

HEADFIRST

19th Annual Statewide Brain Injury Educational Conference

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Did You Know?

- Every 9 seconds, someone in the United States sustains a brain injury.
- Become a BIARI Partner School and receive free baseline testing for your students. Contact Doreen Grasso, BIARI's Youth Sports Concussion Program Coordinator. Call 401-228-3319.
- We are always looking for volunteers. Call 401-228-3319 for information about upcoming opportunities.
- One of every 60 people in the U.S. lives with a TBI-related disability.

Just six days before our 19th Annual Statewide Brain Injury Educational Conference was to take place, Rhode Island residents were told to remain home unless they were essential workers. As with the rest of the world, March became an opportunity to rethink how we gather, converse, educate, and support one another. With some creativity and flexibility on the part of our speakers and sponsors, we were able to re-schedule the in-person Educational Conference virtually on August 28.

This year's theme "Neurological Diseases: Living with Chronic Brain Injury" focused on brain diseases and how they relate to brain injury. While reformatted, the conference still provided professionals, students, and survivors' access to current information, the chance to hear from relevant sponsors, and even opportunities to ask the speakers questions.



March Required Creativity

Nurses, social workers, case managers, occupational therapists and other professionals were still able to receive continuing education units. One bonus of this new format was that attendees without transportation were able to participate. Experts offered attendees information on Encephalitis; the relationship between traumatic brain injuries and Alzheimer's disease; the interplay of brain injury and seizures; Parkinson's disease and Parkinsonism; and Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric disorders (PANS/PANDAS). The feedback we received was overwhelmingly positive!

A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Members:

To say we are living in interesting times is certainly an understatement. As many of you know, we have been working hard to ensure that BIARI has been able to provide as many supports and resources as possible, even if our delivery has been modified. After a brief period of working remotely, our staff was able to take turns in the office, and now we are all back in the office full-time. While we were able to continue our work remotely, it is good to be together once again. I, for one, really missed the creativity and comradery of having a full office! However, in order to ensure our staff remains safe, the office is still closed to the public. Appointments are available for services which require an in-person visit. Our staff is eager to help out and we are being as creative as possible. Our resource library has many materials which can be mailed, and we are happy to help locate what you may need. Please phone 401-228-3319 and we will make certain brochures, contacts and even books are made available to you.

As always, it is my hope that this newsletter enhances the value of your membership. The strength of the BIARI is in our members. Our organization can only survive and achieve our potential through your participation. Consider becoming a volunteer. BIARI needs volunteers who want to become involved and contribute time and talent. Lastly, know that your financial contributions are what keeps our organization strong. Your donations support the many parts of what makes up the whole of BIARI.

Stay safe!

Debra Sharpe

*Thank You to our
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Brainiac Sponsors:*

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October 15
7- 8:30pm

Now More Than Ever BIARI Needs Your Support

COVID-19 has turned our world upside down. Like every crisis, both good and bad can occur. Some families are appreciating more together time. For others, particularly those we serve, the impact of isolation is amplified, leading to increased levels of depression, helplessness, frustration and regression in their recovery. BIARI's response? In the absence of "normal" in-person consults, meetings with and support from our staff, we have invested aggressively in a communication outreach program using virtual technology, including virtual support groups, interactive webinars, and Zoom meetings.

We realize you are receiving many requests for support at this critical time. We ask that you **please be part of the solution!** Join us as we work to ensure our programs and resources remain available to the survivors, caregivers and families that rely on BIARI each and every day.

Ways You Can Help...

Consider joining "Prove You Are a Brainiac" on 10/15. This fun and safe event will allow participants to show off their knowledge on a variety of subjects while raising funds. Details and registration information can be



found at www.biari.org. Teams have until 10/8 to sign-up!



A great way to help BIARI and the environment! Purchase a reusable shopping bag at the East Providence Shaw's at 585 Tauton Avenue. BIARI will receive \$1 for every bag purchased in October. Don't live near East Providence? If you purchase a \$2.50 GIVE BACK WHERE IT COUNTS Bag at any Shaw's store, follow the instructions on the Giving Tag attached to the bag. That counts too! BIARI will also get a \$1 donation. This purchase is not limited to just October.

More Ways to Help

Boscov's has invited us to take part in their *Friends Helping Friends* event on October 14 & 15. Make a purchase, in person at Boscov's Providence at 6 Providence Place, or online and mention the Brain Injury Association of Rhode Island at the register or online at check-out. You will save 20% off the lowest sale price on **almost** anything. BIARI will receive 5% back on your total purchase!




2 BIG DAYS

OCTOBER 14TH AND 15TH, 2020
- 9AM TO 9PM -

Gala is on!



Our much anticipated and beloved **Hidden Treasure Annual Gala** is definitely ON and will take place on Friday, December 4. This year's event has a special "twist" to it - it's going virtual! We will be joining with some of the regions most celebrated chefs and restaurant partners to create a unique culinary experience like no other. You are invited to participate as a table host or guest, with tables of ten, eight, or six in-home. This intimate experience for hosts and guests will feature multi-course chef crafted offerings paired with wines which will be delivered to the hosts' residence. But there's more...music, chefs sharing secrets, and behind the scene tours by vintners around the globe are just some of the entertainment planned for attendees. Our auction will also be virtual and online. Much more details to follow. For more information contact Cynthia at 401-228-3319 for details and pricing.

Join us for ZOOM SUPPORT GROUPS

Access: Click on the "Join Zoom Meeting" link or copy and paste it in the URL and copy and paste the meeting ID and password if prompted to do so.

Topic: Brain Injury Support Group for survivors, caretakers, and families

Time: Tuesday's at 10:00 a.m. and on Friday's at 7:00 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/93510096512...>