14TH ANNUAL STATEWIDE CONFERENCE

The Brain Injury Association of Missouri 14th Annual Statewide Conference is the only conference in Missouri dedicated to current trends in innovative therapeutic strategies, cutting-edge and best practice treatment options, and research specifically relating to brain injury. It is considered the premier educational opportunity for healthcare, rehabilitation, vocational, residential, and community support professionals in the state. CEU credits are available in a variety of professional areas.

The Conference, October 4 – 6, 2018, will be held at the Marriott St. Louis West in Chesterfield. It features national and local experts addressing issues of 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. Sessions for professionals will be held on Thursday, October 4 and Friday, October 5. Topics include:

• Mental Illness and Brain Injury
• Employment and Return-to-Work Best Practices
• IEPs and 504 Plans for Pediatric Survivors of Brain Injury
• Neurological Trauma and Degeneration
• Self-Advocacy
• Partnering with Clients: Supporting Independently Generated Strategies
• Rehabilitation Continuum of Care: Hospital to Community Living
• Impulsivity Assessment and Treatment
• Triple Whammy: Substance Abuse and Use after Brain Injury
• How Family Dynamics Impact a Survivor’s Recovery and Life
• Neurological Testing
• Public Benefits and Eligibility
• Guardianship and Special Needs Trusts
• Developing Relevant Therapeutic Activities
• Daily Life of a Survivor of Brain Injury

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

SURVIVOR & FAMILY EASTERN REGIONAL SEMINAR

The Brain Injury Association of Missouri (BIA-MO) Survivor and Family Regional Seminar provides helpful information, practical suggestions and support for life with brain injury. It is organized by local survivors of brain injury, family members and professionals. The Eastern Missouri Regional Seminar will be Saturday, October 6 at Marriott St. Louis West, in Chesterfield, Missouri.

This year’s topics include:

• Brain Injury 101 - Pre-seminar session for individuals and families recently impacted by brain injury or years post-injury with unanswered questions.
• Daily Life of a Survivor of Brain Injury Keynote session with survivors and family members sharing challenges and accomplishments.
• Behavior Following Brain Injury - Discuss changes in behaviors following a brain injury and discover tips for managing the changes.
• Fighting Fatigue - Recognize the difference between tiredness and fatigue and ways to improve your activity level.
• Let’s Talk - Facilitated discussions to encourage sharing of experiences of life with brain injury. There will be one group for persons with brain injury and one for family and friends.
• So Many Questions - Discuss options related to post-injury healthcare, guardianship and special needs trusts.
• Healthy Me and Stress Free - Learn what to do to improve yourself with nutrition, dental care and stress management techniques.

There is no fee to attend the Survivor & Family Seminar but registration is required. To register: Online - www.biamo.org; By mail - Brain Injury Association of Missouri, 2265 Schuetz Road, St. Louis, MO 63146; By Phone - 800.444.6443; By Fax - 314.426.3290.
MAUREEN’S MESSAGE

Just as survivors and families are not alone in life with brain injury, the Brain Injury Association of Missouri (BIA-MO) is not alone in making a difference every day for individuals we serve. There are numerous service providers, government entities, community organizations and individuals involved.

For example, together we help individuals and families find needed resources. Survivors have a week of fun at the Donald Danforth Jr. Wilderness Camp. Coaches and school personnel gain knowledge about concussions, survivors and families learn about adjusting to life with brain injury, and the general community becomes more aware of brain injury. Support group attendees share insights, challenges and laughs. The Missouri AgrAbility Project keeps farmers, ranchers and Veterans with brain injury continuing to enjoy production agriculture and rural living.

These are just a few ways the BIA-MO Mission is fulfilled every day. Please be part of this making a difference every day. Maybe you could:

• Share information about the Brain Injury Association of Missouri this week with one person who may not be aware of our services. This could include sharing this newsletter with a friend or healthcare provider who may be interested in the Annual Conference.
• Say Thank You to someone who helped you in life with brain injury – as a survivor, family member or professional.
• Send a note or email of encouragement to someone who may be facing many challenges or feeling alone in life with brain injury.
• Recommend the SSM Health Rehabilitation Network Educational Scholarship, the Griggs Injury Law Educational Scholarship and the Jim and Lori Winter Scholarship to survivors of brain injury continuing their education past high school.
• Nominate a deserving individual, group of individuals or an organization for the BIA-MO Annual Awards.
• Make a donation to BIA-MO for continuation of support, education, recreation and advocacy for survivors of brain injury and families.

