

MEDICAL TREATMENT • RESEARCH • REHABILITATION

# Shepherd

## Center Spinal Column®

REMEMBERING

# JAMES SHEPHERD

James was the catalyst for  
Shepherd Center to become the  
bridge from "I can't" to "I can."

ALSO INSIDE

PATIENT HEALS THROUGH LOVE OF DANCE + VOLUNTEERING TO SUPPORT  
CAREGIVERS + JUNIOR COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR CONTINUES FAMILY LEGACY

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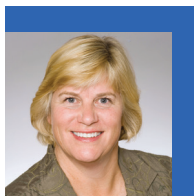
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#### ABOUT THE COVER:

James Shepherd, pictured here in the  
Anna and Hays Mershon Secret Garden,  
was a good-humored and loyal father, son  
and friend, a devoted Georgia Bulldog, an  
advocate and visionary. *Photo by Gary W. Meek.*

## LETTER FROM SARAH MORRISON



Dear Readers,

The past few months have produced intense emotions in us all. We are truly living in unprecedented times.

On December 21, 2019, we said goodbye to our beloved James Shepherd. In addition to being a passionate leader and the catalyst behind Shepherd Center's founding in 1975, James was a devoted family man and a dedicated friend.

We have been incredibly grateful for the outpouring of profound love and support from people across the country, and even around the globe, who were affected by James' voracious will to live life with hope, dignity and independence. James' resilient spirit and good humor affected the lives of so many and have served as motivation for me every day during my more than 35 years at Shepherd.

More recently, the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic has challenged all of us to change the way we operate. In these times of change and uncertainty, I want you to know that Shepherd Center remains guided by its mission to serve our patients, their caregivers, our staff and the community. James would often say, "Shepherd Center is the bridge between I can't and I can." If he were here now, even as we take on the challenges of COVID-19, I can't help but think he would want us to continue focusing on building and fortifying those bridges and providing the pre-eminent clinical care we provide every day.

In the pages ahead, you'll learn about others within our Shepherd family who have emerged stronger because of their time at Shepherd Center, but also as a result of their own commitment to pursuing what's possible. Accomplishing what's possible is a result of the human spirit, the love and dedication of family members, the passion of our tireless care teams and innovation.

You will read about Erma Freeman, who has worked at Shepherd Center for more than 32 years. She approaches case management with determination to advocate for our patients' needs as they go through what is most likely one of the most challenging times of their lives. Erma helps patients and their families get the most out of their time at Shepherd Center while also assuring that they have a smooth transition to their home and community.

You will also meet Anne Nelson. After sustaining a spinal cord injury, Anne could have focused on the daunting parts of the task before her to find her new normal. Our staff helped Anne identify the path to help her recover not just physically, but also emotionally. Anne chose to take each challenge one day at a time and use her passion for dance to recover.

Surrounded by people like Erma, Anne and you, I am proud and humbled to lead a hospital that helps so many on their journey to recovery. We have a strong and dynamic leadership team, experienced staff and volunteers in place, and with your continued support, we will continue to build upon our foundation to ensure Shepherd Center's future for generations to come.

At Shepherd Center, our mission is built on persevering through tragedy with hard work, hope, humor and the willingness to always go above and beyond. The past few months have presented us with unforeseen challenges, but we will get through this together. In my 35 years at Shepherd Center, there has never been a moment where we did not triumph over challenges, and I know we will do it this time as well. Let's continue the work James inspired nearly 45 years ago – building the bridge from "I can't" to "I can."

With thanks,

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



Spring 2020 • Shepherd Center

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Shepherd Center was founded in 1975 by James, Alana and Harold Shepherd along with David Apple, M.D.



See [news.shepherd.org](http://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](http://shepherd.org).



## Shepherd Center Chief Operating Officer Jamie Shepherd, MBA, MHA, Recognized by Atlanta Business Chronicle as One of Atlanta's 40 Under Forty

Jamie Shepherd, MBA, MHA, chief operating officer of Shepherd Center, was honored as one *Atlanta Business Chronicle's* 40 Under Forty.

In his role as COO, Shepherd is responsible for the administrative direction, evaluation and coordination of clinical operations. He provides leadership, management and strategic vision to ensure Shepherd Center has the proper processes and resources in place to optimize the clinical operations of the hospital, and ensure financial strength and operating efficiency.

"We're very proud for Jamie to receive this well-deserved recognition as one of Atlanta's 40 leaders under 40," says Sarah Morrison, PT, MBA, MHA, president and CEO of Shepherd Center. "As chief operating officer of Shepherd Center, he is a leader who lives the mission every single day. His leadership style makes a significant difference with our employees which leads to our superior clinical outcomes. He is poised to lead Shepherd Center for many years to come."

Shepherd also oversees the hospital's community services and risk management functions. In his community services role, Shepherd provides guidance and support to patients and their families after discharge by engaging them in

programs that promote health, wellness and independence, aiding in the reduction of unplanned readmissions and their associated costs.

Shepherd, the son of Shepherd Center co-founder, the late James H. Shepherd, Jr., has carried on his family's tradition of dedication to Shepherd Center's mission of helping people with a temporary or permanent disability caused by injury or disease, rebuild their lives with hope, independence and dignity.

"I am honored and humbled to be part of the third generation of our family working at Shepherd Center," Shepherd says. "My vision is to build on the strong foundation my father and grandparents have put in place while maintaining our unique culture."

Shepherd is a founding member of the Shepherd Center Foundation fundraising group called Shepherd Center Society and also serves as a board member of Shepherd Center. In addition, he represents the hospital at numerous fundraisers and community events.

Shepherd previously served as the director of community services and risk management and as a strategic project analyst at Shepherd Center, reporting



Jamie Shepherd, right, accepts the 40 Under Forty award.

directly to the chief financial officer and director of quality.

He earned his bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Georgia, as well as master's degrees in business administration and health administration from Georgia State University.

The new class was selected by a panel of past winners of the 40 Under Forty award from just over 400 nominations submitted on the *Atlanta Business Chronicle* website. They were celebrated at an evening awards event on Nov. 7, 2019, at The Fairmont in Atlanta. \*

## Michael Yochelson, M.D., MBA, Sworn in to Georgia Behavioral Health Reform and Innovation Commission



Michael Yochelson, M.D., MBA

Shepherd Center Chief Medical Officer Michael Yochelson, M.D., MBA, was sworn in by Georgia Governor Brian Kemp to serve on the Georgia Behavioral Health Reform and Innovation Commission in September 2019. Working with communities and families, this commission of legislators, judges, subject matter experts and citizens will examine how the state can improve access and delivery of behavioral health services for the people of Georgia.

Dr. Yochelson joined Shepherd Center as chief medical officer in August 2017, bringing with him both a depth of knowledge and passion for neu-

rorehabilitation. Dr. Yochelson came to Shepherd Center from MedStar National Rehabilitation Network in Washington, D.C., where he served as vice president of medical affairs and chief medical officer. In addition to being a board-certified neurologist and physiatrist, Dr. Yochelson also has served in an academic capacity as a professor and vice chair of clinical affairs in the department of rehabilitation medicine and professor of clinical neurology at Georgetown University. Dr. Yochelson began his medical career in the United States Navy, where he served from 1995 to 2006. \*

## Shepherd Center Names Three to Leadership Team



Marsha Hanson, RN, BSN, CRRN

### Shepherd Center has named three new leaders.

**Marsha Hanson, RN, BSN, CRRN,** began her tenure as director of outpatient services on Oct. 1, 2019. With this promotion, Hanson will direct Shepherd Center's Outpatient Services, which includes the Andrew C. Carlos Multiple Sclerosis Institute, Shepherd Spine and Pain Institute, the Multi-Specialty Clinic, Urology Clinic, Wound Clinic, Call Center and Medical Imaging Services. She will be responsible for the department's activities and operations, providing oversight of program management activities, including business development, clinical services and financial growth.

Hanson began her career at Shepherd Center 23 years ago as a patient care technician. She has since served as a nurse, clinical research manager, clinical research coordinator, and most recently, the clinical application supervisor helping Shepherd Center implement Epic, its electronic medical record system.

On Oct. 7, 2019, **Joe Nowicki** joined Shepherd Center as associate vice president of facility services. In this role, Nowicki will lead, coordinate and oversee engineering, transportation, security and construction for all Shepherd Center properties. Nowicki will also ensure Shepherd Center's compliance with The Joint Commission, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Commission on Accreditation of



Joe Nowicki

Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), and other applicable codes and regulations.

Nowicki has more than 28 years of experience in facilities operations, environment of care compliance, financial administration and operations of general healthcare facilities and five years in the hospitality industry. Most recently, he served as administrator of the environment of care and facilities operations at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, South Carolina. Before that, he served as vice president of facilities operations and in various other similar roles at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.

**Chris Maurer, MPT, ATP,** accepted the role of program manager of the Assistive Technology Center (ATC). She



Chris Maurer, MPT, ATP

succeeds John Anschutz, ATP, RET, the founding program manager, who retired August 30.

Chris joined Shepherd Center in 1995 as a senior physical therapist in the SCI Day Program, and she has been working in the Seating and Wheelchair Clinic for the past 20 years. She brings a wealth of experience and ideas concerning ways to expand, improve and better integrate ATC services. Chris' reputation in the field extends well beyond Shepherd Center, as she has been actively involved in rehabilitation engineering research and the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA) for many years. \*

## Sarah Morrison Shares Bold and Brilliant Ideas at TEDx Event

Climate advocacy, innovation, the future of education and gender equality – these were just some of the topics discussed during the TEDxCentennialParkWomen event held on Friday, December 6, 2019 at Cox Enterprises. The event theme was "Bold & Brilliant," focusing on thought-provoking ideas from Atlanta's most extraordinary risk-takers and innovators.



Sarah Morrison, PT, MBA, MHA, president and CEO of Shepherd Center, was one of the featured speakers at the event. Her talk focused on the bold and brilliant ways Shepherd Center uses innovation, humor and hope to inspire new beginnings for patients after sustaining spinal cord and brain injuries.

To view Sarah's talk, visit the TEDx Talks YouTube channel and search for Sarah Morrison. \*



SPOTLIGHT

# Volunteering to Support Caregivers

Shepherd Center’s Brain Injury Family Peer Support Program works to support family members caring for loved ones who have sustained brain injuries.

BY DAMJANA ALVERSON

Have you ever volunteered for a cause you cared about? If so, you know that giving your time and effort selflessly is rewarding, memorable and fulfilling.

Ruth Batchelor, peer liaison at Shepherd Center, can relate. After her daughter Jordyn sustained a traumatic brain injury (TBI) in 2016, Ruth began volunteering as a family peer mentor at Shepherd Center. Family peer mentors are caregivers who have navigated a loved one’s brain injury (BI) and have valuable insight they want to share with families who are just starting their caregiving journey.

