

# HEADS UP OHIO



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Brain Injury Association of Ohio  
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## Champions for Change: Advocates Make a Difference



Tom Serey and wife Randi Simon-Serey (Kettering) testify at the Nov. 24 Public Hearing on The Ohio Access Report



John Hock (Cincinnati) tireless advocate for bike helmet legislation



Ernie Strickland (Columbus) a member of the Central Ohio Housing Round Table

“Creating a better future through brain injury prevention, research, education and advocacy,” is the mission statement for both the Brain Injury Association of America and the Brain Injury Association of Ohio. However, it would be nothing more than a hollow slogan without the conviction and action of advocates who have adopted it as their own personal credo.

Tom Serey, Randi Simon-Serey, John Hock and Ernie Strickland are just such advocates. In recent months, each has shared his or her personal experience with brain injury to effectively advocate for public policy changes and promote prevention, as well as aid in the development of community-based services and supports. And, while they are modest about their contributions, they speak with great effect, drawing on the passion and authority (and hence power) of those who “walk the walk.” They live with the daily challenges of disabilities, and yet are resolved to make a difference for the greater good. And make a difference they do! Here are a few examples of their success:

**The Ohio Access Report** On Nov. 24, 2003, Tom Serey and his wife, Randi Simon-Serey, submitted a witness slip to testify at the “Let Olmstead Ring!” public forum sponsored by the Ohio Legal Rights Service and hosted by the Ohio Olmstead Task Force. The forum, held at the State Library in Columbus, provided individuals with disabilities and advocates from around the state an opportunity to provide input to update the Ohio Access Report. Spurred by the Supreme Court’s 1999 Olmstead

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**Champions** (continued from page 1) ruling and court interpretations of the Americans with Disability Act (ADA), The Ohio Access Report was first issued in February of 2001. The updated report, due to be released by Governor Taft in January 2004, will serve as the state's interagency strategic plan to address the needs individuals with disabilities and the elderly have for long-term services and supports. It will emphasize development of home and community-based assistance, enabling individuals with long-term needs to avoid inappropriate and undesirable institutional placement.

In her testimony, Randi Simon-Serey, who works full-time as a nurse, shared that Tom had been forced to move into a nursing home after his mother's death. The couple drove home the point that less expensive assistance, provided in their own home, is vastly more preferable to them than care provided in a nursing home. At the same time, they raised awareness that individuals with brain injury represent a significant population with long-term support needs, and should not be forgotten in Ohio's efforts to promote positive "systems change".

### **Cincinnati's Bike Helmet Usage**

**Law** Peggy O'Neill reported she felt chills in early October when she heard John Hock on local radio. He was advocating for passage of an emergency ordinance before the Safety Committee of the Cincinnati City Council, requiring bicyclists under 16 to wear helmets. Hock, long a champion for local and statewide bike helmet legislation, speaks convincingly on the need for such laws. John was representing a team of advocates (Dr. Tom Saul, John Kraimer, Joan Hock, Dr. Victor Garcia, Dr. Rebecca Brown, Krista Jones, Minette Cooper and Stephanie Lambers) dedicated to promoting prevention.

Now 34, Hock was ten years old when he fell from his bike, experiencing a near fatal brain injury. He wasn't wearing a helmet, since they were so

uncommon at the time. Known for his exuberance, Hock nonetheless testifies to the many losses and struggles he has experienced because of disabilities associated with brain injury. He is honest about the persistent challenges he faces, as he strives to live and work as independently as possible. Hock recently testified before the Cincinnati and Wyoming City Councils in support of proposed bike helmet ordinances. The Cincinnati ordinance on bike helmet usage passed on October 15th.

States O'Neill, who serves as BIAOH's Community Support Network Coordinator for the area, "I was just so proud of John. He played an important role in helping the community understand the protection bike helmet legislation provides our children. He's worked long and hard on this issue, and deserves a lot of credit!"

### **Central Ohio Housing Round**

**Table** After sustaining a brain injury in a car accident when he was a young boy, Ernie Strickland grew up witnessing how advocacy on his behalf could enable him to navigate systems, including schools and employment programs. As a young adult, and with the assistance of Creative Housing, Inc., he was able to obtain a house of his own with caring staff to assist him. Strickland's successful transition from his family home into his own place is captured in the video, "Accessibility Comes Home." His wish is that he can serve as a role model for other people with disabilities, who also want to live more independently in community settings. To that end, Strickland joined the Central Ohio Housing Round Table, a coalition of advocacy and provider organizations working together to increase accessible, affordable and appropriate housing and support service opportunities for central Ohioans with disabilities. (Learn more about the Housing Round Table on page 7.) Over the summer, Housing Round Table members viewed the "Accessibility Comes Home" video,

and were impressed with the insight it offered on accommodations and supports that made it possible for Ernie, and others living with disabilities, to live in their own homes. As a result, the video has become a standard information and inspiration component of trainings offered by Round Table members.

In Ohio, the brain injury advocacy community can be both proud and grateful for people like Tom Serey, Randi Simon-Serey, John Hock and Ernie Strickland who, by sharing their own stories and experience, illustrate the need for public policy change. In fact, they are part of an advocacy heritage dating back to BIAOH's founding, and remind us of our central purpose "to create a better future." Individually and collectively, we are empowered by their example, and recognize the truth in the statement that "Ordinary people, when they come together, can accomplish extraordinary things."

***Let's dedicate ourselves to making 2004 a year of extraordinary accomplishment in the realm of public policy changes benefiting Ohioans with brain injury and their families!***

#### Meeting news - from the Headbangers Support Group, Pataskala:

Our meeting was Nov. 19th. There were 23 people present. We learned about North American history and the foods they ate. We all told about the things we were thankful for.

Everyone that wants to be in the Christmas drawing needs to bring a five dollar gift. Also everyone brought a covered dish for our Thanksgiving dinner.

- Submitted by Gloria Stevens,  
Reynoldsburg

# BIAOH Launches \$50,000 Annual Campaign



A Kick-Off reception, announcing the beginning of BIAOH's Annual Giving Campaign to raise \$50,000, was held at the Radisson Airport Hotel on October 2, 2003. The five o'clock reception concluded the first day of the Association's annual conference. The kick-off drew approximately sixty supporters, including BIAOH members, conference attendees, members of the Ohio General Assembly, and representatives from Ohio's Brain Injury Advisory Committee.

