

ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY  
NETWORK NEWS  
February 1, 2009—2009/#02  
Survivors and Family Members  
Building Lives of Meaning, Joy and Value

**Happy Valentine's Day!**

Thank you to all our wonderful Annual Fund donors to date—look for your name! If you still have that stamped envelope and find a few extra dollars.....

You will notice lists of our volunteers who have helped with presentations or public meetings—you are welcome to help, too!

Please let me know what response you get when you ask your Senator and Representative to join the new Brain Injury Caucus—such a milestone!

Check out the special education info on attorney & expert fees, and also the list of contacts for help for your school.

Another article from Annie Miller on home rehabilitation—and the DiBiagio's book!

Please send your articles, comments, and questions for the newsletter.

Enjoy your day.....

**Barb Dively**

**P.S. Visit our re-designed website!**

**BRAIN INJURY CAUCUS IN  
PA HOUSE & SENATE**

**Dear Friends,**

Dottie Ardell and I are developing a Brain Injury Caucus in both the PA House and PA Senate - and we need your help.

Having a Caucus will allow us to develop legislative support for the goals expressed in the Brain Injury Recovery Task Force report which many of you participated in developing.

Please contact me - or have your Senator or Representative contact me - and I will be happy to explain our plans.

Senator Orie of Allegheny is helping us by sending letters to many of her fellow Senators.

**Regards,  
Mike Miller & Dottie Ardell  
[mjmiller@epix.net](mailto:mjmiller@epix.net)**

**CAN YOU DROP OFF OUR  
SPECIAL BROCHURES TO YOUR  
POLICE STATION?  
WHEN POLICE UNDERSTAND  
BRAIN INJURY, EVERYONE  
BENEFITS.**

**ALL ARE WELCOME**  
Sun. Feb. 8th, 2-4pm—Board  
Tues. Mar. 3rd, 1-3 pm— Mail Newsletter  
Sun. Mar. 8th, 2-4pm—Board

**Board Teleconference #:  
1-218-486-1300, Password 127105**

**FOR QUESTIONS: [info@abin-pa.org](mailto:info@abin-pa.org)**

**2008 PUBLIC EVENT  
PARTICIPANTS**

James Burke  
Anna Marie & Barry Childress  
Dorothy Curtis, John & Barb Dively  
Bob Drucker, Seran Fereshetian  
Robin Gane, John Grey  
Corinne Gries, Kathie Grucz  
Mary Helm, Don Heron  
Amy Kwiatkowski, Helen Love  
Maria Martin, George Matwiejczyk  
Maureen & Joe Neve  
Gerry Nikolaus, Sheryll & Eric Poris  
Pam Reeves, Dan Rohrback, Jr.  
Madelaine Sayko, Rhonda Scott  
Pat Strenk, Marcia Williams

*Thank you!*

**2008 SPEAKERS AT  
ABIN-PA PRESENTATIONS**

Anna Marie Childress, Dottie Curtis  
John & Barb Dively, Bob Drucker  
Michel Florijn, Joe Neve  
Maureen Neve, Marlene Nathans  
Jean Hendrick, Pat Strenk  
Madelaine Sayko, Marcia Williams

*Thank You!*

**VOLUNTEERS WELCOME!  
TRAINING AND COACHING  
PROVIDED.**

**ANY QUESTIONS?  
215-699-2139  
800-516-8052**

**2009 ANNUAL FUND  
DONORS**

Sharon Bass  
Marta Bivins  
The Borgia's Family  
Anna Marie & Barry Childress  
Belinda Crobak  
Joanne Day  
Rachel Freund  
John & Carol Frock  
Jean S. Greely  
Helen V. Love  
Daniel R. Markley  
Chris B. Miller,  
Michael J. Miller  
Maureen Neve  
Suzanne S. Oliver  
Darlene E. Preston  
Susan Pyda  
Sandra J. Rogers  
Kay & Gordon Rowe  
Elizabeth E. Schaffner  
Phyllis R. Seadler  
Gary Shepherd  
Pat & Frank Strenk  
Denise & Michael Westerfer  
Karl Williams  
Katherine M. Wong

**MONTHLY DONORS**

John & Barb Dively  
Robert Drucker  
Kay & Gordon Rowe

**IN HONOR OF**

Jeannette Kline  
*for Being an Inspiration to So Many*  
- from Joyce Schlag

**ORGANIZATIONS**

Main Line Rehabilitation  
Progressive Health of PA, Inc.

