

VOLUNTEER news

A Newsletter for the Shepherd Auxiliary & Volunteers

August
2012

Peachtree Road Race Wheelchair Division Celebrates Another Great Year

By Rebecca Washburn, ProMotion/Beyond Therapy Manager

Shepherd Center hosted the first wheelchair division of the Peachtree Road Race in 1981. Since then, the wheelchair division has grown in popularity and this year 78 racers registered, ranging in age from 16 to 69 and representing nine countries. The 6.2 mile course is considered one of the largest and fastest wheelchair 10K races in the country and is a favorite for many racers who return year after year.

Competition was fierce at this year's race, with both seasoned veterans and first-time racers taking part. Aaron Gordian was the top men's finisher, crossing the finish line in 19:52 minutes. Top women's finisher and three time Open Women's Champion Tatyana McFadden completed the course in 23:53 minutes. The youngest racer was 16-year-old Sean Burns, who repeated his Peachtree Road Race Junior Championship. Vern Achenbach was the oldest racer at 69, and now has competed in 29 straight Peachtree Road Races.

Much of the success of the wheelchair race is due to the incredible support shown by Shepherd Center staff and volunteers. Becky Washburn, ProMotion/Beyond Therapy Manager, serves as the director of the wheelchair division and oversees the logistics of the event, including athlete registration, travel, hotel, pre- and post-race festivities, and athlete transportation. Shepherd's Therapeutic Recreation staff works tirelessly in the months leading up to the race to review racer registration, orchestrate the start and finish of the race, and recruit volunteers to assist during race weekend. By the time the sun rose on July 4, approximately 100 volunteers and staff members had already assumed their positions as wheelchair taggers, start and finish line monitors, pit crew members, and timers. Thanks to their efforts, the race was a success and the day was memorable for all who participated.



Photos by Louie Favorite

from the AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Dear Auxiliary Members,

We trust you have received your 2012-2013 Auxiliary/Peach Corps Membership Directory. Many thanks to the following Mailing Committee volunteers who helped get the directories sent: Kathy Caputo, Sarah Clarke, Libby Garrett, Mary Sue Howard, Bart Marks, Mitzi Richardson, and Doris Shelton.

The Sunshine Committee hosted a family bingo afternoon event on July 15. There were 59 patients and family members in attendance! It was a lot of fun with wonderful food and fabulous prizes. Thanks to volunteers Patricia Ahlers, Susan Asher, Elizabeth Bennett, Marla Bennett, Kathleen Busko, Carol Evans, Diann Gillenson, Randa Hamdan, Mary Sue Howard, Carol Jones, Bart Marks, Kathy Martin, Cindy Mayer, Carol Olsen, Lois Puckett, Mitzi Richardson, Jacki Ross, Gloria Stone, Kathy Swinford, Ginny Wolf, Jeannie Worlock and our friends at R. Thomas Deluxe Grill who helped to make it a success. Another bingo event is being planned for January. If you would like to be part of activities like this, we would love to add you as an Auxiliary and Sunshine Committee member!

The Auxiliary offers a diverse array of fundraising and volunteer support activities from which to choose, so we hope all of you will become involved. Please mark your calendars to volunteer or come to the following events:

- Wednesday, August 8 – Auxiliary and Peach Corps New Member Orientation
- Sunday, September 30 – Peach Corps Cookout
- Thursday, October 18 - Fall Coffee for Auxiliary and Peach Corps Members
- Thursday & Friday, October 25-26 - \$5 Jewelry Sale
- October (date TBD) - Bake Sale
- November 5 to December 21 – Pecans on Peachtree Sale
- Ongoing - Book Cart. Please donate current books for patients and family members to purchase.

Every minute and dollar means so much to the patients at Shepherd Center. On behalf of the Auxiliary, the patients and their families, we thank you for all that you do to help make the Auxiliary's contributions so meaningful. I look forward to seeing you around the Center.

Linda

Linda Stephens
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Above (l-r): Mailing Committee members Libby Garrett, Bart Marks, Kathy Caputo, Mary Sue Howard, Doris Shelton, Sarah Clarke and Mitzi Richardson prepare membership directories to be mailed.

❧ SAVE THE DATE ❧

Auxiliary/Peach Corps
Fall Coffee

Thursday, October 18

Open to all members ~
bring a friend!



Invitations to follow by mail

Volunteer Spotlight: Bryan Durio

Bryan Durio is one of the most prolific volunteers in the realm of Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) at Shepherd Center. His devotion comes from a unique place – like the patients whose families he visits, he too had a life threatening brain injury.

