GETTING BACK ON TRACK

Day by day, Caroline Moore Brodmann works toward recovery from a spinal cord injury.

ALSO INSIDE

TEACHER HEADS BACK TO CLASS + SPINE AND PAIN INSTITUTE HELPS PATIENTS BREAK FREE OF PAIN + LEGENDARY PARTY SETS RECORD
Dear Friends,

At Shepherd Center we like to celebrate milestones – the big ones and those along the way that can seem small to an outsider. Celebrating our achievements is a chance to appreciate hard work and a job well done. It keeps us going on our journeys – adding wind to our sails to take on the next challenge.

In this issue, we recognize the achievements of several former patients, the contributions of our dedicated staff and the support of our amazing donors and volunteers. They all speak to our commitment to excellence.

We follow Caroline Moore Brodmann from the time she was admitted to the hospital following a fall from a hammock to her graduation to the spinal cord injury day program. Her hard work while here – from practicing tasks like sitting up to diligently tackling fine motor skills activities – has gotten her back on track with the rest of her life. We’re especially happy that some of what she learned here through our recreational therapy program helped her travel after her wedding in December as she had planned before her accident.

We’re all also so very proud to report that the 2018 Legendary Party was a record-breaking one! A big thank you goes to our Legendary Party Co-Chairs Leslie Bryant Jackson, Ruth Dobbs Anthony and Gena Bryant Chalfa, as well as our volunteers, sponsors, attendees and staff. The event raised $6.2 million dollars while honoring my parents and with proceeds benefiting Shepherd Center’s recreational therapy and animal-assisted therapy programs.

These two programs provide important avenues for healing beyond standard medical offerings. They help us offer the best care for both body and spirit while tailored to the individual people we treat.

For Will Condon, also featured in this issue, getting physically active was a huge motivator during his time at Shepherd. One year from when Will watched people participating in the AJC Peachtree Road Race outside of our front doors, he returned to walk it.

Logan Smith, another former patient and high school athlete, recently paid us a visit to challenge his former Shepherd Smash rugby teammates to a game as a member of the Charlotte-based Crash. Being able to participate in the Fred, Shaler and Andrew Alias Sports Teams program helped him build a new sports family beyond his high school team.

I’m proud of all these life-affirming, confidence-building stories. I’m proud that we’ve been able to play a small role in them through our work here at Shepherd Center. The Shepherd family, the one we’ve chosen to build together, has so much to celebrate.

Warm regards,

James H. Shepherd, Jr.
Chairman of the Board
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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 visit shepherd.org.
Shepherd Center is pleased to announce the addition of John T. Smith as director of government relations and advocacy. Smith will be working with current director Mark Johnson until Johnson’s retirement in March. Smith will then assume full responsibility for the role.

“We are excited to add him to the Shepherd family as an advocate for all our good work, as well as the disability community,” says Jamie Shepherd, director of community services and risk management.

Smith served as the director of government relations in the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice where he was responsible for promoting and successfully executing the department’s legislative agenda, securing annual appropriations and managing key relationships throughout the state government. At Shepherd Center, Smith’s focus will be on government relations. He plans to be a regular presence at the Capitol during the Georgia General Assembly legislative session, which began January 14.

Shepherd Center also recently welcomed John R. Hamilton III as chief compliance and privacy officer at Shepherd Center. In this role, he will be responsible for overseeing and managing compliance and business ethics within the organization, ensuring that Shepherd Center and its employees are complying with regulatory requirements and with internal policies and procedures, and providing general legal advice.

“John’s leadership will ensure the highest possible level of compliance,” says CEO and President Sarah Morrison, PT, MBA, MHA.

Hamilton previously worked with Treatment Management Behavioral Health as the chief compliance officer and legal counsel where he managed the company's compliance department and its various compliance and risk functions, including ongoing development and implementation of cross-departmental policies and procedures.

Shepherd Center Announces Hiring of Acquired Brain Injury Physician

Amy Kolarova, D.O., joined Shepherd Center’s medical staff on December 3, 2018. She is leading three interdisciplinary treatment teams in Shepherd Center’s Brain Injury Rehabilitation Program, two in the Marcus-Woodruff Building and one in the Shepherd Building.

“Dr. Kolarova has the type of brain injury knowledge and experience we’re looking for at Shepherd Center, and we’re fortunate to have her on our team,” says Michael Yochelson, M.D., MBA, chief medical officer at Shepherd Center.

Dr. Kolarova obtained her medical degree at the Edward Via Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine. From there, she did her post-graduate training in physical medicine and rehabilitation (PM&R) beginning in the U.S. Army at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. She completed both her training in PM&R, as well as a brain injury medicine fellowship, at MedStar National Rehabilitation Hospital in Washington, D.C.

Since completing her fellowship, Dr. Kolarova has held several positions in the brain injury medicine field. She was a practicing physician at Providence Alaska Medical Center, where she was also involved with program development, establishing a multidisciplinary outpatient brain injury clinic. Dr. Kolarova also assisted in developing a brain injury network throughout Alaska, providing educational programs to clinicians, community members, brain injury survivors and their families.

“I am honored to be joining Shepherd Center as the demand for specialized brain injury rehabilitation grows,” Dr. Kolarova says. “I look forward to working with the Shepherd Center team, as well as helping patients and their families reclaim their lives with hope, independence and dignity.”

Amy Kolarova, D.O.
Shepherd Center recently released “Empowering Women After SCI: Safe Healthcare Goes Beyond Accessibility,” a video series that aims to empower women who have sustained spinal cord injuries (SCI) to advocate for their own health and wellness. The videos also serve to better equip healthcare providers to treat women with SCI.

“Research shows that while both men and women with disabilities are at a greater risk for health challenges and health care disparities, women in particular are more likely to delay or avoid routine primary and preventative healthcare appointments, such as mammograms, pelvic exams and screenings for cervical cancer than their counterparts who do not have disabilities,” says Teresa Foy, OT, Comprehensive Rehabilitation Unit program manager at Shepherd Center.

“Without these routine screenings and preventative care, women with disabilities are at an even higher risk for serious health complications. Through this video series, we hope to create opportunities for women with SCI to seek out the medical expertise they need and deserve to pursue lifelong health and wellness.”

The video series was funded by a generous grant from the Craig H. Neilsen Foundation and donations from grateful Shepherd Center patients and families. The series covers topics including doctor’s office visits, diet and exercise, medical care, pregnancy, childbirth, parenting, fashion, dating and intimacy. The final content was determined based on the feedback from focus groups comprised of local consultants, consumers, peer supporters, Shepherd Center’s women’s SCI support group and expert SCI clinicians.

You can view all nine videos on My Shepherd Connection or on Shepherd Center’s YouTube channel.

Shepherd Center Wins Patient Safety Award for Medication Safety

The Partnership for Health and Accountability (PHA) has awarded its prestigious Quality and Patient Safety Award to Shepherd Center for its project that improved reliability in medication administration. PHA is an affiliate of the Georgia Hospital Association (GHA).

The project, titled, “Building Processes to Promote High Reliability in Patient Identification and Medication Administration,” won first place in the Hospitals with 100-299 Beds category. These annual awards recognize Georgia healthcare organizations for achievement in reducing the risk of medical errors and improving patient safety and medical outcomes.

Shepherd Center President and CEO Sarah Morrison, PT, MBA, MHA, and Susan Bowen, RN, CCRN, CPHQ, CLNC, director of quality, outcomes and patient safety, accepted the award, which was presented at the 2019 GHA Patient Safety & Quality Summit on January 9. Morrison also gave a presentation at the meeting.

“With great pride and humility, Shepherd Center accepted this award in recognition for our outstanding effort in the pursuit of genuine patient safety,” Bowen says. “There is nothing more important than delivering safe, reliable patient care.”

Georgia Hospital Association President and CEO Earl Rogers echoed Bowen’s comments.

“Elimination of medication errors is essential to medication safety and is a priority of hospitals statewide,” Rogers says. “We applaud Shepherd Center for its successes and for making critical progress in patient safety while ensuring the best and safest care possible for patients.”
If you or someone you know lives with multiple sclerosis (MS), you know that mobility – and even the most basic of activities – can be challenging.

With MS, the body’s immune system attacks the protective covering of the nerves, so messages between the brain and the body don’t always get relayed appropriately. Muscles weaken, and many people struggle with balance and coordination.

“It can quickly become a vicious cycle in which people with MS try to avoid being active, fearing that it will make their symptoms worse, but then they lose ground in terms of their mobility,” says Deborah Backus, PT, Ph.D., director of multiple sclerosis research at The Eula C. and Andrew C. Carlos Multiple Sclerosis Rehabilitation and Wellness Program at Shepherd Center. “We know that exercise can reduce MS symptoms, and that it carries a host of other health benefits. It’s a powerful tool to help manage the physical and emotional side of MS.”

Still, many people with MS face hurdles when it comes to being physically active. Flare-ups of their symptoms, concerns over how to safely exercise and lack of easy access to a gym or suitable exercise equipment can all be issues.

Recently, Backus along with Robert Motl, Ph.D. at the University of Alabama and collaborators at six other research sites were awarded a grant from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute to study MS and exercise. They hope to make exercise more accessible to people with MS and gain a deeper understanding into how exercise programs should be designed to best meet their unique needs. They are also currently seeking participants to join the study.

The researchers are comparing a four-month home-based exercise program against one that takes place at a gym or other facility. Both exercise programs include a mix of aerobic and resistance training twice weekly, tailored to each participant. The goal is to find out if the home-based is as effective as facility-based program for improving walking ability, quality of life and overall self-confidence to stay active.

The study will also give important insight into whether a person’s ability to choose how and where they train affects their participation and any gains they make. Half will choose where they prefer to exercise – at the gym with trained staff or at home using a DVD and with access to a virtual coach. The other half will be randomly assigned to one of the two groups. Researchers will follow participants for one year.

With 56 people already enrolled, researchers are aiming to recruit a total of 500 adults with MS (ages 18-65 years). To be considered for the study, people must be able to walk at least 25 feet, but with some effort.

“If people are still walking, but have trouble with walking and don’t know how to safely exercise, it’s the perfect study for them,” says Backus. “Participants who’ve completed the study so far are really enthusiastic and have been able to continue with their exercise regimen even when their MS symptoms have challenged them.”

The research team is also collecting information about what helps people stick with exercise.

“We want people to change their behavior over the long-term, not just for the time they are in the study, so it’s important to know what helps,” says Backus. “This program is unique in that it is teaching people a safe way to exercise and progress in a way that is sustainable and allows them to be active through the highs and lows of MS – even on days when they feel very tired or when their symptoms are flaring up.”

Shepherd Center and the University of Alabama are the lead sites for this study. Collaborating sites include:

» Accelerated Cure Project for Multiple Sclerosis
» Cleveland Clinic Mellen Foundation
» Marquette University
» University of Colorado, Denver
» University of Georgia
» University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

For more information about the study, “Comparative Effectiveness of an Exercise Intervention Delivered via Telerehabilitation and Conventional Mode of Delivery,” or to enroll at Shepherd Center, please contact Erica Sutton at 404-367-1305 or erica.sutton@shepherd.org. To find a site near you, visit iconquerms.org/welcome-step-ms.

**EXERCISE & MS**

Exercise can help manage many MS symptoms and:

» Better heart health
» Improve strength
» Improve bladder and bowel function
» Give people more energy
» Lessen depression
» Increase participation in social activities
Q: Who qualifies for care?
A: The clinic is open to current and former Shepherd Center patients, as well as community members with a previously diagnosed neurologic injury. Loss of upper extremity function can occur as a result of neurologic injury, secondary orthopedic injury or peripheral nerve injury. Our UE physicians have a particular skill set in that they are orthopedic surgeons who have an acute understanding of our patients’ specialized needs. This is not an easy thing to find, and we’re lucky to have them. So, although we treat conditions like rotator cuff injuries, carpal tunnel and brachial plexus injuries, much of our focus happens to be on contracture management because of spasticity related to neurologic impairments and on tendon/nerve transfers with our tetraplegic population.

Q: What are the clinic’s most important functions?
A: I think our team is most proud of our tendon/nerve transfer program because it is so highly specialized and restricted to very few places around the country. But, that probably depends on who you ask. A patient with shoulder pain or carpal tunnel pain would tell you the steroid injections we provide are the most important. A person with a tetraplegic level of spinal cord injury who wants to be able to extend and bear weight through his or her arm or have pinch and grip restored through tendon/nerve transfers would argue that part of our restoration program is the most important. Everything we do is important if it helps promote function.