Regretably, illness kept Allan I. Bergman, Brain Injury Association of America's CEO and President, from speaking at the event. However, BIAOH Board Member, Jerry Friedman, stepped in. He noted, "The need to diversify, expand and stabilize BIAOH's income is evident to the Board of Trustees, and motivated us to launch the campaign." Adding, "Its success, in this and coming years, will help maintain and expand critical assistance and training offered through our Helpline and Community Support Network offices, and provide us the flexibility and means to develop new services."

Friedman also announced the formation of a Development Board of community leaders who will set the pace for acquiring the campaign's lead gifts. He expressed the Association's appreciation to Thomas Bonasera, Craig Denmead and Michael Minister for their commitment to serve on the Development Board, which is expected to expand by two to three members over the next several months.

Joyce Patton of Tactical Edge, along with BIAOH Executive Dir., Suzanne Minnich, provided a brief overview of the campaign's milestones from its October 2003 roll out to its conclusion in September 2004. Key among them will be an end-of-the year mailing, including a contribution envelope, providing members, supporters, and individuals who have made use of BIAOH's services the opportunity to contribute to the campaign.

According to Patton, an experienced fund development professional, these are the people who know the importance of the Brain Injury Association of Ohio, and believe in its mission. Minnich acknowledged that letters would undoubtedly reach people who have experienced financial reversals due to brain injury, and who cannot make a contribution at this time. However, in those cases, she hopes recipients will consider sharing the contribution envelope with someone who may wish to support the cause.

Concluding on a high note, Dale Perdue presented the Association with his firm's contribution to the Campaign, a check for \$5,484. For eleven consecutive years, Clark, Perdue, Roberts & Scott has sponsored a seminar, educating members of the legal community and others, about brain injuries. Perdue expressed his pleasure in attending the Kick-Off reception, and contributing this year's seminar proceeds as a gift to jump-start BIAOH's Annual Giving Campaign.

In follow up to the reception, Minnich reports that the Annual Giving Campaign has brought in \$10,000 in contributions and pledges in its initial two months. According to Minnich, "The Annual Giving Campaign is an expression of our Board of Trustees' commitment to BIAOH's longevity and vitality. I hope everyone will take part in making the campaign a success."

To make a contribution to the BIAOH's Annual Giving Campaign, include your gift in the envelope enclosed in this newsletter. Or you may make an on-line pledge through BIAOH's website at [www.biaoh.org](http://www.biaoh.org).



Dale Perdue (L) presents BIAOH President Phil Cole with annual contribution check.

# On Board: Bashaw, Coblentz, Calior, Platt & Walls

The Brain Injury Association of Ohio's Board of Trustees governs the Association by setting its direction through strategic planning; policy, resource and program development; evaluation and monitoring, and, importantly by developing and maintaining positive relationships with members, constituents, collaborating organizations, and the public at large.

Through its Nominating and Leadership Development Committee, the Board recruits individuals to run for office who are prepared to fulfill these essential leadership responsibilities, and to advance the Association's overall mission. At its Annual Meeting, the membership has the opportunity to accept the slate of nominees presented by the Nominating/Leadership Development Committee, or expand it by offering nominees from the floor. Through this process, the slate of candidates is established, and thereafter, ballots go to members for a vote.

In the fall of 2003, the membership elected three individuals to continue on the board for 2-year terms beginning in January 2004. They are Paul Coblentz (Troy) as First Vice President, Don Bashaw (Columbus) as Treasurer, and John Calior (Vienna) as Member-at-Large. Also elected as Members-at-Large were Paul Platt (Zanesville), who last served on the board in the early 90s, and Lucille Walls (Columbus) who will begin her first term in office. The full roster is printed on page 6 of this newsletter.

In "candidates' statements" mailed out with the ballots, these recently elected board members told us a little about themselves:



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**1st Vice President: Paul Coblentz (Troy, OH)**

It has been my privilege to serve as your 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President during the past three years! I also had the honor of being on the original (1982-1986) Board of Trustees in several different positions.

In 1982, my son Randy acquired his brain injury. I am very active in his continuing care while he resides in a long-term facility in Michigan. I consider myself a very strong advocate for survivors and their families.

There have been a lot of important accomplishments this past year. With your support I will do my best to continue the work of the Board of Trustees in the next two years. Therefore, I am asking for your support, to continue the very important work of the Brain Injury Association of Ohio, by becoming the next 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the Board of Trustees.

Currently, I am a very active member of the Dayton Area Chapter and Support Groups. Serving as Chapter Vice President and Fundraising Chair.

**PLEASE VOTE.** Our organization can only be as strong as each member's involvement.

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**Treasurer: Don Bashaw (Columbus, OH)**

I am currently a Deputy Director for the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities and have spent my entire professional career, in various capacities, working directly with individuals who have mental retardation and developmental disabilities or managing organizations that provide services. Additionally, Stephanie, our youngest daughter, in fact has multiple disabilities including mental retardation.

Although the disability areas of mental retardation and TBI are substantially different, I do truly understand the challenges and frustrations of dealing with a range of societal issues that are not nearly as accommodating as they could be.

I have been a BIAOH Board member for the past five years and have thoroughly enjoyed the experience of learning more about the area of traumatic brain injury and working with Association members and staff. I have developed a growing concern that BIAOH needs to evolve into a more efficient and effective organization that continually focuses on improving its services and supports to its membership.

If elected Treasurer, I will continue to work closely with BIAOH staff to ensure that limited financial resources are utilized in the most effective and efficient manner.





**Member-at-Large: John Calior (Vienna, OH)**

My daughter suffered a traumatic brain injury in 1988 as a result of a surgical accident during procedures to remove a benign tumor. She was in a coma for almost four months and was virtually helpless for several months after she came out of the coma. From the very start, my wife and I had great difficulty obtaining needed services, both personal and educational, for my daughter. The Brain Injury Association provided us with information and contacts that eventually enabled us to deal with social and educational service providers and get the things our daughter needed.