Over 30 years ago Bryan was in a car accident and spent weeks in a coma. When he awoke he had double vision, experienced paralysis and numbness, and had very impaired speech and memory. Through perseverance and hard work he overcame these challenges, returned to school, got his computer science degree, and had a successful career in the IT industry. He later started two of his own businesses and became a financial supporter of Shepherd Center, and in 2009 his wife suggested he might find rewarding fulfillment as a volunteer here.

Although some of the effects of his injury never left him, today Bryan runs his businesses and leads support groups every month in three different units at Shepherd Center: inpatient ABI, inpatient neurospecialty, and the ABI day program at Pathways in Decatur. His volunteer efforts are coordinated through the Brain Injury Peer Visitor Association, where he's also webmaster. The organization is dedicated to providing hope, support and resources for patients and families after injury and serves many hospitals in metro Atlanta and beyond.

Its director, Ann Boriskie, says Bryan is a natural in this capacity, with his friendly manner, warm smile, and positive attitude. Family members who attend his groups have a loved one who is just weeks or months into recovery and find hope in Bryan's story, realizing what good things the future can hold.

Bryan has always enjoyed motivating and empowering people, beginning when he was a professional trainer in the IT industry. He enjoys continuing that type of effort now as a volunteer at Shepherd Center, and feels it dovetails perfectly with the "can do" culture at the Center. We are very grateful he has paired his faithful devotion to benefit our patients.



Above: Bryan's easy smile and warm demeanor help put family members at ease.

Shepherd Center Ranks Among Top 10 in U.S. News & World Report's Best Hospitals 2013 Guidebook

by Larry Bowie, Director of Public Relations

Shepherd Center was again named one of the top 10 rehabilitation hospitals in the nation in a U.S. News & World Report survey. The rankings are published online at health.usnews.com/best-hospitals and will be published in U.S. News's annual guidebook, Best Hospitals 2013, which will be available in mid-August.

Shepherd ranked No. 10 among dozens of hospitals that earned a spot in the magazine's survey of rehabilitation hospitals. Shepherd Center first appeared on the list in 2000.

Also, U.S. News & World Report announced that Shepherd Center ranked No. 2 in the Atlanta metro area in the magazine's "Best Hospitals" metro area rankings for 2012-2013 and No. 3 in Georgia. These rankings were released simultaneously with the national rankings.

Rankings for rehabilitation hospitals are based on nominations among physicians. Physicians are asked to name hospitals they consider the best in their specialty, regardless of location or expense.

America's Best Hospitals guide includes rankings of medical centers nationwide in 16 specialties. The ranked specialties are cancer, diabetes and endocrinology, ear, nose and throat, gastroenterology, geriatrics, gynecology, heart and heart surgery, kidney disorders, neurology and neurosurgery, ophthalmology, orthopedics, psychiatry, pulmonology, rehabilitation, rheumatology and urology.

"All of these hospitals are the kinds of medical centers that should be on your list when you need the best care," says Avery Comarow, health rankings editor. "They are where other hospitals send the toughest cases."



Join us for

The Tailgate



Clemson vs. Auburn

Saturday, September 1, 2012
12:00 pm until 7:00 pm

Hosted by Shepherd Center Society and Junior Committee
Benefiting Shepherd Center's SHARE Military Initiative

Ticket prices include food, drinks, entertainment

To purchase tickets or to sponsor the event please go to
www.shepherdcentersociety.com

spotlight



Above (l-r): Unum employees Alissa Wolter, Alissa Cassidy, Emily Hampton, Quentella Cannon and Edward Ransbotham served up scoops at an ice cream social for patients and their families.

Right (l-r): Christine Howell-Scott, Darius Hall and Tonya Young of Fairfield Inn Buckhead visit with patient family member Linda Murdock at a recent family brunch.



Top (l-r): Tony Jones of Atlanta Buckhead Hotel & Conference Center visits with family member Natalie Graham.

Bottom: Patient Juan Guardino enjoys a recent ice cream social with his children Juan David, Valeria and Vrisa.



Shepherd Center

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Scott Sikes, Executive Director, Shepherd Center Foundation
Midge Tracy, Director, Volunteer Services
Alex Seblatnigg, Volunteer Manager & Newsletter Co-editor
Gale Eckstein, Family Support Coordinator & Newsletter Co-editor

Membership in the Shepherd Center Auxiliary, Peach Corps, SCS, and Junior Committee is open to all volunteers. Members provide ongoing fundraising and volunteer support to Shepherd Center. For more information on becoming a member of one of these groups, contact Midge Tracy at (404) 350-7315 or visit www.shepherd.org.

Shepherd Center's mission is to help people with a temporary or permanent disability caused by injury or disease rebuild their lives with hope, independence, and dignity, advocating for their full inclusion in all aspects of community life while promoting safety and injury prevention.