



June is ABI Awareness Month



Ontario Brain Injury Association (OBIA) “Shine a Light On Brain Injury”

Every day is brain injury awareness day, but only *June* is National Brain Injury Awareness Month. Mind Forward Brain Injury Services Ontario is in its 30th year of serving individuals with acquired brain injury and since the beginning, has been committed to promoting provincial initiatives that bring awareness to the broader community. This year, throughout the entire month of June, we are taking the opportunity to host or co-host events and information sessions across the regions of Peel, Halton and Dufferin.

This year, we are proud to share events and activities that empower and support ABI survivors and their families as well as celebrate the role of community agencies that provide services for those touched by ABI. We invite you to join us, reach out, volunteer your time, or lend an ear...help us to give voice to the invisible disability. Let's mark Brain Injury Awareness Month together!

ABI Awareness Committee: *Marcia Sandoval, Nazish Maqsood, Sana Asghar, Emily Singh, Natasha D'Souza, Natasha Pastores, Shane Stanissa, Alysia Bissoondial, Andrea Ure, Keitha McNeil, Ivan Lukomski and Barbara Gilchrist. Please contact the Committee members for more information.*

You Should Know...

Follow us on Mind Forward's Twitter and Facebook page for updates throughout the month including the following ABI events:

- ❖ **Green Ribbons** will be distributed to all Mind Forward service streams for clients and staff to wear throughout the month of June.
- ❖ **“Trees of Hope”** - each service stream will receive a poster board Tree with leaf post-it notes for all clients and staff to write hopeful thoughts or gratitude's and placed on the Tree Trunk. By the end of June the Trees of Hope will be full of amazing thoughts. Each Service Stream is encouraged to **name** their “Tree of Hope” to be shared with the agency.
- ❖ **Seniors ABI Awareness Initiatives - Did you know that June is also Seniors Month in Ontario?** Over the last several weeks, many of our Seniors clients have been growing flowers to share with the community. On June 15th (which also happens to be Elder Abuse Awareness day) the Seniors team will be setting up educational booths at Allendale LTC from 9-11 and at Village of Erin Meadows LTC from 1-3 to spread awareness and hand out the flowers pots.
- ❖ **“Read All About It!”** - several local newspapers will be supporting the ABI community and helping to spread awareness over the course of the month. Keep your eyes open for articles featuring some of our very own clients in the Orangeville Citizen, the Orangeville Banner, the Oakville Beaver, Burlington News and more.



- ❖ **Inter-Agency Special Event** - join us on June 17th from 1-3pm as we join forces with several ABI agencies across Ontario for a Virtual Picnic. This 2-hour event will feature submissions from every corner of the province including our very own art collage.
- ❖ **Central West Picnic** - the Central West team will be hosting a Family and Caregiver Appreciation BBQ on June 23rd at the James Dick Quarry in Caledon from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- ❖ **Day Program Virtual Special Event** - on Friday, June 24th, the Day Services team is planning a fun virtual event for clients and staff. More details to come...we hope you can make it!
- ❖ **Mayoral Proclamation** - we are proud to receive the support of Oakville Mayor, Rob Burton, through a formal proclamation about ABI Awareness Month. You can view the official announcement on our website.
- ❖ **Mississauga Celebrates ABI Awareness Month** - Mississauga Mayor, Bonnie Crombie will be taking to social media to show her support of the ABI community. Also, for the first time ever, the Clock Tower at Mississauga City Hall will be lit up in green to recognize brain injury. We will share more information on this event soon.

But That's Not All...

We will continue to participate in and host events throughout the year to recognize and celebrate 30 years of Mind Forward supporting the ABI community. Join us on Sunday, August 21st for the annual **Mind Forward Picnic** at Mississauga Valley Park.