You are part of the difference we make every day, thank you.

IN MY OWN WORDS

Ralph K.

I sustained a trauma induced TBI from a 24’ vertical fall in November 2011. In addition to the concussion and TBI, I also fractured three cervical vertebrae and my mandible and facial bones.

My initial ER and ICU hospital stay at BJC was about 6 weeks followed by 3 months of intensive in-patient therapy at SSM’s Rehab Hospital in Chesterfield, Missouri. Then another 6 months of PT, OT and Speech Therapy at BJC’s Rehab Institute of St. Louis (TRISTL).

Beth Dauber with Missouri Vocational Rehabilitation and Debbie Turley from TRISTL suggested “back to work for me” and Sarah Davis and her colleagues helped me with that transition.

During the past 6 years of rehab and recovery work, I have been able to again drive a car and a truck, work part-time 4 days per week, return to Alpine Skiing as a National Ski Patrol System (NSPS) Alpine Ski Patroller and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), ride both a bicycle and a motorcycle, take online academic work in emergency medical care and trauma management and Spanish language courses, and volunteer with several local organizations on several ½ days per week.

I am indeed a very fortunate guy, have had SUPERB PROFESSIONAL CARE and support, participated in TBI Support Group activities, and continue to stay in touch with brain injury care providers to help them with their volunteer work when possible. I compliment and thank my rehab and recovery care providers, my family, and the BIA Team of Missouri for their unwavering support, help, inspiration and educational programs.

The Brain Injury Association of Missouri is on Facebook.

facebook.com/bia.missouri
ANOTHER PERFECT SCORE!

YOU did it again!

Thank You! to all the sponsors, bowlers, event supporters, spectators and cheering fans who pulled together for yet another successful Bowling for Brain Injury event. You exceeded the goal and raised nearly $24,000 to help increase awareness of brain injury and support programs for survivors and families.

Corporations along with 150 individuals made donations to support this event on June 16, 2018. We are grateful to the corporate sponsors who underwrote the event cost to ensure every dollar raised by bowlers directly support BIA-MO.

Bowling for Brain Injury is more than a fundraiser. It’s also a funraiser. This year 30 teams, totaling 150 bowlers, bowled in St. Louis and Springfield as dozens of supporters joined in the fun. By all accounts, it was a fun day. Congratulations to winners of the highest average score and Best Theme Team. And thanks to teams from rehabilitation facilities from across the state who put together teams and encouraged others to support the event with a virtual team. This was truly a team effort that will have a lasting impact for survivors of brain injury, families and communities throughout Missouri who benefit from BIA-MO support, education, recreation and advocacy.

Mark your calendars for June 15, 2019. Let’s make Bowling for Brain Injury even bigger and better next year.

IN HONOR OF

Mike Bigogno – Iron Man Competition
Nabil Ahmad
Andi Anti
Shannon and Kevin Armfield
Christopher Beuer
Dorothy Bigogno
Eric Bigogno
Gregg Bigogno
Matthew Bigogno
Peg and Jeff Bigogno
Robert and Randal Borroff
Katherine and Jacob Buchowski
Wynndel Buenger
Ann Christopher, MD
Curtis Cira
Dana and William Devers
Rachel Hartmann
Carol Hemker
Jacqueline and Thomas Hendricks
Mary and Robert Hine
Shelby Hoose
Mr. and Mrs. L. K. Heyde
Jennifer and Brian Jones
Sharon and Jim Judd
Stacey and Reed Luikaart
Mr. and Mrs. J. McMahan II
Laura and Kevin Mueller
Angie Nowak
Pamela and Robert Rosenthal
Barbara and Aleksandr Shoykhet
Janet and Michael Silveus
Teresa and Jeffrey Stafford
Angela Stokes
Paula Valenzuela
Jeff Vann
Martha Vonderheide
Beth Wideman
Katherine Wientge
Connie and Ned Williams
Alan Jones – Excellent Years of Service
Lori Winter
Yash Malhotra – Birthday
Angie Anderson
Miles Deck
Lori Winter - Birthday
Eileen and Harvey Hahn

