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Brain injury survivors and local poets to showcase collaborative art in Brockton

Art and poetry exhibit arrives for second year at Brockton Public Library

(Westborough, Mass, March 30, 2017) The [Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts \(BIA-MA\)](#) is pleased to invite the community to join them for *Soaring Without Limits: Healing Through the Arts*, an art and poetry exhibit opening on April 1 at Brockton Public Library.

The gallery is comprised of works of art created by brain injury survivors and caregivers, paired with poems written by local poets inspired by these works. This is the second year of the exhibit, a collaboration between BIA-MA, Brockton Public Library and the Massachusetts Cultural Council. The exhibit is supported in part by a grant from the Wareham Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

“One of the truly important things about this exhibit is that many of the artworks featured are the result of brain injury survivors being introduced to creating art for the first time,” BIA-MA Southeastern Regional Manager Sandy Topalian said. “This is a fantastic opportunity for the brain injury community to join together with local artists for a truly unique showcase, as the poets are inspired by their art and not the brain injury.”

While the exhibit is open until April 28, there will be a special Artists & Poets Reception held on April 5 at the Brockton Public Library. There will be an open house from 12:00-2:00pm, followed by poetry readings from 2:00-5:00pm. Many of the works featured at the exhibit will be available for sale, with 70% of the proceeds going to the artists.

At last year's reception, many described it as "emotional," as some of the artists and poets met for the first time.

"It is so affirming for a brain injury survivor to see their art on a wall and then to find that a poet personally selected their work as inspiration—to know that somebody appreciates what they've done, when it was a bit daunting to even tackle in the first place...it can be emotional for us all," BIA-MA Executive Director Nicole Godaire said. "It is those kinds of moments that really drive us to further our mission and create more opportunities for survivors to collaborate with their local community."

BIA-MA also extends special thanks to Brockton High School's Graphic Communications department for donating the program book for the exhibit.

BIA-MA 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. Throughout this past month, BIA-MA will have joined the Brain Injury Association of America to promote Brain Injury Awareness Month with their #NotAloneInBrainInjury campaign.

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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.bjama.org or call (800) 242-0030.