

## Information for Support Group Leaders

SupportLink, a newsletter to assist brain injury support group leaders, is published by TBI Project STAR at Carolinas Rehabilitation. TBI Project STAR also provides services for the Brain Injury Association of North Carolina Family and Community Support Office in Charlotte.

**This Issue:**

Page 1  
BIANC Update

Page 2  
TBI Advisory Council Update

Page 3  
One Person Can Make a Difference –Meet Brice Shirey

Page 4  
Support Group Leaders Meeting Report

Page 5  
Upcoming Events

Page 6 & 7  
Regional Updates

Page 8  
Brain Injury Websites

Page 9  
SupportLink Email

Page 10  
Research Opportunity at Carolinas Rehabilitation

Page 11  
BIANC Membership Information and Form

Page 12  
New Training Modules on Traumatic Brain Injury

### ***Brain Injury Association of North Carolina Update By Sandra Farmer, President***

I am very pleased to inform you that House Bill # 1309 has been passed by the NC legislature and signed into law by the Governor on July 27, 2009. The Bill directs the Division of Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities/Substance Abuse to adopt rules providing for licensure and accreditation of residential treatment facilities that serves people with brain injuries.

This new law means that programs can be developed that are designed specifically to meet the needs of people with brain injuries which should improve the quality of services and encourage more providers to open programs for brain injury consumers.

House Bill# 1309 also makes changes to the Governor's Brain Injury Advisory Council that will increase the number of people with brain injuries and their families as members serving on the Council. This will give us better family representation on the Council to support legislative advocacy for the continued development of brain injury services in North Carolina.

It is very significant that we were able to have Bill # 1309 passed during a difficult and challenging legislative session. It means that our elected officials are aware that we need more services for people with brain injuries in North Carolina and that they are willing to try to help us. The current budget deficit will limit funding for services for all disability groups and it is extremely important that advocates for brain injury let their elected officials know we need their support.

Please consider joining the Brain Injury Association's ALSTARS (Alliance of Legislators and Survivors Together Achieving Responsible Service) by calling 1-800-377-1464 for more information.

Thank you,  
Sandra Farmer

**You can contact Sandra at [sandra.farmer@bianc.net](mailto:sandra.farmer@bianc.net) or at 1-800-377-1464**

#### Brain Injury Family and Community Support Offices

Asheville	1-866-890-7801
Charlotte	
TBI Project STAR	1-877-962-7246
Greenville	1-800-697-3115
Raleigh	1-800-377-1464

You can contact the Family and Community Support Office nearest you for resource information, or visit the BIANC website at [www.bianc.net](http://www.bianc.net)

# Governors Advisory Council on Traumatic Brain Injury Update

## By: Marilyn Lash, Chair , Statewide TBI Advisory Council

### More Information on HB 1309

### Thanks for your Help – It Worked!

There's good news at last! On July 27<sup>th</sup>, Governor Perdue signed House Bill 1309. This is...

“An act to direct the Commission for Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services to adopt rules providing for the licensure and accreditation of residential treatment facilities for persons with traumatic brain injury and to make changes to the North Carolina Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Council. “

It's important for several reasons. It requires the Division to establish personnel requirements for administrators, directors and staff employed in facilities caring for people with traumatic brain injury. It also mandates that requirements be established for death reporting and for patient advocates.

For a long time, it's been difficult for families to find a residential program that matches the needs of a person with a brain injury. This new law means that rules will be established for the licensure and accreditation of residential treatment facilities that provide services to persons with traumatic brain injury. This is a huge step forward to insure that programs have the necessary training, resources, and experience in brain injury.

The changes to the Council are small but will also make a difference. They mean that we have more positions for family members and veterans to insure that we identify and respond to their concerns. The changes will also help the Council function more efficiently. Unfortunately, our request for funds to work on special projects were not included due to the budget crisis in this economy. But we'll try again next year.

So many thanks to all of you who made the phone calls, spoke to your senators and representatives, and voiced your needs and concerns. This made an enormous difference and we could not have done this without your help.

