AHIF Spring "Huddy" Camp

AHIF SPRING "Huddy" CAMP

Date:  April 12-13, 2014
Age:  18 and up
Camp Fees:  $30.00 per person
T-Shirts:  $10.00 each (Optional)

Applications are accepted on a first come, first serve basis.
Call 205-823-3818 or 1-800-433-8802 to request your application. After you return the completed application and $30 camp fee, we will send you a confirmation letter and map.

AHIF APPLICATION/PAYMENT DEADLINE is MARCH 1, 2014

If accepted, CAMP ACCES APPLICATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 25, 2013

You can make a "Virtual" difference by simply using your computer. First visit our website and then follow the 4 easy steps below.

AHIF Website

www.alabamabraininjuryawareness.org

1) Email a copy of the poster to your friends.
2) Read the "Talking Points" and email each fact and/or tip to someone you know.
3) Email the www.ahif.org link so that friends can learn more about the resources we provide.
4) Visit the Alabama Head Injury Foundation on Facebook.

AHIF Spring "Huddy" Camp, joined us at the annual AHIF Spring fundraiser tournament. March 17, 2013.

Headlines

The Alabama Sports Concussion Information Displan Planning is Under Development

The Alabama Sports Concussion Law, passed in 2011, is intended to prevent, identify, and treat concussions, including how soon a student athlete can return to play. It applies to all athletic organizations statewide.

The Alabama Sports Concussion Displan Planning will get information out to parent, student athletes, educators, coaches and athletic associations, and will include guidelines, Sports Concussion Law, return to think and play, and other important concussion issues.

With funding from the Health Resources Services Administration, the U.S. Veterans Administration, and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the Alabama Head Injury Foundation is working with the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), to develop the Displan Planning.

The Plan will include Alabama specific materials, as well as state and national resources. Information and materials will be disseminated to schools, recreational and sports organizations, and parents, and organizations.

Celebrating on this plan are the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services, Veterans of Alabama, the Alabama Head Injury Foundation, Kohl's Think First Alabama, Advocacy Program, and Kohl's Think First Alabama. For information about concussions including prevention and treatment go to: www.cdc.gov/Concussion.

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC)

- All concussions are serious.
- Concussions occur without loss of consciousness.
- Your recognition and proper response to concussions, when they first occur, can mean recovery and prevent further injury, or even death.

In a U.S. service men and women return home from Iraq and Afghanistan, we are reminded that Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) is the signature injury of the wars we are fighting. Pat Reily, AHIF Resources Coordinator reports that in Clair County, she is working with Lakehead Hospital-Psychiatric Services, HPM, Eden Woods Rehabilitation Facilities, and several local vendors' support groups, such as the AHIF and DAV, to provide support and assistance to veterans who are survivors of TBI and/or PTSD.

The Cornerstone Café Veterans Support Group was formed in 2012 by concerned members of those organizations. Counselors facilitate the meetings where veterans and their family members are encouraged to share with the group any frustrations, concerns, or issues they are experiencing.

As issues emerge, the veteran and/or their family members have the option of (1) needing one-on-one with a professional from the group who has experience/knowledge in dealing with similar issues or (2) discussions with input from all of the professionals and volunteers involved.

In one case, the group was able to identify a volunteer driver to take a Veteran (and spouse) to the Birmingham VA Clinic. If a volunteer drive them to the front door of the VA those worries were completely eliminated. While it may seem a little thing, it makes a tremendous difference.

To this Veteran, on this day, a volunteer driver made a way home in record time. While it may seem a little thing, it makes a tremendous difference.

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Across the State AHIF Helps Veterans with TBI

An Alabama Veteran with a TBI

St Clair County is home to U.S. Veteran we'll call Jason. In 2005, Jason was a U.S. Marine serving in Afghanistan. His job was to go ahead of his unit to search for anything that might harm the unit. For months he performed duties without incident, however, one day when he was forever changed. An IED exploded and, as a result, he sustained a severe traumatic brain injury. Jason, now retired from the Marine Corps, lives in Pell City with his wife and 2 young children. He is experiencing difficulty with concentration, has short-term memory deficits, and severe headaches, light sensitivity, and has difficulty trying to retain new information. These issues, which are often seen after a TBI, were making it tough for Jason to keep his college work up to par and frustrating.

During a conversation with his AHIF Resource Coordinator, Pat Molley, he was referred to the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services for assessment of his specific needs and to help make the academic efforts more successful.

Mission: To improve the quality of life for people who have survived traumatic brain injuries and for their families

Programs & Services

Volunteers: 124 volunteers provided many hours of their time.
Recreational therapy: AHIF’s “Car Seats for Kids” Program
Safety/Patrol: AHIF and its partners, the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services, encourage even greater involvement to expand brain injury and help educate the public on brain injury prevention and awareness.
Neurobehavior Clinics: 26 clients and their families.

development of the AHIF and its partners, the American Academy of Certified Brain Injury Specialists – AACBIS.

Grassroots Citizen Advocacy in Alabama

The Alabama Citizen Advocacy Institute Traumatic Brain Injury Leadership Class of 2012, started by the NBDB Alabama TBI Grant, collected information on November 2, 2011 titled "A Look at the Alabama TBI Grant’s Accomplishments and looking as you are to be trained. The goal is to learn to advocate, using their own personal story concerning TBI, in their own communities and at all levels of government to support public policies that expand services and improve treatment for persons living with TBI in Alabama.

The Institute training model was from the Minnesota Brain Injury Alliance. Appropriately, during March, Brain Injury Awareness Month, the Class will meet again in Montgomery to see the State Legislature in action.

During fiscal year 2012, AHIF continued to address the needs of its constituency through a variety of programs and services.

Support and Services

Grants: 935,504
Contributions: 147,791
Funding: 55,105
United Way(s): 164,837
Recovery: 40,307

Recovery: 2012

Volunteer: Jim Alski
Volunteers: 3,315

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