

ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY
NETWORK NEWS
May 1, 2009—2009/#05
Survivors and Family Members
Building Lives of Meaning, Joy and Value

Happy Spring!

The return of the flowers and sunshine always brings joy to my heart! Life begins again for plants and people!

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More of us are enjoying our meetings by teleconference—please call in!

You can join in our painless fundraising through eScrip, Amazon, and cell phone collection—info on the web—questions?

Enjoy your day.....

Barb Dively

**CONTACT YOUR SENATOR
& YOUR REPRESENTATIVE**

PA is one of the very few states that don't protect disabled adults age 18 to 59. That must change!

The new Adult Protective Services Bill, Senate Bill 699, will allow anyone to report the abuse of a person age 18 to 59. Please ask your Senator and Representative to support this bill.

For your Senator, go to www.pasen.gov, go to the top right of the screen, and type in your zipcode. Click GO.

To find your Representative, go to www.house.state.pa.us, go to the top right of the screen, and type in your zipcode. Click GO.

Please let me know if you took action.

Please Help !

TELE/WEB DISCUSSION

**“Maximizing Recovery
After Brain Injury”
with Barb Dively**

7:00 P.M., MAY 27th, 2009

**Teleconference Numbers:
1-218-486-1300, Password 127105**

**Web Location: www.abin-pa.org,
Library, ABIN-PA PowerPoints**

ATTEND ABIN-PA MEETINGS!

Tu. Apr. 28th, 1-3 pm— Mailing Party
Su. May 3rd, 2-4pm—Board Mtg. TC
Th. May 14th, 7pm—Manuals TC
We. May 27th, 7pm—Recovery TC
Tues. June 2nd, 1-3 pm— Mailing Party
Sun. June 7th, 2-4pm—Board Mtg. TC

**TC means a Teleconference:
1-218-486-1300, Password 127105
(Board Meetings also in person).**

2009 ANNUAL FUND DONORS

Sharon Bass, Marta Bivins,
The Borgia's Family,
Anna Marie & Barry Childress,
Belinda Crobak, Dorothy Curtis,
Joanne Day, LaVerne Devenny,
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,
Ellen Solt, 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 & Barb Dively,
Mary Patricia Ruppert,
Carol Silverman,
Drs. Karen & Fred Clark,

ORGANIZATIONS

Main Line Rehabilitation
Progressive Health of PA, Inc.

SPEAKING OUT
By Denise Patterson

People with a brain injury aren't stupid. I became brain injured in 1994. In 2003, I received my college degree with honors.

I am in a wheelchair and don't talk. That makes it doubly hard. But I did get my degree! What makes it even harder is that when people see me in the wheelchair, they automatically start talking to whoever I'm with. And when they find out I don't talk, well, that means I'm stupid for sure.

So, the next time you see someone that can't talk, maybe you should find out a little more.

RESOURCES

ABIN-PA Brain Injury InfoLine
1-800-516-8052
BIAPA Brain Injury Resource Line
1-866-635-7097
Brain STEPS—school children
1-724-944-6542
DOH Brain Injury Help Line
1-866-412-4755
Disability Rights Network
1-800-692-7443
Housing—PHFA www.phfa.org
717.780.3988
PA Head Injury Program
1-866-412-4755
Pennsylvania Health Law Project
1-800-274-3258
Special Education Consult Line
1-800-879-2301
Waiver Help Line—CommCare, OBRA
Independence, Attendant Care
1-800-757-5042

LOVE FINDS A WAY

By Kay Rowe with permission from Erik Toye

My son, Erik, had been an inpatient at Dallas Rehab in Texas for several months when a little note, signed by him, reached me at my Bridgeport address. "Mom", I read, "I'd like to come home!" I swallowed hard! I had thought he would remain in Texas near his Dad and step-mom who were both retired!

Come home?! Since Erik left Bridgeport four years earlier, I had settled in a cozy upstairs apartment and was, of course, working. Erik had graduated to the wheelchair, which was great, but with his brain injury, he would require ongoing care and supervision!

Gordon and I had been dating for some time and had just begun to discuss marriage. With real trepidation I showed him Erik's note and said, "If you want to get out now, I'd certainly understand!" Without a moment's hesitation, Gordon answered, "We're a team!"

So what was the problem? Well, I lived in Bridgeport and Gordon lived in Hatfield and Erik's new rehab would be in Malvern. As we put our heads and hearts together we began to see what we needed to do: Gordon left his house in Hatboro for one year and I gave up my Bridgeport flat.

We were married by the Mayor of Norristown, and then rented a wheelchair accessible apartment in Conshohocken, mid-way between our work sites and the new rehab. My son came home!

For a year, I drove Erik to his rehab before work and Gordon picked him up after work.

More than anything, Erik wanted to walk again! Attendants, however, were not available to out-patients. I found a facility where someone could walk with him on a daily basis. And Gordon and Erik walked together up and down our apartment hallway evenings and weekends.

By the end of that year, all of Erik's insurance had been spent. The three of us then moved to our Hatboro home. I retired from work. Then, with friends and family around us, Gordon and I celebrated our spiritual wedding at last!

And Erik? He walked up and down Holly Drive with his cane in preparation for his next big step, living on his own.