Finally, please thank the Legislative Committee for the TBI Advisory Council. They spent many long hours in meetings, testimony and phone calls to make sure that your voices were heard. The Co-chairs are Sandra Famer ([sandrafarmer@bianc.net](mailto:sandrafarmer@bianc.net)) and Christine Craig ([ccraig@wakemed.org](mailto:ccraig@wakemed.org)). Other committee members who were very helpful include Carol Ornitz, Chip Baggett, Marian Hartman and Ana King.

**To read the full text for House Bill 1309 visit the NC General Assembly Home Page at <http://www.ncleg.net> , enter HB 1309 in the look-up space provided.**

**For information on the Governors Advisory Council On Brain Injury visit the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services/Mental Health/Developmental Disability and Substance Abuse Brain Injury Page at <http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/mhddsas/tbi> From this site you can read the minutes of the meetings and find other information on the purpose and membership of the Council.**

# One Person CAN Make a Difference...

## ...Meet Brice Shirey

On May 13, 1989, eighteen year old Brice Shirey made a quick run to a local convenience store. That trip changed his life forever. Brice is unsure of exactly what happened, but on his way home he was in an accident and sustained a traumatic brain injury.

Like many people living with brain injury, he made the connections necessary for his medical treatments and other services, but was pretty much on his own dealing with life after brain injury. He also, like many others, felt the absence of social opportunities and interaction with others. However, several years ago that changed. Brice made the connection to a local support group, and that is where this story really begins.

For some persons with brain injury, just participating in support group meetings fills their need, but others choose to become more involved and become part of the group leadership. This is what Brice did.

When asked about Brice, Pat Haithcox, one of the facilitators of the group said; *“Brice has been a part of our Support Group, “To Be Included” for many years. Currently he serves as our treasurer in addition to coordinating group trips and transportation. He is always there with a helping hand and the amazing thing is his upbeat, always positive attitude, which is impressive for someone who suffers chronic pain. We are blessed to have him as a part of our group”.*

One of the major needs Brice recognized was transportation to outings and events for persons with brain injury. Rather than accept the lack of transportation as a reason to miss out on the fun and fellowship, he chose to find a solution. With the support of his church, Catawba Heights Baptist Church in Belmont, Brice has been able to coordinate transportation for those in his support group who would otherwise be unable to go on outings. Only those who have been enabled by Brice’s efforts in arranging transportation to events such as the Annual Water Ski and Picnic at Lake Norman or the Knights Baseball game and Fireworks Expo, truly understand the magnitude of this contribution.

Prevention of brain injury, especially in children, has become one of Brice’s interests. Early this year he decided he wanted to organize a bike rodeo and give away free helmets to those who needed them, and like with his other projects, he proceeded to make it happen.

He talked to Tiffini Molesky at TBI Project STAR, requested materials from BIANC, and with information from Janice Williams, Director of Carolinas Healthcare System Injury Prevention Program was able to establish contacts in his local community that helped his goal become a reality. A reality that seems more like a dream to Brice.

Armed with his contact list, Brice started with Angela Ross, Trauma Coordinator at Gaston Memorial Hospital about his idea to hold a bike rodeo to stress bike safety and helmet use. It was at this point that the plan started to come together. A plan that mushroomed into much more than Brice had ever envisioned.

On July 18, 2009, the first CaroMont/Mount Holly Health Festival was held. This was a free family oriented event that educated those in the community about basic safety practices. Over 1,400 people attended. The highlight was a Bike Rodeo set up by the Gaston County Police at which 130 bike helmets and four bikes were given away, Brain Minder shows for children performed by the Pilot Club of Gastonia, and Safe Kids of Gaston County gave away free car seats.

With one idea, a few meetings, many phone calls and some determination, Brice Shirey made a difference in his community. If you noticed above we told you that the FIRST Annual CaroMont/Mount Holly Health Festival. His idea and his diligence in making his idea a reality will affect his community for years to come when each year this annual event is held.

