

BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON

# MIND MATTERS

PREVENTION ■ SUPPORT ■ EDUCATION ■ ADVOCACY

[www.braininjurywa.org](http://www.braininjurywa.org)

Spring 2013

## Executive Director's Message

We at the Brain Injury Association of Washington are thrilled that June is here! May was one of the busiest months ever for our organization. We wrote and submitted our grant proposal to secure the Washington State TBI Resource Center, moved our offices, held our annual staff training and presented, attended and were room monitors at the Washington TBI Conference. While the move was only across the street, it still was a move.



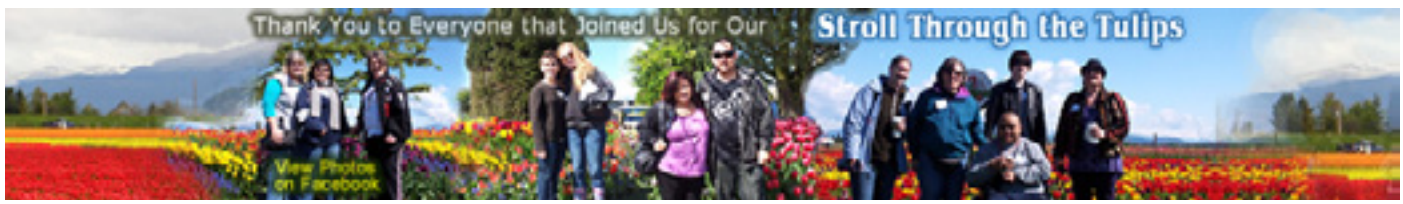
We have more space, windows (I lived without one for 3 years and will never do that again), and we are actually paying less in rent, so cost-effective. What a win-win! Our staff attended the 2013 TBI Conference at the SeaTac Marriott – always a wonderful 2 days full of inspirational stories, both on stage and with folks that we get a chance to chat with. It was nice to see old friends, familiar faces and to meet new folks. We are an invitational community, and the conference has that feel from start to finish.

And, fortunately, we just heard that we are the “apparently successful bidder” (state lingo) for the Washington State TBI Resource Center from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2015. What an honor to continue this important work. It is core to the mission of this organization, and we are proud of the expansion in areas served, number of individuals (over 5,000 calls this year which is double 3 years ago) all while providing the highest quality of service which we have worked on this past two years. The staff at BIAWA is exceptional. We all look forward to the next two years of working within the broader community, with our partners throughout the state and with each of you. Our doors are always open, and we are just a phone call away. But for now, it's a nice day, so I'm going to open my beautiful window and enjoy the almost summer breeze.



## Pyramid Event Recap

Thank you to everyone who came out for our March Brain Injury Awareness Celebration at Pyramid Restaurant. We had a full house as we were joined by survivors, family members, BIAWA Board members, staff and many other wonderful members of our community. It was great to see so many friendly faces and make some new lasting relationships. BIAWA is privileged to host such a wonderful event.



## Tulip Trip

April 16th, 2013 was a beautiful day to stroll through the tulips at Roozengaarde! BIAWA staff members, along with around 40 guests, drove up to see the tulip fields in full bloom in Mt. Vernon. We all enjoyed the gardens (see the photos on our Facebook page) and each other's company as we viewed an amazing variety of tulips. From there we drove to The Copia Lounge and ate a fabulous lunch catered by Avenue Catering before heading back to Seattle. This trip was a great opportunity to meet new friends and visit with friends we have known for a while. Thanks to everyone who came along and made it such a great trip! We can't wait for next year!

## Washington State 2013 Traumatic Brain Injury Conference



On May 22nd, BIAWA held our annual staff training at the SeaTac Marriot. This is the one time out of the year that our entire staff comes together in one place. We enjoyed presentations from Susan Shepherd and Aime Fink of Washington Community Living Connections (ADRCs), Nathasja Skorupa of Amerigroup and our very own Jennifer Peloquin who presented on Anosognosia. It was a day packed with lots of learning and a great way to kick off the TBI Conference.

BIAWA Staff had a wonderful time tabling, presenting, learning and spending time with our community at the Washington State TBI Conference on May 23rd and 24th. Both our presentations on Pediatric and Adult services had great turnouts. A huge "thank you" to everyone who joined us and all the attendees & coordinators for again making this a great event for all. We look forward to putting into practice all that we learned at this year's conference and cannot wait to see you all again in 2014!

## Resources We Love - Red Cross

Are you prepared for disasters that can happen in the Puget Sound? Join the American Red Cross to learn how you and your family can take simple steps towards being better prepared. They offer free, interactive trainings given by their preparedness educator team to empower your community. Contact your local Red Cross chapter to schedule a presentation today.

**Pierce, Thurston, Lewis, Grays Harbor, South Mason Counties:** [diane.bomer@redcross.org](mailto:diane.bomer@redcross.org) / 253-441-7627

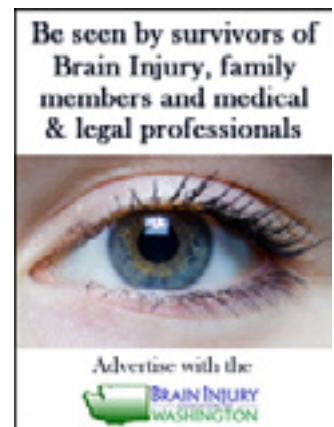
**King County:** [mark.aguirre@redcross.org](mailto:mark.aguirre@redcross.org) / 206-709-4510

