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Center Spinal Column®

A black and white portrait of a man with a friendly expression, wearing a white cap and a watch, resting his chin on his hand. The background is a solid yellow color.



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Shepherd Center Spinal Column®

50th Anniversary Issue

SHEPHERD CENTER

SHEPHERD PATHWAYS
A Shepherd Center Program

SHEPHERD SPINAL COLUMN

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About the Cover
Find out more about the cover design on page 16.
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Letter from Jamie Shepherd



Dear Readers,

This year, Shepherd Center celebrates a major milestone. It's been 50 years since our founding as Shepherd Spinal Center, and more than just our name has changed in that time. From day one, we've been on a mission. What started as six beds leased inside another hospital has grown into a 152-bed hospital offering inpatient and outpatient programs for the most complex conditions, including spinal cord injuries, brain injuries, stroke, and multiple sclerosis (MS).

Over the years, as we've seen the community's needs grow, we've introduced specialized treatments and programs for various patient and client populations and their families. We have cared for our youngest patients in our Adolescent Rehabilitation Program, former military service members and first responders through the SHARE Military Initiative, and patients experiencing chronic pain through the Dean Stroud Spine and Pain Institute. Individuals living with MS experience world-class care in our Andrew C. Carlos Multiple Sclerosis Institute and our Eula C. and Andrew C. Carlos Multiple Sclerosis Rehabilitation and Wellness Program.

The number of conditions we treat isn't the only thing that's expanded over the last 50 years. Our campus has grown, too. Last fall, we opened the Arthur M. Blank Family Residences to accommodate more families to stay close by as their loved ones undergo rehabilitation, and this spring, the Marcus Center for Advanced Rehabilitation will open, enabling us to treat more patients and expand our research opportunities.

Since our founding, we've also grown into a resource for the disability community in our region and beyond, offering outpatient services like wheelchair fittings, driving rehabilitation, and assistive technology training. We've worked to make the world more accessible and equitable, from securing a separate start for wheelchair racers in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution Peachtree Road Race, to helping make Atlanta's sidewalks and public transportation more accessible before the 1996 Olympics and Paralympics, to partnering with groups like the Atlanta Beltline and Delta Air Lines to increase accessibility for people with disabilities.

Much has changed over the last 50 years, but the most important things remain. We have the world's best clinicians, and our entire staff is as knowledgeable and passionate as ever, changing patients' and families' lives every day. We take pride in our culture of heart, humor, and hard work. And, of course, we place our patients and their families at the center of everything we do.

This year's anniversary is a celebration of you — our staff, current and former patients, and supporters. I hope you'll join in on the excitement by attending an event, volunteering with us at the hospital, or following the celebrations on our website and social media. In the pages that follow, we look back to our early days and forward, to a bright future worth celebrating.

Warm regards,

Jamie Shepherd

Jamie Shepherd, MBA, MHA, FACHE
President and Chief Executive Officer of Shepherd Center



Photo by Bitá Honarvar

The late facility dog Lanza helps out during a therapy session with physical therapist Chris Ready, PT, DPT, NCS, and patient Ben Kerbo.

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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.





► On a Mission

As Shepherd Center celebrates its 50th anniversary, we take a look back at some major milestones and the bright future ahead.

Photo by ELEY



Katherine Etheridge works out with her therapists, Jennifer Roane and Don Archer. Even with changes over the years, Shepherd Center continues to put its patients at the center of everything it does.
► (opposite page) Hospital co-founder David Apple, M.D. watches a therapy session at what was then Shepherd Spinal Center, a six-bed facility leased inside an Atlanta hospital."

"Shepherd Center is the bridge between 'I can't' and 'I can.'"

-James Shepherd, co-founder, Shepherd Center

There are many ways to measure Shepherd Center's success at the 50-year mark. For instance, you could look at Shepherd Center's 90%+ "return to home" rate that's far beyond the national average of 75%. Or, perhaps, consider that 95% of inpatients would recommend Shepherd Center to others.

But numbers don't fully capture Shepherd Center's story. There are real people behind these statistics – people who are returning to lives of meaning and greater independence. And more than the numbers, Shepherd patients tell the hospital's story.

They tell stories about doctors, therapists, and nurses who went above and beyond in their care. About an outing that opened their eyes to new possibilities. About a chaplain who lifted their spirits, a new sport that renewed their passions, or a piece of assistive tech that made returning to school, work, or just life in general, that much easier.

This is a story 50 years in the making. A story that started with one family who saw a need and made it their mission to fill it.

On a Mission to Care

The idea for Shepherd Center began as soon as James Shepherd finished his rehabilitation from a spinal cord injury (SCI) he sustained in 1973. James and his parents, Alana and Harold Shepherd, had to travel from Atlanta to Craig Hospital in Denver so that James could receive the specialized care he needed.



After months of hospitalizations and rehabilitation, incredibly, James walked out of Craig using only a leg brace and a crutch. His extraordinary recovery got the Shepherds wondering why their son and others with SCIs had to travel across the country for high-quality rehabilitation. Why didn't Atlanta have a catastrophic care hospital that could serve people across the Southeast?

"We all said, 'Somebody ought to start a hospital here,'" Alana has often recalled. "Well, it turns out that somebody was us."

On Aug. 18, 1975, nearly two years after James' accident, Shepherd Spinal Center opened its doors, leasing unused space from a northwest Atlanta hospital. David Apple Jr., M.D., served as the medical director. Orthopedist Herndon Murray, M.D., plus a trio of therapists and nursing help from the leasing hospital, rounded out Shepherd's first staff. Within a week, all six beds were occupied, and a wait-list formed.

Over the years, Shepherd Center has expanded and evolved to serve more patients. In 1982, the current campus began taking shape on Peachtree Road, making space for more specialized programs, including Shepherd Center hallmarks such as peer support and advocacy.

The 1990s brought a wave of new services, including what's now known as the Andrew C.

Carlos Multiple Sclerosis Institute; Shepherd Center's Brain Injury Rehabilitation Program, including Shepherd Pathways, a brain injury rehabilitation center in Decatur; and the Dean Stroud Spine and Pain Institute. The 2000s featured more major expansions: opening Shepherd's first family residences and the SHARE

"We all said, 'Somebody ought to start a hospital here.' Well, it turns out that somebody was us."

– Alana Shepherd

Military Initiative for veterans, active-duty service members, and first responders with traumatic brain injuries and mental health concerns.

"It certainly started with a focus

on spinal cord injury rehabilitation — after my dad's injury, my family saw a need for a rehabilitation hospital in the Southeast," says Jamie Shepherd, son of co-founder James and current chief executive officer. "We've grown and added different departments, but it's always kept that neuro focus. Almost everything we treat is a neurological condition, and that's where our expertise lies."

One program has remained at the core of Shepherd Center's mission from the very beginning: Recreation Therapy.

"We thought that getting patients out of the hospital and into the community for outings was an integral part of their recovery," says Dr. Apple.



(Clockwise from top) Respiratory Therapist Princetta Reese works with spinal cord injury (SCI) patient Sebastian Toledo-Diaz. Shepherd Center has expanded programs over the years, but SCI rehabilitation remains a cornerstone. ► Multiple sclerosis patient Cathy May works with exercise physiologist Meghan Santander. ► The Shepherd family leaving Craig Hospital following James' spinal cord injury (SCI) rehabilitation. After traveling to Colorado for his treatment, they knew they needed to start a SCI rehabilitation hospital in the Southeast.

► On a Mission to Care



Paris Carter is active participant in Recreation Therapy programs.

In fact, Dr. Apple thought rec therapy was such an important part of a patient's rehabilitation that he initially paid the salary of Shepherd Center's first recreation therapist, Barb (Leidheiser) Trader, out of his own pocket. For 18 months, Trader worked part-time — eight hours a week — taking patients to concerts, the mall, restaurants, Atlanta Braves baseball games, and, eventually, on bigger outings.

"Everything we did was empowering for the patients," Trader shared in a 2016 Spinal Column story. "I had one man tell me: 'The rest of the therapists taught me how to live. You showed me why I want to live.'"

By the time Trader left Shepherd Center in 1993 to work for the Atlanta Paralympic Organizing Committee, there were 10 recreation therapists helping patients learn to lead healthy and active lifestyles as independently as possible. Today, Shepherd boasts the largest recreation therapy program in the country, including sports teams, fitness facilities, and more.

Paris Carter is one of Shepherd's recent patients who has learned firsthand the benefits of rec therapy. She came for outpatient services in 2023 with a T-10 SCI. Then 21 years old, Paris had a revelation at a Shepherd Center tennis clinic.

"I hadn't played many sports pre-injury, other than swimming," Paris says. "But as soon as we started playing, I was hooked. It was the most fun I'd had in a long time, and that's really what lit my spark again."

From there, Paris has learned as many adaptive sports as she can: basketball, sled hockey, track, rugby, wheelchair football, swimming, you name it. Next up: fencing, curling, and boxing. She's also gone on Shepherd Center's

Adventure Skills Workshops and traveled to Utah and Colorado on Shepherd-organized trips to ski, tube, and rock climb.

"When I was newly injured, I had guilt, shame, anger, all of it, over my injury," Paris recalls. "And that has to go somewhere. Therapy and talking helps, but sometimes you need the physical outlets. With the adaptive sports I've learned, I can pack my basketball up and go shoot hoops. I can go play tennis. I can go for a swim. Be mad, get it out. And get some exercise while I do!"

A graduate student now, Paris is pursuing a Master of Science in Healthcare Management and Informatics at Kennesaw State University. She's also a member of a wheelchair basketball team in Atlanta's BlazeSports league.

"Everything I'm doing now started with that tennis clinic at Shepherd," Paris says. "They're just a hub for anything you can imagine that you'd want to try, and that's such an important part of your recovery to get back to what you love. There are so many people with disabilities I've met who talk about what they can't do. I love being able to talk about what I can do. And that's all because of Shepherd Center."

► On a Mission to Comfort

Recreation therapy is just one example of how Shepherd Center supports patients far beyond the traditional clinical setting. You can see it in the on-campus housing, which makes it easier for family members to be near their loved ones. It's evident in everything from peer support and transition planning to food services, on-campus chaplains, and much more.

It's all part of Shepherd Center's mission to care for patients and their families.

Joycelyn Saxon, director of food services, says it's easy to center the patient in a setting like Shepherd Center.

"You really get to know patients, their stories, their families, and their rehab," she says. "We meet with patients directly. We know this is home for you for a while, so we want to make things as comfortable and helpful for you as possible."

Saxon has 40 years of experience in food service, with more than half of that in a healthcare environment. Her team's goal at Shepherd Center is to work with each patient, in coordination with their care team and family, to meet their nutritional needs. But Saxon wants to go beyond that — for each food services team member to be another warm, personal contact supporting patients



the equation. When he had a brain injury and was a patient at Shepherd Center in 2012, he could feel hope sliding away early in his recovery. Then, he met Chaplain Alan Roof.

"He sat and helped me find hope again," Wethington recalls. "It wasn't, 'let's open up our Bibles.' It was 'let's find your purpose now.'"

Wethington often applies that lesson now that he's become a chaplain at Shepherd Center, helping others work through their own fears and doubts. He's especially thankful for the chance to do so in working with military veterans and active-duty clients through SHARE.

