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CHICAGO, April 15th, 2009--On April 18th, 2009, Marbles: The Brain Store will host the first Amateur Crossword Puzzle Tournament for the Chicago area. The tournament will feature three rounds of play that incorporate unpublished puzzles from The New York Times. All proceeds from the event will benefit the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago.

From a crossword puzzle tournament and brain aerobics class to a classical music quiz show and game night, Marbles: The Brain Store hosts a range of events to help you stay sharp. In addition to events, Marbles offers over 250 products that stimulate and strengthen the brain including visual perception puzzles, hand-eye coordination activities, memory challenges and brain fitness software programs.

Marbles: The Brain Store was started by two Chicago entrepreneurs, Lindsay Gaskins and Karen Luby. After hearing their parents express concern about Alzheimer's and dementia, Gaskins and Luby wanted to find out what could be done to help their parents feel more in control of their brain health. The women learned that mental stimulation can play a valuable role in helping the brain stay healthy and potentially delay or prevent the onset of cognitive decline.

"It's been amazing to see my parents take up new activities and start playing again. My dad loves Rush Hour and he plays Find-It with the grandkids. He also just started Insight and tells me about his scores after each session," says Gaskins.

"My 90 year old great aunt has dementia and seeing her has made my mom very conscious about her own brain health. She was worried about Alzheimer's but beyond eating walnuts and blueberries, she wasn't sure what she should be doing to keep her brain healthy," says Luby. "When she first came to Marbles I said --"Look Mom, we made this for you!""

The women wanted to create a place where people could find new, engaging activities to keep their brains active and also where they could learn about the brain. Marbles: The Brain Store currently has one location in downtown Chicago and will be opening an additional store on the North Shore this summer.

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