



Northern Kentucky 2010 Fourth Annual  
Traumatic Brain Injury Conference  
*“The Art of Living...Life After Brain Injury”*

## ARTISTS

**Dennis Bessenecker**, a Michigan native, was a Human Resource manager until he had a brain tumor. While in rehabilitation, Dennis took up painting. His artwork through the program, Creative Diversity, has become quite popular. His artwork caught the attention of former President Bill Clinton, who purchased some of his artwork. Dennis is active in BIAK and in several support groups in the Louisville area.

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**Debbie Butler** is member of Methodist Upward Church in West Covington. Debbie aids and works with many persons within her community. Debbie is very family oriented with her two children, five grandchildren and a grandbaby on the way. Debbie learned of the conference and donated a hand crafted afghan for the promotion of brain injury awareness. Debbie also donates various crafts to Rosedale Manor and the American Cancer Society.

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**Kathie Grisham, Esq.** is a survivor of a traumatic brain injury resulting from a motor vehicle accident in 2003. Since suffering a brain injury, Kathie has prioritized what she feels is important in her life. She points out that coping with a brain injury can be doubly difficult because no one can really see a brain injury: it is unlike a cast on a broken arm or a cut on the face, but it is an injury that caused her to live her life in silence. Kathie has taken piano lessons, knitting classes and does leatherworking as she has learned to retool her life. She has donated a domino and disk set made in leather. Kathie is a member of the Annual Traumatic Brain Injury Conference Planning Committee and has recently resumed the practice of law.

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**Damen Jones** is a survivor of a traumatic brain injury resulting from Encephalitis at the age of nine. Although Damen continues to participate in his rehabilitation program and recovery, he has found enjoyment, pleasure and excitement in painting and with art. Damen presents his paintings today for

auction to promote awareness for traumatic brain injury.

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**Isaac Kamkha** is a friend of a survivor's family that attended Jewish Hospital Cardiac Rehab Program. Throughout his journey in rehab, he developed great skill in wood-working and found enjoyment with wood crafting. His Minstrel Wood Carved Portrait was donated to the auction to promote brain injury and rehabilitation awareness.

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**Nichole Ortlieb** is a survivor of a traumatic brain injury resulting from a motor vehicle accident in 1997. Nichole has traveled a long road through rehabilitation and continues her journey towards her recovery. She has donated a handmade Bengals blanket. Nichole is a member of the Annual Traumatic Brain Injury Conference Planning Committee and a member of BRIDGES, Inc. Nichole and her family advocate for other survivors and work within their community to promote awareness for brain injury.

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**Wylie Whitson-Benson** is a student at Lexington Seminary College preparing for her Master's in Divinity. Wylie currently has her BS in Art from Eureka College located in Illinois with a Minor in Theology. Wylie is the Youth Minister at Shelbyville First Christian Church. Wylie is a family and support member to two brain injured survivors. Wylie is also a Veteran Missionary to the Andros Island in Bahamas. Throughout Wylie's life experiences with her brain injured family members, she feels called to the ministry from her compassion and belief to help others in need. Wylie has donated two canvases for auction on behalf of Eckerman Freeman & Associates to advocate for the awareness of brain injured survivors.

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