Dear Readers,

Though Shepherd Center is undoubtedly considered one of Atlanta’s gems, people from across the United States and worldwide choose Shepherd Center because of our extraordinary care. In this issue of Spinal Column, we explore how the experience that patients have at Shepherd also helps produce extraordinary outcomes. It’s an experience created through a culture of patient-centered care, expert staff, and value-added services like recreation therapy and our expansive research efforts — and one that makes Shepherd Center worth the trip.

On page 5, we feature three patients who chose to travel far from their homes and communities to Shepherd Center for rehabilitation, including Sachin Chamaria, who traveled from New Delhi, India. While at Shepherd, Sachin, always an athlete, realized he could continue participating in sports. When he returned home, he learned to play boccia, an adaptive Paralympic sport. He has since represented India in international competitions and has his sights set on the Paralympics.

You also will meet Tiffany Vinson, whose visit to the Wheelchair Seating Clinic at Shepherd meant a new power wheelchair and renewed confidence to pursue and share her passion for travel.

And, you can reflect on the power of communication with Shepherd speech pathologist Deborah Vega, who helps patients find ways to express themselves when illness or injury has impacted their voices.

No matter the form of communication, our patients and staff know that hope is a universal language — and one we share at Shepherd.

Enjoy,

Sarah Morrison, PT, MBA, MHA
Chief Executive Officer of Shepherd Center
Construction is Underway on Two New Shepherd Center Buildings

Since a tower crane was installed in January, the first three levels of the new Arthur M. Blank Family Residences are available for patient families. The residences will provide more housing options for patient families traveling more than 60 miles to Shepherd Center. The residences will add approximately 160 housing units for patient families, more than doubling the amount of current housing available and allowing all patient families to stay in donor-funded housing the entire length of their loved one’s stay.

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Construction is well underway at the future sites of the new Arthur M. Blank Family Residences at 1860 Peachtree Road and the new Marcus Center for Advanced Rehabilitation on Shepherd Center’s main campus.

The Marcus Center for Advanced Rehabilitation will allow Shepherd Center to increase patient access and improve the patient and family experience in several ways, including growing day programs and outpatient services and creating space for Shepherd Center’s new 30,000-square-foot Innovation Center. (Read more about this on page 16.) The construction of the Arthur M. Blank Family Residences will add several ways, including growing day programs and outpatient services and creating space for Shepherd Center’s new 30,000-square-foot Innovation Center. (Read more about this on page 16.) The construction of the Arthur M. Blank Family Residences will add

• The Arthur M. Blank Family Residences are under construction at 1860 Peachtree Road. This photo shows the view from Shepherd Center’s main campus. (The Marcus Center for Advanced Rehabilitation is under construction on Shepherd Center’s main campus.)

Scan the QR codes for time-lapse videos of the progress at both sites. For more construction updates, visit ExpandingShepherd.org.

Shepherd Center and the AbleGamers Foundation Form Partnership

Research shows that people with disabilities are 51% more likely to be socially isolated than their non-disabled peers – a challenge Shepherd Center and AbleGamers are working together to help solve by making gaming more accessible to people after spinal cord and/or brain injuries. AbleGamers promotes and enables video game play to combat social isolation, foster inclusive communities, and improve the quality of life for people with disabilities.

“AbleGamers provides Shepherd Center with initial training and ongoing support for staff along with assistive technologies, such as adaptive controllers or customized devices that help remove barriers to play. Specially trained therapists and rehabilitation engineers at Shepherd Center work with patients during their rehabilitation to test technologies and assess what they need to game. When the patient returns home from Shepherd Center, AbleGamers can often grant the customized equipment for personal use at no cost to the person. You could not ask for a better partner than Shepherd Center, one of the top rehabilitation centers in the United States. Shepherd Center’s commitment to bringing AbleGamers’ mission into their work demonstrates the true value of the outcomes when we enable people with disabilities to have fun,” says Mark Barlet, founder and executive director of AbleGamers.

Study Shows Effectiveness of Person-Centered Goals in Directing Care

In a research study recently published in *Frontiers in Neurology*, researchers at Shepherd Center’s SHARE Military Initiative found that service members and veterans with mild TBI (mTBI) and co-occurring psychological conditions met more of the goals they set for themselves after participating in intensive, interdisciplinary, person-centered goal (PCG) directed care, which further increased with transition support. Results of the four-year study, which included a retroactive chart review of 146 veterans and service members who have received care at SHARE, suggest that PCG-directed care is a feasible, promising methodology for individualized treatment for veterans and service members.

