

The Brain Injury Association of Arkansas'

Messenger

Arkansas Receives Grant

Arkansas was recently awarded a 3-year TBI Partnership Implementation Grant from the U. S. Health Resources and Services Administration's Maternal and Child Health Bureau.

The goal of the Partnership Implementation Grants is to allow States and Territories to focus on their resources and needs in providing individuals with TBI and their families with a comprehensive, multidisciplinary, and easily accessible system of care. The person and family directed system includes not only emergency and post-emergent institutional care, but also provide for sustainable change in the system of community services and supports that reflect the best practices in the field of TBI, and allow individuals with TBI and their families maximum flexibility in arrangements for living and working. The Arkansas Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Health, is administering the project.

The goal of the Arkansas TBI Implementation project is to improve the quality of life for TBI survivors and their families. Five objectives are to be addressed during the project:

- 1 Create an infrastructure for the development and sharing of resources;
- 2 Increase communication and awareness of TBI-related issues and resources;
- 3 Recommend legislative and organizational policy changes;
- 4 Conduct cross disciplinary education among providers; and
- 5 Sustain funding for TBI-related activities.

A multi-agency TBI Advisory Board will guide the project activities. Needs assessment strategies will include surveys from TBI survivors and their families as well as focus groups. A resource directory of services will be published. Cross-disciplinary professional education and linking of websites of participating organizations will increase information and knowledge. Standardized packets of information will be disseminated through hospital emergency rooms.

A project coordinator will be responsible for managing all activities. The TBI Advisory Board, consisting of representatives of partnering organizations, TBI survivors, and family members will meet quarterly. A working steering committee of core partners will meet more frequently to complete tasks.

Several on the Board and several individual members worked with several other groups on this Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) Implementation Grant.

This article was submitted by Beverly Miller.

Arkansas' First "Walk for Thought"

The consensus: it was a success! On Saturday, March 25, about 45 people converged on Murray Park in Little Rock to walk, wheel or volunteer in our inaugural attempt to raise awareness and funds for our state's Brain Injury Association. The weather was cool in the shade and warm in the sun, perfect for physical activity. Most participants were from greater Little Rock with a group of five carpooling from the Fayetteville area. Families from Clarksville and Osceola also joined us. Everyone seemed to enjoy the event and most indicated they would be back next year.

Official Walk for Thought corporate sponsors were the law firm of Wilson, Engstrom, Corum & Coulter and Dan-Ark Mini-storage. Individual and team participants raised money through contributions from generous family, friends and colleagues. Donations of door prizes were also received from several businesses and friends. Together, we raised over \$2,800 for the organization, after expenses.

Chairman of the event, Gary Low, said: "Our first walkathon gave us a chance to learn what to do and what not to do in 2007. We are seeking volunteer committee members to begin now to plan the second annual Walk for Thought. Together, we can have an even bigger impact next year in raising awareness and funds for the Brain Injury Association.

"My thanks to Joan Nitz who helped me pull this event off. I also want to thank Jim Hamilton and Debra Ganglaff who acted as "crossing guards" and Betty Thompson who handled registration at the Walk. My thanks also goes to TBI survivor Ian Bowles who took pictures which he was nice enough to share." To view photos of the event, visit our home page at www.BrainAssociation.org.

Team Timo (Tim Nitz captain) raised \$372. Team Walking Miracles (Heather Strickland captain) raised \$330.

This article was submitted by Joan Nitz.

2006 Walk For Thought Door Prizes

Door Prize (Donated by)	Winner
\$20 Gift card to Wal-mart	Paul Kelly
\$20 Gift card to Wal-mart	Barrett Warhurst
\$20 Gift card to Wal-mart	Korey Smith
\$20 Gift card to Wal-mart	Andrew Low
\$15 Gift certificate (Barnes & Noble, Fayetteville)	Branden Warhurst
2 - \$5 Gift certificates to RAVE Motion Pictures	Lori Warhurst
2 - \$5 Gift certificates to RAVE Motion Pictures	Molly Schwarz
4 Books (Books-A-Million, NLR)	Ian Bowles
Salad bowl set (Integrated Systems Development and Management)	Lisa Misemheimer
Hand/body lotion set	Stephanie Curtis
School Partners Coupon Book	Marquetta Thompson

Legislative Update

This past year we have also worked with Representative Sandra Prater and others in the community as they try to put together a Bill for the 2007 Session entitled "An Act to Establish the Arkansas Legislative Commission on Traumatic Brain Injury; and for other Purposes." The purposes of this act are:

- ❖ "To study the rates and severity of traumatic brain injuries in Arkansas;
- ❖ To project the incidence of traumatic brain injuries over the next ten (10) years;
- ❖ To develop a strategic plan to ensure an appropriately prepared workforce to treat traumatic brain injuries and provide for rehabilitation services to the extent possible; and
- ❖ To convene stakeholders from health care providers, the health care industry, business, the legislature, and the public."

The Commission will be comprised of several voting and non-voting members. The exact makeup of the Commission is still being decided. More information will be included in future newsletters as it becomes available.

Association Update

Because we have not had anyone in our office in many months, we have closed the office to save that monthly expense. However, our local phone number and our toll-free number remain the same as does our email address.

(501) 374-3585 (Little Rock)

(800) 235-2443 Toll Free

Web Site: www.BrainAssociation.org

E-mail: info@BrainAssociation.org

We now have a cell phone which will allow us to miss fewer calls.

Our Association President, Diane Gutierrez, recently moved to northwest Arkansas to take a position with Northwest Health. Diane will continue to serve as Association President.

Paper or Plastic?

Well, actually the real question is, "Do you want our Newsletter on paper or electronically?" As soon as the newsletter is ready, we send it out as a pdf attachment to everyone in our database with an email address. After that, we send it to the printer. It usually takes another week or so before we get the newsletter labeled and in the mail. If we send an electronic copy, we normally don't send a hard copy. If you would like to receive our newsletter by email, send us an email and let us know.

Support Groups

We have had an inquiry about starting a support group in Fort Smith. If you are interested in attending, please call our toll-free number and let us know.

The **DISABILITY RIGHTS CENTER (DRC)** is a private non-profit agency with offices in Little Rock, Arkansas. The DRC is the independent rights protection and advocacy system for persons with disabilities in Arkansas. DRC operates under authority outlined in Federal law and is funded primarily by the Federal government. For more information contact DRC at:

Disability Right Center
1100 N University, Suite 201
Little Rock, AR 72207.

Phone: (501) 296-1775 V/TTY
Toll Free: (800) 482-1174 V/TTY
Fax: (501) 296-1179

E-mail: panda@ArkDisabilityRights.org
Website: www.ArkDisabilityRights.org

Membership...

Like any organization, we need members. If you are not already a member, we hope you will consider becoming a member.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City State Zip: _____

Email: _____

H Phone: _____ W Phone: _____

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$5 Survivor | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Professional - Individual |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Student (College) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Supporting - Individual |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Family member | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Century Club - Individual |
| Survivor: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> \$200 Corporate |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Patron |

Return to:

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