

# 2015 Brain Injury Alliance Award Recipients

## AYERS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

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

### **Brian Waddell**

A former volunteer firefighter and IT Business Analyst for the Harford Financial Services Group, **Brian Waddell** joined BIAC's board in the spring of 2011. He quickly became a critical leader for the organization. Within months of joining the Board, Brian agreed to chair the Fund Development Committee, and quickly helped bring vision and organization

to BIAC's fund development efforts. A few months later, he added the role of Board Secretary to his service; and when BIAC began the task of strategic planning last summer, it was once again Brian who volunteered to lead the effort. His incredible organization and talent in strategic thinking has been instrumental in leading the board, ultimately benefiting BIAC and the community we serve.

## PUBLIC POLICY AWARD

*For supporting legislation/public policy that promotes the prevention and treatment of brain injury*

### **Senator Danté Bartolomeo, Representative Diana Urban and Parents Concussion Coalition**

In 2010, Connecticut was proud to become the third state in the country to enact important concussion legislation. However, a few years later Connecticut's law lagged behind most states in concussion policies and protocols. That was until 2012, when three Westport, CT parents, **Diana Coyne, Pippa Bell Ader and Ann Sherwood** formed **The Parents Concussion Coalition**. Together these parents, whose children suffered lingering effects from life-changing concussions—came together, determined to make sports safer for all children. **Representative Diana Urban and Senator Danté**

**Bartolomeo** spearheaded the legislative effort towards the creation of PA 5113, *An Act Concerning Youth Athletes and Concussions*. This act includes requirements for concussion education for athletes, parents and coaches, concussion tracking by DPH, and mandated informed consent and reporting of a suspected concussion to parents. As a result of the tireless efforts, continued commitment and passion of the Parents Concussion Coalition, Senator Danté Bartolomeo and Representative Diana Urban and because, without a doubt, they continue to press for better concussion safety measures, all children, especially CT's youth athletes, will be safer.

## 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*

### **Project Genesis**

An invaluable partner to BIAC for many years, **Project Genesis** supports many of BIAC's fundraising and outreach events, including the *Tour of Lights* Bike-a-thon and the *Walk for Thought*, and hosts two BIAC support groups. Fortunately for BIAC, Project Genesis' vocabulary does not include the word 'no'. When BIAC could no longer host the annual picnic, Project Genesis not only took over its planning but also grew the event to the largest social

gathering of brain injury survivors and their families in the State. The picnic is a perfect example of Project Genesis' desire for inclusiveness, as all provider agencies are invited to attend with survivors. Leadership and staff from Project Genesis have served on BIAC's Board of Directors and helped plan this Annual Conference. BIAC simply could not do the work we do without the support and partnership of Project Genesis.

## VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

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

### **Dorota Glosowicz and Jill Eller**

**Dorota Glosowicz** is an extremely valuable member of BIAC's volunteer staff—always lending a hand whenever needed. She always brings energy and enthusiasm to her assignments while maintaining a calm demeanor under even the most stressful situations. This is why she is often tasked with critical assignments like working registration at the *Walk for Thought* or *Valentine's Dance*; or checking in cyclists at the *Tour of Lights* Bike-a-thon. Perhaps even more important, Dorota is incredibly reliable and conscientious. When Dorota is given an assignment of any kind, there is no doubt that it will be done correctly and thoroughly. She is truly a gem and someone everyone at BIAC has come to count on.

A dependable volunteer is invaluable to any non-profit organization and for a small organization such as BIAC, it is truly critical. Each week, **Jill Eller** has been coming to BIAC's Windsor office and helping with whatever office tasks we send her way, whether it is helping to get BIAC mailings out on time, compiling Support Group new member packets, or assisting with other tasks. Not only is Jill reliable and consistent in her volunteerism, but she arrives each week with a bright, energetic smile, which enhances the spirits of every person in our office.