“Person-centered goal-directed care helps us determine what is most important to our clients so we can personalize their care and get the full investment in getting better,” says Tracey Wallace, M.S., CCC-SLP, FACRFA, projects and education coordinator for the SHARE Military Initiative at Shepherd Center, associate director of the mTBI Brain Health and Recovery Lab, and principal investigator of the study. “In this study, we also found that longer, sustained participation in treatment was the most important predictor of goal attainment,” says Russell Gore, M.D., medical director of the SHARE Military Initiative at Shepherd Center, director of the mTBI Brain Health and Recovery Lab, and co-principal investigator of the study. “Our treatment program has a flexible length of stay to allow patients to have a seamless transition from Shepherd Center to their local communities. This allows them to continue working on their goals with the resources they need to keep improving.”

Funding for the study was made possible through a grant from the AbleGamers Foundation to host a gaming session for patients and their care teams. The study is the first to demonstrate the effectiveness of person-centered goal-directed care for people with disabilities.

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Breaking Barriers
From speech to music, speech-language pathologist Deborah A. Vega, MS, CCC-SLP, HC, believes in the universal power of communication to connect. INTERVIEW BY RUTH UNDERWOOD

How long have you worked at Shepherd Center, and what is your role?
I’ve been with Shepherd for 17 1/2 years, and I love the work we do! I serve as one of the primary speech-language pathologists (SLP) in the ICU and the Comprehensive Rehabilitation Unit (CRU). We diagnose and treat communication, cognition, voice, and swallowing disorders. We develop individualized treatment plans to help restore or improve patients’ abilities. We also empower patients and families with education and training so they can continue working on their goals after they leave Shepherd.

What kinds of communication barriers do the patients you work with face?
Without communication, we could not exchange ideas, innovate, build relationships, or enjoy our favorite activities. Communication barriers can be devastating. Ventilators can disrupt the physical processes that allow patients to speak and SLPs work closely with pulmonary and respiratory therapists to address those issues. We also help people communicate in other ways, such as using a spelling board, yes/no cards, writing, texting, or mouthing words. We want every patient to have a way to communicate with family, friends, and staff and a way to make their immediate wants and needs known.

Aphasia is another communication barrier. It can result from stroke or injury and affect a person’s ability to understand and express language and sometimes to read and write. We also work with voice disorders. The voice is a huge part of our identity and is connected to our emotions, self-expression, and confidence. Our goal is to help patients communicate clearly and efficiently.

It’s not directly related to speech therapy, but certainly to communication — how does Shepherd staff work with patients who don’t speak English?
I am amazed by all the different languages we encounter. We have a translation hotline and arrange to have interpreters on-site. Sometimes, the staff uses Google Translate to help break down communication barriers. It can be scary when you are in an unfamiliar environment and don’t speak the language. I’ve seen this with our Spanish-speaking population. When I begin to speak in their native Spanish, it’s fantastic to see the relief and connection it brings. Occasionally, we have patients who are deaf and communicate with American Sign Language (ASL). As a former student of ASL, I love to brush up on my skills and communicate with this population! Regardless of the language, communication is vital in making us feel safe.

What’s the most fulfilling part of your job?
I love serving others and making a positive difference in the lives of those touched by catastrophic injuries. There is nothing like hearing a patient say “I love you” to their loved ones or smiling again because they are starting to regain their ability to communicate and connect. I consider myself richly blessed to give back in this unique way.

EDUCATION:
■ Mississippi University for Women; Speech-Language Pathology, Business Minor BS, Magna cum laude
■ Institute of Integrative Nutrition, NYC; Certified Holistic Health Coach

FUN FACTS:
■ Deborah won the 2021 Shepherd Center Best Employee Attitude Award.
■ Deborah is a classically trained vocalist and also trained in the Spanish art of Flamenco. Her greatest passion is singing at church and sharing music with messages that speak to the heart.
■ Deborah is a nationally ranked epee fencer and four-time top-three medalist in Georgia.
Sachin Chamaria trusted his instincts when he traveled from India to Shepherd Center for rehabilitation.

