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Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts Southeastern Regional Office Celebrates 10 Years

Two Employees Who Started Office Celebrate a Decade with BIA-MA

(Westborough, Mass, December 15, 2016) - [The Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts](#) (BIA-MA) is pleased to announce the 10-year anniversary of the opening of its Southeastern Regional office in East Wareham, MA.

The office serves southeastern Massachusetts, Cape Cod, and the Islands and is staffed with professionals who provide information, resources, support, and informal counseling to individuals with brain injuries, families, and professionals, including 17 support groups and events in the region.

Two BIA-MA team members, Sandy Topalian, Ph.D., CBIST and Zelinda Pereira, CPI, CBIST helped open the doors of the Southeastern office in 2006.

“It has been the best of times...ten years of spreading the word about BIA-MA and working with our most delightful survivors, families, and professionals in the Southeastern Region,” Topalian said. Over the past decade, as the manager of the regional office, Topalian has helped introduce BIA-MA to the region, providing 17 support groups, presented caregiver conferences and workshops, hosted recreational events, and creating the “Soaring Without Limits; Healing Through the Arts” touring art exhibit, which showcases artwork created, in therapeutic art classes, by survivors of brain injury and their caregivers.

Pereira, who is the Information & Resource Specialist, emigrated from Portugal over 40 years ago and is a certified Portuguese Interpreter. “It’s been 10 years since a group of dedicated people came together to open a BIA-MA office in the Southeastern Region to serve the brain injury survivors and their families, to spread awareness in the community and to give a voice and guidance to those affected by brain injury,” Pereira said of the milestone.

The Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts is the first and oldest organization in the state to offer support and resources to brain injury survivors and their families. This, in addition to providing prevention programs, educational trainings, and legislative advocacy. In September, BIA-MA completed three Walk & Roll for Brain Injury events across the state of Massachusetts, and will continue furthering their mission to create a better future for survivors and their families.

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The Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts (BIA-MA) is dedicated to improving the lives of those affected by brain injury while reducing its incidence and impact through prevention programs, education and training and legislative advocacy. Founded in 1982, the BIA-MA is the primary conduit between survivors and an extensive network of facilities, programs and professionals including 40 statewide support groups. The Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts is a chartered affiliate of the Brain Injury Association of America. For more information, visit www.biama.org or call (800) 242-0030.