I am a retired teacher and am also retired as an officer in the Army Reserve. I have a good deal of administrative experience and planning experience as a result of both careers. I have served for several years on the State Superintendent's Advisory Council for Special Education as a representative of BIAOH and have been successful on several occasions in furthering the Association's influence in the field of educational services for students with brain injury.

I feel that others can benefit from my experience with my daughter's situation, as well as my over-all professional background. The fact that I am retired should allow me to dedicate adequate time to the Board, its Executive Council and to the Association.

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**Member-at-Large: Paul Platt (Zanesville, OH)**

It would be a privilege and honor to serve as Member-at-Large for the Brain Injury Association. I have an undergraduate degree in Psychology from Heidelberg College and a Masters Degree in Rehabilitation Administration from DePaul University. My CV also shows my extensive experience as director of several rehabilitation centers, including those with specialized services for individuals with brain injury. In addition, I would work hard to serve this membership with the energy and commitment they deserve.



While my CV shows my abilities as a manager/leader, it does not reflect how and why I became committed to the cause of Brain Injury. In 1986, when I was running for a public office in northwest Ohio, my car (and I) were struck by a pick-up truck driven by someone who was so drunk, he didn't even know he hit me. My car was totaled and I suffered a mild brain injury. A mild brain injury is like a mild nuclear explosion. For almost two years I struggled with low energy levels, poor memory, poor recall, speech problems, and behavior issues.... and serious depression.

The experience, while no where close to what a patient suffering from a severe brain injury experiences, nonetheless gave me insight into what that patient was enduring and made me a better clinician and healthcare manager. But it especially made me aware of how important strong support systems are to the survivor and the family, during and after the brain injury accident.



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**Member-at-Large: Lucille Walls (Columbus, OH)**

I am the Executive Director of the Ohio Governor's Council on People with Disabilities. I have held this position for the past eleven months. Prior to this position I was the Executive Director of Community Access Center (CAC). CAC is a non-profit, Independent Living Center. During my leadership the agency grew from a budget of less than \$400,000 with 11 staff to its current budget of \$1.2 million and a staff of 42. The agency served more than 2,500 individuals with disabilities annually, many of whom had acquired or traumatic brain injuries.

My educational achievements include two Masters degrees. The first from the University of Michigan, School of Social Work, where I studied community organization and social policy. The second is from the University of South Carolina, School of Public Health, where I studied in the areas of injury and violence.

I have lived with a chronic disease since age four when I was diagnosed with an endocrine disorder. This disorder creates antibodies against my own endocrine system. One of the endocrine organs affected early in my life was the pancreas, and as a result I developed diabetes mellitus. As a result of the diabetes mellitus I became blind in 1983. As a disabilities advocate, my service to the Brain Injury Association of Ohio, would include an outreach and partnering with other disability communities. Finding and strengthening the "common ground". I also see my strength as a visionary; I have the ability to understand gaps in services, prevention strategies, and am able to identify solutions. I am willing to work with the other members to raise awareness, funds, and develop programs around brain injury.

# BIAOH 2004 Board Roster

Office	Name	Hometown
President	Philip E. Cole, Esq.	Columbus
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Paul Coblentz	Troy
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Randall Webber, Esq.	Columbus
Secretary	Sharon T. Bell, M.A., S.C.	Blue Creek
Treasurer	Don Bashaw	Columbus
Member-at-Large	Sherman Buckner	Temperance, MI
Member-at-Large	John Calior	Vienna
Member-at-Large	Jon Fishpaw	Columbus
Member-at-Large	Susan Payson, D.O.	Dayton
Member-at-Large	Paul Platt	Zanesville
Member-at-Large	Lucille Walls	Columbus
Chair, Nominating/ Leadership Committee	Jerry Friedman, Esq.	Columbus
Chair, Life Empowerment Committee	Ron Ford	Toledo
Greater Cleveland Chapter Rep.	Michael A. Trivisonno	Willoughby
Cincinnati Chapter Rep.	Denise Mullins	Cincinnati



Randall Webber poses with the I.M. Brainy bear.

## I.M. Brainy Arrives in Ohio

Board Member, Randall Webber (above) stopped by BIAOH's State Office one day this summer, just as I.M. Brainy arrived. Right out of the box, this puppet's appeal was evident! I.M. Brainy comes with classroom activity suggestions and support materials designed to introduce preschool children to safety precautions.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, over 17,000 children (19 years of age and under) are killed each year as a result of an injury, and thousands of others are left with a permanent disability. Of all types of injury, traumatic brain injury (TBI) continues to be the leading cause of death and disability among children and young adults. Fortunately, the majority of all brain injuries can be prevented, or the severity of the injury reduced, by following simple safety precautions.

Developed and distributed by the Brain Injury Association of America, with support from Medtronic, I.M. Brainy will be available for personal appearances. Educators and day care providers may call BIAOH's toll-free number, 1-866-644-6242, to receive a copy of the I.M. Brainy Prevention and Awareness kit. BIAOH's State office and its CSN Office in Marietta can also help arrange the bear's visits. The I.M. Brainy program is designed to be implemented over a five-day period with daily lessons emphasizing three high-risk transportation issues — motor vehicle, pedestrian and helmet safety. The simple habits presented to the children through the lessons, practiced consistently, can save thousands of children's lives, millions of dollars in health care costs and untold heartache every year. Welcome to Ohio, Brainy!

## Gateways Conference



(L-R) Kris Stolzenburg with OSU's Team Brain Injury, Peggy Shecket with the Brain Injury Association of Ohio, and OSU student, Angie Schafrath after their May 19<sup>th</sup> presentation at the **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Gateways Conference**, "Charting the Course to Employment" held at The Fawcett Center in Columbus.

Kris, Peggy and Angie teamed up to talk about "Access to Services for People Who Have Sustained A Traumatic Brain Injury." Kris and Peggy talked about the unique collaboration, funded through a grant from the Columbus Medical Association Foundation, between the Brain Injury Association of Ohio and OSU's Team Brain Injury. They noted the complementary and supportive roles each agency plays in helping individuals with brain injury find, obtain and maintain the services and supports they require. Attention was paid to common problems following TBI, along with problem-solving strategies to help minimize deficits and promote success for those with brain injury.