Today, he’s a national boccia champion with his sights set on Paralympic glory.

Boccia, for the uninitiated, is an adaptive Paralympic sport of skill and strategy played by athletes with neurological disorders, similar in format to bocce ball. One of the emerging leaders in the craft is India’s Sachin Chamaria, a three-time national gold medalist in the sport. The New Delhi native has already represented his home country at international competitions in Italy, Poland, and the United Arab Emirates.

“Discovering this sport has given me such a sense of purpose,” Sachin says. “I didn’t know if I would be able to recapture my love of sports again after my injury.”

In 2008, Sachin sustained a C-4-to-C-5 spinal cord injury in a car accident. In the years that followed, he struggled to regain his independence and find an outlet for his competitiveness, which he had honed in his youth as a national-level taekwondo champion.

Sachin’s elder brother Rahul discovered Shepherd Center while visiting the U.S. in search of more advanced treatment for Sachin’s injury. Sachin’s family was impressed with Shepherd Center’s capabilities— and even more so with its staff. After graduating from university in 2012, Sachin traveled to Shepherd Center. Here, he learned new ways to accomplish everyday tasks that had become daunting post-injury, like getting dressed, eating, and bathing. His pinch-and-grasp function improved significantly— an essential skill, incidentally, for the sport that would later change his life.

“Shepherd Center played a huge role in making me as independent as I am,” Sachin says. “Their expertise is impressive, and there’s no match for the modalities and resources they possess.”

Shepherd Center is also where he realized sport and adventure remained firmly in his grasp. He went water skiing for the first time, rode an all-terrain vehicle, did rifle shooting, and practiced adaptive driving.

“In a Ford truck, the real Southern experience,” Sachin notes with a laugh.

He was able to do this all with his family by his side, too, thanks to Shepherd Center’s donor-funded family housing options. His family’s presence alleviated Sachin’s trepidation about traveling globally for treatment in a foreign country.

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Today, Sachin is excited to start his own family. He and his fiancée Kajal plan to marry in the coming year. Kajal is a dentist, while Sachin started his own company, Growealth Capital, which deals in the shares market, in 2018.

“I’ve always loved statistics and mathematics, so this was perfect for me,” he says. “I like it when my brain is constantly active. I cannot stand to sit idle!”

And when the work piles up, Sachin and Kajal hit the dance floor.

“Dancing is one of the best stress-busters for me,” Sachin says. “I’m human. We all feel low or frustrated sometimes. So, when that happens, we’ll call up friends, go to a club, and dance things out.”

Of course, boccia remains Sachin’s passion. He will represent India at this fall’s Asian Para Games in China. The next big goal is to qualify for the 2024 Paralympic Games in Paris.

“We would love for Sachin to introduce boccia to our patients and help us bring the sport here,” Morrison-Ross says. “He’s been so helpful in spearheading this effort, one that could be very impactful for our current and future patients.”

Sachin is thrilled to bring boccia to a place that has meant so much to his journey.

“Because it’s not just a sport to learn, it’s recreation therapy,” he says. “And it can be a newfound purpose for people. It is so important to find new passions to motivate yourself. Life without purpose is no life at all.”
After sustaining a traumatic brain injury, Rachel Foster poured her energy into reclaiming a joyful part of her life — running.

Almost half of Rachel’s skull had to be removed during her initial emergency surgery in Oklahoma City to make room for the swelling in her brain. But without her skull in place, she developed sinking skin flap syndrome, a known complication with craniectomies. In Rachel’s case, her symptoms were severe headaches that got worse out of bed, making physical therapy nearly impossible.

Ford Vox, M.D., medical director of Shepherd Center’s Disorders of Consciousness Program, diagnosed the syndrome and brought in Gary R. Gropper, M.D., consulting neurosurgeon, to address the issue. The team mapped her skull and created a 3D-printed replica of the missing sections. Dr. Gropper then implanted the new cap to restore the structure of her skull. The operation provided the pain relief Rachel needed without interrupting her stay at Shepherd Center.

From there, she was off to the races. “What was incredible to me was how quickly things could change with Rachel and then how quickly her doctors and care team would respond to find the next solution,” John says. “When you work together in a place with all the services and facilities Shepherd Center has, and the wealth of experience and passion to motivate yourself. Life without passions makes the purpose is no life at all.”

