



The Brain Injury Association of Maryland

August 25, 2009

Dear BIAM Members and Friends:

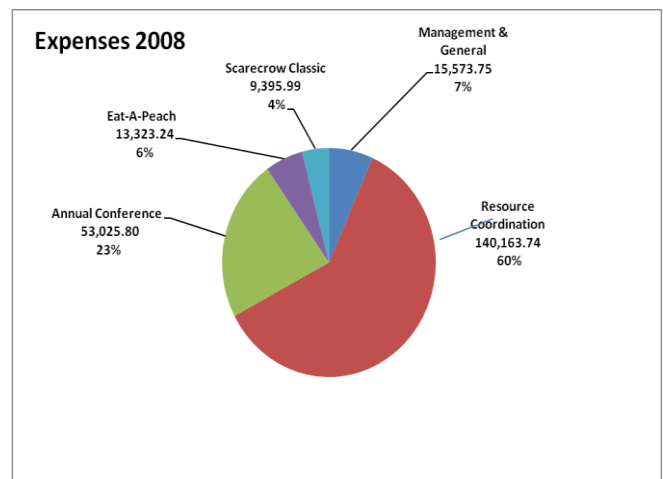
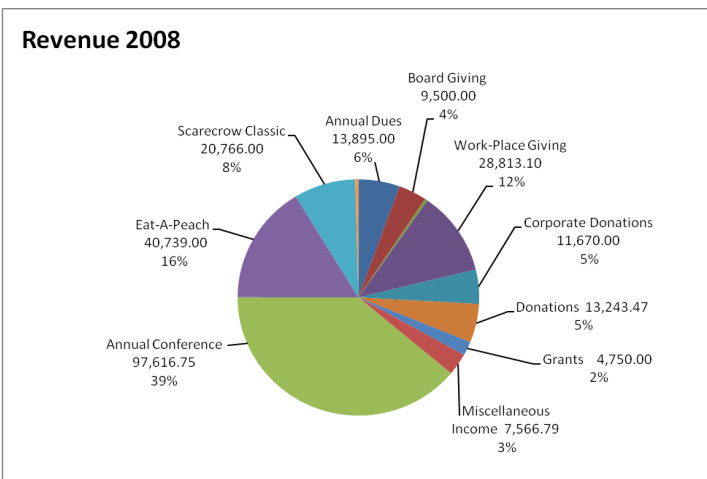
The Brain Injury Association of Maryland has seen an unprecedented demand for our services and expertise in the last 18 months. We need to increase our funding so that we can improve our capacity to serve more individuals and families and have a greater impact on the Maryland brain injury community. The organization is funded solely by private support: professional and individual/family membership dues, grants and charity campaigns, donations from businesses and the provider community, and sponsorship opportunities for our events.

In 2008, we responded to over 5,400 phone calls, emails, and office visits from survivors, family members and professionals. We assisted 884 new families and handled, on average, 22 requests a day. We offered these services free of charge and with limited technology. We were keeping paper records and using a phone system that was over 13 years old. We needed more efficient internal systems and new technology. Thanks to corporate support and private funding, and the hard work of the board and staff, we have finally been able to purchase new phones and a new computer system!

What else did we accomplish?

- Worked in collaboration with State agencies and stakeholders to:
 - ✓ Expand the Home and Community-based waivers so more individuals with brain injury could be served
 - ✓ Deliver the second State of Maryland Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board Legislative Report to the Governor
 - ✓ Maintain the State's Motorcycle Helmet Law and advocate for several other disability and funding initiatives
 - ✓ Improve and expand the Division of Rehab Services Acquired Brain Injury Employment Program
 - ✓ Develop Maryland's Money Follows the Person Demonstration Plan
- Increased concussion awareness in several school systems throughout the state and expanded mild brain injury services
- Increased communication and accountability for our servicemen and women who need brain injury related services
- Reinstated the Maryland Providers' Council, which aims to create improved transitional programming for the acquired brain injury population
- Worked with support groups and outreach councils to raise awareness about brain injury and prevention
- Provided numerous trainings and in-services to community providers, school systems and healthcare organizations
- Organized several major events, of which two had a record number of participants: Two-day Education Conference and Eat a Peach Challenge Bike Ride

How did we spend the money last year?



What is planned for next year?

- **Expand Case Management Services**- BIAM wants to include seminars on benefit coordination and access to public funding. In order to accomplish this, BIAM MUST increase funding so that we can increase staff to better meet the demands for resource coordination and case management services.
- **Data that makes a Difference**- BIAM houses the largest amount of brain injury data in the state but lacks an electronic database and reporting system. We want to purchase a database system that will allow us to analyze the needs of the community. This will help us focus our efforts on needed support services, education, prevention strategies and resource coordination.
- **Enhance the Annual Conference**- Our two-day education conference, one of the premier conferences offered by brain injury associations throughout the U.S., is moving to a new, larger location to accommodate the growing registration. We will continue to secure nationally recognized keynote speakers and seek corporate underwriting to help expand educational tracks and scholarships and to reach new professional groups, families and survivors. This year's keynote speaker is Lee Woodruff.
- **Advocate for Funding and Services** - BIAM wants to have a greater impact on State and federal policies and funding. Survivors and families are facing greater challenges while having rehab services limited or denied. BIAM wants to work with our national office, BIAA, to make sure that brain injury rehabilitation is incorporated into Health Care Reform.
- **Grow our Prevention and Awareness Programs**- There is no cure for brain injury – only prevention! BIAM wants to take advantage of the many opportunities to work with support groups, outreach councils and the public to increase awareness, prevent injuries and to minimize the severity of injury.
- **Build Community Capacity**- Maryland Medicaid, the Department of Defense and worker's compensation companies are still sending residents out of state for brain injury rehabilitation because we lack a full array of funded brain injury services and providers. We need to work with the current Maryland providers and support initiatives to expand their services and to encourage other disability community providers to expand their knowledge and mission.

We thank you so much for your contributions to BIAM in the past, and, though we know the economy has been tough on everyone, we need to ask you to continue your financial support. You know the quality of our work, how effective we can be and how wisely we use every dollar. We were there when you needed help, information and hope. We want to be there for the next family.

Please continue to support the important work of the Brain Injury Association of Maryland.

Sincerely,

Cathryn Winslow
President, Board of Directors

Annual Membership Meeting

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

6:30 – 8:30 PM at Kernan Hospital Conference Center

Featured Speaker – Dr. Vassilis Koliatsos “*Brain Injury and Repair: The Role of Regenerative Therapies*”

The meeting is open to the public. Please RSVP to 410-448-2924 or email to info@biamd.org