



NBIA touches people near and far....

It all began with a small suggestion to make a donation at Christmas time-to remember the lives of two young, beautiful girls, Sabrina and Alyssa, and to send acknowledgement to their parents Gerry and Bela Barbiero that we as family, were thinking of them after their second loss. This small suggestion was what sparked a series of fundraising ideas, one of them being a 'Quiz night'.

A 'Quiz night' for those who have never heard of or attended one is a fun night, focused on tables of 'contestants' who answer different rounds of questions. A 'quiz master' is appointed, and he/she reads out rounds of questions, (each round can have a different 'theme') the tables of contestants must answer these questions, in the hope that their table gets the most correct, thus winning the night!

And so the organisation began....

A small 'committee' was arranged to organize the event, which was held on Friday the 17th June 2005. With such a large family, it was never difficult to find someone willing to help out. A number of meetings took place to plan, organize, discuss and make necessary arrangements for the quiz night. These 'committee meetings', in itself were very enjoyable and also a great way to catch up with family and friends that you don't get to see as often as you would like. It was at these meetings that the great ideas for the night and the arrangement of prizes etc were determined.

The first thing we needed to do was to create an awareness of what NBIA was. There are very few heard of NBIA cases here in Australia, so it is difficult to ask for the assistance and donations from people, when they don't know what it is that they are contributing to. I believe the key to our success was using 'SABALY' as our motivation. Sabrina and Alyssa were our primary inspiration; and the night was to be in honor of them, however we knew that our fundraising would be beneficial to many. So a small brochure was designed to help us create awareness, and also acted as advertisement for the event.

The committee members and all other family members assisted in finding prizes, venue, sponsorship and all other things which contributed to such a successful night. We started off with modest ideas, but it wasn't long before things just grew. I can't begin to explain the overwhelming support, interest and generosity that we encountered. People respond generously, especially when you mention 'Family' or 'children', and were always willing to help out. We had the overwhelming support from each and every family member, friends, work colleagues, associates, our local communities, a famous West Australian football player, businesses and clubs...just about everyone! For a cause that is not very well known in Australia- it was just absolutely mind blowing to see people so generously donating and supporting.

Most things we needed for the night were donated. Anything else that was needed, family members were happy to help contribute, all of this enabled us to keep overhead costs to a minimum, thus raising more for NBIA! The venue we had arranged catered for approx 380-400 people. We initially planned on only selling approximately 30 tables, as we wanted the night to be 'manageable'. At one of our final meetings however, it became obvious at the support we were receiving, as we had oversold our 30 allocated tables, and therefore needed to allocate more tables, I believe our final total was approximately 360 people in attendance. At \$10 a ticket, the entr ee fee was a good starting point to raising a significant amount.

Apart from the entry fee, a number of other ideas for the night helped us raise our total, some of them being:

- Arranging a "liquor" license for the night, to enable us to sell alcohol.
- Arranging raffles, and selling tickets throughout the night, while the quiz was taking place.
- Sponsorship for each of the 8 rounds of the quiz night was sought after.
- Auctions and various other little games played throughout the night, all helped us raise money along the way.

All in all the night was a huge success and exceeded all of our expectations. We managed to raise in excess of \$16,500AUS (\$12,000USD). The money we raised however was a 'bonus', I think I speak on behalf of each and every person involved when I say that it was such an absolute pleasure to be a part of a wonderful cause. It was also lovely to see the entire family all come together for such a wonderful, heart warming purpose.

It all began as a token gesture to show love and support for Gerry and Bella, however the story of two beautiful daughters, Sabrina and Alyssa touched so many people here in Perth, Western Australia- and the generosity we received verifies this.



'Aussie' Cousins of Gerry and Bela