# Housing Round Table Forms, Plans Collaborative Initiatives

A Columbus Medical Association Foundation grant entitled "Community Capacity Building to Prevent Secondary Complications of TBI," awarded to OSU's TBI Model System Program, provided support for the Brain Injury Association of Ohio to convene the Central Ohio Housing Round Table. Recruited to participate were advocacy and provider organizations and individuals concerned with the lack of housing and residential support opportunities for central Ohioans with brain injury and other disabilities.

Membership in the Central Ohio Housing Round Table has grown since its first meeting on June 26, 2003 (see photo) held at the Grandview Heights Library, and includes Bank One, Cerebral Palsy Association of Ohio, Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio, Columbus Coalition for the Homeless, Columbus Housing Partnership, Creative Housing, Inc., Fannie Mae, HER Realtors, Jireh Services, Inc., Mid-Ohio Board for an Independent Living Environment (MOBILE), Ohio Legal Rights Services (OLRS), the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA), consumer representatives Ernie and Macie Strickland, as well as, BIAOH and OSU's TBI Model System Program, the Ohio Valley Center for Brain Injury Prevention and Rehabilitation (OVC).



Foreground: Derek Mortland (MOBILE) & Suzanne Minnich (BIAOH); Background (L-R) Julianne Johnson (OLRS), Cindy Flaherty (Fannie Mae), Kara Murphy (Columbus Coalition for the Homeless), Jennifer Bogner (OVC), Pat Rafter (Creative Housing), Michael Childs (Bank One)

"It's a very impressive group of individuals", states OVC's Dr. Jennifer Bogner, "from the standpoint of both the expertise and commitment they bring to the table. And there is such potential for collaborative initiatives! "

At its initial meeting, Julianne Johnson shared and discussed information contained in OLRS' three-part housing publications: "The Report on Housing", "Information on Housing," and "Advocating for Housing," along with an Executive Summary and a Recommendations Summary. At subsequent meetings, Round Table members exchanged information and formed three committees to advance the group's efforts: Home Owners, Renters and Web Development.

According to BIAOH's Executive Director, Suzanne Minnich, CMAF grant funding supporting the Central Ohio Housing Round Table concludes at the end of 2003. However, she, Bogner, Flaherty and Jirah representative, Patricia Smith, along with other members, are working to identify additional resources to keep the group together, and advance its projects and goals. States Minnich, "We are absolutely confident that good things will come through this powerful collaboration."

## Recipients of the John D. Corrigan Community Capacity Building Award:

(see page 9 for more detail on this award)

### From the Cincinnati area:

Louise Ammerman Crouch  
Francine Lopomo  
Peggy O'Neill  
Gary A. Schneider, PhD  
Robert Tureen, PhD  
Nicolay Certkoff Walz, PhD

### From the Dover/New Philadelphia area:

Marty Breim  
Bill Burbick  
Dan Conrad  
Chris Curtiss  
Bruce Ronald

Darren Prosser

Frank Scalabrino

### From the Toledo area:

Ginger Bass  
Mary Haines, PhD  
Lawrence Horn, MD  
Jana Lown

Jeff McAnall

Curt Morman

Brad Prater

John Root

Christine Veronie

### From the Cleveland area:

Joseph Greco, PhD

Sharon Meixner

Kip Smith, PhD

Lori Surtman

### From the Athens/Marietta area:

Cindy Auker

Rick Gehlbach

Gary Hontz

Tracy Leinbaugh, PhD

Earl S. Stump, PhD

David Walters

# Brain Injury Association of Ohio's 22nd Annual Conference, "New Opportunities in Challenging Times," October 2 & 3, 2003, Radisson Airport Hotel, Columbus

Conference 2003 by the numbers:

- 278 in attendance:
  - 55% professionals
  - 26% individuals w/BI
  - 17% family members
  - 2% students
- 45 workshop offerings
- 37 Continuing Education certificates awarded
- 14 Exhibitors & 8 meal & break sponsors
- 5 Co-sponsoring Agencies:

**Ohio Department of Education's  
 Office for Exceptional Children  
 Ohio Department of MR/DD  
 ORCLISH  
 Ohio Rehabilitation Services  
 Commission's Brain Injury Program  
 OSU's Ohio Valley Center**

Leadership awards were presented in six categories:

Mary K. Amer Award for Outstanding Service



Kip Smith, PhD

As an expert in the field of brain injury, Dr. Smith has dedicated herself to ensuring that the Outpatient Brain Injury Program at MetroHealth is one of the best statewide and beyond.

Workshop topics were wide-ranging:



"Providing Educational Services for a Student with a Brain Injury," panel discussion facilitated by parent-advocate, John Calior, and (L-R) Kelly Prokop, Teacher, Debbie Scott, Voc. Coord., and Mary Fran Jones, Spec. Ed. Supervisor



"Ohio's Systems Change Initiatives - Identifying New Opportunities for Ohioans with Brain Injury & Other Disabilities," presented by Greg Moody, Executive Assistant to Governor Taft (C). Also pictured are (L) BIAOH President Phil Cole and (R) Board Member Jerry Friedman.



"Triple Jeopardy - Black Females with Disability, Unserved and Underserved," Ken Latham (C) facilitator, (L) Katrina Scott and (R) Fatica Ayers.

### Brain Injury Awareness



Susan Rogers

In order to provide appropriate services to one consumer with a traumatic brain injury, Susan contacted BIAOH and arranged for an in-service program for the entire staff of the MR/DD adult program. A local support group was started, hosted by the agency where she works.

### New Frontiers



Lori Hanson and Jo Ann Boggs

These two women have created Hanson House, one of the few clubhouses that serve individuals with TBI. They offer a support group, social outings, advocacy, trainings, referrals and support. Hanson house is a model that will hopefully be used throughout the state.



Krista Jones, Chris Theders  
Larry Warner Jr. (not pictured)

When Krista, Chris and Larry received Bike Helmet grants from BIAOH, they joined forces and created a Bike Helmet education bin which they then distributed to Fire Departments in their area. As a result hundreds of children learned about bike helmet safety.

