

Medical Treatment • Research • Rehabilitation

Shepherd

Center Spinal Column®

Full Circle

Former patients and their family members pay it forward.



Also Inside

Wound Care Team Provides Education and Specialized Care | Eden Schroeder Rediscovers Her Love for Swimming | Former Patients Volunteer at Shepherd

Shepherd Center
2020 Peachtree Road NW
Atlanta, Georgia 30309
404-352-2020
magazine@shepherd.org
news.shepherd.org

Editor
Ruth Underwood

Design
Soloflight Design

Contributing Writers
Sara Baxter, Phillip Jordan, Kerry Ludlam,
Erica Spurling, Ruth Underwood

Contributing Photographers
Damjana Alverson, Issabella Banks, Bitá Honarvar,
Austin Jones, Atta Junior, Ben Rose

Board of Directors
Officers
Alana Shepherd, Chairman
Clark H. Dean, Chair Elect
James D. Thompson, Chair Elect
Sara S. Chapman, Corporate Secretary
Juli Owens, Recording Secretary

Ex-Officio
Sarah Morrison, PT, MBA, MHA
Chief Executive Officer
Steve Holleman, Treasurer
Chief Financial Officer
Michael R. Yochelson, MD, MBA
Chief Medical Officer

Members

Andrew Alias	Molly Lanier
Fred V. Alias	Donald Peck Leslie, M.D.
Shaler Alias	Douglas Lindauer
David F. Apple, Jr., M.D.	Charles Talbot Nunnally III
Cyndae Arrendale	Sally D. Nunnally
Bryant G. Coats	Vincenzo Piscopo
Robert Cunningham	John Rooker
Charles L. Davidson III	James H. Shepherd III
John S. Dryman	W. Clyde Shepherd
Gen. Larry R. Ellis, Ret.	K. Boynton Smith
William C. Fowler	James E. Stephenson
Susan Hawkins	Jarrad Turner
Justin Jones	<i>Emeriti Members</i>
Kelly Loeffler	C. Duncan Beard
	Bernie Marcus

Shepherd Center Magazine: Spinal Column is published quarterly by Shepherd Center, a private, not-for-profit hospital that provides world-class clinical care, research, and family support for people experiencing the most complex conditions, including spinal cord and brain injuries, multi-trauma, traumatic amputations, stroke, multiple sclerosis, and pain. To request removal from our mailing list, email magazine@shepherd.org or mail Shepherd Center, Attn: Shepherd Center Magazine Mailing List, 2020 Peachtree Road NW, Atlanta, Georgia, 30309. Please include mailing label. Shepherd Center Magazine accepts no advertising. Spinal Column is a registered trademark of Shepherd Center.

About the Cover
Brandon Winfield used his experiences after sustaining a spinal cord injury to create an app that helps people with accessibility needs find new places to explore.
Photo by Bitá Honarvar

Letter from Sarah Morrison



Dear Readers,

If you've experienced Shepherd Center firsthand, you understand its unique place in your life and the lives of others. It's a place that leaves a lasting imprint, leading many patients to maintain connections even after they've returned home and to the busy daily rhythm of life. Whether they participate in recreation therapy adventures, return for events like Project Rollway, share their stories, volunteer, contribute financially, or even join our staff, their bond with Shepherd endures.

Patients and their families are motivated to give back for various reasons. Some are moved by the personal connections forged with staff and fellow patients, while others are inspired by the tangible results of their rehabilitation or by witnessing the impactful work we do.

In this issue of *Spinal Column*, we delve into the stories of patients and families who have come full circle, reflecting on how their time at Shepherd Center instilled in them an unwavering determination to pay it forward, either by supporting Shepherd directly or by making a difference in the broader disability community.

Beginning on page 6, we showcase some of these full-circle narratives, one of which belongs to David Martin. More than two decades ago, while working at Delta Air Lines, David helped establish Shepherd Center's airport outing program. Last fall, he came to Shepherd after being diagnosed with Guillain-Barré Syndrome and attended the airport outing as a patient. Read more about how he's leveraging his unique dual perspective to offer invaluable insights.

On page 4, you can learn more about Shepherd's exemplary wound care services and how the wound care team magnifies their efficacy by educating patients, caregivers, and staff on wound prevention and treatment.

And on page 14, you'll meet Eden Schroeder, whose passion for swimming was reignited after she sustained a spinal cord injury (SCI). Today, she not only competes in swimming but also pursues studies in psychology and serves as a peer mentor in Shepherd's Keeping Adolescents and Young Adults Connected (KAYAC) Program.

Through her significant presence on social media, she strives to showcase that individuals with injuries lead rich and rewarding lives.

Here's to giving back while propelling forward!

Warm regards,

Sarah Morrison

Sarah Morrison, PT, MBA, MHA
Chief Executive Officer of Shepherd Center

Contents

Features

6 Full Circle
Former patients and patient family members, grateful for the care at Shepherd, find ways to give back.

14 Buoyed by Community
After sustaining a spinal cord injury, Eden Schroeder rediscovered her love for swimming and built a supportive community around herself.

Departments

2 Short Takes

4 Spotlight
Wound care services at Shepherd Center include specialized care teams and education for patients, caregivers, and staff.

5 Staff Profile
Kim Ross, peer support liaison

18 Foundation Features

26 Honorariums and Memorials



Photo by Austin Jones

As a member of the Shepherd Sharks swim team, Eden Schroeder trains regularly and competes in meets.

See news.shepherd.org for additional online content.

Gifts of Generosity

If you would like to make a gift to support the work you have read about, please contact Sarah L. Batts at the Shepherd Center Foundation at 404-350-7305 or scan the QR code.



Award-Winning Project Aims to Improve Care for Patients with Dysphagia

The Georgia Hospital Association presented its prestigious Patient Safety and Quality Award to Shepherd Center for its project that improved patient safety in the hospital. The project "Shaken or Stirred? - A Multidisciplinary Process Improvement to Ensure Patients Receive Compliant-Thickened Liquids," won first place in the Specialty Hospitals category.

These annual awards recognize Georgia healthcare organizations for achievement in reducing the risk of medical errors and improving patient safety and medical outcomes.

"At Shepherd Center, we see many patients who have sustained brain injuries, either from accidents or other causes," says Jill Newsome RD, LD, clinical nutrition manager at Shepherd Center, who led the project. "After someone has had a stroke, brain injury, or has been on a ventilator, they might have trouble swallowing, a condition which is called dysphagia. Our speech-language pathologists (SLP) and physicians suggest changes to the consistency of liquids by prescribing gel thickener packets that can make swallowing easier and safer for each patient."

The goal of the project was to achieve zero incidence of patients receiving non-compliant liquid consistencies. Newsome and her team discovered that knowledge gaps and process breakdowns existed across multiple disciplines regarding ordering, storing, accessing, and ensuring that patients receive compliant liquids during mealtimes. There also was a lack of automatic triggers and visual cues to address potential defects.



(L to R) Caylee Noggle, GHA president and CEO; Jill Newsome, RD, LD, clinical nutrition manager, Shepherd Center; Meena Iyer, MSIE, LSSBB, CPHQ, manager of quality and outcomes management, Shepherd Center; Jacqueline Baron-Lee, PhD, CPHQ, PMP, director of quality and outcome management, Shepherd Center; Sarah Morrison, PTA, MBA, MHA, CEO of Shepherd Center; Mary Chatman, Ph.D., RN, GHA Chair

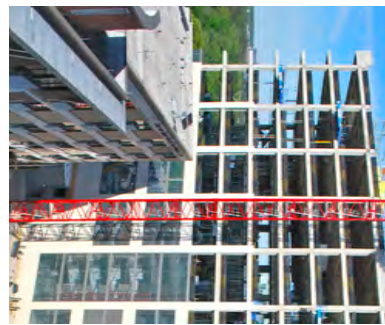
To address these challenges, Meena Iyer, MSIE, LSSBB, CPHQ, manager of quality and outcomes management at Shepherd Center, facilitated a project to enhance the entire process of ordering and administering compliant liquids. Newsome initiated the project using the FOCUS Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) as part of the Quality Improvement Champions Program (QICP). The team was able to understand the end-to-end process while identifying gaps and causes of defects.

"Apart from streamlining the process and strengthening education, several visual cues were also implemented to ensure that patients are receiving compliant liquids during mealtimes and beyond," Newsome says. "With this structure and process measures in place, we have seen zero incidences of patients receiving non-compliant liquids in the past six months."

Construction Update

Construction of the Arthur M. Blank Family Residences at 1860 Peachtree Road continues on schedule and is nearing completion. Inside, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, walls, and ceilings are complete to the top of the building. Brasfield & Gorrie's crews are installing tile, cabinets, countertops, and appliances. On the exterior, glass panels have been installed to the top of the building, and landscaping is underway. And, for fans of the iconic bison statue that stood in front of Ted's Montana Grill, which occupied the site before tower construction began, the gentle giant has returned. He will reside on the grounds of the family residences.

Construction continues on schedule at the Marcus Center for Advanced Rehabilitation site on Shepherd's main campus. The building is "topped out," meaning the last concrete pour for all the floors is complete. Choate Construction crews are installing mechanical, electrical, and plumbing in the building's upper levels and drywall on the lower levels. On the exterior, crews are setting precast panels and windows on the building and the bridge connecting the tower to the existing Marcus-Woodruff building.



(left) The Marcus Center for Advanced Rehabilitation building on Shepherd's main campus is "topped out."
(right) The Arthur M. Blank Family Residences tower at 1860 Peachtree Road is nearing completion.

Study Shows Benefits of Specialized, Multidisciplinary Care in People with Mild Traumatic Brain Injuries and Concussions

In a research study recently published in *Brain Injury*, researchers from Shepherd Center's mTBI Brain Health & Recovery Lab aimed to gain an understanding of evaluation practices, post-injury recommendations, and referrals to allied healthcare professionals by first-line healthcare professionals providing care for people with mild traumatic brain injuries (mTBI).

First-line healthcare professionals are often the first to diagnose and provide supportive care to children and adults with mTBI. While many people experiencing mTBI will recover within a few weeks or months without specialty care, others will continue to experience challenges with dizziness, balance, memory, visual perception, and sleep, among other disruptive symptoms.

