**LETTER FROM SARAH MORRISON**

“If you want to go fast, go alone, but if you want to go far, go together.”

This ancient proverb illustrates a fundamental human truth and the theme of this issue: We are stronger and can accomplish more when we work together. During my years working at Shepherd Center, I’ve witnessed countless examples of our staff collaborating to solve tough challenges for our patients and families. This spirit has always defined us, and recent events have underscored it more than ever. For me, two instances stand out as examples of how our employees, boards, generous donors, patients, families and community have rallied to continue to move our mission forward.

On April 3, we announced a no visitor policy to protect the safety and health of our patients and staff. Knowing how integral families and loved ones are to positive outcomes for our patients, this was one of my most difficult decisions as CEO. But, it was one I knew I needed to make. I also knew that we had to maintain the pre-eminent clinical care we provide every day by giving families and patients a way to connect virtually. So, our incredible staff, including teams from across all levels and areas of expertise, pulled together to find a way to accelerate our plans to provide telehealth, telepsych and telerehab services. It took just three short weeks to stand up these programs, which simply could not have been done without everyone’s involvement. We have since begun to incrementally ease visitation restrictions, and the virtual programs have been successful. We are now performing between 75 and 100 televisits per day.

In this issue, you’ll read a story about “Fast Eddie” Williams, a trucking company owner. He and his family used virtual solutions to make sure Eddie saw how much his community united to support him after he sustained a spinal cord injury. On page 20, you can also learn how some of our board members volunteered their time and resources to ensure patients, families and staff were supported in uplifting, creative ways during the pandemic.

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, our nation and the world witnessed the senseless killings of multiple Black Americans that inspired rightful civil unrest and long overdue conversations on racism. I pledged to seek a better understanding and create solutions. With the help of our team, we developed a safe, inclusive space for employees to discuss the experience and impact of racism in their lives. Their feedback shows us we have some work to do, but also that there is a willingness to help do the work together as a team.

From the information I gathered, the senior management team and I developed a four-point plan – education and awareness, leadership, human resources and community – with the goals of strengthening unity among Shepherd Center employees and stakeholders while actively demonstrating our respect, understanding and compassion for one another. Shepherd Center recently celebrated its 45th anniversary. Pages 22-28 outline some of the key milestones we’ve achieved so far. None of these things would have been possible without everyone’s involvement. We have seen firsthand how much unity can help us get through challenging times.

With thanks,

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

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**Featured Articles**

06  STRONGER TOGETHER
The power of friends, family and community uplifts two former patients after injury.

14  THE GREATEST GIFT
After sustaining a TBI, law enforcement officer Kyle Plussa perseveres through faith and determination.

18  FOUNDATION FEATURES
Shepherd Center’s Foundation accepts any donation, large or small.

29  HONORARIUMS AND MEMORIALS
"Gifts of Generosity" feature highlights those who support the Shepherd Center mission.

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**About the Cover**

Shepherd Center employees proudly display the theme of this issue: stronger together. We can overcome great obstacles when we work together toward a common goal.
U.S. News & World Report Names Shepherd Center Among Best in Rehabilitation Hospitals

Shepherd Center has once again been recognized as a Best Hospital for 2020-21 by U.S. News & World Report. The annual Best Hospitals rankings and ratings, now in their 31st year, are designed to assist patients and their doctors in making informed decisions about where to receive care for challenging health conditions or for common elective procedures. This year, Shepherd Center was ranked No. 8—up one place from last year’s ranking. Shepherd Center tied for the No. 8 spot with Craig Hospital in Denver, Colorado.

For the 2020-21 rankings and ratings, U.S. News evaluated more than 4,500 medical centers nationwide in 26 specialties, 10 procedures and conditions. In the 16 specialty areas, 134 hospitals were ranked in at least one specialty. In rankings by state and metro area, U.S. News recognized best regional hospitals based on high performing rankings across multiple areas of care.

“For 45 years, Shepherd Center has served as the bridge between ‘I can’t’ and ‘I can’; for thousands of patients,” says Sarah Morrison, PT, MBA, MHA, president and CEO of Shepherd Center. “To be recognized as one of the top 10 rehabilitation hospitals in the country enhances the pride we have in our superior clinical outcomes and patient satisfaction.”

Shepherd Center is located in Atlanta, Georgia.

Shepherd Center Doctors Recognized in Atlanta Magazine’s Top Doctors 2020 List

Brock Bowman, M.D., associate medical director at Shepherd Center, treats patients with spinal cord and brain injuries.

Angela Beninga, D.O., a chief medical informatics officer at Shepherd Center, as well as a physical therapist and director of Shepherd Center’s Spinal Cord Injury Day Program.

Brock Bowman, M.D., associate medical director, and Angela Beninga, D.O., chief medical informatics officer, were recognized in Atlanta Magazine’s Top Doctors 2020 list. Each year, Atlanta Magazine presents a roster of the best metro Atlanta doctors, as chosen by their peers. The list is divided by medical specialty, and only doctors who are nominated as among the best in their specialty and/or region and who pass a screening process make the final selection. Dr. Bowman and Dr. Beninga are featured in the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation category.

Americans with Disabilities Act Celebrates its 30th Anniversary

July 26 marked the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The ADA is a civil rights law that aims to prohibit discrimination. It helps ensure equal opportunity for people with disabilities in employment, state and local government services, public accommodations, commercial facilities, transportation and telecommunications.

“This cause is near and dear to Shepherd Center’s mission to advocate for the full inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of community life. Since its founding in 1975, Shepherd Center has served as a voice on the local and national level for the needs of people with disabilities. This commitment was deepened in 1988 when advocacy was officially added as part of Shepherd Center’s mission statement. Multiple efforts, including accessible design consultation for public transportation like Atlanta’s MARTA, advocacy for access to long-term services and supports, and efforts to successfully host the 1996 Paralympics in Atlanta by Shepherd Center and by countless people and organizations across the nation, have sparked change. Public transportation, housing and the physical environment are more accessible, and more people with disabilities are attending college and post-secondary schools, which makes them more employable.

The ADA becoming law in 1990 was a critical effort toward these developments. While there is still much work to do, we celebrate this ADA milestone and the important work to develop these possibilities for people with disabilities.

Alana Shepherd Named Board Chairman to Continue Creating “I Can” Moments for Patients

Alana Shepherd, D.O., was named chairman of the Shepherd Center Board of Directors.

Shepherd Center’s mission to advocate for the full inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of community life. Since its founding in 1975, Shepherd Center has served as a voice on the local and national level for the needs of people with disabilities. This commitment was deepened in 1988 when advocacy was officially added as part of Shepherd Center’s mission statement. Multiple efforts, including accessible design consultation for public transportation like Atlanta’s MARTA, advocacy for access to long-term services and supports, and efforts to successfully host the 1996 Paralympics in Atlanta by Shepherd Center and by countless people and organizations across the nation, have sparked change. Public transportation, housing and the physical environment are more accessible, and more people with disabilities are attending college and post-secondary schools, which makes them more employable.

The ADA becoming law in 1990 was a critical effort toward these developments. While there is still much work to do, we celebrate this ADA milestone and the important work to develop these possibilities for people with disabilities.

