

MEDICAL TREATMENT • RESEARCH • REHABILITATION

Shepherd

Center Spinal Column®

BACK TO SCHOOL

Two former patients beat the odds and return to school to pursue their dreams.

ALSO INSIDE

Shepherd Programs Help Students Return to School + Return to Soccer After Brain Injury + Wounded Warrior Project Funds SHARE Research

Shepherd

Center Spinal Column®

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ABOUT THE COVER:

After sustaining a spinal cord injury, Marvin Zetina-Jimenez returned to school. Now, he wants to use his education in computer science and engineering to help people with disabilities.

Photo by Phil Skinner

LETTER FROM SARAH MORRISON



Dear Readers,

In this issue of *Spinal Column*, we are highlighting patients who returned to school after sustaining traumatic injuries. I love stories like these because they show that aspirations don't end after injury. There may be bumps in the road, and it's not always smooth sailing, but accomplishing milestones, such as graduating high school and/or college or dreaming of your first day at work, motivates us to keep trying even when things get tough.

Shepherd Center's return-to-school programming includes a variety of services like our unique No Obstacles Program that helps students transition back to school smoothly after leaving the hospital. The therapy team consults with the school and ensures the returning student is set up for success — making sure classes are accessible and educating students and faculty to understand the injury all contribute to this success. Even more importantly, Shepherd Center helps patients advocate for themselves, a skill that carries the patient well beyond school. Read more about it on page 4.

Then, take a moment to meet our academic coordinator, Kelsey Shearman, on page 5. She is a certified teacher who works with patients like Marvin — who you'll meet on page 6 — to help keep them on-track to graduate on time with their peers. Along with Marvin, you'll learn about Abbey Climer. They're both former patients who achieved their education goals despite the considerable challenges they faced. Both Marvin and Abbey gained a new perspective post-injury that will help them moving forward in life.

In addition to these stories, you'll read about many more heartwarming experiences that show Shepherd's culture of hard work, humor and hope. On page 18, we recognize our volunteers who are family to us and help the hospital run smoothly day-to-day. We started welcoming some of our wonderful volunteers back this summer after a pause due to the pandemic. While we continue to observe strict COVID protocols, their presence has certainly been appreciated by staff, patients and families alike.

During my career here, there have been so many mission moments that have touched my heart. From watching our staff members attend patients' graduations and even cross the stage with them to witnessing young people find passions they didn't know they had in their new normal post-injury, these are the moments that give us purpose. Join me in celebrating these stories of achievement.

Sincerely,

Sarah Morrison

Sarah Morrison, PT, MBA, MHA
President and CEO of Shepherd Center

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Marvin and his brother, Max, are very close. Among other activities, they enjoy playing soccer together at the park.
Photo by Phil Skinner



See news.shepherd.org
for additional online content.

Gifts of Generosity

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



U.S. News & World Report Again Names Shepherd Center Among Best in Rehabilitation

Shepherd Center was recognized among the top 10 Best Hospitals for Rehabilitation by *U.S. News & World Report*. In the 2021-22 rankings, Shepherd Center moved up to No. 7 from the No. 8 spot last year. The neurorehabilitation hospital has been in the top 10 since 2008.

The annual Best Hospitals rankings and ratings, now in their 32nd year, are designed to assist patients and their doctors in making informed decisions about where to

receive care for challenging health conditions or for common elective procedures.

"In a year of extraordinary challenges in healthcare, it is especially rewarding to be recognized by *U.S. News and World Report* as one of the top rehabilitation hospitals in the country," says Sarah Morrison, PT, MBA, MHA, president and CEO of Shepherd Center. "This recognition underscores the unwavering commitment of our staff to restoring the lives of our patients and their families."

Shepherd Center Highlighted as a Best Place to Work for Disability Inclusion



Shepherd Center peer support liaison Talbot Kennedy connects with patient George Casares.

Shepherd Center was named a "Best Place to Work for Disability Inclusion" by the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) and Disability:IN. Shepherd Center earned this recognition with a score of 90 out of a possible 100 on the Disability Equality Index® (DEI), the world's most comprehensive benchmarking tool for measuring disability inclusion in the workplace.

"This recognition by American Association of People with Disabilities and Disability:IN underscores Shepherd Center's commitment to its mission, which is to help people with disabilities rebuild their lives with hope, independence and dignity, while advocating for their full inclusion in all aspects of community life," says Sarah Morrison, PT, MBA, MHA, president and CEO of Shepherd Center. "We're honored by this recognition and will continue to expand our efforts to increase inclusion and celebrate the unique talents and perspectives our team brings to Shepherd Center and the community."

Of the 272 businesses to qualify for the Disability Equality Index in 2021 with scores of 80 or above, Shepherd Center was one of 58 companies to earn a score of 90 or higher. Shepherd Center is one of only a few hospitals to receive a score of 90 or above. *

Shepherd's Men Run Raises Awareness and Funding for SHARE Military Initiative

Shepherd's Men, a group comprised of active or retired military and civilian volunteers, completed its seventh annual Shepherd's Men Run benefiting Shepherd Center's SHARE Military Initiative. The event included a weeklong journey of running, rucking and swimming across multiple states from May 24 to May 31. Since their inception, Shepherd's Men has raised more than \$6.4 million for SHARE to date and played an integral role in the program's continued growth.

"We continue to engage in this fight as the need is ever present," says Travis Ellis, Shepherd's Men co-founder. "Our



goal is to raise advocacy and resources for SHARE, while identifying individuals in need who could most benefit from the clinical care rendered daily at this life-saving program. Additionally, we will not rest until the number of lives lost every day to suicide goes from 22 to zero. Our veterans deserve to live meaningful, gratifying lives with their families after their courageous service to our country."

The group began in Arlington, Virginia, and ended at SHARE Military Initiative at 80 Peachtree Park Drive on Memorial Day. Their efforts will help support SHARE's mission to empower post-9/11 veterans and service members with brain injury to live with hope and purpose. *

Multiple Sclerosis Counselor Joins Shepherd Center



Jackie Haar, MSW, LCSW, joined the Shepherd Center team on July 26.

Jackie Haar, MSW, LCSW, joined Shepherd Center as its multiple sclerosis (MS) counselor on July 26. Jackie has more than 25 years of clinical experience providing individual counseling and group therapy to adults, couples and children with various complex medical, developmental, learning and mental health issues. Her goal is to help her patients and clients develop strengths to cope more successfully as they embark along their journey toward growth and resiliency.

"We are so excited to be expanding our existing counseling services for patients with MS and their families," says Laurie

Baker, Ph.D., ABPP, director of the Department of Psychology at Shepherd Center. "In addition to our current staff, Jackie brings years of counseling experience with medical patient populations. She also has experience with training counselors and social workers, so we look forward to expanding our student training opportunities at Shepherd Center and the MS Institute in the future." *



Shepherd's Men completed its seventh annual Shepherd's Men Run benefiting Shepherd Center's SHARE Military Initiative on Memorial Day.

Shepherd Serves Supports Gateway Center



Shepherd Center employees helped sort and organize clothing at Gateway Center as part of the Shepherd Serves initiative.

The Shepherd Serves community service initiative visited Gateway Center, an organization that connects people experiencing homelessness with the support necessary to become self-sufficient and find a permanent home. Volunteers from across the hospital came together to help sort clothing, organize a clothing closet and serve as "shoppers" for clients who needed clothing.

According to Sarah Morrison, PT, MBA, MHA, president and CEO of Shepherd Center, "Shepherd is where it is today because of community support, and we instituted this program so Shepherd can give back to the community."

Shepherd Serves was launched in January 2020 to engage staff quarterly in support of a variety of community agencies.

Shepherd Center Welcomes New Vice President of Human Resources



Katherine Creek, SPHR, SHRM-SCP, GBA, CMS, joined Shepherd Center on July 12.

Shepherd Center announced that Katherine Creek, SPHR, SHRM-SCP, GBA, CMS, joined the organization as vice president of human resources on July 12, 2021.

Creek joins Shepherd Center from CBORD Group, Inc./Horizon Software, LLC, where she served as vice president of human resources. There, she led the human resources division in enhancing organizational culture, recruiting and retaining top talent, and developing strategies to

increase employee engagement. Creek has held progressive positions in human resources leadership in the banking industry before joining CBORD Group, Inc./Horizon Software, LLC. She graduated from Georgia State University, cum laude, with a bachelor's degree in business administration with a focus in human resources management.

"Katherine joins Shepherd Center with more than 17 years of experience in leading human resources for dynamic

organizations like Shepherd Center," says Sarah Morrison, PT, MBA, MHA, president and CEO of Shepherd Center. "We look forward to Katherine's leadership in helping Shepherd Center continually strengthen its culture of hope, humor and hard work by recruiting, engaging and retaining the best and brightest employees."

Creek joins Shepherd Center as Lorie Hutcheson, current vice president of human resources, retires from the role and transitions into a part-time position. *

SPOTLIGHT

Shepherd's School of Thought

Shepherd Center takes an individualized approach to help students who have sustained traumatic injuries return to school successfully.

BY DAMJANA ALVERSON

As a young adult with a traumatic injury, returning to school can be daunting to say the least. Just ask Clark Jacobs, 26, who sustained a brain injury in 2015 after falling from his loft bed while at college.

"I was worried about it," Clark says. "All my concerns were around being able to take care of myself day to day."

Clark is not alone. People who have sustained brain and spinal cord injuries can experience changes in physical ability, cognition, communication, behavior and emotional functioning, affecting their readiness to go back to school.

That's why Shepherd Center has return-to-school services tailored for its patient populations ages 12 to 24 in its Brain Injury Rehabilitation Program and Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation Program.

"Our approach to return-to-school is finding whatever methods work best to support each individual instead of just providing a cookie cutter solution," says Dalise Robinson, CCC-SLP, speech therapy manager in Shepherd Center's acquired brain injury post-acute services.

