

BIRCoFWI Bulletin

A Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 3 Issue 4

As of next year...

Find out the change to the BIRCoFWI Bulletin and how to receive it still.

Message from the Executive Director

As 2013 comes to a close...

How to access the BIRCoFWI Online:

Step by step directions on how to make sure you receive the latest news/bulletins/updates.

Sharing Stories in the Cozy Corner

Hear of a brain injury survivors recovery from a life altering event.

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Photo was taken by:
Nicholas R. Tischer / BIRCoFWI

As of next year...

The BIRCoFWI Bulletin will be transitioning to an online publication in 2014. If you would like to continue to receive this publication in print, please fill out the form to the right and return it to us. To help defer the cost of printing and mailing please consider making a donation.

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BIRCoFWI P.O. Box 808 Muskego, WI 53150

Welcome

Dear Friends,

As 2013 comes to a close, it is important for us to take stock of what all transpired in our lives over the past 12 months. Some things were bad, but other things indeed were good. There is a saying that goes "People from your past do not always make it into your future." We do not always know what path our lives will travel, but what I do know is this, if we do not adapt to the changes in our lives we may miss a chance to become someone even better than we were the day before. If a negative person, or a person who is truly not inspired, or a person who just settles rather than steps up to meet the challenge is part of your past, they may not make it into your future. We cannot dwell on who or what we will put in our "memory box of the past", but we can come to the realization that what is in there will always be a part of who we were and/or are and know that each moment in time, shapes our next direction. The same can be said about living with brain injury. Each day is a new day to tackle a challenge, to feel inspired by those around us, or to just take a moment to remember that one person with a passion will do more than 99 with good intentions. Are you that one?

Kindest Regards,



Lois York-Lewis
Executive Director

Also check out our Calendar of Events at
www.bircofwi.org
for more information!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Friendship Network Gathering:

December 14, 2013 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
3rd Annual Holiday Party

NEW in 2014, we will be having some gender specific Friendship Network Gatherings. Our bigger events such as the Brewers Game and Fashion Show will remain for both females and males.

Find out how to become a member by calling us at (262) 770-4882 or by emailing admin@bircofwi.org

SUPPORT GROUPS:

What: Support Group-Spiritual Outreach Meeting
First Tuesday of the Month
(Call 262-770-4882 for weather cancellation information)

Where: MCFI -NexDay Campus
3333 South Howell Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53207

When: starting - Jan 7, 2014 - 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Description: Join us for a few hours of conversation with fellow brain injury survivors. Each session in 2014 will feature a different Guest Speaker. [CONTACT US](#) and let us know what topic is of interest to you!

As 2013 comes to a close the Brain Injury Resource Center of Wisconsin, Inc. wants to thank its article contributors for their interesting and enlightening articles they have shared with our readers. This Bulletin would not contain as much information without each and every one of you!

THANK YOU!!

Photo was taken by:
Nicholas R. Tischer / BIRCoFWI

How to Access the BIRCoFWI Bulletin Online:

Start off by visiting our website:

www.bircowfi.org

Homepage Screen Image:



Place your mouse on "News from the BIRCoFWI," when the drop down menu appears click the first option, which is: "BIRCoFWI Bulletin."

You can access the "BIRCoFWI Bulletin" from our website or order a print copy from our web store:
www.shop.bircowfi.org



Unexpected Outcome

Bari L. York / BIRCoFWI Bulletin

*Due to the sensitive nature of this story names have been changed to protect the innocent. For purposes of clarification the brain injury survivor will be known as John Smith.

When will this stop? Why are these people doing this to me? Do I even know who this is? Those questions were running through John Smith's head on the night of December 31, 2005, when two men burst into the house party he was attending.

Smith was 25 years old and very dedicated in his work. His memory of the night fades in and out, leaving him with no memory of the incident just what other people have told him.

Allegedly on this night Smith was throwing a New Years party when his friend's cousin started talking to and flirting with a woman at the party. This woman had a boyfriend and once her boyfriend found out that she was talking to another man, the boyfriend and his friends came into this house party unannounced and started attacking Smith thinking he was the one perusing his girlfriend.

Someone called the police, Smith is unsure of how this transpired, and upon their arrival an ambulance was called and was he

rushed to Froedtert Lutheran Memorial Hospital in Milwaukee. His stay there would only last three weeks.

Smith was transferred based on him improving, which included coming out of his coma and being able to talk. After this transpired, and he made other steps towards recovery, the decision was made that he would be transferred to the Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Institute to continue his rehabilitation.

During a conversation with Smith he told me that his stay at the Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Institute would not be for as long as he thought it would be. In fact his total stay was three months and then he was transferred to a more permanent housing facility called Mount Carmel.

After Smith left Mount Carmel he returned to his home with his family, which included his mother and father. His next step would be to start outpatient therapy, which was abruptly stopped in June 2007 due to undisclosed reasons.

Despite the odds he is attending the Milwaukee Area Technical College. Smith mentioned

to me that he did not want to "overload himself with too many classes at once."

We talked about his future ambitions, as he proudly stated that he wants to be a "successful businessman in the future." His main focus and priority for now though is regaining his mobility.

August 20, 2013 Smith joined the Social and Skills Programs at the Brain Injury Resource Center of Wisconsin, Inc. He stated that "since going to the Friendship Network I have built up my confidence more and have met some new and positive friends."

Smith considers another participant to be a good friend of his and even mentioned that they share similar problems. To cap it up Smith said that they get along well and that this newfound friend does not mind driving him home after the gatherings.