Shepherd Center Welcomes New Brain Injury Research Director

George ‘Brock’ Johnstone, Ph.D., ABPP, was named the O. Wayne Rollins Director of Brain Injury Research at Shepherd Center in February 2020. In this role, Dr. Johnstone leads research and clinical trials to advance under-standing of brain injury.

“I am pleased to announce the appoint-ment of Dr. Johnstone,” says Mike Jones, Ph.D., FACRM, vice president of research and technology at Shepherd Center. “He is an innovative, creative leader and shares our commitment to improving the care Shepherd provides to survivors of acquired brain injury.”

Prior to this role, Dr. Johnstone served as senior scientific director of the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center in Fort Belvoir, Virginia. He previously held multiple positions at the University of Missouri from 1990 to 2017, including professor and chair of the Department of Health Psychology and associate professor and director of neuropsychology in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

Dr. Johnstone earned an M.S. in clinical psychology and a doctorate in clinical psychology from the University of Georgia, after which he completed a neuropsychology postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Washington School of Medicine. He completed his undergraduate degree at Duke University.

Shepherd Center started as one family’s vision, and its strong legacy is now carried forward by a team of thinkers, innovators, leaders and clinicians who collaborate to produce the nation’s best neurorehabilitation outcomes for patients. “Throughout its history, Shepherd Center has always maintained its original goals – to provide a patient- and family-centered approach to rehabilitation while encouraging patients to look beyond their injuries and embrace the possibilities ahead,” Morrison says.
Georgia Department of Driver Services (DDS) and Shepherd Center Partner to Test Innovative Injury Prevention Model Statewide

DDS will begin a statewide effort to promote AutoCoach®, a mobile app developed to guide parents in teaching safe driving practices to teenage drivers.

BY DAMIANA ALVERSON

The Georgia Department of Driver Services (DDS) and Shepherd Center have formed an innovative public-private partnership aimed at injury prevention for novice teenage drivers. This partnership, one of the first of its kind, will begin a concerted statewide effort to promote the AutoCoach® app, the first mobile app with content developed by certified driver rehabilitation specialists (CDRS) to instruct parents and other adults on how to teach safe driving behaviors to young drivers.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for 15- to 18-year-olds in the United States. In fact, teen drivers are twice as likely as adult drivers to be in a fatal crash. In Georgia, 2018 data shows that 192 young drivers were involved in fatal crashes – a 32.4% increase since 2014, according to the NHTSA Fatality Analysis Reporting System. To curb these alarming statistics, DDS and Shepherd Center will target the primary role models for teenage drivers: parents.

“During the past year, 62% of our patients ages 15 to 18 sustained their injuries because they were involved in vehicle crashes, compared to 30% of all patients,” says Sarah Morrison, PT, MBA, MHA, president and CEO of Shepherd Center. “One of the most effective methods to prevent injuries and fatalities for young drivers is for parents to model, monitor and enforce safe driving practices. The AutoCoach app was developed with that specifically in mind, and we are proud to work with DDS to help parents statewide share these best practices with their teenagers.”

DDS and Shepherd Center aim to achieve several goals including:
• Reduce the number of vehicle crashes involving 15- to 25-year-old drivers in Georgia per year.
• Increase access and decrease inequities in driver education by ensuring all parents and guardians have the skills needed to properly teach their teenager how to drive through the free AutoCoach app.
• Increase the number of Georgia drivers with learner’s permits who appropriately prepare for and pass the road test portion of their driver’s license examinations.
• Raise awareness of and compliance with Georgia’s distracted driving and hands-free driving laws.

At DDS, a vital part of what we do is promote highway safety,” says Spencer R. Moore, Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Driver Services. “Working with our partners at Shepherd Center to raise awareness of the AutoCoach app will more broadly help accomplish that by sharing lifesaving information with our fellow Georgians. Shepherd Center representatives will train DDS employees about the app so they can educate parents and novice drivers throughout the state. The rollout will initially target the top 10 counties in Georgia with the highest teen driving morbidity and mortality rates. DDS has already begun accepting AutoCoach driving logs as evidence of parental supervision of Georgia drivers with learner’s permits. The partnership will be a strong testing ground for the effectiveness of the app in promoting safe driving practices among novice drivers on a large scale, with the ultimate goal of launching the app through other departments of motor vehicles nationwide.

DON’T RENEW UNLESS YOU HAVE TO

Georgia has a new design for licenses and ID cards.

The DDS 2 Go mobile app gives Georgia residents easy access to check driver’s license status, renew driving history, view changes to driving history, verify lost docs, and update licenses or identification cards.

INTERESTING FACTS

Q: What does a chief medical officer (CMO) do?
I am responsible for the safety of our patients and the quality of the care we provide. I oversee all of the clinical programs from a medical standpoint, including the physician, psychology and neuropsychology practices.

Q: You’ve served as CMO at Shepherd Center for three years now. How would you describe Shepherd Center’s culture?
Shepherd Center’s culture is unique and special compared to any other rehab facility I’ve been in. There is a very clear mission. Our north star is our patient. Everything we do here revolves around what is in their best interest. Focusing on the patients’ goals and independence really allows everybody who works here to be on the same page and value their work. This kind of teamwork is critical in rehab in general, and even more so with the kind of rehab we do – taking care of patients with catastrophic injuries and illnesses.

Q: More recently, things have been anything but business-as-usual due to COVID-19. Can you describe what your role has been regarding COVID-19 at Shepherd during this unprecedented time?
I run a team huddle where I oversee the changes to policies, procedures and guidelines that are intended to keep our patients, families, staff and visitors safe. Every day, I send an update to all staff to make sure everybody is aware of any changes or developments.

Q: From your perspective, what has managing through this pandemic brought out in you and your colleagues?
Having been a leader through this experience, I’ve been impressed with how my colleagues managed to remain calm and very thoughtful about what we do. Our team’s excellent leadership and strong communication skills throughout this have been critical to our success. I could not have done this without them. People were not quick to react to things and make bad judgments. Everything we did was focused on how we could best keep all of our stakeholders safe. Overall, I’d say we have been managing to get through this successfully.

Q: Is there a stand-out moment that you’ve noticed at Shepherd during the pandemic?
I can’t say there’s just one stand-out moment, but what has stood out to me is the compassion everyone has shown. When we had to make the difficult decision to temporarily stop most patient visitation in April, staff really were so empathetic – taking into consideration the impact this would have on the families and patients. Everybody understood why we had to make the decision, and they really stepped up to the plate in terms of communicating to families and providing extra care to patients.

Q: If you could have Shepherd Center staff, patients and families take away one lesson from this challenging situation, what would it be?
Take care of yourself and take care of others. There’s a lot to be had, but this big piece is adhering to the rules, as difficult as they may be. Wearing your mask when you’re supposed to and social distancing truly do help. I think this lesson of caring for yourself and others is important for any situation or crisis.
The power of friends, family and community uplifts two former patients after injury.

Allowing people to care for you during your time of need can be challenging. The stories of two patients, Eddie Williams and Frances Hardy, show that embracing the support of others can be a sign of strength, leading to amazing things.

BY DAMJANA ALVERSON
A community rallies around Eddie Williams and his family as he recovers from a spinal cord injury.