Q: How does the clinic distinguish Shepherd Center from other rehabilitation hospitals?
A: Our UE physicians are an invaluable resource, and they are right here in our center! They come to the patient in the very place our patients usually feel most secure. Our Shepherd Center culture is part of the program, which on its own, makes the program unique. Another advantage: the restoration program team (comprised of MDs, OTs, RNs, PCTs and a case manager) is skilled in spinal cord and brain injury methodologies of care, which helps us coordinate resources across programs and services while providing a comprehensive experience.

Q: What’s most satisfying aspect of your work?
A: The team approach and culture, as well as the cumulative brilliance of all these dedicated people, never fails to blow my mind. The opportunity to work with them to bring about life-impacting change feels almost sacrosanct.

JANA CANDIA, OTR/L
Case Manager, SCI Post Acute Services Unit/Upper Extremity Rehabilitation Clinic
INTERVIEWED BY DREW JUBERA

The Upper Extremity (UE) Rehabilitation Clinic at Shepherd Center changes lives. It offers a comprehensive therapy and treatment program to improve upper extremity function for people with neurological injuries who have limited function or pain in their arms, wrists and hands. We asked case manager Jana Candia, OTR/L, who’s worked at Shepherd Center since 2007, to tell us more.
Exercise physiologist Mary Ashlyn Thiede brings Shepherd Center facility dog Barboza to meet Caroline and talk to her about the many ways an assistance animal can be helpful.
Day by day, Caroline Moore Brodmann works toward recovery from a spinal cord injury.

BY DREW JUBERA
While no stay at Shepherd Center can be called typical — patients come from all 50 states and about 60 countries, with various degrees of catastrophic injury — Caroline’s four months in the inpatient Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation Program underscore what distinguishes Shepherd from other rehabilitation hospitals.

Guided by daily consultations from a team of physiatrists, physical therapists, occupational therapists, respiratory therapists, speech-language pathologists, recreational therapists, counselors and others, her care was individualized to meet her goals and needs.

A blend of expertise and creativity is ingrained in Shepherd Center’s culture. The result is one of the best hospital discharge-to-home rates in the country.

“What’s important to the patient, and what they want to achieve, is what we work toward,” says Jennifer Douglas, MS,

PHASE 1

ADDRESSING MEDICAL ISSUES

PHASE 2

SETTING GOALS

At 24, Caroline had earned a master’s degree in education in the spring of 2018 from the University of Georgia, and she had found her first teaching job. Scott was starting law school at UGA that fall. They were marrying in December.

Caroline was transferred from Memorial Health’s intensive care unit (ICU) to Shepherd Center’s ICU 16 days after the accident. Anna Elmers, M.D., a Shepherd Center staff physiatrist, and a multidisciplinary team addressed Caroline’s medical issues, including arms contracted at the elbow. Caroline was also on a ventilator, with a trach tube in her throat, for more than a month.

“We have the ability to get our patients early in their recovery compared to many other rehabilitation hospitals because we have our own ICU,” Dr. Elmers says. “We addressed the medical issues: If you can’t breathe properly, or stay upright because of blood pressure issues, or you’re sick with infection and throwing up, you probably can’t rehabilitate.”

PHOTOS BY LOUIE FAVORITE
Two therapists maneuver a Hoyer lift to transfer Caroline from her wheelchair to the edge of a raised mat table, where she’ll practice prop sitting – sitting up on her own. The task is important for her to eventually perform her own transfers from chair to other seats and back, or to sit on the edge of her bed and dress. Sarah Leonard, a physical therapist, PT, DPT, sits on a stool in front of Caroline and holds her steady with a towel wrapped around Caroline’s back. Another therapist supports Caroline from behind. Caroline works through positions and exercises until she simultaneously sits back while leaning forward, counterintuitively learning to use her head for balance. “I’m going to slowly let go of this towel,” Leonard then tells her. The therapist who is supporting Caroline from behind lets go, as well. Caroline is sitting up on her own. The first time she tried this, she couldn’t sit up for 10 seconds. Now, she holds steady for almost a minute. “Everyone wants to walk,” Leonard says. “But this is what we can do now, so let’s work on this. It’s important to have little milestones. Otherwise, it’s all too big, and you get lost in it.”

Caroline works toward sitting up on her own with physical therapist Sarah Leonard, PT, DPT, and occupational therapy student Kathryn Sigmon.

CCC/SLP, therapy program manager for the inpatient Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation Program. “All employees who treat patients at Shepherd live and breathe that. We want their care to be individual, and special, in their time of chaos.” That care was on full display during Caroline’s inpatient stay. She relearned how to eat, brush her teeth, sit up. She made use of Shepherd’s vast assistive technology resources. She had casts on her arms to help regain range of motion. While discussing weekly goals, Caroline talked with therapists about returning to work, as well as her upcoming wedding, which she and Scott kept set for December 2018. So, her therapists held a wedding cake tasting in her room, helped her think about a dress that would work best with Caroline’s wheelchair and held a surprise wedding shower. One therapist arranged for Caroline to help teach at her son’s elementary school once Caroline moved to Shepherd Center’s day program.

ACHIEVING MINI MILESTONES

PHASE 3

Two therapists maneuver a Hoyer lift to transfer Caroline from her wheelchair to the edge of a raised mat table, where she’ll practice prop sitting – sitting up on her own. The task is important for her to eventually perform her own transfers from chair to other seats and back, or to sit on the edge of her bed and dress. Sarah Leonard, a physical therapist, PT, DPT, sits on a stool in front of Caroline and holds her steady with a towel wrapped around Caroline’s back. Another therapist supports Caroline from behind. Caroline works through positions and exercises until she simultaneously sits back while leaning forward, counterintuitively learning to use her head for balance. “I’m going to slowly let go of this towel,” Leonard then tells her. The therapist who is supporting Caroline from behind lets go, as well. Caroline is sitting up on her own. The first time she tried this, she couldn’t sit up for 10 seconds. Now, she holds steady for almost a minute. “Everyone wants to walk,” Leonard says. “But this is what we can do now, so let’s work on this. It’s important to have little milestones. Otherwise, it’s all too big, and you get lost in it.”

“What’s important to the patient, and what they want to achieve, is what we work toward,” says Jennifer Douglas, MS, CCC/SLP, therapy program manager for the inpatient Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation Program.
Caroline sits before a small rubberized board, trying to fit soft pegs into a dozen holes. It’s a bimanual task: Because Caroline has no mobility in her fingers, she uses both hands to lift pegs from a small bucket and place them in the holes.

The task’s usefulness goes beyond the board.

“You can’t replicate every task in life,” Leonard says. “But you can learn strategies and problem-solving that you can then apply to different tasks.”

This exercise exhausts Caroline almost as much as prop sitting. She gets one peg in, then accidentally knocks it over when she picks up another. After 10 minutes, she’s managed to fill seven holes. A few days earlier, she had filled two. It can feel like slow going, yet she makes steady progress.

“She probably wanted to throw the whole bucket at me,” Leonard says. “But when she first arrived at Shepherd, we didn’t think she was going to be doing these tasks this quickly.”

Shepherd therapists form a unique relationship with patients bringing to the table two seemingly opposing traits — empathy and tenacity. They push patients further than they think they can go, but no further than they’re able.

As Caroline stays focused, a friend who is visiting her smiles and says, “I sense the love-hate here.”

Caroline finally pushes the last peg into a hole and looks up proudly, her wide eyes searching the gym for Leonard and for confirmation of a job well done.

“Where’s Sarah?”

“Everyone wants to walk,” Leonard says. “But this is what we can do now, so let’s work on this. It’s important to have little milestones. Otherwise, it’s all too big, and you get lost in it.”
Shanna Thorpe, CTRS, a recreational therapist, places a towel in Caroline’s lap like a waiter unfolding a napkin. Barboza, one of Shepherd’s four facility dogs, settles his chin on top. Caroline pats his head.

A family friend has offered Caroline an assistance dog when she returns to Savannah. Thorpe asked Mary Ashlyn Thiede, exercise physiologist, to bring Barboza to show Caroline what tasks assistance dogs can perform and some adaptive grooming tools Caroline can use to care for one. Thiede hands Caroline a set of keys, tells her to drop them and call out, “Get!” The yellow lab and golden retriever mix lifts his head, grabs the keys in his mouth and drops them back in Caroline’s lap.

Thiede explains that the keys could be a dropped debit card at a store, or a pencil in a classroom. She demonstrates how dogs can open doors or drawers, turn light switches on and off. They can retrieve items from a refrigerator.

Caroline rubs Barboza’s head, as he lies it flat again in her lap.

On a Friday night, Linden picked up meals that Caroline ordered from a nearby restaurant. The couple then dined alone on Shepherd’s seventh-floor balcony, overlooking Atlanta’s shimmering skyline.

They then moved downstairs to a classroom Linden reconfigured with a pullout couch, two husband pillows and a big TV. They watched “We Are Marshall.”

“It meant so much to Scotty that I planned a date night for him,” Caroline says, smiling. “It was one of the first times we were alone and not sitting in my hospital room. While we were still in a hospital, it was great seeing how, when we get home, we can go out on dates and be our normal selves.”

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Caroline and Scott are handed boarding passes at the world’s busiest airport.

They arrived there by Shepherd Center bus, which brings patients to Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport once a month, in partnership with Delta Air Lines, to learn how to travel post-injury.

The couple is preparing for their honeymoon in Mexico planned for summer 2019. A Delta official explains procedures for going through security — what TSA agents can and can’t ask about their injury, what to do about medications that exceed size limits. They then pass through security as if headed to an actual flight.

They take elevators and trains to their gate. A Delta plane is reserved there just for the group. They learn to transfer to chairs that can fit through an airplane’s aisles, and then into their seats. They’re told how to get help with overhead baggage or getting privacy for going to the bathroom.

The overriding lesson, says Alex Joynes, CTRS, recreational therapist, is that patients must advocate for themselves. As with other recreation therapy outings to restaurants, malls or ballgames, this trip shows patients how to respond to real-world challenges outside of the comforting “Shepherd bubble,” where things are accessible and planned with patients in mind.

Caroline and Scott find the airport outing invaluable.

“I couldn’t imagine us traveling and not have done this,” Caroline says. “We would’ve been lost.”

Caroline’s mom, Kathy Moore, helps her pull her hair back into a ponytail.

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Caroline attends weekly sessions with Cheryl Linden, LPC, OT, counselor for Shepherd’s Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Rehabilitation Program and SCI Day Program. They often discuss Caroline’s relationship with Scott under their new circumstances, and Scott sometimes attends with her. He delayed law school to stay with Caroline during her rehabilitation.

“Cheryl talked to us about moving forward and what that’s going to look like,” Caroline says. “At first, I didn’t know what it was going to look like for me by myself, let alone for the two of us.”

Linden suggested a date night, with Caroline making all the big decisions — what they’d do (dinner and movie), what they’d eat, what movie they’d watch.

“Caroline is not totally independent, but that doesn’t mean she can’t take the lead sometimes in the relationship,” Linden says. “When one person has to be in the role of caregiver in the relationship, the one being cared for has to feed the relationship, too.”
Caroline and Scott leave a seventh-floor elevator and head into a surprise wedding shower the staff planned for them. A big room is filled with food, presents and dozens of friends, family, staff and fellow patients. It could be an office party in any Atlanta high-rise. This one just happens to include therapists and many people using wheelchairs. Caroline and Scott sit at a table with her brothers and friends. Scott fixes her a plate of food prepared by patients in the Adolescent Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation Program. A few patients give speeches.

Scott opens presents. He’s as befuddled as any just-out-of-college male might be.

“A scooper!” he says, holding up a spatula.

A therapist calls out, “Caroline, it’s not too late (to change your mind)!”

Laughter erupts. It goes on like this for almost an hour. The scene feels light years away from the one-in-a-million accident that brought Caroline here three months earlier. It’s filled with jokes and small talk and hugs. It captures a Shepherd culture that affirms humanity, dignity and big victories gained one small win at a time.

“It was a long time before we could laugh,” says Caroline’s mother, Kathy Moore, as the party winds down. “Any hospital that can get you back to smiling and laughing and enjoying life, well…”

She takes a breath.

“The minute we walked through the door, we could feel that loving atmosphere,” she says of Shepherd. “They’re caring and compassionate, and they’ve really embraced Caroline. It just shows it’s like family around here.”
TREATING THE WHOLE PATIENT

Shepherd Center helps patients cope with loss.