It is apparent by Smith's statements that the Social and Skills Program has been a benefit to further recovery.

Telling your story is more than just putting your thoughts on paper. "Sharing Stories in the Cozy Corner" is a place for survivors and families to reach out to others to offer hope, inspiration, conquer challenges, and know that they are not alone.

Share your story by contacting our Bulletin Coordinator Bari York
(bari@bircofwi.org)



Why Should You DONATE Today?

It's Simple - We are not a membership based organization, government grants and foundation funds are in short supply, and brain injury survivors in Wisconsin are counting on you!

Need a Tax Deduction?

Out of respect for privacy, donor names will not be published on our website or listed in our annual report unless otherwise authorized

We are a 501(c)(3) organization

Donating as little as \$1.00 per family member goes a long way!

If your personal budget is feeling the pinch, why not ask your employer to host a green and purple day, chili cook-off, bake sale, or any easy to run event that does not interfere with the work day.

Contact us today and we will send information about our organization to share at any work-place fundraiser event.

Brain Injury Resource Center of Wisconsin, Inc.

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Where DOES the Money Go?

We use our dollars wisely to promote prevention, create an environment where awareness and education is available at every event, function, fundraiser, or meeting that our staff and/or volunteers participate in. Of course there are also operational costs associated with running every organization (everything from paper for the printer, to postage for the mailings.) We try to keep our expenses as low as possible to ensure all monies received are used for their intended purpose.

We focus on our goals and objectives knowing that brain injury survivors are the inspiration for our continued efforts:

1. The primary objective of our organization is to support brain injury survivors and families during the recovery process and beyond:
 - Resource Facilitation Service
 - Peer-Mentor Program
 - Spiritual Outreach Program
 - Pen-Pal Program
 - Support Group Program
2. The second objective is to educate, inform, and enhance awareness of the challenges faced by brain injury survivors, such as:
 - Return to Work - Employer Awareness and Employee Guidance
 - Assistance to Professionals
 - Education and "Awareness" Training
 - Prevention
3. The third objective is to allow the community to participate in taking care of its own and dismiss the assumptions and misguided thinking about brain injury and recovery by means of:
 - Friendship Network Gatherings (monthly or quarterly)
 - Brain Injury Picnics (annual)
 - Salute to Brain Injury Survivors Fashion Show (Annual)
 - Volunteer Program
 - Speaker and Presenter Bureau
 - Meet and Greet Sessions
 - Tote Bag Program

WISCONSIN'S LEADING TBI ATTORNEY

M. ANGELA DENTICE



M. Angela Dentice represents individuals throughout Wisconsin who have sustained a brain injury, including a traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic concussion or birth injury.

Ms. Dentice and her staff have worked with some of the leading experts in the area of TBI. These include neurologists, neuropsychologists, life care planners and vocational counselors from around the U.S.

Before attending law school, Ms. Dentice was a teacher of handicapped students.

Because each person's injuries are unique, Ms. Dentice handles each client in a personal manner. She can give you the personal attention you deserve.

CONTACT MS. DENTICE TODAY 414-259-1000

PELMAN, KYLE, SICULA & DENTICE, S.C.
1110 N. OLD WORLD 3RD STREET - SUITE 510
MILWAUKEE, WI 53203

Ψ GLASSMAN & STANIK, LLC CONSULTING PSYCHOLOGISTS

2448 South 102nd Street, Suite 270
West Allis, WI 53227 414-444-9811

Glassman & Stanik LLC specializes in psychological and neuropsychological evaluation of persons with brain injury or neurological disease, along with appropriate therapies and community reintegration.



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Brain Injury Journey Magazine

The Brain Injury Journey Magazine is published 6 times/year. The magazine is 32 pages, 8 1/2 x 11, in full color and addresses a wide range of topics for families, survivors, caregivers and veterans living with brain injury as well as providers, clinicians and educators.

As the leading publisher of brain injury information, Lash Publishing and Associates have made a commitment to produce a world class, very informative magazine and offer it free by Email subscription or paid print subscription.

The **Brain Injury Resource Center of Wisconsin** is proud to be a distributor of this excellent magazine.

Message from publisher:

Hope, help and healing – that's the mission and message of Brain Injury Journey magazine. Filled with empowering personal stories, interviews with experts, clinical updates and research findings, engaging articles help persons with brain injury, families, caregivers and providers navigate the journey of brain injury.

The Fall issue has a special feature on caregiving by family members. Whether the survivor of a brain injury is your spouse, partner, child, parent or sibling, caregiving is more than physical. The emotional impact on caregiving for everyone involved is too often minimized and can be far more complex than the activities of daily life. This issue takes an in-depth look into the emotional stresses and challenges of caregivers from several perspectives and shares important survival and coping strategies.





There is no better way to advertise your brain injury service or product than through the BIRCoFWI Bulletin. For rates and information, please contact our Director of Public Relations and Marketing, [Ms. Bari L. York](#) by calling 262-770-4882 or by email at bari@bircofwi.org.

Want More Information?

Be sure to visit our website today! Archived copies of the BIRCoFWI Bulletin can be ordered via our web store at www.shop.bircofwi.org

Thank you for reading and make sure to look for the next bulletin!

Look for our next issue coming out
March 2014

*"Don't be concerned with the bridge you can't cross,
instead build upon the one which you are destined to!"*

Quote provided by Jay Baukin (Brain Injury Survivor)