### Prevention



Charles Arnold

In 1998 Firefighter Charles Arnold was a victim of an accident while trying to free another victim. As a result he sustained a traumatic brain injury. When he was able, he returned to work and now is charge of prevention education for his department. His personal experience has lead to this most valued work with children. Charles (L) is pictured with his partner, Rich Palmer.

### Nancy Kean Memorial Award



Kelly Prokop

Kelly (shown accepting her award from John Calior) is a teacher of orthopedically handicapped students. In 1997 when she learned she would be teaching a student with brain injury, she learned all she could about the subject and with the parents, developed a plan to motivate and teach the student.

### John D. Corrigan Community Capacity Building Award



Local Advisory Committees

Committee members, including Dan Conrad (L) shown accepting his award from Dr. Corrigan, worked over the spring and summer to help organize and host Substance Abuse and Traumatic Brain Injury seminars. Training sessions throughout the state helped professionals understand the relationship between substance abuse and TBI. The names of all of the committee members are shown on page 7.

# When you need Information, Assistance or Support...

There are many ways to contact the Brain Injury Association of Ohio. You may reach us through:

**Our Toll-free Helpline:** 1-866-644-6242 (in state) or 614-481-7100 (in central Ohio). The helpline also maintains an email address: [help@biaoh.org](mailto:help@biaoh.org). Staff respond to requests for information and educational materials Monday - Friday, 8:30 AM to 5 PM. A database of programs and services, files of Frequently Requested Educational Documents (FRED), and a lending library with videos, books, manuals and display materials are available to assist the 2700 plus individuals who contact BIAOH's helpline each year.

**Community Support Network:** BIAOH's Community Support Network (CSN) staff are experts in local areas around the state. We have divided the state into 15 areas each including a group of 3 to 8 counties. We currently have 6 of these areas staffed. Five CSN Coordinators are co-located with "host agencies" (offering donated offices) in CSN areas 1, 3, 8, 13 & 15. Area 11's CSN Coordinator shares space with BIAOH's state office. In addition to phone assistance, the field staff spend time meeting with individuals with brain injury, their families and area service providers to enhance access to needed assistance and encourage development of additional services and supports. Grants from the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission, plus localized grants support BIAOH's CSN system.

**CSN Area #1**  
Defiance, Fulton,  
Hancock, Henry, Lucas,  
Paulding, Williams, Wood  
counties  
**Christine Veronie**  
Toledo OH  
**419-254-4135**  
email: [cveronie@biaoh.org](mailto:cveronie@biaoh.org)

**CSN Area #11**  
Delaware, Fairfield,  
Franklin, Licking, Pickaway  
counties  
**Peggy Shecket, M.S.**  
Columbus OH  
**614-481-7100**  
866-644-6242  
e-mail: [pshecket@biaoh.org](mailto:pshecket@biaoh.org)

**CSN Area #13**  
Butler, Clermont, Hamilton, Warren  
counties  
**Peggy O'Neill**  
Cincinnati OH  
**513-542-2704**  
e-mail: [poneill@biaoh.org](mailto:poneill@biaoh.org)



**CSN Area #3**  
Cuyahoga, Lake and  
Geauga Counties  
**Lori Surtman, LSW**  
Cleveland OH  
**216-778-3176**  
e-mail:  
[lsurtman@biaoh.org](mailto:lsurtman@biaoh.org)

**CSN Area #8**  
Carroll, Harrison,  
Holmes, Tuscarawas,  
Wayne counties  
**Chris Curtiss**  
Dover, OH  
**330-343-3668**  
888-213-4452  
e-mail:  
[ccurtiss@biaoh.org](mailto:ccurtiss@biaoh.org)

**CSN Area #15**  
Athens, Hocking, Meigs, Morgan, Perry,  
Vinton, Washington, counties  
**Cindy Auker**  
Marietta OH  
**740-568-0241**  
e-mail: [cauker@biaoh.org](mailto:cauker@biaoh.org)

**Local BIAOH Chapters:** Local chapters are operating in three areas: **Cincinnati**, **Cleveland** and **Dayton**. Typically, chapters are separately incorporated, though they share BIAOH's mission and that of our national organization. Each is designated by the IRS as a tax-exempt organization and has its own federal identification number. Chapters are governed by either a Board of Trustees or steering committee. Their activities typically focus on support group development and maintenance, awareness, prevention, social activities, fund raising and advocacy. Active members and volunteer power are vital to these chapters.

**List of Support Groups:** BIAOH maintains a list of support groups for people with brain injury and/or their families that meet throughout the state. Group activity varies; call for details and meeting times.

**Akron**

Betty Bacalu, RN, BSN  
330-467-5141  
Dawna Tenney  
330-628-7425

**Athens**

Cindy Auker  
740-568-0241  
Dr. Earl Stump  
740 593 6420

**Batavia/Clermont Co.**

Cherry Thompson  
513-474-5591

**Cadiz**

Chris Curtiss  
330-343-3668

**Canton**

Lyla Kepler  
330-455-7969

**Chillicothe**

Tina Viney  
740-775-1260

**Cincinnati Area:**

**@ Children's Hospital**  
Debby Palmisano, LSW  
513-636-8437

**@ Drake Center**  
**@ Plan of SW Ohio**  
(for Mild Brain Injury)  
Peggy O'Neill  
513-542-2704

**Cleveland Area:**

**@ Berea**  
Lori Hanson  
440-234-9900  
info@hansontbiclubhouse.org

**@ Euclid Hospital**  
**(General)**  
Dan Chambers & Louise  
Foreman  
216-738-1806  
**(Stroke Group)**  
Nancy Ryan, SW  
216-692-7476

**@ MetroHealth:**  
**(Caregivers)**  
Judy Salter  
216-778-3355

Dawn Trapp  
216-778-3177  
**(Stroke Group)**

Laura Pokorny  
216-778-5329  
**(General)**

Lori Surtman  
216-778-3176

**@ Parma-Pinetree Vista**  
Lori Surtman  
216-778-3176

**Columbus Area:**

**@ Grandview Library**  
Peggy Shecket  
614-481-7100  
1-866-644-6242  
pshecket@biaoh.org

**@ OSU-Dodd Hall**  
**(Spouse Group)**  
Dr. Wanda McEntyre  
614-293-3830  
**(Young Survivors,16-22)**

Peggy Shecket  
614-481-7100  
**(Survivors Group)**  
Laura Gwilliam  
614-293-7930