IN MEMORY OF

Annette Collins
John Collins
Bob L. Copeland
Janice and Wayne Bartel
Kurt Bauche
Kathryn and Stephen Bertrand
Pat and Glennon Buehrle
Lola Carter
Gale and Steven Claggett
Cynthia Fischer
Linda and Michael Gabbard
Ruth Hagedorn
Ralph Hansen
Kathy Lea and Mark Matthews
Jennifer and John Metcalf
Theresa and Keith Oltmann
Lois and Ralph Oltmann
Carolyn and Kenneth Ross
Bette Ruether
Gail and Robert Sawicki
Jeanette Schroeder-Miller
Miriam and Dan Sieve
Linda and Gary Strubberg
Dinah and Ralph Sudholt
Jane and Terry Tanner
Ann Tobben
Karen and Dennis Tucker
Marilyn and John Wittrock
Carol Danforth
Betsy Duff
Nancy and John Ross Jr.
Sam Rogers
Patti and Tom Jayne

Callie Danforth

HONORARIUM AND MEMORIAL GIFTS

(April 1 – July 31, 2018)
AGENCY PARTNERSHIPS HELP CATTLE FARMER WITH HYDROCEPHALUS

By Linda Geist and Karen Funkenbusch

ST. ELIZABETH, MO. – Despite 26 surgeries, 47-year-old Blaine Kemna farms every day.

Kemna was born with hydrocephalus, a condition that causes water to put pressure on the brain. Some estimates report one to two of every 1,000 babies are born with hydrocephalus, according to the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Strokes.

Throughout his youth, doctors put shunts into his head. Although he had vision and gait issues, he graduated from St. Elizabeth High School and went on to study at the Lake of the Ozarks College. “I had a pretty normal childhood,” he says.

In his third semester of college, he suffered extreme back pain. He attributes the pain to an injury from being knocked down by a sow while helping on his parents’ farm.

A doctor performed a spinal tap and Kemna went into a one-month coma. Doctors gave him a “single digits” chance to live. When he awoke, he needed physical and occupational therapy to learn to crawl, walk and talk again.

During rehabilitation, he used a magnifying glass to read. He completed two classes needed for graduation. He returned to campus to finish a chemistry class to receive a bachelor’s degree in agribusiness with a minor in animal science.

Kemna held several jobs briefly after graduation but found them too physically challenging. He moved back to the family farm at St. Elizabeth where he now raises Gelbvieh cattle. He grows hay and double crops wheat and corn in bottom ground along the Osage River.

In June 2010, Kemna suffered another setback while haying. His hand got caught between a baler belt and roller. Eight surgeries and 2 1/2 years later, he sought services from Missouri Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

His mother brought home a flyer about Missouri AgrAbility Project from the University of Missouri Extension office in Miller County. He contacted state director Karen Funkenbusch and began working with her to find services and adaptive devices that would help him continue to farm. Missouri AgrAbility partners with Brain Injury Association of Missouri, Innovative Small Farmers’ Outreach Program at Lincoln University Cooperative Extension, Rehabilitation Services for the Blind (RSB) and other groups to help farmers and ranchers with disabilities or injuries continue to farm and ranch.

Through a partnership with RSB, he received a head table for his cattle squeeze chute that allows him to hold the head of a cow steady while he tattoos or tags them. He also received a backup camera for an older farm pickup truck. This allows him to hook up a livestock trailer more easily despite compromised peripheral vision. Two other smaller devices—a faultfinder for electric fences and a talking tape measure—make work easier and safer.

At 47, Kemna experiences some vision issues caused by strain of seeing in a “checkerboard” pattern. “Reading wears me out,” he says. RSB also provided him with a pen reader that glides over reading material and reads the content aloud to him. An automatic reader reads sheets of reading material to him.

Kemna also enjoys the networking and educational opportunities of attending national AgrAbility conferences. It was there that he heard Jim Brinkmann, mid-Missouri supervisor for RSB speak. Brinkmann, a sixth-generation cattle farmer with hereditary vision issues, lives about 50 miles away from Kemna and they had not met.

Kemna says he was always told that he was “too high functioning” to qualify for services. His rural work ethic and commitment to farming allow him to work around physical and mental challenges he has faced all of his life. He urges others to contact AgrAbility to learn about services.
MISSOURI AGRABILITY PROJECT HELPS FARMERS, RANCHERS

As part of the 1990 Farm Bill, the Missouri AgrAbility Project (MAP) creates success in agriculture, employment, and rural life for people with disabilities and their families. The National Institute of Food and Agriculture, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture administers the AgrAbility Project.

MAP is offered in partnership with the University of Missouri through Agricultural Engineering and Human Environmental Sciences Extension, Innovative Small Farmers’ Outreach Program at Lincoln University Cooperative Extension and BIA-MO.

