

2014 Brain Injury Alliance Award Recipients

AYERS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Determined by the Board of Directors for service on Board of Directors

Upon election to the Brain Injury Alliance of Connecticut (BIAC) Board of Directors in 2008, **James Healey** quickly established himself as a driving force and influential member of the Board. In his first year, Jim forged a partnership with BIAC, Farmington Bank and TPC River Highlands resulting in a golf tournament which raised over \$17,000 for BIAC. His ability to bring BIAC together with community leaders has been

instrumental in developing lasting partnerships. As Fund Development Chair and as a member of the Golf Committee, Jim's direction and participation have been critical to BIAC's success. Although Jim's term on the Board ended in 2013, he remains a member of the Finance Committee and continues to provide important leadership for BIAC.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

For community service which has improved the lives of brain injury survivors, their families and caregivers

Mike Jennings, a former engineer, is an admired member of our community. Mike, who suffered a traumatic brain injury as a result of a snowmobile accident in 2001, exudes a positive outlook and focuses his boundless energy on improving the lives of those around him. In addition to his critical roles as a member of BIAC's board and support group facilitator for a brain

injury support group, Mike is a member of the Town of Simsbury Aging and Disability Commission. Last year, Mike turned his attention toward the issue of the illegal use of handicap parking spaces, driving the enactment of Connecticut S.B. 1040. This new law requires police to issue a written warning or ticket to drivers who park illegally in handicap parking areas.

PUBLIC POLICY AWARD

For supporting public policy that improves the quality of life for persons who have sustained a brain injury

Serving her fifth term as State Representative for the 83rd House District of Meriden, **Representative Abercrombie** is a strong supporter and advocate of social service programs, children and family welfare, services for individuals with disabilities and educational issues.

This year, she has been extremely responsive to constituent questions and concerns regarding the DSS proposed ABI Medicaid Waiver II. Representative Abercrombie has been a significant friend to BIAC and to the survivors, families and professionals we serve.

PARTNERSHIP AWARD

Awarded to an individual or organization for outstanding support of BIAC events and promotion of brain injury awareness and prevention in Connecticut's communities

While **CzepigaDalyPope** was formed late last year, they have wasted no time in establishing a strong partnership with BIAC. BIAC's outdated website has made finding important brain injury-related information and resources difficult, particularly for brain injury survivors who need it most. CzepigaDalyPope met this need with a generous sponsorship of a new, easy-to-navigate website to provide all the latest news and

information regarding brain injury. Having merged with the Law Offices of Sharon L. Pope, one of BIAC's most steadfast community partners, CzepigaDalyPope has shown their commitment to the need of brain injury survivors not only with their sponsorship of the BIAC website, but also with their support of the Annual BIAC Valentine's Dance. Partnership with this level of compassion is a true gift to BIAC and our entire community.

EDUCATION & PREVENTION AWARD

For outstanding effort resulting in the increase of public awareness of brain injury and prevention and/or broadened community service for individuals who have sustained a brain injury

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Gaylord Specialty Healthcare has a strong history of providing care for individuals who have sustained a brain injury. As the need for specific care for the concussion population began to emerge, Anne Pacileo,

Physical Therapist and Outpatient Therapy Supervisor at Gaylord, realized that they were uniquely positioned to serve those needs and began to advocate for the creation of a concussion center utilizing Gaylord's expertise. The mission of all Gaylord services is to preserve and enhance a person's health and function. The **Center for Concussion Care** allows for both: preserving health through education, and enhancing function by providing highly skilled, interdisciplinary clinical care.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Awarded to an individual for outstanding service to BIAC through his or her volunteer efforts.

BIAC is proud to claim **Nikki & Scott Moore** as long-time friends and volunteers. When BIAC was no longer able to coordinate planning of the 4th Annual Tour of Lights Bike-a-thon, Nikki and Scott rose to the occasion. As the new chairs of the committee, the Moores navigated the challenging process of obtaining permits, designing routes, and fundraising for the event. Despite their demanding schedules, the Moores never shy away from an opportunity to help BIAC. Whether

it's facilitating support groups, teaming up with Scott's son, Brett, and team Moore Power to fundraise for BIAC's Walk and Bike-a-thon, or just being there for survivors who need them, Scott and Nikki's commitment and compassion contribute greatly toward BIAC's success.

