



Brain Injury Services of Southwest Virginia
creating partnerships...rebuilding lives

Wings of Hope

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Rooker's Leave Legacy of Hope and Healing

December 31st will mark the end of an era for the brain injury service community as Greg and Fran Rooker of the Jason Foundation and Brain Injury Services of SWVA (BISSWVA) retire. BISSWVA opened its doors with one employee in 2000 at the Rooker's home in the New River Valley. Headquartered in Roanoke with a staff of 22 people BISSWVA serves an area of 12,000 square miles of Southwest and Southside Virginia. The organization now offers three programs: Case Management, Community Support Services, and Community Living Connection (CLiC). The past fifteen years has seen growth and expansion of services but there is much more to be done. Fran and Greg retire knowing they have helped thousands of survivors and their families obtain needed services in their community.



A special Retirement Gala was held on November 7th honoring the achievements of the Rooker's throughout the community. It was a lovely evening shared by family, friends, service providers, and staff. Thank you Fran and Greg for leaving such a lasting legacy. Salute and Grazie, Fran and Greg!



Lt. Gov. Northam Special Guest at Fundraiser



Our Brain Injury Awareness Reception for 2015 was held this past April at the Shenandoah Club in Roanoke. We were proud to have Virginia Lt. Governor Ralph Northam as our featured speaker. In addition to being Lt. Governor, Dr. Northam is a practicing Pediatric Neurologist at Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters in Norfolk. He also serves as Assistant Professor of Neurology at Eastern Virginia Medical School. The Lt. Governor spoke about the importance of identification and prevention of concussions, especially among our youth. He has seen first-hand the devastating effects of concussions as well as other forms of brain injury. We'd like to thank Dr. Northam, his staff, and attendees for making this event a success!

Jaedyn is All Smiles

The Huffman's understand what raising a child with a brain injury is like. They can tell you not only about the struggles but the triumphs too. At only two and a half years old, little Jaedyn Huffman suffered a series of severe epileptic seizures which lead to a brain bleed followed by several other health conditions. After nearly a two month hospital stay, Jaedyn returned home developmentally delayed, and unable to walk or even feed herself.



Jaedyn's mother, Patty Huffman, recalls bringing her little girl home from the hospital and wondering where to turn for help. She says, "I began searching for help for my daughter when I found Brain Injury Services of SWVA on the Internet." "I wouldn't know what to do if it had not been for the help I received from Melissa, Jaedyn's case manager." Now at ten years old, she is using tones and other verbal cues to communicate with her family, teachers, and therapists.

BISSWVA was able to help the Huffman's obtain a wheelchair lift for their home to help Jaedyn enter and exit the home. Jaedyn's mom is most proud of the fact that her daughter has maintained her happy, sweet personality throughout the journey. Today she is able to attend school and enjoys listening to music, spending time with classmates, and playing with her younger sisters.

New CLiC for Veterans Program is Underway

BISSWVA is happy to announce that we have received a \$125,000 grant from the national Wounded Warriors Project to establish a CLiC for Veterans program. This new iteration of CLiC is open to Veterans aged 18 years or older with a documented traumatic brain injury (TBI). CLiC for Veterans pilot project groups start in January and April 2016. The program is designed to promote veteran independence, advance personal goals, improve quality of life, and encourage community reintegration. Email Stacey if you have a referral to this program: stacey@bisswva.org



BISSWVA EXPANDS INTO DANVILLE AND MARTINSVILLE AREAS

BISSWVA expanded services into Martinsville, Danville, Patrick County, Henry County, and Pittsylvania County in July. Two new case managers, Melody Justice, and Brooke Saunders were hired to provide services to the area. Please join us in welcoming them to our staff.



Melody Justice



Brooke Saunders



Amazon Smile

BISSWVA is a participating charity with Amazon's Smile program. Each time you order an item through the <https://smile.amazon.com/> website, a percentage of your purchase comes to our organization. Please remember us when you go online to shop. Once you're signed in, type "Brain Injury Services of SWVA" under "pick your own charitable organization" and hit "search."

A Special Thank You to Our Donors (April - September)

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Please consider sharing with those in need during this season of giving. Your donations make possible critically needed Case Management, CLiC, and Community Support Services. There is no cure for brain injury, but there is hope.



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www.bisswva.org

Our mission
 Our passion is to create and sustain an organization that helps brain injury survivors and their families in Southwest Virginia. Our goal is to make a positive, measurable difference in survivors' abilities to fulfill their service potential and optimize their reintegration into their families and communities.

Funding for brain injury case management services is provided in part by state general funds administered by the Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services.

BISSWVA.ORG
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