Eddie Williams' family for generations. Eddie and his wife, Starla, raised their two sons, Josh and Chandler, here. Eddie also lived here when he decided to start his own trucking company, S & E Transport, LLC, more than 36 years ago.

"He built his company from the ground up," Starla says. "Eddie had to sell his car to buy his first truck. Now, he manages eight to 10 trucks at a time, from his own trucks to the owner-operators' trucks that haul sod. Eddie rebuilds motors, works on trucks and drives, as well. His favorite job is delivering sod for Carolina Green to NFL fields around the country."

Reliable and hardworking, Eddie takes great pride in his business and is a respected figure in his community of New Salem, North Carolina. "Eddie is a genuine businessman and person," Starla says. "His mind is going 24/7. Nobody can keep up with him!"

On March 20, 2020, Eddie was cutting tree limbs, he slipped and fell about 15 feet to the ground. Josh knew his father had sustained a spinal cord injury (SCI). He called Starla and told her to get his hospital badge while he called 911.

Eddie was airlifted to Atrium Health's Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte, North Carolina, where doctors confirmed he had sustained a complete C-4, C-5 and C-6 SCI. Initially, he could not speak, so Starla used her experience as a literary interventionist for Unionville Elementary School to communicate with him. She would organize the alphabet into groups of letters, and Eddie would nod at the correct group, and then at the correct letter, to gradually spell out words.

"The first thing Eddie spelled out to ask our son Josh was, 'Are the trucks running?'", Starla says. "Even when he was in pain, he was focused on keeping his business running."

There was another message Eddie spelled out to Starla: "I love life, Starla."

"He wanted to keep fighting," Starla recalls. "He may not have his legs or be able to use his hands, but he's still Eddie."

On April 13, Eddie arrived at Shepherd Center. In addition to battling for his life, Eddie had to deal with the difficulty of not having his family physically present with him due to COVID-19. "We would FaceTime multiple times a day," Starla says. "I met with his whole team to stay up-to-date on his progress."

And he has definitely made progress. Eddie was eventually taken off his ventilator and given a speaking valve, an attachment placed on Eddie's tracheostomy (trach) tube that allows him to speak. He has now progressed enough to have his trach removed completely.

"The first time I heard his voice again, I got so emotional," Starla says. "When he saw me crying, Eddie said, 'I didn't know you'd get so emotional. You always told me I talk too much!'"

Eddie found a way to bring his passion for trucks to his wheelchair. He owns Peterbilt trucks, so he had a Peterbilt sign made that hangs on the back of his chair from a stainless-steel chain.

"It is a godsend that we got to Shepherd Center," Starla says. "What the team at Shepherd has done is a miracle. Every professional we've met has said that even after you leave Shepherd, you're always one of us. This has been awful, but Shepherd has been on our side for everything."

The Williams family has endured a lot between Eddie's injuries and being apart from each other due to COVID-19. But hardship can bring out the best in people, and on April 24, Eddie's community joined together to support him. It all started when Starla received a phone call from her friend, Mandy Little.

"Eddie delivers agricultural lime to the farms in our town," Starla says. "Mandy had an idea to put together a truck convoy in honor of Eddie with 15 farmers so they could record the event and send it to Eddie."

Mandy organized the event in two weeks. What had started as a 15-truck convoy grew to 25 trucks, then 50 trucks and finally reached 130 trucks on April 24. Led by Eddie's son, Josh, the convoy stretched a mile and a half long. Many of the trucks displayed signs with #EddieStrong or #FastEddie, and people remained in their trucks to maintain social distancing. Donations collected during the event will help pay the Williams' medical expenses.
“People came from all over the county and surrounding counties,” Starla says. “Some knew Eddie, and others had only heard his story. It was the most amazing thing this community has ever seen and was out of love and respect for this man.”

Eddie watched the event live on FaceTime from Shepherd Center. He wept tears of joy and asked his wife to blow his truck horn as the convoy drove by.

Eddie’s son, Chandler, and Chandler’s fiancee, Sophia, started a Facebook page to keep everyone up to date on Eddie’s progress. Now, the Facebook page has approximately 2,000 members who cheer for Eddie every day.

The community continues to rally around Eddie. Starla has been overwhelmed by the process of making her two-story house accessible for Eddie. Building a new accessible home on their land would be ideal, yet expensive. Fortunately, Monty Soots, a contractor in a surrounding county who had recovered from a fall in 2004, volunteered to be the lead contractor on the project and asked area businesses to donate their labor and materials. He is partnering with staff from Shepherd Center to ensure the new home is accessible. The Williams family affectionately calls the new build their “barn apartment.”

When communities join in solidarity, they can achieve great things. Eddie’s story is a testament that we are truly better together. If you would like to keep up with Eddie’s progress, join his public Facebook page, “Prayers, Support, and Updates for Fast Eddie (Eddie Williams).”

After sustaining a spinal cord injury, Frances Hardy lives with focus, a positive attitude and support from friends and family.

During each visit to Shepherd Center, Frances spends three to four weeks in intensive rehabilitation in the Spinal Cord Injury Day Program.
I decided to train to do the things people didn’t think were possible like eating alone, using a manual wheelchair and eventually going back to university.

Frances was discharged from the hospital and returned home to Viña del Mar in April 2013. “I was really lucky to find a great rehabilitation center in my hometown, the Luis Krebs Institute,” Frances says. “For the rest of that year, I focused a lot on physical therapy and spent six hours each day doing exercises.” While Frances was happy with the rehabilitation she was receiving, she was curious whether she was doing all she could to improve.

“I started asking around to specialists and other patients,” Frances says. “Shepherd Center was recommended to me because of the therapy and the great environment. Many places can be great for physical rehabilitation, but having a welcoming environment on top of that positively affects your state of mind.”

Frances’ first visit to Shepherd Center was in January 2015. She returned in 2016, and again in early 2020. During each visit, she spent three to four weeks in intensive rehabilitation in the Spinal Cord Injury Day Program. She affectionately describes her therapy at Shepherd Center as challenging. “It is challenging,” Frances says. “I was impressed with the technology and the intensity of the training. The four weeks I spend at Shepherd Center prepare me to go back to my country and practice what I learned to regain my independence.”

As Frances’ skills advanced during each visit, her goals also evolved. “In the beginning, I came to Shepherd to learn new skills,” Frances explains, “but now I’m perfecting those skills and focusing more on practical things that you do every day like transfers from a wheelchair to a bed and cooking. The Day Program team has been so innovative in trying new exercises. They know I love the challenge.”

In particular, Frances loves working with Kelly White, an exercise physiologist in the SCI Day Program. “Kelly has so much energy and passion,” Frances says. “She creates innovative exercises in every session we have, no matter if it’s spinning class, dancing or anything else.”

“Kelly has been so innovative in trying new exercises. They know I love the challenge.” Frances explains, “but now I’m perfecting those skills and focusing more on practical things that you do every day like transfers from a wheelchair to a bed and cooking. The Day Program team has been so innovative in trying new exercises. They know I love the challenge.”

Kelly says, “I love the friendships I have with fellow patients at Shepherd Center. During her stays, they motivated her to try sports like handcycling, swimming and rugby. More importantly, they reminded her to have a good time and laugh.”

“I love the friendships I have with other patients at Shepherd Center,” Frances says. “Many patients are going through a difficult time, but together we can have fun and help each other. I can ask them about their experiences, and I can help by telling them about mine.”