"That's been one of the unexpected blessings for me, helping these veterans and soldiers navigate not just their injuries, but also reconnect with their faith when they might have given up on it," Wethington says. "Sometimes they need help processing what they have to live with from their service. It's an honor to help them find healing and forgiveness and move forward."

Wethington is one of many former patients who have found their way back to Shepherd Center to serve in staff positions. And while the wisdom and empathy of former patients can be found in all areas of Shepherd's work, they are most acutely felt in peer support. The program offers opportunities for current patients and caregivers to connect with, and learn from, a community of former patients and caregivers.

Minna Hong's patient experience stems from an SCI she sustained in a car crash in 1999. The accident didn't just affect her physically; it widowed her at 35, and she became a single mother navigating

during their rehabilitation journeys. It's an approach, she says, that's nurtured here.

"You walk into Shepherd Center and it's a culture of passion and warmth and family," Saxon says. "And that includes every team, including food services. I walked into a team here that loved being part of Shepherd Center. Everybody matters, everybody has a voice. Everybody is a huge part of our patient experience. And that makes it easy to keep improving when everyone is invited to bring new concepts and new ideas."

Chaplain Dave Wethington, MA, BCC, has seen evidence of this person-centered care from both sides of



Photo by Bita Honarvar and Louie Favorite



(Clockwise from top) Joycelyn Saxon, manager of food services, chats with Hua Li Chang while she works a register during lunch service. ► Minna Hong (R) meets with patient George Mainville and Transition Support Coordinator Kendra Moon in December 2016. ► Dave Wethington stops to check in and pray with a patient in the hallway.

► On a Mission to **Comfort**

life with paraplegia and two young children. When she thinks back on her rehabilitation, she considers it a time of grief, yes, but also of rebirth.

"Shepherd Center showed me the way forward," she says. "Did they solve all my problems? No, I'd be lying if I said that. But they helped me learn how to use the tools, to work things out myself. For that, I will always be grateful to Shepherd Center, and that's what I've attempted to give back."

For 18 years, Hong worked as a peer support manager, helping to expand the program and centering it, always, in the perspective of the patients and their families. She was instrumental in creating an evidence-based program that proved its value — research that changed how many rehabilitation hospitals view peer support. For her efforts, the Georgia Hospital Association awarded her the Georgia Hospital Hero Award.

"Peer supporters give patients a preview of what they could potentially be once they get beyond Shepherd Center," Hong says. "Seeing is believing. You can't unsee what you've seen at Shepherd Center! So, you can give that hope. But it's not always easy. So, being raw and open and honest with people during your time together — there's power in being truthful, too."

Hong retired in 2018 to pursue her twin passions of being a disability advocate and creating art. Her experiences at Shepherd Center and her relationships with patients still inform much of what she does.

"What's important to remember is that it's not really about learning to walk or move again," Hong cautions. "What it's really about is learning how to navigate this entirely new way of being. Of how you see yourself. How others see you. It's like immigrating to another country because it's a whole other language you learn to speak. And you only really get it if you go through it."

"So, if we're truly living the motto of disability rights — Nothing About Us Without Us — peer input and peer support has to thrive, everywhere."



Minna Hong pictured with peer support colleague Pete Anziano. Hong was a Shepherd Center patient before working at the hospital for 18 years as peer support manager.

“

Everybody matters, everybody has a voice. Everybody is a huge part of our patient experience. And that makes it easy to keep improving when everyone is invited to bring new concepts and new ideas.

”

— Joycelyn Saxon

► On a Mission to **Innovate**

As Shepherd Center looks toward its next half-century, innovation will remain at the heart of its mission.

The aim is to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities at Shepherd Center and around the world — for generations to come.

An inspiration for this approach is rooted in the creation of Beyond Therapy®, a rigorous, activity-based program designed in the early 2000s to help people with neurological disorders improve their lifelong health, minimize secondary complications, and get the most from any new neural links to their muscles and other organs, like the bladder. The concept was radical at the time. Activity-based therapy was still an emerging field; most rehabilitation hospitals at the time didn't offer it. That's because, back then, the prevailing opinion in the field was that the brain and nervous system simply couldn't regenerate — couldn't re-learn or adapt — after an SCI, stroke or traumatic brain injury.

Shepherd Center, however, believed otherwise.

Photos by ELEY



Devon Gales works out on the Lokomat, a robotic gait training device that helps patients learning how to walk again. The device is frequently used as part of Beyond Therapy®. ► (Below) Debbie Skinner takes to the pool for her aquatic Beyond Therapy® session with recreation specialist A.J. Sumser. Using a foam barbell, she focuses on arm strengthening exercises to help regain mobility in her upper extremities following a spinal cord injury.



Its researchers and medical staff also made a commitment to ensure Beyond Therapy® would never be a static program. Instead, Shepherd Center would constantly apply evolving evidence — and generate new evidence through its own work — that could lead to better outcomes. Implementing this strategy required another novel idea: Everyone would work collaboratively — researchers, clinicians, patients, families — to consider all needs and all perspectives.

"That's become a hugely successful model for us," says Deborah Backus, PT, Ph.D., FACRM, Shepherd Center's vice president of research and innovation. "It's a model based on engaging all stakeholders from the very start and working together to identify meaningful problems and come up with collaborative solutions."



In the decades since, researchers have consistently applied that model as they seek new ways to improve the quality of life for those Shepherd serves. One case in point is the Eula C. and Andrew C. Carlos Multiple Sclerosis Rehabilitation and Wellness Program, which was one of the first in the nation to integrate all aspects of wellness — fitness, nutrition, and education — into a single approach tailored specifically for people with multiple sclerosis.

Another example is the Indego® Exoskeleton, which was successfully tested at Shepherd Center for use in rehabilitation for individuals with paralysis. The device is now broadly and effectively used for gait therapy.

Soon, Shepherd's research and innovation efforts will have a new home inside the Marcus Center for Advanced Rehabilitation (MCAR), which is scheduled to open this spring. The 30,000-square-foot James M. Cox Foundation Innovation Institute, located inside MCAR, will cement Shepherd's reputation for cutting-edge

research and unparalleled clinical care. It will also allow for greater collaboration, bringing existing research and technology teams from throughout the hospital into one space.

"This is really exciting, especially the additional capabilities and resources for everyone working together," Dr. Backus says, "from researchers and clinicians to patients and families, and industry and academic partners."

Three new spaces will be added to the Innovation Institute, too, including a state-of-the-art Human Performance Lab to help Shepherd Center develop precise, data-informed rehab plans for each patient. The Innovation Institute will also house a new tech showroom that connects patients directly with product developers — allowing people with disabilities to test new technologies and smart home solutions before buying them. Finally, a Best Health Suite will enable staff to offer live and on-demand wellness and fitness classes to patients, partners, and the broader public.



Photos by ELEY and Louie Favorite



Shepherd Center will also begin testing "smart home"-style inpatient rooms that will give patients greater control, comfort, and independence. That effort includes Shepherd's Access Technology team, whose broader services — including adaptive devices and assistive technologies to help people safely and more independently return to home, work, and school — are open to all, not just Shepherd Center patients.

Any technological advancement, of course, is only as good as the people it's paired with. Thankfully, the human element — the hope element — isn't going anywhere after 50 years at Shepherd Center.

"Shepherd Center is so good at taking a holistic look at things," Dr. Backus says, "and keeping the patient at the center of everything. When we say we've integrated research into clinical practice, we truly have. It's a total team effort. It's never effortless, and there are always new challenges. But being able to do that is what helps us come up with novel solutions for our patients."

"It's been so fun to be part of this through the years and to see how far we've come. The outcomes are so rewarding. I can't wait to see what's ahead."

“ When we say we've integrated research into clinical practice, we truly have. It's a total team effort. It's never effortless ... but [that] helps us come up with novel solutions for our patients. ”

– Deborah Backus, VP of research and innovation

(clockwise from top left) ► German Zuniga Alavez works out with Brandon Clift, an exercise specialist, in a Beyond Therapy® session. ► In 2014, Deborah Backus, PT, Ph.D., FACRM, worked alongside Casey Kandilakis, PT, with patient Johnny Horton using a device called AMES, which helps reduce spasticity and improve coordination in the upper limbs of people with tetraplegia. ► Former Shepherd Center occupational therapist Allison McIntyre, MOT, OT/L, CCRP, examines results during a research study. ► Smart speakers and smart home technology are used in the Access Technology Lab to demonstrate independent environmental control options at home. ► The Indego® Exoskeleton was successfully tested at Shepherd Center for use in rehabilitation for individuals with paralysis. The device is now broadly and effectively used for gait therapy.



Shepherd Center is on a Mission



"I'm on a mission to be a positive impact to all those I encounter and be a transformative figure in the world!"
— Spencer R. Moore, Foundation Trustee



"I am on a mission to help improve patient outcomes by addressing social, financial, and psychological barriers to care."
— Cornelia Rorie, Case Manager, Rehabilitation Medicine Clinic



"I'm on a mission to positively impact lives!"
— Eric Schelling, Foundation Trustee



"I'm on a mission to help patients find their best voice! Every day is a new opportunity to fulfill my mission and to contribute to Shepherd Center's culture of excellence and world-class service!"
— Deborah Vega, Speech-Language Pathologist, Comprehensive Rehabilitation Unit

Shepherd employees, volunteers, and board members share their personal mission.



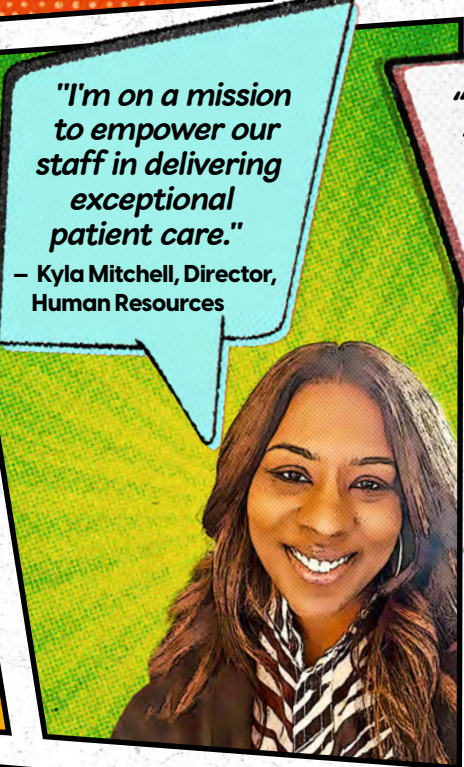
"I'm on a mission to show my patients that even though life is different now, it can still be beautiful."
— Marie Alexander, Occupational Therapist, Spinal Cord Injury Day Program



