

# **NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services and the Head Injury Association of North Dakota**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Contacts: Richard Ott, executive director, Head Injury Association of North Dakota, 701-255-2120; or LuWanna Lawrence, assistant public information officer, N.D. Department of Human Services, 701-328-1892

***March is Brain Injury Awareness Month***

## **“Cranestorm” Takes Flight to Shed Light on Brain Injuries**

An ancient Japanese legend promises that anyone who folds a thousand origami bird-like cranes will be granted a wish by a crane, such as long life or recovery from illness or injury. The Head Injury Association of North Dakota and the N.D. Department of Human Services have teamed up to launch “*Cranestorm – Wishes in Flight*,” an effort to create one paper crane for every North Dakotan living with a brain injury.

A *Cranestorm* folding event will take place on **Wednesday, March 7, 2012**, from **2 to 2:30 p.m.**, during the “*Mind Matters 2012*” Brain Injury Conference at the **Radisson Hotel** in Bismarck.

“There are about 13,000 North Dakotans living with a traumatic brain injury,” said Richard Ott, executive director of the Head Injury Association of North Dakota. “The purpose of *Cranestorm* is to raise awareness and educate people about brain injuries and the lasting effect they can have on a person’s life.”

An origami crane is created with simple step-by-step instructions using colorful square paper. Each crane takes about eight minutes to create depending on the crafter’s level of experience.

Ott said volunteers are needed to help fold 13,000 cranes to complete the project this year. Businesses, schools, churches, clubs, and other organizations are invited to host *Cranestorm* folding events throughout the state. Paper supplies and assembly directions are available free of charge from the Head Injury Association of North Dakota and the Department of Human Services.

The cranes will be used to create one large piece of artwork that will be displayed at the State Capitol in March 2013 and at other community events to help raise public awareness about brain injuries.

For more information on “*Cranestorm – Wishes in Flight*” or about brain injury services and supports available in the state, contact the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Division of the N.D. Department of Human Services at 1-701-328-8920, toll-free 1-800-755-2719 or ND Relay TTY 1-800-366-6888 or the Head Injury Association of North Dakota at 1-877-525-2724 or 1-701-255-2120.

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