Frances has achieved her goals and continues to strive for new ones. She completed her degree in business specializing in marketing in 2019 and moved to Santiago, Chile, to begin her career in marketing at a telecommunications company.

“I think that we have to appreciate the people around us and make them part of this difficult moment in our lives. Many people want to help but don’t know how, so it is up to us to ask for help when we need it.”

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“A SPECIAL LIFE”

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— Frances Hardy
THE GREATEST GIFT

After sustaining a TBI, Kyle Plussa perseveres through faith and determination.

BY DAMJANA ALVERSON

Kyle’s sense of duty began at a young age. When he was 18, he accepted a candidacy to become a commissioned officer pilot in the U.S. Army. While a training accident cut that goal short, it did not stop his desire to serve. After healing and going back to school, Kyle proudly donned another uniform as a law enforcement officer. Eventually, he found his calling working for the FWC, where his days are spent patrolling, protecting and preserving Florida’s natural resources and the people who enjoy them.

On August 3, 2018, the grit and determination that sustained him through his training, along with the support of many along the way, carried him through another challenge.

“The Lights Were On, But Nobody Was Home”

On August 3, 2018, Kyle was in the process of moving into his first home in Naples, Florida, with his then-fiancée, Lauren. As he drove to return the moving truck, he was struck by an impaired driver who crossed over the median into oncoming traffic.

Following the car crash, Kyle went to NCH North Naples Hospital for stabilization and then transferred to the Lee Memorial Hospital ICU in Fort Myers, Florida. Kyle had sustained a severe traumatic brain injury (TBI), including a diffuse axonal injury, increased cranial pressure and brain swelling, three brain hematomas, eight skull fractures and nerve damage to his brain stem. He was in a coma for nearly a month.

“The chances of waking up from the coma I was in were close to zero,” Kyle says. “When I did come out of my coma, I was a different person. The lights were on, but nobody was home.”

On August 24, 2018, a few days after emerging from his coma, Kyle was flown to Shepherd Center.

Rehabilitation Through Teamwork

Kyle spent four weeks as an inpatient in the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Program followed by six weeks as an outpatient at Shepherd Pathways.

“My entire team made a huge impact on me,” Kyle says. “I cannot say enough positive things about it. Dr. Vox and his team believed in me, and everyone’s positivity helped keep me grounded and fighting each day.”

One critical part of Kyle’s rehabilitation at Shepherd Center was training in the pool. As a marine law enforcement officer for FWC, Kyle is required to be able to do a 300-meter freestyle and breaststroke in less than 10 minutes.

“My physical therapists got me into the pool, and I was able to test my abilities,” Kyle recalls. “When I saw I was still able to do my 300-meter swim within the minimum required time limit, it was a huge moment.”

Throughout the entire rehabilitation process, Kyle’s fiancée Lauren was by his side. As a biologist for FWC and the state of Florida, Lauren shares Kyle’s love for nature.

“Lauren is a strong believer in the healing power of nature,” Kyle says. “When I was an inpatient, she took me to the Anna and Hays Menhorn Secret Garden to sit, enjoy and reflect. Once I moved to Pathways, we would use our day pass to hike every weekend. She helped me realize my self-worth and that we would be OK no matter what.”

The Greatest Gift

Kyle made great progress at Shepherd, and he perseveres every day to continue to improve. After completing rehabilitation, he returned home to Naples. He sees a neurologist annually and has completed more than a year and a half of vision therapy, resolving his vision issues. He’s also learned how to mitigate the pain he still has from nerve damage.

On October 5, 2019, Kyle experienced one of the most important milestones of his life: He married Lauren on her family’s land in rural Ohio.

“Walking down the aisle to marry Lauren was a major motivator for getting out of the wheelchair and learning to walk again,” Kyle says. “She’s my angel.”

After being medically cleared by his neurologist with no TBI deficits that precluded him from returning to patrol, Kyle got what he calls his golden ticket—the second chance to serve. As Kyle will tell you, exactly 607 days after his injury, he officially returned to full duty and solo law enforcement patrol.

In addition to protecting his community as a law enforcement officer, Kyle serves in another way—motivational speaking.

“My weekends are spent over the last year and a half in recovery serving as a motivational speaker,” Kyle says. “I want to use my second chance at life to share what I’ve learned—to never give up, to never quit.”

Kyle was invited to speak at the Collier County 100 Club charity banquet, along with his wife Lauren and his supervisor, Lt. Mark Mahoney.

“The 100 Club was an integral part of helping pay for some of my larger medical expenses, like my medical transport flight from Fort Myers to Atlanta,” Kyle says. “I am very proud to say I’ve become one of their newest members.”

At the event, Kyle spoke on the power of choice and stressed the importance of never giving up.

“Take everything one step at a time,” Kyle says. “The greatest gift we have is our free will to choose. Choose to never give up, choose to never lose faith in yourself and choose to believe in the goodness of people. Life is precious. Never quit.”

1. Kyle and his wife, Lauren, at their wedding with their dog, Lily.
2. Kyle serves as a law enforcement officer with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). On October 5, 2019, Kyle experienced one of the most important milestones of his life: He married Lauren on her family’s land in rural Ohio.
3. On October 5, 2019, Kyle experienced one of the most important milestones of his life: He married Lauren on her family’s land in rural Ohio.
Jared Bailey
ATHENS, ALABAMA

On September 10, 2017, Jared Bailey, 25, was returning home from church on his motorcycle. He was only five miles from his house when two cars suddenly cut in front of him, resulting in a crash. Jared was flown to Huntsville Hospital and immediately had surgery to mend his injuries. Jared sustained a diffuse axonal brain injury, and nobody knew how much he would recover. After 19 tense days at the hospital, Jared was stable enough to transfer to Shepherd Center for rehabilitation on September 29, 2017. Jared spent four weeks inpatient at the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Program, followed by eight weeks at Shepherd Pathways for outpatient services. His family was able to live in an apartment in the Irene and George Woodruff Family Residence Center on the Shepherd campus.

“We celebrated the best Thanksgiving we’ve ever had in that apartment,” Lynn says. “We had a whole new level of gratitude for our lives. Every day was a miracle.” To the Bailey family, the Shepherd Center team was like extended family.

“They were excellent,” Jared says. “From the nurses to the techs and therapists, to the people at the welcome desk, they were all so caring and genuine.”

Jared was discharged from Shepherd Center on December 22, 2017. He still experiences effects from his TBI, but he doesn’t get discouraged. He wants other brain injury survivors to know what helped him pull through. “Don’t be afraid to lean on your loved ones and ask for help when you need it,” Jared says. “With hard work and patience, you can do it.”

Jared has always had a passion for building and making. After leaving Shepherd, he decided to apply his passion to a career. He enrolled in Calhoun Community College as an aerospace technology major. On December 16, 2019, Jared received an Associate of Applied Science degree in Aerospace Technology. Now, he is an aerospace technician for an international supplier of products for the space industry. “I get to build stuff that goes to space,” Jared claims proudly. “I feel like I can get through a brain injury and I can do anything!”

Jared Bailey visited the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama, in March 2020.