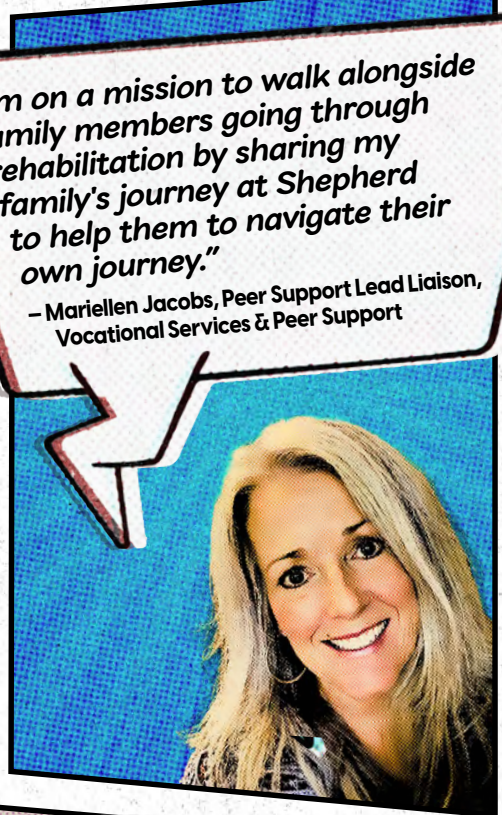
"I'm on a mission to develop accessible products and services for people of all abilities."
— John Morris, Senior Clinical Research Scientist, Research



"I'm on a mission to create a welcoming space for our patients and families in which they are comfortable to speak up with questions or concerns or to share about their experiences."
— Kendra Moon, Case Manager, Transition Support Operations



"I'm on a mission to empower our staff in delivering exceptional patient care."
— Kyla Mitchell, Director, Human Resources



"I'm on a mission to walk alongside family members going through rehabilitation by sharing my family's journey at Shepherd to help them to navigate their own journey."
— Mariellen Jacobs, Peer Support Lead Liaison, Vocational Services & Peer Support



"My mission is empowering individuals to achieve fitness & well-being in a supportive environment."
— Mark Franke, Volunteer



"I'm on a mission to positively impact my patients' lives by doing my job to the best of my ability. I believe anything worth doing is worth doing well."
— Chinwe Ezeogu, Nurse, Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation Program

Secrets of the Secret Garden

A Garden Full of Art, Nature, and Memories

By Erin Kenney

"And the secret garden bloomed and bloomed, and every morning revealed new miracles," reads a plaque at the entrance to the Anna and Hays Mershon Secret Garden.

The quote, from the novel "The Secret Garden" by Frances Hodgson Burnett, was selected by the Mershons because, in their view, it uniquely suits the garden outside the Shepherd building.

As Anna and Hays have said, "Every time we visit the Secret Garden, we see new miracles brought about by Shepherd's compassionate and uplifting care — patients with restored hope, learning that their future lives may be different, but will not at all be lesser."

And even for staff, patients, and visitors who frequent the garden, every day it presents something new. The garden has also been a backdrop for milestones, like birthday and anniversary celebrations, an adolescent prom, engagements, and weddings.

During COVID-19, the garden became a special place for friends and extended family checking in on Shepherd patients — visitors could stand along Peachtree Road and chat with patients through the garden gate, allowing people to maintain connection to friends and family without compromising health and safety.

It's no wonder that for many people who pass through Shepherd Center's doors, the Secret Garden becomes a favorite spot. With its beautiful landscaping and artistic displays, there's a lot to discover.

Enjoying Natural Beauty

Despite being just yards away from one of Atlanta's busiest roads, the Secret Garden can feel like a private nature preserve. Vibrant orange koi fish swim in a small pond. Birds flit around the lawn and treetops overhead. And raised garden beds, teeming with flowers,



fresh herbs, and vegetables, give the garden a dose of bright color.

The garden's beauty isn't the work of one landscape architect or gardener. It's a patchwork of donated artwork and outdoor furniture, landscaped shrubs and flowers, and raised garden beds tended to by horticulture therapy participants. The initial garden was designed by Shepherd's landscaping committee, chaired by Dottie Fuqua, in 1982. Over time, other features have been added — Ten Atlanta garden clubs have funded parts of the garden and continue to support the horticulture therapy program with annual grants. Former patient Peter Dames made a donation to build the koi pond. Physician Gerald Bilsky, M.D., alongside his son Marc, who has a deep passion for gardening, donated raised beds for horticulture therapy.

Many of the plants in the Secret Garden are cared for by patients participating in the Ruth and Talmadge Dobbs, Jr. Horticulture Therapy Program, which was

named to honor the memory of Ruth Dobbs McDonald and her family's longstanding and generous support of Shepherd Center. Adaptive gardening helps patients meet their therapy goals, such as fine and gross motor skills, core strength, range of motion, and cognitive goals. But for many patients, it also gives them a sense of purpose and normalcy after a life-changing injury or illness. The



Photos by ELEY and Louie Favorite

garden's impact stretches beyond Shepherd Center — philanthropist and lifelong gardener Deen Day Sanders commissioned a video of the garden's use for patients in other facilities.

Memorials, Sculptures, and Art

In the colder months, when the flowers aren't blooming, and the horticulture therapy beds are quiet, other parts of the garden — including memorials and art installations — take the spotlight.

In one corner of the garden, a stone wall creates a tranquil, private place for reflection. The sculpture, designed by Donna Pickens, was commissioned in memory of Charles "Kib" Kibler Browning, Jr. by his family. A talented musician, Kib died due to



complications of scoliosis.

The sculpture was hand built by Kib's stepfather Bob Goodsell and pays tribute to Kib's musical legacy in several ways — the sculpture itself bears the name of Kib's band, The Wishing Wall. And in the center of the wall, a plaque includes lyrics from one of Kib's songs and encourages visitors to leave their hopes and prayers in a metal slot, creating a spiritual space for meditation and prayer.

Other sculptures in the Secret Garden also enhance the landscape. "Water of Life" and "With Compassion He Listens to All" — both modern figure sculptures — add to the serene and contemplative atmosphere. Metal figures and seasonal decor in the garden beds, as well as a fairy-sized tiny door from Tiny Doors ATL, create a sense of wonder.



Perhaps the most eye-catching part of the garden, particularly for passersby on Peachtree Road, is the Secret Garden gate. The gate was dedicated to Shepherd staff by the husband of a former patient. But it was more than a generous gift to the hospital — it was an anniversary present.

Eric Busko and his wife, Mary Busko, spent many hours in the Secret Garden during Mary's stroke rehabilitation in 2021. Mary loved the outdoors, and Eric had a history of commissioning anniversary gifts for her from Andrew Crawford of Andrew T. Crawford Ironworks. The garden gate idea seemed like the perfect way to tie together their interests while celebrating the Shepherd staff members who helped Mary during her recovery. Sadly, Mary passed away due to stroke complications before the gate was finished. Now, it stands as a loving memorial to her while celebrating the love and compassion of Shepherd staff members.

In addition to the Secret Garden, the Hazel Family Garden at the Arthur M. Blank Family Residences will serve families for years to come, and new green spaces surrounding the Marcus Center for Advanced Rehabilitation will give patients and staff a new close-by option for outdoor therapy sessions and lunch breaks. As Shepherd's campus changes and grows, giving all visitors access to the outdoors remains a priority, and between all the gardens and greenspaces, there's something for everyone.

(Clockwise from top left) Anna and Hays Mershon say that every time they visit the Secret Garden, they see new miracles "brought about by Shepherd's compassionate and uplifting care." ► The Secret Garden's Wishing Wall pays tribute to musician Kib Browning. ► Garden décor and art like this tiny door from Tiny Doors ATL give the garden a sense of wonder. ► The Secret Garden gate was more than a generous gift to the hospital — it was an anniversary present. ► The Hazel Family Garden, generously funded by the family of former patient Caroline Hazel, serves families staying in the Blank Family Residences.

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David Apple, M.D., was Shepherd Center's first medical director.
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Hospital co-founder James Shepherd sustained a spinal cord injury in 1973.
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Shepherd Center moved to its current location off Peachtree Road in 1982.
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Retired Army Staff Sgt. Jarrad Turner is a SHARE Military Initiative graduate and now serves on the Board of Directors.
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Shepherd Pathways, a comprehensive outpatient rehabilitation program for people recovering from brain injury, opened in 1997.
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Sandra Gimblet, RN, has worked as a nurse in the Andrew C. Carlos Multiple Sclerosis Institute for over 15 years.
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Shepherd patient Brandon Behie smiles with facility dog, Tex, while sporting a pair of prism glasses.
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Pursuing Possible: The Campaign for Shepherd Center, is raising money to expand Shepherd's campus, renovate existing buildings, and provide world-class care to patients.
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Alana Shepherd played a key role in bringing the 1996 Paralympic Games to Atlanta.
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"Mini Junior," Shepherd's new adolescent bus gifted by Gas South, takes patients on outings all over the city.
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Neurologist Jacqueline Rosenthal, M.D., Medical Director and Neurologist Ben Thrower, M.D., and Advanced Practice Provider Jennifer Khong, PA-C.
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Anna Katherine Spangler, a former adolescent patient, models in Project Rollway.
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Jamie and Julie Shepherd pose for a photo on the old Shepherd Spinal Center sign.
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Peer Support Manager Pete Anziano demonstrates the Indego® Exoskeleton.
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Physical Therapist Brian Smith works with multiple sclerosis patient Mariah Power.

Photos courtesy of Shepherd Center archives

'Akin to Putting a Man on the Moon'

How Shepherd Center helped bring the 1996 Paralympics to Atlanta

By Shawn Reeves

When the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games declined to bid on hosting the Paralympic Games, Shepherd Center stepped up.

After countless hours of planning and preparation, and with help from volunteers, Shepherd Center co-founders Alana Shepherd, David Apple, M.D., and the late Harold Shepherd and others submitted the city's bid to host the 1996 Paralympic Games. That bid was accepted, setting into motion a Herculean effort that would transform the Games themselves, the athletes who compete in them, and the city that would host it all.

Fred Alias, who has supported the hospital for more than 40 years, was instrumental in bringing the Paralympic Games to Atlanta.

"Just the logistics of getting everyone in and out, to the venues, housed, fed — it took lots of planning," he says. "It was akin to putting a man on the moon."

But the effort paid off. More than 3,000 athletes came to Atlanta, shattering over 200 world and Paralympic records during 10 days of competition.

One of those athletes was 10-time medal winner and Atlantan Curtis Lovejoy, who broke and set dozens of world records in swimming and fencing before he passed away in 2021. He had never attempted either sport before undergoing spinal cord injury rehabilitation at Shepherd Center in 1986.

"So much preparation had been done by all of these athletes, and just the emotion of everything meant so much. If you sit in the stands as a fan watching, that's one thing, but to roll in and see all the people and to know that all the hard work has paid off, it was just incredible," Lovejoy said in 2015.

The 1996 Paralympic Games held many firsts, like being the first to attract worldwide corporate sponsorship and the first to be nationally televised. Their longer-term legacy, however, is more difficult to measure.

After the Atlanta Paralympics, the International Olympic Committee decreed all cities seeking to host the Olympics needed to include plans and proposed financing for the Paralympics. Plus, the games accelerated Atlanta's efforts to be accessible. That's the kind of lasting change that Shepherd Center can be proud of, Shepherd's late co-founder James Shepherd said in 2015.

"Institutionally, it was one of the brighter moments in our history," he added. "When the impact has been lasting and beneficial, and you can say, 'Yeah, we were part of that,' those are the things that mean so much."

This article was adapted from a story that originally ran in the Summer 2015 issue of Spinal Column.



(top to bottom) Shepherd Center co-founders traveled to Tignes, France to submit Atlanta's bid for the 1996 Paralympic Games. ► Alana, James, and Julie Shepherd during the torch relay marking the start of the '96 Paralympic Games. ► Several Shepherd staff members, including former Director of Advocacy Mark Johnson, pictured here with his daughter Lindsey, participated in the torch relay.