"When a person has a prolonged recovery after a mild brain injury or concussion, they can benefit from a multidisciplinary approach involving specialized expertise of allied professionals," said Tracey Wallace, MS, CCC-SLP, FACRM, projects and education coordinator for the SHARE Military Initiative at Shepherd Center and principal investigator of the study.

Reported rates of referrals to allied health professionals

by first-line healthcare professionals were extremely low, as was the perceived knowledge of the roles allied health professionals can play in mTBI rehabilitation. Allied health professionals include physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech-language

pathologists, and behavioral health professionals.

"Our findings suggest a need for collaboration across disciplines on research, education, and rehabilitation

efforts to best care for people with mTBI," Wallace said. "Programs like Shepherd Center's Complex Concussion Clinic and SHARE Military Initiative pull experts from multiple allied health professions to care for patients who experience persistent symptoms after mTBI so they can return to their activities and enjoy life again."

Wallace collaborated with Shepherd researchers Amber Schwartz, MHS, OTR/L, CDRS, April Hodge, PT, DPT, NCS, Greg Brown, Psy.D., and Russell Gore, M.D., along with researchers Kelly Knollman-Porter Ph.D., CCC-SLP, and Jennifer Beardslee of Miami University, and Jessica Brown, Ph.D., CCC-SLP of Olentangy Schools.



Tracey Wallace, MS, CCC-SLP, FACRM



Smart Socks: Expanding Accessibility and Precision of Rehabilitation for People with Multiple Sclerosis

The ability to advance care for people with multiple sclerosis (MS) is currently limited by the lack of tools that allow clinicians to measure changes in disability and walking function over time and in the real world.

"The current tools we have available to measure disability and walking function can only be used in the clinic," says Brad Willingham, Ph.D., director of MS research at Shepherd Center's Virginia C. Crawford Research Institute. "This makes it difficult to measure changes that occur in patients between visits to the clinic, and it can take several months or years to detect changes in mobility associated with the progression of disability."

To address this challenge, Shepherd Center is partnering with Sensoria Health, a preeminent developer of innovative smart garments, software, and wearable systems, to develop and apply new technologies to advance the precision of care for people with MS.

Sensoria Health has recently created a system that measures walking function using socks infused with proprietary textile pressure sensors. These smart socks communicate wirelessly to a custom-developed mobile application, Sensoria® Walk, designed to measure gait impairments. While Sensoria smart socks feel and fit like regular socks, they can measure walking patterns in great detail and automatically send information to healthcare professionals via a privacy-compliant cloud software system.

"Our partnership with Sensoria Health is focused on exploring how to leverage cutting-edge sensor technology, such as smart socks, to expand clinical evaluation into daily life. Such advancements may lead to more responsive treatment strategies and new scientific discoveries related to how MS impacts walking in real-world environments," Willingham explains.

Training and Teamwork

Wound care services at Shepherd Center include specialized care teams and education for patients, caregivers, and staff.

By Ruth Underwood

People with the most complex conditions, including spinal cord and brain injuries, multi-trauma, and traumatic amputations, are often at higher risk for secondary complications, like pressure wounds. Each patient who arrives at Shepherd Center has, on average, three wounds, including pressure ulcers (injury to the skin caused by pressure to an area over an extended period), traumatic wounds, or post-surgical wounds.

"Having specialized care teams that not only know how to treat spinal cord injuries but also wounds is important to help those wounds heal and to prevent them in the future," says Dallin Lindahl, M.D., medical director of wound care services at Shepherd.

Shepherd's Wound Ostomy Continence Nurses (WOCN), Kimberly Levenson, RN, BSN, CCRN, CWOCN, CFCN, and Carolyn Loughner, RN, BSN, CRRN, CWOCN, serve as the first line of defense.

"We do a head-to-toe assessment of every patient upon admission to identify the types of wounds and develop treatment plans," explains Levenson. "If they have complex wounds or pressure injuries, we will follow those patients throughout their stay. We round weekly, assess the progression of the wound — hopefully toward healing — and adjust their care plans according to the assessments."

Dr. Lindahl rounds with Levenson and Loughner. He also sees patients in the outpatient Wound Clinic for follow-up or new developments. For severe wounds that aren't healing, he consults with plastic surgeon Thomas Hagopian, M.D., medical director of reconstructive surgery at Shepherd. If needed, Dr. Hagopian performs myocutaneous flap surgery, in which some healthy skin and underlying muscles are moved to cover up the wound, allowing it to heal.

The wound care team has excellent results because of the processes they have in place.

"In 2023, our patients had 59 flap surgeries, and our success rate, determined by whether the wound was closed and needed little or no topical intervention, was 91.5%. And our pressure injury rate is lower than the national average," says Loughner.

However, their goal is to *prevent* wounds by educating patients, caregivers, and staff and enlisting the help of all patient care team members.

"The training patients and caregivers receive during rehabilitation is invaluable — prevention is the big thing. It's better never to get a wound than to have to treat a wound, so prevention comes first," Dr. Lindahl says.

"We give patients a toolbox, so they'll think, 'When I go home, I have to make sure that I'm doing skin checks before and after sitting, that I'm doing my weight shifts, that I'm off-loading properly, that I avoid lying in a single position all night,'" says Loughner.

And with that education comes some reassurance.

"I always tell people, 'We can fix skin,'" Loughner explains. "It might take us some time, but you'll be okay. It's so important because wounds are scary, and it makes people feel better knowing this is not new to us. We see this all the time."

Clinical staff are another critical line of defense.

"We educate the staff on the types of wound care, the

protocols, and policies. We offer a skin champion program — it's an advanced class for our bedside nurses, which requires critical thinking and assessment of the types of wound treatment plans so these nurses can be a resource to their coworkers at the bedside not only for wounds but for ostomy and continence issues," explains Levenson.

Departments like the Wheelchair Seating & Mobility Clinic are also vital in preventing wounds.

"In the seating clinic, they pressure map the patients and make sure they're on the right cushion and positioned in their wheelchairs correctly," Lindahl explains.

Loughner says wound care and prevention at Shepherd is collaborative. Every member of a patient's care team is instrumental in helping wounds heal and preventing them from occurring.

Levenson agrees.

"It is a true team effort. We're all asking, 'How can we improve this or make it work within the therapy plan for the patient so that they're maximizing their therapy at the same time that we're healing the wounds?'" she explains.

The effort includes a Wound Prevention Workgroup comprised of clinical staff from several disciplines who examine what education, processes, or procedures should be implemented when a wound occurs so it doesn't happen again.

But it all comes back to patient education.

"These are lifelong skills that are going to be required of our patients due to their injuries, so hardwiring that education for the patients and families is paramount. Our staff do an incredible job of that, so we aren't seeing as many people come back with wounds they develop at home. And that's a testament to our great staff here," says Levenson. *



Wound Ostomy Continence Nurse Kimberly Levenson (right) answers a question from Geneine Robinson, RN, during a skin champion class.

More than a Job... Following Her Heart

Soon after her son sustained a brain injury, Kim Ross felt so much love and support that she knew that she wanted to give back.



What made you want to work at Shepherd?

"I knew early on when my son sustained a brain injury in a car crash four years ago that I had to do something to give back because we felt so supported both out of state where he was injured and when we got to Shepherd. I thought that if I could share my experience with others, maybe I could help them. When Shepherd called and asked if I was interested in the position, it was like winning the lottery. I've been blessed to work here for two years and to give back, fill that gap, and let somebody know they're not going through this alone. Even though we're further along in our journey, I know 100% what it feels like. Sometimes, I don't feel like I'm doing anything. I'm just being myself and sharing my experience. I'm just telling them what I went through. But to have that person say, 'Oh my gosh, you've helped me so much. Thank you.' It is such a blessing to take something so horrible and get something so beautiful; it's very meaningful because you know you're helping people."

What was one of your best days at work?

"Because my son was in the Disorders of Consciousness Program, a great day is when we get that awesome email that a patient whose caregiver we're seeing has emerged. We celebrate with them because we know what that feels like."

How do you think your role impacts patients and families?

"When we meet caregivers and say, 'We know what you're going through,' we truly know what they're going through. And I think that has a huge impact on them because they know that we've been in the trenches where they are, even though the injury or the illness may be different. We know what it's like to be displaced from home and family, to see our loved one fighting for their life. I think that impacts them the most."

What else would you like people to know about your role?

"I'd like people to know that, yes, this is my job, but it's more. It's my way to give back, and it is an honor. It's my calling to share. It's my heart." *

Interview by Ruth Underwood

EDUCATION

- Gwinnett Technical College, A.S., Business
- Southern Crescent Technical College, Teaching Certificate

FUN FACTS

- Kim has worked as a special education paraprofessional.
- Kim loves to shop — she considers it therapeutic.
- She has two adorable grandchildren, ages four and five.
- She has three sons, and she'll soon have two new drivers in the house since her son Brody is re-learning to drive while her 16-year-old, Jett, recently got his driver's license.

How long have you worked at Shepherd Center, and what is your role?

"I have worked at Shepherd for two years as a peer support liaison for family members and caregivers. When patients who have sustained a brain injury are admitted to Shepherd, we take care of the caregivers. We go into the rooms and introduce ourselves to the caregivers to let them know that they are not alone and that we have been where they are. We offer them support as they transition through this journey. We answer any questions they have about brain injury, rehab, or Shepherd because we've been there."

Photo by Bita Honarvar



Full Circle

Former Shepherd Center patients and their family members pay it forward.

By Phillip Jordan and Ruth Underwood

Raeda Anderson:

Shepherd Center from all angles

Raeda Anderson, Ph.D., is a research scientist and lead statistician for the Virginia C. Crawford Research Institute at Shepherd Center. She's worked here for four years now, but when people ask how long she's been part of the Shepherd family, her answer is since 2012.

Don't worry, she (really) knows her math.

In February of 2012, Raeda Anderson and her mother, Rose, were injured in a car wreck, with her mom sustaining the most severe injuries — paraplegia due to a complete T3-T4 spinal cord injury, plus a traumatic brain injury.