After six weeks of inpatient care, Rachel extended her rehabilitation through Shepherd Pathways outpatient rehabilitation while staying in an accessible Shepherd Center apartment next to campus.

And three weeks after leaving Shepherd Center, Rachel Foster crossed the Boston Marathon finish line. Today, Rachel sees many more marathons ahead. She and John will stay busy with Moni’s, too. And the couple plans to keep sharing Rachel’s improbable comeback to give others hope.

“There is always hope,” Rachel says. “It sounds cheesy, but it’s important to hold onto that when there are so many things that can take your hope away and take your happiness away. No matter what life throws at you, you still can rise.”
A BETTER FRAME OF MIND

From a terrifying fall on an Icelandic mountain to rising above his doubts — Daniel Hund credits Shepherd Center with putting him on a more positive path to the future.

Iceland was supposed to be a celebration, an adventure long delayed for high school sweethearts and newlyweds Daniel and Sierra Hund.

When they married in 2020, the pandemic wiped out their honeymoon plans to ski the mountains of Iceland’s Tröllaskagi Peninsula. Two years later, the couple — then 22 and living in Lynchburg, Virginia — finally made it to Iceland. When they arrived on the evening of March 16, 2022, the future seemed limitless as the frozen fjords and snow-capped peaks dominated the majestic landscape around them.

“Neither of us expected life was about to change so drastically, so quickly,” Daniel says.

Less than 12 hours later, while on a solo morning hike, Daniel’s ski lost traction on a steep, glassy slope. He skidded, then plunged more than 30 meters down a deep ice chute. The fall resulted in a complete T-3- to T-4 spinal cord injury, along with multiple traumas. By the time members of a nearly 100-person rescue team located him six hours later, Daniel had gone into cardiac arrest and experienced a stroke caused by hypothermia and internal bleeding. He’d also sustained a traumatic brain injury due to the hypothermia and internal bleeding. He’d gone into cardiac arrest and experienced a stroke, and his prolonged hypothermia would eventually require the amputation of his legs, just above the knees.

“What I remember most is believing whole-heartedly that I was going to die,” Daniel says. “The feeling that it was over. That feeling has stuck with me ever since the injury. It’s hard at times. I’ve gone through depression. I still have to consciously resist that urge to think that life is over for me and instead focus on new possibilities. The good things in my life. The things that I can do.”

Daniel credits Shepherd Center with helping him reorient his thinking.

“I made big strides in occupational, physical, and speech therapy there,” Daniel says. “But what impressed me was they went above and beyond in so many ways emotionally. Everyone at Shepherd Center just cared so intensely and spent the time with me that I needed.”

“Everybody was super positive at a time when it’s so easy to be super negative,” Sierra explains.

Daniel spent three months in Shepherd Center’s inpatient Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation Program, learning adaptations to regain physical independence. He followed that up with two pivotal months at Shepherd Pathways, a comprehensive outpatient rehabilitation program for people recovering from brain injuries.

Daniel’s stroke had resulted in severe aphasia, affecting his ability to express and understand both written and spoken language. Those would be serious concerns for anyone, but especially for someone who loved reading and writing and had just completed a year of law school.

Daniel credits the cognitive improvements he made at Pathways for pushing him to where he is today. He can easily engage in conversation now, his reading is up to a fifth-grade level. New career avenues open each day.

In the meantime, Daniel and Sierra are building their life together anew. The couple has moved back to their hometown of Albuquerque, New Mexico, where they’re looking at houses. They’re talking about kids. And they’re figuring out how to get back into camping and other outdoor adventures — including a return trip to Iceland to replace old memories with brighter ones.

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Above all, they’re thankful for this second chance to be newlyweds.

“When we got home from Iceland, a lot of people encouraged us to do Danny’s rehabilitation somewhere close to where we were living in Virginia, or back home in New Mexico,” Sierra says. “But we wanted to get the best care possible, no matter where that took us. We’re so grateful that the opportunity opened up, and we chose to make the journey to Shepherd Center. It was the home away from home that we needed.”

A BETTER FRAME OF MIND

From a terrifying fall on an Icelandic mountain to rising above his doubts — Daniel Hund credits Shepherd Center with putting him on a more positive path to the future.
Tiffany Vinson is passionate — about people and about travel. Early in her career, she found a way to combine those two loves, and, she adds with a laugh, “look cute in my uniform.” She began working as a flight attendant.