Shepherd Center Athletes

Shepherd alumni dominate on the national and international stage

Chayse Wolf was a three-time All-American wheelchair basketball player in college and later played the sport professionally in Germany. He was also part of the first-ever USA Team Handball Wheelchair National Team, which won silver at the world championships in 2024.

Year at Shepherd 2015



Wheelchair Basketball and Handball

Chayse Wolf ★★

Year at Shepherd 2008



Cycling

Clara Brown ★★

Clara Brown is a two-time Paralympian in cycling, competing in the 2020 Tokyo Games and taking home a bronze medal from Paris in 2024. She's also competed in the Para-cycling Road World Championships and World Track Championships, where she's won three gold medals.

Year at Shepherd 2000



Alpine Skiing

Jasmin Bambur ★★

Formerly a handball player, **Jasmin Bambur** began adaptive alpine skiing after attending a ski trip with Shepherd Center in 2002. He competed in the 2010, 2014, 2018, and 2022 Paralympic Games and numerous world championships.

Year at Shepherd 2016



Wheelchair Basketball and Handball

Mack Johnson ★★

A former high school football player, **Mack Johnson** started playing wheelchair basketball at Shepherd Center and later played for Auburn University. He played on the first-ever USA Team Handball Wheelchair National Team, which won silver at the world championships in 2024.

Year at Shepherd 1985



Track & Field Water Skiing

Bill Furbish ★★

Bill Furbish is an 11-time national champion in adaptive water skiing, and he's competed in nine world championships. He won a gold and a bronze medal at the 1988 Paralympics in Seoul, South Korea.

Year at Shepherd 2011



Fencing

Ellen Geddes ★★

Year at Shepherd 1986



Swimming Fencing

Curtis Lovejoy ★★

A former competitive equestrian, **Ellen Geddes** now competes in adaptive fencing. She's won four bronze and two silver fencing World Cup medals and participated in the 2020 and 2024 Paralympic Games.

Curtis Lovejoy, who passed away in 2021, competed in several world championships and Paralympics, taking home dozens of medals. In 2006, Lovejoy became the first athlete to win gold medals in two non-related sports, swimming and fencing. Later that year, he was nominated for the Spinal Cord Injury Sports Hall of Fame.

Photos courtesy of Sasa Palic Szabo / kolektiv / USOPC, and Shepherd Center Archives.

Shepherd Alums:

On a Mission

Clint Cook

Cumming, Georgia

As a young man, Clint Cook, now 56, didn't understand one of his dad's favorite sayings, "Son, you can't keep it if you don't give it away."

"Being a materialistic person at a young age, I always thought, 'Well, I'm not giving my stuff away!'" Clint laughs. "What my dad really meant was you'll always feel fulfilled if you give to others. If you're someone like me who has lived with a spinal cord injury for 36 years, you need to tell someone who's new to spinal cord injury how you got to where you are today. When I do that, it comes back to me ten-fold."

Giving back to the spinal cord injury (SCI) community has shaped Clint's life, and it all began on April 8, 1988.

"I went to work, came home, washed my car. I was 20 years old and unfortunately decided to do the wrong thing. I had been out drinking at the pool hall and decided to race a buddy of mine in my new Trans Am."

Clint went around a curve too fast and lost control of the car. He wasn't wearing a seatbelt and was ejected as the car flipped and landed on top of him, resulting in severe burns and an incomplete C-5 SCI. After three months in the ICU, Clint transferred to Shepherd Center. Early in his rehabilitation, a staff member Clint hadn't met came to his room.

"An employee around my age with an SCI comes in after he already finished his day at work to talk about life after SCI," Clint explains. "I felt so fortunate that this guy spent his own time to just tell me that it was going to be okay. There would be life after this."

After discharge, Clint stayed involved in the SCI community, starting the first wheelchair rugby team on the East Coast at Shepherd Center — the Shepherd Smash.

He served three years as president of the United Spinal Association of Georgia, and he founded a nonprofit, Spinal Cord Injury USA, connecting people with SCI. The group has grown to nearly 15,000 members.

"When you help someone, you gain so much personally, too," Clint says. "For the newly injured or anyone who may be struggling with their situation, I just want to say 'Don't wait until tomorrow to start living. Start today.'"



Allison Lillie

Atlanta, Georgia

On a cool morning in November 2024, Allison Lillie left the starting line of the Palmetto Peach Half Marathon and didn't stop running until just under two hours later, completing her first half marathon and finishing fifth in her age group.

This would be a feat for anyone, but it was especially significant for Allison, who just 15 months earlier — on Aug. 22, 2023 — sustained a traumatic brain injury in a car crash.

Allison was taken to Augusta University Medical Center's trauma unit. She was unconscious for 15 days with an uncertain prognosis.

"We had to pray for her to wake up," her mother, Monica, says.

When she did wake up, Allison could not walk and had short-term memory issues. Three weeks after her accident, she transferred to Shepherd Center for rehabilitation. Doctors told Monica and her husband, Josh, that their daughter's memory might not return. With additional balance and vision issues, it was also uncertain if Allison, a member of her high school's cross-country team and an accomplished pianist, could return to the activities she loved.

Allison eliminated any doubts.

At Shepherd Center, she re-learned to walk, dress, and feed herself and regained her balance and memory. As she improved, she started running and playing the piano again. She was at Shepherd Center for six weeks and spent another six weeks at Shepherd Pathways, a comprehensive outpatient rehabilitation program for people recovering from brain injury.

Just a few months after her injury, Allison completed a 5K race with her mother and played a Christmas concert at The Jabez Hardin Auditorium in Evans, Georgia. She returned to school that January. "She was back to where she was before her injury," Monica says. "It was nothing short of a miracle."

Allison had another goal in mind: running the 2024 half marathon — by herself — and without stopping.

"I was so happy when I finished," Allison remembers. "I beat the time I set for myself by 20 minutes."

Allison, a junior in high school, hopes to attend the University of Georgia. Inspired by her time at Shepherd Center, she is planning a career in the medical field so she can help those with brain injuries the way people helped her.

"Shepherd Center is a great community," Allison says. "They are so supportive and encouraging and helped me get better. I would like to do that for others."



Jason Russell

Atlanta, Georgia

Jason Russell, 50, has many passions — his two kids top the list — but he also loves music and running. Jason's father is a lifelong runner and stroke survivor who inspired him to develop a passion for the sport and raise awareness about its health benefits.

"Heart disease is the leading cause of death among Black men, and 60% of Black men have some form of cardiovascular disease," Jason says. "Running is a great way to improve heart health and develop camaraderie with fellow runners. My father never had anyone to run with who looked like him when he was growing up in Memphis, Tennessee. I wanted to create an organization where Black men could train together but also have an avenue to fellowship."

In 2013, Jason and Edward Walton started Black Men Run, a nonprofit that encourages health and wellness among Black men.

"The camaraderie feels good. You can see it in the guys' faces," Jason says. "It just lights you up and keeps you motivated."

In 2017, Jason had first-hand experience with the statistics he was so familiar with. While sitting at his office desk in Atlanta, he had a stroke and a ruptured brain aneurysm. Luckily, his co-workers acted quickly, and he was rushed to Grady Memorial Hospital.

Jason came to Shepherd Center's Brain Injury Rehabilitation Program in early 2018 as an inpatient and later graduated to the outpatient program, Shepherd Pathways.

"My experience at Shepherd was amazing, and I still remember the faces of my care staff because they helped me walk, talk, and run again. What surprised me most was how accommodating and patient they were with me throughout my time there," Jason says. "Running is my passion. Getting back to that was so important to me."

Since returning home, Jason has made steady strides toward his goals. While he still experiences some speech impediments and a stutter as a result of the stroke, he hasn't let that stop him from spreading the message about Black Men Run, which has now grown to 10,000 members globally.

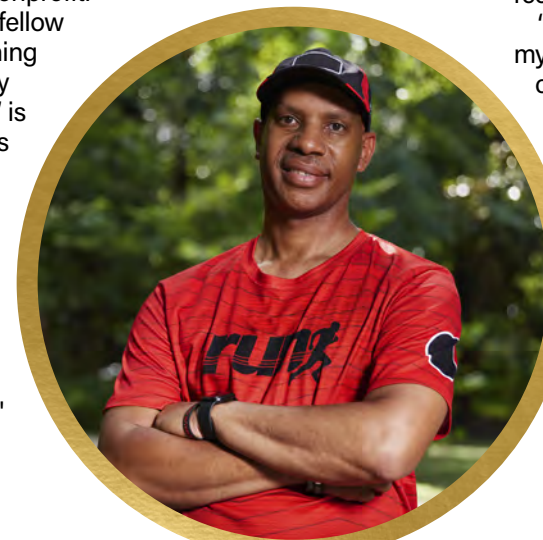
Last year, he ran his first 10K race since his stroke, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution Peachtree Road Race, which happens to pass by Shepherd Center.

"To run past Shepherd Center made the accomplishment more impactful for me and I was overwhelmed with emotion," Jason says.

Looking ahead, Jason hopes to run a half marathon in 2025 and continue to grow his nonprofit.

He leaves this message to fellow stroke survivors: "Be a shining example in your community because the term 'survivor' is very significant. It's up to us to uphold that you can recover and never give up."

"I hope to be an inspiration to others who might have fallen, thinking that they can never get back up again. They can think, 'If Jason Russell can do it, so can I!'"



Rojean Sanders

Macon, Georgia

When retired U.S. Army Specialist Rojean Sanders first heard about the SHARE Military Initiative at Shepherd Center from a fellow veteran, she was reluctant to participate despite his persistent efforts. But then Rojean saw how it benefitted him, and she changed her mind. Now she says that SHARE changed her life.

In 2008, just months after joining the army, Rojean was injured when the butt stock of an M-16 rifle hit her in the face, causing a fracture in her orbital floor and skull. She underwent facial reconstructive surgery and jaw surgery.

She says the injury kept her in "limbo," with chronic memory and balance issues, necessitating a transfer to a unit where the duties were lighter. She tried treatments and programs to improve her physical and mental health, but she saw no progress.

When she retired in 2012, things went from bad to worse. She experienced severe mood swings, bouts of anger, memory issues, feelings of isolation, and suicidal ideations. She was unable to work.

"I was not in a good place," Rojean remembers. "It affected my relationships with my friends and my family. I needed help."

When Rojean came to SHARE in 2015, she was impressed by the staff's compassion.

"You are surrounded by people who care about you," she says. "But they also push and motivate you to pursue your hopes and dreams."

Rojean's hope was to become a nurse. She'd tried school after her injury but couldn't keep up with the classes. At SHARE, she focused on her physical health and learned to regulate her moods, establish boundaries, and advocate for herself. She also participated in recreation therapy. She believes this work set her up for success.

"Shepherd helped me become an unstoppable version of myself," Rojean says. With newfound confidence, she returned to college, earning two associate degrees and a bachelor's degree while holding several leadership and volunteer positions while in school. She eventually enrolled in Emory University's accelerated nursing program and graduated in May 2024.

Now, Rojean works as a medical-surgical nurse at Emory University Hospital and is inspired to help people like the Shepherd Center staff helped her.