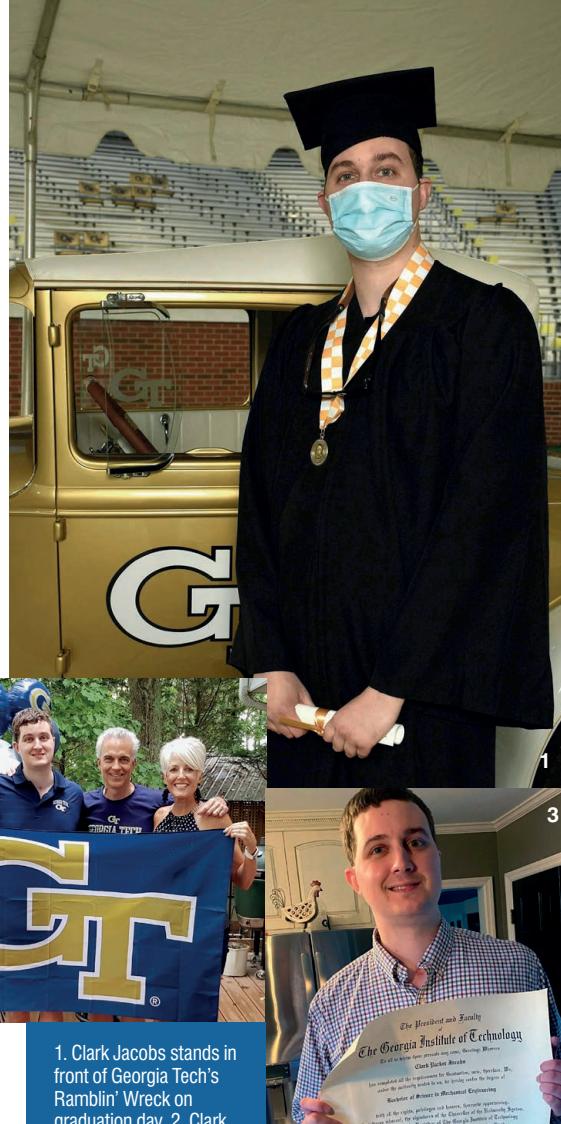
The first step involves assessing the needs of the patient. For example, if an inpatient with a spinal cord injury is ready for school services, they can work with Shepherd Center's academic coordinator, a certified teacher who will keep the student as up to date with classes as possible. Additionally, someone with a brain injury may not be ready for school services while they are an inpatient, but can work on their return-to-school goals as an outpatient at Shepherd Pathways, Shepherd's post-acute outpatient program for people with brain injuries.

Regardless of type of injury, the therapy team works to identify specific areas they should focus on to help a patient achieve their goals.

"For example, a patient who doesn't have full use of their upper extremities can't write notes in class the same way they used to," says Debra Eldred, MS, CCC-SLP, speech therapist at Shepherd Center. "A lot of us learn from note taking, so our job is to help them find new strategies, like using assistive technology to take notes, that set them up for success."

Clark adds, "My therapists brought things to my attention I wasn't aware of. My slower typing speed didn't occur to me until my occupational therapist brought it up to me and gave me exercises to improve it."

Another area the team assists with is self-advocacy.



1. Clark Jacobs stands in front of Georgia Tech's Ramblin' Wreck on graduation day. 2. Clark celebrated his college graduation with his family. 3. Clark holds his hard-won degree.

"We look at it as helping our patients train a system to meet their needs," Robinson says. "A lot of our patients are hesitant about asking for accommodations at first, so we prepare them and their loved ones to advocate for themselves. It's better to have those tools in their pocket and not use them than to need them and have to fight for them later."

The therapy team may help students secure accommodations when they return to school, like placing the student nearest to the instructor during lectures or allowing additional time for testing and assignments.

"My therapists encouraged me to reach out to the disabilities office at my school," Clark says. "Since I had a slower processing speed, I was able to have double the time to finish exams, which was awesome."

Shepherd Center also offers No Obstacles, a donor-funded program that can include in-school awareness

and sensitivity training for school staff and students, as well as instruction in medical or cognitive issues that may arise during the school day.

Whether it's helping with schoolwork while a patient is in the hospital, teaching new ways to learn or anything in between, the return-to-school program at Shepherd Center aims to turn "I can't" into "I can." In Clark's case, the latest "I can" moment happened this summer when he was hired for his first job after graduating from Georgia Tech with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering.

"Return-to-school programs like Shepherd's are so important," Clark says. "There are many factors that, without the program, would've hit me like a ton of bricks when I went back. The therapists helped me in advance, so I felt ready." *

Q+A

Teacher Helps Students with Traumatic Injuries Return to School

Kelsey Shearman, MA, the academic coordinator in the Adolescent Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation Program, explains how she works with students to meet their academic goals.

BY DAMJANA ALVERSON



Kelsey Shearman, MA, has worked at Shepherd Center as academic coordinator for three years.

Q: How long have you worked at Shepherd Center?

I have worked at Shepherd for three years as an academic coordinator in the Adolescent Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation Program. Prior to Shepherd, I was a public school teacher for four years, teaching middle school for two years and high school for two years.

Q: When we say “adolescent,” what do we mean?

My primary work is with kids aged 12 through around 19. I also do some work with college students up to age 23.

Q: Can you explain your role at Shepherd?

As an academic coordinator, I set up school services for students and teach them while they are inpatients at Shepherd or outpatients in our Spinal Cord Injury Day Program. I will see students four to six hours per week on a one-on-one basis. Close to discharge, we start doing a return-to-school planning process. We get students and their parents or caregivers comfortable, and we make sure their school is prepared for any new needs the student may have.

With college students I see, they come to me after they've withdrawn from school. We talk about what they are looking forward to with going back and what their school can help them with to overcome any challenges they may face when they return. I also help them sign up for accommodations.

While I usually work with students who have sustained spinal cord injuries, I do meet with families or caregivers of students with brain injuries to help coordinate getting their school records and passing that information along to their therapy team. I also provide guidance to families about medically withdrawing their loved ones from school until they are ready for school services again.

Q: What do you love most about your job?

I always seem to have great kids. They are so much fun. Understandably, not everyone is very excited that they're at a hospital and have to go to school initially, but they all end up having a good attitude and being wonderful to work with. I'm so grateful I'm able to get to know them.

Q: Talk about how your role impacts patients and families.

When families get to Shepherd, they have so much on their plates. I want school to be the last thing they worry about or deal with. I tell parents they are welcome to be as involved as they want, but I will take care of everything school-related, so they don't have to worry about it. I talk to the kids' counselors and ask what classes are most important to graduate. I make sure I have all their assignments. If I don't have assignments, I create them for the kids. We stay as up-to-date as possible, so they are on track for graduation when the student returns to school.

The kids are also happier because when they return to school, they are in the same grade level as their friends. They may have to make up some classes, but they can stay with their peers.*

INTERESTING FACTS

EDUCATION

- Kelsey is a certified teacher.
- **University of Georgia**
Bachelor's degree in history with a minor in English
- **University of St Andrews**
Master's degree in history
- Kelsey is working on her Ph.D. in English literature at the University of Birmingham.

FUN FACTS

- Working with students has made Kelsey a pro at trivia. For example, she worked on an astronomy class with a student that included a video of a moon landing. Two days later, that same video showed up on "Jeopardy!" along with a question asking whose theory it proved. She immediately knew the answer was Galileo.
- Kelsey enjoys participating in long-distance swimming races and sprint triathlons.
- She loves to travel and has a goal to visit every continent. So far, she's visited three.

BACK TO SCHOOL

*Two Former Patients Beat the Odds and
Return to School to Pursue Their Dreams.*

With much of our lives spent as students, school inevitably becomes more than a place of learning. It becomes a place where we reach milestones that guide our paths in life. For Marvin Zetina-Jimenez and Abbey Climer, returning to that pivotal place after sustaining traumatic injuries was a primary goal during their rehabilitation. Once they returned to school, their experiences led each of them to realize a new purpose.



1. Abbey Climer attends nursing school at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. 2. Marvin Zetina-Jimenez is majoring in computer science and engineering at MIT and hopes to use his education to help people with disabilities.



1



2



BACK TO
SCHOOL



An Opportunity to Give Back

After sustaining a spinal cord injury, Marvin Zetina-Jimenez, 20, wants to use his education to help people with disabilities.

Marvin Zetina-Jimenez enjoys playing soccer to test his progress toward his rehabilitation goals.

Some people are naturally talented at sports; others are gifted in the arts. For Marvin Zetina-Jimenez, 20, school has always been the place where he's excelled.

"Learning is fun for me," Marvin says. "Even when it takes practice and discipline, when things are easier, I guess they are always more fun!"

Marvin's favorite subjects are science and math, something his dad Mario, an industrial engineer, certainly understands. Mario and his wife, Maria, who are originally from Mexico, moved to Charlotte, North Carolina, in 1999 for Mario's job. Marvin and his younger brother, Max, were born and raised there. The family has a tight bond — one that Marvin would rely on when the unexpected happened on July 13, 2018.

That summer, Marvin went to camp after completing his junior year of high school.

"I decided to try surfing lessons," Marvin recalls. "As we were surfing, I felt a pinch in my lower back. Initially, I thought it was maybe just pain from exercise, but over the course of an hour, I could barely stand or feel my legs anymore."

Marvin was rushed to New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington, North Carolina. During his 10 days there, he learned he had sustained an incomplete L-1 spinal cord injury from surfer's myelopathy, a rare condition triggered by hyper-extension of the back while surfing. Blood flow to his spinal cord was disrupted while he arched his back, and it caused paralysis in his legs.

"With this condition, you never know what your prognosis will be," Marvin says. "Some people recover fully, and some don't recover at all."

By the end of the month, Marvin had regained the ability to twitch his quad muscle — a glimmer of hope as he moved on to the next phase of his recovery in Shepherd Center's Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation Program.

Rehabilitation and Return to School

In total, Marvin spent seven weeks at Shepherd Center, first as an inpatient and then as an outpatient in the Spinal Cord Injury Day Program.

"Once I got to Shepherd, the goal was to see how far the team could get me and for them to give me tools to be as independent as possible," Marvin says.

While Marvin worked hard in physical and occupational therapy, his parents took turns driving to Atlanta and staying in the Irene and George Woodruff Family Residence Center. Max was also there to support him. The younger brother had to get used to the role reversal of being the one to support his older brother during this challenging time.

"It was a role reversal in the sense that he would usually look out for me or teach me things," Max says. "He is like my protective spirit guide. When he was injured, it switched around, and I was trying to give back for all he'd done for me in years past."