Raeda, her dad David, and brother Steve, all stayed at Rose's side through a four-month tour of Shepherd Center's ICU, inpatient, and Day Program services. Raeda, a university statistician and adjunct professor of sociology at the time, closely observed how the staff worked with her mother.

The first thing that caught her attention: Less than two weeks after

the accident, they helped Rose plan a birthday party for David at Shepherd Center.

"Mama Rose is a hopeless romantic, and that was important to her," says Raeda. "Even in that fragile time, her therapists understood, and they went out of their way to help make it happen."

That type of support would continue. Shepherd's chaplains came to Mama Rose (as she became known to all) to lead prayer services until she was strong enough to go to the chapel. Her favorite physical therapist returned after hours to attend a family dinner that Rose planned one night in the atrium. And everyone made sure that Mama Rose chose the public outings that would mean the most to her.

"Letting her have agency in her own recovery was so impressive to me," Raeda says. "They made sure she knew that her job was not to go through life post-injury passively. You say what you need, and we'll figure out how to do it."

By the time Mama Rose reached Shepherd Center's Day Program and began to stay in on-site family housing, Raeda had a realization: This was what she wanted to do.

"I decided I wanted to use my analytics to help people like my mom. Her experience drove all my decisions from that point on — my doctorate, my dissertation, my entire career."

On the first day of her Ph.D. program, a professor asked Raeda what she wanted to do after graduating. "I said I was going to work at Shepherd Center as a research scientist. He asked if I had a backup, and I said, 'I don't know what you mean by that,'" Raeda recalls with a big laugh.

In the summer of 2020, Dr. Raeda Anderson's dream finally came true.

"I definitely didn't need a new employee tour," she

laughs. "But there were some really beautiful moments in those first days working here. I'd walk into a room and remember, 'Hey, we had my dad's birthday party here.' Or I'd walk past the chapel and think about the first time my mom was strong enough to hold her Bible again."

In her role, Dr. Anderson examines data related to brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, multiple sclerosis, patient experience feedback, pharmacy usage, and social determinants of health to improve treatment and outcomes for new generations of Shepherd Center patients.

As she puts it: "Any day we come away with actionable insights that can help improve patients' lives? That's a good day."

Dr. Anderson is also the in-house expert on analytics and research methods, so she's often asked to design or customize research projects — so that Shepherd Center gets the best data possible to help advance patient care.

"In everything I do," she says, "my North Star is whatever helps people with disabilities thrive in their communities — not simply survive."

Thriving certainly describes Mama Rose these days. The longtime florist is once again creating large floral arrangements. She's active in her church. And

she and David just celebrated 40 years of marriage; the two take their adaptive motor coach on trips all over the country.

Mama Rose also has a ready companion in Raeda, who bought a house a mile down the road from her parents in rural Hampton, Georgia. Mother and daughter often go out for dinner nights, mani-pedis, camping trips, and the occasional Victorian-costume murder mystery party.

"I didn't know anything about Shepherd Center when I got here the first time with my mom," Dr. Anderson says. "But all those things we say about why this place is different? Well, I've been on both sides now, and I can tell you, it's 1,000% true. I love what we do here." *

Photos by Bitia Honarvar



► Raeda and her parents love being outside, and High Falls State Park, not far from their homes is a long-time favorite. They often enjoy time together on the accessible trail.

David Martin:

Learning to fly, again

Twenty-four years ago, David Martin, then Delta Air Lines' disability access manager, helped establish Shepherd Center's airport outing program.

"For a lot of people with life-changing injuries, the idea of navigating an airport and traveling again can be overwhelming," David says. "Every month, for years, I had the pleasure of helping Shepherd Center patients come to the airport and learn what to expect when traveling with a disability. You could see them realize that if they can figure out how to do that, they can do anything."

What David never envisioned was that he would one day find himself on the other side of the experience he'd created — as a Shepherd Center patient.

"I always knew Shepherd Center was special but to go full circle and see it



from a patient perspective took my appreciation to another level," David says.

Last November, David, now 68 and retired, and his wife Bonnie were preparing to host a large family

Thanksgiving at their home in Tyrone, Georgia. In the weeks leading up to Thanksgiving, David caught a couple of viruses, which didn't seem out of the ordinary at first. But then he started having severe tingling in his feet and hands. Walking soon became difficult.

On Thanksgiving morning, he went to Piedmont Fayette Hospital's Emergency Room. He was soon airlifted to Piedmont Atlanta, where he eventually received a rare diagnosis: Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS). The neuropathy he experienced resulted from one of Guillain-Barré's trademark symptoms — his own immune system attacking his nerve endings.

"I had never heard of GBS before," David says. "I was healthy, swimming 100 laps a day. Then, very quickly, my body turned on itself. I deteriorated to the point that I couldn't stand, couldn't move my legs or arms. I even had to have a ventilator to breathe."

On December 14, David transferred to Shepherd Center's Comprehensive Rehabilitation Unit. On CRU, a robust care team of medical professionals and rehabilitation specialists care for patients with complex medical conditions, working together to treat patients' medical needs and get them safely and quickly into rehabilitation work — even if they're still using a ventilator, as David was.

One of the things David most appreciated was that his care team, from day one, involved him in all of his care planning.

"That immediately put me at ease," David says. "I knew what was coming next and had a role in everything. Their question for me was always, 'What do you want to accomplish?' That made all the difference. I had a sense of hope."

He also had an unexpected visitor on his first day.

"[Shepherd Center co-founder] Alana Shepherd walks in and says, 'You know you're going on the airport outing, right?'" David says with a laugh. "I told her, 'No question about it.'"



David describes that outing as surreal. He also came away with new perspectives and insights that he has since shared with Shepherd Center's Recreation Therapy Program to further improve the patient experience.

As for his own journey, David's progress came quickly on CRU. Within seven weeks, he was walking without any assistance. He also used the Shepherd pool to start swimming laps again. And he credits occupational therapist, Megan Terukina, MS, OTR/L, with a brilliant idea to enhance his birthday meal last January: inviting David to whip up a batch of his "famous" mashed potatoes in the accessible kitchen within Shepherd Center's "I Can" studio.

"My wife is a very good cook. She rules the kitchen," David is quick to note before gleefully adding, "But not the mashed potatoes!"

Since going home, David has returned several times to Shepherd Center to talk with fellow patients he got to know, as well as patients new to the program. He's also spoken at Shepherd Center's board of directors and advancement team meetings, sharing his dual-perspective insights with them.

"Guillain-Barré is the best and worst thing that's ever happened to me," David explains. "It stole four months of my life and changed me physically, but it also gave me a clear perspective on what's important. I want to make sure I'm paying it all forward now." *

Photos by Damjana Alverson and Bitia Honarvar

(Clockwise from left) ► David Martin and his wife, Bonnie Martin in the "I Can" Studio. ► (L to R) David's occupational therapist, Megan Terukina, MS, OTR/L, Bonnie, and David, celebrate his cooking with a mashed potato "toast." ► David and Bonnie attended Shepherd's airport outing, which David helped establish more than two decades ago when he worked at Delta Air Lines.



Brandon Winfield:

From Idea to App

Thirty-one-year-old Brandon Winfield is ambitious, adventurous, and unafraid to take a chance. Those qualities, combined with his desire to get out and enjoy life with friends after he sustained a spinal cord injury, became the seeds for a new business.

Brandon grew up in Johns Creek, Georgia, just outside Atlanta. As a child, he dreamed of being a professional motocross rider. He traveled for motocross competitions and even switched to home-schooling to allow more flexibility and time to focus on the sport. But when he was 14, he sustained a T7-T8 spinal cord injury in a crash at a motocross event in Tennessee, which resulted in paralysis from his chest down.

After spending time in a hospital in Memphis, Brandon transferred to Shepherd Center for rehabilitation, but as soon as he arrived, he wanted to leave.

"I couldn't wait to get out of there at first. I had been hurt racing motocross plenty of times, which helped me wrap my head around the injury," he recalls.

"But my time at Shepherd was great. My therapists were amazing, and as soon as I got home, I missed Shepherd Center. Everything was so easy and accessible there."

As Brandon returned to life as an active teenager, including re-connecting with his motocross community, he realized that finding accessible parking spaces, bathrooms, restaurants, and venues could be challenging.

"I felt like a burden to the people I was traveling with. We'd go someplace, and I either couldn't get in, or I couldn't access the bathroom, and I'd have to go home, or we'd have to try someplace new. I felt like it was my fault," he says. "For somebody who's adventurous and likes to do new things, I got tired of going places and not knowing if I'd be able to access those new things. So that was the catalyst for my idea," he explains.

The idea that Brandon is referring to is his brainchild and now business — where he focuses much of his attention and energy — a mobile app called iAccess Life. The app uses crowd-sourcing to collect information about accessibility at restaurants, stores, and other venues in cities across the United States and worldwide. Users can rate a venue's parking, entrance, interior, and bathroom accessibility and have the

option to leave a review as well.

"I wanted you to open the app and feel like everybody else looking for a place to have dinner, drinks, coffee, or go shopping. Whatever you wanted to do, I wanted to find a way for people to leave feedback on their experience and then hopefully travel confidently as we gather more ratings and feedback from people in the application," he says.

"I hope the app will help people like the patients I met while I was at Shepherd. They are adjusting to life after injury. After I was injured, I knew I wanted to move on and just keep living, but that can be hard for some people to imagine. So, I wanted to build an app to encourage people who want to go somewhere new or try something new and offer that security and that belief that they can do it — and that there's an easier way," Brandon explains.

Of course, it wasn't a straight line from idea to app. Along the way, Brandon got into competitive go-kart racing, which included traveling and filming for a TV show featuring his experience, "Dreams to Champions," that aired on Fox Sports 1. He also worked in information technology (IT), including quality assurance testing for websites and mobile apps. He

eventually met Sayeed Mehrjerdian, now iAccess Life co-founder and head of product, who helped him develop the app and raise funding.