"I am more mentally and physically sound and in such a better place," she says. "SHARE is an amazing program. I want to impact people in my work like those at Shepherd impacted me."



Treasure Trove of Memories

Shepherd Staff Members Prepare Anniversary Time Capsule

By Erin Kenney

It's not unusual for Shepherd Center staff to look ahead to the future. Therapists are preparing patients for their future return home or return to work. Clinicians are looking ahead to future treatments, and even cures, for the conditions they treat. And two Shepherd staff members, Martina Mays and Kelsey Harris, are also looking ahead, to 2075.

That's the year Shepherd Center's 50th anniversary time capsule, scheduled to be buried this August, the month of Shepherd's founding, will be opened again. And there's a lot of work going into making sure the time capsule tells the Shepherd story and stands the test of time.

To determine what's going in the time capsule, Mays and Harris have been digging through Shepherd's archives, gathering items like old blueprints, Spinal Column magazines, and photographs. They're also preparing new materials, like quotes from staff and video interviews with hospital

co-founders Alana Shepherd and David Apple, M.D.

"[Working on the time capsule] grabbed my attention because I like that kind of thing," says Mays, the office manager for Shepherd's marketing team. "I like looking back at older items, and I thought it would be good to try to save some memories or create some memories to play back later."

In addition to figuring out what to include in the time capsule, Mays and Harris are also making sure items in the capsule are preserved for the next 50 years and accessible to Shepherd's next generation.

"We have these video messages that we could put on a jump drive, but in 50 years, will people still be using the same technology? We're thinking about how people in the future will use the things we include," Harris says.

Shepherd Center's 50th anniversary time capsule will be buried in the Home Depot Courtyard outside the Marcus Center for Advanced Rehabilitation during anniversary week celebrations in August. To stay up to date on all of Shepherd Center's anniversary celebrations, follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/shepherdcenter.

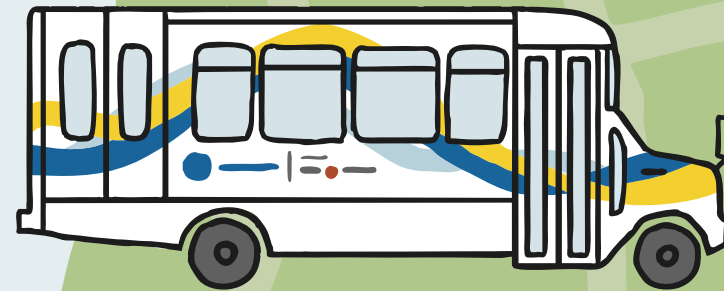
Photos by Bita Honarvar



(opposite bottom, left to right) Hospital co-founders David Apple, M.D., and Alana Shepherd flip through an early issue of *Spinal Column*. ► (From left) Jamie Shepherd, David Apple, Alana Shepherd, Michael Yochelson, and Julie Shepherd look through Shepherd Center memorabilia.

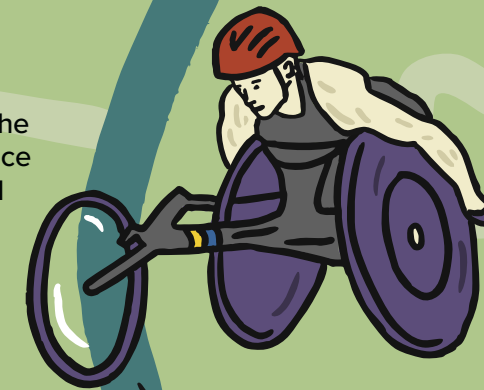
Home Sweet Home

Since 1982, we've been proud to call Peachtree Road our home. And while our campus has expanded over the years, we still enjoy the same traditions we always have, like cheering on Peachtree Road Race racers, catching some sun in the Anna and Hays Mershon Secret Garden, and loading vans and buses by the Terry Lee statue to take patients on outings all over the city. These are just a few iconic places on Shepherd's campus — what's your favorite?



Cardiac Hill

The Shepherd Center Wheelchair Division of the AJC Peachtree Road Race is one of the largest and fastest wheelchair 10K races in the country, attracting elite athletes from around the country. Shepherd Center is right on the section of the race dubbed Cardiac Hill, making it a great place for staff and patients to cheer on race participants.



SHARE
Military
Initiative
and Complex
Concussion
Clinic

Buckhead
COMMUNITY

Shepherd
Pathways
5 miles →

J. Harold
Shepherd
Parkway

J. Harold Shepherd Parkway

In addition to being a Shepherd Center co-founder and executive board member, J. Harold Shepherd was a co-owner of Shepherd Construction Co. The company specialized in road and highway construction, working on projects throughout the Southeast. It was a fitting tribute, then, when just before Harold's 90th birthday in 2018, the Georgia General Assembly unanimously approved a resolution to designate the portion of Peachtree Road from Peachtree Battle Avenue to Brookwood Station as J. Harold Shepherd Parkway.

Irene and George
Woodruff Family
Residence Center

Marcus Center
for Advanced
Rehabilitation

Marcus-Woodruff
Building

Shepherd
Building

Terry Lee Statue

Marking the entrance to Shepherd Center, artist Ed Dwight's bronze sculpture honors wheelchair javelin thrower Terry Lee, a former Shepherd Center patient and a true pioneer in wheelchair athletics. More than just a statue — it symbolizes hope, resilience, and the belief that anything is possible.



The Bison

The Arthur M. Blank Family Residences at 1860 Peachtree Road occupy the space that was once home to Ted's Montana Grill and this larger-than-life bison statue. The bison is now a permanent fixture in the Hazel Family Garden outside the new 165-unit housing building for families of Shepherd Center patients, where it serves as a symbol of strength in the face of adversity.

Arthur M.
Blank
Family
Residences



Secret Garden Gate

When Mary Busko was recovering from a stroke at Shepherd Center, the Secret Garden was one of her favorite places at the hospital. As an anniversary gift, her husband commissioned this beautiful and intricate garden gate to celebrate their love for each other and show their appreciation to Shepherd staff. Sadly, Mary passed away before the gate was finished. Now, in addition to being dedicated to Shepherd Center employees, the gate serves as a memorial for Mary, complete with 22 cardinals (one for each year of marriage) and the couple's favorite quotes and sayings. A plaque outside the gate reads "This gate is dedicated to Shepherd Center and all its devoted employees, who provide unsurpassed care, love, and hope to many. In loving memory of Mary Bernhardt Busko — faithful mother, wife, daughter, sister, friend, and Angel on Earth and in Heaven."



28th St NW

Illustration by Sarah Neuburger



Shepherd Center

A Big Thank You to Shepherd Supporters

Generous Gifts Have Supported Shepherd's Mission for 50 Years

In 1975, David Apple Jr., M.D., the medical director of the newly opened Shepherd Spinal Center, asked friends to donate to the hospital if he completed the Atlanta Journal-Constitution Peachtree Road Race.

He did finish the race, and a friend named George Johnson gave him a \$100 check, the first donation from anyone not involved in the hospital's founding.

Since its start, Shepherd Center has relied on the generosity of supporters to give patients the highest level of care. From fundraising to move Shepherd into its own building, to creating the country's largest recreation therapy program, to conducting research and implementing new technologies, generous donations from groups and individuals have made all the difference for the hospital and for patients.

Dr. Apple wearing a Shepherd Spinal Center tank at the 1987 Atlanta-Journal Constitution Peachtree Road Race.



Displaying Need and Gaining Influence

Just seven years after Dr. Apple secured Shepherd's first outside donation, patients and staff moved from the West Paces Ferry Hospital into their own building. The 2020 Peachtree Road hospital opened in 1982, after Scott Hudgens sold the land to Shepherd Center at a significant discount and made a sizable donation to the hospital. The new building had 40 beds, with plenty of room to expand.

"It was like walking into your dream," Dr. Apple says. "We had wide halls, a huge therapy space, bigger patient rooms — all of the essentials this patient population needed."

He adds that the building brought new credibility for the hospital in fundraising, particularly among charitable foundations.

Continued on Page 27



Fred Alias, James Shepherd, Bernie Marcus, and architect Henry Howard Smith II at the groundbreaking of the Billi Marcus Building.



Bernie and Billi Marcus have been avid supporters of Shepherd Center. The Marcus Foundation provided funding to start several programs, as well as to help build the new Marcus Center for Advanced Rehabilitation.

The support did follow — from foundations, generous businesses, and individuals. Looking around Shepherd's campus today, it's easy to spot the names of influential Atlanta business leaders and philanthropists: Marcus, Blank, Carlos, and Woodruff, among others. But this support is more than a name on a building or a bust in the front hallway — it's a personal connection to the hospital that lasts a lifetime. Shepherd's founders, Alana Shepherd especially, made it their mission to show these leaders how Shepherd Center changes lives.

The late Bernie Marcus, co-founder of The Home Depot, was initially reluctant to visit Shepherd Center. After Alana gave him a tour, he became one of the hospital's most ardent supporters.

"What I saw shocked me," Marcus said in a video statement played at the Marcus

“

I didn't see the negative, I saw the positive. Everybody there had a goal ... it was such an uplifting experience.

Bernie Marcus
Home Depot co-founder and
Shepherd Center supporter

Center for Advanced Rehabilitation "topping out" ceremony. "I didn't see the negative, I saw the positive. Everybody there had a goal — they were going to go back to school, they were going to get married, they were going to continue their careers — it was such an uplifting experience."

Looking Back

Over the years, Marcus served on the Board of Directors and co-chaired two capital campaigns, The Best is Yet to Come Campaign and Pursuing Possible: The Campaign for Shepherd Center. His support named the Billi Marcus Building in honor of his wife, another fierce supporter of the hospital. Additionally, support from the Marcus Foundation helped fund the Marcus Center for Advanced Rehabilitation, slated to open this spring. This support also provided funding to launch Shepherd's Marcus Community Bridge Program and the SHARE Military Initiative.

Shepherd Center's founders prioritized fundraising to support patient families, too. The Shepherd family knew firsthand what it was like to travel across state lines to receive quality medical care, and they wanted to make it easier for other families who had to do the same. Thanks to a lead gift from Jane Woodruff in 2008, Shepherd opened the Irene and George Woodruff Family Residence Center, an 84-unit housing facility for patient families. And last year, Shepherd more than doubled its housing capacity with the opening of the Arthur M. Blank Family Residences, made possible by a \$50 million grant from the Blank Family Foundation.

"Having seen the benefits firsthand of loved ones working alongside patients during recovery, I know it is a clinical imperative," Arthur Blank, co-founder of The Home Depot, said when announcing the grant. "It is my hope this new facility will ease their burdens in some small way so they can focus on helping their loved ones heal."

Alana Shepherd and Jane Woodruff at the groundbreaking of the Irene and George Woodruff Family Residence Center. ■ Alana Shepherd and Arthur Blank embrace atop the Arthur M. Blank Family Residences during construction.



Photo by William Twitty

Impact Spotlight



Anne and Andrew Worrell chaired the 2023 Legendary Party. Pictured here with event honoree Elizabeth Allen, Sherry Abney, Alana Shepherd, and honorees Jessica Jones and Justin Jones. ■ (below, from left) Virginia Pearce Seawell, Libby Pearce, Elizabeth Pearce, and Anne Pearce Worrell. Libby has shared her love of Shepherd Center with her three daughters.