AgrAbility Services

The AgrAbility Project assists people involved in production agriculture who work on small and large agricultural operations. With assistance, agricultural workers with disabilities and military Veterans can continue to earn their livelihoods in production agriculture and participate fully in rural community life.

Services offered

MAP offers the following services, at no cost to customers:

- Recommendations of assistive technology and equipment devices, modifications to work practices, and other solutions for disability-related limitations.
- Resources related to agriculture and disability.
- Education through face-to-face workshops, conferences, seminars as well as online courses, blogs and programs.
- Referrals to service providers for individual needs such as counseling, education, finances, rehabilitation and more.
- Peer support networks.

AgrAbility contacts

Missouri AgrAbility Project
University of Missouri
221 Agricultural Engineering Building
Columbia, Missouri 65211-5200
Landline: 573.882.2731
Toll Free: 1.800.995.8503
E-mail: AgrAbility@missouri.edu
Website: http://agrbility.missouri.edu/

Missouri AgrAbility Project is supported by funds from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture under sponsored project number 2014-41590-22323.

14TH ANNUAL STATEWIDE CONFERENCE
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1.

The Conference Keynote speaker on Thursday is Rolf Gainer, Ph.D., Vice President of Rehabilitation Institutes of America and the founder of the Neurologic Rehabilitation Institute of Ontario, Canada. His Keynote session is titled, “Triple Whammy: Barriers, Behavioral and Addiction Issues after Brain Injury.”

Dr. Gainer serves as the Chief Executive Officer at Brookhaven Hospital and is a founding Board member of Community NeuroRehab (CNR). Dr. Gainer has been involved in the design and operation of brain injury rehabilitation programs since 1978. He has a PhD in Clinical Psychology from Union University and a MEd in Counseling Psychology from Antioch University. He has published numerous articles on brain injury rehabilitation and has presented at many national and international conferences. The author of the chapter on Psychosocial Complications of Brain Injury in The Essential Brain Injury Guide, Dr. Gainer is also involved in three outcome studies related to social role return and restoration of self after brain injury.

Our Friday Keynote speaker is Sean Goretzke, MD, Department of Neurology, SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children’s Hospital - St. Louis, Missouri and will present a “Neurological Testing” session.

Dr. Goretzke is the Division Director of Pediatric Neurology at SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children’s Hospital and SSM Health St. Louis University Hospital. He treats individuals for a variety of neurological conditions, and specializes in concussions and cerebral palsy. Dr. Goretzke received his degree in medicine from Saint Louis University and completed his residency at Naval Medical Center in Portsmouth, Virginia. Dr. Goretzke is an assistant professor of neurology at Saint Louis University School of Medicine in the Department of Neurology and Psychiatry. He is a member of the American Academy of Neurology and Child Neurology Society. Dr. Goretzke has been recognized as a “Best Doctor” in St. Louis Magazine for four consecutive years, from 2015 - 2018. When not teaching or caring for patients, Dr. Goretzke keeps busy with his six children and their activities.

The BIA-MO Survivor and Family Seminar - Eastern Missouri, along with the Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon will be held on Saturday, October 6 at the Marriott West. Please see the article on page 1 for details.

This Conference provides an opportunity for corporations supporting educational programming for professionals to show their support through sponsorship. Individuals or companies can also share information about their products and services through an exhibit. For more information about Sponsorship, Exhibiting, Advertising, and Donations, 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.
ANNUAL AWARDS NOMINATIONS

Each year, the Brain Injury Association of Missouri (BIA-MO) honors individuals and organizations that have made an outstanding contribution in the brain injury community. These are often quiet heroes who work diligently behind the scenes without any thought of recognition. Their dedicated service inspires those around them and deserves our applause.

Please help identify these shining stars with your nomination for a BIA-MO Annual Award. Think about who you know that works tirelessly to serve the brain injury community through excellence in Public Relations, Prevention, Community Service, or our newest award, Fundraising. Perhaps you know a professional who goes beyond her or his job responsibilities to serve, or someone who has demonstrated extreme courage in the face of brain injury. Your nominee might also be a legislator or a person who has served the brain injury community for a long time.

Please review the list of awards in right column. Pick up your pen or open your computer and write your thoughts (in 500 words or less) about why your nominee deserves recognition. It can be an individual, group of individuals, a company or organization. How has he or she made a difference for survivors of brain injury, or strengthened the Mission of BIA-MO? What sets them apart in their service? How have you been touched or your life impacted because of his or her service?

