIERS SEMINARS
Concussion-related education for youth coaches and team personnel (paid or volunteer) as well as school nurses, counselors, PE teachers, and administrators.
St. Louis – Friday, January 26, 2018
Columbia – Friday, February 2, 2018
Cape Girardeau – Tuesday, February 6, 2018
Springfield – Thursday, February 8, 2018
Kansas City – Monday, February 12, 2018

SURVIVOR AND FAMILY SEMINAR – WESTERN MISSOURI
Free educational seminar with information, practical suggestions and guidance about living with brain injury.
Saturday, March 3, 2018 - 8:30 am – 3:00 pm
First Baptist Church of Blue Springs, 4500 Little Blue Parkway, Independence, MO 64057

SURVIVOR AND FAMILY SEMINAR – SOUTHWEST MO
Free educational seminar with information, practical suggestions and guidance about living with brain injury.
Saturday, March 10, 2018 - 8:30 am – 3:00 pm
Catherine McAuley Conference Center, Mercy Medical Center – Springfield, 1235 E Cherokee, Springfield, MO 65804

BIA-MO DONALD DANFORTH JR. WILDERNESS CAMP
Week-long outdoor Camp for persons with brain injury currently over the age of 18, regardless of age at the time of injury or cause of injury. Activities adapted for each Camper’s abilities. Sleeping cabins are air-conditioned. Bus transportation available from St. Joseph, Kansas City, Columbia and St. Louis.
Sunday, May 27 – Friday, June 1, 2018
Sunnyhill Adventure Camp – Dittmer, Missouri

BOWLING FOR BRAIN INJURY
Teams of up to six raise a goal of $500 to support local programs for survivors and family members, as well as increase awareness about brain injury.
Saturday, June 16, 2018 - 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm
Springfield – Enterprise Park Lanes, 1625 S. Enterprise Ave, Springfield, MO 65804
St. Louis – Brunswick Zone, 176 Four Seasons Shopping Center, Chesterfield, MO 63017