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BIA-MA Volunteers Raise \$1700 for the Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts

Volunteers for the Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts (BIA-MA) hosted a yard sale on Sunday September 25 raising more than \$1700 for the Ambassador Program. The sale, planned by local office volunteers to benefit BIA-MA's Ambassador Program, featured furniture, clothing, household goods, books and other items.

"We originally wanted to make \$1,000 by the end of the day," says Patty Carlson, Manager of Volunteers for BIA-MA and a resident of Marlboro. "Through a lot of hard work and good planning, we nearly doubled our expectations."

"Everybody was thrilled with the outcome; we had no idea what to expect," says Westborough resident and yard sale chair Joan Rauch. "Unlike a homeowner's yard sale, we didn't know how much stuff would be donated for the sale, but we had a great location and a good core group of people to help out."

The volunteers were inspired to organize a fundraiser after hearing about Ambassador volunteers "who travel around the state to increase awareness of brain injury and never ask to be reimbursed for their expenses."

The Ambassador Program is made up of survivor and family member speakers who share their stories with civic and community groups in an effort to promote awareness of brain injury and spread the message of prevention. Ambassador volunteers have spoken at Rotary, Lions and Kiwanis clubs as well as area schools and hospitals.

"I appreciate the 'volunteers-helping-volunteers' culture they have embraced," says Carlson. "The dedication of our volunteers is remarkable. The time and energy they gave is a testament to what a thoughtful group of individuals can accomplish."

In addition to Rauch, the planning committee was made of Westborough residents Nancy Soter, Claire Freeland, Megan Huber and Katie Atchue. Numerous other volunteers from Mendon, Upton, Shrewsbury and surrounding towns donated their time to the yard sale as well.

All items not sold were donated to other organizations such as Savers, Habitat for Humanity, Goodwill, the Salvation Army, libraries, veterans' organizations and senior centers in an effort to support other community organizations.

The Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts (BIA-MA), a private, non-profit organization, provides support to brain injury survivors and their families, offers programs to prevent brain injuries, educates the public on the risks and impact of brain injury, and advocates for legislation. Visit us at www.biama.org

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