

VOLUNTEER

News

A Newsletter for the Shepherd Center Auxiliary & Volunteers

June
2009

Peach Corps Spring Fling

By Pete Collman

Spring time ushers in thoughts of blooming flowers and warmer weather and of course the 2009 Peach Corps Spring Fling Barbecue! Unlike most years, this year's Spring Fling was held indoors due to the possibility of inclement weather. Fortunately



ABOVE: Peach Corps children enjoy a Think First presentation with Community Relations Coordinator Pete Collman.

the move inside did not affect the great turn out of patients and their families. Peach Corps member Buck Rogers (and six of his buddies) grilled over 200 plates of hot dogs and hamburgers and Peach Corps members' children delivered ice cream to the patients throughout the hospital. A special thanks to Bruster's Ice Cream on Lavista Road for donating 200 scoops of chocolate and vanilla ice cream. Pete Collman's 10 year old daughter, Laetitia, enjoyed delivering ice cream throughout the hospital. "I like helping out patients because they smile after we give them ice cream," said Laetitia. An injury prevention talk was given to the children in attendance along with the opportunity to get their face painted. Peach Corps Co-Chairs, Georgeann McGrew and Stacy Scott, put together another wonderful day of fun and food for our patients and their loved ones and both look forward to the next Peach Corps event in the fall.



ABOVE: (L-R) Grill masters Andy Goldner, Jonah Flynn, Tony Kalka, Michael Goldberg, John Houghton, Buck Rogers, Joe Fried serve up hamburgers and hot dogs in the cafeteria.

Mavis Pruet Leslie Memorial Garden Dedication

Shepherd Center staff, patients, donors and volunteers celebrated the dedication and blessing of the new Mavis Pruet Leslie Memorial Garden on April 27. Around 130 attendees enjoyed a beautiful spring day in the new garden. Located outside the Irene and George Woodruff Family Residence Center, the garden is named for Dr. Donald Leslie's mother, who passed away in September 2008. Guests were welcomed by Ivy Garden Club President Anne Hux. Dr.



ABOVE: (L-R) Jane Woodruff and Dr. Donald Leslie honor Mavis Pruet Leslie.

Donald Leslie honored his mother alongside Jane Woodruff by reading a beautiful poem. Mike Utley, Founder of The Mike Utley Foundation, shared his story and was honored for his involvement in creating the new wheelchair mobility course on one of the pathways in the garden. The Mike Utley Terrain Park helps patients learn how to navigate terrain such as rocks, sand, grass and pavement. The blessing and dedication was given by Reverend Linda Whitmire. Special thanks to everyone who helped create this beautiful outdoor space at Shepherd Center.



ABOVE: Mike Utley, Founder of The Mike Utley Foundation.

from the AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Thank you to all members who have renewed their membership or made a donation, we appreciate your support. If you haven't gotten around to renewing, it's not too late. We are thrilled to welcome 14 new Auxiliary members already this year and are working to increase that number by at least 6 more. Be sure to invite your friends to be a part of all the great things happening at Shepherd Center.

The Sunshine Committee has been busy the past few months with Easter, Memorial Day and July crafts. They also made beautiful birthday posters that will be given to patients who have a birthday while at Shepherd Center. Thanks to co-chairs Barbara McArdle and Nancy Dilly and all the talented committee members: Mary Sue Howard, Wanda Reese, Mitzi Richardson, Juli Owens, Bart Marks, Sarah Anne Owens, Pat Ahlers, Cathy Compton, Sandy Unruh, Mary Kesterton and Betsy Cozine. Everyone is so creative!

Thanks to Lois Puckett, Mary Kay Howard, Carol Olsen, Polly Bowman, Beverly Mitchell, Midge Tracy and Cheryl Watkins for promoting, staffing and supporting the Monet jewelry sale. We had a great turnout and were thrilled to have a patient's mother win the beautiful sterling necklace door prize!

It is hard to believe that it is time to be planning for Pecans on Peachtree, but we are already hard at work. Please let us know of any companies or individuals that we should contact as potential customers. You can give us the name and we will make the call. If you would like to help make calls, we can use your help as well. I would like to especially thank Bonnie Capsuto, Debbie Goot and Jane Ulicny for their phenomenal dedication to Pecans for the past several years!

Thank you to all members that volunteer throughout Shepherd Center and the Auxiliary. Your efforts are noticed and appreciated by patients and their families as well as staff members. See you around Shepherd Center!

Marla

Welcome New Auxiliary and Peach Corps Members!

