

# DAMI News

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

SEPTEMBER 12, 2005

## DAMI Board

Bob Freeman  
Chair

Joanne Becklund  
Secretary

David Moseman  
Treasurer

Mary Jean  
Babcock

Marlys Burseth

Beth Gendler

Stephanie  
Strickland

Lois Swope

## staff

Ron Cottone  
Exec. Dir.

This issue of DAMI News is distributed with the generous help of the Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

## Summer Review

### Camping Program

From mid-May to mid-August, DAMI assessed registrations of campers with disabilities who had registered for summer camp. Each assessment in-

terviews was sent to camp staff to help them make accommodations in programming so that every camper could be included. We assessed 182 registrations and assigned an Integration Specialist 10 times.

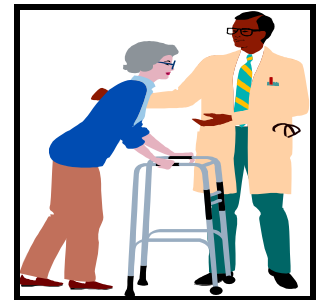
### Activities at DAMI

1. Assessments
  2. Board Changes
  3. Grant Awards
- Info: 612-230-3264

cluded a phone interview with the camper's parents or guardian. Information from the in-

### Board Changes

One term expired, but two new people were elected at the DAMI Annual Meeting: Marlys Burseth Of North UMC and Stephanie Strickland of Centennial UMC.



AGING CAN IMPAIR OR DIS- ABLE, BUT ACCOMMODA- TIONS WILL LIMIT OR ELIMI- NATE HANDICAPS.

### Grant Awards

In June, DAMI received two grant awards totaling \$4000 for establishing Inclusion Teams in local faith communities.

## DAMI & NAMI Cooperate

At the Basilica of St. Mary in Minneapolis, church families living with disability approached their priest for help to address issues of developmental dis-

ability (DD) and mental illness (MI) in parish programming. DAMI and the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) were invited to participate along with

volunteers from the Basilica to do initial planning. Over the next year, the Basilica will create new programs to support families living with DD and MI.

### Contents

Summer Review; DAMI & NAMI Cooperate	1
Traumatic Brain Injury; Child Inclusion Survey	2
Impairment, Disability, Handicap; Annual Accessibility Audit	3
DAMI Yearly Memberships	4

## Traumatic Brain Injury

TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury) in the United States is a silent epidemic and a major public health problem. The Centers for Disease Control report that 1.5 million Americans will sustain a TBI annually. 50,000 people will die annually from TBI, and 80,000 people will experience long-term disabilities following TBI. There are currently 5.3 million Americans living with a disability as a result of TBI. Add 4.7 million Americans who are affected by stroke and these 10 million people make brain injury the second most prevalent injury and disability in the U.S.A.

About 75% of TBI is caused by auto crashes and falls. Gunshot wounds to the brain are the number one cause of TBI fatalities. 94,000 people live with brain injury in Minnesota. The risk of TBI is highest among adolescents, young adults and those people

older than 75. The cost of TBI in the U.S. is estimated to be over \$48 billion annually.

The brain is a little firmer than the consistency of Jell-O. It is delicate and easily injured. In a sudden stop, the brain slams into the hard inside surface of the skull. Three things can happen: bruising, tearing and swelling. (see [www.tbiguide.com](http://www.tbiguide.com)) Bruising causes bleeding in the brain; tearing causes neurons to be destroyed; swelling causes pressure to build which leads to headaches, coma and even death.

The consequences of TBI are physical, emotional and cognitive. *Physically* a person with TBI may experience seizures; muscle spasticity; sight, smell and taste impairment; headache, fatigue and balance problems. *Emotional* consequences can include anxiety, depression, impulsive-

ness, agitation and difficulty understanding how behaviors can affect others. *Cognitive* consequences can include memory loss, slowed thinking, attention deficit, decreased vocabulary skills, spacial disorientation, disorganized thinking, impaired judgment, inability to multi-task or to initiate and complete tasks.

Marriages and families are highly stressed when a family member sustains a TBI. A family's faith community can provide support by learning about TBI, helping the family assess its needs and helping create a plan for dealing with the new reality. It should also make accommodations in worship and programming and address the family's spiritual and faith development needs. ([www.biausa.org](http://www.biausa.org))

### **TIPS for Starting an Inclusion Team, Committee or Task Force**

1. Identify 12 people in your congregation who want to work for inclusion.
2. Meet with your pastor and DAMI to discuss your goals.
3. Find a place in the structure that will welcome you as a working sub-group, such as Outreach or Missions.
4. Use the bulletin & newsletter to describe your work for the congregation.

### **DAMI NEWS**

Disability Awareness Ministries, Inc.  
MN Church Center  
122 West Franklin Ave.  
Mpls., MN 55404-2435  
612-230-DAMI (3264)  
[ron.cottone@disability-awareness.org](mailto:ron.cottone@disability-awareness.org)

DAMI News is published by Disability Awareness Ministries, Inc.