Paul Fleming
POWDER SPRINGS, GEORGIA

Paul Fleming, 53, has always been an active person. He loves to go fishing, cycling and coach middle school football. He and his wife, Cheryl, also keep busy looking after their three children, Ashley, Paul and Christopher. But in 2004, something happened that temporarily derailed Paul’s busy lifestyle.

“I started having seizures a couple of times a day,” Paul says. “They were in five- to 10-second increments. My whole left side would just turn off.”

Paul was officially diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS) by Ben Thower, M.D., medical director of the Andrew C. Carlos Multiple Sclerosis Institute at Shepherd Center. Paul has been visiting Shepherd Center twice a year since 2004 for drug infusions to manage his MS symptoms.

With the good, there have also been some tough times. In 2019, Paul was struggling with his symptoms. “A lot of times with MS, you can backslide,” Paul says. “At the time, I wasn’t exercising like I should be. My MS started to come out of remission, and I needed a push to get healthy again.”

That extra motivation came via a phone call from Shepherd Center’s MS research program asking Paul to participate in a new exercise study.

To better understand what exercise options are the safest and most effective for people with MS, Supervised versus Telerehab Exercise Program for People with MS (STEP for MS), a four-year study funded by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), was launched in 2017. The study compares the outcomes of a 16-week exercise program conducted at home (via telerehab) to a program held in a gym (faceto-face). Paul participated in the telerehab study from August to December 2019.

“It really helped me,” Paul says. “People with MS go through a lot of emotional and physical swings, and exercise can breathe life back into your body.”

In addition to helping himself feel better, Paul hopes he can pay it forward to others with MS.

“The findings from research trials like this help the next group of people,” Paul says. “I want to make life easier for the person behind me.”
Meeting Patients’ and Families’ Spiritual Needs

Chaplains have been part of Shepherd Center’s interdisciplinary approach to care since the hospital’s inception.

On June 1, 2020, Dave Wethington walked into Shepherd Center for the first time as an employee, having been recently named the newest chaplain in the Larry L. Prince Chaplaincy Program. But he is no stranger to Shepherd Center.

Wethington was once a patient in Shepherd Center’s Brain Injury Rehabilitation Program, and he credits Shepherd Center’s chaplaincy program for both helping to restore his hope after sustaining a brain injury and inspiring him to pursue chaplaincy after his rehabilitation.

Originally from Cincinnati, Ohio, Wethington attended college at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, majoring in chemical engineering. After receiving his degree, he worked as an engineer in his hometown and eventually moved back to Atlanta with his wife in 2007.

In 2002, Wethington received some disturbing news. Doctors found a near baseball-sized tumor in his brain, which had to be surgically removed. While the tumor was benign, surgeons were unable to remove all of it. Then, during surgery, he sustained an acquired brain injury. Suddenly, he was unable to do many things for himself — including walking and talking. He also had hearing, vision and cognitive impairments. Wethington and his wife were told they needed to go to Shepherd Center for his rehabilitation.

Wethington found himself in an unexpected — and unfamiliar — situation. He was losing hope. Then, during his stay at Shepherd Center, he met Chaplain Alan Roof.

“Connecting with the chaplain helped me refocus my perspective,” Wethington says. “It allowed me to focus on how I could help others while I worked to recover from my brain injury.”

Wethington completed his residency in the Texas Medical Center and was part of the Houston Methodist Hospital system for five years. Through the years, he had also been open and honest with his patients.

“I was able to share my brain injury as a turning point in my life. It gave me the opportunity to help others find hope,” Wethington says.

Dave Wethington began working at Shepherd Center in June 2020.

“It did happen. Wethington joined Ben Rose, Shepherd Center’s other chaplain, in June 2020, and together they will continue to minister to the spiritual needs of the patients, their families and staff of all faiths. This can take many forms — simply praying with them, providing spiritual counseling, working as part of the care team and/or connecting with them during regular Sunday services. When needed, they also perform marriages, baptisms and funerals.

“We do our best to see every inpatient at least once,” says Rose, who has been at Shepherd Center for 10 years. “They are processing what has happened to them and coming to terms with their new normal. Most of them are grieving a loss. We can help them through that.”

The chaplaincy program was established right after the hospital was founded in 1975.

“From the very beginning, we thought it was important for patients and families to have that faith support,” says Shepherd Center co-founder Alan Shepherd. “Having hospital chaplains is a big part of healing — and hope — at Shepherd Center.”

Rose says there are many rewarding parts to his job, such as seeing someone sing in the chapel when he or she thought they would never sing again, or when they share a part of their spiritual journey with him. He also enjoys it when patients come back to visit, and he can see how far they’ve come.

“You see so much negativity in the world right now,” Rose says. “Working at Shepherd reminds you that people are still resilient and strong and can overcome major obstacles.”

And Wethington is happy to be a part of all of that.

“I love being a chaplain and helping people find hope in a seemingly hopeless situation,” he says. “I am glad to be working in a hospital environment that feels like family, and that’s something I miss when I am a patient there. But most importantly, I am proud to be able to do for someone else what a chaplain once did for me, bringing that empathy and understanding from my own experience to every patient I see.”

The Larry L. Prince Chaplaincy Program is one of the organizations that has benefited greatly from the generosity of the Rolls Foundation.

Since 2008, the O. Wayne Rolls Foundation has been a consistent Shepherd supporter, making donations wherever needed to help fulfill the hospital’s mission of providing quality care and hope to its patients.

Recently the Foundation made two significant gifts to Shepherd Center.

Last summer, the Foundation made a gift to the hospital’s chaplaincy program and requested it be named in honor and memory of Larry Prince, former chairman and chief executive officer of Genuine Parts Company, a Rollins board member and a founding member of the Shepherd Center Foundation Board of Trustees.

Larry and his wife, Sandra, have been longtime supporters of Shepherd Center. Sandra and her son, Larry Jr., are proud and humbled that the Larry L. Prince Chaplaincy Program will continue to be a vital piece of Shepherd Center’s holistic approach to patient care.

“Chaplains have been an important part of Shepherd Center since the hospital’s inception,” says Shepherd Center co-founder Alana Shephard. “We are honored to have the program now named after Larry Prince.”

The inscription on the commemorative plaque encapsulates the Prince family’s thoughts.

“Shepherd Center has had a long and special relationship with the Rolls family and the Foundation. These gifts are just another demonstration of the Rolls family’s commitment to the quality of healthcare.”

Alana Shepherd, Shepherd Center co-founder
“Whatever it Takes.”

Shepherd Center board members engage in a variety of ways to help during the pandemic.

BY SARA BAXTER

Sara Chapman, who has been volunteering at Shepherd Center since shortly after the hospital was founded in 1975, remembers how often Shepherd Center co-founder Alana Shepherd would say, “Whatever it takes.”

“That attitude has been the culture at Shepherd Center from the very beginning,” says Sara, who has served on the Shepherd Center Board of Directors since 1993. “Still today it is what makes our patient care second to none.”

The hallmarks of Shepherd Center – a family atmosphere, a can-do attitude and doing whatever it takes to keep hope alive – have been exemplified in countless ways during the COVID-19 pandemic.