**@ OhioHealth**  
**(Stroke Group)**  
Sally Oiler  
614 566 0563

**Dayton Chapter**

Shirley Whitmer  
937-339-0356  
Kathy Sercu  
937-885-3881

**Defiance**  
Charlotte Monroe  
419-782-5441  
877-209-8336

**Delaware**  
Peggy Shecket  
1-866 644 6242  
pshecket@biaoh.org  
614-481-7100

**Dennison/Tuscarawas Co.**  
Chris Curtiss  
330-343-3668

**Dover**

Chris Curtiss  
330-343-3668  
1-888-213-4452

**Green Springs**

Deanna Turner & Deanna  
Nuti  
419-639-2626 ext 4338

**Hamilton**

Dawanna Jones  
513-425-8728 x24

**Lebanon**

Peggy O'Neill  
513-542-2704  
poneill@biaoh.org

**Lima**

Helen Griffith  
419-384-3684

**Lisbon-Vista Centre**

Scott Entzi  
330-424-5852

**Lorain**

Richard Litwin, PhD  
440-960-3426  
440-960-3781

**Maumee**

Jeff McAnall, Program Mgr  
419-861-4458  
Christine Veronie  
419-254-4135  
cveronie@biaoh.org

**Medina**

Robin Pawelec, PT  
330-725 1000 ext 2305

**Millersburg**

Jeanie Robertson, RN  
330-674-0015  
Chris Curtiss  
330-343-3668

**Newark**

Dave Sinclair  
740-345-3465 (W)

**Pataskala**

Effie Parker  
740-927-1836

**Reno/Marietta**

Cindy Auker  
740-568-0241

**Seville/Medina County**

Theresa Stutzman, LPN  
330-769-2015

**Sylvania-Flower Rehab**

Jana Lown, SLP  
419-824-1936  
Danielle Peladeau, OT  
419-824-1527

**Sylvania-Ability Center**

Bonnie Bright Taylor  
419-841-7907

**Toledo**

Cliffie Hunter  
419-243-8567

**Toledo-MCO Mercy Rehab**

Lynn Chapman, Speech  
Therapist  
419-861-4458

**Troy**

Shirley Whitmer  
937-339-0356  
s.whitmer1@juno.com

**Warren**

Laura Blanco  
330-841-3757 (W)

**Warrensville Hts.**

(Stroke Group)  
Maureen Samuels  
216-491-7052

**Warsaw**

Jerome Geisinger  
1-888-213-4452

**Wooster**

Michael Sterling  
330-202-5271  
Chris Curtiss  
330 343-3668

**Youngstown**

Nancy Creed  
330-755-2618  
Phil Mingo  
330-744-1555

**Zanesville**

Marc Miller, PhD  
1-800-322-4762  
740-454-5271

# Thank You

Thanks to all who helped make this year's conference, "New Opportunities in Changing Times" a great success. Our new location, the Columbus Radisson Airport Hotel worked out wonderfully.

The **Conference Planning Committee**, consisting of Don Bashaw, Chair, John Calior, Gary Lamb-Hart, Jeff McCormick, Suzanne Minnich and Jana Perry did a great job planning a diverse and educational (and fun!) conference.

**Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission** deserves a big thanks for providing 102 scholarships to survivors and family members, covering their registration expenses.

**Sponsors:** OhioHealth; OSU Medical Center; Columbus Support Group; Center for Comprehensive Services; Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council; Clark, Perdue, Roberts & Scott Co., L.P.A.; Palmer, Volkema & Thomas; ReMed

A special thanks to ORCLISH for contributing \$2,000 toward conference speaker expenses.

**Exhibitors:** BayView NeuroHealth, Castle Nursing Homes, Center for Comprehensive Services, Community Health Network, Drake Center, Lakeview Rehabilitation Center, M.C. Mobility Systems, Meadow-view Care Center, Miami Valley Hospital, OSU Medical Center, Prevent Child Abuse Ohio, ReMed, The Grand Home of Marshall, Time Timer

**Presenters:** We would like to thank all of the presenters who contributed their time and expertise to make this conference our best yet.

**Spencer-Walker Press** again donated their services to laminate the Survivor ID cards free of charge. To date, 481 survivor ID cards have been produced. Thanks to Spencer-Walker (Newark, OH) for this valuable contribution.

We would like to extend a big **THANK YOU** to everyone who has contributed so far to the **Annual Campaign Fund!** With your continued help, we can work together to achieve the goals of the Brain Injury Association of Ohio. **Thanks!**

# Mark Your Calendar

**January 15, 2004 (9:00 am - 12:00 pm)**

Homeownership for People w/ Disabilities

Cost: \$30 if paid by 1/14; \$40 on the day of class

Location: Columbus Board of Realtors, 2700 Airport Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43219

This 3-hour CE course is being presented by a panel: Cindy Flaherty (Fannie Mae), Derek Mortland (MOBILE), Daphne Hawk (HER), Loretta King (Columbus Housing Partnership), Steve Carter (Bank One). This course will give information and tips on working with people with disabilities to access home ownership. The course will address accessibility issues, facts about people with disabilities, working with disabled clients (finding customers and houses, showing houses, writing the contract, working with other partners), breaking down barriers to homeownership (education, credit, budgeting, down payment assistance), loan qualification challenges for families with a disabled member, financing options (mortgage products, underwriting flexibilities) plus more.

Phone: (614) 475-4000

**January 24, 2004 (7:00 am - 5:00 pm)**

Traumatic Brain Injury and Seizures: Acute and Chronic Management

Location: Athenium Hotel - Detroit, Michigan

The Henry Ford Neuroscience Institute symposium "Traumatic Brain Injury and Seizures" is designed in collaboration with the Wayne State University Department of Neurology to assist primary care and specialty physicians as well as mid level providers involved in the care of patients with traumatic brain injury and seizures.

For more information, contact: Henry Ford Hospital or Wayne State University's Department of Neurology.