**ATTORNEY FEES AND EXPERT FEES  
FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENTS**  
From Sandy, Illinois ([alpy2@aol.com](mailto:alpy2@aol.com))  
Volunteer Co-Webmaster, Our Children Left Behind  
(<http://www.ourchildrenleftbehind.com>)

This action alert is courtesy of Matt Cohen, Chicago special education attorney ([www.monahan-cohen.com](http://www.monahan-cohen.com)):

As a result of several Supreme Court rulings over the last decade, the ability of parents (as well as plaintiffs in other civil rights cases) to recover attorneys' fees and expert witness fees in due process settlements and hearings has been virtually eliminated.

The Civil Rights Act of 2008 seeks to overturn these Supreme Court decisions by

- Restoring the definition of "prevailing party" and the right to recover reasonable attorney fees to include parents who settle a due process hearing and obtain some significant relief as part of the settlement
- Restoring the right to recover expert witness fees for both due process hearing that are completed, and due process hearing that are settled, where the parent prevails (that is obtains some significant relief as a result of the hearing or settlement agreement).

The Civil Rights Act of 2008 is expected to be re-introduced in the House and Senate when the new 111th Congress convenes in January, 2009, though it may have a different name. Information on the status of bills can be obtained at COPAA ([www.copaa.net](http://www.copaa.net)) or through the federal government's legislative website: [www.thomas.gov](http://www.thomas.gov).

**RESOURCES**

Acquired Brain Injury Network of PA  
1-800-516-8052  
BIAPA Brain Injury Resource Line  
1-866-635-7097  
DOH Help Line & Head Injury Program  
1-866-412-4755  
Disability Rights Network  
1-800-692-7443  
Housing—PHFA [www.phfa.org](http://www.phfa.org)  
717.780.3988  
Pennsylvania Health Law Project  
1-800-274-3258  
Special Education Consult Line  
1-800-879-2301  
Waiver Help Line 1-800-757-5042

**RECOMMENDED BOOK**

**SECOND CHANCE**  
By the DiBiagio Family

"This is a true story of one family's sudden and devastating journey into the shadowy and unknown world of traumatic brain injury."

Make out your check for \$15 to:  
Angelo Di Biagio

Mail your check to:  
Angelo Di Biagio  
430 Browns Drive  
Easton PA 18042

**Brain Injury Survival: Now What?  
Creating A Personal Therapy Regime —by Annie Miller  
Part 2: For the Caregiver**

Okay. Your loved one has endured the trauma, survived, and now lives in the community of brain injury.

Now what?

Your loved one is no longer the same.

He or she is may be lonely, unhappy, and feel useless.

Doctor appointments are your lifestyle.

You have not found a therapy program you are comfortable with.

You want to do something, but what?

Why not create your own custom therapy regimen? What steps do you need to take to create a personal therapy program?

- Listen; what does your loved one talk about frequently? When is he/she most content? What does he/she enjoy? What are his/her strengths; weaknesses?
- Plan ahead. What care provisions are necessary? Special equipment, supervision, etc.?
- Keep the schedule flexible. Be in tune to his/her physical capabilities. Allow enough time between activities for their brains and bodies to rest and rejuvenate.
- Who could help you? Friends, family members, community volunteers, therapists, respite care providers, day programs, etc...there are a host of options.
- Some alternative therapies such as equine, water, and animal therapy are great assets to a personal therapy regimen.
- If one thing isn't working out, stop. Don't get discouraged. Rethink what you are doing, what would make it work better, or try something else.
- Don't feel confined and believe you have no other choice. Evaluate, consider, and create a unique program for your situation. You DO have options.

