

ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY
NETWORK NEWS
March 1, 2009—2009/#03
Survivors and Family Members
Building Lives of Meaning, Joy and Value

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Interesting resources throughout—
something to do while we wait for Spring!

Now is a good time to sign up for eScrip
so that ABIN-PA gets merchant donations
from your regular purchases. You can
also help Anna Marie Childress with her
used cell phone collection fundraiser—
see her letter on page 5.

On page 4, a new study is recruiting
veterans and others to test hyperbaric
oxygen. See the effects in the Curt Allen
video and the SPECT scan report in our
website Library. Amazing! Who needs a
lifetime of disability when oxygen lets the
brain rebuild itself? These chambers are
in almost every hospital. Let's use them!

We note the passing of Yolanda Valdes
Torres, one of our subscribers and a
friend for many years. Thank you to those
who donated in her memory.

Till next month—stay busy & happy!

Barb Dively

**DO YOUR AMAZON
SHOPPING FROM THE
WWW.ABIN-PA.ORG
WEBSITE AND ABIN-PA
GETS A PERCENTAGE!**

eScrip Fundraiser

**Thanks to those who have
already signed up, ABIN-PA
receives donations each month
based on purchases made on
credit cards, debit cards and
grocery chain cards.**

You Can Help !

**Go to www.escrip.com and
sign up! Then, participating
merchants will donate to ABIN-PA
based on your purchases!
What could be easier?**

**Support Maria Martin's
business by shopping for
promotional products and
customized logos at:**

WWW.NEWTONMFG.COM/MARIAMARTIN

ALL ARE WELCOME

Sun. Mar. 8th, 2-4pm—Board
Tues. Mar. 31st, 1-3 pm— Mail Newsletter
Sun. Apr.5th, 2-4pm—Board
**Board Meeting by Teleconference
1-218-486-1300, Password 127105**

FOR QUESTIONS info@abin-pa.org

**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,
Robin Gane, 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,
Mary Stoner, Pat & Frank Strenk,
Mary Webb, 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*

IN MEMORY OF

Yolanda Marie Valdes Torres
From Deborah Fishman,
Mapes Stores Offices & Warehouse,
Katherine Hochner, John and Barb
Dively, Mary Patricia Ruppert,
Carol Silverman

ORGANIZATIONS
Main Line Rehabilitation
Progressive Health of PA, Inc.

VOLUNTEER NOTES

16 volunteers distribute our **police brochures** to local police stations—we need a **volunteer project manager** and **more volunteers across the state.**

A committee is meeting to develop **training materials** for families and survivors. Your ideas are welcome. Next teleconference 7pm, Thursday, March 12. Call 1-218-486-1300. Password 127105.

Can you photocopy and **distribute newsletters and brochures** to hospitals and libraries? Currently, Dan Rohrback and George Matwiejczyk cover MossRehab and Einstein. TX!!

New RSVP volunteers Brenda Jenkins and Jeff Gubbins help with mailing—TX!!

More mailing volunteers needed!

Volunteer clerical help needed! Erikka Johnston moved on to a regular job—she is sorely missed! Please send resume.

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
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

BRAIN STEPS PROGRAM RECEIVES AWARD

The Brain Injury Association of America has awarded a Program of Excellence Award to the the Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania for its School Re-entry Program, BrainSTEPS.

This program uses volunteer Teams to assist local school staff with educational programs, academic interventions, strategy implementation, and monitoring for students who have sustained a brain injury.

For information, contact Brenda Eagan-Brown at 724-944-6542 or eaganbrown@biapa.org.

HELP FOR VETERANS

America's Heroes at Work is a U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) project that focuses on the employment challenges of returning service members living with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and/or Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

The project equips employers and the workforce development system with the tools they need to help returning service members affected by TBI and/or PTSD succeed in the workplace - particularly service members returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

To learn more please visit their website. <http://www.americasheroesatwork.gov/>

PEDIATRIC ABI PLAN

Check out this plan on the web at www.thebrainproject.org, developed at a conference of experts gathered by Patrick Donohue, Executive Director of the Sarah Jane Brain Foundation.

**Google This for Link to
Home-Based Rehab Activities**

**“University of Alabama
At Birmingham
TBI Model Systems”**

**Watch
Jack Scanlan’s video
at
www.jackwords.com.**

DVD: BRAIN INJURY DIALOGUES

Rick Franklin, a 17 year survivor, teams up with veteran documentary maker and friend Lyell Davies of the City University of New York to explore the impact of brain injury on himself and others.

Comments by a cognitive therapist and a disability studies scholar offer additional insight into this disability that affects far more people than you might suspect. Includes an interview with disability rights advocate, Zona Roberts.