**Yes, one person can make a difference. Brice Shirey is making a difference!**

## ***Support Group Leaders Meetings...What we learned from YOU***

One thing we at BIANC and Project STAR know is that the group leaders of the 42 brain injury support groups in North Carolina are dedicated, compassionate and will go as many miles as necessary to support those in their community who are coping with brain injury. One of our goals is to offer support and training for those who choose to be leaders or key volunteers within the support groups.

During the past several months, group leader meetings have been held across the state to allow group leaders the opportunity to share with others and to get updates on what is happening in the state that affects persons with brain injury. In total forty-four group leaders, and/or key group members, attended the meetings.

### **What you liked about the meetings**

As part of these meetings, we asked what you thought about the meetings and received great feedback from those who attended. We learned that you like the opportunity to share ideas with other leaders and to find out what works for other groups. You also told us you liked the format and time frame of the meetings and that the more local, smaller groups helped build rapport with other leaders in your region and gave you the opportunity to talk openly with other leaders about some of the things that can occur at group meetings.

### **Things you suggested for future meetings**

Perhaps the most surprising suggestion was that perhaps there should be more meetings; that the group leaders should meet more frequently and network with those groups closer geographically to do so. You also suggested that resource information be covered in more detail and would like information and training on how to market the group to the community it serves. Meeting planning, speaker suggestions and how to resolve transportation issues and other barriers were also offered as suggested content for future leader meetings.

### **What you told us about how we (BIANC and Project STAR) can better support you in your role as a support group leader and how we are addressing the suggestions**

- More personal, (one on one), contact from BIANC and Project STAR  
*An ongoing program is being developed to insure that each group leader is regularly contacted by their regional Family and Community Support Office for individual support and feedback.*
- Timeliness of information from BIAA, BIANC and Project STAR could be improved  
*BIANC and Project STAR both forward information as quickly as possible after receiving it. BIAA List Serve information will be provided to group leaders so that they can sign up to receive the email updates directly. We will review how we are handling information flow and every effort will be made to ensure that state and local information gets out as quickly as possible.*
- Emails from Project STAR and BIANC need to include a lead-in that will allow the group leader to make a quick determination of whether the information is applicable to their group  
*This was immediately started and feedback has been positive.*
- SupportLink is a valuable resource but hard to read and articles hard to find in older editions. It needs to be formatted in such a way as to allow articles to be easily located and easier to read.  
*A new format was introduced with the Spring edition of SupportLink with the suggestions from Group Leaders incorporated. Let us know what you think.*
- Group Leaders would like more information on how to plan meetings and speaker suggestions  
*Check out the BIANC website [www.bianc.net](http://www.bianc.net) and look at the new Support Group Leaders information*
- BIANC Conference Calls were not convenient to all. Suggestions included having the calls at different times so more could participate.  
*Every third conference call will be in the evening. This process will be reviewed and if it is successful will be continued.*
- Funding for mailings and other group activities is a problem for many groups.  
*BIANC has a Support Group Grant Program for groups who need help. Contact Susan Fewell at BIANC. \*\*See SupportLink Email on page 9*

# Upcoming Events



## Annual Brain Injury Camp Camp Carefree

September 11-13

Stokesdale, NC

This camp is for Survivors and Families

For information 1-800-377-1464

## Annual State Wide Support Group Leaders Meeting

“Let’s Brainstorm”

September 12, 2009

1:30pm until 3:30pm

Camp Carefree

275 Carefree Lane

Stokesdale, NC



For additional information contact Susan Fewell at [susanbianc@gmail.com](mailto:susanbianc@gmail.com) or Peggy Philbrick at [peggy.philbrick@carolinashealthcare.org](mailto:peggy.philbrick@carolinashealthcare.org)



*Lee Woodruff*

## Brain Injury: From the Athletic Field to the Battlefield

October 22, 2009

An Evening with Lee Woodruff

A fundraiser to benefit the Brain Injury Association  
of North Carolina

Reception at NC State Alumni Club

BIANC Conference October 23, 2009

For information on how to purchase tickets for the  
Evening with Lee Woodruff or to register for the  
conference

Call 919-833-9634 or visit [www.bianc.net](http://www.bianc.net)

# From East to West...happenings across the State

## ***Down East***

## ***Meet Sandie Worthington***

The Brain Injury Association of North Carolina is pleased to announce Sandie Worthington as the new Community Outreach Coordinator for the Eastern Region. Based in the Greenville office of Brain Injury Association of NC, Sandie will be a wonderful resource for both BIANC and persons with brain injury and their families.