When the crisis hit in March, Sarah Batts, MBA, executive director of the Shepherd Center Foundation, knew the hospital would need to come up with ways to help patients and their families while boosting morale during the quarantine. When Trustee Justin Jones learned that the hospital was in need of personal protective equipment (PPE), he and his in-laws, Elizabeth and Carl Allen (also longtime Shepherd Center supporters, with Elizabeth also serving as a Trustee) used their network to procure 10,000 protective gowns and donated them to the hospital. Juli Owens, a member of the Board of Directors, turned her kitchen into an assembly line and put together 100 decoratively wrapped “Hero Bags,” filled with healthy snacks, treats and gift cards to be handed out to Shepherd staff. Juli agrees with that sentiment. “I can’t take care of the patients,” she says, “but I can take care of the staff and help in other ways where needed.”

The list was long – everything from planning morale-boosting activities to lending a helping hand to patients and families to finding ways to support the staff. The board responded in an unbelievable way.

Sara was one of several board members who “adopted” a patient family, providing them with basic necessities and other items they needed during the quarantine. When Trustee Justin Jones learned that the hospital was in need of personal protective equipment (PPE), he and his in-laws, Elizabeth and Carl Allen (also longtime Shepherd Center supporters, with Elizabeth also serving as a Trustee) used their network to procure 10,000 protective gowns and donated them to the hospital. Juli Owens, a member of the Board of Directors, turned her kitchen into an assembly line and put together 100 decoratively wrapped “Hero Bags,” filled with healthy snacks, treats and gift cards to be handed out to Shepherd staff.

“Of course we’re going to help during this time,” says Juli of the board’s efforts. “We’re family, and that’s what family does.”

The effort of the staff has been nothing short of remarkable, says Justin. “We have your back.”

But volunteers think what they’re doing pales in comparison to the efforts of staff at Shepherd Center. “What we do will never match up to what the employees do,” Justin says. “They are changing lives every day. Helping where we can is our way of supporting them and saying, ‘We have your back.’”

The board’s involvement has been overwhelming. Juli agrees with that sentiment. “I can’t take care of the patients,” she says, “but I can take care of the staff and help in other ways where needed.”

“Whatever it takes,” Batts says. “That’s just their nature. I wanted to be ready.”

“We want them to know we feel their pain and their struggles, and we want them to feel loved and cared for just like their patient is.”

Whether the effort is great or small, it is appreciated. And the way the board volunteers see it, they are helping Shepherd Center fulfill its mission.

“[Shepherd Center co-founder] James Shepherd made sure everyone was clear that Shepherd Center was all about turning ‘I can’t’ moments into ‘I can’ moments,” Justin says, “and that holds true for board members and staff just as much as it does for patients. Anything we can do to help the staff allows them to have more time to continue to work their magic.”
August 18, 2020, officially marked the 45th anniversary of Shepherd Center’s founding. During this time, we have experienced great triumphs in patient care, innovation and advocacy efforts. We also have endured loss with the passing of two co-founders, James Shepherd and Harold Shepherd. Through it all, Shepherd Center has remained dedicated to helping people with life-changing injuries and illnesses reclaim their lives with dignity, independence and hope.

Take a trip down memory lane as we reflect on the most significant milestones from the past 45 years.

1975
David Apple, M.D., became Shepherd Center’s first medical director and now serves as medical director emeritus.

1975
Shepherd Spinal Center opened its doors as a six-bed facility, staffed by two doctors, three therapists and nursing support from the leasing hospital. Almost immediately, there was a waiting list.

1985
The Clinical Research Program began at Shepherd Center. The program would eventually be renamed the Virginia C. Crawford Research Institute in 1995. With the initiation of a research program, Shepherd Center established its role at the forefront of clinical research and innovation primarily focused on spinal cord injury, brain injury, multiple sclerosis and neuromuscular disorders.

1985
The Multiple Sclerosis Institute opened to provide treatment to people with multiple sclerosis (MS), suspected MS or related disorders. It was later renamed the Andrew C. Carlos Multiple Sclerosis Institute at Shepherd Center.

1991
The hospital moved to its current location on Peachtree Road in Atlanta’s Buckhead area. The new 93,000-square-foot facility housed 40 beds and allowed room for growth in specialized programs, such as peer support and advocacy.

1991
1992
Shepherd Center doubled in size with the opening of the Bill Marcus Building, a 135,000-square-foot expansion named for the resolute fundraiser and wife of The Home Depot’s former chairman, Bernie Marcus. This development allowed Shepherd to expand outpatient services and provide space for its newly created Multiple Sclerosis Institute, as well as a full-size gym, swimming pool and auditorium.

1995
Shepherd Center established acquired brain injury (ABI) as its third area of specialty, adding a 20-bed unit for patients with ABI.

1996
Shepherd Center representatives, including Shepherd Center co-founders Alana and the late Harold Shepherd, along with David Apple, M.D., led the Atlanta Paralympic Games Organizing Committee, which presented the successful bid for Atlanta to host the 1996 Paralympic Games.

2000
Shepherd Spine and Pain Institute opened to serve people with pain resulting from neurologic degenerative disease or injuries. It was renamed the Dean Stroud Spine and Pain Institute in 2007.

2004
Donald Peck Leslie, M.D., is named medical director of Shepherd Center. Before this, Dr. Leslie served for 10 years as associate medical director of Shepherd Center and medical director for Brain Injury Services.

2005
Shepherd Center Foundation was established with Duncan Beard serving as the first Chairman of the Board of Trustees to set development policy and act as the major fundraising entity for Shepherd Center.

2007
The Jane Woodruff Pavilion was added to the Marcus Building, nearly doubling the size of the hospital with an additional 170,000 square feet. Among other things, the expansion increased the number of patient beds from 100 to 120, and provided additional therapy gyms and treatment rooms, the Dora and Ed Voyles Assistive Technology Center, a new cafeteria and dining facility, and additional office space.

2008
Shepherd Center completed the Irene and George Woodruff Family Residence Center, a $16 million residential center adjacent to the hospital that provides temporary housing for families of patients. The 87,000-square-foot facility includes 84 wheelchair accessible suites, each containing a bedroom, living space, kitchenette and bathroom.

2010
Shepherd Center completed a $9.8 million renovation and remodeling project that created more private rooms for patients, added a second brain injury unit, and reconfigured and remodeled various units. Shepherd Center increased its number of beds to 152, including a 10-bed ICU.

2013
Shepherd Center began testing Indego®, a new powered exoskeleton device designed to assist walking in people with spinal cord injury and other mobility-limiting conditions. It was developed by Vanderbilt University engineers in consultation with Shepherd Center researchers and then licensed and manufactured by Parker Hannifin Corporation.

2014
Shepherd Center embarked on a $12.5 million renovation and building project to add 13,000 square feet for an expanded and updated lab, pharmacy and MRI suite.

2015
Shepherd Center launched the SHARE Military Initiative thanks to a generous donation from Atlanta philanthropist Bernie Marcus. As an extension of the ABI Program, SHARE provides treatment for military personnel who have sustained mild to moderate brain injuries, along with diagnoses of post-traumatic stress and other mental health conditions.

2016
SHARE presents its SHARE & CARE sessions, a community-building experience for post-acute brain injury patients and their families.

2018
Shepherd Center launched the vines, a rigorous, activity-based program designed to help people with a variety of neurological disorders improve lifelong health, minimize secondary complications and get the most from any new neural links to their muscles.