By Drew Jubera

Emily Hilaire was 29 weeks pregnant with her first child when she and her husband, Fred, a local sheriff’s deputy, went out to get something to eat near their Deltona, Florida, home.

They never made it. Their car collided with another vehicle parked in the middle of the highway, lights off and the driver asleep. The crash sent Emily to the hospital with a paralyzing incomplete C-4/C-5 injury. Because of the trauma, doctors soon delivered her baby by emergency cesarean section. Weighing 2.4 pounds, baby Lauren died six days later of complications from the collision.

Emily transferred from Orlando Regional Medical Center to Shepherd Center in July 2018. She arrived not only with a catastrophic spinal cord injury, but understandably with emotional trauma, as well.

The staff at Shepherd Center addressed both, employing the hospital’s unique ability to adapt rehabilitation to a patient’s individual needs.

Emily had several surgeries at Piedmont Atlanta Hospital, which is adjacent to Shepherd Center, during her first few weeks, and that limited the amount of physical rehabilitation she could do. But she began working on other challenges.

“It’s not uncommon for a patient at Shepherd to be dealing with the loss of someone who died or was severely injured in the same incident that they were. Shepherd’s multidisciplinary medical teams are ready to help with emotional healing as part of assisting the whole person on their recovery journey,” says Cheryl Linden, LPC, OT, counselor for the Spinal Cord Injury Program. “I took my cues from Emily, and that opened the door for us to start talking about her daughter.”

Emily showed Linden photographs of her baby, including one taken at the hospital of her, Fred and Lauren together. When they finished, Linden suggested they get frames and paint them.

“It just helped knowing I’d have pictures of her (Lauren) and of us for when we got home,” Emily says.

Fred was often included in counseling sessions with Linden. He also talked with Shepherd Center chaplain Ben Rose. Fred soon played guitar during chapel services - just like he did at the couple’s church in Florida.

It helped Fred with his own emotional recovery and spiritual needs.

“It felt like back home, just playing guitar and doing things we used to do,” he says. “It was like having a piece of what we had before the accident.”

After two months, Emily moved to the Spinal Cord Injury Day Program. Shepherd patients often have reduced mobility in their hands and need to learn new ways for holding, changing and feeding their young children. Therapists use weighted dolls, adaptive cribs and other items to prepare patients for parenting with a spinal cord injury. Linden knew Emily and Fred hoped to have more children, and she again took cues from Emily to see if she wanted to include that kind of training.

“I sort of pushed her gently and let her make the decision,” Linden says. “Some days were easier than others.”

Emily returned to Florida in October 2018. She’s continuing rehabilitation at a center near the couple’s home, and she is ready to have her car adapted so she can drive.

“The nightmare seemed like it would never end, but we’re kind of back to normal now,” Fred says. “We can kind of look ahead a little because of how far we’ve come.”

Of her time at Shepherd Center, Emily adds, “It’s one of the best places you can be for someone in our situation. They address the whole family and their needs.”
BEST IN CLASS

Will Condon approaches rehabilitation just like he does teaching eighth grade biology — with grit and humor.

BY DREW JUBERA
He doesn’t remember any of it—the dive into his apartment complex pool, hitting the water at a freakish angle, drowning. All Will Condon remembers is waking up 36 hours later in the intensive care unit at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte, North Carolina, surrounded by family and being told he was paralyzed from the chest down.

Intubated and unable to talk, Will’s face registered an urgent expression. His girlfriend, Tanya Mishina, improvised a system that let him spell words by blinking when she pointed to the right letter of the alphabet. He batted out a painstaking but blunt response to his predicament: NOT FOR LONG.

After surgery for an incomplete C-5 spinal cord injury, the youthful teacher and coach was airlifted to Shepherd Center in Atlanta. Determined to recover, Will was told in North Carolina that his chances of walking again were slim. Will arrived on June 6, 2016, both hopeful and terrified. A fourth-floor night nurse recognized the fear on Will’s face and assured him: “You’re going to be fine. We do this all the time.”

“Everything was positive,” recalls Will, 32, in reflecting on his Shepherd Center experience. “It’s frustrating, humbling and depressing to go from being the most athletic person in my family to being completely helpless. But in that atmosphere, surrounded by people in the same boat, you have the sense you are not alone. That atmosphere is so important for the recovery process.”

A high school football and baseball player, Will adopted what he called an “athletic frame of mind.” Rehabilitation was slow and tough going. Because of damage to his lungs from the near-drowning, breathing remained a problem. It was two weeks before he clenched a fist. Two days later, he lifted a leg.

Meanwhile, he cheered on his fellow patients’ breakthroughs and consoled them during setbacks.

“I’ve always been a team player,” he says. “I don’t want to be the only person succeeding. I want the team to get better, and the people at Shepherd with me were my team.”

During Will’s rehabilitation, his parents moved from their home in Painted Post, New York, to live in Shepherd Center’s on-campus Woodruff Family Residence Center. They got to know the therapy team. They recorded Will’s first fist clench. His father read Will a book every morning about an NFL player’s recovery from a similar injury. They also met other parents who lived on campus, bonding over their shared hopes and fears while performing mundane tasks.

“Being in the laundry room was as therapeutic as anything else,” says Barbara Condon, Will’s mother. “You really got to know people. It was a wonderful situation.”

Lou Condon, Will’s father adds: “It was our indoctrination to the ‘Shepherd Way.’ They don’t see anything as a handicap. They see what they need to do and start working at it. It’s why I never had the feeling this was awful. It was awful, but from that point on, we were only going to go up.”

A benchmark moment came on the Fourth of July. Seated in a power wheelchair on the sidewalk outside Shepherd Center, still largely immobilized as he watched 60,000 runners rush by in Atlanta’s annual 10K AJC Peachtree Road Race, Will silently fumed.

“I was so angry, all those fully healthy people running by,” he says. “All I wanted to say was: ‘Don’t pity me. Don’t patronize me.’ For two hours out there, I slowly released all my anger. It was something I had to go through.”

Then, after he released it: “I started enjoying myself. I was high-fiving people as they ran by. I told myself, ‘I’m going to run this next year.’”

Will graduated from inpatient rehabilitation six weeks later, an event made memorable by a poem he read to about 30 staffers, patients and parents. Filled with bracing insights and inside jokes, it touched on everything he went through and everyone who helped him. It ended: “Then I’ll go home to be with my pup! For life knocked us down but now we get… back up.”

There wasn’t a dry eye in the house.

Next, Will moved on to Shepherd Center’s Spinal Cord Injury Day Program for continued rehabilitation. He finished each session dripping wet.

“That athletic mentality and competitiveness came through,” said Jennifer Wile, PT, DPT, a physical therapist who worked with Will on the treadmill. “I was able to push him to do more than even he knew he could do. His willingness to trust us that the harder we pushed the better he gets was tied to his overall success.”

Two months after he’d arrived, he finally stood up. When he left Shepherd Center that October, he used one forearm crutch to walk out on his own.

Will now lives back in New York, teaching eighth grade biology and coaching baseball, intramural bowling and ski club.

“The kids keep me young and on my toes—I never know how the day is going to unfold,” Will says. “I have always been very interested in biological science, and teaching allows me to surround myself with things I want to talk about without being stuck behind a computer for months at a time.”

When he’s not at school, Will walks his dog, hikes and gardens. He’s even been skiing with Tanya, who is now his fiancee. Will did return to Shepherd Center on July 4 in 2017—for the AJC Peachtree Road Race. He and Tanya walked the whole route. When he passed Shepherd Center near the halfway point, virtually dead last, memories rushed back—tubes choking his throat, pushing himself with his therapists, standing up.

A couple nurses still stood outside. Will yelled, “I was there a year ago!” They clapped, but he didn’t stop.

“I just kept walking,” he said. “That’s a statement right there.”

1. Will completed both inpatient rehabilitation and the day program at Shepherd Center. 2. Will wrote a heartfelt poem that he read to his care team at his graduation from inpatient rehabilitation. 3. A year after his stay at Shepherd Center, Will walked the rehabilitation. 4. A year after his stay at Shepherd Center, Will walked the rehabilitation.
Shepherd Alums: Where Are They Now?

BY DREW JUBERA

Collin Sanders
WOODBSTOCK, GEORGIA

In June 2002, Collin Sanders, 34, of Woodstock, Georgia, rammed into a brick mailbox while driving from a summer job and sustained a traumatic brain injury. Rushed to WellStar Kennestone Hospital, Collin underwent a craniotomy and stayed in a coma for three weeks. When he emerged, he couldn't make a sound. Diagnosis: severe verbal apraxia.

“I knew everything that was going on,” he recalls. “But I couldn’t talk at all.”

Collin transferred to Shepherd Center six weeks after his wreck, still unable to talk. He’d planned to attend Bible college to become a pastor but remembers using a communication device Shepherd Center gave him to tell someone, “I’ll never preach again.”

Three weeks later, speech therapist Amy Waite, CCC-SLP, coaxed the first sound out of him: “Mm.”

Waite soon helped Collin turn that sound into a word. “At 17,” he says, “my first word was ‘mom.’”

A year later, Collin gave an 18-minute speech at his youth camp. Waite and another therapist drove nearly two hours to hear him.

Collin, that summed up Shepherd Center. “They really care about their patients,” he says. “The nurses and therapists were great – there were nurses who brought me food they cooked at home while I was there."

Collin attended Bible college, got a degree at another school in video production and joined his family’s CPR training company. He’s now the center’s training coordinator and personally teaches about 3,000 people a year.

The irony isn’t lost on him: “I talk for a living.”

Dana Berry
CLEVELAND, GEORGIA

“Devastation.”

That’s what Dana Berry, 46, of Cleveland, Georgia, says she felt after being diagnosed in 2006 with multiple sclerosis. Growing up, Dana had an uncle who ultimately died from complications from MS.

Now here she was, in her 30s, the mother of two young children and working at her husband’s plumbing and millwork business – worried that she faced the same fate. Her symptoms, not physically apparent to outsiders, included “brain fog” and fatigue so severe her kids “couldn’t figure out why mom won’t get up.”

“I was mad,” she says. “I didn’t have time for this.”

After seeing a local neurologist for about a year, Dana came to the Andrew C. Carlos Multiple Sclerosis Institute at Shepherd Center. Her spirits were instantly lifted “by the energy and hope” of the Shepherd staff.

MS affects everyone differently, and patients often undergo various treatments until their healthcare team finds the most effective treatment combination. Dana had several stops and starts until, around 2009, an infusion treatment worked – with no relapses.

Five years later, in 2014, she opened Kitchen of Dana, a gourmet macaroni and cheese business. Started in Dana’s basement kitchen in Cleveland, a small rural town 80 miles north of Atlanta, the business now has its own facility and six part-time employees. Her macaroni and cheese is sold in more than 30 stores throughout Georgia, North Carolina and Tennessee, and is shipped nationwide.

“The nurses and therapists were great – there were nurses who brought me food they cooked at home while I was there.”

He tells families the same thing. “When someone who’s on the other side of the injury walks in and says, ‘It can get better,’ it gives them hope,” he says.

As for what Shepherd Center gave him, Collin doesn’t hesitate. “They gave me my voice back. Literally.”

Since completing brain injury rehabilitation at Shepherd Center, Collin Sanders has returned to work and recently became a father.

Dana Berry, who has MS, owns Kitchen of Dana, a gourmet macaroni and cheese business.

Since completing brain injury rehabilitation at Shepherd Center, Collin Sanders has returned to work and recently became a father.
Logan Smith
DUBLIN, VIRGINIA

Logan Smith, 20, of Dublin, Virginia, was a patient at Shepherd Center in 2016. When he returned to Shepherd Center in November 2018, it was for a wheelchair rugby tournament.

Playing for the Carolina Crash, Logan reunited with Sarah Leonard, PT, DPT, the physical therapist who got him interested in rugby when he was in rehabilitation after sustaining a spinal cord injury – and who coaches the Shepherd Smash.

He says Leonard told him what to expect when he played the Smash, whose players he practiced with while learning the game.

“You know when our teams play they’re going to give you a really hard time,” Leonard told him good-naturedly. “But it’s just because they love you.”

In October 2016, Logan was driving home from a local junior college when his truck hydroplaned and flipped down a 30-foot embankment. The result: a complete C-6 and C-7 spinal cord injury. He transferred to Shepherd Center after 10 days at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital in Roanoke, Virginia. Logan joined the Adolescent Spinal Cord Rehabilitation Program, where he bonded with other young adult patients.

“It was nice to relate to somebody my age in the exact same situation,” he says. “It helps keep you motivated.”

