

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Brain Injury Awareness Day is March 12 at the State Capitol**

*Includes Colorful Artwork Display of 13,000 Hand-Crafted Origami Cranes*

Bismarck, N.D. – As part of a month-long traumatic brain injury awareness effort, the Head Injury Association of North Dakota and other partnering organizations will hold a Brain Injury Awareness Day at the State Capitol on Tuesday, March 12, 2013, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The centerpiece of the awareness day includes a colorful display of 13,000 hand-crafted origami cranes. Each paper bird represents a North Dakotan living with a traumatic brain injury.

“The purpose of the awareness day is to gather advocates, caregivers, providers, and others to talk about traumatic brain injuries and what support services and resources are available to help people and families affected by a brain injury,” said Richard Ott, executive director of the Head Injury Association of North Dakota.

“*Cranestorm – Wishes in Flight*,” an effort to raise awareness and educate people about brain injuries and the lasting effect they can have on a person’s life was launched in March 2012. Volunteers from across the state spent the last year folding the origami cranes that will be part of the large piece of artwork on display during the Brain Injury Awareness Day.

The event will also feature displays near the legislative chambers with a variety of educational materials on the causes, treatments, and prevention strategies for traumatic brain injuries.

In recognition of the importance of supporting people affected by brain injuries, Governor Dalrymple has proclaimed March *Brain Injury Awareness Month*. His proclamation is online at [www.nd.gov/dhs/services/mentalhealth/](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/mentalhealth/).

Families caring for individuals with traumatic brain injuries and individuals affected by traumatic brain injuries who need information and support are encouraged to contact the Head Injury Association of North Dakota at 877-525-2724 or 701-255-2120 or by e-mail at [rdott2@bis.midco.net](mailto:rdott2@bis.midco.net).

The N.D. Department of Human Services is the lead state agency serving people dealing with traumatic brain injuries and their families. The department contracts with providers to offer supports and services in the state.

For more information about brain injury services and supports, contact the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Division of the N.D. Department of Human Services at 701-328-8920, toll-free 800-755-2719 or ND Relay TTY 800-366-6888.

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