Marvin certainly felt the support. The two have always been very close, enjoying playing video games, cooking and playing soccer together.

"I remember it was Max's birthday a week after my injury, and we had to celebrate it in the hospital," Marvin says. "He's amazing and has been such a solid pillar for me to rely on."

In addition to his physical goals, Marvin focused on his education during his stay at Shepherd.

Because he was still in the hospital during the first two weeks of his senior year of high school, he worked with Kelsey Shearman, MA, Shepherd's Adolescent Spinal Cord Rehabilitation Program academic coordinator, to make sure he stayed on track.

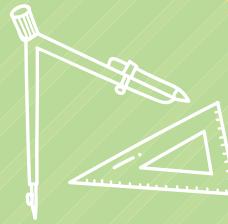
"Marvin is a dream student," Shearman says. "He's smart, works hard and is respectful of everyone. When I worked with him, he was taking AP calculus and AP world history, and it was pretty clear just how dedicated he was to his education."

When Marvin discharged from Shepherd Center, he was still on track to finish school on time with the rest of his classmates. He had also progressed physically, using a wheelchair to travel long distances and canes everywhere else.

"In one word, I would describe my recovery as 'lucky,'" Marvin says. "When you've been injured, you can really feel like you've hit rock bottom and like you're so out of control. Shepherd gave me a place to focus on myself and my improvement rather than worrying about other things. They push their patients to do their best so you can get to a place where you'll feel comfortable with yourself. Miracles happen at Shepherd, and they wouldn't happen without help from the amazing therapists."

Graduating to Independence

On Marvin's first day back to high school, two of his therapists, Sarah Leonard, PT, DPT, ATP, and Shanna Thorpe, CTRS, went with





1

1. Marvin and his brother, Max, enjoy doing activities like cooking together. 2. Marvin participated in the Google STEP internship virtually this past summer. Here, he explains the computer science program at his home office.



2

3. Marvin and his family are very close. (L to R: Mario (Marvin's father), Maria (Marvin's mother), Marvin and Max (Marvin's brother)) 4. Marvin's high school diploma is proudly displayed in his family's home. 5. Marvin has met many rehabilitation goals, including being able to play soccer with his family again.



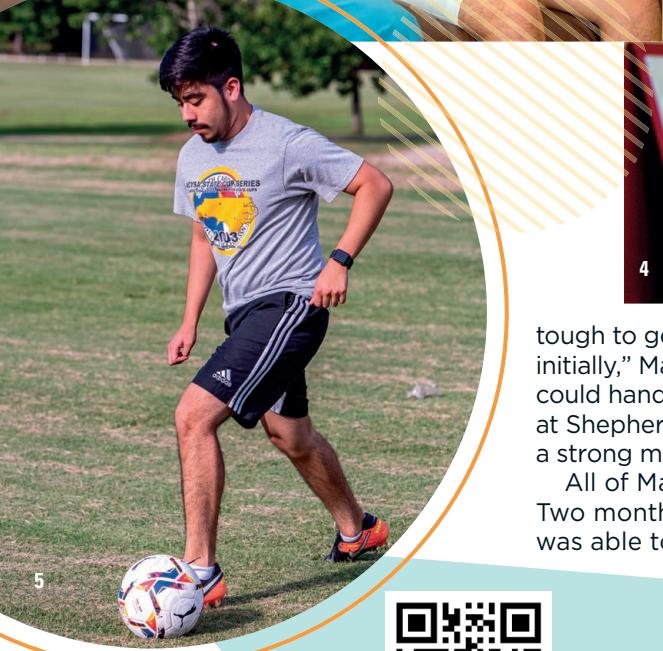
3

him to provide an overview of his injury and accessibility accommodations to his teachers.

"Fun fact: I got to drive to school on my first day back all by myself!" Marvin says. "I remember parking, getting out of the car and putting together my wheelchair. Then I met with Sarah and Shanna to go talk to my teachers. They were great."

Even though Marvin was excited to be back, he admits that returning to high school was a little tough at first.

"At the time, my high school was the largest in North Carolina, so it was



5

tough to get around in my wheelchair initially," Marvin says. "The reason I could handle it mentally was because at Shepherd, they helped me develop a strong mindset."

All of Marvin's efforts paid off. Two months into his senior year, he was able to move around school

without a wheelchair. By the end of the year, he was walking up and down the stairs without any aids.

Amidst all his rehabilitation milestones, Marvin had another event looming before him: college application decisions. Having a passion for science and math, he applied to several schools, including his dream school, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

"By December 2018, I had started to play soccer with my dad and brother in the park as part of my rehab on the weekends," Marvin says. "While we were there, I got my decision. I got into MIT. I was in disbelief! It's such an amazing school, and I was ecstatic I could get in."

Today, Marvin is a junior majoring in computer science and engineering, with a minor in math. Over the summer, he participated in the Google STEP internship — a program for first- and second-year undergraduate students with a passion for computer science. Inspired by his spinal cord injury and his experience at Shepherd Center, Marvin wants to use his developing skill-set to help others with disabilities.

"I got very lucky with how I recovered," Marvin says. "Now that I've been given this amazing opportunity, I want to help others. I want to use what I learn to develop technology that can help people with spinal cord injuries." *

**Need more insight on returning to school?
Scan the QR code to view the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation's college selection guide.**



**BACK TO
SCHOOL**



1. Abbey works hard during an outpatient therapy session in October 2017.
2. Abbey participated in Shepherd Center's 2018 Project Rollway, a fashion show that benefits Shepherd's adolescent rehabilitation programs.

Change of Plans

Abbey Climer thought she knew what she wanted her career to be until she sustained a traumatic brain injury that changed her perspective.

BACK TO SCHOOL



Abbey Climer, 23, always knew she wanted to enter the medical field. So when she started college at the University of Mississippi in the fall of 2016, it was easy to choose the pre-med route.

"My freshman year was not fun studying all the time, but I remember telling everyone I'd be a doctor one day!" Abbey says.

After her freshman year, Abbey, who was 19 at the time, and her twin sister Alden worked at a summer camp in Alabama. On

August 3, 2017, camp ended, and the sisters

started the five-hour drive back home to Senatobia, Mississippi.

"We took turns driving," Abbey explains. "Alden drove first, and then I switched with her halfway to drive the rest of the way home. Right outside of Tupelo, Mississippi, we were in a bad car accident. A car weaved in and out of the median, and when it was my turn to pass, they swerved into my lane. I swerved to miss them, and that's when our car flipped."

Abbey doesn't remember what happened next, but she was told that because their car was top-heavy with luggage from working out-of-state all summer, it flipped nine times and caught on fire.

"They were able to get Alden out with just bruises and scratches," Abbey recalls. "I was driving, so they had more trouble getting me out of the car. They said my legs were stuck with how the car was warped."

First responders eventually managed to open the door, and Abbey was airlifted to North Mississippi Medical Center in Tupelo,

where she stayed for three weeks. In addition to sustaining a traumatic brain injury and being in a coma her first week at the hospital, Abbey also had broken bones in her hands and sustained severe scalp and facial lacerations.

"They had to shave my head to perform surgery and stitch the wounds," Abbey explains. "Besides the brain injury, that was probably the hardest factor. I was having an identity crisis because I didn't look like myself anymore."

The crash may have left physical scars, but the emotional scars were there, too, as Abbey embarked on her rehabilitation journey.

A New Perspective

Abbey's parents researched rehabilitation hospitals, and after looking into options and getting recommendations from friends, they decided on Shepherd Center. Luckily, a bed in the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Program had just become available, and the family arrived at the hospital on August 23, 2017.

"I was conscious when I got to Shepherd, but I was still in a weird phase where I wasn't motivated," Abbey says. "A few days after I admitted, it's like a light switch went off in my head: 'I've got to get better. I've got to go back to college. I'm supposed to be in school.'"

With renewed determination, she was ready to tackle the challenges ahead of her.



1. Abbey and her family after graduation from the University of Mississippi. (L to R: Stacy (Abbey's mom), Alden (Abbey's twin sister), Barrett (Abbey's brother), Abbey and Tim (Abbey's father)) 2. Abbey Climer arrived at Shepherd Center on August 23, 2017. A few days after her arrival, she spent time in the Anna and Hays Mershon Secret Garden.

"Cognitively, I had to relearn how to do everything," Abbey says. "My writing looked like a 5-year-old. I could remember things, but I wasn't sure what was going on. My vision wasn't 100% like before either. I knew it was just off."

Halfway through her stay at Shepherd, Abbey remembers feeling overwhelmed and reflecting on everything that had happened since her accident. One of the things that stood out to her was the care she received from her nurses.

"I thought about how my nurses cared for me and helped me with everything," she says. "I wasn't able to walk by myself or do other things like I used to, but they did those things for me with servant hearts and didn't complain. I felt like they really cared for me and wanted to know me on a personal level. That's when my perspective shifted on what I wanted to do when I went back to school. I wanted to be there for someone in that same way because I knew how great that connection made me feel. I wanted to be a nurse."

Back to School

On September 11, 2017, Abbey discharged from Shepherd Center and continued outpatient therapy closer to home for the next several months. By the end of the year, she was cleared to return to school the

3. Abbey attached this note to baskets that she gave to the nurses and her therapy team when she was discharged from Shepherd Center. She later found her note in the nurse's lounge when she returned to Shepherd to shadow a nurse during spring break.

4. Abbey Climer takes a photo with her therapists the morning of her discharge from Shepherd Center.

next semester and pursue her new goal of becoming a nurse.

"I basically healed in five or six months," Abbey says. "I was in a stretcher when I got to Shepherd, and I was able to walk out with a gait belt. Since then, I've gotten back to what I was doing before my accident. I know all brain injuries are different, and I'm very blessed. I get chills every time I think about it."

Abbey stayed connected with Shepherd Center throughout college. During her junior year, she reached out to Lauren Bott, BSN, RN, CRRN, rehabilitation nurse educator at Shepherd Center, to see if she could shadow her during spring break. The experience made a big impact on the former patient.

"I got to go back to Shepherd on the same floor I was a patient on," Abbey says. "My perspective really changed. I got to see what nurses do, and it was remarkable to be on the other side of healthcare with them."

Abbey graduated from college in May 2020. Not one to waste any time, she started nursing school at

the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, Mississippi, just two weeks later.