Logan started playing wheelchair rugby while he was in the Spinal Cord Injury Day Program at Shepherd Center. He'd played high school football, and rugby was “the most contact sport out of all the wheelchair sports.” He also learned “everyday living stuff” from the older players.

“They push you to do more,” he says. “They try to get you to the next step of whatever you're doing.”

Logan has stayed active since leaving Shepherd Center’s day program in March 2017. Besides playing rugby for the Charlotte-based Crash, he’s gone on a Shepherd-sponsored ski trip and cycled for a 180-mile fundraiser. He has kayaked, ridden a personal watercraft and scuba dived at Shepherd Center’s Adventure Skills Workshop, which is held every spring. He also provides peer support in Charlotte for patients with spinal cord injuries.

Logan graduates this spring from New River Community College, with plans to enroll at Virginia Tech.

He stays in touch with former patients, as well as therapists, whom he saw at the tournament.

“Honestly, they’re just family now,” he says.

Dipesh Bhatia
HIGHLANDS RANCH, COLORADO

Dipesh Bhatia, 39, of Highlands Ranch, Colorado, was visiting family in Atlanta on Thanksgiving Day, 2017, when he collapsed from a stroke.

While in the intensive care unit (ICU) at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta, unable to walk or talk, Dipesh believed his situation so dire he urged his wife to write a will so he could sign it.

Three days later, he was transferred to Shepherd Center. Dipesh spent three months in Shepherd’s Acquired Brain Injury Rehabilitation Program, then two months at Shepherd Pathways, Shepherd Center’s comprehensive outpatient program for people with brain injuries.

“I thought my life was gone,” Dipesh says. “Shepherd gave me a second chance.”

Dipesh’s first weeks at Shepherd Center were his toughest. During a Christmas party for patients, with snow falling in Atlanta, Dipesh lamented how he loved to play outside on days like that with his five-year-old daughter. His future seemed bleak.

“I was feeling lost,” he recalls. “It was hard for me to believe I was 38 and had a daughter and couldn’t go see her. It was troublesome for me.

“But the therapists handled me emotionally as well as physically,” he says. “They figured out I was not happy and throughout that day they came to me and talked to me personally. I almost felt like I had a second family at Shepherd.”

Dipesh’s rehabilitation progressed one step, and one word, at a time. He eventually went on outings with other patients, including to a nearby coffee shop.

“I was so desperate to have Starbucks coffee,” he laughs. Therapists responded to his wishes to swim and play basketball. He began taking yoga classes offered at Shepherd, and continues to do yoga today.

In June 2018, seven months after his stroke, Dipesh returned to his job in Colorado as director of software engineering.

Sitting at home now with his family back in Colorado, Dipesh says one word exemplifies his Shepherd experience.

“Hopefulness,” he says. “It was all about hope. Don’t give up.”

Dipesh Bhatia returned to his job in software engineering seven months after having a stroke.

More online at news.shepherd.org
No one likes to be in pain. Whether caused by a bad back, a joint problem or something more far more complex, chronic pain can be debilitating and can take a toll on a person’s physical and mental well-being. Loosely defined as daily pain that has lasted six months or more and that is usually caused by an injury or illness, chronic pain can affect every aspect of a person’s life.

At the Dean Stroud Spine and Pain Institute, a dedicated team of doctors, nurses, psychologists and a physical therapist work together to provide a holistic approach to pain management, offering cutting-edge medical and non-medical treatments and other ancillary services designed to alleviate pain.

“We specialize in improving function and quality of life in an interdisciplinary way,” says Erik Shaw, D.O., a pain intervention specialist and medical director of the Spine and Pain Institute. “We accomplish this through the combination of a caring staff, evidence-based medicine and the latest cutting edge treatments.”
The Spine and Pain Institute treats all types of pain – from the routine to the complex.

Some people think that because the Spine and Pain Institute is part of Shepherd Center, they only treat those with catastrophic injuries, or those who are current or former Shepherd Center patients. While the staff is trained in treating pain resulting from spinal cord and brain injuries, they see all types of patients.

“We have experience in the whole continuum of care,” Dr. Shaw says. “As a result, we have a lot of different tools and can offer a large number of options for complex pain issues as well as those that are less complicated.”

The list of conditions treated at the Institute is extensive, including back problems, spine conditions, joint and muscle injuries, as well as pain caused by degenerative diseases, surgery, cancer and other illnesses.

“We can’t always completely erase the pain, but we can get it to a point where a person can function and get back to many of the activities he or she was doing before.”

JAMES LIADIS, M.D.

We focus on individualized care.

Just like there are many sides to an individual’s pain, there are many ways to treat the pain – and the patient. As with most medical treatments, what works for one patient may not work with another. The staff approaches each case on an individual basis, and strives to find a solution for that individual.

The first thing the doctors do is determine where the pain is coming from and what is causing it. Next, they come up with a treatment plan, starting with the most conservative and least invasive interventions, and if necessary, progress from there. More complicated cases are discussed during team meetings in order to come up with a collaborative strategy.

Treatment options include everything from prescribed medications to nerve blocks to manual manipulations to surgical implants.

We explore non-medical options.

Those experiencing chronic pain can also benefit from non-medical treatments. As part of its holistic approach, the Spine and Pain Institute also offers acupuncture, biofeedback and yoga classes as options – all onsite – in addition to or in place of traditional medical treatment.

We take a multi-disciplinary, holistic approach to treating pain.

The Spine and Pain Institute offers a sort of “one-stop shopping” for those dealing with chronic pain. Patients have access to a full staff of professionals who work as a team to provide the best outcomes, as well as state of the art treatment rooms and a physical therapy room – all in one place.

“We often get challenging, unique patients,” says James Liadis, M.D., who works alongside Dr. Shaw, “such as those who are experiencing pain as a result of a brain injury, spinal cord injury or stroke. We have access to a variety of approaches. We can do most of it in-house, so we are not sending them out for different treatments. This keeps everything more streamlined.”

Patients can also receive physical therapy at the Spine and Pain Institute, as well as counseling from psychologists trained in pain management. Dr. Shaw says psychology is an important element in their overall treatment.

“Addressing the psychological aspects is so critical when you are experiencing pain,” Dr. Shaw says. “They may be dealing with the loss of a job, loss of quality of life and depression. These issues need to be addressed separately, but at the same time.”

We offer hope to our patients.

At the end of the day, the team at the Spine and Pain Institute aims for patients to leave feeling like there is a solution to their pain. While running a marathon may not be in a particular patient’s future, helping him or her walk without pain may be a realistic goal.

“Some patients come in pretty discouraged,” Dr. Liadis acknowledges. “This is not always the first place they’ve been, and they feel like they’ve tried everything. We can’t always completely erase the pain, but we can get it to a point where they can function and get back to many of the activities they were doing before. That is our goal.”

For more information about the Dean Stroud Spine and Pain Institute or to schedule an appointment, visit shepherdpaininstitute.org, or call 404-603-4203.

To make a gift to the Spine and Pain Institute, contact Erin Schuster at 404-350-7304 or erin.schuster@shepherd.org.
**Q&A**

**INTERVIEWED BY SARA BAXTER**

**ERIK SHAW, D.O.**  
Interventional Pain Management Specialist and Medical Director, Dean Stroud Spine and Pain Institute at Shepherd Center

**Q. Why did you become a doctor?**  
**A.** I had a genuine desire to help people, and my father was a general practitioner. It seemed to be a rewarding career. Also, I have always been interested in science and medicine and how the human body works is fascinating to me.

**Q. How did you come to choose physical medicine and rehabilitation as a specialty?**  
**A.** I like the challenge of it and all the different aspects and skills needed. Pain management is like looking at a new puzzle every day and figuring out what pieces you put together to help a patient.

**Q. If funding were not an issue, what would be on the Institute’s wish list?**  
**A.** There have been some advances in diagnosing equipment that would be beneficial to have. I would also love to set up a fund where we wouldn’t have to rely on approval from the insurance companies to ensure that patients get the treatment and the medications that they need.

**Q. What is the best part of your job?**  
**A.** Working with the patients and seeing them improve. I also enjoy working with the staff and the sense of camaraderie we have.

**JAMES LIADIS, M.D.**  
Physiatrist in the Spine and Pain Institute

**Q. How did you come to choose physical medicine and rehabilitation as a specialty?**  
**A.** When I was in college, I coached a sled hockey team. Working with the athletes with amputations and spinal cord injuries got me interested in physical medicine and rehabilitation. Throughout my training, I gained additional interest in chronic pain conditions due to the various options for treatment that we could offer these patients and the potential to improve their quality of life. My job at Shepherd Center blends my ability to take care of patients with the types of injuries that first got me interested in medicine with my ability to provide multidisciplinary care for those with chronic pain conditions.

**Q. What is the best part of your job?**  
**A.** Seeing people improve their function. I had a patient with a spinal cord injury who couldn’t sit in his chair – he could only lie flat. Through a combination of medication and procedures, we were able to change that, and he was able to wheel his daughter down the aisle at her wedding. Stories like that make my job so worthwhile.

**Q. If funding were not an issue, what would be on the Institute’s wish list?**  
**A.** I would like to be able to bring on more staff to be able to help even more patients.

**ERIK SHAW, D.O.**

**EDUCATION**
- Board Certification – Physical medicine and rehabilitation
- Residency – University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio
- B.S. in biomedical engineering from Texas A&M; medical degree from University of North Texas Health Science Center in Fort Worth
  - Dr. Shaw is originally from Texas and came to Shepherd in July 2006.
  - He is married with three young children.
  - After college he worked as a mission support specialist for the Shuttle-Mir Space Program in Houston and Moscow.

**JAMES LIADIS, M.D.**

**EDUCATION**
- Board Certification – Physical medicine and rehabilitation
- Residency – MedStar National Rehabilitation Hospital in Washington, D.C.; fellowship in pain management at University of Virginia
- B.S. in neuroscience from the University of Michigan; medical degree from The Ohio State University College of Medicine
  - Dr. Liadis grew up in Michigan and began working at Shepherd in July 2018.
  - An animal lover, Dr. Liadis has both a dog and a cat.
  - In his spare time, he enjoys running, hiking and most outdoor activities.
A Legacy of Giving Back

Through a company-wide giving program, generous employees at ERB Industries have been longtime supporters of the Dean Stroud Spine and Pain Institute.

BY SARA BAXTER

Shepherd Center co-founders Harold and Alana Shepherd would attend and speak about Shepherd Center and the impact that contributions from ERB employees had on the patients. The company has also taken employees on tours of Shepherd Center so they can see firsthand the work Shepherd Center does.

“Shepherd Center treats people with catastrophic injuries and chronic pain by not just giving them care, but by also giving them hope,” Eads says. “ERB Industries is proud to be a part of that.”

Shepherd Center’s Spine and Pain Institute opened in 2000. After it moved to a new space within Shepherd Center in 2007, it was named after Bill’s 13-year-old grandson, Dean Stroud. Dean passed away in a boating accident in 2004 and before the new space opened Bill made a generous gift to Shepherd Center in Dean’s honor. Since the naming of the Dean Stroud Spine and Pain Institute, ERB Industry’s employee contributions – which had been going to Shepherd Center’s general fund – were designated exclusively for the Dean Stroud Spine and Pain Institute.

During their lifetimes, the Erbs made many generous gifts. Shepherd Center’s third floor patient care wing was named in memory of Florrie with a gift from Bill. He also made a gift to name a patient room on the fifth floor in memory of Florrie, as well as a room in the family residence center. The couple also established the Florrie and Bill Erb Injury Prevention Fund in honor of the employees of ERB Industries.

While both Bill and Florrie Erb have passed away, their giving spirit lives on through ERB Industries. Eads estimates that approximately 65 percent of ERB Industries employees currently give to Shepherd Center each month through payroll deduction. The company also continues to make monthly contributions.

“We are so grateful for the generosity of the ERB employees who have given so faithfully to the Dean Stroud Pain Institute,” says Dean Melcher, director of development operations for Shepherd Center. “It’s a very special level of engagement.”

As the CEO of ERB Industries, Sheila Eads carries on the late Bill Erb’s legacy of giving to Shepherd Center through ERB Industries.

ON THE HOME PAGE OF THE ERB INDUSTRIES WEBSITE (E-ERB.COM), Shepherd Center’s logo sits in the bottom left corner with the words “ERB Employees Support” above it. The message is subtle, but demonstrates ERB Industries’ long-standing commitment to Shepherd Center in general, and – more specifically – to the Dean Stroud Spine and Pain Institute.