“I loved being a flight attendant,” she recalls. “I thought it was amazing to meet people from all different walks of life.”

But after a couple of years in her dream job, Tiffany noticed something wasn’t quite right — she was experiencing some weakness when she walked. In her mid-20s she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS) and made the difficult choice to give up her wings. She moved on to a career in banking and finance, but the travel bug never left her, and in 2018, she started her own travel agency, Trip With Tiff Travel™.

A few years ago, when her MS made it increasingly difficult for her to walk, Tiffany got a small manual wheelchair. When she realized it wasn’t providing the independence she wanted, her doctor recommended the Wheelchair Seating Clinic at Shepherd Center. Therapists in the seating clinic help inpatients and outpatients find seating and mobility aids to fit their needs and lifestyles.

Tiffany was hesitant. She didn’t like the idea of needing a more powerful wheelchair and was uncomfortable with the attention it might attract. She says she arrived at the clinic with her mind set on something small and speedy.

“It was overwhelming because you look in the room, and there are so many wheelchairs,” she recalls.

But Tiffany remembers her conversation with Tori Fallgren, a physical therapist in the seating clinic, and how Tori helped her think about the future.

“It was a conversation about my journey. What are some of the things I want to do? And based on those conversations and her experience, she knew which chair would be a better fit for me.”

Tiffany appreciated the clinic staff’s knowledge and support.

“They were just amazing. Just the heart. I know they have a job to do, but it was the heart,” she explains.

Ultimately, Tiffany chose a power wheelchair with a lift that allows her to complete household tasks and move around more independently. The next big goal: indulging her love of travel and taking her chair with her. Tiffany and her husband were nervous about flying with her wheelchair — afraid it would get damaged during the trip. But she recalls telling her husband, “I didn’t get this chair to keep it in the house. I need to live with the chair, and I need to be seen in this chair — people need to see me.”

Tiffany credits some of that determination to the example her grandmother provided. Her grandmother used a wheelchair throughout Tiffany’s life. She also raised a family and ran a successful business.

“Everything that I’ve gone through is preparing me for what I’m destined to do: to help others who want to see the world. I’m not the first, and I’m not going to be the last. I want people to know that they can do it.”

1. For Tiffany Vinson’s first big trip using her power wheelchair, she visited Playa del Carmen, Mexico. 2. Tiffany Vinson stayed at a resort in Playa del Carmen, Mexico, and enjoyed the independence her power wheelchair afforded her. 3. Tiffany Vinson has always enjoyed travel.
A

Shepherd Alums:

From “I Can’t” to “I Can”

Jana Smith
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

When Jana Smith, an Atlanta mom of three, was 41, she developed Bell’s palsy — muscle weakness or paralysis on one side of the face. It was so severe that she had difficulty eating. Surgery to remove a bone in her skull reduced the pressure on her facial nerves, alleviating some of her symptoms. However, the palsy still inhibited her ability to smile fully. Helping others grow and be stronger helped me love myself in a different way,” she explains.

She visited the CCC two to three times a week for physical therapy. “We did tons of exercises, and it was neat because I had such good balance from practicing yoga, they had to put me on a big foam block to challenge me more,” she explains. Russell Gore, M.D., medical director of the CCC, also gave her a series of nerve blocks to reduce the pain in the back of her head. Finally, she was able to return to teaching yoga. Unfortu- nately, vertigo returned, so Jana returned to the CCC for more physical therapy. “It gave me a sense of self, a sense of being independent.” he explains. “It gave me a sense of me again,” he explains. “It gave me a sense of self, a sense of being independent.”

John Daoust
NENANA, ALASKA

After serving 29 years in the United States Army and Coast Guard, John Daoust moved with his family to a cabin in rural Alaska where he loves the peace afforded by living in such a remote spot. Still, when he heard about the SHARE Military Initiative at Shepherd Center, he jumped to fly to Atlanta to participate.

“I was really looking forward to it. I was at a point where, if this didn’t work, I wasn’t sure where to go. I was ready to give 100%, John recalls. During his time in the Army and Coast Guard, John sustained multiple injuries, including injuries from two explosive blasts and a blow to the head. One was obvious, a knee injury that required surgery. But another, a traumatic brain injury (TBI), went undiagnosed for decades.