So Many Ways to Give

There's more than one way to give at Shepherd Center, and perhaps no one exemplifies this better than the Pearce Family.

Virginia Pearce Seawell remembers first hearing about Shepherd Center when she was in fifth grade. Her best friend's mother, family friend Sally Nunnally, sustained a spinal cord injury in a car accident and became one of Shepherd's first patients in the early days of the hospital.

Seeing the level of care Sally Nunnally received at Shepherd Center made a big impact on Virginia's parents, Gene and Libby Pearce. They became lifelong donors and volunteers at the hospital, with Gene serving two terms on the Foundation Board and Libby being an active member of Women Shaping Shepherd, a group of women who give

annually and vote on patient programs to support through their donations. Libby also has a passion for helping people with disabilities get the assistive technology they need to thrive, and together, the couple has a fund supporting the hospital's facility dog program.

In addition to their own involvement, Gene and Libby have also shared their love of Shepherd with their three daughters: Elizabeth, Virginia, and Anne.

After her college graduation, Elizabeth Pearce joined Shepherd Center's Junior Committee, volunteering with Derby Day. As her career progressed, she shared her business and nonprofit expertise by serving on Shepherd's Advisory Board, Foundation Board, and, most recently, the Long-Term Planning Committee. She was



Photos courtesy of the Pearce Family

Shaping the Future



also a founding member of Women Shaping Shepherd.

In addition to her board service, Elizabeth hopes to become a volunteer breakfast feeder after retirement. She's also part of the J. Harold Shepherd Bridge Builders Society, a legacy giving society, ensuring her impact will continue even after she's gone.

"I love the idea that when I die — because we're all going to — part of what I had in my life will be given to Shepherd Center," Elizabeth says. "The possibilities are so great — if it's a troubled time, maybe it fills a hole in the budget, or if it's not, maybe [the hospital] could invest in something new that it couldn't afford before."

Elizabeth's sister, Virginia, also got involved with Shepherd through events like Derby Day, Summer in the City, and The Legendary Party. But after becoming an empty nester, she began volunteering at the hospital. Virginia currently volunteers as a gym runner in the Comprehensive Rehabilitation Unit (CRU), where she helps therapists with equipment and

spends time with patients during their therapy sessions.

"Working directly with the patients, working directly with the therapists, it is just unbelievably rewarding," Virginia says. "It puts everything in perspective. I've gotten to know so many of the patients so well, and watching them graduate and get to move on is really special."

Anne Pearce Worrell's involvement began yet another way, by becoming a staff member when she was 23 years old. Starting as a data entry assistant in the Foundation, she saw right away how Shepherd's family-centered approach permeated throughout the hospital.

"It always felt like we were one big family, all working toward the same goals. And I think that had a major impact on the patients and their families. They became a part of the Shepherd family, too," she says. "That founding spirit of family hasn't just survived, it's thrived and multiplied, touching countless lives along the way."

One of her favorite parts of her role was seeing her team's work pay off, literally — fundraising efforts from the Shepherd Foundation give patients access to programs like animal-assisted therapy, recreation therapy, family housing, and peer support — services not covered by insurance.

In what she describes as a "full circle moment," Anne and her husband, Andrew, chaired the 2023 Legendary Party. That year's gala raised \$4.4 million for Shepherd, with a record attendance of 645 guests.

Each of Gene and Libby's daughters has left their mark on Shepherd, and the next generation of the Pearce family is already getting involved — Virginia's daughter, Mary Pearce Seawell, interned with the Foundation last fall and is currently a member of the Junior Committee.

"Shepherd Center has been something that our family has shared, and that's meant a lot," Gene shared in a *Spinal Column* story from 2020. "It will continue to mean something because the gifts we give will live on and help patients and families in the future."



(from top to bottom) Virginia Pearce Seawell poses for a photo with her husband, Haygood Seawell, at Derby Day. Gene and Libby became lifelong Shepherd Center supporters after seeing the care their friend, Sally Nunnally, received after sustaining a spinal cord injury. Elizabeth Pearce poses for a photo with her father, Gene Pearce, on a tour of the Arthur M. Blank Family Residences during its construction.



Uniting Communities for a Cause

Affinity groups, made up of people in pursuit of a common purpose, are “mission critical” to Shepherd’s philanthropy, says Sarah Batts, senior vice president of advancement and executive director of Shepherd Foundation.

One of Shepherd Center’s oldest support groups, Shepherd Center Auxiliary, has been raising money for and creating special memories for patients and staff since 1981. The auxiliary’s most well-known fundraiser, Pecans on Peachtree, began with members selling pecans out of the trunks of their cars. The fundraiser has since raised over \$2 million.

Other affinity groups spring from specific needs, such as Shepherd’s Men, which was created more than a decade ago to raise awareness and support for veterans of post-9/11 wars with traumatic brain injuries or post-traumatic stress disorder.



(left) Volunteer Mary Barratt displays pecans during the 1988 holiday season Pecans on Peachtree® sale. ■ (below) Shepherd’s Men members approach Shepherd Center after a weeklong cross-country fundraising effort in 2018. Over the years, the group has raised \$11 million for the SHARE Military Initiative.



Shaping the Future



“Without Shepherd’s Men, there are veterans who never would have been reached,” Batts says. “And there are donors who would have never been introduced to Shepherd.” Travis Ellis, owner of a small business in Marietta, Georgia, co-founded Shepherd’s Men with a nearly 700-mile fundraising run from Shepherd Center to the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial in

Washington, DC, in 2014. In the years since, Shepherd’s Men, comprised of active or retired military members and civilian volunteers, has raised \$11 million for the SHARE Military Initiative. “SHARE helps men and women reclaim purpose in their life,” Travis says. “So many who returned from combat are suffering in silence. We have a

moral obligation to reach as many of them as we can.” All of the affinity groups that support Shepherd are about building community. The Junior Committee harnesses the power of young people interested in service, hopefully creating a life-long connection of giving and volunteering. Likewise, the Shepherd Impact Council

engages young business and community leaders early in their careers, providing a steady pipeline of members for the hospital’s boards. Across Shepherd’s various boards and committees, affinity groups, fundraising events, and volunteer opportunities, there’s an option for everyone to support Shepherd’s patients, families, and staff. This generous support helped Shepherd transform into an internationally recognized hospital in its first 50 years and will help it continue providing world-class care into the future.

(above) Shepherd Impact Council provides young business leaders and community volunteers with an opportunity for leadership development. (below) Junior Committee brings together young people interested in service.



Some passages in this story are excerpts from the summer 2015 edition of *Spinal Column and Mission Moments: 50 Years of Rebuilding Lives One Moment at a Time*, a commemorative book to be released this spring.

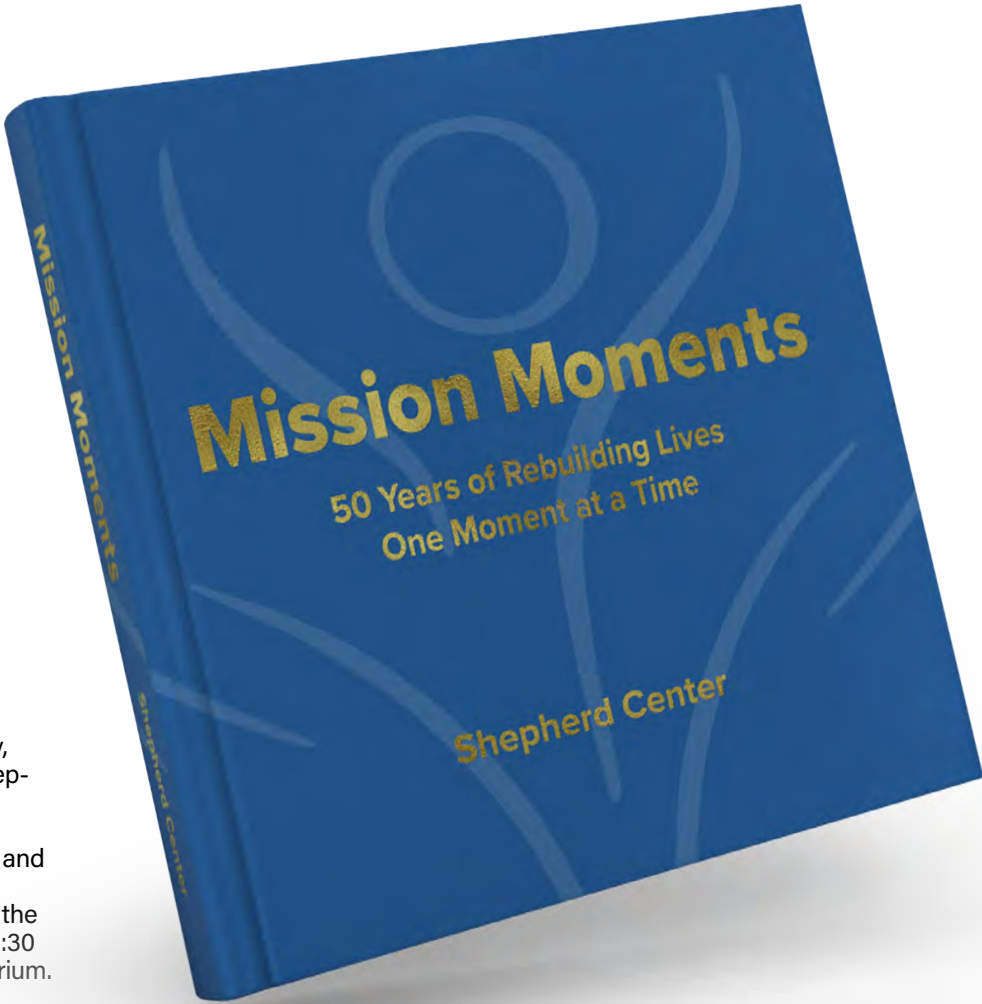
New Commemorative Book Celebrates

50 Years of Rebuilding Lives

From the opening of Shepherd Spinal Center off Peachtree Road, to the 1996 Atlanta Paralympics, to the FDA approving the Indego exoskeleton, there is no shortage of monumental moments to celebrate from Shepherd's 50-year history. But many staff members and patients will be quick to point out that the "everyday" moments — a patient using a new piece of assistive technology, reaching a new therapy goal, or simply enjoying a Tuesday night family dinner — can be just as monumental.

That's why *Mission Moments*, a commemorative book celebrating Shepherd Center's 50th anniversary, celebrates both the headline-making events from Shepherd's history and the everyday victories of patients, staff, caregivers, and volunteers. The book includes chapters on the hospital's history, innovation, culture, and community support.

The book will be available this spring online and at the Apothecary. A book launch party will be held 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. on May 21 in Shepherd Center's Callaway auditorium.



Update Your Plate
Shepherd Center Launches New Specialty License Plate

Looking for a new way to show your Shepherd pride?

Shepherd Center is excited to announce that specialty license plates are available now. The plate, bearing the hospital's name and logo, is available for vehicles registered in Georgia.

To get your own, simply reserve your plate and pay the manufacturing fee online. Then, bring your voucher to your county tag office. You can reserve your specialty plate by scanning this QR code.



Memorials

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 **October 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024.**



Shepherd Center co-founders David Apple, M.D., with his son David III, and James Shepherd, during an early Atlanta Journal-Constitution Peachtree Road Race.