The run time is 52 minutes, with a 25-minute bonus feature of Professor Mark Sherry speaking to a support group for brain injury survivors. The DVD is \$20 which includes first class postage to the U.S. and Canada.

For more Info and trailers visit www.braininjurydialogues.org

**Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center Press Release:
CONTACT: LESLIE CAPO (504) 568-4806; cell (504) 452-9166**

**LSUHSC TO CONDUCT STUDY OF
HYPERBARIC TREATMENT FOR TBI & PTSD**

New Orleans, LA – Dr. Paul Harch, LSUHSC Clinical Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine, is the principal investigator of a pilot study to determine the effectiveness of one or two courses of hyperbaric oxygen therapy in treating chronic traumatic brain injury (TBI) and TBI with post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The study grew out of previous experience in treating TBI with hyperbaric oxygen therapy with improvement in symptoms and function.

Thirty participants will be recruited – half will have traumatic brain injury and half will have both traumatic brain injury and post traumatic stress disorder. The participants will undergo oral, written, and computers tests, as well as an MRI (if the participant has not had one since injury) and SPECT brain imaging.

Participants will have 40 hyperbaric oxygen therapy treatments and can request up to 40 more if not improved to his/her satisfaction. Certain conditions preclude participation including pregnancy and increased risk for rare HBOT complications. Possible benefits include improvement in thinking ability, quality of life, and reduction of PTSD symptoms; however there may be no benefits. Results will be measured by brain blood flow imaging, written tests for memory and thinking, and questionnaires about quality of life and health.

TBI has been called the signature wound of the Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. A RAND Corporation study released in April “estimates that about 320,000 service members may have experienced a traumatic brain injury during deployment — the term used to describe a range of injuries from mild concussions to severe penetrating head wounds. Just 43 percent reported ever being evaluated by a physician for that injury. One-year estimates of the societal cost associated with treated cases of mild traumatic brain injury range up to \$32,000 per case, while estimates for treated moderate to severe cases range from \$268,000 to more than \$408,000. Estimates of the total one-year societal cost of the roughly 2,700 cases of traumatic brain injury identified to date range from \$591 million to \$910 million.”

A 2005 article in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Traumatic Brain Injury in the War Zone*, by Susan Okie, MD, says “among surviving soldiers wounded in combat in Iraq and Afghanistan, TBI appears to account for a larger proportion of casualties than it has in other recent U.S. wars. According to the Joint Theater Trauma Registry, compiled by the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research, 22 percent of the wounded soldiers from these conflicts who have passed through the military's Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany had injuries to the head, face, or neck. This percentage can serve as a rough estimate of the fraction who have TBI, according to Deborah L. Warden, a neurologist and psychiatrist at Walter Reed Army Medical Center who is the national director of the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center (DVBIC). Warden said the true proportion is probably higher, since some cases of closed brain injury are not diagnosed promptly.”

For more information or to find out if you qualify, call 504-309-4948.
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2009 Cell Phone Fundraiser

Dear Friend of ABIN-PA,

I am hoping that you will help ABIN-PA raise money by collecting and mailing old cell phones to www.wirelessfundraiser.com using a postage paid label.

The phones must be in working condition with the old battery inside – but stored phone numbers, passwords, and SIM cards must be removed. ABIN-PA will get a donation for each phone and your name will appear in the newsletter.

You can send in your own old phones and also phones from family and friends. You might also get permission to place a collection box at your workplace, businesses, stores you visit, or wherever cell phones are sold. Your Chamber of Commerce may have ideas or be willing to help.

If you are placing a collection box, please email me at mi3kds1@verizon.net for a flyer to put on your box. Check your box frequently to collect any phones that are donated, so that none are stolen.

Once you have collected a few used cell phones:

1. Wrap each phone in newspaper and put it in your mailing box.
2. Stuff extra newspaper in the box so the phones can't move around.
3. Tape the box shut.
4. Go to www.wirelessfundraiser.com
5. Find the list of categories on the left side of the page.
6. Click on either "Disabled", Health and Wellness", or "Community".
7. Look to the right for the window saying "select an organization".
8. Click on the drop down arrow.
9. Click on the Acquired Brain Injury Network of PA.
10. When the next window appears, enter your name, address, etc.
11. To the right of your last name, click on "print your label".
12. If the label doesn't print properly, click the flash player download button.
13. Tape this postage paid label to your mailing box.
14. Take the box to the post office and mail.

Please email me at mi3kds1@verizon.com if you have questions or need help to print your label.

We are hoping that everyone can participate!

Anna Marie Childress
Project Coordinator

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

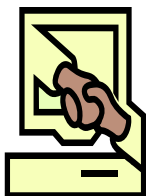
IN HONOR OF (Name): _____ (Reason): _____

(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

PLEASE PHOTOCOPY AND DISTRIBUTE TO ALL WHO ARE INTERESTED.