In 2019, they launched the app and are working on building their user base so the app will have more reviews of more places. They also want to expand the breadth of the app to address accessibility for people with a broader range of disabilities. They recently launched a product to allow for feedback on accessibility issues by scanning a QR code on a sign. They hope to provide input to restaurants, retail spaces, and sports venues on ways they can improve accessibility. Their first big client? Zoo Atlanta.

"You'll see signs with the iAccess Life logo, and you can share feedback on your experience in that area, your experience at concessions ... feedback on how the venue can improve, essentially," Brandon explains.

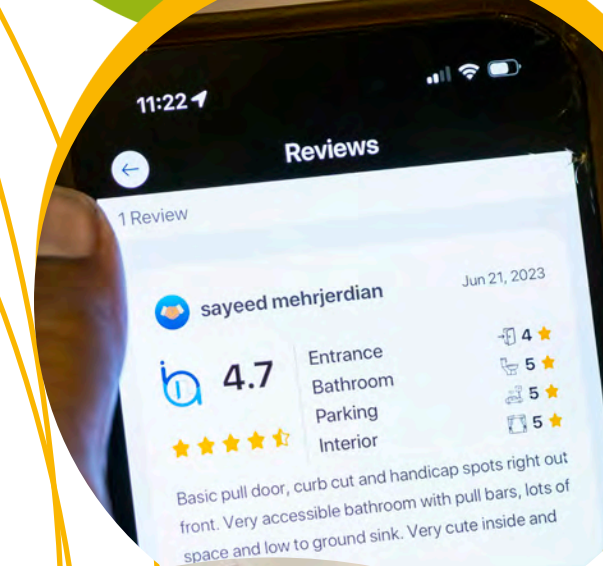
Brandon lives the life of an entrepreneur — always with his eye on what is next — and works to support other start-ups through his role at Atlanta Tech Village, managing the pre-accelerator program, a four-month program designed to help underrepresented tech entrepreneurs get their products to market.

Through every venture, Brandon recognizes his experience at Shepherd as one of the major influences in his life.

"After getting back into normal life and meeting other wheelchair users who didn't get to go to Shepherd, I got to see the quality of life that I have because of the therapy and education I got there," he says. "I feel like I graduated from the Ivy League of rehabilitation. I'm forever grateful for Shepherd because it made me who I am today. It made me feel comfortable being in a wheelchair." *

Photos by Bitia Honarvar

(Clockwise from left) ► In addition to starting his own company, Brandon Winfield manages the pre-accelerator program at Atlanta Tech Village, helping underrepresented tech entrepreneurs get their products to market. ► Brandon hopes that by providing information about a venue's accessibility, the iAccess Life app will allow users to explore new places with confidence.





Buoyed by Community

After sustaining a spinal cord injury (SCI), Eden Schroeder rediscovered her love for swimming and built a supportive community around herself.

By Ruth Underwood



Twenty-two-year-old Eden Schroeder has been a swimmer for much of her life.

She started swimming competitively when she was in elementary school. So maybe it's no surprise that when Shepherd Sharks coach Nicholas Dietrich, MS, ACSM-CEP, saw Eden practicing for a scuba diving trip in the Shepherd Center pool, he asked if she'd like to try out for the swim team.

"That's when I fell in love with swimming again," recalls Eden, "And it's become a huge part of my life."

For a while, swimming didn't seem to be in the cards anymore for Eden. In November 2020, Eden sustained a spinal cord injury (SCI) when she and her friends were boating off the coast of Naples, Florida. Eden dove off the boat and hit a sandbar. She spent about two weeks in the ICU at Lee Memorial Hospital in Fort Myers, Florida, before transferring to Shepherd Center.

"I was excited to be at Shepherd," she says. "It sounds strange, but you're going from the ICU, lying down and not doing anything — a very depressing environment — to a place where people are happy to see you, and they make the environment fun. They have great attitudes and have seen this happen before, so you're not the only one going through it. I think one of the biggest things about inpatient is that you feel so seen, and people understand the challenges that you're going through, but they also see you as a person, so they don't just see you for your disability."

Eden spent three months in the Adolescent Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation Program, followed by three months in the Day Program. After some time at home, she returned to the Day Program, where she says her therapist, Heather Jones, DPT, helped her get her life together beyond Shepherd's walls.

Eden has always been athletic, enjoying sports and the outdoors, so she tried



adaptive sports, including hand cycling and sit skiing.

But swimming tops her list.

"I've fallen in love with swimming. It's the closest I've been able to get to able-bodied exercise because I'm getting my heart rate up, and my body weight doesn't hold me down. I'm going to continue to swim for as long as I can."

And that passion has led to experiences Eden never imagined that day in the Shepherd Center pool. In March 2023, she started swimming with the Shepherd Sharks, part of the Fred, Shaler, and Andrew Alias Sports Teams program. In December, she competed in the 2023 U.S. Paralympics Swimming National Championships in Orlando, Florida, where she set American records in both the 50- and 100-meter backstroke.

"It was an amazing experience — really exciting and kind of overwhelming — because I had never been to something that big before," she explains. "But even in that environment, it's very similar to Shepherd, and everyone has a disability, so no one sees you as any different."

Beyond swim practices and weight training, Eden is in her junior year at Georgia State University. She's majoring in psychology and hopes to continue her studies to earn a doctorate in rehabilitation psychology.

She says conversations with adolescent program rehabilitation counselor Cheryl Linden, MA, LPC; MS OT/L, planted the seeds for her interest in the field.

"I worked most of my adolescence, and I asked Cheryl, 'What can I do now? How can I go back to work? My hands don't work. My body doesn't work.' She asked if I had thought about counseling. And I realized that when I met people going through the same injury as I was, I was helping them process. I would love a career where I could help people who have experienced this or other traumatic injuries."

Eden is already giving back to others as a peer mentor in Shepherd's Keeping Adolescents and Young Adults Connected (KAYAC) program.

"That has been a great avenue for me to meet people in person. I've made amazing connections. Families tell me it's so good to see a young person



transitioning through injury, returning to school, participating in sports, and continuing life. One person was a swimmer who wanted to get back into the sport, and I helped get him back into the pool," she recalls. "I love that so much!"

Eden reaches many people — even those she doesn't meet face to face — through social media, including her TikTok account h0twheels2.0, where she has close to 300,000 followers.

"I started my TikTok account to show that people with spinal cord injuries still live very normal lives. By posting what I am doing, I'm spreading awareness, so people know we still get out there. It's nice to hear from someone who doesn't have a disability, but when people who have disabilities say that they see what I'm doing and they want to try things as well, that's what's important to me," she explains.

For now, Eden is focusing on school and swimming. In April, she competed in an international swim meet in Indiana, the Citi Para Swimming World Series USA. There, she swam her best times yet in all four of her events and got internationally classified, which means she will be able to compete in more big events. She swam with the Shepherd Sharks at the Bill Keating Jr. Memorial Cincinnati Para-Swimming Open in May and has her sights set on competing with Team USA for meets in the future.

As she trains, she's grateful for the embrace of her Shepherd community, the support of Alias family, whose generosity has elevated Shepherd's sports programs, and for the connections she has made.

"Shepherd has been a great vessel for me to build a support system. I've made friends who have turned into my family. At Shepherd, I don't have the excuse of, 'Oh, I can't do this because of my disability,' because everyone there knows how to help me figure things out. It went from a hospital setting that should have been very traumatic and turned into a place of support, love, and family." *

Shepherd Alums:

From "I Can't" to "I Can"

By Sara Baxter and Phillip Jordan

Cassie Kahle

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

When Cassie Kahle, currently working on a horse farm in The Netherlands, returned briefly to the United States last year, she made sure to stop in Atlanta to visit her friends at Shepherd Center.

"I wanted to walk through those doors and say thank you to the people who gave me a second chance and who gave me my life back," Cassie says. "I am so grateful to everyone at Shepherd Center."

On January 29, 2022, Cassie was competing in a national horse jumping competition in Ocala, Florida, when she fell during a jump. She sustained a traumatic brain injury and remained unconscious for 18 days. She initially went to UF Health Shands Hospital in Gainesville, Florida, and then was airlifted to Shepherd Center a week later.

When Cassie emerged from her disorder of consciousness, she could not move her left side. She spent the next four weeks learning to walk again as well as regaining strength, balance, and mobility. She continued her rehabilitation at Shepherd Pathways, Shepherd Center's comprehensive outpatient rehabilitation program for people recovering from brain injury, and was soon walking with the aid of a walker. When she graduated from Pathways, she could walk independently.

Before the accident, Cassie's life revolved around horses. She began riding and competing at a young age. She was working as a horse trainer and rider for farms in New Jersey and Florida. She competed nationally, hoping to make it to the Canadian Olympic Team. So it's no surprise that during her recovery, she made it her singular goal to return to horseback riding.

"All I could think about was getting back on the horse," Cassie remembers. "I've done it my whole life — that's all I knew."

To help her achieve that goal, therapists at Pathways incorporated elements of riding into her therapy. Six months later, she was back on a horse.

"It was the most amazing, emotional experience," says Cassie, who has her sights set on returning to competition, but on a smaller scale. She is very appreciative of how far she has come.

"The doctors tell you that they can't predict your recovery with a brain injury because everyone is different," Cassie says. "But I feel fortunate that after two years, I am doing better than ever."



Photo by Willem Van Limpt

Eva Van De Water

Decatur, Georgia

Eva Van De Water sustained two concussions within the last year and a half, and both times, she turned to Shepherd Center's Complex Concussion Clinic (CCC) for treatment.

In September 2022, Eva fell during a horseback riding lesson. She left the ring saying she was fine, but a few days later, she began experiencing nausea, light sensitivity, and headaches. After a trip to the emergency room, she learned she had a concussion. She made an appointment with a specialist, but there was a two-month wait.

She continued to experience dizziness, headaches, and extreme fatigue. An incredibly active person, Eva had to put all activities on hold as she recovered. Her symptoms also affected her job as a high school science teacher. When she heard about the Complex Concussion Clinic at Shepherd Center, she got an appointment within a week.

After an initial assessment, Eva's care team prescribed medication, and she began working with physical, occupational, and speech therapists weekly. She worked on eye tracking for the dizziness and did exercises for balance and strength. Learning to organize tasks minimized her fatigue.