**March 12, 2004 (8:00 am - 4:30 pm)**

The 3rd Cincinnati Brain Injury Conference, "Real Life Rehabilitation - Behavior and Transition," Cincinnati  
Location: Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. Questions: Peggy O'Neill (513) 542-2704

For more information on these and other events, check our website frequently:

**[www.biaoh.org](http://www.biaoh.org)**

Follow the link to "News and Education."

# Bike Helmet Updates

This year the Brain Injury Association of Ohio received a grant from the Governor's Highway Safety Office of the Ohio Department of Safety to award 35 community groups with small grants to purchase bike helmets.

This initiative attracted applications from all over the state. The bike helmet grant committee met in early March and made the difficult decision to fund 35 of the grants they received.

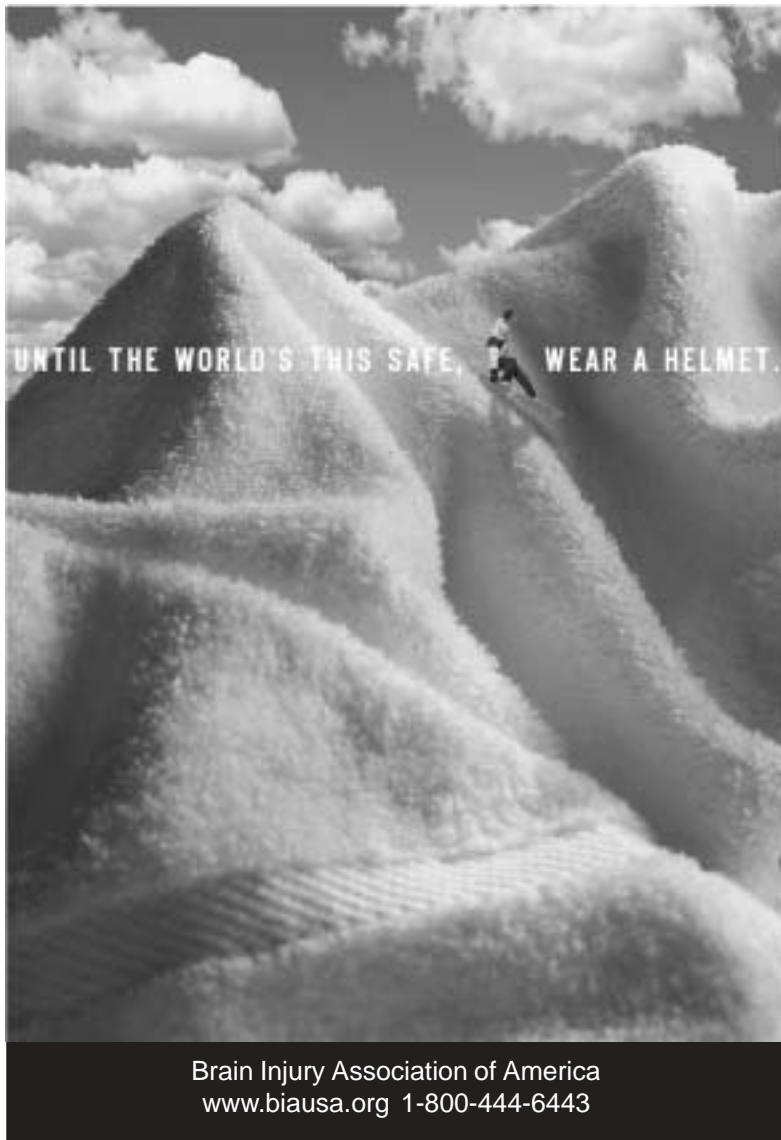
Award recipients received not only funds to purchase helmets, but a packet of resources and safety materials.

Grant recipients included community Safety Towns, Police Departments, Fire Departments, Health Departments and community agencies.

This wonderful outreach will supply hundreds of bike helmets to children who will now be protected as they enjoy riding their bikes!



Cindy Auker, BIAOH's Community Support Network Coordinator based in Marietta, demonstrates proper bike helmet fitting at a November staff meeting. Her model is Balinda Walters, who recently joined the Association as its Executive Assistant.



## Brain Safety Song

sung to the tune of Row, Row, Row your boat

Brain, brain in my head  
Helps me think and see  
Hearing, feeling, tasting, touching  
It does all this for me!

Click, click, click your belt  
When you're in the car  
Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily  
Safely we go far!

Look, look, look both ways  
When you cross the street  
If we hold our buddy's hand  
Our friends we'll safely meet!

Ride, ride, ride your bike  
With your helmet on  
Riding safe all day long  
Safely we ride on!

Source: Brain Injury Association of America

# Ohio State Retains TBI Model System

The Ohio Regional Traumatic Brain Injury Model System, located in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Ohio State University, was funded for another five years by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research. "We have been a TBI Model System since 1997 and are very pleased to be able to continue to be part of this important program," said John D. Corrigan, PhD, Ohio's Principal Investigator. The programs at the Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan (RIM) in Detroit, and the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond were also awarded continuing support. One of the facilities new to the program will be the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, headed by Dr. Ross Zafonte, the former Principal Investigator at RIM.

The program at Ohio State operates under the umbrella of the Ohio Valley Center for Brain Injury Prevention and Rehabilitation. Among other advantages, the Ohio Valley Center provides active consumer participation via its 30-member Advisory Council. Composed primarily of consumers and advocates from Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, West Virginia, and Virginia, the Advisory Council prioritizes needs, reviews funding opportunities, monitors progress and evaluates grant outcomes. "The Ohio Valley Center Advisory Council will be celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> year, and we feel fortunate to have such an experienced and

committed group of individuals helping guide our work," Corrigan offered.

Jennifer Bogner, PhD, Research Director for the Ohio Regional Traumatic Brain Injury Model System, explained that, "we proposed two local research projects addressing substance abuse and persons with TBI." One is a randomized clinical trial testing ways to help clients to stay in treatment. Bogner elaborated, "this study will employ intervention strategies we have found effective for persons with TBI when first getting started with a treatment program." The second study is a test of an instrument being developed at Ohio State to objectively document the extent and effect of a person's previous injuries. This instrument is intended for research on how TBI influences the success of substance abuse treatment.

