

Brain Injury Should Be Recognized Each and Every Month

Tom Grady, Director of Advocacy & Public Affairs

March is Brain Injury Awareness Month. There are other “months” related to brain injury. May is Older Americans Month. May is also Better Hearing & Speech Month. September is Healthy Aging Month. November is National Family Caregivers Month.

Brain injury should be recognized each and every month of the year.

“Brain injury does not recognize limits. Brain injury does not selectively choose when to impact a person and their family. Brain injury does not wait until after taxes are due in April or around the holidays in December. Brain injury does not know limits,” says John Tiene, Chairperson of the Brain Injury Association of New Jersey.

In 2006, Governor Jon Corzine signed Assembly Joint Resolution No. 85 into law. This law recognizes the month of March of each year as Brain Injury Awareness Month. “This important law provides a platform for drawing attention to brain injury. In addition to March, the platform should be in effect each and every month of the year,” suggested Barbara Geiger-Parker, President & CEO of the Association.

And what about those matters that do not distinguish between months: domestic violence; shaken baby syndrome; drunken driving; falls? All these items all relate to brain injury in some way – and they do not always occur during March. Awareness of these brain injury-related issues each and every month throughout the year is also important.

In April 2008, President George Bush signed into law the Reauthorization of the Traumatic Brain Injury Act. This action raised awareness of brain injury. In May, the Brain Injury Association of New Jersey will be having its Annual Seminar. This will also raise awareness. In October, the Association will have its annual Walk for Thought/Cycle for Safety event. This will raise awareness. We have many opportunities as a committed team to raise awareness of brain injury all year round.

Volunteers and advocates plus our Board and staff aim to raise awareness of brain injury throughout the year. You can too if you are not already doing so. Whether it is February or May or August or October, you can play a role in raising awareness of brain injury, particularly in the area of advocacy (to do so, visit <http://www.bianj.org/advocacy> and consider joining our Legislative Network.).

Get involved. Visit us at www.bianj.org to learn of other ways you can play an important role and raise awareness of brain injury each and every month, all year round.