"It was helpful for me to know I was working toward something," she says. "I was motivated to get my life back."

She had a goal of joining her friends on a ski trip in Colorado that February.

"The therapists worked with me on all the pieces," she says. "And I was able to go and ski."

Competing in a whitewater kayak slalom race as part of the Alabama Cup Races was next.

In July, when Eva was back on track, she bumped her head on a window sill. Again, at first, she seemed fine. But two weeks later, after an afternoon of jet skiing, she felt those familiar symptoms. She believes it was a combination of both incidents that landed her back at the CCC, where she was once again diagnosed with a concussion. She spent the next six weeks working with therapists and, once again, was able to return to her active lifestyle.

"Both times, the team at Shepherd was dedicated to making me better," Eva says. "I was in a partnership with each of the therapists. I am really grateful to all of them for getting me in a good spot to return to life."



Dustin McHenry

Stockbridge, Georgia

On February 5, 2020, Dustin "Dusty" McHenry, was in a car accident that felt for all the world like a near-death experience.

"No kidding, I don't remember pain or anything. I just remember seeing all my deceased loved ones," Dusty says. "Truly, my Mamaw Mac came up to me and gave me one of those Little Debbie Zebra Cakes. Then my Granddaddy Bill, daggum cigarette in his mouth and a cup of coffee. And he leans down to me and just says, 'Not yet.'"

And that's all that Dusty, now 35, remembers from his accident or many of the days and weeks before and after it. Following numerous surgeries at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta, Dusty had a similarly surreal experience when he arrived at Shepherd Center in March 2020.

"I began to wake up right as the COVID lockdowns happened," Dusty says. "My wife Julie and the rest of my family couldn't be around because of the protocols. But I didn't understand that. I'm seeing all these strange faces in masks and protective equipment. It felt like, 'Is this purgatory?'"

Adding to the dreamlike vibes, one of Dusty's ICU nurses was Michael Ellis, RN — a good friend and someone Dusty's known since high school. Dusty credits Michael and Suzie Goggin, RN, CRRN, with helping him gradually understand his situation.

Dusty's most significant challenge to a full recovery was the traumatic brain injury he'd sustained. At Shepherd Center, his care team helped Dusty re-learn how to talk, walk, eat — in short, everything. He also received vital care for his wounds. While many people with complex injuries and illnesses face an increased risk of obtaining wounds as a secondary complication, Dusty's expert wound care team helped prevent further complications and additional surgeries that could have derailed his rehabilitation.

"Honestly, I felt like a child at first," Dusty says. "The progress felt slow, but with everything they were doing, my brain eventually started kicking into gear."

Dusty also completed outpatient therapy at Shepherd Pathways, and he utilized Shepherd's Driving Evaluation and Rehabilitation Program to re-learn how to drive. Today, he's once more taking his kids — Madison, 8, and Rhett, 5 — to and from school each day. Dusty's also flying again with his pilot father-in-law. And the longtime Atlanta Braves fan is excited about a new baseball season.

"I could very easily be dead," Dusty says. "I never forget that. So, I'm just happy every day to be alive and well."

Photo by Julie McHenry



Ole Djalleta

Johns Creek, Georgia

On September 14, 2021, Ole Djalleta was on his way to high school football practice when the car he was riding in was involved in an accident. He sustained a severe traumatic brain injury and was unconscious. Doctors at Northside Hospital Gwinnett told his family to prepare for the worst.

Ole survived and, two weeks later, transferred to Shepherd Center's Disorders of Consciousness Program, part of the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Program.

"The minute we got there, therapists started working with him," Ole's mother, Mihret, recalls. "I had this tremendous sense of relief that things were progressing."

She was even more relieved when he emerged from his disorder of consciousness after seven long weeks.

"When I woke up, I remember being terrified," Ole says. "I didn't know where I was, and it was hard to fall asleep." He couldn't speak, breathe independently, walk, or do anything for himself. He spent three months at Shepherd Center relearning how to do everything before transferring to Shepherd Pathways to continue his rehabilitation.

Ole continued to improve and credits the "super chill" therapists at Shepherd Center and Pathways for his progress. "They made it fun so I could work hard to regain my cognitive and physical abilities," he says. "They sometimes played The Weeknd, my favorite artist of all time, during my therapy sessions."

Through it all, he was focused on one goal: As president of his senior class at Providence Christian Academy in Lilburn, Georgia, he wanted to give a speech at his graduation.

In May 2022, just eight months after the crash, Ole walked up to the stage and gave that graduation speech, and included a thank you to his therapists. He received a standing ovation.

Ole continued to work hard at therapy, returning to Shepherd Center several times to improve his function.

Two years later, Ole is a freshman at Georgia State University studying biomedical sciences. He hopes to one day design machines like the ones that helped him learn to walk again. His next goal is to move to on-campus housing and live on his own.

Ole and his mother are grateful to Shepherd Center for his incredible recovery.

"God gave us so many miracles, and one of them was Shepherd Center," says Mihret, "Thank you just doesn't seem to be enough."



Photo by Collins Amadi

“Helping the Place that Helped Me”

Former patients give back to Shepherd Center by volunteering

By Sara Baxter



Odessa Terry helps set up a bi-weekly yoga class for patients. Stuart Neiman greets people at the welcome desk. Eric Bernath feeds patients breakfast.

These three are among the 100 volunteers serving Shepherd Center, and they are giving back to the place that changed their lives.

“So many former patients are interested in volunteering, and they tell me, ‘I want to do this because someone did it for me,’” says Alex Seblatnigg, CAVS, CPXP, Shepherd Center’s director of volunteer services and internal

engagement. “For someone to want to come back after a traumatic injury because of the care they received and the support they felt is a real testament to the experience they had as a patient. It has everything to do with the people who touched their lives while they were here.”

Volunteers play an essential role at Shepherd Center, serving in various positions such as helping with clerical duties, mail delivery, feeding patients, peer support, serving as gym runners, and staffing the welcome desk. They also contribute to Shepherd’s trademark culture and warmth.

“Former patients offer a unique perspective,” Seblatnigg says. “They have lived the experience and help patients see life after Shepherd Center.”

“I have so much appreciation for what they did for me,” Stuart says, “and I wanted to give back. It’s an amazing place.”

Stuart works at the welcome desk every Wednesday morning, saying hello to visitors as they walk into the hospital. For many, he’s the first point of contact they have at Shepherd Center and makes them feel welcome and at ease.

“I really enjoy greeting people, and it’s rewarding to see everybody’s positivity.”

Odessa Terry says it’s in her nature to want to help others. She was in school studying to be a social worker when she had a stroke in 2017 at just 20 years old. She spent two months in Shepherd Center’s Brain Injury



Stuart Neiman sustained a spinal cord injury in a body surfing accident in 2015. He was at Shepherd Center for 10 weeks, learning to walk again and regaining use of his hands.

He retired in 2022 and was looking for a place to spend his newfound spare time. He looked no further than Shepherd Center.

Rehabilitation Program, working on her speech, balance, and mobility.

She began volunteering at Shepherd Center five years ago, first at the coffee kiosk, re-stocking the supplies for coffee. After the pandemic, Odessa returned, this time helping set up the yoga class. Her duties include laying down mats and

“I have so much appreciation for what they did for me and I wanted to give back. It’s an amazing place.”

– Stuart Neiman

pulling out any equipment needed for the class. After class, she puts everything away.

“I like meeting people and helping them,” says Odessa, who has returned to school and plans to finish her social work degree. “And Shepherd Center is such a good place.”

Eric Bernath is part of the “The Breakfast Club,” a corps of dedicated volunteers who come early to help feed patients. He remembers the volunteers who fed him when he could not feed himself.

Eric sustained a spinal cord injury after a forklift accident in 2018. When he came to Shepherd Center, he had no feeling below his neck. He spent seven weeks at Shepherd Center, working to regain strength and function. Like Stuart, he was able to walk out of the hospital.

In 2019, he walked back in, enlisting as a volunteer, working as a gym runner, peer support, and feeding patients.

“I wanted something positive to come out of my accident, and I wanted my experience to have an impact on someone in a similar situation,” Eric says. “It’s been very rewarding. I know it is helping the place that helped me.” *

(from left to right) Volunteer Odessa Terry lays out mats in preparation for a packed yoga class in the Callaway Auditorium at Shepherd Center. ▶ Volunteer Stuart Neiman greets patients, families, and staff with a smile at the welcome desk. ▶ Volunteer Eric Bernath (L) helps John Johnson with breakfast.

Shepherd Center welcomes New Members to Foundation Board of Trustees

Shepherd Center welcomed six new members to its Foundation Board of Trustees this year. In this role, they will set development policies for Shepherd Center Foundation, the primary fundraising entity for the hospital. Each new member has a history of involvement with Shepherd Center and a commitment to supporting its mission.



Sarah Borders
Retired; Former Bankruptcy & Real Estate Partner, King & Spalding



Keith Johnson
East Group President, Brasfield & Gorrie, LLC



Spencer Moore
Commissioner, Georgia Department of Driver Services



Kristin Replogle
President, Replogle Family Foundation



Eric Schelling
VP, Global Talent Acquisition, The Home Depot



William Stengel II
President & COO, Genuine Parts Company

Thank you to the following Foundation Board of Trustees members whose terms ended this year:

- Elizabeth Allen, *Emerita*
- Richard M. Hazel
- John W. Stephenson, Jr.
- Paul Donahue
- Michael Keough

Celebrating Decades of Support

Elizabeth Allen was named an emeritus member of Shepherd Center's Board of Trustees.



(clockwise) Alana Shepherd, Elizabeth Allen, and Cyndae Arrendale at The Legendary Party in 2018. ▶ 2023 Legendary Party honorees Elizabeth Allen (L), Jessica Jones, and Justin Jones, with Alana Shepherd. ▶ Alana Shepherd, the late Harold Shepherd, Elizabeth Allen, and the late Carl Allen. ▶ Elizabeth Allen and her husband, the late Carl Allen.