Gary Lamb-Hart, MDiv, the OVC Center Manager noted that the next five years will see a marked expansion in efforts to disseminate information about TBI to the multi-state region. "We have elaborated our dissemination plans in several important ways, including the development of 'SynapShots,' an educational series designed for both consumers and professionals." In collaboration with the model system at the Rehabilitation Institute of Charlotte in North Carolina, summaries of important topics in TBI will be

developed and distributed. The topics will be drawn from priorities developed by the OVC Advisory Council. Lamb-Hart indicated that he expects to reach 8,000 readers in the region via inserts to newsletters of state affiliates of the Brain Injury Association of America, as well as other consumer advocacy organizations. SynapShots.org will also be available on the web.

The Ohio Regional TBI Model System provides healthcare services for 2.4 million people living in a 25-county area covering central and southern Ohio. All three Level I trauma centers in Central Ohio, and one of two Level II centers, are participants in the Ohio Regional TBI Model System. Brain injury rehabilitation is provided in a 24-bed, CARF-accredited, specialized Brain Injury Unit in the OSU Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. Corrigan adds, "We are equally proud of several innovative programs for community integration we have developed, including the TBI Network—which provides treatment of substance abuse problems; and our new Community Capacity Building project conducted in conjunction with the Brain Injury Association of Ohio."

For more information send e-mail to Lamb-Hart.1@osu.edu, call (614) 293-3802, or on the web at [www.OhioValley.org](http://www.OhioValley.org).

*"Substance abuse is a risk factor for having a traumatic brain injury and traumatic brain injury is a risk factor for developing a substance abuse problem." - John D. Corrigan*

# Medicaid Waivers in Ohio

The Medicaid waivers that are administered by either the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, and the Ohio Department of Aging can be very confusing. This table lists each of the waivers and the agencies that administer them. The table also shows the types of services each waiver can cover and the eligibility requirements. For more specific information about each waiver, contact the administering agency.

## Waiver Program Eligibility Requirements & Administering Agency

Name of Waiver	Types of Services	Eligibility Requirements	Administering Agency
Individual Options Waiver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respite care</li> <li>• Supported employment</li> <li>• Accessibility adaptations</li> <li>• Transportation</li> <li>• Specialized medical, adaptive equipment &amp; supplies</li> <li>• Homemaker/personal care</li> <li>• Social work • Interpreter</li> <li>• Home delivered meals • Nutrition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Specific financial criteria</li> <li>* ICF/MR level of care</li> <li>* All ages</li> </ul>	Ohio Dept. MR/DD
Level One Waiver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homemaker/personal care</li> <li>• Respite (institutional or formal)</li> <li>• Special medical equipment</li> <li>• Transportation</li> <li>• Environmental accessibility</li> <li>• Personal emergency response system</li> <li>• Emergency services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Specific financial criteria</li> <li>* ICF/MR level of care</li> <li>* All ages</li> </ul>	Ohio Dept. MR/DD
Ohio Home Care Waiver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respite care</li> <li>• Adult day health</li> <li>• Transportation</li> <li>• Environmental accessibility and adaptations</li> <li>• Personal emergency response system</li> <li>• Adaptive and assistive devices</li> <li>• Daily living services • Nursing services</li> <li>• Home delivered meals • Therapies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Specific financial criteria</li> <li>* Intermediate level of care</li> <li>* All ages</li> </ul>	Ohio Dept. Job & Family Svs
PASSPORT Waiver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homemaker/Personal care</li> <li>• Adult day health</li> <li>• Transportation</li> <li>• Environmental accessibility and adaptations</li> <li>• Specialized medical, adaptive and assistive equipment &amp; supplies</li> <li>• Social work and counseling • Chore services</li> <li>• Home delivered meals • Nutrition consultation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Specific financial criteria</li> <li>* Intermediate level of care</li> <li>* Ages 60 years and older</li> </ul>	Ohio Dept. of Aging
Residential Facilities Waiver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homemaker/Personal care</li> <li>• Supported employment</li> <li>• Specialized medical, adaptive and assistive equipment &amp; supplies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Specific financial criteria</li> <li>* ICF/MR level of care</li> <li>* Ages 18 years and older</li> </ul>	Ohio Dept. MR/DD
Transitions Waiver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respite care</li> <li>• Adult day health</li> <li>• Daily living services</li> <li>• Environmental accessibility and adaptations</li> <li>• Transportation • Personal emergency response system</li> <li>• Adaptive and assistive devices • Daily living services</li> <li>• Nursing services • Home delivered meals • Therapies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Specific financial criteria</li> <li>* ICF/MR level of care</li> <li>* All ages</li> </ul>	Ohio Dept. Job & Family Svs.

For some of the waivers, an "ICF/MR" level of care is required. ICF/MR stands for "intermediate care facility for a person with mental retardation or a developmental disability" level of care.

You may apply for all but the Transitions Waiver at your county's department of Job and Family Services. Additionally, the waivers administered by the Ohio Department of MR/DD may be applied for with that agency also. The Transitions Waiver is not currently open for enrollment.

(source: <http://www.state.oh.us/olrs/fsc/asp/WaiversTables.asp#names>)

**Brain Injury Association of Ohio  
Membership Application**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Residence or Business?

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

(May we send future email announcements?    yes    no )

**Please Indicate:**

- Person with brain injury
- Parent    Spouse    Sibling
- Child    Other Family Member
- Friend    Professional

- New Member**    **Renewal**

\$35.00: **Regular Membership**

**Constituent Member** - annual renewal not required. This category is for individuals with brain injury or their families who cannot afford the annual membership fee, but who want to receive Association mailings. Not eligible to hold office or vote.

Your membership in the Brain Injury Association of Ohio also includes membership in your local support group and helps support the work of the national association, The Brain Injury Association of America, Inc. BIAOH is a non-profit, tax exempt association and Equal Opportunity Employer.

Please make checks payable to: BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF OHIO

**The only cure for brain injury is prevention!**



**Brain Injury Association of Ohio, Inc.**  
1335 Dublin Road Suite 217D  
Columbus, OH 43215-1000

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