- Carleton Allen**
Mr. and Mrs. John C. Jackson II

Charles L. Allen
Mr. and Mrs. Hunter S. Allen, Jr.

Laura and Karl Anschutz
Ms. Esther L. Abisamra
Ms. Hope E. Abisamra
- David and Bernice Apple Sr.**
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur E. Hunt

Jane Atwater
Mr. Timothy Cahill
Ms. Mary Ann Duxbury
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Roz Ayres-Williams
Mr. Dean Melcher
- Duncan Beard**
Ms. Jean R. Adams
Mr. Fred V. Alias
Dr. and Mrs. Bruce E. Ashendorf
AXA Foundation
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Mrs. C. Duncan Beard
Ms. Kathryn Benton
Jesse Bowles III
Mr. and Mrs. William H. Brown
Mr. and Mrs. David L. Burch
- Communities of Coastal Georgia Foundation
Ms. Sara Cote
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Crew
Ms. Ruth Anne Curtis
Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Evans II
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Ghegan
Mr. and Mrs. James B. Giltner
Mr. and Mrs. Marion B. Glover, Jr.
Dr. Letha Y. Griffin and Mr. James E. Griffin
Dr. and Mrs. Louis J. Harris
Mr. and Mrs. Brian D. Henry
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas D. Hills
Mrs. Mary Kay Howard
Ms. Susan A. Hull
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Mr. and Mrs. Carroll P. Jones
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Ms. Cindy Mallard
Mr. and Mrs. Lynwood M. Mallard
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Mr. David G. Newton
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Mr. and Mrs. Barney B. Whitaker III
Mrs. Robert H. Whitaker, Sr.
Dr. and Mrs. William G. Whitaker III
Mr. and Mrs. Zach M. Wilson II



Sadly, facility dog Lanza passed away at the end of February. During his time at Shepherd, Lanza participated in therapy sessions, shared cuddles, and brought smiles to countless faces, leaving a lasting impact on everyone he met. We are grateful to Lanza and his handler Julie Shepherd for 5 years of service to Shepherd Center’s patients and staff, and he will be greatly missed.

- Leslie Blackwell**
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Fitzgerald
Ms. Allison Foster

Regina and Philip Bongiovanni
Mr. Robert S. Thomas

Phyllis Brooks
Mrs. Jane B. Lybrook

Dr. Joy Ann Bruce
Mr. and Mrs. James L. Bruce

Curtis Bunch
Ms. Vickie Barding
Ms. Christina Branham
Mr. Brent Harkins
- Ms. Jill Honcoop
Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Johnson
Ms. Stacey Jolley
Ms. Andi Laaker
Ms. Cristy Martin
Ms. Kathy Martin
Ms. Deni Milburn
Mr. Robert Pita
Mr. Mark Ponce
Shepherd Center Board of Directors
Smarketing LLC
Ms. Tammy Taylor
Mr. and Mrs. Troy A. Tiedeman
Mr. Bob Van Hook

- Rufus Chambers**
Mrs. Lindsey Hopkins III

Dr. Christopher Clare
Mr. Russell Carbonara

Jimmie Cobb
Dr. Tanisha Grimes

Omer Ronald Collins
Ms. Tammy Gibson

Frank and Dodie Commander
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence P. Kelly

In remembrance of Timothy Condrey, Shirley McFarland wishes Happy Holidays to:
Becky and Van Aggelakos
Barbara Barton
Joyce and Ron Bernie
Dion and Liz Condrey
Terrie & Chuck Dale
Cathy and Joe Frank
Mont and Laurie Hartman
Tom Hartman and Wm Landeros
Barbara Condrey McClintock
Jim and Karen Vournakis
Kelley and Peter West

Timothy Condrey
Mr. and Mrs. Peter J. West

Stephen R. Daniel
Ms. Barbara A. Pate

Michael Dresdner
Mr. and Mrs. Michael N. Dresdner

Ralph Dutton
L. Justin Payne DMD, PC

Susan M. Ebersbach
Mr. and Mrs. Randy J. Ebersbach

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Ms. Jan Young

Katherine Evans
Ms. May G. Kennedy

Reuben Finley
Ms. Jacqueline Finley

Patricia Fryer
Mr. and Mrs. Richard M. Benninger

Charles Oliver Golson III
Ms. Jane T. Bullock
Ms. Margaret M. Collins
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey W. Corry
Mrs. Rosemary Dorsey
Pascale Dunaway
Ms. Ann B. Elliott
Mrs. Loretta Frankovic
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Mr. Perry Hodge
Mr. Bill Keen
Mrs. H.L. Laffitte
Mr. and Mrs. Montague Laffitte
Ms. Rebecca Laffitte
Ms. S. Rosalie Laffitte and Mr. Daniel M. Johnson
Ms. Elsie O. Lang
Mr. James M. Lee
Mr. Stephen Lee
Mr. Lee Lyons
Ms. Elizabeth L. Malinowski
Alex Marcum
Mr. and Mrs. H. Emmett McCracken
Ms. Ann Miller
Mr. Henry H. Minis
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Ms. Jessica Rowe
Ms. Susan Soper
Mr. and Ms. Martin Sullivan
Mr. Duncan Teed
Mr. Dale Thorpe
Mr. and Mrs. George Westerfield

Matthew Gonzales
Ms. Sylvie Robillard

Bryan Griffin
Ms. Sally Atwell

William Gurley
Mrs. Susie Gurley

Chad Hackney
Mrs. Marjorie Burts

Jerry Richard Hamilton
Mr. and Mrs. James C. Slayton III

Nicholas Hardage
Mrs. Phyllis E. Hardage

Rebecca "Becca" Harrell
Mr. T. Rudy Harrell

Gerald (Jerry) Hartman Sr.
Ms. Laura Frick
Mark Hauser
Ms. DeAnn Carlson
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Sam Hendrickson
Mrs. Connie L. Upton

Patrick T. Hickey
Mrs. Carter Smith, Jr.

Bobby Hogg
Dr. and Mrs. Jimmy C. Nash

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Lou Hudson
Mrs. Shirley H. Stokes

Sally Hughes
Ms. Yvonne Angel
Mr. Wade Gilbert

Nathan Andrew Hurst
Mrs. Linda R. Hudson

Janet James
Kelly Ferrin
Mr. James Harpe
Ms. Colleen Sullivan

Oliver Jones
Mrs. Samantha Marx
Mrs. Barbara Murphy

Marianne Kilburn
Mrs. Alana S. Shepherd

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Mr. and Mrs. Rick Compton
Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Letson
Ms. Janice Letson
Terri Micek
Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Moore
Mr. and Mrs. Larry B. Wills

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Mrs. Jane B. Lybrook

Pen Lybrook
Mrs. Jane B. Lybrook

Dennis Lyndon
KBC Advisors

John Maddox
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Ms. Denise Jones
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Kelleher
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Mr. Fred V. Alias
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Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Tillem

- Hedy M. Maus**
Shannon May

Morgan McAlexander
Mr. and Mrs. Kevin McAlexander

- Asher "Love" Mendonsa**
Mr. and Mrs. G. Andrew Mendonsa

Marcus Morris
Ms. Phyllis Lowe
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Mrs. Joe R. Carey
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Ms. Eloise Mills
Ms. Susan C. Prutzman
Vickie Tyler

- Bernie Moye**
Ms. Anne Homza
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Dr. John Neeld, Jr.
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- Lewis Nix, Jr**
Mrs. Lindsey Hopkins III

Betty Jane Norton
Ms. Cindy Carbaugh

- Ernest and Shirley Olsen**
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas M. Gose

Bartie and Oscar Plunket, Jr.
Ms. Jane Plunket

- Jim Poland**
Mrs. James W. Poland

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Ms. Pam Hendee
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas D. Hills
Ladies Investment Limited, Inc.
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Mr. and Mrs. William T. Mobley, Jr.
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Mr. Bob S. Salon
The Selig Foundation
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Mr. and Mrs. Stephen R. Shuler
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- Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth L. Thrasher
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph W. Vickers
Ms. Ansley Goyarts
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph W. Watkins, Sr.

Roy and Joan Ralston
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur E. Hunt

James "Jim" Ratcliff, Jr.
Ms. Ann O. Horner

Terri Rea
Mr. Clyde Rea

Pat and Bill Reese
Mr. Alfredo G. Munoz

Paul Louis Roberti
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Delibero
Ms. Donna DiPippo
Ms. Susan Monteleone
Mr. Bruce Mozinski
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Schwartz

Travis Roy
Mrs. Susan Arnold
Mr. Michael Jasinski

Sarah Schloss
Ms. Christine Van Coney



Staff members of what was then Shepherd Spinal Center pose for a photo in 1976.

Photo by ELEY

Dana Shepherd
Ms. Carol Osner

Harold Shepherd
Mr. and Mrs. I. Arnold Hoge
Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Meriwether, Jr.

James Shepherd
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis C. Coole, Jr.
Frank W. Holas Charitable Trust
Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Meriwether, Jr.
Ms. Carol Osner
Mr. Craig Sullivan
Mr. and Mrs. William R. Washburn

Spencer W. Smith
Mr. and Mrs. I. Arnold Hoge

Douglas A. Spence
Mr. Moses M. Spence

Norma Spence
Mr. Moses M. Spence

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Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Stewart
Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Straley

Ruth Stone
Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Reynolds
Mrs. Nancy F. Reynolds

Sammy Taylor
Ms. Alyse Hensel

Bill Teegarden
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Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Reinhold

Kathie S. Tucker
Mr. Richard P. Gilpin, Jr.

Brooks Tyson Birthday
Ms. Elaine Tyson

Zellie Rouse Utley
Mr. and Mrs. Charlie H. Rouse

Claude Vaughn
Ms. Ekaterina Pridgen

Lynn Walker
Anonymous

Dr. Ken Wallenborn
Mrs. John E. Duggan

Joyce Ward
Mrs. Joyce A. Mattice

Nicole Ward
Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie M. Via

Elizabeth A. Walz
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Jennings and Dorothy Watkins
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Mr. and Mrs. Paul M. Loska
Mr. and Mrs. Jim J. Moore
Mr. M. Lamar Oglesby
Parrott United Methodist Church
Mr. and Mrs. Solon P. Patterson
Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Cohen
Mr. and Mrs. Edmund F. Pearce, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Oscar N. Persons
Mr. Lee Robinson
Mrs. Alana S. Shepherd
Mr. and Mrs. Dell B. Sikes
Mr. Charles U. Slick
Mr. Robert Smulian
Mr. and Mrs. Joel H. Weitnauer

David M. Wheeler
Ms. Sally Wheeler

Dorothy "Dot" Williams
Mrs. Alana S. Shepherd

James and Blondie Williams
Ridgeview United Church

Jane Woodruff
Mr. and Mrs. William G. Pierce

Jay Woodside
Mr. and Mrs. Addison H. Meriwether

Woody Woodside
Mr. Patrick Moorhead

Mr. and Mrs. P. Dan Yates, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis C. Coole, Jr.

Stephen Yockey
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry H. Jared

Honorariums

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 **October 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024.**



Alana Shepherd, one of the hospital's co-founders, still makes daily rounds with patients and staff.