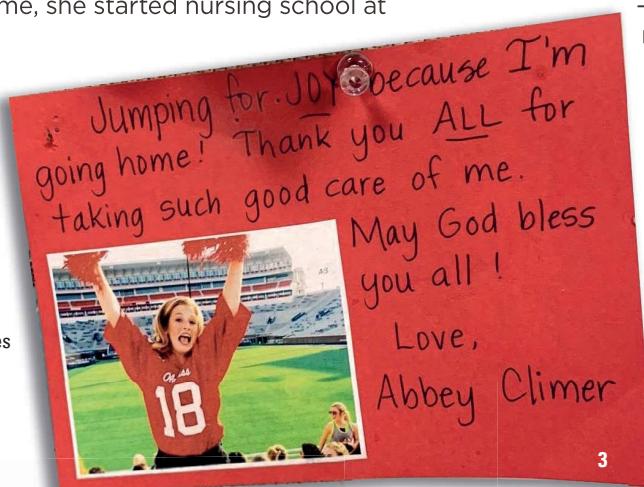
"I'm in a traditional two-year nursing program," Abbey says. "During your second summer, you have the option to enroll in a class that's an externship. This past spring, I applied and was accepted to a student nurse externship at Children's of Mississippi Hospital. I really enjoyed it. I knew I was interested in pediatrics, but with my brain injury, I've become interested in neurology. I may do pediatric neurology in the future, but I'm still figuring it all out!"

Abbey may still be figuring out exactly what she wants to do, but what is clear is her sense of gratitude and purpose since the car crash.

"No one would be thankful for an accident like mine, but this experience has made me more grateful for being alive and for the people that I've gotten to meet through this," Abbey says. "I'm so thankful to have had them because they got me to where I am today in nursing school

— the doctors, nurses, therapists and everybody else involved in this journey with me. It's just really amazing to see how far I've come."

3



Scan the QR code to check out Shepherd Center's Returning to School Overview, which includes what you can expect after sustaining an injury.



MAKING GOALS

On and Off the Field



Will Fraser-Gray returned to collegiate soccer after sustaining a traumatic brain injury in a car crash.

BY DAMJANA ALVERSON

Will Fraser-Gray, 22, grew up in Lancaster, a city in northwest England. A talented athlete, he played many sports, including rugby.

cricket and cross country, but soccer was his favorite. He even had the opportunity to play on two professional sports teams at a young age.

"All I wanted to do was play soccer — it was my main passion. I heard about an amazing opportunity to become a student athlete in America," Will says. "The idea of traveling and getting to live away from home was really cool, and I wanted to do it."

Will's dream came true in August 2018 when he began attending Emmanuel College in Franklin Springs, Georgia, on a soccer scholarship while pursuing a degree in business administration. Then in the early morning hours of March 31, 2019, during his second semester at school, the unthinkable happened.

"My friends and I were in the car on the way back to campus from a night out when we were in a car crash," Will explains. "The car

"The therapy team at Shepherd put me on a strict schedule like I was back at school. I didn't have the option of if I'd get better. It was like, no, you are going to get better."

One of Will's primary rehabilitation goals was returning to playing soccer at school.

"Every opportunity, my therapists had me practicing dribbling the soccer ball and passing it," Will says. "Not even a month after the crash, I was playing soccer again in the garden."

Well on his way to his goal, Will faced another hurdle on May 15 when he had surgery to replace the piece of his skull that had been removed.

"A week after the surgery, I started having seizures," Will recalls. "I'm a really chatty person, and suddenly I'd be having a conversation and wouldn't be able to speak or write anything down. Fortunately, I got the right anti-seizure meds about a week later."

Medically stable, and ready to graduate from inpatient on June 3, 2019, Will had to decide whether to return home or complete outpatient rehabilitation at Shepherd Pathways.

"I just wanted to go back home to the UK to see my friends, family and dog," Will says. "My

my spring classes online and was able to go back to school in the fall."

Will began his fall semester on August 7, 2019. While he could not play full contact soccer for a year, Emmanuel College maintained his scholarship. In return, the business major contributed to the team in another way — running the team's social media account.

By August 2020, Will was cleared to return to full contact soccer at the NCAA Division II level. Due to COVID-19, games were postponed until January 2021, but that made his return all the better.

"I was so ready to be back," Will says. "I'd not played in 22 months. Two of my best friends who had visited me in Shepherd played with me, and it was a bit emotional for the three of us."

Will graduates this year and is deciding what he'd like to do from there. One thing he knows he wants to do is use his experience to give back.

"When I went home to the UK, I went back to my old high school and gave a speech about the importance of wearing seatbelts



2



3



4

1. Will was happy to spend time with his dog, Rupert, after returning home from the hospital. 2. Will celebrates his first goal after returning to playing soccer. 3. Will visited his high school after recovering from his traumatic brain injury to do a motivational speech about the importance of wearing seatbelts and his comeback story. 4. Will celebrates the day he was discharged from inpatient at Shepherd Center into Shepherd Pathways with his therapy team. 5. Will was welcomed home after returning from the hospital.



friends and family convinced me to stay at least three weeks, and it was honestly the best decision I ever made."

Will continued to improve physically and cognitively, and with the help of his therapists, he was able to run again and prepare for his return to school.

"I learned strategies to cope with my workload in a new and different way," Will says. "By the time I finished at Shepherd, I finished all

and having a positive attitude," Will says. "My story can be a vehicle for positive things in peoples' lives."

"I know this sounds like a happy story, but there were some very tough moments through it all. I genuinely put everything down to Shepherd Center. All the nurses, therapists and surgeons. I just am so grateful I was given the opportunity to go there and be surrounded by these inspirational people." *

Will spent three weeks at Piedmont Athens before transferring to Shepherd Center's Brain Injury Rehabilitation Program on April 23. When he arrived at Shepherd, the young athlete had lost 50 pounds since the car crash and needed assistance to walk.

"Initially, it was a massive shock to the system," Will says. "As much as I had physical injuries, I had quite a few mental injuries, as well. I felt depressed.

Shepherd Alums:

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

Sonja McCrary

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

Sonja McCrary, 57, has always had a zest for life.

"If I don't know how to do something, I will give it a try. Not to say I will do it twice, but I will certainly try it once!" Sonja says.

With interests ranging from spending time with her husband, Dean, and family including her sisters Twallise, DeShawn and Cassandra, to fishing to cooking to truck driving, there is no doubt that Sonja has enthusiasm to live fully.

But in 2009, she began experiencing symptoms that made her want to withdraw from the world.

"I didn't want to see anybody," Sonja explains. "I just wanted to be left alone because I didn't know my own body. It was like something had taken over and left me with my mind, but no control over my day-to-day activities."

Among other symptoms, Sonja was experiencing trouble sleeping, shooting pain through her legs and arms, no strength in her right arm and leg, and decreased vision. She visited the hospital and was officially diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS).

After doing her own research and speaking with friends, Sonja decided to go to the Andrew C. Carlos Multiple Sclerosis Institute at Shepherd Center for rehabilitation and treatment in 2012. Since that time, she has returned monthly for infusions and receives an MRI scan yearly.

"Having a clinic that specializes in MS is terrific because it means these people pride themselves on knowing the latest on disease-modifying therapies," Sonja says. "The team is always so comforting and supportive."

Last year, Sonja noticed a flyer advertising a research study called STEP for MS in the Shepherd Center waiting room. The study aims to understand what exercise options are most effective for people with MS. It compares the outcomes of a 16-week exercise program conducted at home to a program held in a gym with COVID-19 safety protocols in place.

"I did the gym study, and I loved it," Sonja says. "Exercise definitely helps with symptom management. I try to be more active, especially now as I get older."

Sonja is pleased to say her MS symptoms are now manageable, and she has regained function in her right arm, legs and feet. As importantly, she has regained her zest for life.

"I put it to God and give him the credit. Right now, that's what I'm focused on – growing my faith. As much as He puts me through, He brings me through," Sonja says. "I want other people to know they should always have hope — we can do this!"

Sonja McCrary's MS symptoms are now manageable and she has regained her zest for life.

J.T. Brooks

ROGERSVILLE, TENNESSEE

On May 23, 2016, **16-year-old J.T. Brooks**, the quarterback for his high school football team, was playing in an inter-squad scrimmage football game when he fell as he tried to avoid a tackle. He landed on his head, sustaining a C-6 – C-7 incomplete spinal cord injury (SCI), which resulted in quadriplegia. After two weeks in Johnson City Medical Center in Tennessee, J.T. was transferred to Shepherd Center.



J.T. served as an assistant coach for the Emory & Henry football team.

During his six months at Shepherd, J.T. participated in intensive inpatient and outpatient therapy to relearn how to move his arms, regain finger function, do wheelchair transfers, and feed and dress himself.

"I felt I had a choice to get better, and I was willing to work hard to relearn how to do things in a different way," he says. "The therapists at Shepherd Center pushed me like a coach would, but they were also very loving. I enjoyed my time there despite the circumstances."

In January 2017, J.T. returned home to resume the second half of his junior year of high school – and he returned to sports.

"I still wanted to be part of the team and be with my friends, so I just started coaching," J.T. says.

On the football team, he helped call plays and was active in practices and on the sidelines during the games. During baseball season, J.T. worked with the team calling pitches.

He continued coaching when he went to college at Emory & Henry College in Emory, Virginia, in 2018. As an assistant coach for the football team, J.T. worked closely with the offensive coaching staff, reviewing practice and game films. During his sophomore year, he was the quarterbacks' coach.

After two years, J.T. decided to leave coaching to focus on his schoolwork. He is majoring in business management and minoring in mass communications and hopes to go into sales when he graduates in spring 2022.

Throughout all his challenges, J.T., now 21, has maintained a positive attitude, never letting his injury get in the way of his plans or his involvement with the sports he loves. He encourages others in his situation to do the same.

"Push your limits," he advises. "You can do more than you think. Keep a positive attitude, keep active both physically and socially, and rely on your support system."

1



Gabriel Rodriguez

MIAMI, FLORIDA

Before his injury in 2005, **Gabriel Rodriguez, now 34**, was a straight-A student at Parkview High School in metro Atlanta. Gabriel had been drawn to the medical profession since he was a child living in Puerto Rico, so after he graduated from high school, he planned to major in biology at Georgia State University.