John has participated in several programs to address post-trau- matic stress (PTSD), but none focused on TBI. “There was no connecting the dots. It never addressed why I react the way I do or certain things or how I process things,” John wondered if SHARE could really help him, but he remem- bers it feeling different from day one. “My first day, seeing veterans at different stages of the program — it was a very positive experience. It wasn’t like any other place. The whole care team was very positive. And I think the number one thing was, they weren’t trying to fix you. They were listening to what each person was going through and looking at how to attack it.”

For John, that included occupational therapy to address issues with his vision that had resulted in years of headaches, physical therapy to manage pain from injuries he sustained during his service, counseling, and recreational therapy. "I was able to navigate the kitchen and cook with my wife and daughter. And then I think about all the innovative tools at Shepherd, like the Lokomat. I was impressed with the gym. I was able to go on the treadmill and feel the burn. I was able to do things that I hadn’t been able to do before. I was able to stay active. I got the sense of independence. I got the sense of being active again.”

Embraced both the high and low-tech elements of his treatment. From the kitchen in Shepherd’s I Can Studio to the equipment in the gym.

JR Reid
COMING, GEORGIA

When you talk to JR Reid, two things quickly become apparent: his love for his family and for technology. The 49-year- old is an Army veteran and the father of two and was named chief information officer (CIO) of JR Morgan Chase’s new employee experience and corporate technology organization in 2021. JR is the company’s first African American CIO.

On the day a stroke turned his life upside down, he said, “I didn’t feel right when he got home. I got dizzy, and I couldn’t stand up straight.” JR recalls.

His wife rushed him to Northside Hospital in Cumming, Georgia, where doctors discovered he had experienced a hemorrhagic stroke, which caused paralysis on his left side. After 10 days in the hospital, JR’s team at Northside recommended Shepherd Center, where he spent 10 weeks in the Comprehensive Rehabilitation Unit (CRU).

“When we first started, we were conversing as a little group, but I was extremely focused on what was around me. I was hyper- alert to what could go wrong. We kept doing outings, and by the end, I wouldn’t say I was functioning 100% in a large crowd, but it was way easier,” John explains.

Now, John is back home in Alaska and says his time at SHARE has made a big difference in his personal life. “We talk about it all the time — how SHARE really impacted me in a positive way.”

Care from Shepherd Center’s Complex Concussion Clinic helped Jana return to what she loves - teaching yoga.

Angel Taylor
HATZELBURST, GEORGIA

Angel Taylor lives with her grandparents and siblings in Hazle-hurst, a small town in southeast Georgia. She’s a junior in high school, where she’s in the color guard, and she loves spending time outside. When she goes to college, she’s determined to study to be a game warden.

While she was in an accident while riding an all-terrain vehicle (ATV). While she felt fine initially, after a few months, she began limping and couldn’t bend her left leg.

Then she started having difficulty lifting her foot. That’s when she learned she had a spinal arteriovenous malformation (AVM), a tangle of blood vessels in the spinal cord that can cause permanent damage. Doctors told Angel she might have been born with the AVM, and the ATV accident caused it to rupture slowly, leading to muscle weakness. Based on the severity of the AVM, they were surprised she survived.

In September 2021, in a 10-hour surgery, her doctor removed the AVM, but Angel had no feeling from her neck down when she woke. Within a week, she regained feeling in her hands and arms. When she was discharged from the hospital, she started rehabilitation at the Adolescent Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation Program at Shepherd Center.

While at Shepherd, Angel regained movement in her feet and legs. She worked to strengthen her muscles using the Lokomat®, robotics-assisted treadmill training with body- weight support, and then the treadmill. Angel was the only girl on her team for her month at Shepherd.

“I was the boss,” she jokes. She became close with some of the other patients — and when another girl arrived, they became fast friends. After four and a half months at Shepherd Center, including inpatient rehabilitation and the Spinal Cord Injury Day Program, Angel moved to a home. She uses a wheelchair and continues to work on her leg strength.

“I was terrified to go back to school because I was going to be the only one in high school with a wheelchair, and I didn’t know how people would treat me. But my team at Shepherd told me that if I sat at home, I had a higher risk of being depressed. So, I got up the courage and went back to school,” she explains.