The relationship started with the company’s founder, Bill Erb. As a longtime friend of Shepherd Center co-founder Harold Shepherd, Bill and his wife, Florrie (Florence Hays Erb), were generous and consistent supporters of the hospital, both through personal contributions as well as through the company, which manufactures personal protective safety products. In 1998, Bill started an employee giving program in which ERB Industries employees have the choice to contribute to Shepherd Center through payroll deduction. The support has been going strong ever since.

“Shepherd Center is a charity of choice for ERB Industries,” says Sheila Eads, the company’s CEO. “For over 20 years, we have been committed to supporting the hospital’s mission.”

Supporting Shepherd Center is aligned with ERB Industries’ main objective: to protect workers from an injury through protective products for hearing and breathing, as well as for the head, eyes, face and hands. They also produce a host of other safety products.

“We provide quality products that help protect people on the front end from injury,” Eads says, “And Shepherd Center helps them after they’ve been injured. It relates to what we do as a company, and it’s more powerful to have that tie in.”

Eads says that at the beginning of the employee giving program, the company had annual gatherings where Shepherd Center co-founders Harold and Alana Shepherd would attend and speak about Shepherd Center and the impact that contributions from ERB employees had on the patients. The company has also taken employees on tours of Shepherd Center so they can see firsthand the work Shepherd Center does.

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“We provide quality products that help protect people on the front end from injury and Shepherd Center helps them after they’ve been injured.”

Sheila Eads, ERB Industries, CEO

PHOTO COURTESY OF SHEILA EADS

PHOTO COURTESY OF SHEILA EADS
THE 30TH ANNUAL SHEPHERD CENTER LEGENDARY PARTY, held on Nov. 3, 2018, was truly a night to treasure. A night dedicated to honoring Alana and Harold Shepherd, Atlanta’s most admired philanthropic couple, sparkled and shined above all others. Event chairs Ruth Dobbs Anthony and her daughters, Gena Bryant Chalta and Leslie Bryant Jackson, announced in unison that the event raised a record-breaking $6.2 million to support Shepherd Center’s world-renowned continuum of care. The sold-out crowd of 650 guests rose to their feet in a standing ovation to cheer and celebrate this unprecedented amount.

James Shepherd, whose 1973 injury led to the founding of Shepherd Center, welcomed attendees and remarked, “Your presence is the greatest tribute to my parents and they would like to express their gratitude to you for being here.”

Co-chair Ruth Dobbs Anthony said, “Tony Conway’s Legendary Events team has made the evening beautiful and brilliant just like Alana and Harold Shepherd. It has been my life’s honor to recognize the Shepherds this year.”

The co-chairs went on to say that the evening was all about giving back to the family that has always given to so many. The co-chairs represent three generations of the Dobbs family’s support of and involvement with Shepherd Center. Mrs. Anthony, a member of the Board of Trustees, also thanked her husband Tom Anthony for his support, her son Austin, her friends and family who traveled from near and far, and the Shepherd Center Foundation staff.

1. Shepherd Center co-founders James and Alana Shepherd celebrated 30 years of Shepherd Center’s Legendary Party.
2. Canine Companions for Independence (CCI) volunteers Ryan and Mary Ashlyn Thiede; Shepherd Pathways physiologist Dr. Annemiek Kuik; and Marian Scopa pose with (left to right) Shepherd Pathways facility dog Barboza (a gift from CCI) and CCI puppies in training Jazzy and Judd.
Presenting sponsors included Fred V. Alias, Mary Ann and Bill Becker, Elaine and John Carlos, Peter A. Dames and family, Jane Woodruff, Ed Voyles Automotive and The Home Depot Foundation. Platinum Sponsors included Elizabeth and Carl Allen, Sandra and Larry Prince, The Ruth & Talmage Dobbs, Jr. Foundation, Cox Enterprises, Delta Air Lines and Genuine Parts Company. Proceeds from the evening will go to the newly established Alana and Harold Shepherd Fund to benefit Shepherd Center’s Recreation Therapy and Animal-Assisted Therapy programs.

Vic Pentz, retired senior pastor of Peachtree Presbyterian Church and dear friend of the Shepherd family, gave the blessing and Vanessa Quillao of the Powerhouse Group performed a rendition of Gloria Estefan’s “Coming Out of the Dark” that was dedicated to the Shepherd family.

Guests then dined in the beautiful ballroom that featured jewel-toned sequined tablecloths and runners, crystal and peacock blue chargers and glistening aquamarine beaded curtains. Stunning centerpieces included roses, hydrangeas and peonies. The exquisite dinner included an autumnal salad, grilled beef tenderloin served with pimento cheese grits, okra chips, sautéed chard, charred corn and heirloom tomato salad, and for dessert, a dazzling mousse dome. The dome was constructed out of a chocolate brownie topped with chocolate mousse and coated in white chocolate and then garnished with edible glitter, fresh berries and a raspberry sauce.

After dinner, guests filled the sparkling dance floor and danced the night away to the live band Powerhouse Group. Later, Shepherd Center’s next generation of supporters arrived for the Legendary Late Night afterparty where guests enjoyed light bites and a dessert buffet. Their entertainment included a karaoke band, Rock Mayhem, and major college football games that were shown on flat screen televisions.

Julie Shepherd, Sarah and Jamie Shepherd, James Shepherd, Alana Shepherd, Austin Bryant (behind), Leslie Bryant Jackson, Ruth Dobbs Anthony, Gena Bryant Chalfa and Tom Anthony (behind) celebrate at the 2018 Legendary Party. The event raised $6.2 million for the newly established Alana and Harold Shepherd Fund to benefit Shepherd Center’s Recreation Therapy and Animal-Assisted Therapy programs.
1. Legendary Party Co-Chairs Leslie Bryant Jackson, Ruth Dobbs Anthony and Gena Bryant Chalfa, along with honoree and Shepherd Center Co-founder Alana Shepherd (second from left) kick off the evening’s festivities.

2. Tony Conway’s Legendary Events provided the stunning decor.
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Junior Committee’s Executive Committee

Young professionals give their time and talents to plan fun fundraising events for an inspiring cause.

BY SARA BAXTER

When Taylor Watson attended his first meeting of Shepherd Center’s Junior Committee three years ago, he felt an instant connection with the speaker – a former patient.

“He was about my age and had been injured in a diving accident,” Taylor remembers. “He went to the lake with friends and that one day changed his life. I was living that life. I thought, ‘That could be me.’”

That was enough for Taylor to want to become a part of the organization. “I had been looking for a way to give back and volunteer my time,” he says. “When I heard about the work that Shepherd does, I wanted to get involved.”

Marissa Ellin had a similar experience after she attended her first meeting. Both she and Taylor had been invited to attend by friends.

“To hear those stories is so powerful,” says Marissa, who was born and raised in Atlanta and was familiar with Shepherd Center. “You appreciate the cause and the incredible work that Shepherd does.”

Both Taylor and Marissa – who coincidentally both graduated from the University of Alabama but didn’t know each other on campus – joined Junior Committee after their first meetings. Their dedication and hard work earned them spots on Junior Committee’s Executive Committee last year.

Taylor, who works in software sales for SalesLoft, an Atlanta-based sales engagement platform, and Marissa, who is in digital marketing at CSE, a digital marketing agency in Cobb County, Georgia, are now co-chairs of the Executive Committee’s biggest fundraiser, Derby Day.

A MISSION TO SUPPORT RECREATION THERAPY

Junior Committee is a group of young professionals who come together to raise money and awareness for Shepherd Center. Founded 37 years ago, it primarily fundraises for Shepherd Center’s Recreation Therapy Program.

The committee organizes Derby Day, a festive party and the largest Kentucky Derby event in Atlanta. The event has raised $4.7 million over its nearly 40 year history. Shepherd Center’s Recreation Therapy Program is the largest program of its kind in the country. The goal of recreation therapy is to help patients return to sports and recreation activities they were doing before their injury, discover new interests and experience community re-integration outings. It offers them hope and independence.

Derby Day is the longest-running fundraiser for Shepherd Center and the committee’s marquee event. The committee also hosts several other events such as happy hours, fitness programs, donation nights at local venues and offers members the opportunity to attend patient outings with the Recreation Therapy Program.

Beyond volunteering, members of Junior Committee – many of whom are just getting their careers off the ground – also have the chance to network and meet other young professionals with common interests.

Members who want to assume more of a leadership role can be elected to the Executive Committee. It is comprised of the committee heads for Derby Day: the co-chairs, sponsorship, membership, auction, public relations, food and beverage and field operations. Last year Taylor was head of field operations and Marissa oversaw sponsorships.

Taylor Watson and Marissa Ellin have been named co-chairs of Shepherd Center’s 2019 Derby Day.
AN OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE BACK

Taylor says serving on Junior Committee helped fill a void he didn’t realize was there. “In life you need to give back,” Taylor says. “If you just focus on yourself, you’re not getting everything out of life that you can. I didn’t realize I was missing volunteering until I got involved. It’s been a great opportunity for me.”

Marissa also values being a part of such an important program. “Junior Committee keeps getting bigger and better every year,” she says. “We help spread awareness of Shepherd Center and the recreation therapy program. We are invested in seeing it succeed.”

Membership for the 2018-2019 Shepherd Center Junior Committee is open. For more information, please visit derbyday.com. Derby Day 2019 will be held on May 4 at Chastain Horse Park in Atlanta.
The 35th Annual Shepherd Center Cup was held on September 24, 2018 at Cherokee Country Club in Atlanta. Led by the Shepherd Center Cup committee chairman, Woody Gayle, the Shepherd Center Cup Committee planned the event throughout the course of the year. Shepherd Center Foundation was pleased to have Amerisure Insurance as the presenting sponsor for the fifth consecutive year. With 184 players participating, the tournament was wildly successful in raising $260,000 for Shepherd Center’s Recreation Therapy Program.

Throughout the day, the players enjoyed beautiful weather, along with the opportunity to learn more about Shepherd Center’s mission through various demonstrations and guest speakers. To kick off the day, participants enjoyed lunch and visited the driving range for an adaptive golf demonstration with PGA Adaptive Golf Director, David Windsor and Marcus R. Williams.

Before teeing off, former Shepherd Center patient Kim Harrison spoke about her experience participating in recreation therapy at Shepherd Center and the impact it has had on her health, well-being and quality of life.

After play concluded in the late afternoon, there was a reception in the clubhouse, which included a silent auction, raffle, awards ceremony and remarks from Shepherd Center’s President and CEO, Sarah Morrison.

The date for this year’s tournament is September 9, 2019.

For more information on the Shepherd Center Cup, contact Lolly Venair at 404-350-7511 or Lolly.Venair@Shepherd.org.

1. The foursome from PentaRisk pauses before the back nine at the Shepherd Center Cup.

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By Kaitlyn Long

THE ANNIE OAKLEY SHOOTERS held their 15th Annie Oakley Tournament on November 9, 2018, at the historic Burge Plantation in Mansfield, Georgia.

“It started with a downpour but miraculously cleared up to give us a memorable tournament benefiting Shepherd Center’s SHARE Military Initiative,” says tournament chair Niv Persaud. “We are grateful to our amazing tournament committee, volunteers, donors, sponsors and participants! With their help, we donated $76,400 to an important program for our veterans and their families.”

This year’s $76,400 donation was record-breaking, the largest donation to Shepherd Center from the tournament to date.

The Annie Tournament attracted shooters of all skill levels – thanks to their unique format that counts individual scores versus team scores – for a fun day of shooting. Following the shoot, guests enjoyed live music, a fabulous cocktail buffet, bourbon tasting, awards and raffle prize drawings.

The Annies also featured a fundraising campaign called the “Red Ladder Initiative.” Tournament goers had the opportunity to pick donation tickets off signature ladders, painted bright red, placed around the room to give a special gift directly to SHARE clients. These donation tickets included group dinners, community outings, gift cards and so much more! This initiative creates a wonderful connection so that people can directly see the impact their gifts have on the lives of SHARE clients.

“I cannot explain our excitement for the Annies to be partnering with Shepherd Center’s SHARE Military Initiative,” says Mary Huntz, executive director of the Annie Oakley Shooters. “We continue to rejoice in the achievement of Shepherd clients as they receive the rehabilitative care they so desperately need.”

The Annie Oakleys are a diverse group of women shooters whose mission is to enhance awareness and enjoyment of women’s clay shooting sports by offering fellowship, quality instruction and opportunity for the sport. The Annies meet the second Monday of each month for a day of shooting and camaraderie. Each fall, the Annies host an open clays tournament. Shepherd Center has been the fortunate beneficiary since 2016. This year’s tournament is already on the books for Friday, November 8, 2019.