Sandie brings a wealth of experience to the job. She has been involved with brain injury for the past sixteen years, beginning as a Therapist at Pitt Memorial Hospital in Greenville. She has helped with a support group, and has volunteered her time as the coordinator or co-coordinator of Camp Carefree for the last twelve years. Sandie also served several terms on the Board of Directors of The Brain Injury Association of North Carolina. Please join us in welcoming Sandie to her new role.

Sandie can be reached at the Greenville office at 252-439-1900 or Toll free at 1-800-697-3115 or by Cell at 252-561-6886

## ***South Central***

***by: Sally Rickard  
and: Peggy Philbrick***

The Charlotte Area Brain Injury Association, the Union County Brain Injury Support Network and the Lake Norman Support Network hosted the annual summer picnic in June at Lake Norman YMCA. Fun was had by all enjoying burgers and hot dogs and boating and adaptive waterskiing provided by Carolinas Rehabilitation's Adaptive Sports and Adventures Program (A.S.A.P). Group members from Asheville, Boone, Charlotte, Union County, Rowan County, Concord, Lake Norman, and Gastonia attended. We would like to especially thank the Adaptive Sports and Adventure Program at Carolinas Rehabilitation for going over and above to make sure that the event went on as scheduled, even in the face of environmental restrictions due to water conditions.

In July, Charlotte area groups enjoyed a tour of WBTV and WBT Television and Radio Station. Our tour guide was Jashun Gaddy, a member of the Charlotte group and intern at the station. In August Charlotte Area groups enjoyed a Charlotte Knights baseball game and fireworks. Thanks to Barbara Westphal for organizing such great activities!!!

Union County Area Brain Injury Support Network will once again host it's annual "Chat with the Doc" on Tuesday evening September 8<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Sharon Kanelos, a Physiatrist with Carolinas Rehabilitation will be on hand to answer questions about brain injury from the group. This annual event is always a hit with group members as well as others who come specifically to ask questions.

Plans are also underway for the annual Christmas Celebration. If it seems early to start the planning and fund raising for this event, we are acknowledging that the economic situation is a cause for concern. Making this annual event fun for all and making sure it can be free for those who attend is one of the main goals of the host groups. Donations are gladly accepted. If you know of an individual or business in your community that may be interested in sponsoring persons to attend the Celebration, please contact us with the information at Peggy Philbrick [peggy.philbrick@carolinashealthcare.org](mailto:peggy.philbrick@carolinashealthcare.org) or Barbara Westphal at [wwestpha@bellsouth.net](mailto:wwestpha@bellsouth.net)



**Does your group have upcoming events or reports of things you have done? Let SupportLink know and we will include your news in the next edition.**

## ***Central***

***by: Susan Fewell***

There is a lot going on in the Raleigh office. There have been several changes in job responsibility.

- Brittney Batchelor is now working in the BIANC Raleigh office as the Assistant Outreach Coordinator. Brittney is from the Raleigh/Durham area. She graduated from East Carolina University in 2007 with a degree in Sociology and Music, and graduated from Cosmetology school in 2008. In addition to her job at the Brain Injury Association, she also works for theatre companies in the Raleigh area as a hair/makeup/wig supervisor for shows around this area. She also works with a local photographer as a hair/makeup artist on his shoots. Sometimes his shoots give Brittney the chance to travel to NYC and Boston. Brittney says she is currently loving working for BIANC! **Welcome Brittney!**
- Susan Fewell has assumed the role of Statewide Training Coordinator for BIANC.
- Rachel Schreck is now the Regional Outreach Coordinator for the Raleigh Family and Community Support Office.
- Plans are underway for the annual regional Support Group Pot-Luck Picnic at Pullen Park in Raleigh. The event will be from 10:00 Am until 2:00 PM on Saturday October 10<sup>th</sup>.

