

MEMBERSHIP

MONDAY: Berkshire Family & Individual Resources (BFAIR)

Highlighting BFAIR's Impact on the Community

At the Providers' Council, we are proud to highlight the impactful work of our members who are strengthening communities across the Commonwealth. This week, for Membership Monday, we are featuring Berkshire Family & Individual Resources (BFAIR), a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and acquired brain injuries through a wide range of residential, community-based and employment services.

Who is BFAIR and What Do They Do?

Founded in 1994, Berkshire Family & Individual Resources (BFAIR) began with a single residential home supporting individuals with developmental disabilities. Over the years, the organization has expanded its programs and services to support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and acquired brain injuries across Berkshire County and the Pioneer Valley. Today, BFAIR serves nearly 600 individuals in their communities and employs more than 300 staff members across the region. The organization provides a wide range of residential, day and community-based services designed to help individuals live meaningful and independent lives while remaining connected to their communities.

BFAIR's programs support individuals and families through a variety of services, including:

At Home Services

- **Residential Services:** BFAIR operates more than a dozen residential homes supporting adults with intellectual disabilities and acquired brain injuries across Berkshire County and the Pioneer Valley.
- **Adult Family Care & Shared Living:** These programs provide individuals with medical, physical or intellectual disabilities in-home support through family members or trained caregivers.

At Center Services

- **Community-Based Day Services (CBDS):** Community-based day programs help adults with disabilities build skills, engage with their communities and participate in meaningful daily activities.
- **Day Habilitation:** These programs offer structured supports focused on personal development, daily living skills and community engagement.

In Community Services

- **Employment Services:** BFAIR provides employment preparation, job training and placement services for adults and students with disabilities.
- **Clinical Services:** BFAIR's clinical team supports residential and day programs through behavioral and therapeutic services grounded in applied behavioral analysis (ABA).
- **Bottle & Can Redemption Center:** Located in North Adams, this program provides employment and vocational training opportunities for individuals with disabilities.
- **Family & Individual Support Services:** BFAIR offers resources and support to individuals and families throughout Berkshire County.



When BFAIR Join The Providers' Council and Why?

BFAIR has been a member of the Providers' Council for the past eight years. As an organization dedicated to supporting individuals with disabilities and strengthening communities across Western Massachusetts, BFAIR shares the Council's commitment to advancing the human services sector and advocating for policies that support both providers and the people they serve.

BFAIR was recognized with a *Peer Provider Award in 2021*, highlighting its contributions to the field and its commitment to collaboration within the human services community. BFAIR has also participated in the Council's Caring Force advocacy initiative, attending rallies and supporting efforts to strengthen the human services workforce across Massachusetts. In 2023, BFAIR staff member Christine Meiklejohn was honored as a Caring Force Workforce Hero, recognizing her dedication and impact in supporting individuals and families in the community.



A voice from BFAIR

These events are an important reflection of BFAIR's mission and the values we share with our community, whether we are promoting safety through injury prevention or standing together to celebrate inclusion, our goal is always to ensure that individuals of all abilities have the opportunity to live full and meaningful lives.

– Ethel Altieri, Interim CEO of BFAIR



Looking Ahead: BFAIR's Continued Commitment to Support and Innovation

BFAIR Promotes Awareness, Safety, and Inclusion Through Community Events This Spring

March is a meaningful month of recognition and advocacy for many of the individuals and families served by BFAIR. As Brain Injury Awareness Month and Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month are observed nationwide, BFAIR is hosting several community events that highlight the organization's commitment to safety, inclusion, and education across Berkshire County and the Pioneer Valley.

To support brain health and injury prevention, BFAIR will host a Free Bicycle Helmet Distribution Event on **Wednesday, March 18, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** Helmets will be distributed free of charge while supplies last to children and adults in the region. A total of 150 helmets for youth ages 6–13 and 100 helmets for individuals ages 14 and older will be available at **two locations: Greylock Federal Credit Union at the Allendale Shopping Center in Pittsfield and All Out Adventures in Northampton.** The event is made possible through the generous support of presenting sponsor Greylock Federal Credit Union and supporting sponsor the Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts.



In recognition of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, BFAIR will also host a community “Stand Out” for awareness on **Monday, March 23 at 6:30 p.m.** Staff, supporters, and community members will gather at *City Halls in Pittsfield, North Adams, and Westfield* for a visible show of support for individuals with developmental disabilities. In addition, these city buildings, along with BFAIR offices and program locations, will be illuminated in **orange** to symbolize inclusion and community solidarity.

Looking ahead, BFAIR will host its signature fundraising event, **BFAIR in Bloom: A Garden Party Tasting Experience**, on **Thursday, June 4 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.** at the *Proprietor’s Lodge in Pittsfield*. This popular event brings together community members, local restaurants, and supporters to celebrate and raise funds for BFAIR’s programs and services. **Ticket sales open April 27**, and sponsorship opportunities are currently available. Please reach out to Katrina Cardillo, Senior Director of Marketing & PR at kcardillo@bfair.org for more information.

BFAIR’s mission is to enrich the lives of people of all ages and abilities by providing positive life experiences and advocacy through distinctive, individualized, quality service.

Through community partnerships, advocacy initiatives, and meaningful events, BFAIR continues to strengthen its impact across the regions it serves.



Interested in learning more or getting involved? Explore the links below to learn more about Berkshire Family & Individual Resources (BFAIR), their programs and services, and upcoming opportunities to support their work and connect with the Providers’ Council.

[Providers’ Council](#)

[Berkshire Family & Individual Resources \(BFAIR\)](#)