For more information on the Annie Oakley Tournament, contact Kaitlyn Long at 404-350-7302 or Kaitlyn.Long@Shepherd.org.
Shepherd’s Men Host Events Benefitting SHARE Military Initiative

Events Raised $150,000 for Shepherd Center’s SHARE Military Initiative.

BY KAITLYN LONG

OCTOBER 2018 MARKED THE SECOND ANNUAL Shepherd’s Men Invitational Sporting Clays Tournament and Auction and Bourbon Tasting Dinner events. The events were spearheaded by Mitch Rhoden, president and CEO of Futen Hospitality, and Travis Ellis, Shepherd Center Trustee and founder of Shepherd’s Men. Rhoden and Ellis, along with a volunteer committee, made it their mission to make the second year of these events even bigger and better. They certainly lived up to that mission, raising $150,000 for Shepherd Center’s SHARE Military Initiative between both events. The sporting clays tournament was held October 5 at Barnsley Resort and the Auction and Bourbon Tasting Dinner was held two weeks later, on October 18 at Indian Hills Country Club. Both sell-out events were hugely successful, attracting nearly 250 sponsors and guests.

“The clay shoot and auction specifically create opportunities to bring our invaluable donors and supporters together for an afternoon and evening of fellowship,” Ellis says. “These events, often attended by past SHARE clients, allow for those who support this mission to hear firsthand narratives of how SHARE has positively affected the lives of these SHARE graduates and their families. Each opportunity brings with it the chance to be reminded just how critical it is to provide this support to SHARE.”

At the tournament, guests were welcomed with a fly-over and landing by a Cobra attack helicopter before a competitive round of clay shooting. As the scores were tallied, shooters, sponsors and guests enjoyed a pig roast and barbecue from champion pitmaster Anthony Mullins. During lunch, a graduate of the SHARE Military Initiative shared his story and expressed his gratitude for the life-saving support the program provides. The tournament concluded with an awards presentation.

The Auction and Bourbon Tasting Dinner featured a fabulous selection of fresh-cooked surf n’ turf bites, a whiskey tasting, live music and a silent and live auction. The evening’s poignant program resonated deeply with the attendees. Rhoden welcomed the guests and recognized the sponsors and speakers. Ellis spoke about SHARE and its importance, as well as the financial impact funds donated and raised at the events will have on the lives and families of SHARE clients. Guests heard from members of Shepherd’s Men about why raising awareness and funds for SHARE is so near to their hearts. Next, Medal of Honor Recipient, Command Sergeant Major (retired) Robert Patterson recounted his experience serving in the armed forces. The night culminated in an exciting live auction led by the owner of the Atlanta restaurant Local Three, Chris Hall.

“Shepherd’s Men is grateful to those who support these events and this mission,” Ellis says. “Only through the sustained engagement of the community, can we continue to fund, expand and further develop this critical program, which allows our heroes to reclaim purpose in their lives, and restore the hope that is often lost as a result of these silent injuries of war.”

For more information on the Shepherd’s Men Invitational Sporting Clays Tournament and Auction and Bourbon Tasting Dinner, contact Kaitlyn Long at 404-350-7302 or Kaitlyn.Long@Shepherd.org.

PHOTOS BY KAITLYN LONG
UPCOMING EVENTS

SHEPHERD CENTER FOUNDATION
Fill your 2019 calendar with Shepherd Center Foundation events!

Derby Day
Chastain Horse Park
2 to 8 p.m.
derbyday.com

Shepherd’s Men Run Homecoming
The Home Depot Backyard at Mercedes-Benz Stadium
Time TBD
Check facebook.com/shepherdsmen the week of the Run for timing

Project Rollway
Livingston Gym at Shepherd Center
Cocktails: 6 to 7 p.m.
Show: 7 to 8 p.m.
shepherd.org/project-rollway

Summer in the City
The Fairmont
6:30 to 10 p.m.
sitc-atl.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON FOUNDATION SPECIAL EVENTS, PLEASE CONTACT:

Derby Day, Shepherd Center Cup
Lolly Venair, Special Events Manager
404-350-7511 – lolly.venair@shepherd.org

Summer in the City, The Legendary Party
Erin Schuster, Special Events Manager
404-350-7304 – erin.schuster@shepherd.org

Shepherd Center Cup
Cherokee Country Club
Shotgun start at 12:30 p.m.
shepherd.org/giving/special-events
Ms. Fatima Abdul-Rashid – Great care for Harold
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

Mr. Fred Aftergut’s Birthday
Ms. Claire Balsor
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald T. Urken

Ms. Pat Ahlers
Ms. Linda W. Alexander

Patty and Shaler Alias – Andee’s Army Evening of Hope
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

American Legion Post 140 – Happy Holidays
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Martell

Mrs. Gregory Anderson – Happy Holidays
Mr. and Mrs. William B. Welhons, Jr.

Mr. Kenneth Anderson
Ms. Natasha Vorspel Rueter

Mr. and Mrs. Bonnie Ansley – Happy Holidays
Mr. and Mrs. John B. Mobley

Mrs. Ruth Dobbs Anthony – Great Legendary Party
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr. Mr. Dean Melcher

Mrs. Ruth Dobbs Anthony
Mr. and Mrs. John H. Costello

Ms. Cyndae Arrendale
Ms. Cynthia Gaines
Mrs. Hong-Tsun Simon

Ms. Cyndae Arrendale – Happy Holidays
Mr. and Mrs. Lige K. Sims

Mr. Alex Bach
Anonymous

Mr. Jacob Bailey – Happy Holidays
Ms. Hallie Cullen

Dr. and Mrs. Champ Baker – Happy Holidays
Mrs. Wynne P. Stevenson

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Baldwin
Mr. and Mrs. George W. Atkins, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Balkcom – Happy Holidays
Ms. Rachel Finglass

Mrs. Laura Barkley – Happy Holidays
Mr. and Mrs. John B. Mobley

Ashley Bateman
Ms. Ellen A. McLeigh

Ms. Sarah Batts – Great Legendary Party
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Harve Bauguess – Happy Holidays
Mr. and Mrs. Dale H. Tucker

Mrs. Maria Bennett – Merry Christmas
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Bennett

Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Benson – Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for 2019
Mrs. Robert J. Howard

Dr. Chi Chi Berhane – Thanks for your help
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

Mr. Eric Bernath
The Goldman Family

Dr. Bilsky’s 5th floor Rehab Team
Mr. and Mrs. Clark McDonald

Dr. Gerry Bilsky – Happy semi-retirement
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

Mr. Jeremy Bingham – Great care for Harold
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

Mr. Cartledge Blackwell – Happy Holidays
Mr. and Mrs. Edward B. Ladd

Mrs. Ali Blaisdell – CT Scanner donation
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

Ms. Marci Blansitt
Ms. Marlene F. Geris

Ms. Helen Blasé – Happy Holidays
Major General and Mrs. David R. Bockel, Sr.

Ms. Sheila Bleich
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Dr. and Mrs. Gerhard Boehm – Happy Holidays
Mr. and Mrs. Edward B. Ladd

Mr. Marvin Botnick
Mr. and Mrs. Joel K. Isenberg

Mr. and Mrs. Craig Brady – Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
Mr. and Mrs. Edward B. Ladd

Ms. Clara Brown
Ms. Debra L. Brown

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Brucato – Happy Holidays
Mr. James A. Curtis

Ms. Tricia Buce – Happy Holidays
Mr. Walter Buce

Wilma Bunch – Good job regarding cafeteria
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Brad Burnett – Happy Holidays
Mr. and Mrs. John B. Mobley

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Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

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Mrs. Wynne P. Stevenson

Andrew Carson – Happy Holidays
Mr. Gary Greenwood

Ms. Catherine Carson – Happy Holidays
Mr. Gary Greenwood

Jesse and Cheryl Carson – Happy Holidays
Mr. Gary Greenwood

Dr. and Mrs. George R. Cary, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. George R. Cary III

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Ms. Darline Cantey

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Ms. Heather Tarpley

Mrs. Gena Chalfa – Great Legendary Party
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. John H. Costello

Ms. Sara Chapman
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey M. Herbert

Sue and Millard Chaote – Thanks for the donation
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. James Christians
Happy Holidays
Mr. and Mrs. John B. Mobley

Ms. Jeanette Clarke – Happy Holidays
Ms. Ann W. Clarke

Mrs. Mildred Clarke – Happy Holidays
Mr. and Mrs. John B. Mobley

Henley and Jerry Cleary – Happy Holidays
Ms. Kirk Bidgood

Jessica Hendry and Ryan Cady’s Marriage
Mr. Edward Granger
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Mr. David Jones
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Ms. Caroline Fisher

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Barbara Barton
Mr. and Mrs. Ron Bernie
Mr. and Mrs. Tiez Caradine
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Mr. and Mrs. Joe Frank
Mr. and Mrs. Monte Hartman
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Barbara Condrey McClintock
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Vournakis
Mr. and Mrs. Peter West

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Mr. and Mrs. Ken Trombetta

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Mr. and Mrs. Richard C. Schneider, Sr.
Mr. Jerry L. Schock

Mr. Jared Conspla
Robin Shlegren

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Mr. and Mrs. Wayland K. Cothron

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Mr. and Mrs. Brad Courts – Happy Holidays
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Mr. and Mrs. Jerome C. Cuppia III – Happy Holidays
Mr. and Mrs. James T. Gandy

Ms. Carol MacDougall Curtis and Dr. W. Knox Kinlaw – Happy Holidays
Mr. James A. Curtis

Mr. James Curtis
Mr. William S. Murphy, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. James M. Wells III