## ***Out West***

***by: Karen Harrington***

In June the Smoky Mountain Brain Injury Support group took a road trip to Huntersville and had a wonderful time at the annual Water-Ski and Picnic hosted by the Charlotte Area Brain Injury Association. This outing gets better and better. Everyone had a wonderful time, had plenty to eat and got to visit with old friends. Thank you to the Charlotte group for inviting us.

July 20th was the start of something new in Asheville - Hinds Feet Farm Day Program for brain injury survivors. Hinds Feet Farm is a day program that started in Huntersville a couple years ago. The Asheville program currently has 8-12 members and meets Monday thru Thursday at the Foster Seventh-day Adventist Church. The members plan community outings, volunteer opportunities and recreation.

"This is my home away from home," says one of the members. "I have made new friends," says another member. What an awesome opportunity for survivors. We are thrilled to have the program in Asheville.



***Do you have ideas to share with other support group leaders? Would you like SupportLink to feature your Support Group in an upcoming edition? Do you have great fundraising ideas? All contributions are appreciated. Contact us at 704-355-1502 or 1-877-962-7246 or email us at [peggy.philbrick@carolinashealthcare.org](mailto:peggy.philbrick@carolinashealthcare.org)***

Contributed articles do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of Project STAR or Carolinas Rehabilitation, and are wholly the opinion of the contributing author.

## Check it Out...Upgraded, Remodeled and Under Construction



There are a lot of web sites that persons with brain injury and their families can visit for information and support. The organizations and businesses who own these sites are always looking for the best way to get information to those who need it.

SupportLink would like to bring your attention to three of these sites. Take a look, we think you will like what you see.

### **Lash and Associates Publishing**

The recently remodeled site includes information on publications applicable to brain injury, links to other information and much more, but the most exciting feature is a **BLOG Page** where people can post their stories, offer encouragement and get information from persons in similar situations.

[www.lapublishing.com](http://www.lapublishing.com)

### **The Brain Injury Association of NC**

Efforts are underway to update the BIANC web site. New links have been added, along with a support group leader list-serve and many other cool things are happening. While this may not be happening as fast as they would hope, Susan Fewell and Jonna Roy continue to work toward making the site into a state of the art resource for persons with brain injury and their families. Check out all of the neat resources in the on-line resource guide, read the newsletters, Starting Point, CareNotes and SupportLink, register for camp and look for upcoming events.

[www.bianc.net](http://www.bianc.net)

### **North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services TBI Homepage**

The NCDHHS TBI Homepage offers links to information on brain injury statistics, service providers, announcements and links to brain injury sites too numerous to mention. You can keep up with the Governors Advisory Council on Brain Injury, check out research initiatives and read articles about brain injury. You can find information to help you connect with your local Local Management Entity and take an online course to learn more about brain injury.

[www.dhhs.state.nc.us/mhddsas/tbi/index.htm](http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/mhddsas/tbi/index.htm)

## BRAIN INJURY WEB-CONNECT...

[www.brainline.org](http://www.brainline.org)

This site has information on brain injury and features videos and articles that educate about TBI

[www.familyvillage.com](http://www.familyvillage.com)

Family Village is a global community of disability-related resources, this site has links to all sorts of information by specific diagnosis. Check out the Brain Injury resources.

[www.caregiver.com](http://www.caregiver.com)

Family Caregiver Alliance offers links to many websites that offer caregiver support and offers a chance to sign up for a weekly online newsletter for caregivers.

[www.familiesusa.org](http://www.familiesusa.org)

Families USA offers information on legislation and other issues of concern for persons with disabilities.

[www.birf.info](http://www.birf.info)

Brain Injury Resource Foundation – a site that offers general information as well as information on healthcare services and advocacy issues.

[www.headinjury.com](http://www.headinjury.com)

Head Injury Hotline is a site that offers links to many information sites and other resources.

[www.tbiguide.com](http://www.tbiguide.com)

Traumatic Brain Injury Survival Guide by Dr. Glen Johnson

If you find websites that you would like to share please send us the information. We will include it in Support Link.

