

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **The Annual Summer Picnic.**
- **Free & Fun Activities**
- **Welcome!**
- **Graduates and a New Star!**
- **Helpful Resources.**

You Don't Want To Miss This!

The Annual Summer Picnic is fast approaching and excitement is in the air as your case managers put together this **fun** and **free** event! The picnic takes place on July 12th from 1pm-3pm and will be held at the Vienna Community Center, located at 120 Cherry St SE in Vienna. Lots of planning has gone into making this event a success, and you may be interested in the exciting additions to this year's picnic. In addition to having the wonderful Therapeutic Recrea-

tion staff on hand to provide fun **games, crafts,** and special care for children of all abilities **face painting** and a **balloon artist** have also been added! And the food is shaping up to be phenomenal! Brooke Annessa, the newest pediatric case manager at Brain Injury Services, had this to say "I'm hungry just thinking about all the baking I get to do". Not only will wonderful baked goods be on hand, everything from fresh fruit

to Sloppy Joes has been added to the menu! For more information, or to RSVP for the event, contact Brooke Annessa at 703-451-8881 Ext: 226 or Jo Thompson at Ext: 230



Don't Miss The Amazing Balloon Artist from 1:30-2:30!!!

Need Extra Support? How About A Break?

Parent Support Groups

A professionally facilitated group held at Inova Fairfax Hospital where parents of a child with a brain injury come together to discuss challenges & learn more about brain injury from professionals. **A complimentary activity program is always provided for children of all ages and abilities.** Groups are held Saturday's from 2pm-4pm. Upcoming groups

include Partnering with Your Child's School (September 12th) and Family & Holiday Stress (December 12th). For more information contact Betsy Zeigler at 703-451-8881 Ext:229.

Parents' Night Out

An event where we provide the fun & food for the kids while **parents enjoy a much needed evening out!** This event is for both

your child with a disability and their siblings; with professional staff on hand to meet the special needs of your child. This event typically occurs at the Mott Center in Fairfax VA and our next event will be held in August—Back to School shopping anyone?! Please contact Brooke Annessa at 703-451-8881 Ext: 226

***Both Events Are Free!**

Being A Sibling Isn't Easy...

By Brooke Annessa



As a little sister to a big brother with a disability I know it's not always easy! Siblings face a unique set of challenges and concerns; but we also have the opportunity to learn and grow from our experiences. It's not always easy – But it can ALWAYS be an adventure! **Sibshops** provide an opportunity for siblings of children with a

disability to come together with other siblings and learn to be an even better brother or sister! We provide lunch, crafts, games, and discussion activities that help everyone learn new ways to share, play, and interact with their siblings! This is a free event and all materials and food are provided.

Parents do not need to remain in the building. Sibshops are held at the Pennino Building in Fairfax VA on Saturdays from 11 am to 2pm – Our next event will be ***Frightfully Fun on October 24th.*** Contact Brooke at 703-451-8881 Ext: 226.

See you there!

Welcome Brooke!



Brooke pictured with her brother, Brad.

The Child & Adolescent Program at Brain Injury Services welcomes **Brooke Annessa** as a new Pediatric Case Manager! Brooke has had the special experience of growing up with a brother, Brad, who has Downs syndrome. She

credits her career choice, along with many other things, to having Brad in her life. Some of you may remember Brooke from her previous internship here at BIS; she recently received her Masters of Social Work from Vir-

ginia Commonwealth University and we are delighted to welcome her back to our team! **Brooke can be reached at 703-451-8881 Ext: 226.**



Congratulations! Grads & Stars!

Graduates!

The Class of 2009 is certainly headed for great things with these three graduates among them! **Kylee Chuday** is graduating from Woodbridge High School, **Shriya Malla** graduates from T.C. Williams

High School, and **Kane Whittington** graduates from Stonewall Jackson High School!

A Rising Star!

Amanda Ebert performed her skip-it routine to Alan Jackson "Little Bitty" at Take

One Drama's "A Variety Show". Amanda is pictured below.



Helpful Resources For You & Your Family...

*The following resources are not affiliated with Brain Injury Services

* **Support group for parents of children with epilepsy** is being held at Mclean Bible Church and childcare is provided by reservation. Call 703-639-2000 EXT: 3438 for more information.

* Safe Kids USA has launched a new informational website entitled “**The how and why of keeping your kids safe from injury**”.
www.safekids.org/stages/index.html

* Considering **summer camp**?
Try this website:
<http://www.pwcs.edu/specialized/PRC/announcements/summercampSpEd09.pdf>

* **Disability Navigator** helps locate a range of services available to individuals with disabilities.
www.Disabilitynavigator.org

* The Consumer Product Safety Commission has launched a new **crib safety** website. www.cpsc.gov/cribs.html

* The 4th Annual **C.A.S.T. for Kids** event, a boating event for kids with disabilities is being held in VA on September 19th.
www.castforkids.org

Have an idea or story to share with us?

We would LOVE to hear from you!

703-451-8881



Your Pediatric Team At Brain Injury Services



Pictured Left - Right: Betsy Zeigler (Ext: 229), Jo Thompson (Ext: 230), and Brooke Annessa (Ext: 226)

**Happy Summer
Everyone!**