

Where Do We Go From Here?

With your help, BIANC raised over \$70,000 this year. This is a huge success and we are thrilled to have these funds to extend our mission. However, for the



Advocating for additional services and funding for TBI survivors

reaching out to returning service members and military families to offer help, hope and a voice for everyone with a brain injury. There is more to do.

Other disability or disease groups have much more visibility and funding support. We have a lot more we need to do to let people know about the causes and consequences of brain injury. Falls are the number one cause of brain injury and affect the elderly and the very young. Vehicle crashes, explosions during combat, sports injuries, and alcohol related brain injuries are affecting our adolescents and young adults by the 1,000's. Strokes, brain tumors and cancer, and heart attacks cause other acquired brain injuries. We need your continued help to shine a light on this silent and hidden disability.



Providing a voice for survivors

Individuals in our state who have a brain injury and then experience behavioral, cognitive or emotional deficits are treated very poorly. Services are disjointed, usually not covered adequately by insurance or public funding and most often not available in the local community. Funding is critical for emergency and long-term residential care as

well as day programs and neurobehavioral services. Recovery takes years, not days. A person may look the same, but is not the same after a brain injury.

Individuals with brain injuries can re-learn skills and tasks that were previously taken for granted, such as speaking, swallowing, writing, walking and other basic functions. If services are not received to meet their needs during their early rehabilitation months and years, opportunities for improvement may be lost and functioning for the rest of their lives may be affected.

We ask that you **join the BIANC and contact your local and state representatives in the legislature** and ask their support for legislation, which will increase services and funding and provide more adequate resources for

those affected by brain injury.

Everyone deserves the best quality life and to be able to live in the community of their choice.

Talk to your legislators, and to your friends

and neighbors, co-workers, church and club members and educate them about how brain injury has affected your life and the lives of those you love. Ask them to get involved. Let them know what services you would want for yourself or for a loved one, for your mother or for your daughter or 4-year-old son or for your elderly grandparent. Together, we can make a difference.

We look forward to hearing from you if we can help in any way. Please check our website at www.bianc.net for information on legislation that may affect you or your friends living with brain injury.

Sandra Farmer and the BIANC Staff



Educating professionals, family members and the community about ways to prevent brain injury