## **Brain STEPS: The Brain Injury School Re-Entry Program**

**When a child who attends a Pennsylvania public school has experienced educational effects following a brain injury, locate their county of residence and contact the coordinating Brain STEPS Team.  
(IU stands for Intermediate Unit.)**

**For general information about the program, contact:  
Brenda Eagan Brown, M.S.Ed., CBIS, Program Coordinator  
Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania  
eaganbrown@biapa.org or 724-944-6542**

### Allegheny IU #3

Allegheny  
Kristen Haynes 412-394-57887  
kristen.haynes@aiu3.net

### Midwestern IU #4

Butler, Lawrence, Mercer  
Susan Black 724-458-6700 x253  
susan\_black@miu4.k12.pa.us

### Northwest Tri-County IU #5

Crawford, Erie, Warren  
Annette Eccles  
814-734-5610 x8459  
annette\_eccles@iu5.org

### Appalachia IU #8

Blair, Bedford, Cambria, Somerset  
Carol Hoover 814-940-0223  
choover@iu08.org  
Mike Brink 814-262-7392 x307  
mbrink@iu08.org

### Central IU #10

Centre, Clearfield, Clinton  
Jeff Holter 814-342-0884  
jholter@ciu10.org

### BLaST IU #17

Bradford, Lycoming, Sullivan,  
Tioga  
Mark Nevill 570-323-8561  
mnevill@iu17.org

### Lincoln IU #12

Adams, Franklin, York  
Phone: 888-487-1544 x 5067

### Canton School District

Bradford  
Alison Polly 570-673-3983  
apolly@canton.k12.pa.us

### Luzerne IU #18

Luzerne, Wyoming  
Tina Gelso 570-718-4656  
tgelso@liu18.org

### Northeastern Educational IU #19

Lackawanna, Pike, Susquehanna,  
Wayne, Wyoming  
Victoria Wilcox  
570-348-6211 x2140  
vnwilcox@marywood.edu

### Colonial IU #20

Northampton, Monroe, Pike  
Charlotte Klucher 610-657-7817  
cklucher@ciu20.org

### Carbon Lehigh IU #21

Carbon, Lehigh  
Natalie Reichl 610-769-4111  
reichln@cliu.org

### Allentown School District

Carbon, Lehigh  
Melinda Lucas 484-765-4191  
Gerry Ifkovits 484-765-4070

### Bucks County IU #22

Bucks  
Sarah Krusen 215-348-2940 x2085  
skrusen@bucksiu.org

## **Newsletter Sign-Up, Donations & Tributes**

ABIN-PA is dedicated to increasing public awareness about acquired brain injury and to providing support, education, information, advocacy and other services for individuals with acquired brain injury and their families.

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_ SURVIVOR: \_\_\_\_\_ FAMILY: \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

DONATION: Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly: \_\_\_\_\_ United Way: # 45813

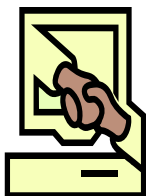
IN HONOR OF (Name): \_\_\_\_\_ (Reason): \_\_\_\_\_

(Address): \_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF (Name): \_\_\_\_\_ (Family contact): \_\_\_\_\_

(Family address): \_\_\_\_\_

The official registration and financial information of the Acquired Brain Injury Network of Pennsylvania, Inc., may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1 (800) 732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



### **ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY NETWORK OF PENNSYLVANIA, INC.**

**2275 Glenview Drive, Lansdale PA 19446-6082**

**215-699-2139 InfoLine: 800-516-8052**

**info@abin-pa.org, [www.abin-pa.org](http://www.abin-pa.org)**

PLEASE PHOTOCOPY AND DISTRIBUTE TO ALL WHO ARE INTERESTED.