



# Spring 2015 Newsletter

Hanson House  
TBI Clubhouse  
TBIDirector@aol.com

173 Front Street  
Berea, Ohio 44147  
(440) 234-9900

## A Snapshot of 2014...

Thanks again to all our golfers, sponsors, and donors! Your support of our golf outing this past August allows us to continue another year of successful service.



**Serving area returning veterans**



The photo above highlights the 11th fairway—our veteran's green honoring those who have served. VFW #3345 and American Legion Post 91 as well as a state representative and senator joined family members wishing to honor the memory of those who served our nation.

## Potato Crop-Roy's Garden



HansonHouse provided elbow grease and tools as we joined Keller Williams of Strongsville on a day fixing up properties for returning veterans in our area. HH member Jay notified us that Keller Williams was working with vet families on minor home repairs that could be easily accomplished with teams of volunteers. HH members gladly joined our in this effort. On that day, approximately 30 veteran families received home improvements made possible by many coming together. VFW #3345 served a hamburger cookout to veterans, their spouses and children after the work was done.



Roy Mallarnee provided skill, equipment, and sweat equity as he taught interested HansonHouse 'farmers' how to grow vegetables. Interested HH members assisted Roy as he plowed, planted, weeded, and eventually harvested a field jointly managed by Berea's Guidestone and Berea Kiwanis. Crops are used in the Berea Guidestone kitchen and are available for purchase by restaurants interested in serving locally-sourced produce. Proceeds benefit Guidestone.

## Bass & Bluegill Coe Lake

### HONORS FOR HANSONHOUSE

Co-Founders of HansonHouse Jo Ann Boggs and Lori Hanson were honored for their service to community in January 2015 at a gathering hosted by Berea Mayor Cyril Kleem. The Spirit of Community Award was given to Jo Ann for her work at HansonHouse and Lori for her new non-profit organization The Berea Learning Farm. Jo Ann spoke about the work of HansonHouse to an audience of about 300 community members. What a great venue for bringing to light the work needed for those affected by Traumatic Brain Injury as either a survivor or family member. Congratulations Jo Ann AND all the staff, board and especially our MEMBERS!!



HH members join others at Coe Lake. This is an annual family event when summer vacation arrives for the kids. A great way to kick off summer fun, and cheaper than an amusement park! Donors supplied hot dogs, and volunteers a dish to pass. A fishing competition with trophy for youth and adult divisions is presented.

### State of Ohio and Brain Injury Legislation

Jo Ann and Paul continue to attend monthly Brain Injury Association (BIAC) meetings in Columbus, The TSN (Traumatic Survivors Network) and MetroGeneral TBI group twice monthly. In short, after 15 years the BIAC has left the Dept of Rehabilitation and joined the Ohio Valley Center which provides better access for survivors to programs specifically for TBI as opposed to broad rehabilitation. Membership on BIAC is made up of appointed members in the Medical and Rehabilitation fields, a TBI survivor, a caregiver, 9 State of Ohio officials and 5 individuals that represent the public. Jo Ann Boggs continues to serve in the representation of the public.

Jo also meets with the TSN and Metro for ongoing discussions for all involved to better understand the personal experiences of TBI survivors, families and caregivers. These discussions better focus lobby for change in the case management of individuals with TBI in Ohio. Currently the insurance support for TBI survivors does not recognize the need for services post discharge from hospital and rehabilitation. There are other facilities and medical options that provide the post rehab services but they are quite costly and insurance does not recognize the need for TBI survivors to have help reintegrating into their communities, adjusting to a new normal for themselves and how to find fulfillment in their daily life. This is what HansonHouse does and currently we are the only clubhouse model in Ohio.



### Veteran News

HansonHouse continues to have activity within the veteran community. State representative Dovilla continues to keep in touch with HansonHouse to better evaluate the real life needs of our TBI survivors and veterans in regards to the laws and policies of the state of Ohio. Last year, Rep. Dovilla hosted a forum on TBI and legislation bringing representatives from Ohio's 88 counties to BWU in Berea for a discussion. HansonHouse was invited to participate and give testimony to the needs of TBI survivors. We have also reached out to a number of VFW, VA and other military and state reps to attend our meeting when Orion Beisan presents on a new research study at University Hospitals targeting veterans. The study involves a drug therapy for TBI and PTSD. The medication is a currently accepted medication (drug) but it has not been used for TBI or PTSD and has some possibilities as a good therapy.

### MEMBER SPOTLIGHT ROBERT NORTON formerly Air Force

Robert is a member of HansonHouse and a TBI survivor. He continues his desire to serve and HansonHouse was his "take-off" runway! He is currently a Lay-educator for the VA and presents a program on veteran TBI and PTSD in venues such as churches, VA facilities, the VFW and other Brain Injury Awareness meetings. HansonHouse is proud to have Robert Norton serving his comrades. (pictured bottom right)

## 2015

In just three short months our members have welcomed new members and made some changes in the process of accepting new members. We had a "new year" inspirational and humorous presentation by a member, a music therapist presenter and have found speakers to present on subjects such as life planning documents, a pharmacist to answer questions about medications, and a researcher from University Hospitals on a new drug therapy for TBI and PTSD. Our Members have been busy planning to attend events such as the Auto Show, International Fest at BW, and other service events such as Red Day and the Ohio Guidestone farm. Various members take the leadership role in finding businesses to donate tickets, organizing the outing and staying informed of opportunities. 2015 is shaping up to be a year of growth for the organization and our members, and a full schedule of events. Our biggest event is the annual Golf Outing so SAVE THE DATE! August 16th 9am shotgun start at Emerald Woods Golf Course followed by games, an auction, and a terrific cookout by Tony Kay of Berea. Even if you don't golf, donate for a member to golf, provide an auction item, volunteer to help and/or come for the cookout and fun.