“Being a caregiver can be tricky, tiring and scary,” Ruth says. “The way I took control was by taking an active role in learning everything Shepherd Center had to offer while I was there for three and a half months with my daughter. Now, I find it rewarding to build trusting relationships with family members and loved ones who are going through a tough time. I want caregivers to know that I really want to help.”

Ruth volunteered at Shepherd Center twice a month supporting family members for several years and has since been hired to work part-time on Shepherd’s peer support team. She also sits on the peer advisory board of Shepherd Center’s Brain Injury Family Peer Support Program, an initiative that officially launched in 2018. The BI Family Peer Support Program is a relatively recent addition to the Peer Support Program, which has existed at Shepherd Center since its founding in 1975.

“We saw brain injury caregiver burnout happening and wanted to formalize a way to help families prepare for their new normal,” says Pete Anziano, peer support manager at Shepherd Center. “If we can intervene early on to help caregivers see that life can be good and fulfilling even though their loved one may have lasting side effects of their injuries, then we have succeeded.”

The BI Family Peer Support Program is run by Claire Holley, acquired brain injury peer support coordinator, and Mariellen Jacobs, peer liaison – two women who know what it’s like to be the family member of a BI survivor. At age 18, Claire’s daughter Amelia had a stroke after one of many brain surgeries, resulting in difficulty with

cognition, vision, moving and speaking. Since her stroke, Amelia has experienced improvements, returned to school and continues to work to get better each day. Mariellen’s son Clark was injured after he fell, sound asleep, from his loft bed, which did not have a safety rail to the hard floor below, causing a brain injury and stroke. Mariellen and Clark have since started a nonprofit organization, Rail Against the Danger, which works to educate students and parents about the need for rails.

Mariellen and Claire work tirelessly to educate and support family members who have begun their caregiver journey and may be experiencing similar hardships.

“We work with the rest of the rehabilitation team to augment the work they are doing,” Claire explains. “We are not there to make diagnoses or to give medical advice. We are there to relate to people through shared experiences and help them feel heard and supported.”

At any given time, the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Program serves approximately 60 patients on an inpatient basis and an additional 25 on an outpatient basis at Shepherd Pathways, each with loved ones and family members learning how to care for them and adjust to their new normal. With this great of a need, Claire and Mariellen count on a dedicated pool of volunteers to accomplish their important work.

“Our volunteers provide an invaluable service,” Mariellen says. “We are recruiting family peer mentors to help as many caregivers as possible. Ideally, we will build a volunteer pool with a diverse set of experiences so we can relate to patient families no matter what brought them to Shepherd Center.”

Volunteers must complete an onboarding process including face-to-face meetings and online training (outlined in the graphic in this article). Once this is complete, they are cleared to be matched with one of Shepherd’s families currently experiencing a similar injury and prognosis.

“Being a volunteer is so rewarding,” Ruth says. “There is an initial time investment to get started, but the satisfaction you get from someone trusting you and knowing you are there for them is well worth it.”

If you or someone you know would be interested in becoming a BI family peer mentor at Shepherd Center, contact Mariellen at [mariellen.jacobs@shepherd.org](mailto:mariellen.jacobs@shepherd.org) or 404-603-5012. \*



Mariellen Jacobs and Claire Holley run the Brain Injury Family Peer Support Program.

PHOTO BY HEATHER HERCHER



## LONGTIME CASE MANAGER DISCUSSES THE MANY HATS THEY WEAR

Erma Freeman, MSW, LCSW, CCM, is a case manager with Shepherd Center’s Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation Program.

BY KERRY LUDLAM



### Q: How did your career with Shepherd Center begin?

I came to Shepherd Center as a social worker. When hospitals transitioned to case management, I decided to take on the role of case manager. It was a bit different from what I did as a social worker, but I quickly realized that my skill set as a social worker had prepared me for the role as a case manager

### Q: What has led you to spend so much of your career at Shepherd Center?

On September 21, 2019, I celebrated 32 years of employment at Shepherd Center. Working with and being an advocate for patients as they go through the most challenging time in their lives brings a very high degree of job satisfaction to me. I love seeing patients obtain positive outcomes, no matter how small or large. When patients return to Shepherd to visit years or months later and seeing the functional or social changes some of them have made, it’s an experience that makes my day.

PHOTOS BY PHIL SKINNER



Left, Erma Freeman, MSW, LCSW, CCM, is a case manager, who has worked at Shepherd Center for more than 32 years. Above, Erma Freeman works with her colleagues Burnise Charpentier-Mack and Tammy Arnold.

### Q: In your opinion, what role does a case manager play with a patient and their family?

The role of a case manager is very extensive. No two days are the same. We are patient advocates, team leaders, counselors, discharge planners and more. We spend a large part of our day meeting with patients and families, collaborating with interdisciplinary team members, working with insurance company case managers and doing anything else our patients might need.

### Q: What is something people might not know about case managers?

Something people may not realize about case managers is that we are required to know everything about a patient’s rehabilitation process. We wear several hats and have to be flexible at all times.

### Q: What do you love about your job?

I love making a difference in the lives of patients and their families. I also love being a part of a team of people who care about the patients we serve. We all have the same goal of ensuring that patients have the very best outcomes. \*

## INTERESTING FACTS

### EDUCATION

#### Atlanta University

- Master’s degree in social work

Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) and Certified Case Manager (CCM)

### FUN FACTS

Erma is an avid traveler who loves cruising throughout the United States and Europe.

She grew up in the British and U.S. Virgin Islands. “The ocean is a huge part of who I am. The ocean is my happy place,” Erma says.

Erma enjoys walking, reading, cooking and spending time with her family, including her 11-year-old granddaughter and close friends.

More online at [news.shepherd.org](http://news.shepherd.org)



REMEMBERING

# James Shepherd

Described as a good-humored prankster, die-hard Georgia Bulldog, kind friend and tireless advocate for our patients, families and staff, James was the catalyst for Shepherd Center to become the bridge from “I can’t” to “I can.”



**Family** Son, Father, Grandfather and Friend



**University of Georgia** A Damn Good Dawg



**Disability Community** An Advocate



**Paving the Way** A Visionary





# Everyone, it seems, has a story about how they first met James Shepherd.

Maybe they grew up together in Atlanta or were classmates at the Westminster Schools. For others, they met the avid Bulldog in Athens as students at the University of Georgia. Some worked alongside the businessman at Shepherd Construction and Plant Improvement. Others might have fallen for one of his notorious pranks, a sure sign he considered you a friend.

But for many people, the story of how they met James began with his life-changing spinal cord injury in 1973. James, along with his parents Alana and the late Harold Shepherd, and David Apple, M.D., founded Shepherd Center after James sustained a paralyzing spinal cord injury in 1973. James completed spinal cord injury rehabilitation at Craig Hospital in Denver, where five months later he walked out with a brace and a crutch.

For some, that would have been enough. But for James and his family, it wasn't. They wanted others to have access to state-of-the-art rehabilitation care in the southeastern United States, so they galvanized support among the Atlanta community to open Shepherd Center. It quickly became clear that James was never going to let his injury get in the way of him doing something he wanted to do - and he never did. Together with his family, he turned his tragedy into a lifelong passion.

On December 21, 2019, James H. Shepherd, Jr. died as he lived - a good-humored and loyal father, grandfather, son and friend, a devoted Georgia Bulldog, an advocate and a visionary.

## Son, Father, Grandfather and Friend

James had a profound love and trust for his family that was visible in almost every area of his life. One of his greatest joys had been raising his children and having them officially join Shepherd Center's mission - son Jamie as chief operating officer and daughter Julie as a case management team leader. James was also the doting grandfather to four and took every chance to talk about his grandchildren.

"James felt great pride in founding such an incredible organization with his family," says Sarah Morrison, PT, MBA, MHA, president and CEO of Shepherd Center. "He felt immense love and absolute pride for his children, Jamie and Julie, knowing they will lead the next generation of Shepherd Center to even greater heights."



1. James, pictured here with patient Sgt. Rick Hales and Selina Hales, often attended patient graduations and milestone events. 2. James, a native of Atlanta, was the son of Alana and Harold Shepherd and brother to Tommy and Dana Shepherd. 3. The Shepherd family maintains a constant presence at Shepherd Center. 4. James, alongside parents Harold and Alana, completed spinal cord injury rehabilitation at Craig Hospital. 5. Sarah Morrison, PT, MBA, MHA, president and CEO of Shepherd Center, has worked with three generations of the Shepherd family at Shepherd Center.



PHOTO BY LOUIE FAVORITE



Nearly every day until his passing, James could be found in Shepherd Center's cafeteria having lunch with his family - a time he used to connect with them, but also to connect with patients and their families. He knew how important family is to the rehabilitation process and aimed to make Shepherd Center a place where patients and families alike felt supported and welcomed.

"I'm so grateful to James' tight-knit family for sharing him with so many," says Kathy Slonaker, BS, RN, CRRN, an admissions triage nurse at Shepherd Center and long-time friend. "A colleague once remarked that James had the biggest family in the world because he made everyone feel like family."

James was also known as a quick-witted friend with a penchant for well-timed jokes.

"I always knew that he was going to have a good joke in every meeting," says Susan Hawkins, chair of Shepherd Center's Board of Trustees. "I knew I was not going to leave without him saying something that made me laugh."

Fred Alias is a long-time friend of James' and a member of Shepherd Center's Board of Directors.

"I have known James my entire adult life, and the thing I liked the most was his smile," Alias says. "It was always a little devilish on one side and angelic on the other."

James never outgrew his love of a good prank, especially if it fell on April Fool's Day.

"He had a great sense of humor and fiery wit," Morrison says. "James loved to punk people. We all knew what a prankster he was, yet that never stopped many of us from falling for his pranks. Despite this, James had an intense respect for the staff. He was our champion - probably in many ways you would never realize."



## Thank You!

As a family and an organization, we have been truly humbled by the outpouring of support from patients, families, staff and friends from all over the country and the world.

We received thousands of cards, notes and comments on social media with messages of hope, funny stories about James and kind words of support and affirmation.

Even as we grieve, we are grateful for those who reached out in their own way, and we celebrate the family we have all formed together.

God bless his family in this time of need. Because they blessed our family when our son spent 3.5 months there from a spine and brain injury. He is now in college for aeronautics maintenance.

- JENNY SILLMAN-JOHNSTON

James changed our lives 12 years ago when my husband broke his neck. I am so thankful for his tireless advocacy, which changed so many lives.

And I'm also thankful for his friendship and sharing our love of SEC football (even if we didn't agree on teams...).

He will be greatly missed by our family.

- ERIN HAYES

There are no words - just heartfelt prayers and condolences to all of the Shepherd family.

This is such a great loss for all of us, but he taught us all and led by example to always be kind and forward-thinking!!

He certainly left this world a better place and it is up to each of us to pay it forward to keep the culture and the legacy alive. His work is done, but ours has just begun.

May GOD enjoy your April FOOL's antics as much as we did.