**Kitsap & North Mason Counties:** [elyssa.tappero@redcross.org](mailto:elyssa.tappero@redcross.org) / 360-478-7695

**Olympic Peninsula:** [zane.beall@redcross.org](mailto:zane.beall@redcross.org) / 360-904-6828

**Snohomish County:** [chuck.morrison@redcross.org](mailto:chuck.morrison@redcross.org) / 425-252-4103

**Skagit & Whatcom Counties:** 360-733-3290



## Upcoming Events



*Sip for a Cause & Step into Summer*  
4th Annual Wine & Chocolate Fundraiser

Wednesday June 12th, 2013  
5:30PM to 8:30PM

[MORE INFO](#)

Smith Tower - Chinese Room - Observation Deck - 506 2nd Ave #1021, Seattle, WA



**The 2013 BIAWA Annual Meeting**

[MORE INFO](#)

DATE: Wednesday, June 19th, 2013  
TIME: 6:00pm – 8:00pm  
PLACE:  Swedish Cultural Center  
1920 Dexter Ave. N, Seattle, WA



**WALK, RUN & ROLL FOR THOUGHT**  
Because Your Mind Matters



Sunday, July 28th, 2013  
Magnuson Park Shelter #2, Seattle, WA



**Baseball with BIAWA**  
Tacoma Rainiers vs. Omaha Storm Chasers  
July 30th, 2013 - 7:00 pm



Cost to participants is only \$2.00 per person.  
Price Includes: Reserved Seating, Hot dog, chips & Drink & Rainers Hat!

[MORE INFO](#)



**5th annual TBI ART SHOW**

Exhibition  
September 8 - 29, 2013  
**CALL FOR ARTISTS**

[MORE INFO](#)

presented by  **BRAIN INJURY WASHINGTON**

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON  
TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY MODEL SYSTEM



the **B.I.G.** brain injury gala

Many journeys. *One* voice.

[MORE INFO](#)

Saturday, October 19, 2013  
7th Annual Dinner & Auction

## Brain Injury Association of Washington in the Community

**February 8th/9th** Nancy Huseman was at the 2013 West Region EMS Conference in Centralia

**February 21st/22nd** Julie Dawning was at the Washington State Counselors Association Conference in Seattle

**March 7th-9th** Carla Jo and Deborah Crawley were at the 11th Annual Pacific NW Brain Injury Conference in Oregon

**March 28th** Mary Hughes presented to the Bellingham Department of Corrections

**April 17th** Cheryl Myers presented to Adult Family Home workers in Richland and Wendy Lomax presented to Adult Family Home workers in Spokane

**May 23rd-24th** BIAWA Staff attended, exhibited and presented at the Washington TBI Conference



# Survivors' Corner – A Letter from the Mother of a Child who sustained a TBI

In regards to my TBI advocate, Julie Dawning, for my son Philip Small

My son was diagnosed with a TBI several years after a car accident and just before kindergarten by the Psych Rehab department at Seattle's Children's Hospital. I had already been struggling to handle Philip's ADHD symptoms with medication. The schools, our family, and healthcare providers were all kind of at a loss as to what to do next. I found the BIAWA through the psych rehab diagnosis paperwork.

Julie Dawning, the pediatric TBI advocate, met with me in my home for an evaluation and began to offer me hope and all kinds of possibilities for Philip's school and life. Julie showed me strategies and resources that were all available to me and his teachers. She offered to be a part of school meetings regarding Philip as his TBI advocate. The support and education that she provided at these meetings was invaluable.

Teachers and administrators were often ignorant of the affects that a TBI could have on a young child just starting his school career. Philip's best interests were brought to the forefront with Julie there to educate them and help them brainstorm for better solutions.

Under Julie's guidance we got Philip extra education help, an Individualized Education Plan, and eventually a self-contained classroom. During the time Julie was Philip's TBI advocate we worked through 3 different schools to find the best possible classroom to place Philip in. Julie was helpful in offering hope to me and Philip, even as things seemed more difficult. Philip struggled with dangerous medication reactions, teachers who believed him to be a troubled and "bad" kid. A tremendous amount of academic regression occurred with Philip as we were trying to work through the process of finding the correct academic placement for him.

Julie Dawning also offered programs outside of the school that could assist Philip's brain development and social behavior.

Philip received a scholarship for 6 months of Tae Kwon Do through the Plus One Foundation that Julie referred me to. Tae Kwon Do worked very well for Philip and increased his confidence, his concentration, and his respect for authority figures and rules.

“ Julie showed me strategies and resources that were all available to me and his teachers. ”

After many, many meetings school officials, and with the aggressive advocacy of Julie Dawning, Philip is now in a behavior-based, self-contained classroom. Philip is doing so well that they are considering getting him into a general education 3rd grade classroom. I am working with the Education Ombudsman to help keep some focus on Philip's academics which have suffered with all the changes. I am so grateful to Julie Dawning for helping me to navigate through a myriad of resources that I never knew existed and keeping us on track to provide a successful and independent future for Philip. I don't know how our family would have gone through these tough years without Julie Dawning's advocacy.

Thank you so much for your dedication and commitment to Philip's success.

## Outgoing Presidents Message



It has been a great honor serving the BIAWA as President over the last year. We have accomplished so much and are strongly positioned to continue moving forward. Our TBI Resource Center has expanded its reach year over year. We are very pleased that we were able to expand the Resource Center to provide pediatric services throughout the state after piloting this program in the Seattle area. Our Gala attendance increased by nearly 25% allowing us to spread the message and information about TBIs and concussions to an even broader audience.

By including those who only know a little about TBIs we are able to slowly remove the silent from the silent epidemic.

Over the last 4 years we've grown from a small staff of 3 to an organization of 14. This has allowed us to do an even better job of reaching out and serving survivors, caregivers and families across the state. We are proud of the progress we've made and continue to work hard to be able to provide more services for the TBI community in the years to come.

I look forward to continuing to work to improve the lives of those we serve as a Board Member of the BIAWA.

## Special Thanks To Our 2013 Sponsors