But the summer before his freshman year, Gabriel's plans took a detour. He sustained a traumatic brain injury and multiple injuries to his legs in an automobile accident after a vehicle T-boned the car in which he was a passenger. Gabriel spent more than three months in a coma at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta and underwent more surgeries than he can remember. Then, he completed months of rehabilitation at Shepherd Center.

The road to recovery was long. The months following the accident were nothing short of terrifying for Gabriel's mom, Lucila Tellado, and the rest of his family. But Gabriel was a fighter and gradually improved.

"I don't think he'd be where he is without having been at Shepherd," Lucila says. "All the nurses were so good; everybody was. They were so caring and worried about him. He began to recover, little by little. I remember him singing, 'The Lord is My Shepherd.' It was one of the first times he showed signs of waking up. He was beginning to recover."

Fast forward to 2020, and Gabriel had graduated medical school and had decided to focus his residency on physical medicine and rehabilitation (PM&R) at Larkin Community Hospital in Miami, Florida. PM&R is a branch of medicine that aims to enhance and restore functional ability and quality of life to people with physical impairments or disabilities — something Gabriel experienced as a patient.

In May 2021, he really came full circle when he returned to Shepherd Center for a PM&R training rotation. From May 4 to May 28, he shadowed Wes Chay, M.D., in the Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation Program and Comprehensive Rehabilitation Unit, and Andrew Dennison, M.D., in the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Program.

"Shepherd Center specializes in PM&R," Gabriel explains. "More than that, the positive attitude at Shepherd plays a crucial role in peoples' recovery. When you're a patient, you can feel awful about not knowing what will happen with your life."

I've been in the situation as a patient where my prognosis wasn't good, and now as a physician, I can see people who are in those same shoes. Now, I'm in a position to give them hope, and it feels really good."

Gabriel Rodriguez did a PM&R training rotation at Shepherd Center in May 2021.



3

Rebecca Schlegelmilch

RAEFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

Rebecca Schlegelmilch, 40, enlisted in the Army when she was 17 years old, working in logistics for more than 21 years. She did five tours of duty — two in Iraq and three in Afghanistan.

When faced with another deployment in 2018, Rebecca, who was selected for the rank of sergeant major, chose instead to retire. However, she quickly discovered she did not feel equipped for life as a civilian. She says her mental health had been deteriorating rapidly for some time. In addition, Rebecca had sustained a traumatic brain injury (TBI) from multiple blast exposures during her years of service, along with a head injury, leading to lingering symptoms.

"Once I retired, I found it even harder to deal with and control my symptoms," Rebecca remembers. "Fear and anxiety fueled by aggravation and anger drove me to withdraw and disengage. I had lost my identity and purpose, making life dark and painful."

Unfamiliar with the healthcare and insurance systems outside of the Army, finding help for her physical and emotional symptoms quickly became another source of frustration.

Rebecca learned about Shepherd Center's SHARE Military Initiative, a comprehensive rehabilitation program for post-9/11 veterans, from another veterans group. She was accepted into SHARE in January 2021. For 12 weeks, she spent one week a month at Shepherd Center and attended telehealth sessions every day during the other three weeks. She worked with a team of therapists to combat her TBI, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety and depression. She also learned to play the guitar.

"One of the best parts of SHARE is that the team is heavily vested in your success," Rebecca says. "It bolstered my self-confidence to know that they believed in me and were all working together to improve my health and wellness."

Rebecca graduated from SHARE in April 2021 with a brand new outlook. She's reconnecting with friends and recently took a trip to Colombia, South America, and plans on visiting Panama next. Along with continuing to play the guitar, she'd also like to learn to surf.

"SHARE changed my outlook by giving me hope and belief in the future," Rebecca says. "It was an amazing experience. I would highly recommend this program. If you can just get there, it can change your life. The hardest part is taking that first step."

4



Rebecca learned to play guitar during her time in SHARE.

Welcoming Back Volunteers

Volunteers play a vital role in patient care at Shepherd Center.

When Margaret Hopkins received the e-mail that she could return to Shepherd Center as a volunteer, she estimates that it took her just about 40 seconds to respond.

"I was so excited," says Margaret, who has been volunteering at Shepherd Center since she was 15. "I couldn't wait to go back."

About 150 to 200 volunteers provide up to 1,500 hours of service every month, doing everything from feeding patients breakfast to delivering mail to working as a gym runner during therapy sessions.

"Volunteers are a huge part of our daily operations from an assistance point of view," says Alex Seblatnigg, CAVS, CPXP, Shepherd Center's director of volunteer services and internal engagement. "They are part of our culture and are deeply embedded in this organization."

But on March 16, 2020, things got quiet. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the volunteer program had to be paused.

"It felt like I got laid off from a job," says Zach Wilson, who has volunteered as a breakfast feeder for the past 12 years. "I felt a little lost."

Because the volunteer community is so strong, Seblatnigg held socials in the Shepherd Center parking lot throughout the year. There, the volunteers could see each other, hear updates and still maintain social distancing.

"It was so important to stay connected," Seblatnigg says. "They check in with each other and checked in with us. The volunteers are like an extended family."

This past March, Shepherd Center decided to allow volunteers who serve

as breakfast feeders to return with specific protocols in place. Any volunteer who has direct patient contact must be vaccinated and must wear a mask and, in some cases, a face shield.

Margaret and Zach are both breakfast feeders. In fact, Zach trained Margaret when she took that position six years ago. They show up at 6:45 a.m. to begin feeding patients, usually those with quadriplegia. It's a job that helps the nurses by freeing up their time to focus on other tasks.

"It felt so good to walk back up on the fifth floor," Zach recalls. "The patients and nurses welcomed us back and were so glad to see us. We knew we had been missed."

"We were welcomed back with a lot of fanfare," Margaret adds. "They made us feel like celebrities. There was so much excitement, and I realized that's what I had been missing."

Margaret has long been acquainted with Shepherd Center. She grew up not far from the hospital. So when her mother suggested that she and her brother find something productive to do with their time, Margaret chose Shepherd Center. She's been volunteering for 25 years, helping out wherever needed. She was also a member of the Shepherd Center Junior Committee and the Shepherd Center Society. When she decided she'd like more patient contact, she began feeding patients. She comes to the hospital two mornings a week and stays for about two hours before heading to her job at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta.

"The best part of volunteering is the culture," Margaret says. "Everyone has the same goal — to help ensure that the patient improves to the best of their ability. It's like magic. It's a very positive place. It's like a hug you didn't know you needed."

Zach began volunteering when he was looking for something to do with his time after he retired. A friend who was already a volunteer encouraged him to come to Shepherd Center. "He was one of the original feeders," Zach recalls. "I followed him around and learned what he did. After thinking about it for a few months, I decided to join him."

At first, he came every day and stayed after breakfast to help in the gym. He has since reduced his hours and comes in three mornings a week.

"I feel like I'm doing something positive by volunteering at Shepherd Center," Zach says. "It's a valuable service we are providing, and the patients and nurses appreciate it. It gets my day off to a good start."

Shepherd Center staff members feel the same way.

"Volunteers are so important to Shepherd Center," Seblatnigg says. "Not only do they help us, but they bring such joy and happiness to the hospital."

For more information on volunteering at Shepherd Center, visit shepherd.org/volunteer. *

1. Margaret Hopkins has volunteered at Shepherd Center for 25 years. As a breakfast feeder, she works with patients like Dean Southworth.
2. Zach Wilson volunteers as a breakfast feeder with patients like Randy Bynum. He has volunteered at Shepherd Center for the past 12 years.



ADVENTURE SKILLS WORKSHOP

returns

While things were slightly different at this year's event, the end result of building confidence was the same.

1



Whenever anyone suggested that Alesha Savannah try Shepherd Center's Adventure Skills Workshop (ASW), she would politely say "no thank you." She thought a weekend with a lot of sports and water activities just wasn't for her.

"I allowed everything to scare me," admits Alesha, who sustained an incomplete T-10 to -11 spinal cord injury in December 2018 in a car crash. "I thought if I participated in those activities, I wouldn't have control, and it just sounded scary."

But last year, she decided to no longer allow fear to dictate her life. She began to try new things, namely participating in Shepherd Center's virtual recreation therapy clinics. Then she challenged herself even further: She attended Shepherd Center's 2021 ASW. Suddenly, the woman who was afraid to try new things was swimming, waterskiing, tubing, ziplining and more.

"I expected a good time," she says of the weekend, "but I didn't realize the confidence it would give me. I conquered my fear, and now I feel like I can take on the world."

Shepherd Center's ASW is held each May on Lake Martin at Camp ASCCA, a wheelchair-accessible facility in Jackson's Gap, Alabama. This three-day, nationally recognized outdoor workshop includes adaptive sports, water activities and everything in between. Because of the pandemic, Shepherd Center had to cancel ASW in 2020. But in September of last year, Kelly Edens, CTRS, recreation therapy manager at Shepherd Center, began imagining a way to bring it back.

This year, she spread it out over two weekends in May, reducing the size of the group (from 50 to about 20), which allowed for safe distancing and single-room occupancy.

Staff members limited activities to those that could be done on the water. Because volunteers were limited, Shepherd Center staff members generously gave their time and helped out during both weekends. In total, 43 people attended, coming from eight different states. Half of those participants were new — meaning they had never participated in a Shepherd Center recreation therapy activity before.

"A lot of people who never knew they could do these types of activities came this year," Edens says, "and that was very powerful."

Her team conducted virtual clinics throughout the pandemic in everything from bird watching to yoga to chair fitness. But this year's ASW was the first "big" event since the pandemic hit.

"This was a chance for people to get out of their houses and participate in normal activities," Edens says.



3

Alesha tried many activities during the weekend, but the one that really boosted her confidence was waterskiing.

"The first time I tried it, I did it with the outriggers," she says, referring to the parallel boards next to the sit ski that give more support to prevent the sit ski from flipping over. "But the next day, I did it without them. I learned I am more than capable."

Edens is planning for ASW to be back to its regular format in 2022, and she hopes to release registration information by Valentine's Day 2022. One person who will return for sure is Alesha.

"I will be back every single year," she says. "Nothing will stop me."