612-230-DAMI (3264)

DAMI is an independent 501(c)3 non-profit, founded in 1991, whose mission is to remove barriers in faith communities to people with disabilities through education and training.

## Child Inclusion Survey

As the new program year begins in most faith communities, children move into a new grade or new children enter the program. What is known about each child's needs? Very little is known unless parents are asked to provide information. When parents register their children for religious education classes, it is the best

opportunity to learn about their children's needs. Attach a Child Inclusion Survey to the registration form and request that it be filled out and returned.

Information from the survey should be kept confidential and secured. This information can then be used to develop a religious education plan for each child. It can also be

used to make adjustments and accommodations in teaching and activities so that each child is included. Basically the survey asks parents to give information about their child that will help staff individualize teaching and accommodate needs. For a Child Inclusion Survey, call the DAMI office at 612-230-DAMI (3264).

## Religious Disability Resources

### American Baptists

Rev Rosalie Norman-  
McNaney: Email to:  
rmcnahey@abc-usa.org

### Episcopal

ecdeaf.com  
ahealingministry.com

### Jewish Community

uscj.org/accessibility/  
  
jfcsmpls.org/Services/  
services.html#Inclusion

### Lutheran

elca.org/disability

### Mennonite

adnetonline.org

### Presbyterian

pcusa.org/phewa/  
pdc.htm

### Unitarian

uua.org/programs/justice  
/accessibility/

### United Methodist

gbgm-umc.org/DISC/  
**National Organizations**  
aamr.org  
joniandfriends.org  
nami.org  
nod.org

## Impairment, Disability, Handicap

An **impairment** is any loss or abnormality of structure or function, be it psychological, physiological or anatomical. A **disability** is any restriction or inability to perform an activity in the manner or range considered normal for a human being. The restriction or inability results from an **impairment**. A **handicap** is a disadvantage for a given individual that limits or prevents the fulfillment of a role that is normal. As traditionally used, **impairment** refers to a problem with a structure or organ of the body; **disability** is a functional limitation with regard to a particular activity; and

**handicap** refers to a disadvantage in filling a role in life relative to a peer group. <http://www.pediatrics.emory.edu/NEONATOLOGY/DPC/Impairment%20MX.htm>

Among these three terms, the one that is misused the most is **handicap**. It is often used when **impairment** or **disability** would be more appropriate. For example, a person without legs in a wheel chair is often referred to as **handicapped**, when in actuality the person is **impaired** by a loss of anatomical structure; has a **disability** with regard to running but not to reading or cooking; and is **handicapped** by stairways

but not by ramps. When we use labeling terms improperly, we pass judgments on people unfairly.

Another example of improper term use is the phrase *handicapped accessibility*. It is an oxymoron; a *non sequitur*. It makes no sense. The person in the wheel chair encountering stairs is **handicapped**, or put at a disadvantage, by the stairs but has access with a ramp. When people have no access, they are **handicapped**. When they have access, they are not **handicapped**. Removing barriers creates access for people to perform their roles and not be **handi-**

## Annual Accessibility Audit

Resolution 43 of the United Methodist Church 2004 Book of Resolutions resolves "that all United Methodist churches shall conduct an annual audit of their facilities to discover what barriers impede full participation of people with disabilities. Plans shall be made ... for the elimination of all barriers, including architectural,

communication, and attitudinal barriers. The Accessibility Audit for Churches ... shall be used in filling out the annual church/charge conference reports." The Accessibility Audit for Churches is available from the Service Center, General Board of Global Ministries, 7820 Reading Road, Cincinnati, OH 45222, 1-800-305-

9857. If you need advice or help in filling out this audit or in reporting the results, please contact DAMI at 612-230-3264. If you are not United Methodist but have a similar responsibility to your governing structure, DAMI can help you as well, especially through the creation of an Inclusion Team or Committee.

# DAMI News

NONPROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN

Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church

Disability Awareness Ministries, Inc.  
122 West Franklin Avenue, Room # 7  
Minneapolis, MN 55404-2435

## DAMI NEWS

### DONATIONS

With four months left in 2005, DAMI is gearing up for a busy fall season. There has been strong interest expressed in our new Inclusion Team Program. We will continue establishing inclusion teams in as many faith communities as possible, including those with few resources. Please consider a gift this fall to support this important work.

## DAMI Yearly Memberships

DAMI is a membership non-profit organization. The bylaws grant voting privileges at the Annual Meeting to persons who join DAMI and whose total gifts equal or exceed \$25 or 10 hours of volunteer service in a calendar year. (Gifts of less than \$25 are still welcome!)

### Contribution Structure

- \$25 Friend
- \$50 Supporter
- \$100 Advocate
- \$500 Partner
- \$1000 Sustainer
- \$5000 Benefactor

### JOIN DAMI TODAY !!!

**Yes ! Sign me up for a one-year membership in DAMI !!!**

New Member     Renewing     Upgrade

My check is enclosed for \$\_\_\_\_\_ payable to DAMI

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Email \_\_\_\_\_