

Spina Bifida Association of Illinois

Annual Report 2007



To Our Members and Stakeholders

Over the past year, the Spina Bifida Association launched a very successful outreach, information and educational campaign which focused on the importance of daily consumption of folic acid among women of child-bearing years. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention clearly support these efforts based on the scientific studies that have confirmed the consumption of folic acid greatly reduces the incidence of Spina Bifida and other neural tube defects. Our campaign materials were created in both English and Spanish and were carried through banner and bus advertisements throughout the Chicago Transit Authority. Additionally, our press and media outreach focused on state-wide messages to all women of child-bearing years in Illinois. Illinois' efforts were part of a national campaign to reduce Spina Bifida and other neural tube birth defects.

On the state-wide services front, the Spina Bifida Association of Illinois continued to provide and support our adult groups in the Chicago area as well as Central Illinois. Key to our success has been our volunteer leadership who conducts as well as coordinates the activities of these groups. SBA of IL is committed to expanding our adult programming and now offers week-long adults-only session at our Camp Ability® in August. Our plans for the next few years include year-round weekend programming for adults at camping sites, providing social as well as informational opportunities.

We continue to be amazed at our volunteer leadership and generous donors who provide close to 100% of our funding. The Spina Bifida Association of Illinois relies solely on contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations who give to our programs and our special events to fund a variety of initiatives. SBA of IL works closely with the volunteers and committees for the Golf Outings, Bowl-a-Thon, Walk-and-Roll-thon, Fashion Show, and First Look for Charity at the Chicago Auto Show to raise the funds to fund our programs. Our friends at the Windy City Corvettes club continue to give generously from their hearts to make a significant difference in our efforts each year. And, it is through these efforts that we were able to end the year on a positive financial note.

Spina Bifida

*(open spine) is the nation's leading disabling birth defect. It occurs when the spinal cord of a baby does not close properly during the first few weeks of development. The effects of the condition vary from minor back problems to paraplegia, hydrocephalus and bowel and bladder dysfunction. Research studies indicate that if a woman takes 400 mg of folic acid, a B vitamin, daily **before** becoming pregnant and during the first three months of pregnancy, the number of births involving Spina Bifida could be reduced by 70 percent.*

We know that we have great volunteer leadership and in the early part of 2008 we welcomed our new Executive Director, Amy Maggio, to SBA of IL. We are confident that she will bring energy, passion and fundraising abilities to our efforts and will create new opportunities for programs for kids, adults and families affected by Spina Bifida.

Again, on behalf of the board of directors of SBA of IL, our heartfelt thanks to all of our volunteers and donors who give us their time, talent and resources each and every day.



*Scott J. Munkvold
President*



*Amy N. Maggio
Chief Executive Officer*

Spina Bifida Association of Illinois offers:

- Direct services, including Camp Ability[®] and scholarships
- Assistance to families, including referrals and networking opportunities
- Educational services, including seminars, meetings and publications
- Advocacy for improving care of and services to persons with Spina Bifida
- Public affairs programming to build community awareness about Spina Bifida.



Summary of 2007 Activities

Since 1989, our **Camp Ability[®]** program has offered youngsters and young adults with Spina Bifida unique opportunities to experience traditional camping activities combined with guidance in developing their independent living skills.

The independence program focuses on daily group activities to build group cohesiveness and improve understanding of Spina Bifida. Independence coordinators also work with individual campers to help them develop and meet personal goals. Many adults now attending schools of higher education or pursuing careers credit Camp Ability with laying the groundwork for the self-confidence they need to succeed.

In 2007, more than 90 campers in three separate age groups participated in activities, including swimming in a wheelchair-accessible pool, boating, archery, art, horse-back riding and a thrilling high ropes course. The week-long camping sessions were held in an outdoor center in Bloomington, Illinois.

Continuing a long-standing program of awarding **scholarships** to young adults with Spina Bifida who attend four-year and junior colleges, graduate programs or technical schools, during 2007 SBA of IL awarded eleven scholarships for post secondary education totaling \$12,500.

In addition, the Valiant Scholarship, named in honor of the late Bill Valiant, former president and strong supporter of SBA of IL and of the national Spina Bifida organization, was awarded to a young woman for demonstrating outstanding academic achievement and leadership skills

in 2007. And, a scholarship funded by the Pro-Am bowling event was awarded for the first time.

We continued our **public information** efforts to encourage women of child-bearing age to include adequate levels of folic acid in their diets to help prevent Spina Bifida and other neural tube defects. With the support of the Kiwanis organization, we developed advertisements calling attention to the importance of folic acid which appeared on selected Chicago Rapid Transit lines and on back panels of Chicago buses for a two-month period. In addition, SBA of IL personnel appeared on television news programs featuring folic acid information.