2020
Shepherd Center launched the SHARE Military Initiative thanks to a generous donation from Atlanta philanthropist Bernie Marcus. As an extension of the ABI Program, SHARE provides treatment for military personnel who have sustained mild to moderate brain injuries, along with diagnoses of post-traumatic stress and other mental health conditions.
2014
Shepherd’s Men, comprised of active and retired servicemen, as well as civilian volunteers, enthusiastically began raising awareness and funds for the SHARE Military Initiative at Shepherd Center through annual events. Since 2014, Shepherd’s Men has raised more than $5 million to support the SHARE Military Initiative.

2017
Thanks to a gift from The Marcus Foundation, Shepherd Center opened a new facility at 80 Peachtree Park Drive to house the SHARE Military Initiative. The facility also houses the Complex Concussion Clinic and Eula C. and Andrew C. Carlos Multiple Sclerosis Rehabilitation and Wellness Program.

2017
Shepherd Center launched AutoCoach®, partnering with the Georgia Governor’s Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) and IT management consulting firm CapTech, Shepherd Center’s certified driver rehabilitation specialists and injury prevention experts used their specialized training to create the innovative app that makes it easier for adults to effectively teach their teens to drive defensively and safely.

2017
Sarah Morrison, PT, MBA, MHA, became president and CEO of Shepherd Center, having served in various leadership roles at the hospital since 1984. Before assuming the top role, Morrison served as vice president of clinical services and also as director of the Shepherd Center Spinal Cord Injury Program. Before that, she worked at Shepherd Center as a director of the medical/surgical and ICU programs, manager of the Spinal Cord Injury Day Program, a physical therapy supervisor and a physical therapist.

2018
The naming of the J. Harold Shepherd Parkway section of Peachtree Road honored Shepherd Center co-founder, the late Harold Shepherd. This was a testament to the incredible contributions Harold Shepherd made to Atlanta and beyond, as well as to the community support for the Shepherd family and the recognition of Shepherd Center’s ability to provide its patients with hope, dignity and independence.

2019
Shepherd Center received three new facility dogs from our friends at Canine Companions for Independence, bringing our current total to six. Made possible through donor support and handled by highly trained Shepherd Center employees, our facility dogs know up to 40 commands — such as getting items out of a refrigerator, opening a door and pushing an elevator button — all activities that help facilitate the independence that Shepherd Center patients and clients work toward.

2014
Michael Yochelson, M.D., MBA, was named chief medical officer of Shepherd Center, as Donald Peck Leslie, M.D., retired as medical director after 13 years (and 34 years total on medical staff) and became medical director emeritus, and special adviser to the Shepherd Center Foundation.

2017
Shepherd Center launched the Complex Concussion Clinic to address complications of mild brain injuries in patients.

2018
Shepherd Center’s Director of Multiple Sclerosis Research Debbie Backus, PT, Ph.D., began research funded by the hospital’s largest research grant to date — a PCORI grant of $5.7 million over four years to study the delivery and effects of exercise for people with MS. This grant signifies the commitment of our Crawford Research Institute in securing grants that directly improve the care we provide our patients. Shepherd researchers have garnered current multi-year grants that total more than $17 million.

2018
Shepherd Center Foundation’s annual Legendary Party had the opportunity to honor co-founders Alana and Harold Shepherd, raising a record $6.2 million in 2018 and an astounding $851 million over the decade for patient and family programs.

2018
Shepherd Center mourned the loss of co-founder Harold Shepherd. He passed away on December 10, 2018, leaving a legacy of generosity and kindness.

2019
Shepherd Center was named one of Atlanta’s “Best Places to Work” in the Atlanta Business Chronicle’s 16th annual ranking of 103 metro area companies. Shepherd Center was recognized as the Atlanta Business Chronicle’s #4 Best Place to Work in the extra-large company (500-plus employees) category. The newspaper also ranked Shepherd Center among the Best Places to Work in its 2017 and 2018 listings.

2019
Shepherd Center acquired 2.6 acres of nearby land to expand our Family Housing program, allowing for our out-of-town families to stay with their loved ones for as long as they are at Shepherd Center.

2019
Shepherd Center’s employee giving campaign (ShepherdCares) raised more than $244,000 with 85 percent of Shepherd Center staff contributing to the campaign. It has raised a total of $1.6 million over the past decade. The commitment of employees helps continue our differentiating, value-added services.

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Shepherd Center co-founders Alana Shepherd and James Shepherd were recognized on August 22, 2019, with Lifetime Achievement Awards at the Atlanta Business Chronicle’s Most Admired CEOs Awards dinner. They were among 44 leaders in 22 categories and industries, from accounting to utilities and energy, who were honored.

Shepherd Center launched telehealth, telespecialty, and telerehabilitation capabilities, making it possible for medical providers and patients alike to virtually see and hear each other, providing better interaction and enhancing care. While virtual care was already part of Shepherd Center’s strategic plan, the launch was expedited due to need caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The hospital now does between 75 and 100 televisits each day.

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 January 1, 2020 and March 31, 2020.