Having joined Shepherd Center's Board of Trustees in 2018, Elizabeth Allen has now been named one of three emeritus trustees. Since Shepherd's first decade as an institution, Elizabeth, her husband, the late Carl Allen, and their children have significantly contributed to the hospital's success and growth. Elizabeth is a Life Member of the



Auxiliary and has served on Shepherd's Advisory and Board of Trustees. Almost a decade ago, she proposed the formation of Women Shaping Shepherd, a group that, since its inception, has helped fund patient-centered programs and experiences ranging from recreation therapy to assistive technology. Her passion, expertise, and tireless efforts have benefited the board and positively impacted Shepherd Center.

Shepherd Center Co-founder and Chairman Alana Shepherd says Elizabeth often gives quietly in ways that will enhance the patient experience or benefit Shepherd programs.

"Elizabeth is particularly drawn to making an impact on the patients and their families. Her gifts were anonymous and very well-received. She enjoys getting to know patients and their stories. She loves knowing the patients' progress. And she's so excited about the expansion with the two new buildings. She said she drove up Peachtree the other day and had tears in her eyes," Alana says.

"I think every organization needs a friend like Elizabeth Allen," says Sarah Batts, senior vice president, advancement

and executive director, Shepherd Center Foundation. "She is the type of person who will cheer you on, give you feedback, and speak the truth. She is behind the scenes, willing to roll up her sleeves and do the work. She doesn't do anything for name recognition. She does it because she loves the organization and wants to make a difference. It's all about the patients and the families to Elizabeth. She recognizes that the hospital has a unique model of care, and she's truly a guardian of Shepherd Center and will continue to be in her role as an emeritus trustee."

Elizabeth and Carl's daughter, Jessica, and her husband, Justin Jones, have joined in the family's support of Shepherd. Jessica is an active volunteer for Women Shaping Shepherd and other signature events, and Justin is on Shepherd's Board of Directors and a co-chair for Pursuing Possible: The Campaign for Shepherd Center. And Elizabeth's personal commitment is unwavering.

"It would take quite a long time and many pages to adequately express how much Shepherd Center means to me and my family. The admiration I hold for the Shepherd family, the amazing medical team, the staff, and countless volunteers and contributors who make the magic happen is enormous. Coming through the doors and immediately feeling the love within is always humbling. Serving in any position at Shepherd Center has been an honor, and I look forward to continuing my involvement," she says. ✨

Photos by Ben Rose

Shepherd Center Junior Committee Kicks Off

SCJC embarks on another impactful year of support for Shepherd

By Erica Spurling

On Thursday, February 29, Shepherd Center Junior Committee (SCJC) hosted its highly anticipated annual kickoff party at Buckhead Art & Company. With approximately 125 attendees, delicious food, refreshing drinks, music, and camaraderie, the event began what promises to be another stellar year of support for Shepherd Center by these dedicated individuals.

SCJC is a group of professionals committed to supporting Shepherd Center's mission of helping individuals with temporary or permanent disabilities rebuild their lives with hope, independence, and dignity. This dynamic committee channels its energy into patient support, fundraising, network building, and community engagement initiatives.

Grayson Martin, a distinguished member of the SCJC Executive Board, was the guest speaker. She shared her personal Shepherd story, detailing how Shepherd Center played a pivotal role in her recovery journey. Grayson's story was a testament to the transformative impact of Shepherd Center's rehabilitation services and a high point of the evening. Her heartfelt narrative resonated with the audience, underscoring the importance of the committee's mission and the tangible difference made in the lives of individuals facing similar challenges.

With the momentum gained from the kickoff party, the committee is poised to embark on another impactful year of supporting Shepherd Center and making a positive difference in the lives of those in need.

One of the hallmark achievements of SCJC is its unwavering commitment to raising funds for Shepherd Center's Recreation Therapy Program. The program enhances the lives of people facing physical challenges and fosters healing and growth through recreational activities. Last year, the committee organized a series of events for patients and their families, including a March Madness Watch Party, an Ice Cream Social, and a Family Cookout. They also hosted their first Cornhole Tournament, a signature fundraising event, which they plan to host annually.

These events serve as avenues for volunteering and create invaluable opportunities for patients and their



caregivers. In the upcoming year, the SCJC plans to host similar events and recognize recreation therapists' indispensable contributions to the healing process. Through these initiatives, SCJC continues to foster a sense of community and support for those on their journey to reclaiming independence.

If you are interested in joining Shepherd Center Junior Committee or sponsoring this year's cornhole tournament, please visit donate.shepherd.org/SCJC2024 or email Erica Spurling at erica.spurling@shepherd.org. *

(clockwise) Callie Hegland, Caroline Hartley, Mary Baker Carter, and Kayla Malone serve hot dogs and all the fixings at a cookout for patients and families in the Anna and Hays Mershon Secret Garden. ► Conner Greenberg, Jake Thompson, and Sachin Khadse enjoy SCJC's Kickoff Party. ► Frank Cannon, 2023 SCJC Executive Board member, serves popsicles during SCJC's Ice Cream Social for Shepherd patients and families. ► Guests enjoy the photo booth at SCJC's Kickoff Party.



A Moroccan Evening

2024 Legendary Party Kickoff

By Erica Spurling

Past sponsors, donors, and esteemed guests gathered for an unforgettable night of cocktails, culinary delights, and the cultivation of compassion at Shepherd Center's 2024 Legendary Party Kickoff, held March 14, 2024.

As the night unfolded, Jamie Shepherd, Shepherd Center's president and COO, introduced the 2024 Ball Chairs, Sherry and David Abney. The Abneys shared their connection to Shepherd Center, expressing their passion for the cause and its transformative impact on countless lives. David mentioned how they were introduced to Shepherd through co-founder Alana Shepherd's tour of the hospital. They were immediately hooked and knew Shepherd was a special place. Sherry Abney revealed their theme, "Journey to Morocco," and remarked upon how patients' recovery is also a journey.

The evening transported attendees to a world of mystique and philanthropy at The Estate. The venue became a canvas, echoing Moroccan landscapes' rich colors and textures. The Legendary Party serves as an annual display of generosity, offering attendees the chance to delve into the heart of Shepherd Center's mission.

A poignant highlight of the evening was recognizing this year's honoree, Arthur M. Blank. The co-founder of The Home Depot and owner of the Atlanta Falcons and Atlanta United, Blank's commitment to philanthropy and community service aligns seamlessly with Shepherd Center's mission. The party provided a platform for guests to learn more about Blank's dedication and the significance of Shepherd fundraising efforts this year being dedicated to supporting The Arthur M. Blank Family Residences.

The program ended with Colin and Marc Goracke sharing a deeply personal account of Colin's Shepherd journey. The Goracke family's story underscored the vital role of family housing, the program that this year's fundraising efforts will support. Marc explained that finding housing is a worry that families should not have to bear while already going through a traumatic experience and that while they were grateful for the 30 days they received, having donor-funded housing for the entire length of Colin's recovery at Shepherd would alleviate a lot of stress. Colin also mentioned the toll these catastrophic injuries take on mental health and that having his family close helped with his recovery.

As guests left The Estate, they carried with them not just the memories of a splendid Moroccan-themed event but a deeper understanding of Shepherd Center's impact on individuals and families. The 2024 Legendary Party Kickoff successfully laid the foundation for a year of philanthropy, compassion, and support for the Arthur M. Blank Family Residences, ensuring that Shepherd Center continues to be a beacon of hope for those on the road to recovery.

To learn more about sponsorship opportunities, please contact Erica Spurling at erica.spurling@shepherd.org or visit foundation.shepherd.org/events.

Learn more about how the Pursuing Possible Campaign supports Shepherd Center's growing capacity and housing initiatives at expandingsshepherd.org. *



(From top) Shepherd Center President and COO, Jamie Shepherd, MBA, MHA, spoke during the Legendary Kickoff. ► Guests Cindy Wall, Melody Thomas, and Joe Thomas, applaud the speakers during the Legendary Kickoff Party. ► David and Sherry Abney, the 2024 Legendary Party Chairs, with Chairs-elect, Shanna and Bill Bradley. ► Marc and Colin Goracke, who shared Colin's journey as a Shepherd patient with Legendary Kickoff Party guests, pose for a photo with Shepherd CEO Sarah Morrison, PT, MBA, MHA; Board of Directors member, Jarrad Turner; and Sarah Batts, SVP of Advancement.

Photos by Attia Junior Photography

Photos by Issabella Banks



The Soque River Slam Returns

After a successful inaugural year in 2023, anglers can return to the river with Shepherd Center this fall.

Grab your gear and get ready for this year's Soque River Slam, an invitational fishing rodeo benefitting Shepherd Center. The event will be held on Saturday, October 26, 2024, in Clarksville, Georgia.

Ten teams of anglers, each with seven members, including one patient from Shepherd, will enjoy a day of fishing on the beautiful Soque River. Teams can look forward to lunch on the water, cash prizes, and bragging rights for the teams with the largest number of fish "clearly on the hook" and the largest brown trout.

In the afternoon, participants can enjoy live music, camaraderie, and award presentations.

For more information or to register a team, contact Lisa Ruger at lisa.ruger@shepherd.org or scan the QR code below.



► Participants in the 2023 Soque River Slam enjoyed beautiful weather, great catches, and, for some, bragging rights.



Murphy Music and Brews Delivers Again

Fellowship, music, brews, and bites made for an uplifting celebration of our nation's heroes while raising funds for SHARE Military Initiative.

On Saturday, April 13, a musical celebration echoed through the streets of downtown Murphy, North Carolina, during the 2nd Annual Murphy Music and Brews. The brainchild of Buck Bald Brewing Co. owner Patrick Keenan and Shepherd's Men co-founder Travis Ellis, the event raised awareness and funds to support Shepherd Center's SHARE Military Initiative, a comprehensive rehabilitation program that offers veterans, service members, and first responders help and healing for traumatic brain injuries and any co-occurring psychological or behavioral health concerns, including post-traumatic stress.