Crystal Baker
Evelyn Cannon
Kathy Fincher
Heather Flint
Diann Gillenson
Michael Jones
Ann Kay
Donald Leslie
Stephen Lore
Deborah O'Connor
Robin Phillips
Stacy Scott
Scott Sikes
Ashley Slappey
Debbie Swann
Gary Ulicny
Julie Vickers
Pam Wakefield
Paula Wooding



ABOVE: (L-R) Nancy Dilly, Cathy Compton and Marla Bennett make birthday posters for patients.



ABOVE: (L-R) Georgeann McGrew, Juli Owens, Stacy Scott, Sarah Anne Owens and Peg Hoogs serve food at the Peach Corps Spring Fling.

2009 Derby Day Fun

By Katie Blair

Mother Nature proved no match for over 1,400 attendees and Junior Committee members who braved the weather to celebrate at Shepherd Center's annual Derby Day event. Although the on and off showers created a muddy terrain, the excitement of the all-day fundraising extravaganza included live and silent auctions, games, great food and a big screen viewing of the surprising yet exhilarating Kentucky Derby race.

The fun-filled festivities held at Foxhall Farm, a 1,200-acre horse farm, could be heard from miles away due to the notable sounds of *Money Shott*—a 70's, 80's, and 90's rock cover band. With covers from such groups as Guns and Roses, Van Halen and Bon Jovi, it's no wonder *Money Shott* kept the party hopping until late into the evening when the final bus left for Buckhead.

In addition to rock and roll, a taste of elegance was felt within the sponsor tent which incorporated hard wood flooring, fancy furniture and uniformed bartenders serving signature cocktails. The atmosphere was enough to make you forget you were at an outdoor farm party. As if that weren't enough, guests also enjoyed delicious food catered by *Low Country Barbecue* alongside tasty beverages sponsored by *Anheuser-Busch Company* and *Bulleit Bourbon*.

Co-Chairs Ryan Hoyt and Erin Jernigan led the 342 member Junior Committee who worked diligently all year to coordinate and implement the outstanding event that raised over \$200,000 to support Shepherd Center's Therapeutic Recreation program. Without the Junior Committee volunteers, this successful fundraiser would not continue to grow as it has each year.

For more information about Derby Day or the Junior Committee, please contact Anne Pearce at 404-350-7306 or anne_pearce@shepherd.org.



ABOVE: Junior Committee Executive Committee members at Foxhall Farm.

Welcome 2009 Phoenix Society Debutantes



BACK: (L-R) Meagan Miller, Emily Pleasance, Katherine Parke, Amber Wojcik, Hali Hill. FRONT: (L-R) Ashley Salter, Sarah Langsfeld, Margaret Bell, Mary Allen Langford (not pictured: Barbara Benesh, Courtney Dabbieri, Sandra Fryhofer, Alli Gombolay, Emily Scheible, and Jenny Wilkes)

Be sure to give a warm welcome to the 15 Phoenix Society Debutantes that are volunteering around Shepherd Center this summer. The ladies will be helping with the Peachtree Road Race on July 4 in addition to volunteering around the hospital. Volunteering at Shepherd Center is a traditional part of becoming a Phoenix Society Debutante. They are scheduled to make their debuts on December 20.

Fourth of July Volunteers Needed!

Therapeutic Recreation is looking for 6 volunteers to serve ice cream in the Secret Garden, celebrate with patients and enjoy fireworks, 7 - 10 p.m.

Please contact Jackie Gehner at jackie_gehner@shepherd.org or 404-350-7316 if you are interested in volunteering.

spotlight



LEFT: Joel Feldstein installs DVD players in the Woodruff Family Residence Center apartments.
RIGHT: Josh Vanderbush volunteers in the Library.



ABOVE: (L-R) Erin Papka helps patient David Edge at lunchtime.
LEFT: (L-R) Mary Sue Howard surveys Tachia Lewis in the Outpatient Clinics.
RIGHT: Susan Howard volunteers at the Welcome Desk.



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VOLUNTEER NEWS

Scott Sikes, Executive Director, Shepherd Center Foundation
Midge Tracy, Director, Volunteer Services
Jackie Gehner, Volunteer Manager & Newsletter Editor

Membership in the Shepherd Center Auxiliary, Peach Corps 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 who have experienced a catastrophic injury or disease, which has resulted in a temporary or permanent disability, rebuild their lives with hope, dignity and independence, advocating for their full inclusion in all aspects of community life.