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 Sept. 1, 2018 and Dec. 31, 2018.
Ms. Laureen Dame – Happy Holidays
Mr. James A. Curtis
Ms. Betsy Daniels – Happy Holidays
Mr. and Mrs. George K. Wolfe, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Philip Dater – Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for 2019
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Mr. and Mrs. Bob David – Happy Holidays
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Grant
Ms. Jennifer Douglas – Happy Holidays
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. William Hogg – Much Love
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.
Ms. Patricia A. Becker
Dr. Eugene B. Kelly and
Mr. Taylor Jones – Great care for Harold
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Hewins
Mr. and Mrs. J. Michael Helmsing – Happy Holidays
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Hall III
Mrs. Kay Hagan – Happy Holidays
Mr. and Mrs. Rufus T. Dorsey
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Haisten
Mr. and Mrs. George W. Atkins, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Hall III
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Balliet
Ms. Rebecca Hammad – excellent board presentation
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.
Greg and Ann Hampton – Happy Holidays
Mrs. Kathryn H. Kapnek
Mr. and Mrs. Ryan Hardage – Happy Holidays
Mr. James A. Curtis
Ashley Hatcher and Dr. Lee Skandalakis’s Marriage
Mr. Emory A. Schwall
Joe and Rosalyn Hatfield – Happy Holidays
Mrs. Carrie Hatfield
Mr. Mark Hawn
Ms. Catherine Elias
Ms. Caroline Hazel – Happy Holidays
Miss Jordan E. McDaniel
Mr. and Mrs. J. Michael Helmsing – Happy Holidays
Mr. and Mrs. Edward B. Ladd
Mr. Bryan Hewins
LTC (R) and Mrs. Floyd K. Maertens
Ms. Victoria Hilton – Great care for Harold
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.
Mr. Robert H. Hogg – Much Love
and a Very Merry Christmas
Dr. and Mrs. Jim Martell
Ms. Marie Holcomb – Great care for Harold
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.
Ms. Sharon Hollis – Happy Holidays
Mr. James A. Curtis
Mr. Don Huffner and your daughter,
Katie – Happy Holidays
Mr. Christopher Dixon
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Martell
Huffner – bar/bat mitzvah
Ms. Amber Martinez
Mr. and Mrs. William Hughes – Happy Holidays
Mr. and Mrs. John B. Mobley
Mr. William Hughes – Merry Christmas
Mr. Jon W. Hughes
Mrs. Porter Hutto – Happy Holidays
Ms. Kidder C. Williams
Mr. and Mrs. John P. Illges – Happy Holidays
Mr. and Mrs. John B. Mobley
Mr. and Mrs. Clark Irvine – Happy Holidays
Mr. and Mrs. Edward B. Ladd
Dr. and Mrs. Robert Israel – Happy Holidays
Mr. and Mrs. Edward B. Ladd
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Ms. Catora Jackson – Great care for Harold
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.
Mr. Kevin Jackson
Ms. Kathryn Blount
Ms. Pamela Norman
Mrs. Leslie Jackson – Great Legendary
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.
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Mr. Dean Melcher
Ms. Halida Jenkins – Great care for Harold
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.
Pem and Patti Jenkins – Happy Holidays
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Mr. Pem Jenkins
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Great hosts
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Mr. Michael Duncan
Mr. and Mrs. William W. King
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and Best Wishes for 2019
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Mrs. Maggie Wallace Eanes
Mr. James G. Wallace
Maggie and Jim Eanes –
Happy Holidays
Mr. and Mrs. John S. Wallace
Mr. Jacob Eason
Ms. Judy M. Branam
Ms. Gloria Echelon
Outstanding nurse at Pathways
Mr. and Mrs. Edwin R. Hagy,
USMC (Retired)
Mr. Matt Edens –
Good Board presentation
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.
Ms. Myra Edens
Andy Holmes
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Great care for Harold
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Dr. Elmers and her team
Mr. Kirby B. Smith
Dr. Anna Elmers – Happy Holidays
Mr. and Mrs. John A. Carlos Mr. and Mrs. David Erskine
Happy Holidays and I miss you
Anonymous
Mrs. Elaine Etheridge – Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for 2019
Mrs. Robert J. Howard
Ms. Sonya Ezzard –
Great care for Harold
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.
Dr. Carl Fackler
Mr. William F. Hardin
Mr. Ken Feinberg’s Birthday
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Balaban
Mr. Wilson Fennell
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Lipov
Ms. Salli Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Carl Ferris –
Happy Holidays
Mr. and Mrs. John B. Mobley
Mrs. Ronna Fisher’s Birthday
Mr. and Mrs. Steven J. Labovitz
Mrs. Kacey Floyd
Ms. Christina Patterson
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Foley –
Happy Holidays
Mrs. Wynne P. Stevenson
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Foose –
Happy Holidays
Mr. and Mrs. Edward B. Ladd
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Forster –
Best wishes for a very Merry
Christmas and Happy New Year
Mr. and Mrs. Edward B. Ladd
Mr. William Fricks
Mr. and Mrs. Mark R. Fricks
Dr. and Mrs. Bob Fryer –
Happy Holidays
Mr. and Mrs. Dale H. Tucker
Mr. Joe Gadd
Lenore and Victor Maslia Foundation
Ms. Tami Galipo
Miss Leigh A. Raynor
Mr. and Mrs. Gardiner W. Garrard –
Happy Holidays
Mrs. Wynne P. Stevenson
Mr. Hunter Gatzman
Mrs. Rachael Gatzman
Mr. Gip Gayle – 15 years and going
strong! Praise God!
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Scott
Mr. David Gemmell
Ms. Jane Mitten
Mr. and Mrs. David Glass –
Happy Holidays
Mr. James A. Curtis
Bernie Goldstein – thinking of you
Mr. and Mrs. Joel K. Isenberg
Ms. Nancy Goldstucker’s Birthday
Anonymous
Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Goodwin –
Happy Holidays
Dr. James A. Curtis
Mrs. Henry Grady
Mr. and Mrs. George W. Atkins, Jr.
Haven Hayden
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Grant
Dr. Bove and Sissy Griffin –
Happy Holidays
Mrs. Mike Griffin
Mike Griffin – Happy Holidays
Ms. Frances Altman
Mr. Tommy Griffin III – Happy Holidays
Ms. Judy Griffin
Mrs. Teresa Griffin’s Birthday
Mr. and Mrs. Steven J. Labovitz
Mr. Joe Guy – Happy Holidays
Mr. and Mrs. John B. Mobley
Mr. Ben Haddock
Mr. Kevin Kelly
Mrs. Kay Hagan – Happy Holidays
Mr. and Mrs. Rufus T. Dorsey
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Haisten
Mr. and Mrs. George W. Atkins, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Hall III
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Balliet
Ms. Rebecca Hammad –
excellent board presentation
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.
Greg and Ann Hampton – Happy Holidays
Mrs. Kathryn H. Kapnek
Mr. and Mrs. Ryan Hardage –
Happy Holidays
Mr. James A. Curtis
Ashley Hatcher and Dr. Lee Skandalakis’s Marriage
Mr. Emory A. Schwall
Joe and Rosalyn Hatfield – Happy Holidays
Mrs. Carrie Hatfield
Mr. Mark Hawn
Ms. Catherine Elias
Ms. Caroline Hazel – Happy Holidays
Miss Jordan E. McDaniel
Mr. and Mrs. J. Michael Helmsing – Happy Holidays
Mr. and Mrs. Edward B. Ladd
Mr. Bryan Hewins
LTC (R) and Mrs. Floyd K. Maertens
Ms. Victoria Hilton –
Happy Holidays
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.
Mr. Robert H. Hogg – Much Love
and a Very Merry Christmas
Dr. and Mrs. Jim Martell
Ms. Amber Martinez
Mr. and Mrs. William Hughes – Happy Holidays
Mr. and Mrs. John B. Mobley
Mr. William Hughes – Merry Christmas
Mr. Jon W. Hughes
Mrs. Porter Hutto – Happy Holidays
Ms. Kidder C. Williams
Mr. and Mrs. John P. Illges – Happy Holidays
Mr. and Mrs. John B. Mobley
Mr. and Mrs. Clark Irvine – Happy Holidays
Mr. and Mrs. Edward B. Ladd
Dr. and Mrs. Robert Israel – Happy Holidays
Mr. and Mrs. Edward B. Ladd
Mr. Grant Jaax
Golden Bears
Ms. Artica Jackson – Great care for Harold
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.
Ms. Catora Jackson – Great care for Harold
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.
Mr. Kevin Jackson
Ms. Kathryn Blount
Ms. Pamela Norman
Mrs. Leslie Jackson – Great Legendary
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. John H. Costello
Mr. Dean Melcher
Ms. Halida Jenkins – Great care for Harold
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.
Pem and Patti Jenkins – Happy Holidays
Ms. Jane Hyman
Mr. Pem Jenkins
Mrs. Norman Perry
Mr. and Mrs. Justen Jones – Thanks for Legendary Patron Party
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.
Mrs. Linley Jones’s Birthday
Ms. Anita Lynn
Mr. Mark Jones
Tamatha Bentley
Mr. Taylor Jones – Great care for Harold
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.
Ms. Alex Joanys
Mr. and Mrs. William Rasmussen
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Kehoe – Happy Holidays
Major General and Mrs. David R.
Bockel, Sr.
Mr. Christopher Kelly
Mr. Eugene B. Kelly and
Ms. Barbara T. West
Mr. Larry Kelly – Happy Holidays
Ms. Patricia A. Becker
Thanks to Dream On 3, a wish-granting organization that creates sports experiences for children and adolescents, Cam Lang and his family were treated to a VIP experience at the College Football Playoff National Championship in Atlanta.
Ms. Marsha Schmidt – Happy Holidays
Mr. James A. Curtis
Ms. Shannon Schneider
Mr. and Mrs. Les Schneider
Lydia Schubert and Shanna Thorpe
Mr. and Mrs. David Schubert
Ms. Erin Schuster – Great Legendary Party
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.
Ms. Erin Schuster – Great staff meeting participation
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.
Mr. Emory Schwall
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen R. Long
Ms. Jacqueline Sears – Thanks for your help
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.
Ms. Alex Seblatnigg – Always Pecan ready
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.
Mr. Andrew Senter
Mrs. Susan Senter
Mr. John R. Seydel’s 100th Birthday
The Vasser Woolley Foundation, Inc.
Ms. Shane Shaddix – Happy Holidays
Ms. Vicki Lowe
Mr. Steven Shaw
Mrs. Barbara B. Martin
Alana and Harold* Shepherd
Mrs. Annie M. Dimon
Alana and Harold* Shepherd – for their remarkable legacy in the birth and development of Shepherd Center
Mrs. Nancy S. Brewer
Ms. Alana Shepherd
Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth S. Taratus
Harold* and Alana Shepherd – Congratulations on Legendary Party
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.
The Shepherd Family
Mr. and Mrs. Wade H. Boggs III
Shepherd Center
Mr. Jeff Dimock
Ms. Holly Keeshen
Ms. Kim R. Kregloski
Mr. Donald L. Mannion
Shepherd Center Pathways Team
Orange – with gratitude and thanks
Ms. Rachael Rosenberg
Harold Shepherd’s 90th Birthday
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Moschei
Mr. James Shepherd, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Lemuel G. Hewes
Shepherd Pathways
Mr. and Mrs. David Mast
Therapists and staff at Shepherd Pathways
Randy Hyman Shapiro
Clyde Shepherd’s Birthday
Bickers Consulting Group, LLC
Mrs. Christine Geever Shepperd
Dr. Jeannette G. Warner
Mr. and Mrs. George Sherwood – Happy Holidays
Mr. and Mrs. John B. Mobley
Mr. Dell Sike’s Birthday
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Dell Sikes – Happy Holidays
Mr. James A. Curtis
Ms. Linda Silber – Happy Holidays
Mr. Ron Silber
Ms. Sydney Simon – Happy Chanukah
Anonymous
Ms. Kathy Sionaker
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Boyne
Mr. Garland Smith – Happy Holidays
Mr. and Mrs. George K. Woltes, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Ian Smith – Happy Holidays
Mr. James A. Curtis
Susannah and Ralph Smith
Mr. and Mrs. George W. Atkins, Jr.
Robin Soud’s Birthday
Mr. Abraham Soud
Mrs. Karen Spiegel’s Birthday
Mr. and Mrs. James D. Thompson
Ms. Ruthie T. Watts
Collins Stancil’s Birthday
Ms. Jennifer Carroll
Mr. and Mrs. Alan Stensland – Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for 2019
Mrs. Robert J. Howard
Mrs. Megan Stephenson – Happy Birthday Daughter
Dr. and Mrs. David F. Apple, Jr.
Mr. Raymond Strickland
Altamaha Electric Membership Corporation
Ms. Irene Stubbs – Great care for Harold
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.
Mr. Austin Stuck – Happy Holidays
Ms. Lora Boniface
Mr. Austin Stuck
Mr. and Mrs. David Stuck
Dr. and Mrs. Richard L. Sturm – Happy Holidays
Mr. James A. Curtis
Ms. Pam Summer – Great care for Harold
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.
Ms. Elizabeth Swanson – Happy Holidays
Mr. James A. Curtis
Mr. T. Wayne Sweezy
William Howard Flowers, Jr. Foundation, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Matt Swift – Happy Holidays
Mrs. Wynne P. Stevenson
Mr. Mike Tancill
Barbara H. Smith
Mr. and Mrs. William Tanner – Happy Holidays
Mr. and Mrs. John B. Mobley
Mr. Pierson Thomas
Ms. Jennifer Coradi
Ms. Stacy Thomas – Great care for Harold
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.
Dr. Ben Thower
Anonymous
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Yancey
Ms. Susan Tibor
Mrs. Sam Arogeti
Mr. David Tillem
Mr. Rich Kliner
Mr. and Mrs. Allen P. McDaniel
Admiral Steve Tomaszewski
Ms. Wonda Catone
Mrs. Elizabeth Tomaszewski
Mr. and Mrs. Don Tomberlin – Happy Holidays
Mr. and Mrs. John B. Mobley
Mr. Andrew Toner
Ms. Kathleen L. Hobbs
Kim and Ronald Townsend
Ms. Jennifer Whitaker
Tyler Tse’s Birthday
Mr. and Mrs. William J. Lee
Mrs. Graddie Tucker – Happy Holidays
Mr. and Mrs. Dale H. Tucker
Lauren and Scott Tucker – Happy Holidays
Mr. and Mrs. Dale H. Tucker
Alicia, Cassie and Avery Turner – Happy Holidays
Mr. Marty Williamson
Ms. Katherine Tyler
Mr. Henry Tyler
Ms. Dell Turner – Wishing Happy Holidays to
Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Adams
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Baker
Kelly Branch
Mr. and Mrs. Jason Branch
Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Chancellor
Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Culpepper
Mr. and Mrs. Bob David
Mr. and Mrs. Tim Flourney
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Foley
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Jackson
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Jackson
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Jenkins
Mr. and Mrs. Randy Jones
Warner and Charleston Kennon
Mrs. Betsy Leebern
Mr. and Mrs. Cal Martin
Andy Philips
Dr. and Mrs. Charles Scarborough
Mr. and Mrs. John Springer
Mr. and Mrs. Mat Swift
Jeanne Swift
Mr. and Mrs. Perrin Trotter
Mr. and Mrs. John Turner
Dr. and Mrs. David Varner
Susan and Keith Wood
Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Utz – Happy Holidays
Mr. James A. Curtis
Daniel Headley, Whitney and Rick VanMeter – Happy Holidays
Mr. and Mrs. Griffin VanMeter
Mr. Wes Varda
* Deceased