- All who are healed**
Mr. Gerald LeClair

Todd, Stacey and Tucker Anderson
Mr. and Mrs. Todd W. Anderson

Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene L. Pearce III

Cyndae Arrendale
Mr. and Mrs. John C. Beane
Dr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Callahan

Dr. Laurel Barnes’ father
Ms. Anushka Gehi

George Belkofer
Ms. Susan L. Smith

Anneke Bender, PT MS
Mrs. Sue Ann Epstein

Ann and Barry Benedict
Mr. Milton Wood IV
- Dr. Angela Beninga**
Mr. Gerald Beninga

Dr. Gerald Bilsky
Ms. Adele J. Muir

James Blackwell
Ms. Linda E. Crain

Dr. Emory Bohler
Captain and Mrs. A. J. Anderson

Nell Bradbury’s birthday
Ms. Marsha P. Moorer

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

Nell Bradberry wishes Merry Christmas to:
Mrs. Pat Carlock
Mrs. Caroline Davis
Mrs. Clinton Kennedy
Mrs. Marsha Moorer
- The Doctors and Nurses in the Brain Injury Unit**
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur L. Deagon

David Brill’s birthday
Ms. Brenda Leder

David Broulette
Ms. Susanne E. Shepherd

Garrett A. Burgess
Mr. Paul Narkiewicz

Tara Burgei
Ms. Alicia Michael

Gunnar Burns
Brewer Cook

Sheila Burson
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Ball

Barbara G. Butkus
Ms. Katelin Butkus

John and Elaine Carlos
A.E.M. Family Foundation

Patricia Carr
Mr. Dennis Carr
- Lora and Dick Childs**
Ms. Lora Boniface

Millard Choate
Anonymous

Delaney N. Clavo, MSN RN
Dr. A. Thaddeus Clavo, M.D.
Roberta and Jim Conroy
Mr. Milton Wood IV

Michael Costanzo
Ms. Bridget Kelly

Jill Cothron
Mr. and Mrs. Wayland K. Cothron

Lindy Cunningham
Ms. Mary Flynn

James Curtis' Volunteer Work
Mr. and Mrs. Brad Courts

James Curtis wishes Happy Holidays to:
Mr. and Mrs. Mel Adler
Mr. and Mrs. Michael J. Brucato
Mr. and Mrs. Brad Courts
Mr. and Mrs. Richard W. Courts II
Mr. and Mrs. Allen Curtis
Ms. Laureen Dame
Mr. and Mrs. Josh R. Davis
Mr. and Mrs. Tread F. Davis
Mr. and Mrs. Blake G. Dexter
Mr. and Mrs. Allen Eidson
Mr. and Mrs. David Glass
Mr. Charles Glinden
Drs. Matt and Kiery Grabowski
Ms. Bonnie Hardage
Ms. Renee Hart
Ms. Sharon L. Hollis
Ms. Cecy Jones
Mr. Greg Logan
Ms. Nancy Lynn
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Maloney
Mr. and Mrs. John Martin
Mr. and Mrs. David S. Moden
Mr. and Mrs. Todd Norwood
Mrs. Sally Nunnally
Ms. Julie Glinden Sears
Mr. and Mrs. Dell Sikes
Mr. and Mrs. Ian M. Smith
Dr. and Mrs. Richard L. Sturm
Mr. and Mrs. Nathan B. Utz
Mr. and Mrs. James Wells
Mr. and Mrs. Zachary Wilson
Mr. and Mrs. David Withers



Upcoming Events

Derby Day
Saturday, May 3
Chastain Horse Park

Shepherd Center Commemorative Book Launch
Wednesday, May 21
Shepherd Center

Portraits of Hope Gallery Opening
Wednesday, July 16
Shepherd Center

Shepherd Center Day
Monday, Aug. 18
Statewide in Georgia

Junior Committee Signature Event
Saturday, Sept. 6
SweetWater Brewing Company

RPM 9/11 5K
Saturday, Sept. 13
Chastain Park

Shepherd Center Cup
Monday, Sept. 15
Cherokee Country Club

Conlan Cup
Monday, Sept. 29
The Golf Club of Georgia

Shepherd’s Men Clay Shoot
Friday, Oct. 24
The Burge Club, Mansfield, Georgia

Soque Slam Invitational Fishing Rodeo
Saturday, Oct. 25
Clarkesville, Georgia

Legendary Party
Saturday, Nov. 1
Flourish Atlanta

For more information on Foundation special events, please contact:

Saylor Petrie,
Special Event Associate
404-603-5168
Saylor.Petrie@shepherd.org

Lisa Ruger,
Cause and Community Engagement Manager
404-350-3073
Lisa.Ruger@shepherd.org

Porshia Lee,
Cause and Community Relations Associate
Porshia.Lee@shepherd.org



Alana Shepherd holds up an early version of *Spinal Column*. She served as a photographer for some early issues of the magazine.

- Trina Curtis**
Ms. Alicia Michael
- Alyece Daniel**
Ms. Alicia Michael
- George Darden IV**
Mr. and Mrs. George W. Darden
- Terry Darsey**
Ms. JoAnn Padgett
- Scot Davis**
Mr. Rodger Woock
- Margaret Dawkins**
Ms. Becky J. Cronister
- Ann Day**
The Aderhold Family Foundation
- Mike and Debbie Dill**
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Roop
- Rebecca Doty**
Ms. Lora Morton
- Maggie and Jim Eanes**
Mr. and Mrs. John S. Wallace
- Janet Elman**
The Honorable Thomas Robert Rice

- David Ewing**
Mr. Timothy Ewing
- Dr. Fadia and the Staff at Pathways**
Mr. and Mrs. Bertram L. Levy
- The Featherston Family**
Mr. Paul Gressette
Ruth Fierman
Mr. and Mrs. Frederick C. Glass
- Lee Frazer**
Ms. Julie Jones
- Kiley Gardner**
Ms. Debra Dilley
- Benjamin Godfrey**
Taylor Owens
- Clara Godwin's 4th Birthday**
Mr. and Mrs. Milton Godwin, Jr.
- Scott Gordon, Sr.**
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Gordon
- Judith Grenier Vallieres**
Ms. Alicia Michael
- Ann Gressette**
Mr. Paul Gressette
- Austin K. Gupta**
Mr. Robert Laurens

- Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Hall III**
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Balliet
- Greg and Ann Hampton**
Mrs. Kathryn H. Kapnek
- Wil Hampton**
Mr. James W. Hampton
- Rilyn Harper**
Kraig Knowles
- Elizabeth Harris**
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Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Borucki
Mr. and Mrs. Gregory G. Burke
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Mr. James J. Corbett
Mr. and Mrs. Leslie A. Cotter, Jr.
Mr. Floyd T. Deary III
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Ms. Stella W. Donelan
Mr. and Mrs. Walter P. Dorn III
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph R. Folline
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Mr. and Mrs. Robert R. Hill, Jr.
Mr. and Mr. Winston D. Holliday, Jr.

- Ms. Elizabeth L. Holstein
Mr. Patrick Keegan
Dr. Gregory J. Konduros
Mr. Christopher R. Koon
Law Offices of John D. Elliott, P.A.
Law Offices of S. Harrison Saunders, VI LLC
Leventis Law Firm LLC
Mr. Duncan McIntosh
Mr. Paul J. Monk
Ms. Hazel P. Monteith
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Mr. and Mrs. Kevin L. Patten
Mr. Hans W. Pauling
Polales Horton & Leonardi LLP
Postic Law Firm PA
Mr. Gary W. Reinhart
Mr. Jack B. Swerling
Dr. and Mrs. Charles L. Tucker
Dana U. Wolfe
Mr. Donald J. Zelenka
- Connie Hart**
Mr. and Mrs. Luther Kelley
- Caroline Hazel**
Ms. Jordan M. Hinkebein
- Cheryl and Dick Hazel**
Ms. Caroline G. Hazel

- Gary Herber**
Barbara Johnson Prickett Family Fund
- Patrick Higgins**
Ms. Ellen Allen
- Eli Hiskey**
Mr. John Hiskey
- Elizabeth Homer**
Mr. and Mrs. Roger W. Moister, Jr.
- Nicolas Horne**
Mr. Dameon Horne
- Mary Kay Howard Wishes Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for 2025 to:**
Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Benson
Ms. Ann Corrigan
Mr. and Mrs. Philip Dater
Dr. Edward Eanes and Mr. Dennis Loubiere
Mrs. Elaine Etheridge
Mr. and Mrs. Billy Kennedy
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Knoblauch
Mr. and Mrs. David Kowal
Ms. Pam McLaughlin
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Meara
Miss Carol Olsen
Mrs. Anne Paulus
Mr. and Mrs. Alan Stensland

- Constance Howell**
Mrs. Abigail W. Babcock
- Donald and Elizabeth Huffner**
Bilanin Family Foundation Inc
- Pem Jenkins**
Dr. and Mrs. Joe Jenkins
- Judy Johnson's birthday**
Ms. Juli J. Owens
- Clinton B. Kennedy**
Ms. Marsha P. Moorer
- Megan Keyes**
Ms. Alicia Michael
- Carson Kimball**
Mr. J. Scott Jacobson
- Jacob Klebar**
Mrs. Jenene Klebar
- Alecia Lally Love**
Mr. and Mrs. John Lally
- Shaun Lally**
Mr. and Mrs. John Lally
- Liza Lanier**
Ms. Kate Hawkins
- Matthew Lee**
Ms. Pamela B. Jackson
- Dr. Don Leslie**
Mrs. Robert P. Crozer and her family
Mr. and Mrs. Howell W. Newton
Mrs. J. V. Shields, Jr
Mr. and Mrs. C. Martin Wood, III
- Crystal Lethcoe's birthday**
Mr. and Mrs. Michael W. Brown
- Ken Lett**
Mr. and Mrs. E. Bradford Ladd, Jr.
- Barry and Debbie Liff**
Ms. Janet Galanti
Mr. Robby Heiser
Mr. and Mrs. John E. Redeker
Eddie Wolf
- Hannah Lindsay**
Mr. Marc Stevens
- Ben Lippincott wishes Happy Holidays to:**
Friends and family
- Tatum Love**
Ms. Cynthia Bright

- Meredith Maddox**
Mr. Elon W. Maddox, Jr.
- Elaine Malone**
Ms. Charmaine Palmer
- Anita Marino**
The George Stern & Sara Stern Foundation
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Mr. Brent Hodgson
- Grayson Martin**
Mr. Albert J. Jehle
- Paul F. Martin**
Mr. Chris Martin
- Paul Mary**
Mrs. Tammie Mary
- Adam Mathes**
Mr. Mark Jacobus
- Addie Mathes**
Mr. Mark Jacobus
- Cathleen Matheson's Birthday**
Ms. Jennifer Matheson
- Matthew McDade**
Ms. Rebecca Brooks
- Vhan McGuire**
Mrs. Vanessa Ochs
- William "Will" Meadows**
Mr. and Mrs. Richard H. Meadows
- John Meringer**
Mr. James Hourihan
- Linda Miller**
Mr. Timothy Miller
- Marsha Moorer**
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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 Meena Iyer, MSIE, LSSBB, CPHQ, Manager Quality and Outcomes, at meena.iyer@shepherd.org or 404-367-1396.





Before the Shepherd Building was built in 1982, Shepherd Center leased space in West Paces Ferry hospital, pictured here.

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