- SINCERELY AND WITH LOVE, DALISE ROBINSON AND FAMILY

We are so heartbroken.

Mr. Shepherd greeted us with open arms from day one. He watched Logan's progress and he would tell me things that I hadn't noticed. Even in his busy schedule he would come and talk to us. He stopped us every time in the hall, and he would sit with us during some church services. He was truly a light that shined.

I guess we got to know him so well because his accident was on the same day, about the same time as Logan's, just years apart. From then on, he was our friend. In June, he came to the gym and told Logan he had watched him grow for 3 years and he said, "You have no limits." I'm so glad I hugged his neck and told him what he meant to our family. Sometimes we don't understand why things happen, but you could see how God took James Shepherd's accident and helped so many, saved so many.

Mr. Shepherd was truly a servant who gave hope every day to others and will continue to. His light will always shine here on earth and now in heaven.

- ROBIN DIAN SMITH

Sending prayers and condolences to the Shepherd family. May God fill you with peace. Through James Shepherd's tragic injuries all those years ago came some many miraculous recoveries and lives forever helped by the Shepherd Center.

We are so grateful for everything the Shepherd Center did for us.

- LYNN RUPP BAILEY





I was fortunate to spend some time with James, although briefly, in June 2019. He was a kind man who worked diligently to make life better for others with a spinal cord injury. My condolences to his mom Alana, his children and the staff that adored him. Rest easy and know you made a difference in so many lives.

— BERNADETTE FINNEGAN-MAURO



1. James was a devoted father to son Jamie, who is the chief operating officer at Shepherd Center, and Julie, who is a case management leader at Shepherd Center. 2. James had an adventurous spirit, embarking on a backpacking trip around the world after graduating from the University of Georgia. 3. James, pictured here with his father Harold, son Jamie and granddaughter Annie, always enjoyed family time. 4. One of James' proudest moments was receiving an honorary doctorate of laws from the University of Georgia.



## A Damn Good Dawg

James made no secret of his love for the Georgia Bulldogs. A 1973 graduate of the University of Georgia's Terry College of Business, James was the ultimate UGA fan and evangelist, both for the school and its athletic program. After a beautiful fall football weekend, James would often greet colleagues, patients and families with, "So, what'd you think about that game this weekend?"

"His love of UGA was enormous, and he gave so much of his time and talents to the business school and the athletic department," Slonaker says. "He touched so many lives of students and student athletes, including those UGA students and staff members who became patients here at Shepherd Center."

His commitment to his alma mater did not end upon his graduation but rather strengthened through the years as both of his children graduated from the school. James returned to UGA several times to speak to students and even established a scholarship for first-generation college students.

"The University of Georgia is deeply honored to call James Shepherd an alumnus," says Jere Morehead, president of the University of Georgia. "He lived a life of profound impact and inspiration, making his alma mater very proud at every turn. His legacy of hope and healing will continue to teach and lift up the Bulldog Nation long into the future."

One of the honors James was proudest of was receiving an honorary doctorate of laws from the University of Georgia, a recognition made even more special because he received it alongside his parents. In addition to receiving the honorary doctorate at the spring 2011 commencement ceremony, James also gave the commencement speech, during which he said:

"The story of our lives is not what happens to us, it's what we do about it."

## An Advocate

While James and his family created a haven for people in need of neurorehabilitation at Shepherd Center, that was only part of their mission. James also aimed to create a world outside Shepherd Center's walls that was more thoughtful and inclusive of people with disabilities.

He regularly communicated with community leaders, legislators and the news media to increase public awareness. He also toured groups through Shepherd Center, spoke to community organizations, and made advocates and supporters of the many people he reached.



1. James made a point to visit with patients on the floors and in the gyms to keep them motivated through their rehabilitation. 2. James and his mother Alana attended the 2018 Legendary Party which honored his parents, Shepherd Center co-founders Alana and Harold Shepherd.

PHOTOS BY GARY MEEK AND BEN ROSE





Absolutely hate to hear this. Shepherd Center and staff saved my life when I went there almost 5 years ago for my traumatic brain injury. I am forever grateful to this facility.

God bless this man and his work. He has helped countless people and is a blessing to so many. Prayers to yours, your family, friends and staff.

— RYAN SINCLAIR

In Atlanta and beyond, he actively served on numerous boards and committees to further education and research to benefit people with disabilities. He served as director of the National Rehabilitation Awareness Foundation, on the Board of Directors of the Georgia Institute of Technology's Center for Rehabilitation Technology, the Governor's Spinal Cord and Brain Injury Trust Fund Authority and as a board member of Initiative 2000 (a celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act). He also served as a delegate for the White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals, as well as on the Steering Committee for the First Presbyterian Church of Atlanta, which led the Interfaith Conference on Disability Awareness. He was an active volunteer in the community, having volunteered on the accessibility advisory committees of MARTA, Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport, the Georgia World Congress Center and the Georgia Dome.

"James was committed to doing everything in his power to rebuild the lives of the people in our care, both inside Shepherd Center and out in the world," Morrison says. "There wasn't a day that went by that you could not feel and see his influence."

### A Visionary

In 1975, just two years after James sustained a spinal cord injury, Shepherd Center began as a six-bed unit operating out of leased space in an Atlanta hospital. James was able to leverage the business savvy and connections he'd honed working alongside his family at Shepherd Construction and Plant Improvement with the passion he felt to help people reclaim their lives after illness or injury.

"James was a forward thinker – always with the staff, patients and their families in mind," says David Apple, M.D., medical director emeritus and Shepherd Center co-founder. "James had a sense of humor, which endeared him to staff and friends. James was the epitome of one who turned tragedy into triumph."

Today, Shepherd Center is a state-of-the-art facility with 152 beds, including a 10-bed intensive care unit.

"James saw Shepherd Center with a 360-degree vision from the perspective of the patient, the medical and rehabilitation professionals, those providing care, encouragement and support, as well as those

receiving care, encouragement and support," says James D. Thompson, vice president of Shepherd Center's Board of Directors. "His experience allowed him to understand Shepherd Center from the perspective of rehabilitation, operations, regulatory, finance, charitable giving, as well as community and governmental relations. James' legacy is wide and deep."

As chairman of the Board of Directors of Shepherd Center for nearly 45 years, James led the hospital to become the pre-eminent center of excellence for care and research for patients and families experiencing spinal cord injury, brain injury, multiple sclerosis, spine and chronic pain, and other neuromuscular conditions.

"James devoted his life to ensuring Shepherd Center's teams could take the so-called impossible cases and help people put their lives back together," Morrison says. "Thanks to him, thousands of patients and families have found a pathway to independence, hope and dignity."

While James certainly had the strategic vision to build Shepherd Center into a thriving organization, perhaps where he excelled



most was in creating the culture that Shepherd Center is known for – one of hope, hard work and humor.

"One of the biggest parts of James' legacy is the culture he helped build," Hawkins says. "We foster hope instead of despair, and

we believe in helping everyone live a life of purpose. It's who we are and how we live."

Before his passing, James was instrumental in launching Vision 2025 which was composed of touchstones for Shepherd Center to accomplish by 2025, the year of its 50th anniversary.

"With James' leadership, patients and families have remained our true north as we plan for the future," Morrison says. "He was incredibly excited to see Vision 2025 come to fruition. Achieving our goals of expanding patient access to all services, inspiring transformation through innovation and delivering a world-class experience for all patients and families is the best way we can both honor and carry on his legacy."

In its nearly 45 years, it is estimated that Shepherd Center has changed the lives of nearly 30,000 patients – all because James had the strength to turn his life-altering injury into a bridge from I can't to I can.

Simply put, I realize I would not be here if James had not had his accident, explains Sally Nunnally, a long-time friend, member of the Board of Directors and early patient of Shepherd Center. "And there are thousands more like me who can say the same thing. If he had not had his accident and reacted the way he did, thousands of people's lives would be very different. James paved the way." \*

Written by Kerry Ludlam



1. James Shepherd, James Yancey and Henry H. Smith with the American Institute of Architects pose with a bulldozer during a renovation of Shepherd Center in the 1980s. 2. James, along with co-founders and parents Alana and Harold, knew how important family was to the rehabilitation process and aimed to create a family-like atmosphere at Shepherd Center. 3. A University of Georgia graduate and die-hard fan, James gave the commencement speech at UGA's 2011 graduation ceremony. PHOTO BY GARY MEEK

1. James, right, chats with Shepherd Center co-founder David Apple, M.D., after AJC Peachtree Road Race. 2. James completed his rehabilitation at Craig Hospital, after which he founded Shepherd Center. 3. James loved being a father and a grandfather, and often enjoyed visits from his grandchildren at Shepherd Center. 4. James, right, had a special relationship with his father Harold. 5. Family was incredibly important to James, especially as he recovered from his spinal cord injury.



My heart is broken for the Shepherd family. I am proud to say I have been a part of this amazing hospital for 18 years. James made sure the culture was filled with hope and direction. Thank you for giving so many people, including myself, the chance to serve and make a difference! My life would not be the same without Shepherd Center.

— ASHLEY ELIZABETH BOWEN



# The Show Must Go On

## Anne Nelson learns to heal and thrive through her love of dance and performing.

BY DAMJANA ALVERSON

PHOTOS BY JEFF ELDRIDGE, JAQUAN SWOOPS AND KJ WALKER

Anne Nelson performing aerial silk dance at Auburn University.

### In May 2016, Anne Nelson, now 23, of Madison, Alabama,

had just finished her freshman year at Auburn University pursuing a Bachelor of Science in nursing with a minor in dance. She was happy to be home for the summer to spend time with family and friends.

Then, on June 23, she experienced the unimaginable. While sitting in the backseat of the car with her seatbelt on, she was in a car crash. The seatbelt malfunctioned. Anne was launched forward, resulting in an incomplete T-11 and T-12 spinal cord injury (SCI) and a broken right arm.

First responders rushed Anne to Huntsville Hospital, where her arm was stabilized, and she was admitted to the Neuro Intensive Care Unit for exploratory surgery on her abdomen and a spinal fusion. A few days later on July 3, Anne transferred to Shepherd Center.

"I remember the day after I arrived, the annual AJC Peachtree Road Race was happening outside," Anne recalls. "We got up early to watch and cheer, and I remember thinking how empowering it was to see all the athletes in wheelchairs participating in the race."

That positive outlook carried Anne through her rehabilitation at Shepherd. Lisette Tiller, PT, DPT, CLWT, a physical therapist at Shepherd Center, worked with Anne in Shepherd Step, a program that aims to help individuals with motor incomplete SCIs regain the highest possible functional level of walking.

"She was a fighter," Tiller says. "Her ability to be patient with herself and focus on accomplishing as much as possible one day at a time was an inspiration."

Anne spent about 10 weeks at Shepherd Center which included six weeks in inpatient and about four weeks in the Spinal Cord Injury Day Program. She fondly remembers the outings and recreational therapy she participated in with her fellow patients.

"I really appreciated the practical skills we were taught during outings like how to ride public transportation, push a shopping cart at Target or travel on an airplane," Anne says. "I was also able to do art therapy. Doing any type of creative activity has always brought me joy, so being able to get back into that at Shepherd was really therapeutic for me."

Anne's love of creative expression helped fuel her determination to continue one of her other passions – dance.

"I've been dancing now for about 14 years," Anne says. "After my injury, I thought that my dance life may be over. Then, I met a member of the Shepherd Center wheelchair basketball team, Laurel Lawson, who introduced me to a physically integrated dance company called Full Radius Dance in Atlanta. That's when I saw

dancing in a wheelchair was possible and I might as well try it!"

Anne returned home to Madison, Alabama, in September 2016, determined to keep up her rehabilitation therapy and continue pursuing dance. After taking just one semester off of school, she returned to Auburn in January 2017.

"I met with my dance professor and told her I wanted to complete my minor in dance regardless of my injury," Anne says. "Even though she had never worked with a dancer in a wheelchair before, and I had never danced in a wheelchair, we were both excited to take on the challenge."

By the middle of Anne's first semester back post-injury, her dance teacher asked her to come up with her own choreography to teach the class. The piece was a big hit – so much so that they decided to present it at the National Dance Education Organization Conference, an annual event dedicated to advancing dance education centered in the arts.



1. Anne Nelson, 23, returned to Auburn University after rehabilitation for a spinal cord injury. 2. Anne Nelson performs a solo dance she choreographed titled "Unpaved" at the Auburn University dance concert.

"We were so proud of what we had created," Anne explains. "The performance was successful, and I even ended up creating a solo version of it titled 'Unpaved.' I got to perform that piece for Auburn's 2018 annual dance concert."

Anne proudly claims the title of the first person at Auburn University to dance in a wheelchair. The next challenge she is taking on is a form of dance called aerial silks where a dancer performs aerial acrobatics while suspended in the air using silk fabric.

"It's probably the hardest thing I've ever done in my life," she says. "I love using the challenge as part of my physical therapy right now."

In addition to continuing to try new types of dance and physical therapy, Anne completed her minor in dance in May 2018, and she plans to complete her nursing degree on schedule in May 2021. But she does not want to focus too much on the future.

"My biggest takeaway from my injury is to take everything in life one day at a time," Anne reflects. "A lot of people get caught up in thinking about the fact that they are paralyzed and that this will prevent them from living life to the fullest. Or they are impatient with the healing process and want to give up. I promise that if you get up and try to accomplish something each day, you will get closer to where you want to be tomorrow."

Anne hopes that her story can help inspire and motivate people whether they have sustained an SCI or not.

"I think of what has happened to me and how I live my life as living out a story that others can see and apply to their own situations," Anne says. "I hope that anyone reading this sees that putting your mind to *something* is so powerful and can allow you to accomplish things you never thought were possible." ✨





## Shepherd Alums:

# Where Are They Now?

BY DAMJANA ALVERSON AND KERRY LUDLAM

### Ramon Blount

SNELLVILLE, GEORGIA

**Ramon Blount, 47**, was studying for his preaching assignment at the dining room table on January 13, 2017. Nothing seemed out of the ordinary. Then, when Ramon tried to say something to his family, he couldn't get the words out.

"He was trying to express himself, but then he just paused," says Amy Blount, Ramon's wife of 25 years. "He stood up, lost his balance and fell backwards."

Ramon was rushed to Gwinnett Medical Center, where his family learned he was having a stroke due to hypertension. Although Ramon's vital organs were not seriously affected, a CT scan showed swelling on the left side of the brain.

They were shocked. Ramon had always seemed healthy. He stayed active as an electrician and builder. He was also involved in the community, serving as a pastor in his church.

"This was his first health scare in our 25 years of marriage," Amy says. "It was devastating to see him like that."

After being in a coma for nearly three weeks, Ramon arrived at Shepherd Center in February 2017. As an inpatient in the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Program, he participated in physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy. Speech therapy was especially helpful because Ramon had aphasia, an impairment of language affecting the production or comprehension of speech and the ability to read or write. Aphasia does not impact intelligence, but it does affect the person's ability to convey their thoughts. Ramon received outpatient services at Shepherd Pathways.

"He could practice day-to-day tasks at Shepherd Pathways," Amy says. "He did practical activities like driving in a simulator and virtual sports. The hands-on training was fantastic."

It has been three years since Ramon experienced a stroke. Through this journey, Ramon, Amy and their children have worked together relentlessly to regain Ramon's independence.

"It's not the burden that breaks you down," Amy says, "it's the way you carry it."

Today, Ramon is building again. He stays active by running and lifting weights and hopes to go back into the ministry soon. He is even working on his first book, and his speech has improved tremendously. "I'm doing the best for myself," Ramon says. "Everything for me right now is about making sure I'm as healthy as possible so I can be there for the ones I love."

Ramon Blount speaks at his church.

### Matthew Neal

MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE

In July 2016, Sara Neal received a phone call no parent wants to receive.

"We got a call in the middle of the night," Sara says. "An officer told us that our son had been in a motor vehicle crash and that we needed to get to Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville as quickly as possible."

Sara's son **Matthew Neal, 27**, was a junior at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga majoring in computer engineering at the time of the car crash. The Rutherford County Emergency Medical Service responded to the crash in only four minutes to find Matthew non-responsive. In addition to sustaining a traumatic brain injury (TBI), his lungs had collapsed, and he had several bone fractures.

After Matthew stabilized, he was transferred to Shepherd Center for continued rehabilitation for his TBI. While he was an inpatient at the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Program, he made great strides toward recovery.

"I am so pleased my team and I were part of Matthew's journey," says Anna Elmers, M.D., staff physiatrist at Shepherd Center and Matthew's attending physician during his inpatient course. "His journey shows the resilience of the human spirit."

He was discharged to Shepherd Pathways, a comprehensive outpatient rehabilitation program for people recovering from brain injury. Sara was able to stay with Matthew at Shepherd Center's Irene and George Woodruff Family Residence Center during his full stay from August to November 2016.

"It was a blessing that we could stay at the family housing," Sara says. "It helped to be right there with Matthew the whole time."

After Matthew went home from Shepherd Center, he returned to school and steadily began taking on classes to finish his degree. He graduated from college in December 2019 with a bachelor's degree in computer engineering and started a job as a software engineer. He has also gotten back to hobbies he loves like working on cars and playing guitar.

"My time at Shepherd Center was all about helping me learn how to regain my independence," Matthew says. "Going back to school and finishing my degree showed me I could do it."

Sara couldn't agree more.

"Matthew is a tough guy who has overcome a lot," she says. "He's truly a miracle."

Matthew Neal graduated from college in December 2019.

### Jake Revell

AMERICUS, GEORGIA

**Jake Revell, 28**, woke up one morning during the end of his sophomore year at Georgia Southwestern State University trembling with double vision. For a healthy young man who enjoyed staying active, hunting and fishing, this was completely out of the blue.

Physicians had an idea of what Jake could have, but couldn't provide a definitive diagnosis. After some time, Jake and his family were anxious to understand exactly what was going on. The turning point, according to Jake, was when he was referred to Shepherd Center to see neurologist Sherrill Loring, M.D. That's when he received his official diagnosis: multiple sclerosis (MS).

"It was a punch in the gut at first," Jake says. "I had no idea what MS was and immediately began to think about the worst-case scenario."

Once the initial shock wore off, Jake was determined to stay positive and work with the medical team to discover which medication worked the best for him.

"It was an unbelievable experience from the first time I went to Shepherd," Jake recalls. "Dr. Loring had a sense of urgency and worked with me to make a plan I felt good about."

After a year of trials, he found a medication with very few side effects. He visits the Andrew C. Carlos Multiple Sclerosis Institute at Shepherd Center twice a year for infusions and doesn't mind the long drive from his hometown, Americus, Georgia.

"I don't bat an eye to drive three hours to Shepherd," Jake says. "Shepherd operates at such a high standard. Everybody goes out of their way to welcome you."

Jake's determination paid off in other ways as well. He returned to college during the spring of 2014 and completed his degree in political science. He is now working for the Georgia Farm Bureau selling insurance.

Jake also married his high school sweetheart, Haley, in April 2017. After 10 years together, they have one beautiful daughter, Alston, and recently welcomed a baby boy, Harrison, to the family.

Through it all, Jake has learned that staying positive and being patient with yourself are most important while navigating life with MS. He still experiences symptoms like short-term memory loss, but he's learned to adapt his lifestyle to work around them and thrive.

"MS doesn't define who I am," Jake says. "I have MS; MS doesn't have me."

Jake Revell is married to Haley, and they have a son, Harrison, and daughter, Alston.

### Noah Smith

ACWORTH, GEORGIA

Every Tuesday and Thursday evening from 6 to 8 p.m., the Livingston Gym at Shepherd Center, which was just moments before quiet and calm after a day full of therapy, comes alive again as practice begins. The sounds are loud, the gym gets hot and the athletes are strong. Even stronger are the friendships they form as members of the Shepherd Smash, Shepherd Center's quad rugby team. No one knows this better than **Noah Smith, 20**. In his second year on the Shepherd Smash, he plays offense, just two years after coming to Shepherd Center for rehabilitation after sustaining a C6-C7 spinal cord injury while attempting a flip at a trampoline park.

"Expect the unexpected," is how Noah explains quad rugby tournaments, one of which is hosted annually at Shepherd Center. "You'll see people slamming into each other and chairs tipping over, but there's also a fluidity to it. It's quite calculating."

When Noah joined the team over a year ago, he approached the members with a great deal of earned respect. As the youngest player and the most recently injured athlete, he knew he had a lot to learn.

"The team welcomed me so warmly," Noah recalls. "When I was an inpatient, (coach) Sarah Leonard invited me to join, and (team members) Zach and Talbot invited me, too. A year later, when I came back to Shepherd, they invited me again."

This time, Noah took a chance.

As a competitive high school athlete and avid outdoorsman, Noah is always working on sharpening his skills. A second-year veteran on the Shepherd Smash, Noah's goals include becoming faster on the court. He'd also like to improve his knowledge of the game.

"He has a great deal of athletic ability," says Shepherd Smash coach and physical therapist Sarah Leonard, PT, DPT. "He's making lots of progress."

The team practices twice each week, which Noah fits into his schedule as a sophomore communications major at Kennesaw State University.

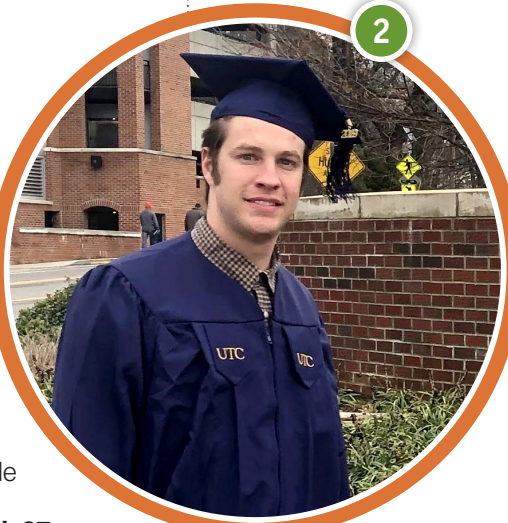
Noah's motto? "If I am struggling to do something, it is not I can't; it is I can't yet."

Noah Smith is a member of the Shepherd Smash quad rugby team.

1



2



3



4





## The Salvador Foundation helps people overcome adversity. Now, Shepherd Center patients are benefitting from that philosophy.

BY SARA BAXTER



Jon Roxland, director of philanthropy at Shepherd Center, and Nic Gonzales, Salvador Foundation board member, stand with an Armeo® Spring device.

David Gardner was passing through Atlanta on his way to south Georgia and was at Atlantic Station, an outdoor mall in downtown Atlanta, when his daughters asked for frozen yogurt. Once in the store, he couldn't help but notice a group of people using wheelchairs – led by a therapist – also ordering yogurt. Curious, he approached the therapist and asked where the group was from.

The therapist, Sarah Begeal, explained that she was chaperoning an adolescent team "Fun Friday" outing with a group of teen patients from Shepherd Center, a hospital located nearby.

Fascinated, Gardner, who is founder and president of the Salvador Foundation, asked for a business card. A few weeks later, he called to request a tour of Shepherd Center.

Call it serendipity – or luck – but that chance encounter sparked a relationship that has benefitted Shepherd Center and its patients enormously. Since 2012, the Salvador Foundation – a charitable organization whose mission is to help and enable people from all phases of life with the goal of sharing encouragement, hope and faith – has provided nearly \$600,000 to Shepherd Center.

"It was a good fit for a number of reasons," Gardner says of the decision to work with Shepherd Center. "Shepherd helps people who are going through a difficult time. It is also extremely well run from a business point of view, so we trusted the money would be handled

properly. Finally, there is an underlying feeling that much of what is done at Shepherd Center is driven on both a personal and corporate level by faith in God."

Jon Roxland, director of philanthropy for the Shepherd Center Foundation, says the Salvador Foundation is always willing to help where the biggest need is. Recently, the Salvador Foundation changed its focus to working on a more collaborative basis with the Patient Assistance Fund, a program which helps cover basic needs that insurance will not pay for and/or that the patient cannot afford, especially at the time of discharge. This can include medication, home healthcare, home modifications and additional therapy – anything that could be a barrier to both care at the hospital and a smooth transition back home. The Salvador Foundation has worked closely with Shepherd Center in developing program guidelines, monitoring

program outcomes and evaluating program success.

The Salvador Foundation has assisted Shepherd Center with obtaining an additional Armeo® Spring, a device used in physical therapy that aids in the recovery of arm and hand function. Gardner says they also chose to support programs that have a positive impact on patients. These include animal-assisted therapy, recreation therapy and the chaplaincy programs.

"The Salvador Foundation likes to fund things that go beyond simply helping a person survive a devastating event in their lives," Gardner says. "We like it when there is a focus on moving forward and learning to enjoy life again. That's where Shepherd excels."

"At its core, the Salvador Foundation cares about helping Shepherd Center patients get back to their lives again," Roxland adds. "They are helping to make Shepherd Center's mission come true, and we are so grateful for their support."

The Salvador Foundation also works with Camp Firefly, a camp for terminally ill children; the Gary Sinese Foundation, which supports veterans and first responders; and Fostering Care, a group that helps foster children, as well as many other organizations.

If you or your organization would like to support Shepherd Center, contact Jon Roxland at [jon.roxland@shepherd.org](mailto:jon.roxland@shepherd.org) or **404-350-7314**. \*

PHOTO BY HEATHER HERCHER

## 37th Annual Shepherd Center Cup

You are invited to attend the 37th Annual

Shepherd Center Cup on September 21 at the

Cherokee Country Club. Register your team for

a day filled with golf, great food, drinks and a silent

auction benefiting Shepherd's Family Housing Program.



Contact Mary Beth Hellmann at [marybeth.hellmann@shepherd.org](mailto:marybeth.hellmann@shepherd.org) or **404-603-5168** if you have any questions. [shepherd.org/giving/shepherd-center-cup](https://shepherd.org/giving/shepherd-center-cup)



**SAVE THE DATE!**

## 2020 Legendary Party

Save the date for this year's Legendary Party on Saturday, November 7 at Flourish beginning at 7 p.m. The theme will be The Legend of the Looking Glass.



Contact Erin Schuster at [erin.schuster@shepherd.org](mailto:erin.schuster@shepherd.org) or **404-350-7304** to learn more about the event.

[shepherd.org/giving/legendary-party](https://shepherd.org/giving/legendary-party)



BY SARA BAXTER

# Continuing the Family Legacy

John Kiser was looking for an opportunity to give back. It just so happens he chose the place his grandfather helped build.

**ONE OF JOHN KISER’S EARLIEST MEMORIES IS**

of sitting on his uncle’s shoulders outside Shepherd Center watching his grandfather run by on Peachtree Road up what is known as “Cardiac Hill.” But he was not running the famous AJC Peachtree Road Race. Instead, John’s grandfather was carrying the Olympic Torch in the relay leading up to the 1996 Olympics, which were held in Atlanta that year.

“That memory of him representing the hospital makes me realize how important Shepherd Center was to him, and how important he was to Shepherd Center,” John says.

John’s grandfather is David Apple, M.D., the first medical director of Shepherd Center and one of the key people who helped build the hospital into what it is today. He now serves as medical director emeritus.

Fast forward 20-plus years from that July day, and John is now also involved in the hospital that is so near and dear to his grandfather’s heart. In 2016, he joined the Junior Committee, a group of young professionals who come together to raise money and awareness for Shepherd Center. He is now the committee’s co-chair.

Though many of his family members – his mother, Stephanie Apple Kiser, as well as aunts, uncles and cousins on both sides – had volunteered at Shepherd Center over the years, he’s quick to point out that there has never been any pressure from his family to get involved. He did it on his own.

“I think my generation feels the need to give back, and wants to support organizations that do good work,” he says. “It just made sense for me that it was Shepherd Center.”

The Junior Committee raises money for Shepherd Center’s recreational therapy program, mainly through organizing Derby Day, an annual Kentucky Derby-themed party that is the hospital’s longest running fundraiser. This year, the event will be held on Saturday, September 5.

“Once you go to the first meeting, you are hooked,” he says. “I knew a little bit about it, but I didn’t know the extent of the money they raised and the impact they had.”

He was co-chair of the auction committee for Derby Day for two years and says he was ready to take on more of a leadership role.

“It’s all about making the extra effort,” he says. “It was a great opportunity for me, and it means so much to my family.”

He co-chairs the Junior Committee with Ben Rickles, and it’s the first time there have ever been two male-co chairs. He says he and Ben bring a sense of “nerdiness to the table” and try to keep all the member meetings fun and interactive. Incidentally, John’s wife, Marissa, co-chaired the Junior Committee last year.

And no one is happier that John is carrying on the family legacy than Dr. Apple, who actually heard his grandson become co-chair of the Junior Committee from someone within the Shepherd Center Foundation.

“I was so proud when I heard that,” says Dr. Apple, who retired as Shepherd Center’s medical director in 2005. “He took the first step and went beyond it with this leadership role.”

John grew up in Dunwoody, a suburb of Atlanta, and earned a psychology degree from Furman University. During his senior year, he was a student videographer for the college and also made videos on his own. After his graduation in 2014, he returned to Atlanta and decided to put those skills to use professionally. He is now programming manager for two broadcast networks – Justice Network and Quest Network – where he schedules and manages content for the channels.

He says that growing up, he and his cousins – he is the oldest of Dr. Apple’s 12 grandchildren – always knew what Shepherd Center meant to their “Pop.” One tradition was getting together to make art projects for their grandfather on his birthday.

“Whatever we made that year – napkin holders or Christmas ornaments – the Shepherd Center logo would always make it on to something,” John recalls. “We knew it was important to him.”

The recreation therapy program, which was started and grew exponentially under Dr. Apple’s tenure, is also extremely important to him. Now the largest program of its kind in the country, the program and its staff aim to help people continue to lead healthy and active lifestyles as independently as possible through the use of recreation activities, providing education, skill development and community reintegration opportunities after injury or illness. Throughout its almost 40 year history, the Junior Committee has raised more than \$4.7 million for recreation therapy.

The fact that his grandson is now a part of that is even more special.

“I have always encouraged all of my children and now my grandchildren to get involved in something other than their work to give back,” Dr. Apple says, “Whether it’s Shepherd Center or another organization. John did that with gusto and has made us proud.”

The admiration goes both ways.

“I look at Shepherd Center, and I can’t believe my grandfather did this,” he says. “Being on the Junior Committee is my way to show appreciation for him and the work of the hospital. I’ll never reach what he did. But there are so many ways to get involved and give back. This is just my part.” ✨

John Kiser, left, carries on the legacy of his grandfather, Medical Director Emeritus David Apple, M.D., by co-chairing Shepherd Center’s Junior Committee.



“I think my generation feels the need to give back, and wants to support organizations that do good work. It just made sense for me that it was Shepherd Center.”

— JOHN KISER

PHOTO BY PHIL SKINNER



# THE 31ST ANNUAL SHEPHERD CENTER LEGENDARY PARTY

# Sakura

## BLOSSOMS OF RENEWAL

BY ELLEN PERRY AND ERIN SCHUSTER

### THE 31ST ANNUAL SHEPHERD CENTER LEGENDARY PARTY

was a beautiful Hanami under blossoming cherry trees. Hosted on Saturday, November 2, 2019, at Flourish, the Buckhead venue of Legendary Events, guests entered the courtyard to the sounds of a string quartet from Mercer University's Robert McDuffie Center for Strings performing on a bridge over two stunning koi ponds with Japanese parasols hanging above.

The evening honored philanthropist Peter A. Dames. Event chair Janie Fickling Skinner thanked Peter and his family for their generous long-time support of Shepherd Center.

At the event, Skinner said, "Some of their many contributions include a renovated recreation room and a koi pond for the secret garden. I hope you enjoyed ours [koi ponds] as you entered tonight. As an adventurer, sports enthusiast and former Shepherd Center patient, Peter shows us the importance of recreation therapy."

The crowd of more than 600 guests then joined in an ovation to celebrate Peter and his family.

Presenting sponsors included Fred V. Alias, Elaine and John Carlos, the Dahlberg Family, Peter A. Dames and family, and The Home Depot Foundation. Platinum Sponsors included Cox Enterprises, Delta Air Lines, and Genuine Parts Company. The event raised more than \$3 million, and proceeds from the evening will support Shepherd Center's Recreation Therapy Program.

Vic Pentz, retired senior pastor of Peachtree Presbyterian Church and dear friend of the Shepherd family, gave the invocation. Students from the Robert McDuffie Center for Strings performed one final selection, which was dedicated to Peter and his family.

Guests dined in the beautiful ballroom that featured a Japanese-inspired theme. The centerpieces included roses, hydrangeas and peonies. The festive dinner included an Asian pear salad, ponzu marinated filet and sea bass served with a stir fry of kale, quinoa, shiitake mushrooms, and ginger roasted carrots. Dessert included a mandarin and yuzu bavaois, dragon fruit, toasted macadamia nuts, and gold-dusted blackberries garnished with three edible cherry blossom wafers.

After dinner, guests filled the dance floor and danced the night away to the live band, Atlanta Groove Factory. 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 live band, Color the Night, and major college football games played on flat-screen televisions.

This year's Legendary Event will take place on November 7, and the theme will be The Legend of the Looking Glass. \*

PHOTOS BY BEN ROSE



1. 2019 Legendary Party Honoree Peter A. Dames and his family enjoyed the evening.  
2. The Flourish ballroom was filled with blossoming cherry trees and Japanese-inspired linens and florals. 3. Jeannie Stewart surrounded by friends at the 2019 Legendary Party.







PRESENTING SPONSORS



Mr. Fred V. Alias
Elaine & John Carlos
The Dahlberg Family
Peter A. Dames & Family

PLATINUM SPONSORS



1. Students from Mercer University's Robert McDuffie Center for Strings dedicated a performance to Peter Dames and his family. 2. 2019 Legendary Party Chair Janie Fickling Skinner attended the event with her husband, Dan Skinner. 3. Legendary Party Chair-Elect, Melinda Dabbieri, attended the event with her husband, David Dabbieri. 4. Guests entered the courtyard to a beautiful Koi Pond and garden with Japanese parasols hanging above.



PHOTOS BY BEN ROSE

\*Deceased

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## Brookhaven Rotary Golf Tournament

The Brookhaven Rotary Club hosted its ninth and final Service Above Self Golf Tournament to raise money for Shepherd Center's SHARE Military Initiative on November 4, 2019 at Cherokee Town and Country Club. The tournament raised more than \$225,000, which pushed the Brookhaven Rotary Club over their goal of raising a cumulative \$1 million for the SHARE Military Initiative over nine years.

"We are very proud that a small group such as The Rotary Club of Brookhaven – just 30 people – has accomplished so much to help our deserving post-9/11 veterans and active duty personnel," says Bob Cunningham, a former Shepherd Center Board of Trustees member and Service Above Self golf tournament leader. "We have been blessed to have a hardworking group that pulled together to help SHARE, which saves families, marriages and lives every day. We want to thank our many donors and supporters who have helped us reach our \$1 million goal."

The tournament kicked off with a hot air balloon display, a paratrooper jumping from an overhead plane, a presentation of the colors and local favorite Timothy Miller singing the national anthem. After a chilly autumn day of golf, participants enjoyed a reception with raffle drawings, a silent and live auction, and the testimony of a recent SHARE graduate. \*



1. The Brookhaven Rotary Club raised a cumulative \$1 million for the SHARE Military Initiative over nine years. 2. The golf tournament kicked off with a paratrooper jumping from an overhead plane.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ROTARY CLUB OF BROOKHAVEN



## Annie Oakley Tournament

The Annie Oakley Shooters hosted their 16th clay shoot tournament, presented by UBS Miller Marsden Wealth Management, in support of Shepherd Center's SHARE Military Initiative.

"Our tournament was held on a beautiful Friday afternoon, November 8, at Burge Plantation, and it was a huge success," says Sister Hood, chair of this year's tournament. "Thank you to all of our sponsors, shooters and volunteers!"

The 2019 tournament raised more than \$70,000 for SHARE. Participants won exciting raffle prizes, enjoyed delicious food and drink, and celebrated the impact that their fundraising will have on SHARE Military Initiative clients. The Annie Oakley tournament is unique because each individual shooter is scored instead of the team as whole, allowing shooters of all skill levels to participate.

"The Annie Oakley Shooters are proud to partner with Shepherd Center's SHARE Military Initiative to help patients and families overcome the struggles that come with re-entering our community following combat," Hood says. \*



The Annie Oakley Shooters hosted their 16th clay shoot tournament on November 8, 2019 to benefit the SHARE Military Initiative.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF WILLIAM TWITTY

## Shepherd's Men Auction

Shepherd's Men hosted their third annual Dinner, Auction, Bourbon and Wine Tasting on October 24, 2019, at Indian Hills Country Club in Marietta, Georgia. Guests spent the evening bidding on a large selection of silent and live auction items while enjoying delicious surf and turf food and tasting choice bourbons and wines. Sponsors and attendees helped raise more than \$220,000 for the SHARE Military Initiative.

Guests listened intently as SHARE graduates Gary Herber and Jorge Rodriguez gave personal testimonials on how the program has improved their lives.

"The 2019 Shepherd's Men dinner and auction brought together over 300 of our most faithful supporters," recalls Travis Ellis, founder of Shepherd's Men. "Throughout the evening, many laughed and some cried, but never have we felt more sure of this mission than after the event's conclusion. We will continue to fight for so many whose voices have been silenced by the hidden injuries of war. Thank you to everyone who gave their time, energy and resources to supporting this evening."

For more information or to give to SHARE Military Initiative, contact Kaitlyn Long at [kaitlyn.long@shepherd.org](mailto:kaitlyn.long@shepherd.org) or 404-350-7302. \*



Shepherd's Men hosted their third annual Dinner, Auction, Bourbon and Wine Tasting on October 24, 2019.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KAITLYN LONG

## Buckhead Lions Golf Tournament

The Buckhead Lions Club hosted its annual golf tournament October 7, 2019, at Atlanta Country Club in Marietta, Georgia, to raise money for Shepherd Center's SHARE Military Initiative. Sponsors and participants raised more than \$50,000 to support SHARE. Attendees enjoyed a fun day of golfing, comradery and philanthropy, including a silent auction.

"As the golf chairman for this year's Buckhead Lions Club golf tournament to benefit the SHARE Military Initiative at Shepherd Center, I was thrilled and proud that the tournament was a huge success," says Jeremy Bird, chair

of this year's tournament. "Attendance was excellent, the weather was perfect, the golf course was beautiful and I've received nothing but the highest compliments! Our club is extraordinarily proud to give back as much as we can to SHARE. Thank you to everyone who supported this tournament." \*

Visit [shepherd.org/share](http://shepherd.org/share) to learn more about the SHARE Military Initiative.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## SHEPHERD CENTER FOUNDATION

Fill your 2020 calendar with Shepherd Center Foundation events!

**19 JUNE**

**Project Rollway**

Livingston Gym  
at Shepherd Center  
Cocktails: 6 to 7 p.m.  
Show: 8 to 9 p.m.

Shepherd.org/project-rollway

**22 JULY**

**Summer in the City**

The Fairmont  
6:30 to 10 p.m.

Sitc-atl.com

**5 SEPT**

**Derby Day**

Chastain Horse Park  
2 to 8 p.m.

derbyday.com

**11 SEPT**

**Shepherd's Men Invitational Clay Shoot**

Barnsley Gardens  
8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Shepherdsmen.com

**21 SEPT**

**Shepherd Center Cup**

Cherokee Country Club  
Shotgun start at 12:30 p.m.

Shepherd.org/giving/shepherd-center-cup

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON FOUNDATION SPECIAL EVENTS, PLEASE CONTACT:

Mary Beth Hellmann  
Special Events Associate

404-603-5168  
marybeth.hellmann@shepherd.org

Derby Day  
Shepherd Center Cup

Kaitlyn Long  
Donor & Community Relations Associate

404-350-7302  
kaitlyn.long@shepherd.org

RPM 9/11  
Annie Oakley Tournament  
Shepherd's Men Auction & Bourbon Tasting Dinner

Erin Schuster  
Special Events Associate

404-350-7304  
erin.schuster@shepherd.org

Summer in the City  
The Legendary Party

We are monitoring COVID-19 activity. We will keep you informed if plans for these events change.

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 September 1, 2019 and December 31, 2019.

**Clint Adcox**  
Mr. Richard W. Duff

**Anne Addison**  
Dr. Julie E. Ballard  
Mrs. Joan D. Woodall

**Edward Addison**  
Dr. Julie E. Ballard

**William Ainsworth**  
Mrs. Joanne Ainsworth

**David and Bernice Apple**  
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur E. Hunt

**Roz Ayres Williams**  
Mr. Dean Melcher

**George R. "Bob" Bailey**  
Mr. Robert H. Hogg III

**Carolyn Kelly Baker**  
Mr. and Mrs. T. Rudy Harrell

**Colin Barker**  
Ms. J. Margaret Hopkins

**Gary Billon**  
Mr. Eugene J. Gannon

**Francis "Frank" Bird**  
Mrs. Barbara K. Furbish

**James Robert Black**  
Ms. Terrie T. Barton  
Mrs. Shirley L. Black  
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Ms. Pauline B. Hampton  
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**Betty Jo "Dodie" Bowen**  
Mr. and Mrs. Edwin H. Callison

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Mrs. Terrence M. Tracy

**Margaret Ann Bratton**  
Mr. Ray R. Bratton  
Mr. and Mrs. David Wilder

**Margaret "Peggy" Brauneck**  
Ms. Virginia Lippincott

**Deacon David Briselden**  
Free Enterprise  
Ms. Ellen Salowitz

**Robert Brocklehurst**  
Shea Family Funeral Homes, Inc.  
Mr. and Mrs. Jon Tusveld

**Sheila Burson**  
CJ and Steve Ball

**Gordon C. Bynum, Jr.**  
Ms. Catherine C. Fike

**Lebron Turner Caldwell**  
Ms. Julie B. Bryan  
Scoggins Dozer, Inc.  
Vehicle Service Group  
Ms. Mary A. Voyles  
Ms. Marsha H. Youngblood

**Etta Lee Calvert**  
Mr. James Comento

**David Carley**  
Mrs. James M. Caswell, Jr.

**Monique Carpenter**  
Ms. Angela Carpenter

**Walter Chadwick**  
Ms. Susan Barnes  
Denise, Andrew, Carley and Drew  
Chastain  
Mr. Victor Dingus  
Mr. Steve Fallon  
The Long Blue Line Marist Athletics

**In memory of Martha and Albert Church**  
Mrs. Martha J. Church and Mr.  
Leonard J. Oddo

**Rick Clark**  
Ms. Keri Murphy

**Nell Cloys**  
Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Howard

**Richard Colby**  
Ms. Ellen J. Colby

**Marian Comento**  
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Ms. Lauren Antonelli  
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Ms. Janice Rogan  
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Staff of 5G at St. Clair Hospital  
Mr. Mark Szemanski  
The West Coast Sales Team

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Mrs. James M. Caswell, Jr.  
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Ms. Suzanne Gordon

**Bryan Cox**  
Mr. and Mrs. Terry J. Cox

**Rodney Crosby**  
Mr. Scott Ailts  
Mr. Charles Crosby  
One Beacon Charitable Trust  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Rosie



Shepherd Center held its Sips by the Sea Social for employees and their plus ones at the Georgia Aquarium. The Best Employee Attitude Award, an honor established to recognize staff members who go above and beyond and truly live the Shepherd culture every day, had 13 outstanding finalists and four deserving winners. Congratulations to Nakuma Brown, Sharmeka Johnson, Brandon Tran and Elva Yap.

**Charles L. Davidson, Jr. and Cecelia McCurdy Davidson**  
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Dr. Keith M. Dockery

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Mrs. Dianne Loewenstein

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Ms. May G. Kennedy

**Edward Felts, USAF Vietnam Veteran**  
Mr. Mickey Gore

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REMEMBERING  
James Shepherd 1951-2019



James Shepherd died surrounded by his loved ones on December 21, 2019. James will be remembered as a good-humored and loyal father, son and friend, a devoted Georgia Bulldog, an advocate and a visionary. His life-changing spinal cord injury in 1973 led to the founding of Shepherd Center two years later.

James had a profound passion for the incredible organization he built with his family and has impacted the lives of thousands of patients. James is survived by his mother, Alana; his brother, Thomas; his children, Julie and Jamie; and his four grandchildren.

- James Shepherd  
Ms. Janet Abercrombie  
Mr. and Mrs. Fred B. Aftergut  
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Mr. Fred V. Alias  
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Mrs. McKee Nunnally  
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Patients and their families at Shepherd Center got a pre-game-day visit from Georgia Football players in November 2019.





Support from sponsors and participants at the Shepherd's Men Dinner, Bourbon & Wine Tasting and Auction raised more than \$220,000 for Shepherd Center's SHARE Military Initiative.

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## REMEMBERING McKee Nunnally 1943-2019



**McKee Nunnally passed away on November 15, 2019. McKee was a true Shepherd Center hero. Since the founding of Shepherd in 1975, McKee and his wife, Sally, championed the hospital's mission. He served many roles at Shepherd including chairing a capital campaign, serving as chairman of the Board of Trustees, and as a valued and respected member of the Board of Directors.**

**In addition to these formal roles, McKee had a true love of Shepherd Center's patients, families and staff. McKee is survived by his wife, Sally, their two children, McKee and Day, and his grandchildren.**

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Shepherd Center was gifted a tiny door from Tiny Doors ATL by long-time supporter of the arts and Shepherd Center, Anna and Hays Mershon. Karen Anderson Singer, the artist behind Tiny Doors ATL, installed and unveiled the tiny door in December 2019 – in none other than the Anna and Hays Mershon Secret Garden at Shepherd Center.

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**Jule Hamrick**  
Mr. John Cyphers

**Bryan Adkins Hart**  
Mr. Robert DeBatto

**Caroline Hazel**  
Ms. Jordan Hinkebein

**Gary Herber**  
Ms. Levonna Larson

**Bryan Hewins**  
LTC (R) and Mrs. Floyd K. Maertens

**Caroline Heys’ Involvement with Junior Committee**  
Mr. and Mrs. Edward S. Heys

**Robbie Hill**  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Clark

**JJ Hodge**  
Granville Capital, Inc.

**Robert H. Hogg Happy Holidays**  
Dr. and Mrs. Jimmy C. Nash

**William “Mac” Holz creating jobs for others**  
Mrs. Paxon M. Holz

**Wounded Veterans**  
Mr. James M. Keel

**Mrs. Mary Kay Howard Wishes Happy Holidays to**  
Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Benson

Mr. and Mrs. John Caldwell  
Ms. Ann Corrigan  
Mr. and Mrs. Philip Dater  
Dr. Edward Eanes and Mr. Dennis  
Loubiere  
Mrs. Elaine Etheridge  
Mr. and Mrs. Billy Kennedy  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Knoblauch  
Mr. and Mrs. David Kowal  
Ms. Carol Olsen  
Mrs. Anne Paulus  
Mr. and Mrs. Alan Stensland

**William and Angie Hoyt**  
Ms. Sara W. Billingsley

**David Hudgik**  
Mr. and Mrs. Paul A. Hudgik

**Don Huffner’s Birthday**  
Ms. Katherine Coppedge  
Mr. and Mrs. James C. Davis

**Katie Huffner Happy Holidays**  
Mr. William Hollett

**Clark Jacobs**  
Ms. Shelley Hussey

**Mr. Kurt Jahara**  
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Bowen  
Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Zou

**Mr. Douglas Scott Johnson**  
The Kinney Family Foundation

**Jerry Jordan**  
Anonymous

**Alex Joynes**  
Mr. and Mrs. William Rasmussen

**Captain (USMC) Paul Jungel**  
Mr. Louis Debroux

**Taylor Keating**  
Mrs. Beverly Keating

**Sarah Kelly’s Birthday**  
Ms. Kerry Kelly

**Susan and John Kendall**  
Ms. Victoria Hood

**Zach Kennedy**  
Ms. Martha Wilds

**Jacob Klebar**  
Mr. and Mrs. Jason J. Klebar

**Nathan Klein**  
Mr. William Larter

**Dr. Amy Kolavora and Team**  
Dr. Michael Link

**Deborah Krotenberg’s Birthday**  
Ms. Miriam F. Beckerman

**Deborah Krotenberg**  
Mr. and Mrs. David F. Haddow  
Mr. and Mrs. Marvin H. Krotenberg

**Jennifer Lamson-Heffron’s Birthday**  
Ms. Sheila Lantier

**Jen Lane**  
Ms. Mary F. Taylor

**Eric Lebsack**  
Mr. and Mrs. Dale E. Lebsack

**Donald Peck Leslie, MD**  
Mr. and Mrs. John R. Holder  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Lanier II  
Mr. William S. Murphy, Jr.

**Ron Lewis Happy Holidays**  
Ms. Kendra Feltman  
Ms. Carol Morris

**Mark Lewyn’s Birthday**  
Mr. and Mrs. Steven J. Labovitz

**The Linden Family**  
Ms. Mary L. Huntley

**Dr. Michael Link**  
Mr. and Mrs. and Mrs. Mark A.  
Crabtree

**Bob Lipscomb Happy Holidays**  
Ms. Deanna J. Lipscomb

**Dr. and Mrs. J. Robert Logan**  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Clark

**Joseph Lopez IV**  
Ms. Eugenia Makris

**Steve and Kay Lore**  
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence J. Myers

**Stephen Lore Happy Holidays**  
Caroline, Edwin and Garrison Lore

**Helen G. Maddox’s Engagement**  
The Maddox Family

**Nora Mangrum Happy Retirement**  
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

**Bernie Marcus’ Birthday**  
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey S. Lorberbaum  
Mr. and Mrs. Craig Menear  
Mohawk Carpet Foundation  
Quikrete International, Inc.  
Tom Taylor Family Foundation

**Bernie Marcus**  
Mr. and Mrs. James D. Hovis III  
Mr. Christopher W. Waits

**Billi Marcus**  
Mr. and Mrs. Julian B. Mohr

**Mr. Mark Jacobus Wishes Happy Holidays to**  
Adam Mathes  
Addie Mathes

**Mr. and Mrs. William McBurney**  
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Richert, Jr.

**Allen McDonald**  
Mr. and Mrs. Kelly F. Caudle

**Shirley McFarlane and Timothy Condrey Wish Happy Holidays to**  
Becky and Van Aggelakos  
Barbara Barton  
Joyce and Ron Bernie  
Liz and Dion Condrey  
Terrie and Chuck Dale  
Cathy and Joe Frank  
Laurie and MontHartman  
Tom Hartman and William  
Landeros  
Barbara Condrey McClintock

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Karen and Jim Vournakis  
Kelley and Peter West

**Julie McLean**  
Ms. Marianna G. McLean

**Terrence McQuade Happy Holidays**  
Ms. Rachel Wright

**Mary Jo Means**  
Ms. Clare W. Callard

**Dean Melcher**  
Mr. Travis Ellis

**Katie Metzger**  
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

**Laura Meyers**  
Mr. Cary H. Meyers

**Lt. Col. Dan Miller**  
Mr. and Mrs. D. Wayne Miller

**Daniel Wayne Miller, Sr. Happy Holidays**  
Mr. and Mrs. D. Wayne Miller

**John Minor**  
Lynn and Virginia Gorman  
Ms. Susan Minor

**Josh Mitchell**  
Mr. Justin Modeas

**Dr. Dorothy Mitchell-Leef's Birthday**  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas D. Anthony  
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Browder  
Dr. and Mrs. Charles L. Brown III  
Dr. and Mrs. Frank T. Daly, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Devoe  
Mr. and Mrs. Frank H. DiCristina III  
Dr. Beverly G. Douglas and Mr. Frank J. Rodriquez

Dr. and Mrs. Willis E. Lanier  
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher D. Morris  
Ms. Jeanette Papadopoulos  
Dr. and Mrs. DJ Papdopoulos  
Brenda and Dick Smith  
Mr. and Mrs. Doug Welch  
Ms. Martha D. Wilkins

**Dan Mitnick's Retirement**  
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Catroppa

**Daniel Mitnick**  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Scaglione  
Mr. Justin Schnell

**Mr. and Mrs. John B. Mobley Wish Happy Holidays to**  
Mr. and Mrs. Bonneau Ansley  
Mrs. Laura Barkley  
Mr. and Mrs. Brad Burnette  
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Candler  
Mr. and Mrs. James Christians  
Mrs. Clisby Clarke  
Mr. and Mrs. Cantey Davis  
Ms. Carol Dean Davis  
Mr. and Mrs. Willis Dobbs  
Mr. Joe Guy  
Mr. and Mrs. William Hughes  
Mr. and Mrs. John P. Ilges  
Mr. and Mrs. William Maner  
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Marshall  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Mobley  
Mr. and Mrs. Berry Mobley  
Ms. Martha Ann Mobley  
Mr. and Mrs. C. V. Nalley  
Dr. and Mrs. Felton Norwood  
Mr. and Mrs. James Peters  
Mr. and Mrs. John Pietri  
Mrs. English Robinson

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Mr. and Mrs. George Sherwood  
Mr. and Mrs. William Tanner  
Mr. and Mrs. Don Tomberlin  
Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Warner  
Dr. and William Whitaker

**Caroline Moore Brodmann and Husband**  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Moore

**Matt Morgan**  
Mr. and Mrs. Jay Lapine

**George Mori**  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas K. Glenn II  
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Lauer

**Penny Morrison-Ross Excellent Retreat Organization**  
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

**Suzanne Mott Dansby's Birthday**  
Mrs. Patricia L. Dickey  
Mrs. J. Harold Shepherd  
Mr. and Mrs. Allen Wright

**Larry Nall**  
Mrs. Patricia Poole

**Ryan Narramore**  
Anonymous

**Chris Nicolini and Veronica Lewinger's Marriage**  
Mr. Sreejayanth Kidambi

**Pebbles Glenn Nix's Birthday**  
Carroll Walton

**Tom Norwood**  
Mr. and Mrs. David F. Haddow

**Sally Nunnally**  
Mr. Jack Redhead

**Mr. and Mrs. Dolph Orthwein**  
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey R. Dufresne

**Grealdine Patterson**  
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

**Peak Pediatric Dentistry Wishes Happy Holidays to**  
Emily Andriessen  
Sarah Aldridge, MD  
Buckhead Pediatric Dentistry  
Stacie Hamley, MD  
Vanna Jackson, MD  
Estonia Wells Jarrett, MD  
Betsy John, MD  
Gary Loventhal, MD  
Kristin Mekelburg, MD  
Anna Refai, DMD  
Julie Segal, MD  
Elizabeth Theriot, MD  
Kelly West, MD  
Kimberly Wise, MD

**Bill Peck**  
Ms. Mary A. Joyce

**James Petersen**  
Ms. Betty Dowdy

**Corey Potts**  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Maguigan

**Craig Powell's Birthday**  
Mrs. Janet Powell

**Catherine Prabhu Happy Holidays**  
Mr. Radu Paponiu

**Nick Protentis and his Volunteer Work**  
Mr. and Mrs. Ken Walters

**Jenny Pruitt**  
Dr. and Mrs. Charles R. Arp

**Lois Puckett**  
Mrs. Carole Cole Musarra

**Our Military Veterans**  
Ms. Sue Marshall

**Our Neighbors, friends, nieces and nephews Happy Holidays**  
Mr. Al Rosenfield

**Rob and Irina Berling's Wedding**  
Mr. and Mrs. James R. Balkcom, Jr.

**Kelly Regal**  
Ms. Sharon Regal

**Jamie Reynolds**  
Mr. and Mrs. Gentry R. Strickland

**Matthew Richardson and those who cared for him**  
Ms. Kathleen Schaaf

**Jeff Richmond, Jr.**  
Ferrell Scruggs Foundation

**Tara Robertson**  
Ms. Mary Diana Robertson

**Jimmy Rockett**  
Mr. and Mrs. John F. Brock III

**Bill and Colleen Roop**  
Mrs. Debora M. Dill

**Mr. and Mrs. Bill Roop Wish Happy Holidays to**  
Mike and Debbie Dill  
Babette Perry

**Cara P. Roxland Excellent retreat organization**  
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

**Jon Roxland**  
Mr. Travis Ellis

**Nick Sagnibene**  
Ms. Melissa Morgan "Moms"

**Matthew Sanchez Happy Holidays**  
Ms. Cynthia Sokolic

**Bobby Sanders**  
Ms. Paula Bart

**Bobby and Annette Sanders Happy Holidays**  
Mr. Russell Sanders

**Bobby Sanders Happy Holidays**  
Mr. Aaron Bart

**Shannon Schneider**  
Charles and Esther Lee Kimerling  
Charitable Foundation

**Erin Schuster Great Legendary**  
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

**Emory Schwall**  
Mr. Leslie S. Griner

**Emory Schwall Happy Holidays**  
Ms. Anna M. Pincumbe

**Zachary Sementelli Happy Holidays**  
Mrs. Hilve Firek

**SG Financial Advisors Clients**  
SG Financial Advisors

**Dr. Erik Shaw**  
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

**Alana Shepherd's Birthday**  
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

**Alana Shepherd**  
Peachtree Road United Methodist Church  
Mr. Hamilton H. Stockton, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. John J. Scalley  
Mrs. Lewis A. Thompson

**Alana Shepherd Happy Holidays**  
Mr. and Mrs. Albert M. Ashkouti  
Mrs. Ruth E. Woodruff

**Shepherd Center**  
Ms. Virginia V. Ingram

**Shepherd Center ABI Nurses and Staff**  
Ms. Mary Pat Baldauf

**Jamie Shepherd Happy 40th Birthday**  
Mr. and Mrs. Dell B. Sikes

**Jamie Shepherd 40 under 40**  
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.  
Ms. Jessica Williams

**Shepherd Pathways Therapists and staff**  
Ms. Mary Pat Baldauf

**Clyde Shepherd III's Birthday**  
Bickers Consulting Group, LLC

**Mark Shuler Happy Holidays**  
Mr. and Mrs. James S. Long  
Mr. and Mrs. Bert E. Shuler

**Mr. and Mrs. Dell Sikes**  
Ms. Merrill Ellis

**Mr. and Mrs. Mel Silverman Wish Happy Holidays to**  
Leigh and Nick Brady  
Aileen and Gary Byrd  
Jim Geiger  
Renee and Tom Houle  
Cathy and Chris Torie

**Janie Skinner**  
Cherry Blossom Festival  
Ms. Shannon Fickling  
Ms. Holly Moffett  
Dr. Jane C. Puskas and Dr. John P. Puskas  
Mr. and Mrs. E. Randall Wright

**Kirby and Laura Smith**  
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Moore

**Susannah and Ralph Smith**  
Mr. and Mrs. George W. Atkins, Jr.

**Michael Spencer Veterans Day**  
Ms. Mary Spencer

**Beth St. Germain**  
Ms. Katie Mason

**Jeannie and Ron Stewart**  
Mr. Jorge Benitez  
Mr. and Mrs. William A. Clineburg, Jr.  
DiGiorgio Family Fund  
Mr. Richard Golden  
Mr. David E. Homrich  
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Loftus  
VPI Design, LLC  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Winborne

**Jeannie and Ron Stewart Happy Holidays**  
Mr. and Mrs. John S. Markwalter, Jr.  
Sogamatt Foundation, Inc



Shepherd Center's facility dogs spread the love throughout the Center by handing out flowers to patients and staff on Valentine's Day.

**Robbie Svoboda**  
Mr. Joshua B. Adams

**Wayne Sweezey**  
William Howard Flowers, Jr.  
Foundation, Inc.

**Kurt Tahara**  
Mr. and Mrs. Mark A. Gruwell  
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Mulroy  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Rhodes  
Ms. Kelly Tahara  
Mr. John Trout  
Views on Learning, Inc.  
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Weldy

**Heather Tarpley**  
Mr. and Mrs. Kelly F. Caudle

**Pierson Thames**  
Mrs. Carolyn Lotz

**Larry Thompson's Birthday**  
Anonymous

**Lydia and Shanna Thorpe's Marriage**  
Mr. and Mrs. David Schubert

**David Tillem**  
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Tillem

**Sally Tomlinson's Birthday**  
Mrs. J. Harold Shepherd

**Tom Touzeau Happy Holidays**  
Ms. Tara Steffner

**Kim and Ronald Townsend**  
Mrs. Kimberly Townsend

**Dell Turner Wishes Happy Holidays to**  
Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Adams  
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Baker  
Mr. and Mrs. Jason Branch  
Kelly Branch  
Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Chancellor  
Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Culpepper  
Mr. and Mrs. Bob David  
Mr. and Mrs. Tim Flournoy  
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Foley

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Mr. and Mrs. Bill Jackson  
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Jackson  
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Jenkins  
Mr. and Mrs. Randy Jones  
Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Kelly  
Warner and Charleton Kennon  
Mrs. Betsy Leebern  
Mr. and Mrs. Cal Martin  
Andy Philips  
Dr. and Mrs. Charles Scarborough  
Mr. and Mrs. John Springer  
Jeanne Swift  
Mr. and Mrs. Mat Swift  
Mr. and Mrs. Perrin Trotter  
Mr. and Mrs. John Turner  
Dr. and Mrs. David Varner  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Waddell  
Susan and Keith Wood

**J. Thomas Vance**  
Mr. and Mrs. George W. Darden  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E. Greer

**Karen Vance**  
Mr. and Mrs. C. Duncan Beard

**Wes Varda**  
Mrs. Judith Axtell

**Brittany Varnum**  
Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Stovall II

**Tina Vaux**  
Mrs. Lenore A. Vaux

**Allen Vinson and Family**  
Mrs. Judith Belcher

**Wendy and John Walter**  
Ms. Lora Boniface

**Missy Walters**  
Ms. Jill Austin

**Harrison Warren**  
Ms. Diane Halstead

**Jennings Watkins' 100th Birthday**  
Ms. Anna M. Hood  
Mr. and Mrs. David P. Hood  
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Stewart

**Jennings Watkins**  
Mrs. James G. Gullett

**Joe Watkins' Birthday**  
Mr. and Mrs. Dale H. Tucker

**Joe Watkins**  
Mr. and Mrs. Philip C. Henry

**Phillip Waters**  
Mr. and Mrs. David F. Haddow

**Lisa Watts' Birthday**  
Ms. Elizabeth J. Gardner

**Jeffrey Werner Happy Holidays**  
Mr. and Mrs. Marc Werner

**Shands West**  
Mr. Michael West

**Jonathon Wherry Happy Holidays**  
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey E. Wherry

**Shane White Good job on CT Installation**  
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

**Kirk Wilder**  
Mr. and Mrs. David S. Nichols

**Hanson Williams Happy Holidays**  
Mr. Christopher C. Carter

**Chip and Krissy Williams**  
Anonymous

**Sally and Mark Williamson Happy Holidays**  
Ms. Kimberly Gray Fess

**Christine Willis Congratulations on your prize-winning poster**  
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

**Christine Willis Good Luck at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta**  
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

**Rodney Wilson's Birthday**  
Mr. Caleb Wilson

**Price Woodward**  
Mr. and Mrs. Milton Crosswy

**Dr. Michael Yochelson Nice Holiday Party**  
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

**Mak Yost**  
Ms. Candace English

**Mark Zimmerman Happy Holidays**  
Mr. Joe Zimmerman





# Shepherd Center

2020 Peachtree Road NW  
Atlanta, GA 30309-1465  
404-352-2020 [shepherd.org](http://shepherd.org)

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## SHEPHERD CENTER LAUNCHES CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP INITIATIVE

**JANUARY 24 WAS SHEPHERD CENTER'S INAUGURAL** Shepherd Serves event at Open Hand Atlanta. Thirty volunteers from across the hospital came together to help pack 2,000 meals.

On February 25, 25 Shepherd Center employees came together to help sort, repair and clean medical

equipment and supplies to be used both locally and internationally at Friends of Disabled Adults and Children (FODAC), an organization that provides refurbished equipment and services for adults and children with disabilities to improve their overall quality of life.

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 volunteer program so Shepherd can give back to the community."

We look forward to our next Shepherd Serves events. \*



Shepherd Center employees have participated in two Shepherd Serves volunteer events so far this year including Open Hand Atlanta and FODAC.