For more information regarding ASW, visit shepherd.org/ASW. *



4

1, 2 and 3: Alesha Savannah gained the confidence to try new things like sports and water activities at the 2021 Adventure Skills Workshop. 4. After having to cancel ASW in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, staff and volunteers were able to safely host it in 2021 so that patients and community members alike could again enjoy this special event.



An AJC Peachtree Road Race to Remember

BY DAMJANA ALVERSON

PHOTO CREDIT: BRYANT POOLE

2021 marked the 52nd annual Atlanta Journal-Constitution (AJC) Peachtree Road Race, the world's largest 10K, which occurs July 4 and is operated by the Atlanta Track Club. The race is always special, but what made it especially memorable this year was the return of the in-person event after going virtual due to COVID-19 in 2020.

The Shepherd Center Wheelchair Division of the race also returned to celebrate its 40th year. Since 1981, Shepherd has partnered with the Atlanta Track Club to host this historic event and welcome the best wheelchair racers in the world. Tatyana McFadden, 32, of Clarksville, Maryland, earned her eighth win of the women's open division with a finishing time of 24:07.52. In the men's open, Daniel Romanchuk, 20, of Champaign, Illinois, took the crown for the fourth time with a finishing time of 19:04.09.

"We were thrilled to once again welcome an elite field of racers to Shepherd Center's Wheelchair Division of the AJC Peachtree Road Race," says Rebecca Washburn, MS, manager of Shepherd Center's Beyond Therapy® and wellness programs. "These athletes are an incredible display of dedication, perseverance and athleticism as they speed up Cardiac Hill and past Shepherd Center."

In addition to the elite athletes, the enthusiastic spectators make race day memorable





each year. One spectator in particular, Bryant Poole, was a patient at Shepherd Center at the time. After sustaining a C-6 and C-7 spinal cord injury earlier this year, Bryant arrived at Shepherd Center for rehabilitation on April 29.

A professional photographer, Bryant wanted to return to his passion post-injury. As part of his therapy, he worked with Adina Bradshaw, MS, CCC-SLP, ATP, speech-language pathologist, in Shepherd's Assistive Technology Center to determine how to use assistive technology to help him take photos and edit them again. That's when an idea came to mind: What if Bryant could use what he'd learned in therapy and apply it to a photo shoot at the race?

Before race day, Bradshaw and Bryant worked together to properly position a sturdy modular metal mount to Bryant's chair so that he could maneuver while also trusting that the mount would hold his heavy equipment. Once race day arrived, Bryant, his wife Trivia and Bradshaw set up

1. 2021 marked the return of the in-person AJC Peachtree Road Race and Shepherd Center Wheelchair Division of the race. 2. With help from assistive technology, Bryant was able to take photos at the AJC Peachtree Road Race in Atlanta, Georgia. 3. After sustaining a spinal cord injury, Bryant Poole was able to return to photography at the AJC Peachtree Road Race. 4. Bryant Poole is a photographer from Montclair, Virginia.

along the road outside Shepherd Center, where spectators were gathering to watch the event. Bryant was back in his element, capturing the race as athletes passed by, with some assistance from Trivia and Bradshaw.

"It was like I got the same rush I used to get doing photography where I'm constantly moving, constantly adjusting, to get the shot," Bryant says. "Runners were all around us, and it was amazing to be in the middle of the action. The overall energy of the people was great. There were just good vibes with people running past me, giving me the thumbs up and screaming, 'Happy Fourth of July!'" *



4

New Research Project Looks at Feasibility of a Hybrid Model for SHARE MILITARY INITIATIVE

A Combination of In-Person and Virtual Care could be a Permanent Model that has Lasting Benefits.

by: Sara Baxter



Shepherd Center's SHARE Military Initiative empowers post-9/11 veterans and service members with brain injury to live with hope and purpose by providing comprehensive and personalized rehabilitation care.

Can a hybrid model of care — one that combines in-person treatment and virtual services — effectively treat clients in Shepherd Center's SHARE Military Initiative? That's what a new research project funded by Wounded Warrior Project® (WWP) aims to find out.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, SHARE, a comprehensive program that treats post-9/11 service members and veterans with traumatic brain injuries (TBI) and any co-occurring psychological or behavioral health concerns, was one of several outpatient programs to shut down to reduce the risk of spreading the virus.

Staff members sprung to action to continue to meet the needs of their SHARE clients, and within four weeks, SHARE began operating as a remote telemedicine program, with therapy sessions offered to SHARE clients virtually. Once COVID-19 testing was in place, a small group returned to the hospital, enabling the SHARE staff to switch to a hybrid model where clients spent a week at Shepherd Center and then returned to their homes to complete virtual treatment.

"We were forced to innovate using existing technology to offer speech,

occupational and other therapies over a telemedicine platform," says Russell Gore, M.D., medical director of SHARE. "As a treatment program we learned a lot from that effort. Now, we want to test the effectiveness of the hybrid treatment model."

WWP's funding will cover the cost of growing and assessing hybrid treatment, including a new neuropsychology research fellow, who will develop research protocols, collect and analyze data, and conduct literature reviews.

"We believe that no one organization can solve the significant challenges that wounded veterans face," says WWP CEO Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Mike Linnington. "The investments we make into brain health research and partner organizations like Shepherd Center's SHARE Military Initiative are critical to building strong, resilient veteran families and communities."

"We are grateful for their support," adds Jon Roxland, senior director of philanthropy and partnerships at Shepherd Center. "Any time we can partner with a leading organization like Wounded Warrior Project, it increases the credibility and visibility of our program."

This two-year research study will look at two groups of 30 clients each (one group per year) and compare their outcomes with

those who only did in-person therapy. Along with Dr. Gore, Brick Johnstone, Ph.D., ABPP, Shepherd Center's O. Wayne Rollins Director of Brain Injury Research, will oversee the study. Jessica Pan Conklin, Ph.D., recently accepted the position of research fellow.

"This is an opportunity to gauge how hybrid care can affect patient outcomes," Dr. Gore says. "We hope it will be equivalent at the very least. If we can establish that certain variables predict a better outcome with in-person versus hybrid care, we can make recommendations supported by our data."

The researchers also hope to demonstrate how the hybrid model can improve access to care. Because of work and family commitments, it may not be feasible for clients to come to Shepherd Center for up to 12 weeks, the average length of stay. With the hybrid model, SHARE could also accommodate a greater number of clients.

Because of the nature of SHARE clients' injuries, they benefit greatly from being around each other, which is why the program is using a hybrid model combining telemedicine and in-person care.

"SHARE clients have complex histories and complex injuries," Dr. Johnstone says. "They need to be here with other veterans, but if we can demonstrate they also benefit from telemedicine, it provides us with more options."

The research also has implications for other similar programs across the country.

"SHARE has a reputation for effective, innovative clinical treatments for putting veterans' needs first," Dr. Johnstone says. "We can do more because we have a larger program. If we show the effectiveness of a hybrid model, it could be used in other places."

To learn more about the SHARE Military Initiative, visit shepherd.org/share. *



Dr. Gore (left) and Dr. Johnstone (right) are overseeing the study investigating the feasibility of a hybrid model of care for the SHARE Military Initiative.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE

2021 ANNIE OAKLEY TOURNAMENT

Friday, November 5, 2021
11:30 a.m.

Burge
44 Jeff Cook Road
Mansfield, GA 30055
annieoakleyshooters.org

LEGENDARY LATE NIGHT

Saturday, November 6, 2021
10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

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Atlanta, GA 30305
SCLateNight2021.givesmart.com

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Melinda Dabbiere
CHAIRMAN

Elaine Carlos
Kari Carlos
Angela Carlos
CHAIRMEN-ELECT

In order to promote the health and safety of our patrons, Shepherd Center and the 2021 Legendary Party will follow CDC guidelines for event gatherings. Please visit shepherd.org/legendary for more details.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON FOUNDATION SPECIAL EVENTS, PLEASE CONTACT:

Erica Spurling
Special Event Associate
404-350-7715
Erica.Spurling@shepherd.org

*2021 Legendary Party
Legendary Late Night*

Shanna Thorpe
Donor and Community Relations Associate
404-603-5064
Shanna.Thorpe@shepherd.org

*2021 Annie Oakley Tournament
Pecans on Peachtree*

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 April 1, 2021 and June 30, 2021.



Shepherd Center staff, family and friends gathered to celebrate Micah Brooks' graduation from Gates County High School.

Dunbar Josh Abston

Mr. and Mrs. Palmer Albertine
Ms. Susan T. Anderson
Mr. Brian Bendersky
Board of Governors and Staff
of Community Foundation of
Greater Memphis
Mrs. Cathy Garner
Mr. and Mrs. Michael D. Neel
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Ott
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Schiff

Carl Alexander

Mr. and Mrs. William C. Smith

Laura and Karl Anschutz

Ms. Esther L. Abisamra
Ms. Hope Abisamra

Judson Batts

Mr. William Jaynes

Lois Beauchamp

Mr. and Mrs. Fletch Homer

Darryl Bentley

Mr. and Mrs. James H. Shepherd III

Abraham "Abe" Besser

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Arogeti
Mrs. Sam Arogeti

Cheryl Binkley

Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Barfield

Ms. Nina Binkley Peterson

Mr. Pete Cannon
Mr. George O. Johnson
Mr. and Mrs. George I. Otwell
Mr. and Mrs. Whitney F.
Robichaux, Jr.
Mrs. Nancy Schumacher

Gwynn Lanier Blount

Mrs. William C. Hatcher

Ruth Shepherd Bozeman

Ms. Cheryl Shepherd Leonard

Alan Breitman

Mr. and Mrs. William R. Dowling, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Lewis R. Fisher

Brian "BB" Brown

Mrs. Sue L. Mobley

Nan Brown

Mrs. Sue L. Mobley

Robert Max Brown

Mr. and Mrs. Michael D. Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Caudell
J & K Utilities and Keith Hayes
Construction
Morgan Concrete Company, Inc.
Ms. Melinda Shiflet

Bruce Eugene Bryant

Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Jackson

Joy Butterfield

Mrs. Gloria Dobbs Cowart

Theresa Cantarella

Mr. and Mrs. Frank A. Devito

Monique Carpenter

Ms. Angela Carpenter

Doris Poss Cheatwood

Mr. and Mrs. Elmore C. Thrash, Jr.

Bobby Clark

Tom and Darnell Waggoner

Jesse Hicks Cook

Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie W. Camp

Henry Mann Daly

Ms. Helene P. Ahlers

Charlie Daniels

Mrs. Hazel Daniels

Betty Danielson

Mrs. Ralph A. Murphy

Frank Draper

Dr. and Mrs. David F. Apple, Jr.

Talmage "Tal" Dryman

Mrs. Gloria Dobbs Cowart
Mr. and Mrs. John S. Dryman
Mrs. William C. Hatcher

Cynthia Dundon

Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Cocca

Eugene "Gene" T. Dykes Jr.

Mr. M. Lamar Oglesby

Russell Flagle

Mrs. Carolyn Bogar

Ella Forrester

Mr. and Mrs. Billy T. Kennedy

David Gambrell

Mrs. Alana S. Shepherd
Mrs. Joan D. Woodall

Jeré Garde

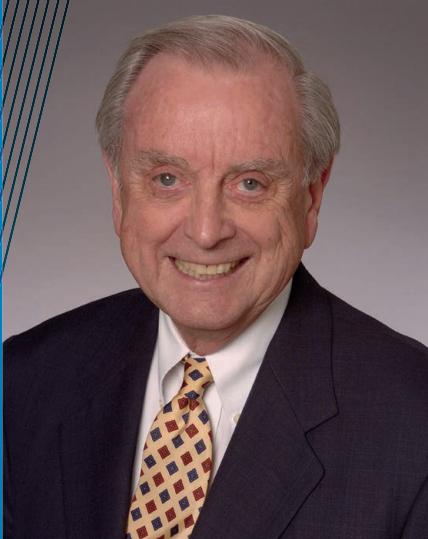
Ms. Geri Barsotti
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Brockway
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Harrell
Ms. Christine Okeefe
Mr. and Mrs. Chris Stuckey

Mary Budd George

Ms. Melanie Davis
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas R. Delcourt
Ms. Roslyn Gregory
Mrs. William C. Hatcher
Mr. and Mrs. James E. Segraves
Mr. and Mrs. Taylor Smith

Emory Schwall

1928-2021



On June 20, Shepherd Center Board of Directors member Emory Schwall passed away at the age of 93. Few individuals were more devoted to helping Shepherd Center and its patients than Emory and his wife, Peggy. A true southern gentleman with a heart of gold and a mischievous sense of humor, Emory championed Shepherd Center's mission from the beginning. He had a gift for storytelling and the courage to defend those in need. His service embodied the spirit of the Shepherd Center family, and he treasured all those who engaged in its mission.

Emory spent his career as an attorney for 70 years but donated countless hours of his personal time, as well as his considerable legal expertise, to Shepherd Center. In addition to his roles on the Board of Directors, which he served since 1987, Emory served in a leadership role for the 25th Anniversary Capital and Endowment Campaign and was instrumental in creating the Shepherd Center Foundation. In 2000, he established the Peggy and Emory Schwall Assistive Technology Endowment Fund. In 2005, he arranged for Peggy's estate jewelry to be sold, resulting in a unique opportunity to support Shepherd Center by creating several charitable gift annuities with the proceeds from the sale.

Of estate planning, Emory said: "I have long been a believer that gifts of jewelry, artwork, antiques and other non-income-producing assets afford individuals a unique way to support their favorite charities and maximize the impact of their philanthropy."

Mrs. Carol Abreu
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E. Adams
Mr. and Mrs. Tinley Anderson
Dr. and Mrs. David F. Apple, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow H. Barnes
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Bennett, Jr.
Dr. and Mrs. James L. Beskin
Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Boas
Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Botts
Ms. Cherrie Bowen
Mr. and Mrs. Frank C. Bowen
Boyd Collar Nolen Tuggle & Roddenberry
Mr. Christopher Brasher
Mr. James A. Caldwell III
Mr. and Mrs. Donald C. Chapman, Jr.
Lt.Col. and Dr. Kirk Chartier
Dr. and Mrs. Grady S. Clinkscales
The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta
Mrs. Gloria Dobbs Cowart
The Ruth and Talmage Dobbs, Jr. Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. John L. Donaldson
Mr. and Mrs. John S. Dryman
Dr. and Mrs. David M. DuBose
Mrs. David Forehand
Dr. and Mrs. Ramon S. Franco
Mr. and Mrs. Myron B. Golub
Gomel, Davis, & Watson, LLP
Mr. Leslie S. Griner
Mr. and Mrs. Larry G. Hailey
Mr. and Mrs. Charles D. Harman III

Mr. Chandler Haydon
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew J. Hill III
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Hill
Mrs. Patricia R. Hodges
Mr. and Mrs. Walt C. Hopkins, Jr.
Mrs. Mary Kay Howard
Mrs. Peggy B. Hull
Mr. and Mrs. John H. Irby
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Johansen
Mr. James F. Kelly
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph A. King
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Kramer
Mr. and Mrs. Steven J. Labovitz
Ms. Rebecca S. Landers
Ms. Deborah Levinson
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen R. Long
Ms. Alexandra Manning
Ms. Margaret M. McClellan
Mr. Dean Melcher
Mrs. Sarah A. Morrison
Dr. Jeffrey T. Nugent
Mrs. McKee Nunnally
The Attorney General and Mrs. Samuel S. Olens
Mr. C. Calhoun Peterson
Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Peterson, Jr.
Robbins Ross Alloy Belinfante Littlefield, LLC
Ms. Cathelene Robinson
Mr. John Robinson
Judge and Mrs. Jay Roth
Mr. James D. Satterfield and Mrs. Sandra E. Garber
Mr. Matthew Schroeders
Judge Craig L. Schwall
Mr. C. T. Segers
Ms. Sheryl Sellaway
Ms. Brooks Sheldon
Mrs. Alana S. Shepherd
Mr. and Mrs. James H. Shepherd III
Mr. and Mrs. Dell B. Sikes
Mrs. Daniel H. Silcox III
Mrs. C. Trippie Slade
Mr. and Mrs. Alan M. Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel D. Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Henry H. Smith III
Mr. and Mrs. William C. Smith
Stearns Montgomery & Proctor Stern and Edlin Family Law, P.C.
Ms. Charla Strawser
Mr. and Mrs. Frank B. Strickland, P.C.
Mr. David Summerlin
Dr. Susan Hurt Tanner and Mr. Robert G. Tanner
Mr. and Mrs. Albert I. Tarica
Mr. J. Tyler Tippett
Mrs. Terrence M. Tracy
The Voyles Family
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffery T. Wansley
Mr. and Mrs. John P. Waring
Mr. and Mrs. John D. Watkins, Jr.
Mr. Robert Wayne
Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Wynne
Dr. Michael Yochelson

Life-time friend and benefactor, Jane Woodruff, gave a legacy of hope and independence.



Jane Woodruff, seated, poses with her family at the October 18, 2015, dedication of her commemorative statue in front of the George and Irene Woodruff Family Residence Center.

On July 29, Jane Woodruff passed away peacefully at home. Just shy of her 96th birthday, Jane was a long-time friend of Shepherd Center and the Shepherd family. While humble and quiet, Jane believed in making a significant difference for the community, giving generously to help others.

Her wit and passion are only outmatched by the impact she achieved. For Jane, philanthropy wasn't about the transaction, but rather about the transformation. For more than 30 years, Jane invested in Shepherd's mission. She served as a founding member of the Board of Trustees, an emeritus member of the Advisory Board and she was Founding Life member of the Shepherd Center Auxiliary. Jane invested in our patients' futures through her inspiring generosity to Shepherd Center's capital campaigns, including lead gifts funding the Jane Woodruff Pavilion and the George and Irene Woodruff Family Residence Center, named for her parents, as well as other vital projects focusing on our patients and families. Her latest gift funded a refresh of the patient common areas, from the sixth floor family lounge to the newly renovated cafeteria.

When others said "I can't" support, Jane always found a way to say "I can." She did so with a passion at her core for our patients and families. She paved the way for our families to not worry about needing a roof over their heads so that they could focus on caring for their loved one. She urged us to be bold in advocating and caring for our patients and families. She wanted to ensure that we continued the legacy of delivering hope against all the odds.

From her beloved dog Penny to her family and her lifelong friendship with Alana Shepherd, Jane stood shoulder to shoulder with her friends. She would often join Alana for a visit in the Shepherd Center cafeteria, sharing stories of her enduring passion for life.

In her own words from the 2015 dedication of a garden statue of Jane, recognizing her partnership with Shepherd Center:

Good Afternoon My Friends!

I appreciate all of you coming today (on a Sunday afternoon) to help me get this bronze lady seated comfortably in this cozy, pretty place. I have told her she is going to be here for a long, long time! Forever! I wish I could be here forever, but she will represent me. I want to leave a symbol, a reminder, for all of you — the doctors, nurses and all employees at Shepherd Center.

You are the core of this hospital, and it is my great pleasure to dedicate this bronze statue to all of you. The patients at Shepherd are cared for by you, taught by you and encouraged by you. Every one of you special people gives your positive actions and caring every single day. I have seen this, and it is you who instill positive goals and strong attitudes into each patient. These professional messages of encouragement are the reason there are so many successes when leaving Shepherd. I am proud of Shepherd. I am proud of you and your sincere continual attention.

Please remember: The gratitude of all concerned with each patient includes me. This bronze lady's presence is dedicated to you and grateful for you every day. As you walk by at times, wave to me! Then look back again, I may be waving back!

Thank you.

John Gillespie Dr. and Mrs. Currell V. Berry Mr. and Mrs. Jim Bryan Mr. and Mrs. Fred P. Burke Mr. and Mrs. Dennis K. Calhoun Mr. and Mrs. Donald C. Chapman, Jr. Mr. and Mrs. Samuel I. DuBose Dr. and Mrs. John C. Garrett Mrs. Betty B. Hall Mr. and Mrs. R. Kent Hill Mr. and Mrs. John J. Huntz, Jr. Mr. and Mrs. Kirby Lewis Ms. Susan Lindley Mr. and Mrs. Phillips M. Maddox Mr. and Mrs. Robert G. McCauley Mrs. Kenneth T. Millar Mr. and Mrs. Alexander G. Morehouse Nantahala Outdoor Center Environmental & Humanitarian Mr. and Mrs. Eugene L. Pearce III Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Pliner Mr. and Mrs. Patrick G. Renn Ms. Suzanne H. Sullivan Mrs. Susan D. Verell Mr. and Mrs. Zach M. Wilson II	Justin Mahoney Ms. Linda Floyd Janice Manassa Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rigsby Katherine "Kay" McKenzie Dr. and Mrs. Carter Smith, Jr. John Minor III Hospitality Business Network Foundation, Inc. Greg Moore In remembrance of his 30th Birthday Ms. Kinsey Simmons Gregory "Greg" Moore Ms. Monica Araya Ms. Kelly Moore Barbara Jean Morgan Brightspring Health Services Warren Nell Mr. and Mrs. Joseph L. Cawood Christopher James Oneka Anonymous Golden State Foods Opelika Meat Commodities, Inc Gwen Plemmens Mrs. Vann G. Shackelford	Bartie and Oscar Plunket, Jr. Ms. Jane Plunket Cliff Ranew Ms. Risa Rambo Michael Reed J W R Jewelers, Inc. David Regenwor Ms. Elizabeth Taylor Dr. David Rosenthal Ms. Helene P. Ahlers Travis Roy Ms. Monique M. Prather Dartha Saltmarsh Dr. and Mrs. Jerome W. Lynn, Jr. Mrs. James O. Patterson Charles Shaffer Mrs. Lindsey Hopkins III Eadie Tant Mr. Dean Melcher Ms. Jessica Williams Kenneth Taratus Mrs. Kenneth S. Taratus Dr. Samuel P. Tillman Mr. C. Calhoun Peterson	Elizabeth "Liz" Towles Mrs. Gloria Dobbs Cowart Brooks Tyson Ms. Elaine Tyson Mary Caswell Umstead Mrs. Alana S. Shepherd Marion Hay Vincent Mr. and Mrs. James J. Hattler Mr. and Mrs. Joe Lawrence Roy Webb Mr. and Mrs. Dale C. Gentry Mr. and Mrs. Fidel Lara Mr. and Mrs. William L. Van Hout, Sr. David Wheeler Ms. Sally Wheeler Kerry White Ms. Elizabeth Beckemeyer Ms. Susan M. Greenfield Linda and Kathleen Smith Brian Wolf Manning Appraisal Service LLC Kenneth Wood Mr. and Mrs. C. Tut Smith
Sadie Hanger Mrs. and Mrs. James L. McCormick			
William Harrell Ms. Deloris Mercer			
John D. Harrison Mrs. William C. Hatcher			
William "Bill" Harrison Mrs. Alana S. Shepherd			
Dr. Donald "Bill" Heidecker Mr. and Mrs. James O. Watson			
Bruce Hilbrandt WWII Vet Mr. John Hilbrandt			
Steven Holloway Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Allegood Dr. Diane Drew Grotheer Mr. and Mr. Michael C. Keenan Holloway Suburban Software Systems, Inc Ms. Jean H. Willis			
Ronnie G. Hortman Mr. and Mrs. Gary W. Bramlett			
April "Niki" House Mr. and Mrs. Roy L. House			
Nathan Andrew Hurst Mr. and Mrs. Edwin R. Hudson			
Benjamin "Ben" M. Jennings Mr. and Mrs. C. Alexander Peterson			
Beverly Kercher Ms. Helene P. Ahlers			
John "Jack" Kern Mr. and Mrs. C. Alexander Peterson			
Rick Leone Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth M. Sarkis			
Curtis Lovejoy Mrs. Mary Kay Howard Dr. and Mrs. Donald P. Leslie Ms. Julia Murphy Ms. Carol J. Olsen			
Pen Lynbrook Ms. Phyllis Brooks			
Truesdale "Trudy" Grimes Madden Mrs. William C. Hatcher			

This year, 19 models participated in Project Rollway, Shepherd Center's annual fashion show benefiting its adolescent spinal cord and brain injury rehabilitation programs.

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 April 1, 2021 and June 30, 2021.



In their first tournament since 2019, the Shepherd Center Sluggers softball team won the 2021 Southeastern Slugfest.

Dr. Dave Apple's Birthday

Mrs. Sally Atwell
Mrs. Sarah A. Morrison
Mr. and Mrs. James H. Shepherd III

Dr. David Apple, Jr.

Mrs. Blanchette C. Maier

Cyndae Arrendale

Mr. and Mrs. Lige K. Sims

Sally Atwell

Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

Helen Batts' Birthday

Mr. William Jaynes

Sarah L. Batts' Birthday

Ms. Janet Abercrombie
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

Duncan Beard

Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Cheatwood
Mr. and Mrs. James M. Sibley, Jr.

David Bray, M.D.

Dr. and Mrs. Leonard Fishman

Nakuma Brown — Great ASW!

Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

Cole Burton

Mr. Ricky Bryant

Mary Busko

Mr. G. Alex Bernhardt, Sr.
Mr. and Mrs. Brian C. Thomas

James Curtis

Mr. and Mrs. James M. Wells III

Stephanie Davis

Mrs. Ann Abrams

Dr. Andrew Dennison — Excellent BOD Presentation!

Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

Angela Ebben — Great ASW!

Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

Kelly Edens — Great ASW!!!

Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

Travis Ellis

Mr. Dean Melcher
Mr. Gary Webb

Kathy Farris — Excellent BOD Presentation!

Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

Taylor Fralick Adkins — Thankful for the Shepherd Center

Ms. Jacqueline Fralick

Bill Furbish

Mrs. Barbara K. Furbish

Lou Gold's Birthday

Mr. and Mrs. Steven J. Labovitz

Edward Goldberg's Birthday

Mr. and Mrs. Harold I. Cohen

Debbie Goot's Birthday

Mr. and Mrs. Craig Goldstein

Dr. Gore and his work

Ms. Allison G. Spears

Sabrina Harrison — Great ASW!

Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

Caroline Hazel

Ms. Jordan M. Hinkebein

Jay Hendrix

Alpharetta Garden Club

David Hill

Mrs. Mary P. Feeney

Christopher Kelly

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

Susan Kendall

Ms. Victoria Hood

Deborah Krotenberg — Celebrating 26 years!

Mr. and Mrs. Marvin H. Krotenberg

Jessica Lackey's Birthday

Harleyville First United Methodist Church
Ms. Karen Kendo

Cheryl Linden — Great Project Rollway MC!

Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

Tatum Love — We are happy you are home

Ms. Cynthia Bright

Joy MacLeod

Anonymous

Bernie Marcus' Birthday

Mr. and Mrs. Mark Mix

Mark Matthews' Birthday

Ms. Mary Ann Matthews



Gavin McClintock — Great ASW!

Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

William "Will" Meadows

Mr. and Ms. Richard H. Meadows

Caroline Moore

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Moore

Sheila Morris — CARF Guidance Thank you!

Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

Ryan Narramore

Anonymous

Hugh and Dotty Nelson

Mrs. John E. Duggan

Michelle Nemeth — CARF Guidance Thanks!

Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

Daniel Nugent's Birthday

Mr. and Mrs. Gerald F. Nicely

Lynn Patrick

Mr. and Mrs. Brian C. Thomas

Michelle Dillard Pfeiffer

Jeter Hrubala Wealth Strategies

Roger Prock

Mr. and Mrs. Granville B. Prock

Forever grateful for Fred's recovery

Ms. Becca Pack

The Daniel Family

Mr. James Malatos

Kelly Regal — For your Leadership

Mr. and Mrs. Frank S. Blake

Pete Robinson

Mr. C. Calhoun Peterson

Darren Rosing — Congratulations Graduate

Barbra, Phillip, and Paul Rosing

Debbie Scavone's Birthday

Ms. Margaret Scavone

David Staley

Anonymous
Mr. Scott Austin
Mr. and Mrs. John T. Barker, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Beman
Mr. Greg Bradley
Mr. Gary Condon
Ms. Pam Deboy
Ms. Rosemarie Leypoldt
Net Tech, Inc.
Ms. Julie Osterland
Ms. Wendy Rentschler
The Stanley Family Giving Fund
Mr. Justin Swaim
Mr. and Mrs. Kevin R. Turpin
Mr. Bob Tyrel
Mr. Chris Wright

Barbara Stanford

Ms. Madison Stanford

Zoey Madeline Swindall — Congratulations!

Mr. and Mrs. James H. Shepherd III

Sammy Tanenblatt's Graduation

Mr. and Mrs. Steven J. Labovitz

Dr. Thrower and his Team

Ms. Donna Lister

Lauren Tucker — Great ASW and great driving to ASW!

Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

JT Turner — You are an inspiration

Mr. William James

Tommy Vance

Ms. Molly Strickland

Wes Varda

Mr. James W. Varda

Joe Watkins

Gulfstream Aerospace Corp.

James W. Wells II's 75th Birthday

Mr. and Mrs. Jack K. Holland

Chris Wooten

Ms. Gayle Niskala

Andrew Worrell

Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.
Mr. James R. Calise
Mr. and Mrs. Matt Chalfa
Mr. and Mrs. Brenden Harper
Mr. and Mrs. John O. Hinson
Mr. and Mrs. Russ Mitchell
Mrs. Sarah A. Morrison
Ms. Catherine Onley
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Quirk
Mr. and Mrs. James H. Shepherd III
Ms. Meredith Underwood
Mr. and Mrs. Travis E. Weatherly
Mr. and Mrs. Mark M. Whitney

Chaundra Wright

Mr. and Mrs. David Wright

Mak Yost

Ms. Candace English



In town to race in the AJC Peachtree Road Race Shepherd Center Wheelchair Division, Paralympic medalist and eight-time AJC Peachtree Road Race winner Tatyana McFadden stopped by Shepherd Center to surprise fan and patient Victoria McGruder.



Shepherd Center

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

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Check Out Our New Quarterly Innovation Update

This year, Shepherd Center launched its quarterly Innovation Update newsletter. The newsletter demonstrates how the hospital is innovating to transform patient care at Shepherd Center and around the world, today and far into the future. Each issue will feature Shepherd's latest research, technology, clinical advancements and stories of hope. Scan the QR code with your phone's camera to sign up and begin receiving your innovation updates! *



Scan the QR code
to sign up.



Innovation Update

Shepherd
Center's
Innovation
Initiatives




Shepherd
Center