To **assist families**, packets of pertinent information are distributed to new parents or guardians of children with Spina Bifida and to schools attended by the children. Our traditional family picnic and holiday party provided opportunities for parents, youngsters and young adults to network, sharing medical and social experiences and other aspects of living with Spina Bifida.

A newly-formed **adult group** met several times during the year at various locations to hear speakers discuss the range of services available in the Chicago area to people with disabilities.

The **quarterly newsletter, Crossroads**, includes information and sources of assistance for persons with Spina Bifida and their families. The enhanced SBA of IL web site is continually revised to include current news about Spina Bifida plus information about activities.

Central Illinois Activities

The Central Illinois group continued to expand its activities and participation. The group held monthly meetings featuring speakers on topics related to Spina Bifida and sponsored two family gatherings. A bowling party and Walk and Roll-a-Thon fundraisers combined fun with fundraising.

Fundraising

Grants and donations from philanthropic organizations, corporations and local charitable groups are important sources of income. In addition, benefits organized by SBA of IL families and friends have grown into annual events that provide substantial financial support.

- The Windy City Corvettes automobile club for 18 years has made generous contributions to SBA of IL. Many Windy City Corvettes members also participated in the annual Chicago Auto Show benefit preview, First Look for Charity, which is an important source of our revenue. The event is sponsored by the Chicago Automobile Trade Association, comprised of new car dealers of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana.
- The Northern Illinois Walk and Roll-a-Thon, founded by the Marnell family thirteen years ago, has raised over \$125,000 in that period. In 2007, the Walk was combined with the family picnic, which again featured rides in snappy Corvette automobiles driven by members of the Windy City Corvettes club.
- For the seventh year, the Ron Zicha family and their friends, who include professional bowlers, organized a Pro-Am tournament. Professional bowlers from around the country participated in the tournament, co-sponsored by Comcast.
- The annual O'Malley family pub party each spring has supported SBA of IL for more than a decade.
- The September golf outing, organized by volunteers, grew to a capacity crowd of nearly 150 golfers.

2007 Highlights

- *Adult Advisory Group
- *New website
- *New name
- *Scholarships for 11 students
- *First scholarship from Comcast/Pro-Am Bowling Tournament
- *Successful fund-raising by bowlers, bicyclists, walkers and rollers, golfers and Corvette fanciers
- *First fashion show
- *Camp Ability
- *Folic acid educational ad campaign on buses and elevated lines in Chicago

- Central Illinois sponsors a candlelight bowling party and a Walk-a-Thon. Supporters of the 2007 events included the Central Illinois Corvette Club and the Normal (IL) Police Benevolent Association.

Two unique fundraising events took place during the year. In August, Tim Burkhart, whose daughter has Spina Bifida, and friend Rick Horton completed a 500-mile bike tour touching four states. Friends and family pledged some \$9,000 in donations for the cyclists' achievement.

A Fall Fashion Show featuring contemporary Chicago designers introduced many attendees to the Spina Bifida community. The event featured an appearance by international businessman Graham Webb, MBE, who has Spina Bifida. Both events drew attention from local media.

We are deeply grateful to all who have organized, attended and participated in events to support our activities.

Financial Report

A number of programs, especially Camp Ability, require substantial professional participation with corresponding financial outlays. For a number of years, SBA of IL reported a downturn in revenue, but in 2007, we posted positive results from increased donations and tight budget controls.

INCOME SOURCES 2007

Public, corporate and foundation donations and grants	\$ 95,847
Special Events	256,910
Camp Ability income	90,538
Membership dues and donations	18,540
Other income	22,225

TOTAL **\$ 484,060**

EXPENSES 2007

Outreach programs	\$ 206,767
Camp Ability	77,781
Assistance programs	15,640
Fundraising	76,098
General and administrative	41,497

TOTAL **\$ 417,783**

The Association's auditor is ECS Financial Services. Accounting practices are consistent with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles for not-for profit organizations. Contributions in kind are excluded from financial reporting. Audited financial statements are available from the Spina Bifida Association of Illinois.

Founded in 1969, Spina Bifida Association of Illinois is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization.

Donors

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 Alden Bennett Construction Co.
 Aileen S. Andrew Foundation
 John W. Anderson Foundation
 Anonymous
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Amvets Post #66
 Central DuPage Kiwanis Foundation
 Central Illinois Corvettes
 IPA Charities
 Knights of Columbus
 Palatine Presbyterian Women
 Respite Care Services, Inc.
 SBA St. Louis
 SBA WI
 St. John United Church of Christ
 Wheaton Jr. Woman's Club
 Windy City Corvettes

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