

Brain Injury Association of Georgia

Volume 2, Issue 2

February – March 2009



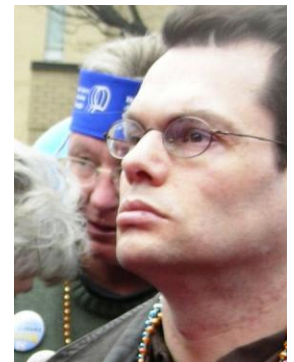
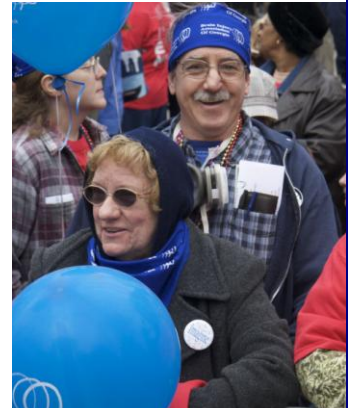
(Waring Jackson and House Representative Sean Jerguson)

Disability Day showed the Many Sides of TBI

Thank you to all who came out for this year's Disability Day! It was a great success as TBI was front and center. We owe a lot of thanks to the coordinator of BIAG's Disability Day, **WARING JACKSON**. Without all the hard work beforehand, our voice would not have been heard but because of the endless dedication and passion that Waring and others displayed, the state representatives know that TBI Survivors are just that. We are survivors who have a voice in our communities, states and country and we will rise up and let our voices be heard.

A great big thank to everyone who came from areas such as **Columbus, Macon, Thomasville and Atlanta**. As you view the pictures, remember the people who made Disability Day possible, wore our bandannas, Mardi gras beads and buttons and carried balloons. What a great day it was for all!





PEER VISITORS PACKING PACKETS



Every 3 to 4 months a group of 10 to 12 volunteers from several BIAG Support Groups and some of our Peer Visitor team can be found laughing and talking, but working hard, assembling 350 to 400 Packets of Information which are used by the Brain Injury Peer Visitor Program. A special packet for veterans is also assembled, as well as a Spanish packet.

Each time a Peer Visitor and/or caregiver visits with a patient in the hospital or rehab center a Packet of Information is given to them. Sometimes more than one packet is required for several members of one family.

In this packet there are various informational articles on brain injury, stories from survivors, newspaper articles, CDC pamphlets and fact sheets, a booklist, a resources guide, a website list, as well as a list of Georgia BIAG support groups and BIAG information. We have added a caregiver page, as well as stroke resources and other stroke information.

Our goal is to help educate the patient and their loved ones about brain injury and to make their road to recovery a little easier, having information and resources to use.

Thanks go to one of our BIAG Board of Director members, Vickie Hodge. Vickie and her staff actually copied all of the pages for our packets throughout 2008, donating these to the Peer Visitor Program.

Thanks also go out to the wonderful volunteers who tirelessly helped assemble the hundreds of packets during 2008. Those volunteers are: Mike Abercrombie, Randy Babcock, Ann Boriskie, Bryan Durio, Bill DeAngelo, Richard & Margaret Ellison, Mark Halvorsen, Tom Houchins, Waring Jackson, Miriam Lavender, Tom Leahy, Jean LeLoup, Diana Russell, Carol Saussy, Barbara & Bert Schuyler, Max Taylor, Lois Weidenbach

Ann Boriskie, Peer Visitor Coordinator
Brain Injury Association of Georgia



Opportunities for you:

Caregiver Connection: Hands-On Training Workshop

Friday, April 24, 2009
8:30 am to 3:30 pm
Emory Healthcare Center for Rehabilitation Medicine
Room 101
1441 Clifton Road, NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30322

Registration: \$20 for all participants. Contact Emory Health Connection at 404-778-7777.

The Caregiver Connection: Hands-On Training Workshop is designed for the caregiver interested in gaining an in-depth understanding of practical tips and resources for caring for an individual in the home environment. The conference will have topics that range from communication, managing medications, mobility, driving and caregiver stress, among others. The full day conference will provide an opportunity for caregivers to learn from and interact with subject matter experts.

LABOR DAY WEEKEND – CAMP HARDGROVE IS BACK!

This camp is for brain injury adult survivors and caregivers at Camp Twin Lakes, Rutledge, GA, sponsored by the Brain Injury Association of GA.

As you plan your summer, keep camp in mind this is a wonderful opportunity for survivors to enjoy the terrific facility at Twin Lakes with a special group of people. Caregivers can enjoy their own camp of respite over the holiday week end. Details will be available in a couple of months.

Visit www.braininjurygeorgia.org to learn about Camp Hardgrove and to download an application for survivors.

CHILDREN WITH BRAIN INJURIES

The two groups of children at highest risk for traumatic brain injury are those from birth to age 4 and those from 15 to 19 years old. More than 475,000 children sustain TBI each year - one injury every 21 seconds!

TBI Research STUDY!

Have you had a traumatic brain injury and have difficulty with your balance?

The Atlanta VAMC is studying the usefulness of a device to find out if stimulation of the tongue can improve balance. The research study requires a 1-hour initial screening to see if you qualify.

We will test your balance and memory. You will be paid for your time.

For information call Starla Abernathy at 404-321-6111ext5396

BIAG Volunteer Policy

The Brain Association of Georgia welcomes and appreciates those people who volunteer to provide support services for people with brain injuries, their families and friends.

Each volunteer will be assigned a Board member who is responsible for providing the volunteer information on the mission, procedures, programs and services of BIAG. The Board member will be the contact person for the volunteer.

Each volunteer will obtain Board approval before:

Printing and/or distributing materials;

Representing BIAG, its programs and services, at any meeting, seminar or conference, and/or;

Incurring any expense for which reimbursement is expected.

Volunteers are encouraged to retain receipts for expenses including food, lodging, and mileage donated to BIAG for your taxes. The IRS allows \$.14 per mile for mileage associated with charitable work.

We are pleased to announce that Dan Coe of Savannah has joined the Board of Directors of the Brain Injury Association of Georgia. We welcome Dan and look forward to this representation from the coastal region of our state.



On a sad note, Marc Davis and Bill Frazier have resigned from the Board due to personal reasons. We do look forward to Mark rejoining the Board in the future.

Bill will continue to implement plans for corporate sponsorships.

Thank you, Marc and Bill, for all that you have done to help improve the lives of people with brain injuries and for their families and friends.

REMINDER: March is Brain Injury Awareness Month!

Help BIAG continue promoting PREVENTION, ADVOCACY, EDUCATION AND SUPPORT by making a [donation](#) today or becoming a [member](#) of BIAG!

Do your shopping through [GoodSearch/GoodShop](#). They donate a portion of your purchases to BIAG.

We are now affiliated with Lash and Associates. [Order your brain injury products & books online](#) and BIAG will receive a portion of your purchases.

VSA ARTS OF GEORGIA TICKET REQUEST FORM

DON'T FORGET TO USE THE FOLLOWING FORM WHEN REQUESTING TICKETS FOR VSA ARTS OF GA PROGRAMS CONTACT CINDY PENNA AT PEN5FAMILY@YAHOO.COM FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

You must be a BIAG member or Support Group Member to participate.

Agency: Brain Injury Association of GA

Contact Person: Cindy Penna

Telephone:

Mailing Address

Program:

Staff/Client Attending:

Phone:

Mode of Transportation:

Event:

1st Choice of Day – Date – Time:

2nd Choice of Day – Date – Time:

Number of tickets: Children Adults TOTAL

Age range of Children:

Any Special Needs:

Special questions or comments:

