

Shepherd

MEDICAL TREATMENT • RESEARCH • REHABILITATION

Center Spinal Column®

GUIDING INNOVATION

From research studies to life-enhancing apps, patients and community members serve as the catalyst for Shepherd Center's clinical and technology innovation initiatives.

ALSO INSIDE

VIRTUAL CONNECTIONS FILL GAPS IN DELIVERING CARE + PATIENT FINDS PURPOSE BEYOND THE GRIDIRON + SHEPHERD CENTER WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

SPRING 2021

Shepherd

Center Spinal Column*

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ABOUT THE COVER:

Patient Sierra McLeod demonstrates GlassOuse motion sensor glasses with a bite switch to access an iPad with guidance from Adina Bradshaw, M.S., CCC-SLP, ATP, CPACC, speech-language pathologist in Shepherd Center's Assistive Technology Center. The device allows the user to move a cursor with slight head movements and click using the bite switch.

Photo by Phil Skinner.

LETTER FROM SARAH MORRISON



Dear Readers,

At Shepherd Center, innovation is a word we use every day. To me, it means creating breakthroughs not for tomorrow, but for the day after tomorrow. It means finding ways to build a bridge from "I can't" to "I can." It means looking at the latest advances in research and clinical care to see how they will benefit future generations of people with spinal cord injury, brain injury, stroke, multiple sclerosis, spine and chronic pain, and other neuromuscular disorders.

In this issue, our cover story takes a look at some of the primary ways Shepherd Center is innovating to advance treatments and therapies on page 6. Whether it's through developing models that can predict what treatment plans will be most effective for specific patients or participating in novel clinical trials that can help people with spinal cord injuries restore hand and arm function, there is no limit to what we can do when our focus is on the people we serve.

On page 5, we ask one of our research program managers about her work partnering with companies like Microsoft to make technology accessible to everyone. This is one great example of Shepherd Center's responsibility to share our research and clinical knowledge with our industry and academic partners to enhance patient care. These partnerships increase Shepherd's reach so we help our own patients, as well as people across the nation and around the globe.

You'll read about former Shepherd Center patient Christion Abercrombie on page 14. He is doing his part to impact the globe through the Christion Abercrombie Foundation. He and his family hope to educate others about traumatic brain injuries, especially those who are athletes like Christion.

Finally, we welcome our five new board members on page 18. Whether they have been part of the Shepherd Center family for decades or were former patients and clients, each member brings a passionate perspective that will help us continue to innovate, focusing on patient care well into the future.

As we talk about patient stories of hope and innovation, I hope you are encouraged to look forward to the future and the possibilities it holds. Enjoy.

Sincerely,

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

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Former patient Christian Abercrombie and his mom, Staci, enjoy a moment before a football game prior to his brain injury.

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PHOTO PROVIDED COURTESY OF ABERCROMBIE FAMILY



See news.shepherd.org
for additional online content.

Gifts of Generosity

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



Shepherd Center Launches MyChart Patient Portal

Shepherd Center launched MyChart, a patient portal, for people who use Shepherd Center outpatient services. Powered by Epic, MyChart offers patients personalized and secure online access to portions of their medical records.

ACCESS TO MYCHART ALLOWS PATIENTS TO:

- » See their health information in one place.
- » Connect with their team from anywhere.
- » Stay informed about their health.

Currently, outpatients do not need to take any action to enroll in MyChart. Shepherd Center's outpatient staff members will provide patients with a MyChart activation code in the after-visit summary they receive following their next outpatient appointment, or they may call or email Shepherd Center's MyChart Support Team at 404-425-7250 or

MyChartSupport@shepherd.org to request a MyChart activation code. Patients can visit mychart.shepherd.org to set up their account and log in.

If patients already use MyChart through Piedmont Healthcare, they will automatically have access to their Shepherd Center MyChart. They can visit mychart.shepherd.org, and enter their existing Piedmont log-in credentials.

If patients experience any technical difficulties with MyChart, they can contact Shepherd Center's MyChart Support Team at

404-425-7250 to leave a message. One of our representatives will return their call typically within one business day. Patients can learn more about MyChart at shepherd.org/MyChart.

Subsequent phases of MyChart will add the ability for patients to make and/or check-in for appointments online, conduct telehealth sessions with their provider and pay bills electronically, among other features. Shepherd Center will also add MyChart access for inpatients in the future.

Patients must be 18 years or older to register for MyChart. If they are younger than 18 years old, they will need to have their parent or guardian register on their behalf by completing the appropriate proxy form that is available for download at shepherd.org/MyChart.

Shepherd Center is in an Epic Community Connect partnership with Piedmont Healthcare, meaning Shepherd Center is hosted on Piedmont's Epic platform. That means some of the email communication patients receive will include the Piedmont name and branding. The Shepherd Center team is still the main point of contact for Shepherd Center patients' MyChart account and their care. *

Shepherd Center Apothecary Opens Online Gift Shop

Shepherd Center opened its Apothecary Online Gift Shop. A popular fixture within the main Shepherd Center hospital building in Atlanta, Georgia, the Apothecary sells various Shepherd-branded merchandise, gifts and more.

With the rollout of the online store, customers can now have items shipped anywhere in the United States. The online shop also offers curbside pickup for those in the Atlanta area. Shepherd Center employees, patients and families can arrange in-store pickup, as well.

Scan the QR code to visit the gift shop. If you have any questions, call 404-350-7743.*

NOW OPEN!

Shepherd Apothecary

Online Gift Shop







FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

shepherd-apothecary.mybigcommerce.com

OR CALL 404-350-7743



Sarah Morrison Named Most Admired CEO in Healthcare for 2020 by *Atlanta Business Chronicle*



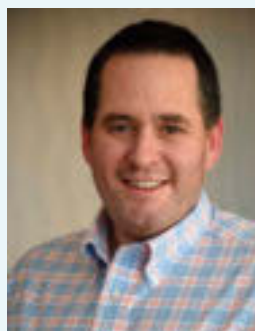
Sarah Morrison was recognized in a virtual awards ceremony held by the *Atlanta Business Chronicle*.

Sarah Morrison, PT, MBA, MHA, president and CEO of Shepherd Center, was recognized in a virtual awards ceremony by the *Atlanta Business Chronicle* as one of Atlanta's Most Admired CEOs. The annual awards recognize local leaders who have demonstrated a strong vision for their companies, have shown commitment to culture in the workplace and made significant contributions to our community. Shepherd Center is fortunate to have a leader who inspires the team with a unique blend of hard work, humor and hope. *

Shepherd Center Adds Two New Physicians to Medical Staff

Philip Wexler, M.D., and David Quintero, M.D., have joined Shepherd Center's medical staff. Dr. Wexler, a pulmonologist, is the hospital's new medical director of pulmonology and respiratory therapy services. Dr. Quintero, a board-certified pulmonologist and critical care physician, is serving as medical director of Shepherd Center's 10-bed intensive care unit (ICU), as well as critical care services.

"We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Wexler and Dr. Quintero to Shepherd Center," says Michael Yochelson, M.D., MBA, chief medical officer at Shepherd Center. "Both are highly experienced physicians who are providing specialized care to our patients." *



Philip Wexler, M.D., joined Shepherd's medical staff on November 30, 2020.



David Quintero, M.D., joined Shepherd Center's medical staff on December 9, 2020.

Shepherd Center Welcomes New Director of Quality and Outcomes Management

Shepherd Center announced that Jacqueline Baron-Lee, Ph.D., CPHQ, PMP, joined its staff on January 11, 2021, as director of quality and outcomes management. Dr. Baron-Lee oversees collection, dissemination and use of Shepherd Center's outcomes information for quality.

"We are thrilled to welcome Jacqueline Baron-Lee to Shepherd Center," says Jamie Shepherd, MBA, MHA, chief operating officer of Shepherd Center. "Her experience will add great value to the continued development of the quality department."

Dr. Baron-Lee comes to Shepherd Center from University of Florida Health, where she was the quality officer in the Neuromedicine Interdisciplinary Academic and Clinical Program (NICAP). She earned master's and doctoral

degrees in psychology from the University of Florida.

In her new role, Dr. Baron-Lee oversees process improvement initiatives throughout the hospital and serves as Shepherd Center's patient safety officer. She also leads efforts to ensure conformance with the accreditation standards of The Joint Commission and the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities.

"I am very excited to join the Shepherd Center family and apply my experience with quality and outcome improvement through great partnership with staff at all levels of this amazing organization," Dr. Baron-Lee says. "My passion is to improve healthcare quality and safety outcomes, especially among patients with neurological challenges, across the continuum of care." *



Jacqueline Baron-Lee, Ph.D., CPHQ, PMP, joined Shepherd Center's staff on January 11, 2021, as director of quality and outcomes management.

SPOTLIGHT

Virtual Connections Fill Gaps in Patient and Family Care

Shepherd Center innovates virtual options to effectively treat patients and support families.

BY DAMJANA ALVERSON

The proverb, "Necessity is the mother of invention," has always been a guiding force at Shepherd Center, but especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Providing consistent care is critical to our patients' rehabilitation," says Sarah Morrison, PT, MBA, MHA, president and CEO of Shepherd Center. "COVID-19 forced us to innovate quickly and find a way to continue that care virtually where it was needed."

Within three weeks of the pandemic's start, every Shepherd Center department contributed to making virtual services possible. Telehealth, online wellness clinics and other virtual services are now a regular part of the hospital's operations and have broader applications. For example, people who don't live near the hospital can now participate in programs they previously could not access.

Shepherd Center's peer support program, which connects injured individuals and their families with mentors, also offers virtual platforms. It has been so successful that the acquired brain injury (ABI) family peer support groups have seen a 32% increase in meeting attendance.

"Instead of having to miss a peer support dinner or one-on-one support session because they are out of state or it's inconvenient, they can tune in from anywhere," says Claire Holley, acquired brain injury family peer support coordinator.

The spinal cord injury (SCI) peer support groups have had another unexpected benefit: patients can now get a glimpse into the lives of their mentors in their home environments through virtual sessions. This allows them to see how their mentors live day-to-day, which ultimately boosts their confidence to manage life when they return home.

To help navigate their loved one's injury, families of inpatients with a brain injury can participate in therapy. Shatavia Thomas, DMFT, LMFT, an ABI family therapist, launched telehealth services in March 2020. Since then, she has met with 34 families across the 10 states where she is licensed or has provisions during the state of emergency.

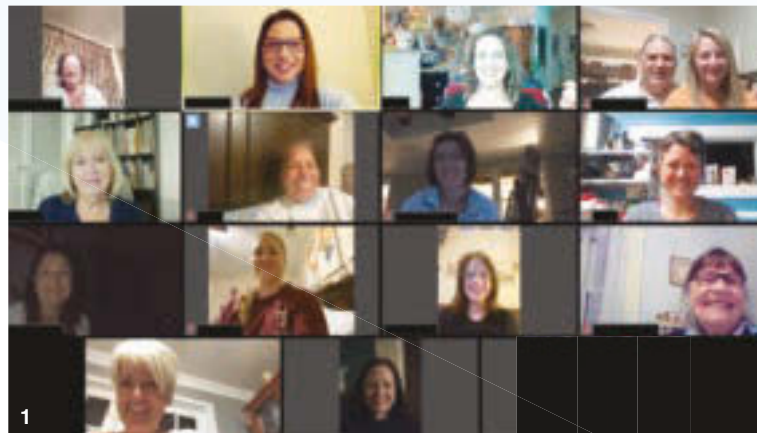
"Personally, it's been a rewarding experience in my career to be part of this effort to adapt quickly to serve the needs of families," Dr. Thomas says.

The Eula C. and Andrew C. Carlos Multiple Sclerosis Rehabilitation and Wellness Program aims to help patients slow disease progression and improve quality of life. In August 2020, it began offering its wellness program virtually, including 10 group exercise classes, yoga, Pilates, meditation, individual coaching sessions and social hours.

"Managing multiple sclerosis (MS) involves a combination of medical treatment, specific rehabilitation such as physical or speech therapy, and overall wellness," says Anna Berry, PT, DPT, program manager of the MS Institute. "With the virtual wellness classes, we've been able to increase our class sizes and are looking to increase the number of classes we offer, as well."

In the early days of the pandemic, Shepherd Center's Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation Program received an emergency grant from the Craig H. Neilsen Foundation to provide a virtual solution to help people with spinal cord injuries stay physically active. They have tried it in three cohorts.

The first cohort completed an eight-week trial core curriculum for seated yoga classes and upper-body strengthening classes in September 2020. The second cohort included a leisure skill art class, art and relaxation class, upper-body strengthening, and yoga. Due to high demand, a third cohort was added, incorporating an



1. The ABI family peer support group connects families of injured individuals with mentors.
2. Virtual MS wellness group exercises began in August 2020.

BY THE NUMBERS

50 Participants who received SCI wellness services virtually who would not have otherwise been able to due to the pandemic

32% INCREASE IN ABI FAMILY PEER SUPPORT GROUP CLASS ATTENDANCE SINCE IT WENT VIRTUAL

10 States families live in who have participated in telehealth ABI family therapy to date

10 Virtual MS wellness group exercise classes each week

updated strengthening and cardio class called Shepherd Moves and a weekly theme that teaches a new area of wellness to participants.

"The cohorts have been going really well," says Jenny Dilaura, MA, CCLS, CTRS, lead therapist in Shepherd Center's health and wellness clinics. "Participants have even continued to exercise on their own with the videos we recorded over Zoom. I am excited to see how we can continue to develop this program."

To prevent a gap in care for its clients, Shepherd Center's SHARE Military Initiative, a comprehensive rehabilitation program for post-9/11 veterans and service members with brain injury, began offering telehealth in Georgia during July 2020 and has since become licensed in North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and Florida. The team is working to become licensed in other states, as well.

"The goal of the telehealth program is to help our clients develop sustainable activities of wellness," says Jackie Breitenstein, MS, CTRS, CCM, the SHARE program manager. "We still offer our full spectrum of therapy including recreational therapy, virtual exercise groups and virtual peer support groups for clients who are currently in the program or clients who have graduated."

With tenacity and ingenuity, Shepherd Center quickly launched a variety of virtual wellness and telehealth offerings.

"The foundation built since last March will allow the hospital to continue to evolve, even as we move past the pandemic," Morrison says. "While virtual solutions may not always be the appropriate choice, having the resource as part of Shepherd Center's comprehensive rehabilitation program helps elevate the patient and family experience."*

Research Employee Shares What is at the Heart of Any Good Researcher

Nicole Thompson, MPH, is a research program manager for acquired brain injury and assistive technology at Shepherd Center and director of operations for the Accessibility User Research Collective (AURC).

BY DAMJANA ALVERSON



1 Nicole Thompson has worked at Shepherd Center since 2003.
2. Nicole has always had an interest in science and enjoys collaborating with her team to advance research.

Q: How long have you worked at Shepherd Center?

I have worked at Shepherd Center since 2003.

Q: What is your role at Shepherd Center?

I am a research program manager in two areas: acquired brain injury (ABI) and assistive technology. Ultimately, all the research work I do is centered around improving the quality of life of people with disabilities and those with various accessibility needs.

As the ABI research program manager, I work with the director of brain injury research, Brick Johnstone, Ph.D., ABPP, to facilitate the implementation of research projects across many Shepherd Center patient programs. I assist with the entire research process including designing projects, grant writing, Institutional Review Board (IRB) activities, project coordination, data collection, database management, data analysis and manuscript preparation. As you can imagine, being organized and being able to multitask are useful skills in doing this job!

As an assistive technology research program manager, I work with John Morris, Ph.D., FACRM, senior clinical research scientist, and the team to manage the operations of industry-funded research projects such as the Accessibility User Research Collective (AURC). In this role, I oversee the AURC database and project coordination of several studies in the collaboration Shepherd Center has with Microsoft.

Q: Talk about what you do as director of operations for the Accessibility User Research Collective (AURC) and why this work is important.

I work with Microsoft researchers, developers and engineers to coordinate research studies, such as surveys, interviews and user testing sessions, that focus on inclusive design, as well as the accessibility and usability of specific products and services (e.g. Xbox, Microsoft Edge and Windows). The overall goal is to make this technology available to everyone. Accessible technology gives people with disabilities opportunities, choices and independence, allowing them the ability to engage in activities they desire. Since we began this work in 2017, we have completed about 75 projects.

Q: What do you love most about your job?

I've always been interested in science and I love people. This type of research has been a great way to merge both. I enable people to get their voices heard by reporting on their feedback and data, which hopefully helps to improve the healthcare and quality of life of people with disabilities in the long run.

Q: What is something that may surprise people about working in research?

Having people skills is a plus! The heart of a good researcher is the desire to discover something new that benefits people and then present those findings so others may learn. Research study participants volunteer their time and effort, and trust the integrity of the researcher to present their data in a meaningful way. It's up to us to never take that for granted. *

INTERESTING FACTS

EDUCATION

Emory University

- Bachelor's degree in biology
- Master's degree in public health

FUN FACTS

- Nicole was born in Jamaica and moved to the United States when she was 3 years old.
- Nicole's first job was working as a shampoo girl for her parents' salon and beauty supply business.
- Nicole was in the gospel choir at Emory University, but she insists she cannot sing.
- Nicole loves puzzles.

More online at
news.shepherd.org

GUIDING INNOVATION

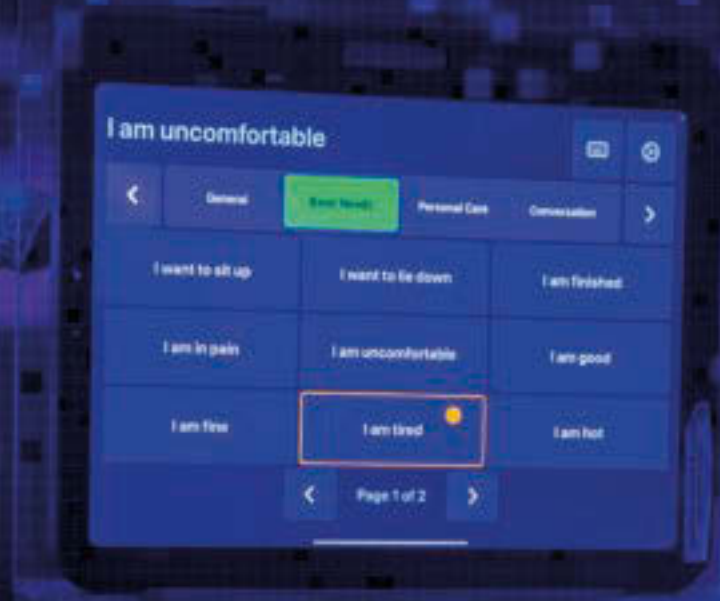


From research studies to life-enhancing apps, patients and community members serve as the catalyst for Shepherd Center's clinical and technology innovation initiatives.



BY DAMJANA ALVERSON

Patients can use Apple's built-in head tracking feature to access the Vocable app on a tablet. The app uses built-in technology to track the user's head movements. When the user stops moving their head, the item on the screen is selected. The app features pre-programmed phrases that speak when selected so patients with limited motor function can communicate with caregivers and loved ones.



GUIDING INNOVATION

Like Shepherd Center itself, innovation can spark optimism, hope and even curiosity.

While often associated with flashy technology or gadgets, innovation can also be very practical, guided by the desire to fulfill an unmet need.

"Our 'why' has been clear from the start," says Mike Jones, Ph.D., FACRM, who recently retired as vice president of research and technology after 25 years at Shepherd Center (*see more on page 12*). "We focus on improving clinical outcomes and quality of life for our patients with disabilities. At the end of the day, impressive technology and clinical trials are only meaningful if they have practical, sustainable applications for the people we serve."

Shepherd Center's research efforts began in 1982 with funding of the Southeastern Spinal Cord Injury Model System, which continues to this day. In 1996, the Virginia C. Crawford Research Institute was founded with the aim of broadening Shepherd's research program and supporting the integration of research into clinical practice. During the past 25 years, researchers and clinicians at

Shepherd Center have participated in many studies and clinical trials that have changed the care landscape for people with spinal cord injury, brain injury, stroke, multiple sclerosis, and spine and chronic pain. Today, Shepherd Center's research and innovation initiatives focus on therapy augmentation, assistive technology, big data and partnerships.

BOOSTING THE SIGNAL: THERAPY AUGMENTATION

Anyone who has been through rehabilitation for spinal cord injury (SCI), brain injury or a neurological condition, such as multiple sclerosis (MS), will tell you it is hard work.

There are physical challenges in occupational therapy, physical therapy and speech therapy sessions and unseen psychological hurdles. While a person's dedication to old fashioned

That's what Edelle Field-Fote, PT, Ph.D., FAPTA, FASIA, director of spinal cord injury (SCI) research and the Hulse Spinal Cord Injury Lab at Shepherd Center, is hoping to accomplish as co-principal investigator in the Up-LIFT clinical study, a multi-center clinical trial of cervical spinal stimulation using ARC Therapy™. Sponsored by the medical technology company ONWARD (formerly GTX Medical), the Up-LIFT trial aims to restore hand and arm function in people with SCI who have minimal ability to move their hands. Shepherd Center enrolled the first participant in the study in January 2021.

Here's how it works: A spinal cord injury disrupts the transmission of signals from the brain that activate the muscles someone wants to move. In most people with SCI, there are still some remaining spinal pathways, but the damage to the spinal cord means that only a fraction of the signals get through. The result is limited ability to move. The goal of spinal stimulation with ONWARD's ARC Therapy™ is to "boost" the signal transmission so that more of it reaches the areas of the spinal cord that activate the muscles. The research team hopes to show this technology improves movement and strength in the hands and upper extremities of people with SCI when combined with daily functional task practice training.

"For individuals with impaired arm and hand function due to spinal cord injury, improved hand function directly translates into meaningful gains in terms of quality of life — being able to eat, dress and perform other day-to-day activities," Dr. Field-Fote says.

Shepherd Center plans to recruit at least eight participants in this clinical trial. This trial is registered on [clinicaltrials.gov](https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/study/NCT04697472) (#NCT04697472).

Scan the QR code for more information and to be considered for participation.



1. Edelle Field-Fote, PT, Ph.D., FAPTA, FASIA, director of spinal cord injury research and the Hulse Spinal Cord Injury Lab at Shepherd Center, is co-principal investigator in the Up-LIFT clinical trial. 2. The Up-LIFT clinical trial involves a non-invasive platform consisting of a wearable stimulator and wireless programmer.

2



hard work is necessary to experience progress, there are specific ways to enhance — or augment — conventional therapies to produce even greater results.





Patient Sierra McLeod demonstrates the LUCI™ autonomous driving system for power wheelchairs, a system of cloud-connected software and hardware mounted to a wheelchair that uses sensors to detect potential dangers in the environment.

mobile app used to set up the technology on a wheelchair, making the technology more accessible. Now, they are working to build their distribution network to make LUCI available to more people who may need it. You can learn more about LUCI at luci.com.

TECH THAT HELPS: ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Ranging from low-tech to high-tech with a wide variety of applications, assistive technology is any item, equipment, software or product used to increase, maintain or improve the functional capabilities of people with disabilities. Shepherd Center's Assistive Technology Center focuses on addressing these needs.

"A lot of times, new assistive technology innovations come out of one person solving for one specific need," says Chris Maurer, MPT, ATP, program manager of Shepherd Center's Assistive Technology Center. "At Shepherd, our diverse patient population allows us to test these innovations and offer feedback so we can see how a piece of technology can apply to more people who may benefit from it."

This was certainly the case for the LUCI™ autonomous driving system for power wheelchairs. Inspired by his daughter who was born with cerebral palsy, Grammy-nominated songwriter Barry Dean wanted to create a smart wheelchair that could

prevent tips, collisions and falls. Barry and his brother, Jered, partnered to develop LUCI, a system of cloud-connected

software and hardware mounted to a wheelchair that uses sensors to detect potential dangers in the environment. Last year, they approached experts at Shepherd Center to test it.

"So often, typical research remains theoretical, focusing on the narrowest data sets," Dean says. "Shepherd Center gave us the opposite — and much more valuable — view. Their expert team examined our new technology and tested it with their patients. There was immediate and direct feedback, and this incredible team allowed us as a company to observe reactions to our new product in real time."

That direct feedback inspired the LUCI team to completely redesign the

Shepherd Center also produces assistive technology through its collaboration with Duke University and Northeastern University called the LiveWell Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center (RERC). The LiveWell RERC promotes access to existing and emerging technologies for all people, regardless of ability, through various research and development projects. A key project is the App Factory, a technology development initiative started in 2011 and pioneered under the Wireless RERC grant by Dr. Jones. It brings together rehabilitation experts and app developers with people living with disabilities at the center of all efforts. To date, the App Factory has funded or directly produced 46 mobile apps which have generated nearly 1 million downloads.

"With the advent of the iPhone and other smart devices that followed, we

"We focus on improving clinical outcomes and quality of life for our patients with disabilities. At the end of the day, impressive technology and clinical trials are only meaningful if they have practical, sustainable applications for the people we serve."

— MIKE JONES, PH.D., FACRM
Recently Retired Vice President of Research and Technology

GUIDING INNOVATION



Born out of Shepherd Center's SHARE Military Initiative, SwapMyMood is a free app that assists people with brain injury in using evidence-based tools to support problem-solving and emotion regulation.

"At Shepherd, our diverse patient population allows us to test these innovations and offer feedback so we can see how a piece of technology can apply to more people who may benefit from it."

— CHRIS MAURER, MPT, ATP,
Program Manager, Assistive
Technology Center

now have platforms to support mobile apps, and it's opened tremendous opportunities for our patients and others with disabilities," Dr. Jones says. "But amid the explosive growth of mobile healthcare apps, technologies must evolve and/or be adapted so that people with disabilities can use them."

One example is SwapMyMood, a free app that assists people with brain injury in using evidence-based tools to

support problem-solving and emotion regulation. Clinicians can use it to guide patients through recognizing when they have a problem, what caused it, and how to resolve the issue and cope with their emotions in a thoughtful, constructive way.

SwapMyMood was born out of Shepherd Center's SHARE Military Initiative, a comprehensive rehabilitation program focusing on assessment and treatment for service members who have served in the U.S. military since September 11, 2001, regardless of discharge status.

"We traditionally teach these problem-solving and emotion regulation techniques from a paper manual, but it occurred to me that it might be more effective if we could provide an electronic version that our SHARE clients could use no matter where they are," says Tracey Wallace, MS, CCC-SLP, the SHARE Military Initiative's projects and education coordinator.

Wallace teamed up with John Morris, Ph.D., FACRM, a senior clinical research scientist at Shepherd Center, in 2016 to create the app. They received positive

feedback from SHARE clients. Like all technology, the app is continually evolving, and developers released the latest version in spring 2020. The team plans to launch a clinical trial comparing the outcomes from clients who use only the paper manual version with outcomes from clients who use only the app. The results will inform how the app will evolve to help those who need it.

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER: BIG DATA

Big data may sound like an intimidating concept, but when it's boiled down, it refers to large, diverse sets of information that are too complex to manage and process in traditional ways. For example, think of all the information you store each day in your smartphone, like photos, texts, web searches, social media interactions and more. Now, multiply that by the more than 2.8 billion smartphone users in the world, and your head may start spinning. This is what the tech industry refers to as big data.

"Big data can have a huge impact on healthcare and patient quality of life," Dr. Jones says. "Shepherd Center has about 23 years of electronic medical record data that is nearly impossible to analyze manually. Thanks to big data analytics, we have a much more efficient way to dig into that information to help reveal which interventions and treatments are most effective for our patients."

2. Raeda Anderson, Ph.D., is one of the research scientists at Shepherd Center working on the big data effort. 3. Flint Rehab produces at-home neurorehabilitation devices such as FitMi with sensors that aid in exercises and adapt to the user's needs. 4. Pt Pal is a HIPAA-compliant, secure app that allows a patient's care team to send exercise routines, activities of daily living, diet recommendations, surveys and educational materials to the patient's or caregiver's mobile device.

At Shepherd Center, big data is making an impact through the concept of mobile rehabilitation (mRehab). That concept involves the delivery of services and support for home-based rehabilitation using mobile apps, sensor-based activity tracking and gamified exercises. The goal of mRehab is two-fold: keep patients interested in their therapy so they continue training at home and provide a low-cost, accessible way for people to continue rehabilitation once they leave the clinic.

Dr. Jones' extensive work with wireless technology helped him realize mobile devices generate vast sets of clinically valuable data. For example, data can reveal whether people stick to their at-home rehabilitation plan and what motivates them to stay consistent. He recruited George Collier, Ph.D., as a Shepherd Center senior data scientist tasked with creating a big data system to

handle the amount of information recorded by patients using apps and sensor technology to track their therapy.

Dr. Collier works with Raeda Anderson, Ph.D., a research scientist at Shepherd Center, and a team of collaborators at the University of California, Irvine, including David Reinkensmeyer, Ph.D., Edgar de Jesus Ramos Munoz, Ph.D., and Veronica Swanson, to explore factors that determine whether people continue their rehabilitation exercises at home and when they are likely to drop off.

"Clinicians can use the results from this data analysis to understand what

makes mRehab more engaging and adjust the programs accordingly," Dr. Collier explains. "That way, the users are more likely to participate and stay as healthy as possible once they leave Shepherd Center."

This work is funded by a \$4.25 million, five-year grant from the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living and Rehabilitation Research

"Thanks to big data analytics, we have a much more efficient way to dig into that information to help reveal which interventions and treatments are most effective for our patients."

— MIKE JONES, PH.D., FACRM
Recently Retired Vice President of Research and Technology



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4

GUIDING INNOVATION

(NIDILRR) to help advance the mRehab field and test how clinicians can embed these technologies into practice. Two of the key collaborators in implementing mRehab are Pt Pal and Flint Rehab.

Pt Pal is a HIPAA-compliant, secure app that allows a patient's care team to send exercise routines, activities of daily living, diet recommendations, surveys and educational materials to the patient's or caregiver's mobile

device. Clinicians use data collected from the app to monitor patients' adherence to treatment regimens.

Flint Rehab is a digital health company that develops rehabilitation tools using the latest clinical research and gamification. Two of their popular products are fitness games that use sensors that track users' movements and help them regain mobility and function with real-time feedback.

The team is working to integrate the Pt Pal app with Flint Rehab's sensor technology so the app can store sensor data while patients exercise at home and in clinic. This information provides a clearer picture of the patient's lifestyle and motivation, allowing clinicians to determine the best treatment plan for each individual. So far, Shepherd Center has accumulated one year's worth of

SHEPHERD CENTER WELCOMES A NEW VICE PRESIDENT OF RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Deborah Backus, PT, Ph.D., FACRM, assumed the new role of vice president of research and innovation on March 1. Dr. Backus began her career at Shepherd Center in 1989 as a physical therapist. Through her tenure, she has demonstrated strong collaborative skills and the ability to deliver innovative solutions to meet patient care needs, most recently as director of multiple sclerosis research. In her new role, Dr. Backus will expand Shepherd Center's existing programs to ensure the hospital continues to be at the forefront of treatment and technological advances.

"Dr. Backus' passion, dedication and hard work perfectly position her to be successful in this new role," says Sarah Morrison, PT, MBA, MHA, president and CEO of Shepherd Center. "Through her leadership, we will continue to transform patient care for years to come."

Dr. Backus assumed the role following Michael L. Jones, Ph.D., FACRM, who is retiring as vice president of research and technology after a distinguished 25-year career with the hospital, yet will continue participating in research at Shepherd Center in

other capacities.

His contributions have been immeasurable. In addition to serving as a founding director of the Center's Virginia C. Crawford Research Institute, he oversaw Shepherd's Assistive Technology Center and Noble Learning Resource Center. After joining Shepherd Center in 1996, Dr. Jones served in various management roles, including chair of the Research Review Committee, ex-officio member of the Board of Directors and director of information systems from 2000-2017.

"Dr. Jones and his team's impact have transformed Shepherd Center over the past 25 years," Morrison says. "Shepherd Center patient programs like our successful Beyond Therapy® outpatient program started as research projects. We have Dr. Jones' leadership to thank for that."



1. Dr. Backus assumed the role of vice president of research and innovation on March 1, 2021.

Photo by Joann Vitelli. 2. Dr. Jones served as vice president of research and technology in a distinguished 25-year career at Shepherd Center. Photo by Gary Meek.



INNOVATION PARTNERSHIPS

- Industry Partners
- Academic Partners

Shepherd Center has more than 200 industry and academic partnerships to advance research and innovation.

Pt Pal app data from patients, resulting in a data set of about 4.8 million observations. They have also begun collecting information from the Flint Rehab sensor devices.

"What happens in the clinic is important, but the data from these mobile devices will give us a window into what happens after the patient returns home to their community," Dr. Collier says. "That's what is really telling about someone's long-term success. With this wealth of information, we hope to personalize at-home rehabilitation to make that success even more achievable."

INNOVATING THROUGH CONNECTIONS: PARTNERSHIPS

Sharing knowledge is a cornerstone of making progress, which is why Shepherd Center has more than 200 industry and academic partnerships to advance research and innovation.

"We have to share knowledge, energy and resources with our partners to maximize the impact we can have for our patients and all people with disabilities," Dr. Morris says.

One such partnership began between Microsoft and Shepherd Center in 2017. It is the Accessibility User Research Collective (AURC), which connects Microsoft product engineering teams directly with people with disabilities. Microsoft partnered with Shepherd Center for its expertise in accessibility and usability testing, as well as rehabilitation research in areas like assistive technology. AURC staff at Shepherd Center design study protocols, recruit research participants, and collect and analyze data to ensure that ongoing product development at Microsoft meets the needs of people with disabilities.

"By working with the Shepherd Center AURC, we have built a scalable system that brings the voice of people with disabilities into our company, helps us better understand how they use our products and provides feedback to engineers to make our tools more accessible," says Megan Lawrence, Ph.D., Microsoft senior accessibility evangelist.

Since AURC's inception, Shepherd Center and Microsoft have completed

Scan the QR code to watch a short video about our research and innovation partnerships.



more than 75 usability and user-needs research projects to make Microsoft's consumer technologies more accessible and useful. There are about 1,000 participants in the studies selected based on the type of disability they have to test specific features of Microsoft's products.

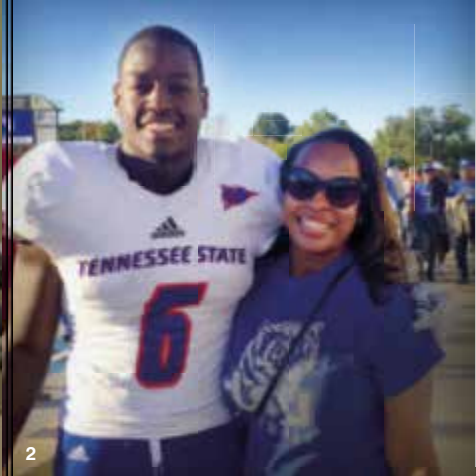
"A lot of times, research and innovative ideas can take a long time to go to market," says Nicole Thompson, MPH, director of operations for the Accessibility User Research Collective (AURC) at Shepherd Center. "The beauty of this type of data collection model is that we can gather consumers' feedback and implement their suggestions quickly in order to match the needs of the fast-paced technology sector."

To learn more about the AURC, visit accessibilityuserresearchcollective.org and sign up to join. ✱

P

patient
profile

1



CALLING AN AUDIBLE

With some help from Shepherd Center, **Christion Abercrombie** finds new purpose beyond the gridiron.

BY PHILLIP JORDAN

HARD WORKING AND HARD HITTING

Christion Abercrombie, 22, was an ideal middle linebacker on the football field. Christion always anchored his team's defense – from age 5 in South Fulton, Georgia, Little League ball to his time as an All-State standout at Westlake High School in metro Atlanta and through his brief career at Tennessee State University.

He didn't talk much, but his teammates followed his lead. And his opponents were always aware of his presence. Christion was strong, fast and always ran through the ball carrier – another way of saying he was a player who rarely missed his mark.

On September 29, 2018, Christion's skills were on full display as his Tennessee State Tigers sought an upset of the SEC's Vanderbilt University. In the first half, Christion racked up five tackles and kept consistent pressure on Vandy's quarterback. Then, just before halftime – following a seemingly routine play – Christion came off the field with a headache. Soon, he collapsed on the sidelines. He was rushed to Vanderbilt University Medical Center, where doctors had Christion in emergency surgery within 30 minutes due to a traumatic brain injury.

"Those immediate hours were so confusing and so devastating," says Christion's mom, Staci. "We were just praying he would recover, and we were so thankful for the quick response on the field and at Vanderbilt."

In all, Christion survived a series of strokes, multiple operations and two weeks using a ventilator to help him breathe. Three weeks after his injury, and still in a low-level state of consciousness, Christion arrived at Shepherd Center as a patient in the Disorders of Consciousness Program.

"We arrived on a Wednesday," Staci says. "By Friday, he was on the rehab floor, and therapists were working with him all day. That was such a turning point. It was like our prayers had been answered."

"Dr. [Anna Choo] Elmers and the entire care team worked beyond expectations. They treated us like family. And they weren't just working with Christion. They also helped us cope with how much our world had changed."

Over the next two months of physical, speech and occupational therapy, Christion's mind began to awaken. In November 2018, during his inpatient stay at Shepherd Center, he made a noise for the first time.

"My dad heard me, and he said, 'Christion, can you talk?' I just said, 'Yes,'" Christion recalls.

From then on, his memory steadily returned – painfully, at first, as he reckoned with his injury and the loss of football. But Christion embraced his rehabilitation, going four days a week to

Beyond Therapy®, an intensive neurological rehabilitation program at Shepherd Center that integrates physical therapy and exercise physiology. His memory, speech and motor skills continued to improve. Along the way, his confidence resurfaced, too.

A NEW PURPOSE

As Christion's voice returned, he decided to share it with the world. The once reserved and soft-spoken student-athlete challenged himself to do interviews with the news media for the sake of reaching others in similar situations. He and his family also started the Christion Abercrombie Foundation to educate others about traumatic brain injuries, especially those that happen to student-athletes.

"Ever since Christion's injury, families going through the same journey have been reaching out to us," Staci says.



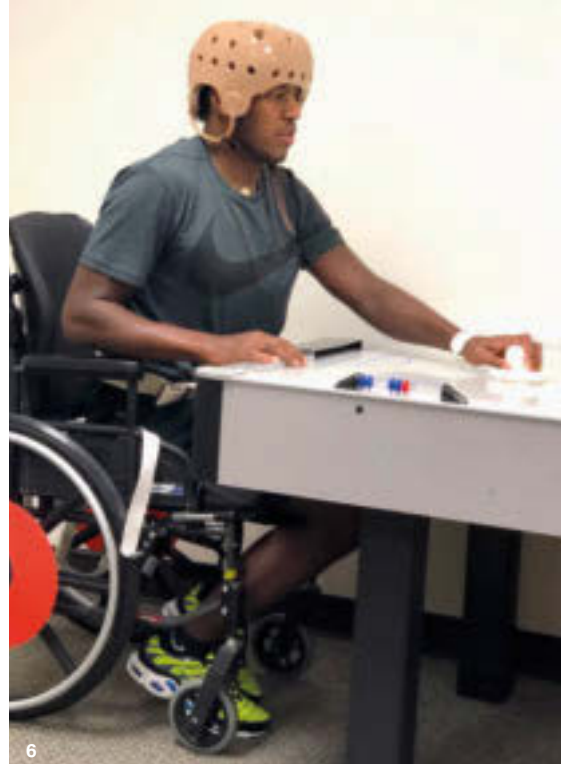
"We were blessed to have Shepherd Center. Not everyone does. Our goal is to grow this foundation nationwide and become advocates for the families who are supporting their children through life-changing injuries."

For Christion, whose identity was so connected to football, the speaking opportunities and his foundation have given him a new purpose.

"I'm honored to have the platform," he says. "I questioned how I could handle this, but God has given me the strength. I want to be known for helping others, giving back. I want to be an example to others to live life and keep pushing through adversity."

He already is.

On December 19, 2018, Christion took a special day trip from Shepherd Center to Westlake High School. There, the city of South Fulton celebrated Christion Abercrombie Day to recognize how much he'd inspired his hometown. In 2020, Christion received the National Football Federation's annual Bonnie Sloan Courage Award. And while his playing days may be behind him, Christion still has his sights set on a potential career in football as a coach or front office leader. He's already making connections.



1 and 2. Christion played on the Tennessee State Tigers football team prior to his injury. 3. Christion strutted his stuff in Shepherd Center's Project Rollway event. 4. Christion worked hard during his rehabilitation in Shepherd Center's gym. 5. Christion now uses his voice to reach others in similar situations. 6. Christion participated in intensive physical, speech and occupational therapy. 7. Christion celebrated graduation from Shepherd Center with his family and care team.

When Christion was first injured, Tennessee Titans head coach Mike Vrabel visited him in the hospital. The visit turned into an ongoing friendship – and led to a prime-time highlight.

On April 27, 2019, Christion attended the NFL Draft. He wasn't there as a fan; he was there to announce the Titans' fifth-round pick in front of a large crowd in Nashville. And the pick he called out? It just so happened to be one of his childhood friends from South Fulton – former University of Georgia football star D'Andre Walker.

"I didn't know it would be him until they handed me the card," Christion says. "We played Little League together and played against each other in high school. We got to take pictures on stage with our families, and when we talked afterward, we were just screaming and going crazy."

This spring, Christion aims to graduate from Tennessee State with a bachelor of science degree in interdisciplinary studies. No matter where the future leads from there, his mom is confident he'll be ready for whatever opportunities – and challenges – come his way.

"Christion is a God-fearing man, the happiest person in the world now," Staci says. "He wakes up with a smile. He doesn't waste moments; he lives life fully every day. He's just so thankful, and to see him live in this moment after what he's gone through, it gives me life, too." ✨

Shepherd Alums:

From “I Can’t” to “I Can”

Alexis Halbert

MELBOURNE, FLORIDA

Alexis Halbert, now 16, was 4 years old when she started riding horses — a year younger than when her mother, Liz, got her first pony as a child. Over the past few years, mother and daughter bonded over long car rides to horse shows nearly every weekend.

On July 18, 2020, the two were at a jumping event in Mill Spring, North Carolina. During the second round, Alexis’ horse, Charisma, leapt too soon before a jump and collided with the rails — flipping both horse and rider. Charisma died instantly of a broken neck. Alexis survived her spinal cord injury only after emergency surgery at Prisma Health Greenville Memorial Hospital in Greenville, South Carolina, where doctors inserted two rods and eight screws to repair her T-6 and T-7 vertebrae.

Ten days after her injury, Alexis arrived at Shepherd Center, mourning both the loss of her horse and her independence. The equestrian community rallied behind her, sending hundreds of letters, along with a video featuring messages of support from renowned equestrians worldwide.

The Halbert family was also heartened by the new community that embraced them at Shepherd Center.

“You’d think it would be so depressing in a place where there’s such raw grief and sadness for so many people,” Liz says. “But you don’t feel that here. You see inspiration. You’re constantly lifted up. You understand why nobody wants to leave!”

Alexis relished the physical challenges of rehabilitation — stair climbing, Lokomat® sessions, aquatic therapy in Shepherd Center’s pool and even soccer goalkeeper exercises.

“It was hard work, but that’s what I wanted,” she says. “As soon as I would make progress, they’d say, ‘OK, you can do this, now let’s maximize that and try something else.’”

Alexis’ rapid improvement astonished even her care team. On September 14 — less than two months after her injury — Alexis took her first unassisted steps.

Now back home, she’s taking classes online, walking without crutches and partnering with her mom to advocate for the widespread adoption of safety vests in horseback riding. Alexis and Liz are also on the road again — this time for thrice-weekly trips to Orlando for ongoing physical therapy. Thanks to clearance from Shepherd Center’s Adaptive Driving Services, Alexis can take the wheel on those drives.

She’s also taking up the reins again. On Alexis’ 16th birthday, five days after Christmas Day, 2020, she rode for the first time since her injury.

Alexis Halbert was able to ride a horse again five days after Christmas Day, 2020.



1

Tommy Knight

MACON, GEORGIA

Tommy Knight, 67, grew up around his father’s lumber company in Macon, Georgia, and something about the work captured his imagination. Through the years, even as he worked as a claims adjuster by day, Tommy taught himself carpentry, plumbing and electrical work. He’s restored cars and vintage train sets, repaired houses and rigged lighting for a community theater.

In short, Tommy’s hands are rarely idle. That’s why he was devastated by a sudden deterioration in his hands — and his legs and feet — early in 2020 due to multiple sclerosis, a condition he’s navigated since the 1990s.

“With that and COVID-19 hitting around the same time, I was at a real low point,” Tommy says. “I’m driven to be independent. I want to be productive and useful.”

Thankfully, Tommy has been a patient at Shepherd Center since 2013. His care team listened to his issues and recommended a new medication regimen. Just as crucially, they crafted a physical and occupational therapy plan at the Eula C. and Andrew C. Carlos Multiple Sclerosis Rehabilitation and Wellness Program at Shepherd Center.

“I’ve never seen a program quite so comprehensive,” Tommy says. “They really get to the heart of what you need to feel like yourself. It’s phenomenal. It’s literally turned my life around.”

He sings the praises of his lead physical and occupational therapists, Taylor Galmarini, PT, DPT, NCS, NCPT, and Christine Hampton, MOT, OTR/L.

“They know how to target what’s going to help you most,” Tommy says. “And it’s always an interactive thing. We work together to come up with solutions. I scored a win getting to work with those two.”

When he began therapy in September 2020, Tommy was using a cane, even for short distances at home. Now, he’s going on short walks and getting upstairs in his house again. Best of all, the tinkerer credits his therapists with restoring his hands to near-full function. Now, the man who has rebuilt a 1970 Pontiac GTO and a 1966 Ford Mustang is back in the garage, doing a mechanical and electrical restoration of a friend’s truck.

Tommy’s also spending more quality time with his wife Kitty — an educator and professional singer who used to perform under Tommy’s lighting at Macon Little Theatre — and their two grown daughters.

“It’s been a busy life, and that’s how I like it,” Tommy says. “I’m thankful I’m not through living it just yet!”



Tommy Knight loves to restore cars in his spare time.

2

Michael Meltzer

DELRAY BEACH, FLORIDA

In 2008, Marcy Meltzer lost her husband to heart disease. In 2010, she lost her oldest son, Nathan, to lymphoma, at age 27. Nearly a decade later, in the early morning hours of July 15, 2019, Marcy got a call that her youngest son, **Michael — then 27**, too — had been in a severe motorcycle crash.

"I got to the hospital, and there's a Code Blue for Michael," Marcy recounts. "It's one of five he had that first day. He bled out twice. The doctor's saying, 'If we get through these six hours, we'll see about the next six.'"

At one point, she walked over to the windows in the waiting room and started banging on the glass, shouting to the heavens: "Don't you dare take another son from me!"

Michael would spend more than 10 weeks in the Intensive Care Unit at Delray Medical Center, where doctors saved his life. The longer-term concern was the traumatic brain injury he'd sustained. When Michael arrived at Shepherd Center, he was in a state of unresponsive wakefulness. He was also a skeletal 110 pounds — 70 pounds lighter than he was pre-injury.

"Everyone at Shepherd Center was remarkable," Marcy says. "They got weight back on him, they dressed him every day and started therapy right away. And they listened to our input. That meant so much."

Michael improved during his stay and began emerging to full consciousness shortly after Marcy took him home. A friend gave Michael the classic Simon memory game to help sharpen his mental development and his manual dexterity. "Once he mastered that and asked for my iPad, I knew he was on his way back," Marcy says with a laugh.

As close as the two have come over the past year and a half, they each joke that they're OK with not being roommates forever. That day may soon be approaching.

Ten surgeries removed from his injury, Michael is close to full independence. He's also pursuing a master's degree in geomatics engineering — something the U.S. Army veteran knows well from his service in Iraq, where he mapped coordinates for the famed 82nd Airborne Division. His next goal is a career in geospatial mapping at the Environmental Protection Agency.

"I feel like I'm the same person I was before, but needing help from others has changed me," Michael says. "No more pride, no more inhibitions. Just go for it."

After rehabilitation for a traumatic brain injury, Michael Meltzer is pursuing his master's degree in geomatics engineering.



3

Katherine "KJ" Rosynek

SMYRNA, GEORGIA

On a summer afternoon in July 2017, **KJ Rosynek, now 62**, climbed a ladder to clear a fallen limb. At the top, she lost her balance and fell over an adjacent fence. The fall resulted in a spinal cord injury to her C-3 to C-6 vertebrae — as well as a looming question about what life would be like with quadriplegia.

After spending 25 days at Wellstar Kennestone Hospital, KJ was admitted to Shepherd Center.

Following six weeks of inpatient care in the Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation Program, KJ started going to Beyond Therapy® at Shepherd Center three days a week. The program combines athletic training and physical therapy concepts, offering customized plans to maximize recovery and minimize secondary complications.

"It's so refreshing to see a team that focuses on the goals of the patient — pushing, encouraging and driving you to try harder," KJ says. "When you believe you can't do anymore, they find new and creative ways to keep you engaged."

Today, KJ lives independently in an apartment of her own. An avid gardener, she's already planted pansies to add color to her patio. KJ's also been able to continue working a job she loves. This February, she celebrated her 21st year as operations manager for a medical media company. Of course, she enjoys her days off, too. On warm days in Smyrna, KJ says, "You'll see a gal in a wheelchair headed to a park and a sunny spot!"

The youngest of six sisters, she's been blessed to have her siblings by her side throughout her recovery. KJ is also thankful for her new friends at Shepherd Center.

"They've made me strong again physically, but they've also allowed me to recapture my confidence," KJ says. "They've restored my faith. They've given me hope to have dreams and to plan for the future. The staff is everything to me — instructors, therapists and most definitely friends. I have never met such giving individuals. I'm honored to know them."

She also has some advice for those who may be facing a similar journey.

"Stay strong and positive," KJ says. "Life isn't over. It's only a detour. There will be good days and bad days, but stay focused on the next steps and work hard. Give yourself credit for even the smallest things. It's all progress."

4



In her free time, KJ Rosynek enjoys spending time outdoors in the sunlight.

SHEPHERD CENTER WELCOMES

New Members to Board of Directors

Each of the members is uniquely qualified to help guide Shepherd Center into the future.

BY DAMJANA ALVERSON

Shepherd Center has named five new members to its Board of Directors. In this capacity, they will help guide the hospital's vision, mission and strategic direction.



JUSTIN JONES

Justin Jones has been involved with Shepherd Center in one way or another for decades. His mother and his parents-in-law have supported the hospital for many years, but seeing people he knows receive rehabilitation at Shepherd Center made an even stronger impact on him.

"I have known three separate individuals who have gone to Shepherd Center for rehabilitation and saw firsthand how the hospital helps people get their lives back," Justin says.

Before being named to Shepherd Center's Board of Directors, Justin served on the hospital's Board of Trustees and hosted numerous events benefitting programs like Shepherd Center's SHARE Military Initiative. He even came to Shepherd Center's aid when he learned the hospital needed personal protective equipment (PPE) during

the COVID-19 pandemic by helping procure and donate 10,000 protective gowns.

"When you see an institution that is doing the amazing work Shepherd is doing, it's hard to not be moved to help in any way possible," Justin says. "To be asked to serve on the Board of Directors is an honor and a lot of responsibility. I'm proud to be a part of it."

Justin Jones is the executive vice president at Heritage Plastics, a manufacturer of unique mineral concentrates. He is also president and CEO of Pinehurst Manufacturing, an apparel manufacturing company.



"When you see an institution that is doing the amazing work Shepherd is doing, it's hard to not be moved to help in any way possible."

— JUSTIN JONES

SHALER ALIAS

Like Justin, Shaler Alias learned about Shepherd Center at a young age through his family. His father, Fred Alias, has supported the hospital for more than 30 years. While Shaler was aware of what Shepherd Center did, it did not fully sink in until his best friend from college sustained a spinal cord injury in a fall from a roof the night before graduation. Seeing the care his friend received gave him confidence in Shepherd Center and encouraged him to become more involved.

“When you walk into Shepherd Center, you feel like you are part of a winning team,” Shaler says. “The mission is to build a bridge between ‘I can’t’ and ‘I can,’ and that’s the attitude in everything we do. I’m passionate about it.”

During his years of involvement with Shepherd Center, Shaler has served on the Shepherd Center Cup committee for the Shepherd Center Foundation’s annual golf tournament, chairing it once. He has also served on the Advisory Board and the Board of Trustees. Now, he looks forward to his work on the Board of Directors.

“I’m excited to learn even more about this great place and to be able to give back in a new way,” Shaler says.

Shaler Alias is the president and co-founder of REPAY, a financial technology and payment processing solutions company.



“When you walk into Shepherd Center, you feel like you are part of a winning team.”

— SHALER ALIAS



JARRAD TURNER

Jarrad Turner’s journey with Shepherd Center began in 2012 when he was a client of the SHARE Military Initiative, which empowers post-9/11 veterans and service members with brain injury to live with hope and purpose by providing high-quality, comprehensive and personalized rehabilitation care.

Jarrad served in the U.S. Army from 2001 to 2010. He was deployed twice and sustained a traumatic brain injury (TBI) during his second deployment. In addition to his physical injuries, he struggled with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

“Transitioning from the military to the civilian sector can be tough,” Jarrad says. “There weren’t a lot of programs that knew what to do to help me after I separated from the service. Coming to SHARE allowed me to have some semblance of normalcy and gave me the opportunity to truly understand what I needed.”

Inspired by the care he received, Jarrad joined Shepherd’s Men, an organization comprised of active or retired service members and civilian volunteers that raises awareness and funds for SHARE. He began by participating in the annual Shepherd’s Men Run in 2013 and has been actively involved ever since. Now, he looks forward to stepping into his new role on the Board of Directors to give his unique perspective on how Shepherd Center continues to serve patients and families.

“I am passionate with a purpose,” Jarrad says. “I believe in Shepherd Center and want to be part of the solution. This is my opportunity.”

“I believe in Shepherd Center and want to be part of the solution. This is my opportunity.”

— JARRAD TURNER

VINCENZO PISCOPO

Vincenzo Piscopo learned of Shepherd Center while he received rehabilitation for a spinal cord injury in 2010. He recalls that while this was a traumatic period in his life, he actually loved his time at the hospital.

“Those months after a traumatic injury are the worst time in peoples’ lives, but Shepherd made me feel so welcome, loved and happy I was there,” Vincenzo says.

One of Vincenzo’s primary goals at Shepherd Center was to prepare to return to work. With help from the rehabilitation specialists at the hospital, he was able to return four months after his injury, ready to navigate the world and his new normal.

Now, 11 years after his injury, Vincenzo serves as the president and CEO of the United Spinal Association, a national nonprofit membership organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life of all people living with spinal cord injuries and disorders (SCI/D). As he joins Shepherd Center’s Board of Directors, he hopes to work together to amplify opportunities for all people with disabilities.

“I believe that when you give people with disabilities the opportunities to succeed, the entire community, country and world benefit from this capable group of individuals,” Vincenzo says. “At Shepherd Center, they give patients the opportunity to accept and return to life after a traumatic injury and be as successful as they can be. I’m proud to be part of that.”

In addition to serving as president and CEO of the United Spinal Association, Vincenzo is co-founder of Wheels of Happiness, a nonprofit that provides people with motor disabilities with medical equipment and supplies, scholarships, psychological help, and inspiration to make them independent and more productive.



“I believe that when you give people with disabilities the opportunities to succeed, the entire community, country and world benefit from this capable group of individuals.”

— VINCENZO PISCOPO



BOB CUNNINGHAM

Bob Cunningham started his involvement with the Shepherd Center in 2011. He was energized when he heard a speaker talk about the SHARE Military Initiative. Bob worked with the Rotary Club of Brookhaven and co-founded a golf tournament to raise funds and awareness for SHARE. The event was named the Service Above Self Invitational Golf Tournament and raised more than \$1 million for the program over nine years.

“Through the years of organizing the golf tournament, I learned more about Shepherd Center as a whole and got more involved,” Bob says.

Bob later served on the Advisory Board, as well as the Board of Trustees. During these years, he became more vested in the hospital’s mission.

“Shepherd Center is an amazing place with amazing outcomes,” Bob says. “It helps patients and families realize that a major illness or injury doesn’t mean that life stops. There’s always hope.”

Bob looks forward to contributing to Shepherd Center’s legacy by serving on the Board of Directors.

“We can work to continue the wonderful tradition and culture the Shepherd family has instilled in this hospital as we evolve and grow,” Bob says. “If I can assist with that in any way, it’ll make me proud.”

Bob recently retired from Cunningham Associates Heating and Air Conditioning, a company he founded in 2003.

“Shepherd Center helps patients and families realize that a major illness or injury doesn’t mean that life stops. There’s always hope.”

— BOB CUNNINGHAM

Celebrating Patients in a LEGENDARY WAY

BY SARA BAXTER

When Ellen Perry entered a patient's room on the evening of November 7, 2020, she heard a family member on the phone ordering takeout.

"Hang up," recommended Perry, the director of strategy for the Shepherd Center Foundation. "I have something better."

Perry and other Shepherd Center Foundation staff members delivered gourmet meals to patients and caregivers in the hospital, as well as to family members staying in the Irene and George Woodruff Family Residence Center, on what was supposed to be the evening of The Legendary Party, Shepherd Center's biggest signature fundraising event. The formal event was canceled due to COVID-19 pandemic precautions.

Instead, Melinda Dabbieri, chairman of the 2020 Legendary Party, decided to change the event's focus to celebrating Shepherd Center patients and their families. She called it "Legendary Your Way."

"It wasn't safe to hold the event, and The Legendary Party doesn't really lend itself to a virtual event," Melinda explains. "We still wanted to mark the occasion in some celebratory way. This approach is really keeping with Shepherd Center's philosophy of putting patients and their families first."

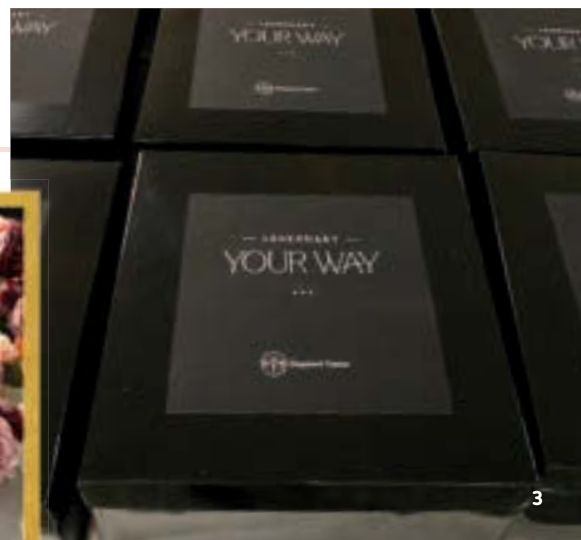
Legendary Events, the company that usually caters The Legendary Party, prepared the meals. Under the direction of Tony Conway, CEO and owner of Legendary Events, patients and families were presented with a glossy black hatbox containing a gourmet meal of salmon and beef tenderloin, grilled asparagus, roasted carrots, potato salad, chocolate mousse cake and lemonade. Each meal also came with a small bouquet of flowers.

"I loved that they still wanted to show their appreciation for the patrons and patients, and our team had a great time working on the menu and packaging," Tony says. "The Legendary Party has always had such great excitement for us as a company, especially since we share the same name!"

The Shepherd Center Foundation staff delivered meals on patient floors, and Melinda and her family distributed them in the Family Residence Center. Patients and families greeted the Foundation team enthusiastically with surprise and gratitude.

"They kept saying, 'This is so wonderful. It's a real treat,'" Melinda says.

"In a world of darkness, it was a nice way to shed some light," adds Shanna Thorpe, donor and community relations



1. Each meal came with a small bouquet of flowers. 2. Melinda Dabbieri, chairman of the 2020 Legendary Party, wrote a note to patients and families marking the special occasion. 3. Legendary Events prepared boxed gourmet meals for Legendary Your Way.

associate for the Shepherd Center Foundation, who delivered meals on the second and fourth floors of the hospital. "This was not what anyone envisioned, but this was a great way to inform them about the Shepherd Center Foundation and what we do and show them they are in good hands."

Though the traditional event did not happen, generous donors still contributed more than \$267,000 for the Delores Ann and Goodloe Yancey Family Housing and Transportation Program, which provides up to 30 days of housing to families of newly injured patients if both the family and patient live more than 60 miles from the hospital. Family housing is a valuable service for families whose loved ones have sustained a catastrophic injury.

"Although our donors couldn't attend the party, they still wanted to support Shepherd Center and the housing program," Melinda says. "We were excited to share this fun evening with our patients and their families. Celebrating patients is what it is all about."

Melinda will remain chair for this year's Legendary Party, scheduled for 7 p.m. Saturday, November 6, 2021, at Flourish. To learn more, visit shepherd.org/legendary, or contact Liza Vega-Smart, associate director of sustained giving at Shepherd Center, at liza.vega-smart@shepherd.org or 404-425-7233. *



SHEPHERD CENTER Receives \$80 Million Grant from The Marcus Foundation

Largest grant in Shepherd Center's history will support the hospital's most significant expansion in 45 years.

Shepherd Center announced an \$80 million grant from The Marcus Foundation that will be the cornerstone of the hospital's most significant, transformational expansion since its founding in 1975.

Shepherd Center is a nationally ranked neurorehabilitation hospital that helps restore the lives of patients with spinal cord injury, brain injury, stroke, multiple sclerosis, spine and chronic pain, and other neuromuscular conditions stemming from a life-altering injury or diagnosis. It is one

of only a few neurorehabilitation specialty hospitals in the nation, having served more than 35,000 patients to date.

Philanthropist Bernie Marcus' support of Shepherd Center started in the early 1980s. He and his wife, Billi, have since been generous supporters of the hospital through The Marcus Foundation and personal donations.

"Billi and Bernie believed in us from the beginning as we dreamed to do the impossible, establishing a specialized rehabilitation program following the

catastrophic accident our son, James, experienced," says Alana Shepherd, Shepherd Center co-founder and chairman of the board. "With The Marcus Foundation's generosity, we were able to grow from a singular focus on patients with spinal cord injury to now also providing life-restoring care for patients with brain injury, multiple sclerosis and other neurological disorders."

The Marcus Foundation has been a critical partner as Shepherd Center continued to



“Billi and I are excited to be a part of Shepherd Center’s next chapters, which will save and change even more patients’ lives from catastrophic injuries and neurological conditions.”

— BERNIE MARCUS

1. Bernie and Billi Marcus have been long-time, generous supporters of Shepherd Center, originally named Shepherd Spinal Center, through both The Marcus Foundation and personal gifts. 2. Dedicated supporters of veterans and service members, Billi and Bernie Marcus made a grant through The Marcus Foundation that allowed for the launch of the SHARE Military Initiative at Shepherd Center to treat military service members who have sustained mild to moderate traumatic brain injuries and also have psychological or behavioral health concerns.

expand both its capacity and programming to meet the needs of its patients and their families over the years, beginning with a grant in 1988 to fund construction of Shepherd Center’s Billi Marcus Building. Across The Marcus Foundation’s partnership with Shepherd Center, groundbreaking programs were also created like the Marcus Community Bridge Program that supported patients after their inpatient care ended and the SHARE Military Initiative for U.S. service members who experience traumatic brain injury. The Marcuses are also emeriti members of the Shepherd Center hospital and Foundation boards and have provided personal support to the hospital in various ways, including Billi’s service as the chair of Shepherd Center’s annual fundraising golf tournament for 17 consecutive years.

“Watching Alana and her family nurture the organization



from an idea into the premier destination for neurorehabilitation has inspired my family and foundation to continue driving Shepherd Center’s mission forward,” Bernie Marcus says. “Billi and I are excited to be a part of Shepherd Center’s next chapters, which will save and change even more patients’ lives from catastrophic injuries and neurological conditions.”

The \$80 million grant will support additional capacity so more patients and families can receive Shepherd Center’s transformative care that centers as much on clinical excellence as it does on giving patients confidence and real-world tools to live as independently and pain-free as possible.

“Billi and Bernie have been a profound part of Shepherd

Center’s legacy, proving that they will go to great lengths to help us impact, empower and transform the lives of thousands of patients following a catastrophic injury or disease,” says Sarah Morrison, PT, MBA, MHA, president and CEO of Shepherd Center. “We are thrilled that their commitment will carry forward with us into this next era, which will only be further enriched by our ongoing partnership.”

Marcus adds, “I challenge businesses and individuals throughout the community to join me in supporting this critical institution that makes what seems impossible after a life-changing injury or illness a reality for so many thousands of patients and their families.” ✨

PECANS ON PEACHTREE™

Delivers Another Great Success

Holiday shoppers ordered thousands of pounds of pecans and other sweet treats in support of Pecans on Peachtree™, one of Shepherd Center's longest running fundraisers.

More than 2,700 packages were sent out across the United States as well as to 18 countries, for sales totaling \$220,000. The net proceeds from this annual event directly benefit Shepherd Center patients and families by funding valuable programs, such as animal-assisted therapy, family housing, assistive technology and recreation therapy, among others.

"Pecans on Peachtree represents both legacy and impact to Shepherd Center," says Sarah Batts, MBA, executive director of the Shepherd Center Foundation. "It is one of our oldest fundraising efforts and it has a significant impact on the hospital as it ensures we have resources for our vital, donor-funded programs."

Started in 1982 by Shepherd Center Auxiliary members who sold pecans out of the trunks of their cars, the program has grown exponentially over its nearly 40-year existence.

This year, Shepherd Center partnered with a new vendor, Pearson Farm, a family business located in Fort Valley, Georgia. On one of the oldest farms in Georgia, the Pearson family has been growing Georgia peaches and pecans on the same land since 1885. Current owners Al Pearson and his son, Lawton, represent the fourth and fifth generations of Pearsons to run the farm.

Pearson Farm provided pecans in every imaginable flavor – from signature champagne to southern praline and cinnamon roasted to basic toast-
ed and salted. Sweet confections, such as pies and cakes, were also available. As expected, chocolate pecan treats sold out fast. Customers could choose from individual packages, as well as a variety of gift baskets.

Shanna Thorpe, donor and community relations associate for the Shepherd Center Foundation, oversees Pecans on Peachtree. She says 24% of those participating in the fundraiser this year were returning customers, while a whopping 76% were new customers. Always a great gift idea, corporate orders made up about 70% of total sales.

"People understand that it's not all about the pecans," Thorpe says of the fundraiser. "It's about raising money for Shepherd Center and the patients."

Pecans on Peachtree runs each year between mid-October through early January. For more information, check out pecansonpeachtree.org.

If you have any questions, please contact Shanna Thorpe at shanna.thorpe@shepherd.org or 404-603-5064. *

Shepherd Center's annual fundraiser, Pecans on Peachtree, raised \$220,000 to benefit patients and families.



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 July 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020.

Elkin Alston

Mr. and Mrs. John G. Alston, Sr.

Dean Anderson

Ms. Beverly Favreau
Mr. Randy Granger

Laura and Karl Anschutz

Ms. Esther L. Abisamra
Ms. Hope Abisamra

David and Bernice Apple

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur E. Hunt

Constance Ashford Wright

Dr. and Mrs. David M. DuBose

Roz Ayres Williams

Mr. and Mrs. Dean Melcher
Ms. Jessica Williams

Paul Beckham

Ladies Investment Limited, Inc.

Kathleen Bekkers

Ms. Annabel Farley

Norma Bentley

Mrs. James M. Caswell, Jr.

Hugh Berger

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Arogeti
Mrs. Sam Arogeti

Gary Billon

Mr. Eugene J. Gannon

James Robert Black

Mrs. Dulcie I. Vause

Leslie Blackwell

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Fitzgerald

Regina and Philip Bongiovanni

Mr. Robert S. Thomas

**Austin Booth for the memory of
Stan Booth**

Mr. and Mrs. Tracy Barnett
Mr. Billy Bishop
Mr. and Mrs. Van Booth
Ms. Jolene Douglas
Ms. Amber McCullar
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Pratt

Mary T. Boyd

Mr. Hamilton T. Boyd, Jr.

Margaret Ann Bratton

Mr. Ray R. Bratton

Barron Bray

Ms. Rebecca Bray
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Dagley
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Franks
Ms. Sarah Leppert
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Manley
Mr. and Mrs. Paul McGill
Ms. Margaret Ruzika
Mr. and Mrs. George Shattuck
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Sloan
Marty Wetherington
Mr. Chris Wilson
Mr. and Mrs. Price P. Woodward

Brian "BB" Brown

Mr. George Nichols
Mr. Alan Press



Recreation therapy team members celebrated two big milestones for their patients — a baby shower and a graduation from the inpatient Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation Program.

Mr. Henry Quillian
Mr. J. Tyler Tippet

Michael Brown

Mr. and Mrs. John E. Chapin, Jr.
Ms. Diane Kuehn
Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd W. Ulrich

Mike Brown

Ms. Susan Brister
Mrs. Lynn Paradis

Francis Bruce

Mr. and Mrs. James H. Shepherd III

Brandon Buchberg

Mr. Alan Buchberg

Andrew Buehl

Dr. Ramin Saghafi

Guerino Busillo

Ms. Florenda Sylvester

Gordon C. Bynum, Jr.

Ms. Catherine C. Fike
Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Westin

Gordon Bynum, Sr.

Ms. Catherine C. Fike

Charles Cate

Mr. and Mrs. Donald C.
Chapman, Jr.

Marty and Al Church

Mrs. Martha J. Church and Mr.
Leonard J. Oddo

Fred Cleveland

Ms. Monica Beyer
Ms. Daphne Boston
Ms. Annie Burt
Ms. Carol Caines
Ms. Andrea Carter
Ms. Toronda Clark
Ms. Cynthia Cleveland
Mr. Michael Conley
Mr. Maurice Couser
Mr. Charles Dashields, Jr.
Ms. Felice Winston Davis
Ms. Rachel DuBose
Mr. Lawrence Everett
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Fleming
Mr. Daryl Flowers
Ms. Yvette Fontaine
Sigma Galloway
Ms. Hillary Woodson Gaskins
Ms. Theresa Thompson Goode
Ms. Nina Che Gordon
Mr. Thomas Gordon
Mrs. Wendi Gross
Ms. Tammy Harper
Mr. Joe Harris
Ms. Denise Johnson
Ms. Ekaterina Kapustina
Ms. Adriane Keeper
Ms. Lisa Ricks Kirkland
Ms. Cristal Squaire Kolen
Ms. Tomeka Lee
Ms. Jamilah Leonard
Ms. Adrienne Lance Lucas
Lincoln Financial Foundation
Ms. Lois Magwood
Ms. Stacy Baines Manvitz
Mr. Alton May

Tiff Mayo

Ms. Geraldine McClendon
Mr. Philip McCollum
Ms. Monique McCullough
Ms. Tanji Michael
Ms. Marjorie Mitchell
Ms. Marjean Monroe
Ms. Faye Moody
Ms. Kimberly Moses
Ms. Stefanie Moss
Mr. Leonard Murray
Ms. Daria Young Neal
Mr. Kenneth Neisser
Ms. Tiffany Oglesby
Ms. Shona Pinnock
Ms. Gwen Polk
Mr. Kevin Raff
Ms. Aleida Rivera
Mr. John Roberts
Mr. John Roberts, Jr.
Ms. Marilyn Roberts
Mr. Joshua Robertson
Mr. Mark Ross
Mr. Pedro Santiago
Carmen Shirley
Ms. Wanda Smith
Mr. Rob Stallworth
Mr. Cedric Taylor
Mr. Solomon Tisdale, Jr.
Ms. Shelly Tudor
Mr. Moses Walker
Ms. Sheila Walson
Ms. Nandi Williams
Ms. Delicia Worrell
Ms. Kathy Yates
Ms. Pamela Teamer Yisrael
Ms. Kathy Zeigler

Shepherd Center remembers Travis Roy

Former patient, Advisory Board member and donor
Travis Roy passed away on October 29, 2020.

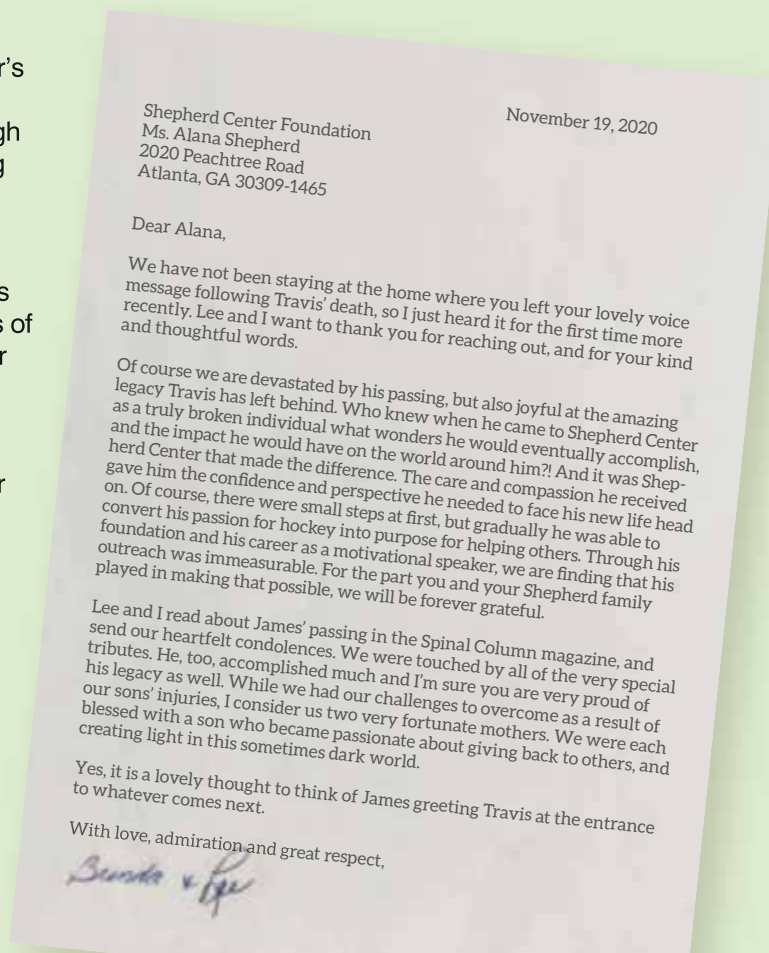


Travis Roy visits with Foundation Trustee and Shepherd's Men founder Travis Ellis during the 2016 Shepherd's Men run from Boston to Atlanta.

Travis was injured in the first 11 seconds of his first ice hockey game playing for Boston University in 1995 and was treated at Shepherd Center. Devoting his life to helping others, Travis established the Travis Roy Foundation in 1996, providing grants for spinal cord injury research and financial assistance for people with paralyzing disabilities. His experience was detailed in his book, *Eleven Seconds: A Story of Tragedy, Courage & Triumph*.

Travis served on Shepherd Center's Advisory Board from 1999 through 2017, advocating for Shepherd in the Boston, Massachusetts, area. Through his notoriety, dozens of Boston and other New England-area patients were referred to Shepherd Center for treatment.

Travis' parents wrote a touching letter to Shepherd Center co-founder Alana Shepherd after Travis' passing.



Sharon Siegel Cohen
Mrs. Sam Arogeti

Richard Colby
Ms. Ellen J. Colby

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Mrs. John E. Duggan

Joseph Couture
Mrs. Marilyn S. Evans

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Ms. LuAnn Hennessy
Ms. Teresa Palm
Ms. Julie H. Shepherd

Hillie Cuesta
Ms. Victoria Cuesta

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Ms. Julie H. Shepherd
Ms. Kim Site
Dr. Rhonda G. Taubin and Mr. Scott J. Schulman
Ms. Niki Ward
Mr. and Mrs. Lee Whitesides
Dr. Michael Yochelson

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St. Pius X Catholic High School
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Curran Gage
Ms. Gloria McGehee

Matthew Gallagher
Anonymous

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Mrs. Lillian Gantsoudes

Gladys Ann Gilbert
Mr. Leonard Howell

Billy Goff
Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Bratton

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Dr. Anna Elmers
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Mrs. and Mr. Karol A. Neufeld

John D. Harrison
Mr. and Mrs. M. Lamar Oglesby

Remembering David H. Flint

The Shepherd Center community sadly marks the passing of David Flint on October 18, 2020.

David served on the hospital Board of Directors since 1994 and had been a faithful donor since the Center's beginning in 1975. Through his leadership on the Board, David helped shape the hospital's growth from 80 beds in 1994 to 152 beds through several capital campaign expansions, which also included the building of the Irene and George Woodruff Family Residence Center. During his tenure, David was instrumental in the creation of the Shepherd Center Foundation.

David was a generous sponsor of Shepherd Center's signature events, annually sponsoring Derby Day, The Legendary Party and the Shepherd Center Cup. In 2005, David served as chairman of the Cup, and volunteered for the tournament planning committee each year. Alana Shepherd says, "David was a dear friend, and he and his sons Mike and Bryan were always so generous to sponsor our events."



David Flint served on Shepherd Center's Board since 1994.

Peggy David Hayes
Ms. Joanne Hayes

Father Tom Helms
Mr. and Mrs. Ben Arogeti

Florence Hendee
Dr. and Mrs. Donald P. Leslie

Ryan Hendley
Parker Law Firm

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Ms. Julie H. Shepherd

Elizabeth H. Homer
Mr. and Mrs. Roger W. Moister, Jr.

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Mr. James Hughes

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Mr. and Mrs. Jerry L. Adams
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Mr. and Mrs. John D. Bowen
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A. K. Schmidt

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Mrs. Gloria Dobbs Cowart

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Ms. Carole F. Halka

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Ms. Betty C. Baugh
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Ms. Barbara S. Kidd
Mr. and Mrs. William P. Simmons, Jr.
Jean B. Weatherford

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Ms. Julie Zakas

Charles Krauthammer
Mr. and Mrs. James Knittle, Jr.

Betty Kreimer
Mrs. Alana S. Shepherd

**Master Sergeant Ronald “Ronnie”
La Liberty**
Ms. Pamela Bips

June Large
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald L. Bolden

Carl Richard Latham
Mr. and Mrs. C. Alexander Peterson

Joanne LeCraw
Mrs. Gloria Dobbs Cowart
Mrs. Alana S. Shepherd

Charles Hilere Leggett
Parker Law Firm

June Leverette
Mr. and Mrs. Ben Arogeti

Anne Lippincott
Mrs. Gloria Dobbs Cowart

Clayton Lippincott
Ms. Virginia Lippincott

Abel Lopez
Ms. Elizabeth Fish

Gay Love
Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Gibson

Carolyn Lovell
Mrs. Gloria Dobbs Cowart

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Sgt. Rammon Macon
Anonymous
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Ms. Rachel Fisher
Mr. Curtis Howard
Ms. Debra White
Mr. and Mrs. Roy Young

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Mr. and Mrs. Samuel A. Buckmaster, Jr.
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Capital City Club Women's Golf
Association

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Mr. Tom Hutchinson
Mr. and Mrs. Randolph L. Hutto
Ms. Elizabeth Ivankovic
Ms. Lindsey Jackson
Ms. Patricia S. Lander
Ms. Olivia A. Leon
Mr. and Mrs. Franklin M. Lindsey
Mr. and Mrs. Stewart M. Long, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. William A. Maner III
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Mr. and Mrs. James S. Stokes
Mrs. Randell C. Thomas
Mrs. Lucy Vance
Mrs. Rebecca D. Warner
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Mr. and Mrs. Dennis C. Winchester
Dr. and Mrs. Fremont P. Wirth
Mrs. Michael York
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Talmage Dobbs, Jr.**
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Parks

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Mr. and Mrs. David Busse
Mr. Van Kile
Mr. and Mrs. James G. Skinner
Dr. and Mrs. Roger O. Weed

Marianne McGaughey
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Rappaport

Jackson McHenry
Mrs. Darlaine B. McBurney

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Mr. and Mrs. Randal W. Norris

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Bo and Sherry Means
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Jerry Moncrief
Anonymous

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Mr. and Mrs. Matthew K. Jones

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Ms. Elizabeth W. Willis

Jean Mori
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Mr. Cal Anderson
Anonymous
Mr. Larry Aronson
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Mr. and Mrs. Michael Janvrin
Ms. Beth Laury
Ms. Gloria O. Link
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Martini
Mr. Brett McClung
Mrs. Shannon A. Mullins
Office of the District Attorney
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Mrs. Ashley S. O'Neil
Ms. Amy Price
Mr. and Mrs. Mitch Rhoden
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Sliauter
Ms. Lindsey Sprague
Mr. Thomas Stafford
Mr. and Mrs. Rowland Steinwart
Ms. Mary Stone
Mr. and Mrs. David C. Wolfe

Gloria Myers
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen M. Lore

Bobby Neese
Dr. and Mrs. Donald P. Leslie

Stephanie Nelson
Mrs. John E. Duggan

Marshall Nichols
Ms. Susan Festa Roberts
Ms. Barbara Finklestein

Hugh Pendleton Nunnally, Jr.
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McKee Nunnally
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Mr. and Mrs. Vincent L. Scrosso

Wesley Stephen Oldaker
Brunswick Glynn County Mayor's
Committee on Services for the
Disabled
Friends of The Brunswick Glynn
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Mr. and Mrs. Thomas W. Moreau

Franca Orefice
The Community Foundation for
Greater Atlanta

Luke Page
Parker Law Firm

Thurman Painter
Ms. Jennifer Painter

Jeanette Willcoxon Peterson
Mr. and Mrs. Emory H. Palmer
Mrs. Alana S. Shepherd

Claire Phillips
Ms. Janet L. Phillips

Bartie and Oscar Plunket, Jr.
Ms. Jane Plunket

Beverly Ponn
Mr. Leonard Ponn

Steve Porter
Mr. Phil Porter

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Ms. Kathryn Rainier

Roy and Joan Ralston
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Mrs. Patricia Reed

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Mr. Michael F. Reisinger

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Dora Ann Rogers
Mr. and Mrs. Earl Rogers
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Randal Rollins
Mrs. James O. Patterson

Samuel Rosen
Ms. Brenda Rosen

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Mr. Phillip Rosing

Jay Rubel
Mr. and Mrs. David Engle
Mrs. Jacque Rubel

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Mr. and Mrs. James P. Trotter
Mr. and Mrs. William F. Wood

Ronnie Rudd
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Mr. and Mrs. William J. Koivu

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Dr. and Mrs. David F. Apple, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. James H. Shepherd III

Anthony Yorio, US Army
Mr. Joseph Yorio

Honorees are listed first in bold print followed by the names of those making gifts in their honor.
This list reflects gifts made to Shepherd Center between July 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020.

Pat Ahlers
Ms. Linda W. Alexander

Chris Akridge
Mr. and Mrs. David McMahon

**Shannon Ali – Outstanding
Pandemic Work!**
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

David Andersen
Mr. and Mrs. Donald R. Andersen

**Kayla Anderson – Outstanding
Pandemic Work!**
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

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Mr. and Mrs. Christopher R.
Hardage

Dr. David Apple, Jr.
Mr. William S. Murphy, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Dell B. Sikes

**Cyndae Arrendale – Happy
Birthday**
Mr. and Mrs. Steve A. Williams

Cyndae Arrendale
Mrs. HongTsun Simon

Mary Kay Baldauf
Ms. Mary Pat Baldauf

Ashley Baleman
Ms. Ellen A. McVeigh

The George Burnes Family
Ms. Martha Degen

Ashley Bateman
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Sarah Batts
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**Sarah L. Batts – Great
Foundation Presentation**
Dr. and Mrs. David F. Apple, Jr.

Duncan Beard
Ms. Raymond Jenkins

Hugh Beasley
Mr. Hugh Beasley

Lois Beauchamp - Happy Holidays!
Mr. and Mrs. David C. Beauchamp

Laura and Jacob Beck
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Dustin Biggerstaff
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony De Vita
Mr. Travis Ellis

Michael Bliss
Mr. and Mrs. Earl Repp

Jaron Birchfield – Thanks Dee
Anonymous

**Mr. David Boehmig Wishes
Happy Holidays to**
Reid Hutchinson
Robin Loudermilk
Jason McPherson
David Miller
Adam Rapport
Michael Strauss
Charlie Tate

Ray Boland
Mr. Jerry Foster

**Ms. Lora Boniface Wishes
Happy Holidays to**
Lisa and Alan Bedell
Don and Tippy Boniface
Lora and Dick Childs
Bonnie and Dave Stuck
Wendy and Johnny Walter

Nell and Tom Bradbury
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony K. Isbell

Nell Bradbury
Ms. Clinton B. Kennedy

**Ms. Nell W. Bradbury Wishes
Happy Holidays to**
Cindy Butler
Lucy Cota
Janice Haralson
Lynn Schroder
Donna Skeen

Dowling Briggs
Mr. and Mrs. Frank M. Ager

**My extraordinary daughter, Clara
Brown!**
Ms. Debra L. Brown

**Dr. Tyler Brown – Welcome
to Shepherd**
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

Joyce Bryant Williams
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

**Patricia Buce – In your honor for
Christmas**
Mr. and Mrs. Walter F. Buce

Cole Burton
Mr. Ricky Bryant

David Busch
Cobb County Board of
Commissioners

Candice Cain
Mr. Gary Cain

Kevin Cain – Happy Holidays!
Ms. Karen Shiver

Dr. John Cantwell – Thank you!
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

**Leah Cardi – Outstanding
Pandemic Work!**
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

Denise Carleton
Mr. Robert DeBatto

Elaine Carter
Mr. Branch Carter

Alaina Case
Mr. and Mrs. Billy T. Kennedy

**Alaina Case – With thanks
for a job well done**
Mrs. Mary Kay Howard

Patricia Champion
Ms. Lynn Panciera Fraser

Sabrina Charif – Happy Holidays
Ms. Marie Cassandra

**Beau Chatham – for All He Does
with Shepherd's Men!**
Mr. Craig Smith

Katie Choate – Happy Holidays
Mrs. Sandy Wheatley

Millard Choate - Happy Holidays
Ms. Katherine C. Choate

Jill Chopra
Mr. and Mrs. Chris Martorella

Jeanette Clarke – Happy Holidays
Ms. Ann W. Clarke

Ms. Annette Coker
Ms. Barbara Kinard

**Brian and Christy Collins – Happy
New Year!**
Ms. Marcia Korman

Tim Condrey
Mrs. Shirley McFarlane
Mr. and Mrs. Peter J. West

**Shirley and Tim Condrey Wish
Happy Holidays to**
Becky and Van Aggelakos
Barbara Barton
Joyce and Ron Bernie
Cherise and Tiez Caradine
Dion and Liz Condrey
Barbara Condrey McClintock
Cathy and Joe Frank
Mont and Laurie Hartman
Tiffany and Don LaBelle
Tom Hartman and Wm Landeros
Jim and Karen Vournakis
Kelley and Peter West

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Robin Shelgren

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**Nancy Coverdell - Happy
Holidays!**
Ms. Sheryl D. Wilhite

Joyce Cox
Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Dyson

Tina Crenshaw – Happy Holidays
Ms. Emily Perkins

James A. Curtis – Happy Birthday
Anonymous

James Curtis
Mrs. Cecile M. Jones
Mr. and Mrs. Dell B. Sikes

**James Curtis Wishes Happy
Holidays to:**
Mr. and Mrs. Mel Adler
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Brucato
Ms. Jean F. Caldwell
The Honorable J. Cleland
Mr. and Mrs. Brad Courts
Mr. and Mrs. Richard W. Courts
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Mr. and Mrs. Zachary Wilson
Mr. and Mrs. David Withers

**Melinda Dabbieri – Thank you for
Legendary Your Way!**
Mr. Dean Melcher

Allan DaPore
Ms. Maria Holland Law

**Mrs. Leighanne Davis Wishes
Happy Holidays to**
Mr. and Mrs. John Anderson
Mr. and Mrs. Sonny Culp
Mr. and Mrs. Alan Davis
Dr. and Mrs. Bob Davis
Mr. and Mrs. J.T. Davis
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Shepherd Center won the prestigious Patient Safety and Quality Award for 2021 from the Georgia Hospital Association Partnership for Health and Accountability (PHA).

Scot Davis
Mr. Rodger Woock

Ann Day
The Aderhold Family Foundation

Dr. David DeRuyter – Enjoy Retirement
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

Samuel Doan – Happy Birthday
Frazier & Deeter

Steven Bobbs – Thanks
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

Mallory Dowden – Happy Holidays!
Ms. Rachel Barnett

Charles Dowdy
Mrs. Charles Dowdy

Greg Dunavant – Happy Holidays!
Ms. Candy Willis

Mac Dunbar
Mr. and Mrs. David F. Haddow

Melissa Thomas Durand
Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Thomas

Patrick Durkin
Ms. Susan L. Crawford

Maggie Wallace Eanes
Mr. James G. Wallace

Maggie and Jim Eanes – Happy Holidays
Mr. and Mrs. John S. Wallace

Gale Eckstein
Mr. and Mrs. Dell B. Sikes

Dominic Edmonds
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Edmonds

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Mr. Thomas Howard

Dr. Anna Elmers
Mr. and Mrs. Philip C. Henry

Mike and Anna Elmers
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. David Erskine – Happy Holidays and I miss you
Anonymous

Luis Fernandez
Mr. and Mrs. Felix Fernandez

Mr. and Mrs. Walter F. Gary Wishes Merry Christmas to:
Justin and Karina Gary
Kim Gary
Reagan Gary
Thomas Gary
Tom and Sherry Gary
West Gary

Mrs. Gregory Fine – Happy Holidays
Mr. and Mrs. William B. Wellons, Jr.

Kacey Floyd
Mr. and Mrs. Travis N. Fulk

Taylor Fralick Adkins – Thankful for the Shepherd Center
Ms. Jacqueline Fralick

Mrs. Barbara K. Furbish Wishes Happy Holidays to
Dr. Beinvenida Cambare
Shirley Herbert
Siegrid Herbert
Frances St. John

Kathryn Jean Furphy – Happy Holidays
Ms. Annemarie Furphy

Joe Gadd
Lenore and Victor Maslia
Foundation

Lillian Gantsoudes – Happy Birthday
Ms. Lillian Davis

Hunter Gatzman
Mrs. Rachael Gatzman

Marlene Geris – Happy Holidays
Ms. Virginia McClure

Wendy Giglio
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

Matthew P. Godwin – Happy Birthday
Mr. and Mrs. Milton Godwin, Jr.

Nancy Goldstucker – Happy Birthday
Anonymous

Lawrence Gressette
Mrs. Ann Gressette

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Hall III
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Balliet

Thomas Harmon
Mr. Matthew Clegg

Susan Hawkins – Happy Holidays!
Aaron Hawkins and Renee Keith

Mary Beth Hellmann – Good Job with Photo Shoot
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

Gary Herber
Ms. Eleanor Agan

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

Teresa Hicks – Happy Birthday!
Ms. Barbara A. Pate

Jamal Hinckson – Thank you!
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

Mack Hindman
Ms. Cindy Ruth

Bobby Hogg – Merry Christmas
Dr. and Mrs. Jimmy C. Nash

Madison Holden – Outstanding Pandemic Work!
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Keith Holland
Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Kilpatrick

Steven Honeycutt
Mr. and Mrs. Steven Honeycutt

Lauren McDevitt Howard
Mrs. Susie C. Lewis

Mrs. Mary Kay Howard Wishes Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for 2021

Carol Benson
Mr. and Mrs. John Caldwell
Ann Corrigan
Mr. and Mrs. Philip Dater
Edward Eanes
Elaine Etheridge
Mr. and Mrs. Billy Kennedy
Mr. and Mrs. Micahel Knoblauch
Mr. and Mrs. David Kowal
Carol Olsen
Anne Paulus
Mr. George Spigener

Lorie Hutcheson – Great employee event!
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

Joel K. Isenberg – Happy Birthday
Mr. and Mrs. Bernard S. Goldstein

Leslie Jackson – Great Photoshoot
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

Donavan Jervis
Ms. Rosemary Dopson

Dr. Ashley Johnson
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

Ashley Johnson M.D. – Welcome
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

Mr. Douglas Scott Johnson
Mr. and Mrs. Marvin C. Shrager

Brick Johnstone
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

Janet Joiner
Ms. Diane Couch

Jerry Jordan
Anonymous

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

Susan Kendall
Ms. Victoria Hood

Dr. James Kincaid
Dr. and Mrs. Donald P. Leslie

Carole King
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

**Tammy King – Top Chief Nursing
Officer**
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

Bruce Kirwan
Anonymous

**Amy Kisber - Happy Birthday and
Happy Hanukah**
Anonymous

Nathan Klein
Mr. William Larter

Terri Kohn – Happy Holidays
Ms. Susan Crenshaw

Victoria Kopser – Happy Holidays
Ms. Melissa Fuller

**Ryan Koter – Outstanding
Pandemic Work!**
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

David Kruetz – Enjoy Retirement!
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

Deborah G. Krotenberg
Ms. Miriam F. Beckerman
Mr. and Mrs. David F. Haddow

Mary Kuek – Happy Anniversary
Mr. Bryan Miller

**Mr. and Mrs. Edward Ladel –
Happy Holidays!**
Dr. E. Barney March

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Dr. and Mrs. W. Scott James, Jr.

Bobby Lashley
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Dr. Donald P. Leslie
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Lanier II
William Howard Flowers, Jr.
Foundation, Inc.
Mr. Robert A. Yellowlees

**Dr. Donald P. Leslie – Happy
Holidays!**
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher R.
Hardage

Crystal Lethcoe – Happy Birthday
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lethcoe

Cheryl, Laura, and Barb Linden
Ms. Mary L. Huntley

Dr. Michael Link
Anonymous

Ben Lippincott
Mr. Bucky Wetherell

Ben Lippincott – Happy Holidays!
Ms. Kate Lippincott

Bobby London
Mrs. Sam Arogeti

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

**Steve and Kay Lore – Happy
Holidays!**
Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Lore and Family

Shanna Lyons
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Lyons

**Tony and Karen Madrid – Happy
Holidays!**
Mr. Jeremiah Brown

Steve Mahana
Ms. Frieda Mahana and Family

Bernie Marcus' 90th Birthday
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey W. Cohen
The Community Foundation for
Greater Atlanta
Delta Air Lines
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Hovis
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Anita Marino
The George Stern & Sara Stern
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Brett Martin
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**Barbara and Jerry Martin – Happy
Holidays**
Mr. Steven T. Shaw

Laura Martorella
Mr. and Mrs. Dan Brewster
The L&C Wood Family Foundation

Adam Mathes
Mr. Mark Jacobus

Addie Mathes
Mr. Mark Jacobus

Xavier McCadden
Mr. and Mrs. Steven G. Loverde
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew P. Vrahnas

Maggie McClellan
Ms. Emily Blankenship

Dr. Michael J. McDewitt
Dr. and Mrs. Donald P. Leslie

Colin McDonald
Mr. and Mrs. Clark McDonald

Alfie Means Family
Mr. Charles C. Schoen III

LTC Daniel and Angela Miller
Mr. and Mrs. D. Wayne Miller

Dr. Leigh Ann Miller
Mr. and Mrs. D. Wayne Miller

**Marissa Mirecki – Outstanding
Pandemic Work!**
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

Col. J. Harry Mobley, USA Retired
The Roderick S., Flossie R. and
Helen M. Galloway Foundation

Michael Moderow
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph R. Moderow

**Jacob Moncrief – Thanks for the
mask comfort**
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

Chris Moore – Happy Holidays
Ms. Karen Shiver

Caroline Moore Brodmann
Chuck and Kathy Moore
Foundation

Jeff Morrison
Mr. James A. Curtis

Sarah Morrison – Happy Birthday
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

**Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Morrison – Taking
the fight to cancer**
Mr. Travis Ellis

Sarah Morrison
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher R.
Hardage
Mr. and Mrs. Dell B. Sikes

Justin Munn
Tubelite Comapny Inc.

Andrew Munoz's Recovery
Mr. Alfredo G. Munoz

**Katie Murphy – Outstanding
Pandemic Work!**
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

Sean Murphy – Happy Birthday
Ms. Cynthia Sokolic

Ryan Narramore
Anonymous

Lori Nolte
Ms. Brandy Rowe

Tom Norwood
Mr. and Mrs. David F. Haddow

**Joe Nowicki - Congratulations on
your new role**
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

Tod O'Donnell – Happy Holidays!
Ms. Ellen Dailey

**Peak Pediatric Dentistry Wishes
Happy Holidays to**
Dr. Sarah Aldridge
Dr. Emily Andriessen
Heather Bean
Buckhead Pediatric Dentistry
Dr. Susan Estep
Dr. Stacie Hamley
Dr. Vanna Jackson
Dr. Betsy John
Dr. Gary Loventhal
Dr. Kristin Mekelburg
Dr. Julie Segal
Dr. Christina Stoevers
Dr. Elizabeth Marston Theriot
Stephanie Toole

Thomas Pairet
Penny Pairet

**Cristina Peralta – Daisy Award
Congratulations**
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

Teresa Pernini – Happy Birthday
Ms. Kathy Smith

Ellen Perry – Good Job!
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

Jaquelin Perry
Mr. and Mrs. John M. Griffin

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Perry
Mr. and Mrs. John M. Griffin

Anna Pincumbe
Mrs. Jayne C. Midura

Abrenda Planas
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Zachary Poss
Mr. and Mrs. E.T. Laird

Corey Potts
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Maguigan

Amy Powell
Mr. and Mrs. Howard R. Green

Craig Powell - Happy Birthday
Mrs. Janet Powell

Ernie Prickett
Mr. and Mrs. Paul H. Anderson, Jr.

**Brian Pritchard – Outstanding
Pandemic Work!**
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

Dr. David Quintero
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

**Dan Rather Wishes Happy
Holidays to**
Mrs. Ed Barnes
Mrs. C. Wood Beasley
Mrs. Doug Billian
Mr. Bobby Caldwell
Mrs. Bruce English
Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Kissel
Mrs. Jack Margeson
Mr. and Mrs. Albert M. Redd

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Mrs. C. B. Robertson
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**Dr. Richard Raymond's
Engagement**
Dr. and Mrs. Donald P. Leslie

U.S. Military Servicemembers
Mr. Mark DeNyse

**Thomas the nephew of my
neighbor – Happy Holidays!**
Mr. and Mrs. Lanny Nixon

Cody Reyes
Mr. Ronald R. Reyes

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

Tara Robertson
Ms. Dana E. Robertson

Tyler Rolison – Happy Holidays!
Ms. Kelly Myers

Steve Rom
Mr. and Mrs. David C. Felsberg

Jack Rooker
Mr. and Mrs. John M. Darden III

Hamano Ross
Ms. Wanda H. Ross

Laura Royster
Mr. and Mrs. John E. Seymour, Sr.

Bennett Sands
Ms. Emily Fagan

Rob Saunders – Happy Birthday
Ms. Jessica Saunders

Erin Schuster – Congratulations on your promotion
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

Emory Schwall
Mrs. Jayne C. Midura

Dr. Peyton Seabolt
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hardy

Alex Seblatnigg – Happy 50th Birthday!
Ms. Stephanie Wyatt

Alex Seblatnigg
Ms. Stacy Brees

Jill Seymour
Mr. and Mrs. John E. Seymour, Sr.

Alana Shepherd - Happy Birthday
Mr. and Mrs. Hudson Hooks
Mr. and Mrs. J. Hays Mershon
Dr. and Mrs. David S. Owens
Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan G. Roxland
Mrs. Joseph Shippen
Dr. and Mrs. Carter Smith, Jr.

Alana Shepherd
Mr. and Mrs. Dell B. Sikes

Shepherd Family
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher R. Hardage
Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Morris

Alana Shepherd – Merry Christmas
Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Pope

Shepherd Center Staff
Ms. Stacy Brees
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher R. Hardage

Jamie Shepherd
Anonymous
Dr. Gerald S. Bilsky

Julie Shepherd
Dr. Gerald S. Bilsky

Mickey Shepherd - Happy Birthday
Bickers Consulting Group, LLC

Stephen Shepherd – Happy Birthday
Bickers Consulting Group, LLC

Mark Shuler – Merry Christmas
Mr. and Mrs. James S. Long

Linda Silber – Happy Holidays!
Anonymous

Sydney Simon – Happy Chanukah
Anonymous

Jordan Sloan
Douglas J. Hertz Family Foundation

Bob Springfield
Ms. Lisa Jordan

Barbara Stanford
Ms. Madison Stanford
Mr. William D. Stanford

Kristi Stephens – Congratulations on promotion
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

Mrs. Wynne P. Stevenson Wishes Happy Holidays to
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Amos
Dr. and Mrs. Champ Baker
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Carroll
Mr. and Mrs. Bob David
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Foley
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Link
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Waddell
Dr. and Mrs. John Waldrop
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Woolfolk

Jeannie and Ron Stewart – Happy Holidays!
Mr. and Mrs. David R. Kesterton

Neil Swenson
Ms. Anne H. Swenson

Andrew Tart
Ms. Patsy Little

Pierson Thames
Mrs. Carolyn Lotz

Mr. and Mrs. James Thompson
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cronan

Larry Thompson
Ms. Sallie Thompson

Larry and Nancy Thompson
Anonymous

Lydia and Shanna Thorpe – Happy Holidays!
Mr. and Mrs. David Schubert

Derek the Facility Dog
Ms. Austin McGrew Haynes

Dr. Ben Thrower
Anonymous

Ty Tippet
Mr. and Mrs. Paul H. Anderson, Jr.

James Torell, P.A.
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

Lauren Tucker – Great job with Photo Shoot
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

J. Thomas Vance
Mr. David Andersen

Whitney VanMeter
Mr. George VanMeter, Jr.

Wes Varda
Mrs. Judith Axtell

Allen Vinson – Happy Holidays!
Mrs. Judith Belcher

Brittney Vosper – Sunshine Award
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

Elise Walker
Ms. Laura Holbert

Lynne and O.T. Washington – Happy Holidays!
Ms. Yvonne Angel

Lynne and O.T. Washington's Marriage
Ms. Cynthia Schumacher

Jennings Watkins – Happy Birthday
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Stewart

Jennings Watkins
Mrs. James G. Gullett

Jerry Watkins
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry T. Watkins

Joe Watkins – Happy Birthday!
Mr. and Mrs. Dale H. Tucker

Joe Watkins
Mr. and Mrs. David F. Haddow

Marsha Watkins' Marriage
Mr. Jerry T. Watkins

Phillip Waters
Mr. and Mrs. David F. Haddow

Glenn Wells – Showing our appreciation for an awesome human
Mr. Robert Cordero

Dr. Philip Wexler
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

Amanda Wilcoxson – Thank you!
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

Kirk Wilder
Mr. and Mrs. David S. Nichols

Jessica Williams
Mr. Dean Melcher

Chip and Krissy Williams
Anonymous

Michael Willis
Mr. James A. Curtis

Lori and Keith Windmiller – Happy Holidays!
Mr. and Mrs. Jimmie V. Church

Russell Wood
Mr. Carlos Welch

Jane Woodruff
Mr. and Mrs. William G. Pierce

Chris Wooten
Ms. Ashley Alen
Mr. George Alexandre
Aqua Force Scuba
Ms. Gracie Barker
Ms. Kimberly Barringer
Berkley's Granna
Ms. Mary Ellen Biery
Mr. Brian Patrick Bowes
Ms. Jane Britt
Ms. Sheila Brownlow
Carolina Pool Management
Catawba Basketball
Catawba College
Ms. Sarah Cato
Cameo L. Chamberlain
Ms. Christine Christou
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Mr. David Moore
Mr. and Mrs. Robert T. Moore
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Ms. Barbara Payne
Ms. Dona Peacock
Ms. Sallie Pittman
Play Nice in the Sandbox
Ms. Dana Powell
Ms. Kristen Pressner
Mr. Jeff Prince
Mr. John Rendleman
Ms. Barbara A. Rini
Mr. Tim Robinette
Mr. Jim Rost
Mrs. Jacquie Rowland
Ms. Trudy Rowland
Ms. Bridget Russo
Mr. Stuart Schweppe
Mr. Richard Seibert
Mrs. Dianne Sever
Ms. Carol Simons
Ms. Lisa Smith
SpaceX
STAR Aquatics
Mr. Ron Stewart
Mr. Jonathan Story
Mr. Kenneth Stover
Ms. Christina Teague
Ms. Haley Theroux
Mr. and Mrs. Rob Theroux
Mr. Trent D. Theroux
Mr. Frank Thomason
Ms. Bonnie Tinley
Ms. Janice Tucker
Ms. Virginia Tuminello
Ms. Robin Vandermeiden
Ms. Judith Westrick
Ms. Kylee Wooten
Ms. Madi Wooten

Dr. Michael Yochelson – Congratulations on the Hero Award
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.

Gail and Turk Yordy – Tribute to Shepherd for the care, treatment and support
Mr. and Mrs. John Hook

Mak Yost
Ms. Candace English



Shepherd Center

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Shepherd Center Launches Podcast Series

SHEPHERD CENTER RECENTLY LAUNCHED ITS

new podcast series, *Picking Our Brain with Shepherd Center*. The podcasts, produced monthly, feature Shepherd Center experts discussing interesting and important issues that affect people who have experienced spinal cord or brain injuries, stroke, multiple sclerosis or chronic pain, either as a patient or a loved one. Upcoming topics include injury prevention, returning to school after injury and family caregiving, among others.

Picking Our Brain with Shepherd Center marks a re-branding of Shepherd Center's original podcast series, *Shepherd Center Radio*.

You can listen to all episodes of *Picking Our Brain with Shepherd Center* by visiting **shepherd.org/podcasts** or by searching for Shepherd Center on Apple Podcasts, iHeart Radio, Stitcher, Tune In, Google Podcasts and Spotify. *