Peggy Philbrick 704-355-4354 or  
[peggy.philbrick@carolinashealthcare.org](mailto:peggy.philbrick@carolinashealthcare.org)

**Got a website that you want to share?  
Send us a link and we will check it out for  
inclusion in the next SupportLink**

# SupportLink E-mail

SupportLink often receives emails from support group leaders asking for information. The email below is from Jane Jackman of the Rowan County Support Group.

**“At the last Support Group Leaders meeting you mentioned something about a mini-grant from BIANC for development of a brochure, mailings and other projects. The Rowan TBI support would like to go forward with development of a local brochure. I am so excited what this group is doing.....they are a bunch of “GO GETTERS”.**

**Who is the contact regarding the mini-grant? As The Arc of Rowan’s summer program for children with disabilities is coming to a close in two weeks I can start looking for toward the brochure development.”**

**Thank You!**

**Jane**

## **SupportLink Response:**

**Hi Jane,**

**Contact Susan Fewell at BIANC. Her email address is [susan.fewell@bianc.net](mailto:susan.fewell@bianc.net) and the office number is 1-800-377-1464. Tell her who you are and she can take it from there.**

**We are all so proud of your group. It is rare for a group to take off so quickly. We have been pushing Mary in this direction for several years and apparently this was the right time. Thanks for all you do.**

**Peggy**

**\*\*\* Note to Support Group Leaders:**

**BIANC offers a grant program to help groups fund special projects. For additional information please contact Susan Fewell at BIANC at 1-800-377-1464.**

## **BIANC Support Group Leader FYI**

**by: Susan Fewell**

### **Teleconference Calls:**

The Support Group Leader teleconference calls are voluntary on the part of support group leaders. We are offering a call-in number that support group leaders can call in to in order to talk to each other once a month. An employee from BIANC will be on each call to hear your concerns and to learn how we can support all our support group leaders across the state. This will also give you an opportunity to talk to each other or share issues or good news. If you are able to call in, we would love to hear from you.

### **Support Group Leaders Conference Calls**

**August 26 12:00 PM (Noon)**

**September 23 12:00 PM (Noon)**

**October 28 7:00 PM (Evening)**

**Mark your calendar and join the call to discuss your successes and concerns with other group leaders just dial 1-888-346-3659 Enter Pin 2784**

### **List Serve:**

This support group leader list serve has been set up for the same purpose....to give our support group leaders a method to keep in touch or share information or resources with each other. If you have questions or need ideas, please write us an email and hopefully some of the other support group leaders will answer. Call BIANC at 919-833-9634 and ask for Rachel or Susan for details.

We know you are busy. In your busy lives, we know that time is limited. We at BIANC appreciate your time and energy you put into your support groups and want to support you in your efforts.

**Brain Injury Research is important in many ways. Those who participate in research projects can often benefit from the treatments offered through the research project. It is important to remember that it is through research that solutions are found. Below is information on a study being conducted at Carolinas Rehabilitation. Please contact Peggy Cook at 704-355-4824 for additional information.**



CRABBY

SINCE YOUR TRAUMATIC  
BRAIN INJURY DO YOU HAVE  
HEADACHES OR ARE  
YOU:

MOODY

SHORT-TEMPERED


IRRITABLE

GROUCHY

GRUMPY

SHORT FUSED

UNREASONABLE



If you are 16 years or older and suffered a  
traumatic brain injury,  
you may be eligible to participate in a research study  
conducted by  
the doctors at Carolinas Rehabilitation.