From the afternoon into the evening, an impressive musical line-up, including Chuck Mead of Br5-49, Kevn Kinney

of Drivin' N' Cryin', Cracker, and War Hippies, rocked the stage with one unforgettable performance after the next, celebrating veterans and the work being done to help our nation's heroes. In one of the evening's many highlights, the War Hippies' Scott Brown and Donnie Reis invited a SHARE client and his son onto the stage during one of their songs. Later, musicians from the day's line-up wrapped up the evening with an all-star rendition of Drivin' N' Cryin's hit "Straight to Hell."

For beer lovers, an equally impressive line-up of 11 breweries, including a winery and a meadery, served their finest, including Buck Bald Brewing Co.'s 22 Pale Ale, created specifically for Shepherd's Men. Food vendors added to the festive atmosphere, with delicious fare ranging from barbecue to kettle corn. Vendors donated a portion of their proceeds to Shepherd's Men. For information about Shepherd's Men and their events, please visit shepherdsmen.com. *

This year's lineup for Murphy Music and Brews included Chuck Mead of Br5-49, Kevn Kinney of Drivin' N' Cryin', Cracker, and War Hippies. Eleven breweries, including a winery and meadery, as well as food vendors, offered festival-goers delicious options and donated a portion of their proceeds to Shepherd's Men. (center) Buck Bald Brewing Co. owner Patrick Keenan and Shepherd's Men co-founder Travis Ellis.



Save the Date

Upcoming Events

RPM 9/11 5K
Saturday, September 7, 2024
Chastain Park —
American Legion Post 140

40th Annual Shepherd Center Cup
Monday, September 23, 2024
Cherokee Country Club

Conlan Cup
Monday, September 30, 2024
The Golf Club of Georgia

Shepherd Center Junior Committee's Second Annual Cornhole Tournament
Saturday, October 26, 2024
Steady Hand Beer Co.

Soque Slam Invitational Fishing Rodeo
Saturday, October 26, 2024
Clarksville, Georgia

Shepherd's Men Clay Shoot
Friday, November 1, 2024
The Burge Club

Legendary Party
Saturday, November 2, 2024
Flourish Atlanta

For more information on Shepherd Center events, please visit foundation.shepherd.org/events or scan the QR code.



Deceased friends of Shepherd Center are listed first in bold print followed by the names of those making gifts in their memory. This list reflects gifts made to Shepherd Center between **January 1, 2024 and March 31, 2024.**

- Charles Allen**
Mr. and Mrs. Hunter S. Allen, Jr.
- Mark Anderson**
Ms. Pamela J. Cornwell
- Laura and Karl Anschutz**
Ms. Esther L. Abisamra
Ms. Hope E. Abisamra
Mr. and Mrs. Greg Gersch
- William Parnell Bailey**
Mr. Ashton Rogers
Mr. Eric Suber
Ms. Kristin Yann
- Helen L. Batts**
Mr. and Mrs. Alan Hunn
- Marilyn Beringer**
Mrs. Marilyn S. Evans
- Leon Blackburn**
Mrs. Laura Hinton
- Don A. Bomgardner**
Mrs. Alana S. Shepherd
- Jane Bonham**
Mr. Ben B. Bonham
- Colonel James S. Branch,
US Army Signal Corps**
Anonymous
- Natasha Brandon**
Dr. Michael Yochelson and
Mr. Kevin Clift
- Phyllis Brooks**
Mrs. Jane B. Lybrook
- Andrew Buehl**
Dr. Ramin Saghafi
- Mary Busko**
Ms. Jane S. Holder
- Clare W. Callard**
Mrs. Nancy Coppedge Lynn
Mr. and Mrs. Adolphus B.
Orthwein, Jr.
Mr. Gary M. Sams
Shepherd Center Board of
Directors
Mrs. Laura Smith Spearman
- Hattie Rae Callison**
Sedalia Stars WMU
- James M. Caswell**
Mr. and Mrs. David M. Black



Day Program patient Timothy Williams (R), who has previous woodworking experience, and occupational therapist Atom Young, MHS, OTR/L, work together to assemble a nuthatch nest box. A grant from West Foundation covered the cost of supplies to make the birdhouses, which were designed to Bird Georgia specifications. Timothy plans to give the birdhouse to his wife, who loves birds.

- Donnie Gene Chupp**
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis E. Chupp
- Clarice Coats**
Mr. and Mrs. Charles N. Shockley, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce N. Street
Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Theune
Williams Charitable Foundation
- Henry Collins**
Mr. and Mrs. Philip W. Proctor
- Timothy Condrey**
Ms. Jennifer Hartman
Ms. Laura Pizzi
Ms. Susan Scerbo
Ms. Jeanie Walter
Mrs. Kit Webb
- Lakin Ray Cook**
Mr. Thomas S. Cook
- Ronald "Ronnie" Daniel**
Ms. Nyja Greene
Ms. Kimberly Roberts
Ms. Cynthia Wann
Mr. and Mrs. Barney B. Whitaker III
Ms. Elizabeth Wickersham
Mr. and Mrs. Donald P. Zuber
- Allan DaPore**
Ms. Maria Holland Law

- Al Dattolo**
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Townsend
- John B. Davis, Jr.**
Haralson County High School
Ms. Brandy Henderson
Strack, Inc.
- Will DeLeo**
Ms. Anne K. Case
- Bridget M. Dobson**
Mrs. Nancy Coppedge Lynn
- Sadie Lee Douglas**
Dr. Jill M. Koval
- Father Harold Dudman**
Mrs. Phyllis Arogeti
- Ryan Duffy**
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Clark
Ms. Catherine Duffy
Mr. Edward Kopchinsky
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Macdonald
Mr. Kenneth Starcher
- David Ellis**
Mr. and Mrs. Jeremy A. Ellis
- Jim Ellis**
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Townsend
- Hanson Farmer**
Mr. and Mrs. Scott D. Hawkins

- Michelle Francis**
Oke and Patrice Pearson
- Mr. and Mrs. George T. Gunnell**
LTC (R) and Mrs. Victor Macias
- Cathleen Hairston**
Mr. Charles M. Hairston, Jr.
- Nicholas Hardage**
Ms. Mina Harrouff
- Mynelle G. Harris**
Ms. Mary A. Mitchell
- Sydell D. Harris**
Mr. Richard Liebman
Ms. Barbara G. Meyer
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas W. Norwood
Mrs. Alana S. Shepherd
Ms. Donna Wilensky
- Sam Hendrickson**
Mrs. Connie L. Upton
- Ray Hendrix**
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Townsend
- Mark Hodges**
Ms. Michelle M. Boudreaux
Mrs. Patricia R. Hodges
Mr. Christopher L. Phillips
Mr. and Mrs. Joe M. Phillips
- Linda J. Holbrook**
Mr. Frank B. Holbrook



The Brainy MSfits was one of many Shepherd staff teams that brought their best game (and best costumes) to Shepherd Center's Field Day festivities.

- Donna Simmons Hugus**
Berean Baptist Church
Mr. Michael Lipes
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth R. Simmons
Ms. Ramona Wilson
- John David Miles**
Mr. C. Calhoun Peterson
- Mary Mobley**
Mr. and Mrs. William N. Benedict, Jr.
Mrs. Laura Smith Spearman
- Emily Adamson Montalvo**
Mr. and Mrs. Bill L. Garrett
- George Richard Morrow, Jr.**
Ms. Tammy Edelman
Mr. and Mrs. Ed Korb
Mr. Paul Peninger
Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Winstead
- John Wayne Moulton**
Dr. and Mrs. Richard A. Hurd, Jr.
- Wade Murphy**
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Townsend
- Arthur Nash**
Ms. Sarah Irving
- Laura Carter Overstreet**
Heather and Michael Overstreet
- Alfred "Fred" Joseph Peckham**
Ms. Karen King
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Martin
- Juan Perez**
Mr. and Mrs. John Norris
- Roger Glenn Queen**
Ms. Brenda Crawford
- Shams Ramji**
Mr. Aleem Ramji
- Mark Stiller**
Ms. Amy Guthman
SPC Steven Tyler Redmon
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Moody
Mr. and Mrs. Darrin Moore
- Michael Reed**
J W R Jewelers, Inc.
- Billy Hulse**
The Goddard Foundation
- Genie Inge**
Ms. Sue Adair
Pat Frazer
Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Harrison
Mr. Austill Lott
- Ken Jackson**
Mr. Craig Rowe
- Patrick Ryan Jenkins**
Ms. Helene P. Ahlers
- Betsy Kann**
Ms. Ilyse Greenberg
- Deborah G. Krotenberg**
Ms. Ann Bishop
- Father LeVerette**
Mrs. Phyllis Arogeti
- Robert R. Long**
Mrs. Nancy Coppedge Lynn
- Douglas P. Lybrook**
Mrs. Jane B. Lybrook
- Pen Lybrook**
Mrs. Jane B. Lybrook
- Dr. Jerome "Jerry" Lynn**
Mrs. Grant R. Curtis
Mr. and Mrs. Charles D. Hurt, Jr.
Ms. Caroline A. Ryan
Mrs. Laura Smith Spearman
- Charles Mangrum**
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Townsend
- Dawn McNally**
Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Norris

- Herbert Alden Rivers**
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Aebersold
Ms. Jane W. Cochran
- Mary Beem Robinson**
Mr. and Mrs. William N. Benedict, Jr.
- Harold Shepherd**
Mr. and Mrs. Alejandro Leal
- James Shepherd**
Mr. and Mrs. Alejandro Leal
- Tommy Shepherd**
Mr. and Mrs. James D. Thompson
Mrs. Rebecca D. Warner
Mr. and Mrs. Peter A. Wilson
- Richard Marks Slack, Sr. "Dick"**
Ms. Laara Doorley
Ms. Susan P. Jackson
Ms. Jane G. Kent
Ms. Judith K. Slack
Mrs. Maclyn M. Slack
Mr. and Mrs. Theodore B. Thompson
- Gloria Slay**
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Townsend
- Catherine Slick**
Ms. Virginia Lippincott
- Bronwyn Leslie Smith**
Ms. Angela Cochran Walker
- Lori Sneed**
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Stafford
- Margaret Armstrong Staton**
Ms. Louise S. Gunn
- Hamilton Stockton, Jr.**
Mrs. Alana S. Shepherd
- Richard M. (Dick) Stormont**
Ms. Susan Ranson
- Marjorie Ann Stroup**
Mr. James D. Belman, Jr.
Green Hills Community Church
Mr. and Mrs. Luther Kelley
Ms. Eleanore Schleicher
Shepherd Center Board of Directors
Ms. Sandra Stroup
- Marcos Suero**
Dr. Betsy Richwine and Mr. Andrew Bolton
Mr. and Mrs. Knox R. Wilmer
- Luther "Luke" Taylor**
Ms. Alice T. Long
- Glen Thor**
Ms. Melodie Holton
Mr. and Mrs. Michael C. Varicak
- Kathie S. Tucker**
Mr. Richard P. Gilpin, Jr.
- Reginald "Reggie" Vachon**
Mr. James W. Coaker
- Morgan Grace Wetherbee**
MEMIC
- David M. Wheeler**
Ms. Sally Wheeler
- Ritchie Williams**
Mr. Jack Cramer
- James "Jimmy" Bryan Williams**
Mrs. Alana S. Shepherd
- Elizabeth Willis**
Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Amann
- Joan Woodall**
Ms. Helen M. Ballard
Mrs. Vernona S. McDuffie



Shepherd Center patients and staff donned protective eyewear and took time to observe the solar eclipse in April.