ABIN-PA POLICE BROCHURE PROJECT

Many volunteers have helped distribute brochures to local police stations. **If you can help, call 800-516-8052.** Stations already covered include: Bellevue, East Norriton, Embreeville, Franconia, Hatboro, Horsham, Ferguson, Malvern, Media, Patton, Pennridge Regional, Philadelphia (24th, 25th, 26th, & 35th Precincts), Ross, Skippack (State Police), Souderton, State College, Telford, Tredyffrin, Tyrone, and Westview. PA list at www.road-police.com.

PENNSYLVANIA COMMCARE WAIVER

[Copied from the website. Search on “PA DPW CommCare Waiver” or go to: <http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/ServicesPrograms/PhysicalDisabilities/003670179.htm> or contact the Department of Public Welfare at 800-757-5042 from 8am to 4pm.]

The COMMCARE Waiver is a Home and Community Based program developed for individuals with a medically determined diagnosis of traumatic brain injury (TBI). COMMCARE prevents the institutionalization of individuals with TBI and helps them to remain as independent as possible.

Traumatic brain injury is defined as a sudden insult to the brain or its coverings, not of a degenerative, congenital or post-operative nature, which is expected to last indefinitely.

Who is Eligible?

Pennsylvania residents age 21 and older who experience a medically determinable diagnosis of traumatic brain injury and require a Special Rehabilitative Facility (SRF) level of care. The disability must result in substantial functional limitation in three or more of the following major life activities: mobility, behavior, communication, self-care, self-direction, capacity for independent living, and cognitive capacity (judgment, memory and reasoning).

Additional eligibility requirements may apply.

Services available may include:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| Service Coordination | Personal Care Services |
| Respite Care | Prevocational Services |
| Supported Employment | Habilitation and Support |
| Educational Services | Environmental Adaptations |
| Non-Medical Transportation | Chore Services |
| Specialized Medical Equipment/Supplies and Assistive Technology | |
| Personal Emergency Response Systems (PERS) | |
| Extended State Plan Services | Coaching/Cueing |
| Night Supervision | Structured Day Program |
| Behavioral Specialist Consultant | Cognitive Therapy |
| Counseling (Consumer and/or Family) | Community Integration |
| Community Transition Services | |
| View the current <u>COMMCARE Waiver</u> | |

If you cannot find the information you need, please Contact DPW.

Survive with Pride

PENNSYLVANIA CAREERLINK OFFICES

www.paworkforce.state.pa.us

For help in finding employment, contact your local CareerLink office.

Allentown—610-437-5627
Altoona—814-940-6200
Beaver Falls—724-728-4860
Bedford—814-623-6107 X 110
Bloomsburg—570-387-6288
Bradford—814-368-6195
Bristol—215-781-1073
Butler—724-431-4000
Carlisle—717-243-4431
Chambersburg—717-709-4901
Chester—610-447-3345
Clarion—814-223-1550
Clearfield—814-765-8118
Coatesville—610-384-9393
Coudersport—814-274-9330
Donora—724-379-4750
DuBois—814-371-0250
Emporium—814-486-3729
Erie—814-455-9966 X 400
Gettysburg—334-1173 X 210
Harrisburg—717-783-3270
Hazleton—570-459-3854
Huntingdon—814-641-6408
Indiana—724-471-7220
Jim Thorpe—570-325-2701 X 129
Johnstown—814-533-2493
Kittanning—724-548-5693
Lancaster—717-299-7631
Lebanon—274-2554 X 128
Lewistown—717-248-4942
Lock Haven—570-893-4022
Meadville—814-333-5574
Media—610-723-1222
New Castle—724-656-3165 X 220
New Kensington—724-334-8600 X 225
Norristown—610-270-3429
Oil City—814-678-5050
Philadelphia—215-560-5465
990 W. Spring Garden St., 19123

Philadelphia—215-560-5151
235 West Cheltenham Ave., 19144
Philadelphia—215-952-1137/1150
930 Washington Lane, 19147
Philadelphia—215-281-1062
3210 Red Lion Road, 19114
Philadelphia—215-324-0746
4261 North 5th Street, 19140
Philadelphia—215-557-2592
1617 JFK Blvd., Ste. 200, 19103
Pittsburgh—412-552-7100
425 6th Ave., 22nd Flr., 15219
Pittsburgh—412-809-3511
Robinson Plaza II, 15205
Pittsburgh—412-390-2289
2600 E. Carson, 15203
Pittsburgh—412-436-2242
2040 Ardmore Blvd., 15221
Pottsville—570-621-3167
Punxsutawney—814-371-0250
Reading—610-988-1300
Scranton—570-963-3110
Selinsgrove—570-374-5751
Shamokin—570-644-6570
Sharon—724-347-9257 X 217
Somerset—814-445-9628 X 227
St. Marys—814-834-2857
State College—814-272-5465
Tannersville—570-620-2850
Towanda—570-265-2171
Uniontown—724-434-5627 X 123
Warren—814-723-2350
Washington—724-223-4508
Waynesburg—724-852-2900 X 229
Wellsboro—570-724-1939 X 3107
Wilkes-Barre—570-826-2001
Williamsport—570-601-5465
York—717-767-7600
Youngwood—724-755-2330 X 101

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

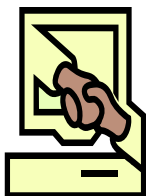
IN HONOR OF (Name): _____ (Reason): _____

(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.