For more information contact:  
**Peggy Cook**

Phone: 704.355.4824  
Pager: 704.355.4088 (Paging ID# 5155)  
E-mail: [peggy.cook@carolinashealthcare.org](mailto:peggy.cook@carolinashealthcare.org)

1/23/09



# Brain Injury Association of North Carolina

## Membership Form

### How to Reach Us

#### Family Helpline

1-800-377-1464

[bianc@bianc.net](mailto:bianc@bianc.net)

BIANC has four regional offices:

#### Asheville

Community CarePartners  
68 Sweeten Creek Road  
Asheville, NC 28803  
828-277-4868 Fax: 828-277-4869  
1-866-890-7801

#### Raleigh

P.O. Box 10912  
Raleigh, NC 27605  
919-833-9634 Fax: 919-833-5415  
1-800-377-1464

#### Charlotte

Carolinas Rehabilitation  
1100 Blythe Boulevard  
Charlotte, NC 28203  
704-355-1502 Fax: 704-355-9480

#### Greenville

202 East Arlington St., Suite T  
Greenville, NC 27834  
252-439-1900 Fax: 252-439-1993  
1-800-697-3115

Visit our website

[www.bianc.net](http://www.bianc.net)

Membership in the Brain Injury Association of North Carolina provides an opportunity for **you** to demonstrate your interest in and support for survivors and families in North Carolina. Who should join? **Brain injury survivors, family members, friends, nurses, doctors, therapists, rehabilitation specialists, case managers, attorneys**, other professionals, and **organizations** that work with individuals who have had brain injuries.

Benefits of membership include: discounted registration for events sponsored by the Brain Injury Association of North Carolina, and subscription to the *Starting Point* newsletter. All membership fees to this non-profit organization are tax-deductible.

- **Basic Membership** is \$38 a year. Includes all benefits above. No survivor or family will be denied membership due to finances. A reduced rate is available.
- **Executive Membership** is \$100 a year. Includes the additional benefit of recognition in BIANC's publications.
- **Platinum Membership** includes all of the above benefits, as well as a certificate suitable for framing and recognition on our website, which receives over 3000 visitors each month, for \$250 each year.
- **Corporate Sponsor Programs** are also available. These include all of the above benefits plus advertising space in BIANC publications, tickets to the annual golf tournament, and sponsorship of campers at the survivor's retreat. Contact BIANC for more information.

**Our financial viability is largely dependent upon the generosity of our members. You can help now by becoming a member. Join by completing and returning the membership form below.**

Note to Support Group Leaders  
If your Support Group members have not yet joined BIANC the application above can be used to join. If group members cannot pay the full membership price they can join for the \$5.00 complementary rate for survivors and family members. Membership numbers are important as they increase the legislative influence of BIANC. By using the application above your group members can become a member of BIANC and will receive information from both BIANC and the Brain Injury Association of America. For additional information about BIANC membership, contact the Raleigh Family and Community Support Office. 1-800-377-1464

## Membership Form

- Basic individual membership.....\$38/yr
- Platinum membership.....\$250/yr

Executive membership.....\$100/yr

Please send me an information packet on the Corporate Sponsorship Program

Name

Company

Address

City

State

Zip Code

## Want to know more about brain injury?

We are very excited to inform you about the newest orientation and training program about traumatic brain injury (TBI) available in North Carolina. [www.nctbitraining.org](http://www.nctbitraining.org) is an online orientation and training program available at no-cost to anyone interested in learning more about traumatic brain injury. The website contains basic information about TBI, as well as resources available in North Carolina and across the country for individuals and their families living with the effects of TBI. The training was specifically designed for LME staff, healthcare professionals, and service providers however it could be helpful to individuals with TBI and their families. The training consists of five training modules. Each module is followed by a brief quiz to maximize the effectiveness.

The website is a direct result from feedback and suggestions given by LME staff, service providers, and individuals and families living with traumatic brain injury during focus groups conducted across the state with funding made possible through NC DMH//DD/SAS. We encourage anyone who may have contact with someone living with a brain injury to take advantage of this online training. There is a link to the TBI Training website on the NC MH/DD/SAS website. [www.dhhs.state.nc.us/mhddsas/tbi](http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/mhddsas/tbi)

This training is supported in part by Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA) Traumatic Brain Injury Implementation, Grant #H21MC06746, Contract Number 1906-09 from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services (DMH/DD/SAS) and TBI Project STAR at Carolinas Rehabilitation.

Project STAR



Carolinas Rehabilitation

*Uncompromising Excellence. Commitment to Care.*