Honorees are listed first in bold print followed by the names of those making gifts in their honor. This list reflects gifts made to Shepherd Center between **January 1, 2024 and March 31, 2024.**

Jackson Amburn
Ms. Linda Kuryloski

Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.
Mr. Roger F. Hensley

Cyndae Arrendale
Dr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Callahan
Ms. Cynthia Gaines
Mr. and Mrs. Lige K. Sims

Rebecca Atwell
Mrs. Sara C. Atwell

BJ Barham
Ms. Lori Nolte

Peter Bourque
Mr. Rick Daly

Mark and Brooks Brackett
Mr. and Mrs. David S. Martin

Nell Bradbury
Ms. Clinton B. Kennedy
Ms. Marsha P. Moorner

Ms. Tricia Buce
Mr. and Mrs. Walter F. Buce

Abbey Climer
Mr. and Mrs. Tim Climer

Joyce Cox
Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Dyson

3rd Floor CRU Staff
Dr. and Dr. Bobby A. Smith

James Curtis
Mr. and Mrs. James M. Wells III

Mary Evans
Ms. Clinton B. Kennedy

David Ewing
Mr. Timothy Ewing

Alec Fraser
Mr. Larry Dorfman

Emily Garrett
Ms. MacKensie Brandt

Richard G. Gayle
Mr. and Mrs. Franklin D. Cancel

Stephen Gennusa
Mrs. Deborah J. Kosta

Priscilla Glass
Ms. Clinton B. Kennedy

Scott Gordon, Sr.
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Gordon

Michael J. Guertler
Dr. and Mrs. Timothy D. C. Spencer

Thomas Harmon
Mr. and Mrs. Woodson T. Harmon

Connie Hart
Mr. and Mrs. Luther Kelley

Eli Hiskey
Ms. Jessica Hiskey

Nicolas Horne
Mr. Dameon Horne

Pem Jenkins
Dr. and Mrs. Joe Jenkins

Christopher Kelly
Mr. Eugene B. Kelly and Ms. Barbara T. West

Clinton B. Kennedy
Ms. Marsha P. Moorner

Katie Kimball
Don Waite and Family

Jacob Klebar's Graduation
Mrs. Jenene Klebar

David Kulman
Mr. Roger F. Hensley

Ryan Levins
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Levins

Doug Lindauer's 60th Birthday
Ira C. Herbert Family Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E. Hughston
Kirkwood Foundation
Dr. and Mrs. Donald Peck Leslie
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas J. Lindauer
Mrs. Rebecca F. Lindauer
Adrian Montgomery
Mr. and Mrs. David A. Payne
Telluray Fund
Mr. and Mrs. David Withers
Mr. and Mrs. Dan York

Benjamin R. Lippincott
Ms. Kate Lippincott

Dr. Stan Marks' Birthday
Mr. and Mrs. Steven J. Labovitz

Laura Martorella
Ms. Robin Tedder

Louie McEntyre
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Townsend

Linda Miller
Mr. Timothy Miller

Marsha Moorner
Ms. Clinton B. Kennedy

Hannah Morris' 13th Birthday!
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher D. Morris

Sarah Morrison
Yates Insurance Agency, Inc.

Ted Mullin
Mr. John Anderson
Mr. Richard Ellis

Justice Munn
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Munn

Andrew Munoz
Mr. Alfredo G. Munoz

Ryan Narramore
Anonymous

Don Nelson
Kendall Nelson

Forrest Ozbolt
Ms. Tamra Ozbolt

Pattillo Industrial Real Estate
Yates Insurance Agency, Inc.

Carolyn Pittman
Mr. and Mrs. James E. Mann

The Replogle Family
Ms. Frances P. Pugh

Jamie Reynolds III
Mr. and Mrs. James G. Strickland

Allison Robinson
Mr. and Mrs. E. Bradford Ladd, Jr.

Zachary Sheats
Mr. and Mrs. John LaMar

Alana S. Shepherd
Mr. and Mrs. Larry M. Cowman
Ms. Betsy Primm
Dr. and Mrs. William G. Whitaker III

Zachary Slotkin
Mr. Alexander Slotkin and Ms. Shira Newman

Wes Varda
Mr. Kenneth Heidelberger

Brittany Varnum
Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Stovall II

Joe Watkins
Lourie Chance Forlines
Carter & King PC

Jeffrey Werner
Mr. and Mrs. Marc Werner

Krissy Williams' Birthday
Anonymous

Andrew Winfrey
Mrs. Sylvia Myers

Tammy Woodward's Birthday
Ms. Lisa Tubbs

Chris Wooten
Mr. and Mrs. Matt Barringer

Mak Yost
Ms. Candace English



Henry Devaney enjoys snuggles with Colin, one of Shepherd's facility dogs, before a yoga class in the Callaway Auditorium at Shepherd Center.

Shepherd Center Foundation | Board of Trustees

Officers

Andrew Alias – *Chair*, Vice President, Sales and Marketing, REPAY

Stephen B. Holleman, MBA, CPA – *Treasurer*, Chief Financial Officer, Shepherd Center

Sarah A. Morrison* – CEO, Shepherd Center

Sarah Batts* – Senior VP of Advancement, Shepherd Center Foundation

Alana Shepherd – *Secretary*, Co-Founder and Chairman of the Board

Members

Sherry Abney, Civic Volunteer

Stephanie Anderson, Associate Judge, Rockdale County Probate Court

David F. Apple, Jr., M.D., Medical Director Emeritus, Shepherd Center

Eric Bernath, Chief Operating Officer, Advance Drum Service, Inc.

Angela Blank, Civic Volunteer

Sarah Borders, Retired; Former Bankruptcy & Real Estate Partner, King & Spalding

Eric Busko, Managing Director & Regional Executive, Alex. Brown

Millard Choate, Founder & Executive Chairman, Choate Construction

Brad Courts, Vice President, Atlanta Investment Company

David Dabbieri, Board Member and Legal Advisor, OneTrust

Keith Dockery, M.D., Founder, Buckhead Ear, Nose and Throat

Greg Dunavant, Vice President, Customer Operations, Gas South

Kari Carlos Dunn, Vice President, Republic National Distributing

Meredith Forrester, EVP & Chief Audit Executive, Synovus

Fred Henritze, Co-Founder, President & COO, The Brookdale Group

Debbie Howard, Managing Director, Merrill Lynch Wealth Management

Keith Johnson, East Group President, Brasfield & Gorrie

Larry Kelly, CEO – Vice Chairman, Pope & Land Enterprises, Inc.

Candace Klein, Owner, Klein Contracting Corporation

Amy Kreisler, Executive Director, The Wayne O. Rollins Foundation

Donald Peck Leslie, M.D., Medical Director Emeritus, Shepherd Center

Adam Malone, Owner, Malone Law Offices, P.C.

Spencer Moore, Commissioner, Georgia Department of Driver Services

Elizabeth Morris, Civic Volunteer

Shane O'Kelly, CEO, Advance Auto Parts

Kelly Regal, Civic Volunteer

Kristin Replogle, President, Replogle Family Foundation

Eric Schelling, Vice President Global Talent Acquisition, The Home Depot

Kellie Schönberg, Global Head of Corporate Responsibility, Invesco

Sheryl Sellaway, Chief Strategist, Righteous PR Agency

William Stengel II, President & CEO, Genuine Parts Company

Ron Stewart, President & CEO, PRGX USA, Inc.

Mark West, President, First Beacon Investments, Inc.

Richard 'Buck' Woodruff, Owner, The Carland Group
**Ex Officio*

Emeriti Members

Elizabeth Allen, Civic Volunteer

John A. Carlos, President & COO, National Distributing Company, Inc.

Billi Marcus, Civic Volunteer, The Marcus Foundation, Inc.

Shepherd Center Needs Your Feedback!

We would like your feedback on your experience with Shepherd Center. Please scan the QR code with the camera on your phone to participate in a quick survey. Thank you!

For a paper survey, contact Jacqueline Baron-Lee, Ph.D., CPHQ, PMP, director of quality and outcomes management, at Jacqueline.Baron-Lee@shepherd.org or 404-367-1359.





Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Atlanta, GA
Permit No. 1703

Shepherd Center

2020 Peachtree Road NW
Atlanta, GA 30309-1465
404-352-2020 shepherd.org

Address Service Requested

Shepherd Center Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

In April, at the annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, Shepherd Center celebrated the amazing volunteers who give their time and talents to serve our patients and families. The dinner gave volunteers the opportunity to mingle, meet each other's friends and families, and enjoy a delicious meal together. Dave Wethington, M.A., BCC, one of Shepherd's chaplains, shared a meaningful invocation, and members of Shepherd's leadership team joined the dinner to thank volunteers for their service.

Special recognition went to volunteers who have achieved milestones in the number of hours served. Volunteers are an integral part of Shepherd who have a meaningful impact on patients, families, and our staff every day. *

