

Volunteers raise \$1,700 for Brain Injury Association

By Staff reports

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WESTBOROUGH — Volunteers for the Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts raised more than \$1,700 for the organization's Ambassador Program through a yard sale at Tuft's Machine Lot on Sept. 25.

The sale, planned by local office volunteers featured furniture, clothing, household goods, books and other items.

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

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.

The volunteers organized the 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."

"Everybody was thrilled with the outcome; we had no idea what to expect," said Joan Rauch, chairwoman of the yard sale. "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."

All the items not sold at the yard sale were donated to organizations such as Savers, Habitat for Humanity, Goodwill, the Salvation Army, libraries, veterans' organizations and senior centers.

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 **www.biama.org**

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