



BRAIN INJURY SERVICES

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Media Release

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Brain Injury Services Recipient of United Way National Capital Area Grant for Prince William County Program.

For years, many survivors of brain injury struggle with the loss of skills that help them to live and work in their communities. Their challenges and losses may lead to isolation or even institutionalization. There is now help that can possibly turn the tide for them. Brain Injury Services recently was awarded \$11,000, from a United Way Community Impact Grant that will be used to enhance direct support for a new innovative neurobehavioral treatment program for people with brain injury living in Prince William County. These services help individuals reach their goal of participation in their community and prevent the need for long term institutionalization. This program was initiated through a substantial grant awarded by the Potomac Health Foundation.

Brain Injury Services (BIS) was established in 1989 as a direct result of a work study directed by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and was the first community based brain injury program of its' kind in Virginia. In the last 23 years, BIS has expanded to serve all of Northern Virginia, Fredericksburg and surrounding Counties. Initially BIS provided case management services but as gaps in services became apparent, BIS created innovative programs to address these needs. These services include: specialized case management, day programs, supported living program, unique therapeutic groups, PALS, person-centered volunteering programs and a Survivor Speaker's Bureau. BIS has been successful in helping to develop its' service model throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. It is presently celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the BIS Child and Adolescent Program.

According the BIS' Executive Director, Karen Brown, this model has been a project in the making for many years but lacked funding. In 2007, the Joint Legislative and Audit

Review Commission (JLARC) was directed to conduct a study on “access to brain injury services in the Commonwealth.” Their findings relayed in the report, *Access to State Funded Brain Injury Services*, concluded that thousands of survivors of brain injuries suffer from behavioral issues as a result of their injuries. These survivors often end up receiving treatment out of state, and many more are inappropriately placed in long term care or correctional facilities. It also confirmed that there is an ongoing critical need for services for people with brain injury in the Commonwealth, particularly for those with the most significant impairments living in unserved and underserved areas. “We are extremely grateful for the United Way of the National Capital Area’s vision to provide a safety net for the health and well-being of the most vulnerable residents,” states Ms. Brown. This program is significant in building a model of services that will also be available to wounded warriors. BIS is a partner of the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program.

To learn more please visit <http://www.unitedwaynca.org/pages/2012-community-impact-grant-recipients>