Submissions are due September 15, 2018. Awards will be announced at the BIA-MO Annual Awards Luncheon held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 6, 2018, at the Marriott St. Louis West hotel.

For more information, contact BIA-MO at 800.444.6443 or 314.426.4024, or visit our website www.biamo.org.

Annual Award Categories

**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 - Fundraising** -Honors an individual or organization for efforts to generate financial support for services of the Brain Injury Association of Missouri.

**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.

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.
EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Scholarships for survivors of brain injury pursuing post-secondary education are available through the Brain Injury Association of Missouri. Applications and all support material for 2018 are due September 15. Survivors of brain injury who are residents of Missouri and planning to attend a two-year college, four-year college or university, or a vocational or trade school educational institution are eligible to apply. There are three scholarship programs available, but only one application is required.

The SSM Health Rehabilitation Network Educational Scholarship provides two $750 scholarships. The Griggs Injury Law Educational Scholarship provides two $750 scholarships. The Jim and Lori Winter Educational Scholarship provides two $500 awards.

These annual scholarships provide funding for expenses directly related to post-secondary education including tuition, room and board, books, required class material, such as workbooks, and specialized tools.

The SSM Health Rehabilitation Network Educational Scholarship is a Corporate scholarship of SSM Health Rehabilitation Network - Select Medical Partnership to assist survivors of brain injury on their road of recovery through encouragement and support for post-secondary education.

The Griggs Injury Law Educational Scholarship is privately funded by Griggs Injury Law, LLC to expand educational and training opportunities for survivors of brain injury in Western Missouri and Greater Kansas City area.

The Jim and Lori Winter Educational 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.

Scholarship Application Material:
- BIA-MO Scholarship Application Cover Sheet
- Application Essay: Up to 500 words by the survivor of brain injury sharing how and when his or her brain injury occurred, challenges that have resulted, and education status, successes and goals. This essay should include the applicant’s educational plans and how the BIA-MO Scholarship program will assist in reaching the goals.
- Two letters of reference from individuals familiar with applicant’s abilities and education/training goals such as a teacher, rehabilitation therapist, counselor, or employer
- Acceptance Verification: showing acceptance to participate in education/training program of choice

Scholarship Recipients will be recognized at the BIA-MO Annual Awards Luncheon held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 6, 2018, at the Marriott St. Louis West hotel. The same application is used for consideration for each scholarships. There is no need to submit separate applications. For more information or an application, contact BIA-MO at 800.444.6443 or 314.426.4024, or visit our website www.biamo.org.

SAVE THE DATES...

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

NETWORKING COFFEE FOR PROFESSIONALS DATES
Professionals providing care for survivors of brain injury learn about resources for referrals and client assistance.

St. Louis: Springfield:
September 6, 2018 November 15, 2018
December 4, 2018 February 21, 2019
March 5, 2019 May 16, 2019

SPORTS CONCUSSIONS:
FACTS, FALLACIES AND NEW FRONTIERS
Education for youth sports coaches (paid or volunteers) and school personnel. Attendance is free.

Winter 2019 dates to be determined.

AWARDS LUNCHEON
Celebrate accomplishments with BIA-MO Award Honorees 2018
October 6, 2018 12:15 pm – 1:30 pm
Annual Awards Nominations and Educational Scholarships Applications due: September 15

ANNUAL CONFERENCE
When: October 4 – 6, 2018
Where: Marriott St. Louis West, 660 Maryville Centre Dr., St. Louis, MO 63141
Who should attend: Professionals in the fields of direct services, rehabilitation, employment, community support, residential, mental health, assistive technology, case management, trauma services, discharge planning, or other assistance for survivors of brain injury to live a quality life.

Conference Registration: Registration is now open. Register Now! Contact Alyssa Grese, BIA-MO Program Associate, at alyssa@biamo.org, 314-426-4024, or 800-444-6443 with questions regarding registration.
These realities happen day after exciting day during the BIA-MO Camp week at Sunnyhill Camp in Dittmer, Missouri. This week-long, organized outdoor Camp experience provides fun, laughter and adventure for survivors of brain injury and a week of respite for families.

Thank you to everyone who donated through our Sponsor-a-Camper program, the Walk Float Swim fundraiser and foundation grants. Your support allowed individuals from across Missouri to experience activities in an accessible setting that are adapted to the personal needs and physical abilities of each Camper. This 35-year-tradition of finding independence, trying new activities, and just having fun is a win-win for survivors and their families.