Hackers & Slackers Tournament
THE MANOR GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB
May 21, 2019
Registration 7:30 am | Shotgun 9:00 am
For more information: Kasie Grant
kasie.grant@BakerAudioVisual.com
770.441.2000

Hackers & Slackers
Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan G. Roxland
Dr. David Varner, Jr. – Happy Holidays
Mrs. Mary Varner
Mrs. Lolly Venair – Good job regarding golf
Dr. Mrs. David F. Apple, Jr.
The Vinson Family – Happy Holidays
Mrs. Judith Belcher
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Waddell – Happy Holidays
Mrs. Wynne P. Stevenson
Ms. Courtney Walker – Great job regarding golf
Dr. Mrs. David F. Apple, Jr.
The Ingram and Missy Walters – Happy Holidays
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Griffin
Ms. Missy Walters
Mr. William Ray
Mr. Wilbur Warner – Happy Holidays
Mr. and Mrs. John B. Mobley
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Warren – Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
Mr. and Mrs. Edward B. Ladd
Dr. and Mrs. Horace Watkins – Happy Holidays
Mr. and Mrs. Edward B. Ladd
Mr. and Mrs. James Watkins – Happy Holidays
Mr. and Mrs. Edward B. Ladd
Mr. Jennings Watkins’s Birthday
Mrs. Merrin A. Anderson
Mr. Jennings Watkins
Mr. and Mrs. James G. Gullett
Mr. Joe Watkins’s Birthday
Mr. and Mrs. Dale H. Tucker
Mr. Joe Watkins
Mr. and Mrs. David F. Haddow
Mr. and Mrs. Philip C. Henry
Ms. Quisha Watson – Great care for Harold
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.
Anne and George Wellington
Mr. and Mrs. Hugh J. Wellington
Dr. and William Whitaker – Happy Holidays
Mr. and Mrs. John B. Mobley
Mr. Shane White – Good job on CT installation
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.
Mrs. Vernon Whitman – Happy Holidays
Mr. and Mrs. Dale H. Tucker
Erin Michelle Widders – Happy Holidays
Ms. Joanna Strickland
Mr. Kirk Wilder
Mr. and Mrs. David S. Nichols
Ms. Tonya Wilkins – Great care for Harold
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.
Mr. Hanson Williams – Happy Holidays
Mr. Christopher C. Carter
Ms. Jessica Williams – Thanks for the extra effort
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.
Mr. Lawson Williams
Ms. Mary Williams
Mr. and Mrs. Zachary Wilson – Happy Holidays
Mr. James A. Curtis
Mr. and Mrs. David Withers – Happy Holidays
Mr. James A. Curtis
Mr. Eric John Witunski
Ms. Hadley Coulter
Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Wood – Happy Holidays
Mr. and Mrs. John B. Mobley
Mrs. Joan Woodall
Mrs. Caroline W. Fowler
Ms. Jane Woodruff
Mr. and Mrs. William G. Pierce
Ms. Sarah Woodside’s – Great care for Harold
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.
Ms. Dyanne Woolfolk – Great care for Harold
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Woolfolk – Happy Holidays
Mrs. Wynne P. Stevenson
Mrs. Joan Woodall – Wishing Happy Holidays to
Mr. and Mrs. Wiley Ansley
Mrs. James Black
Mrs. Roy Bowen
Mrs. George Chase
Mrs. Hayes Dever
Mrs. C. W. Dukehart
Mr. and Mrs. Don Dennard
Mr. and Mrs. John Fletcher
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Foster
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Howard
Mrs. Barrett Howell
Mrs. William Hatcher
Mr. and Mrs. David Gambrell
Mrs. Gene Gwaltney
Ms. Lee Moran
Mrs. Charles Peterson
Mrs. Mark Pentecost

Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Redd
Mrs. Morris Shadburn
Mrs. Robert Sterling
Mr. Ham Stockton
Mrs. Jean Wente
Carol and Peggy Woodall
Anne Worrell’s 40th Birthday
Mr. and Mrs. Wade Fowler
Ms. Ali Gant
Ms. Abby King
Mr. and Mrs. John P. Langsfeld
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene L. Pearce III
Ms. Jane Wilkinson
Mr. and Mrs. Danny Yates
Happy Holidays to
Ms. Wilma Bunch
Dr. and Mrs. David Dubose
Mr. and Mrs. Keith Hicks
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Johnson
Mr. and Mrs. Rob Johnston
Dr. and Mrs. Donald Peck Leslie
Mr. Charles Loudemik
Mrs. John Miner
Mr. and Mrs. Louise Pittman
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Riplley
Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Shepherd
Mrs. Harold Shepherd
Mr. James Shepherd, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Jamie Shepherd
Mr. Tommy Shepherd
Mr. and Mrs. Dell Sikes
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Sloan
Mr. and Mrs. Jon Spalding
Ms. Jenny Thompson
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Troutman
Dr. and Mrs. Gary Ulicy

Music 4 Vets, a program under the Music 4 More organization that donates instruments to music therapy programs for veterans and active military, recently donated music equipment to SHARE Military Initiative at Shepherd Center.
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 Sept. 1, 2018 and Dec. 31, 2018.
Harold Shepherd (center), who passed away on December 10, 2018, sits with great grandson J. Harold Shepherd IV, grandson James (Jamie) Harold Shepherd III and son James Harold Shepherd Jr., representing four generations of the Shepherd family.

Harold Shepherd (seated center) celebrates at his 90th birthday party with (left to right) Jamie and Sarah Shepherd, Julie Shepherd, Alana Shepherd and James Shepherd.

Ruth Reynolds Dobbs and Henri Talmage Dobbs, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Parks
Ms. Laura G. McKinney
The Scott Hudgens Family Foundation, Inc.
Dawn McNally
Mr. and Mrs. Randal W. Norris
Sgt. Ryan Means
Ms. Laura G. McKinney
Mr. and Mrs. James B. Peters
Ms. Christine S. Sturgeon
Mr. Asher “Love” Mendonsa
Mr. and Mrs. G. Andrew Mendonsa
Mr. Mike Moberg
Mr. Dean Melcher
Gregory “Greg” Moore
Mr. Mike Moore
Ms. Karen Moore
Mr. and Mrs. Joel K. Isenberg
Mr. Edward Alan “Ted” Mortimer
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Awbrey
Mr. Earl Zachary Neidig
Mrs. Ida Ruth Reese
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey J. Lenar
Ms. Betty Jane Norton
Anonymous
Ms. Margo Bentley
Ms. Deborah Buford
Ms. Cindy Carbaugh
Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Chandler
Jug Tavern Senior Citizens
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth M. Kincaid
Mr. and Mrs. Joe LoCicero
Mr. and Mrs. William Macko
Mr. Stephen Orthwein
Ms. Clara Von Gontard
Mr. Felix Palmer
Mrs. Martha A. Palmer
Mrs. Lola Park
Mr. and Mrs. James A. Laird
Mr. Wayne Peacock
Ms. Terry G. Peacock
Mrs. Zelma Perkins
Mrs. Joan D. Woodall
Ms. Claire Phillips
Ms. Janet L. Phillips
Bartie and Oscar Plunket, Jr.
Ms. Jane Plunket
Ms. Beverly Ponn
Mr. Leonard Ponn
Mr. William Pritchard
Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Gibson
Mr. Michael “Mikie” Rae, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Michael L. Rae, Sr.
Mikie Rae’s Birthday
Mr. and Mrs. Michael L. Rae, Sr.
Ms. Ellen Rafeedie
Dr. and Mrs. Robert M. Fryer
Mr. William C. Rawson, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. William C. Rawson, Sr.
Mrs. Ida Ruth Reese
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey J. Lenar
Mrs. Marguerite Fournier Rhoades
Ms. Norma Z. Taylor
Ms. Vicki Elaine Rickerson
Ms. Barbara Griffin
Mr. and Mrs. Tim Solan
Mr. and Mrs. Buster Tucker
Mr. and Mrs. Wade H. Boggs III
Ms. Mae M. Rainwater
Mr. J. Harold Shepherd
Ms. Pat Alford
Mr. Fred V. Alias
Mr. and Mrs. Hunter S. Allen, Jr.
Allied Paving Contractors, Inc.
Anonymous
Dr. and Mrs. David F. Apple, Jr.
Mr. Eliot M. Arnowitz
Ms. Cyndae Arrendale
Dr. Deborah H. Backus and Mr. Gerald L. Backus
Mrs. Lauren Felder-Bacon
Mr. Robert W. Bairstow III
Ms. Coleen Ball
Mrs. Laura C. Barnard
Mr. and Mrs. Rush S. Barrett
Mr. and Mrs. Armando Basarrate
Ms. Dianne Battle
Battle Family Foundation
Ms. Sarah L. Batts
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Bennett, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Fred D. Bentley
Beverly Bremer Silver Shop, Inc.
Dr. Gerald S. Bilsky
Mr. and Mrs. Wade H. Boggs III
Mr. and Mrs. G. Niles Bolton
Kenneth E. Boring Charitable Foundation
Mr. Mendal Bouknight
Dr. Lynn C. Brentnall and
Mr. Edward M. Brentnall
Mrs. Nancy S. Brewer
Mr. and Mrs. William T. Brice
Ms. Delena Brockman
Mr. and Mrs. Brian S. Brown
Mr. Carey Brown
Mr. Jack Bruce
Ms. Wilma L. Bunch
Mr. and Mrs. Glenn S. Burns
Ms. Emily S. Cade
Ms. Marilyn B. Calder
Mr. James R. Callis
Ms. Clare W. Callard
Ms. Jennifer P. Cantrell
Mrs. Helen A. Carlos and Mr. Ronald L. Hilliard
Mr. and Mrs. John A. Carlos
Carter Barnes on Paces
Mr. and Mrs. Frank C. Carter III
Mrs. Rayna J. Casey
Mrs. James M. Caswell, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Winfield Cay
Mrs. Carol J. Cetrino
Mr. and Mrs. Donnie Chapman
Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Chapman, Jr.
Choate Construction Company
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Christian, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Walton Clarke
Mr. and Mrs. Michael E. Clements
Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Coffee, Jr.
Ms. Andrea A. Cook
Stacey Cook
Ms. Rina Cool
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis C. Coole, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence A. Cooper
Mr. and Mrs. Steve E. Copeland
Mr. and Mrs. Norman Courtier
Mrs. Nancy Coverdell
Ms. Gloria Dobbs Cowart
Craig Hospital
Mr. and Mrs. James F. Crawford
Mr. and Mrs. Jason Cronan
Former Olympic champion swimmer Amy Van Dyken, who sustained a spinal cord injury in an ATV accident in 2014, spoke to Shepherd Center staff members, patients and their families this past December in an event sponsored by Angel MedFlight Worldwide Air Ambulance Services.
To celebrate Morgan Estes’ graduation from Shepherd Center’s inpatient program, family and friends from his hometown of Fairhope, Alabama, hosted a delicious seafood boil for patients and their family members.
ON APRIL 1, 2019, SHEPHERD CENTER IS LAUNCHING a new electronic health record system called Epic through a partnership with Piedmont Healthcare.

Epic is a service that hospitals and health systems can use to create, store and share electronic health records. It’s estimated that 200 million people in the United States (nearly two-thirds of the population) have an Epic health record, including more than half of all Georgia residents.

“Most individuals treated at Shepherd Center – about two out of three – are referred to us by healthcare providers who also use Epic as their electronic health record system,” says Michael Yochelson, M.D., MBA, chief medical officer at Shepherd Center. “When this is the case, your clinicians will have access to more complete and accurate information about your care.”

For patients, Epic offers these expected benefits: having one centralized health record that can be accessed and automatically updated across multiple health systems that are using Epic; and better coordination of care and communication among your medical providers.

“The transition to Epic will allow for even better continuity and coordination of care, patient safety and enhanced quality of care overall,” says Sarah Morrison, PT, MBA, MHA, president and CEO of Shepherd Center. “This is vitally important given the complex nature of the conditions we treat at Shepherd Center and the need for a team-based approach across the continuum of care.”

To learn more about Epic, visit news.shepherd.org.