Laura and Karl Anschatz
Ms. Esther L. Abravanel
Ms. Hope A. Albert
Mr. and Mrs. Greg Gersch
Voorhees Benneaud
Mr. Nicholas Oliver
Robert Black
Mr. and Mrs. Phillip L. Dack
Judi Bossert
Ms. Ann R. Howell
Charles W. Brady
Mrs. Laura W. Smith
Joy Bruce
Mr. David Conradi
Alton Roy Cadenhead
Jake Puryear Detachment 1020
Asa Gregg Candler VI
Mr. and Mrs. C. Alexander Peterson
Mr. C. Calhoun Peterson
Mrs. J. Harold Shepherd
Mr. and Mrs. Carter E. Swift
Mrs. Joan D. Woolard
James Caswell
Mr. and Mrs. David M. Black
Phillip Cassese Jr.
Mrs. Laura W. Smith
Ernest “Emie” Cermak
Brooke Farm Women’s Club
Mr. and Mrs. James P. Cramer
Mr. Barry Lab
Mr. and Mrs. Paul D. McKinnis
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence H. Bisselton
Ms. Catherine Sanearam
Schmeda Charitable Fund
Ms. Phyllis Wilson
Wicke Chambers
Mrs. Lillian Chambers III
James “Jim” Christain
Mr. and Mrs. Joel K. Isenberg
Malinda “Tilly” Cohen
Lawrence “Larry” Klamon
Mr. and Mrs. N. Gifford
Joan Duhman
Mr. and Mrs. Ben Angeli
Mrs. Sam Angeli
Mary Duhneke
Ms. Jillian T. Cottron
Daniel Martin Espinosa
Mr. and Mrs. Cesar D. Espinosa
Brian Etheredge
Mr. and Mrs. David Blanton
Alice Everage
Mrs. John E. Duggan
Clair Frazier
Ladies Investment Limited, Inc.
David Funk
Mr. and Mrs. Steven M. Funk
Patricia “Pat” Goggins
Mrs. Robert C. Beauchamp
Alton J. Griffin
First United Baptist Church
George T. Gunnell
LTC (R) and Mrs. Victor Macias
Clam Hannah
Mrs. Anna L. Miller
Arthur Harris
Mrs. Mary Kay Howard
Sally Hwaie
Mrs. J. Harold Shepherd
Kathryn “Kay” Heber
Mr. Alva Sue Keelley
Bobbie Hodges
Dr. and Mrs. Leonard Fishman
J. Mark Hodges
Mr. Christopher L. Phillips
Mr. Frank A. Phillips
Thomas Mark Hodges
Mrs. Patricia R. Hodges
Hattie House
Ms. Jonnie Bowden
Ms. Martha Feland
Mr. Jim Harrison
Ms. Joy Norman
Warren Jobe
Mr. and Mrs. Lenny P. Prince
Ann Kieler
Mrs. James M. Caswell, Jr.
Lawrence “Larry” Klamon
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.
Ms. Laura W. Smith
Todd Knight
Mr. David Slivesters and Mrs. Norris Wootten
George Lane
Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Peterson
Jack Lang
Mr. and Mrs. William C. Smith
Jack Langford
Mrs. James M. Caswell, Jr.
Clifton Lemon
Mr. and Mrs. Frank H. Briggs, Jr.
Herbert London
Mr. and Mrs. Ben Angeli
Mrs. Sam Angeli
Sarah Looper
Dr. Joseph W. Looper
Pen Lybrook
Ms. Phyllis Brooks
Thomas W. “Tommy” Malone, Sr.
Mr. Joel Andrews and Mrs. Deborah Larvine Andrews
Cathleen Maria Matheson
Mrs. Theresa Z. Cantarella
Ms. Jennifer Matheson
Bobby G. Moore
Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Jones
Dr. Ralph A. Murphy
Mrs. Ralph A. Murphy
McKeever Nunnally
Mr. and Mrs. Kermit Kingery
Ms. Betsy Primus
Mr. and Mrs. William H. Schoder
Mrs. J. Harold Shepherd
Mr. and Mrs. James H. Shepherd III
Robert Oades
Ms. Peggy Barnard
Ms. Leslie Gordon
Milton Garden Club, Inc.
Urethanes Consulting
Barbara Orkin
Patterson Family Foundation, Inc.
Howell Pair
Mr. and Mrs. Andrea B. Shepherd
Charles H. Peterson
Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Peterson, Jr.
Lenny A. Pollman
Ms. Josephine Frazier
Ms. Genee Lee
Mr. and Mrs. Philip Lozoskie
Ms. Kathleen Norris
Bruce Potter and Patricia Lenmon-Potter
Mrs. J. Harold Shepherd
Ms. Julie Shepherd
WitchTech Industries, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Wright
Lewis Manderson passed away on May 5, 2020. Lewis was a devoted friend of Shepherd Center and of Medical Director Emeritus Don Leslie. M.D. Lewis and his wife, Faye, have been faithful and generous supporters of the hospital since 1988. As members of our J. Harold Shepherd Bridge Builder’s Society, Lewis and Faye made a transformative commitment to leave a lasting legacy to the future generations of patients and family patients who will benefit from the high-quality research, medical care and rehabilitation that Shepherd Center provides.

Lewis is survived by his wife, Faye, along with his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Because Chapel Apple, M.D., Shepherd Center’s medical director emeritus, couldn’t be at the Center in person due to social distancing, he sent treats to staff members to remind everyone that he was thinking of them.

Myranda Tringale
Mr. Larry Bagcial
Ms. Sally Beid
Ms. Kathy Bennett
Mr. Joel Berkowitz
Ms. Tammy Birmingham
Mr. and Mrs. Stanley R. Butcher
Ms. Lavina Davis
Ms. Anna Huass
Ms. Becky Hanna
Ms. Nancy Hare
Ms. Diane Leach
Ms. Margaret Rush
Ms. Frances Solbol
Ms. Suzanne Sullivan
Ms. Joyce Watson

Sandra “Sandy” Ureh
Ms. Joan Elso

Peter Wenzell
Akron Canton Airport
Mr. and Mrs. William J. Bogdzielewicz, Jr.
Melanie Brooks & Brett Boxberger
Ms. Tish Dompiere
Mr. James Garris
Ms. Pricilla Hector
Ms. Michelle Jarrett
Mr. David C. Karp
Mr. and Mrs. Neal Neiberger
Ms. Kathryn Riley
Shediac Expedition Services

William “Bill” Whateley
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Brinton
Dr. Isadore M. Pike

David M. Wheeler
Ms. Sally Wheeler

Thomas M. Williamson II
Ms. Laura W. Smith

Robert Wing
Fergus Masonic Lodge #135

Judge Dan P. Winn
Mr. Frank C. Winn

Honorariums 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 January 1, 2020 and March 31, 2020.
Thank you to our staff who served as amazing subjects for this issue, as well as to our patients and their families who sent in photos. This magazine truly would not exist during this time without your support!

Laverne Sample
Ms. Jenny Brown
Shannon Schneider
Charles and Esther Lee Kimmerling Charitable Foundation
James Sehorn, General, USAF Retired
Central Georgia Marine Corps League
Alana Shepherd
Mrs. Betty Ann Inman
Mr. Hamilton H. Stockton, Jr.
Shepherd Center Staff
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Lytle
Jamie Shepherd
Mr. Carlton Estes
Kathy Stolaker
Ms. Nadine Juneiro
Garland Smith – Happy Holidays
Mr. and Mrs. George K. Wolfes, Jr.
Walter Smith
Mr. C. Cathoun Peterson
Marty Spiegelman
Dr. and Mrs. Bruce M. Beeber
Jeannie and Ron Stewart
Mr. Barrett B. Smith and Mrs. Emily J. Adkins
Luke Susong
Ms. Nicole Lench
Andrew Toner
Ms. Kathleen L. Hobbs
Ashley Weaver
Ms. Jannie Bowden
Ms. Martha Fieland
Mr. Jim Harrison
Ms. Joy Norman
Hansen Williams
Ms. Arne West
Jessica Williams
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.
Zach Wilson’s Birthday
Mr. Christopher Joseph
Kimani Woods
Ms. Sherry Dawkins
Mak Yost
Ms. Candace English
Matthew Young
Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Lathrop

Shepherd Center has been celebrating Music Monday each week. On this week, employees came dressed to impress in their best Prince-inspired outfits.

Our staff turned Shepherd Center into a galaxy far, far away to celebrate Star Wars Day.

Mr. and Mrs. Bernie Marcus
Mr. and Mrs. David M. Katsiliff
Paul Martin
Mr. and Mrs. James Kopp
Mary Jo Means
Ms. Clara W. Calland
Dorothy Mitchell Lee’s Birthday
Ms. Kathryn Mettler
Caroline Moore
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Moore
Larry Nail’s Graduation
Ms. Pamela Nail
Ryan Naramore
Anonymous
The hosts and hostesses party celebrating our wedding
Ms. Caroline C. Chisholm
Jeff Richmond Jr.
Ferril Scruggs Foundation
Joey Roman
Mr. and Mrs. Fat Rodgers
Alan Roof - Thanks for your blessings
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.
Hamano Ross
Ms. Wanda H. Ross
Jon Rosland - Brookhaven Rotary Golf Tournament good job!
Dr. David F. Apple, Jr.
Shepherd Center employees hold hearts to show support for this issue’s theme, “Stronger Together.” We accomplish great things when we work together as one team.