



## WHO IS THE BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS?

Information about the brain injury association and the services and programs offered.

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Every 21 seconds a brain injury occurs in the United States. An estimated 5.3 million Americans live with disabilities from brain injuries. There are more than a quarter of a million people in Illinois with disabilities resulting from brain injuries.

The Brain Injury Association of Illinois is a non-profit, statewide membership organization comprised of people with brain injuries, family members, friends and professionals. The BIA of IL is dedicated to providing information, advocacy, and support and is an affiliate of the Brain Injury Association of America.

The Brain Injury Association of Illinois is dedicated to serving individuals with traumatic brain injury, and the professionals who treat them.

The mission of the Brain Injury Association of Illinois is to improve the quality of life for persons with brain injury and their families and to promote the prevention of brain injury. This is accomplished by acting as an information and resource clearinghouse, sponsor annual educational programs, host adult and pediatric recreational camps, actively participating in legislative advocacy, fostering prevention awareness and encouraging research. Although the statistics are staggering, most people are unaware of the lifelong struggles and challenges faced by individuals with brain injury and their families. Our programs and services include:

### PROGRAMS

**Information & Resources** - BIA of IL maintains a library on brain injury to help provide timely and accurate information to people with brain injuries, family, friends and professionals. The BIA of IL toll-free Family Resource line responds to questions on brain injury, and provides resource and referral information.

**Public Awareness and Education** - Through educational training and public awareness campaigns, BIA of IL helps to increase the quality of life for people with brain injuries by helping people to understand the causes, consequences, medical and societal costs of brain injuries.

**Educational Conference** - Through the Annual Educational Conference the BIA of IL addresses the diverse issues surrounding brain injury. Participants

include people with brain injury, families, rehabilitation professionals, physicians, case managers, and attorneys.

**Advocacy and Public Policy** - Through our extensive membership, the BIA of IL has a direct impact on public policy that affects the lives of people with brain injuries.

**Injury Prevention Program** - Recognizing the only cure for brain injury is prevention, the BIA of IL focuses on prevention programs to reduce the incidence of brain injuries.

**Recreational Camps** - Our camps provide a structured, enriching personal and recreational experience for people with brain injury. Campers develop a greater sense of self-esteem and confidence. Wilderness Endeavor is a six-day camp for adults, while Camp Fun Zone is a five-day camp for children.

**Support Groups** - The BIA of IL support groups are for sharing with and supporting another for the mutual benefit of the total group. The Brain Injury Association of Illinois welcomes everyone to attend any support group. Please call for the group in your area for more information and discover that you are not alone.

**Peer Support Program** - This program provides support, information and resources through interaction with persons who have sustained a brain injury and their families at the onset of injury, and during the initial phase of rehabilitation.

**Volunteerism** - As with all non-profit organizations, we greatly appreciate the services of our volunteer staff. For additional volunteer opportunities, please call our office.

BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

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