Angel attends physical therapy four times a week and says she’s getting better every week. “I went back to color guard, and I’m in the wheelchair chair, I go to school and participate. My goal is to show people that you can do anything. It’s a positive outcome, even though the negative still exists.”

John Daoust approaches his time at SHARE like he approached military service — by giving 100%.

Angel Taylor is a member of the color guard at her high school.
Igniting Creativity and Advancing Innovation

At the Innovation Institute in the new Marcus Center for Advanced Rehabilitation, researchers, engineers, clinical scientists, and designers will explore real-world applications of research and technology to provide extraordinary care to more people.

BY LESLIE JACKSON AND RUTH UNDERWOOD

Innovation is at the core of Shepherd Center’s culture. The new 30,000-square-foot Innovation Institute, which will occupy the top floor of the Marcus Center for Advanced Rehabilitation on Shepherd Center’s main campus and is slated to open in 2025, will strengthen Shepherd’s innovative spirit and cement its reputation as a model for cutting-edge research and unparalleled clinical care.

“We’re positioned as an innovation hub because we are leaders in the field. We collaborate with like-minded partners to advance rehabilitation medicine and find better, more efficient ways of delivering care to improve the lives of the people we serve,” says Deborah Backus, PT, Ph.D., FACRM, Shepherd Center’s vice president of research and innovation. “The Innovation Institute is a natural extension of that — giving us more capabilities, space, and resources to foster our ingenuity.”

The vision for the Institute is to integrate rigorous research, data science, groundbreaking rehabilitation and assistive technologies, and revolutionary care models to restore, sustain, and protect the lives of people requiring neurorehabilitation worldwide.

At its core, the Institute will use data to develop and guide point-of-care precision rehabilitation and the creation of new technology solutions. Once completed, the Innovation Institute will bring existing research and technology teams throughout the hospital into one space, inspiring even more collaboration. Human-centered designers, biomedical and rehabilitation engineers, data scientists, clinical scientists and coordinators, people with disabilities, and other partners will gather around tables and whiteboards, brainstorming and creating solutions. The Innovation Institute will be a home for even more robust data analytics. Data will continue to drive clinical care, helping Shepherd Center experts identify the most meaningful and effective solutions for patients.

“The Innovation Institute will enable us to be more effective and efficient in delivering individualized solutions, helping the people we serve, and increasing accessibility to our world-class care.”

1. An assistive and rehabilitation technology showroom will connect users and product developers, allowing people with disabilities to try technologies before they buy them.
2. The 30,000-square-foot Innovation Institute will occupy the top floor of the new Marcus Center for Advanced Rehabilitation on Shepherd Center’s main campus.
Virginia C. Crawford Research Institute
In the Crawford Research Institute, researchers develop, refine, and evaluate new treatments, medications, diagnostic tools, and therapeutic interventions in spinal cord injury, brain injury, multiple sclerosis, and chronic pain. The expansion will allow the Hulse Spinal Cord Injury Research Lab, an integral part of the Crawford Research Institute, to be in the same space. The Hulse Lab pioneers the development of rehabilitation interventions that optimize the functional abilities of people impacted by spinal cord injury.

Travis Roy Ability Bar
The Travis Roy Ability Bar will provide mainstream as well as innovative devices created through co-innovation by our patients, clinicians, and academic and industry partners, for patients to try before they buy, to help them learn what is possible, and return to a fully-integrated, productive life.

An Innovative Design Workshop
In this workshop and training space, dedicated staff will use advanced 3D printing and other advanced technologies to create prototypes for small-batch production of adaptive technology solutions. Team members will also train people with disabilities and students on how to develop affordable solutions.

Assistive and Rehabilitation Technology Showroom
The showroom will connect users and product developers, allowing people with disabilities to test and try technologies and smart home solutions before they buy them. It will also allow product developers to learn first-hand from people with disabilities about what they need to live the fullest lives possible.

Highest Performance Lab
A fully outfitted assessment and evaluation suite will allow motion analysis and behavioral data collection for people with disabilities to identify their needs for health, wellness, function, and the best quality of life in their homes and communities.

Best Health Suite
Partnering with health and wellness solution generators and technology companies, Shepherd will offer on-demand and live wellness and fitness classes to Shepherd patients, partners, and people worldwide, at Shepherd and in their homes and communities, with the goal of breaking down barriers to care for the people Shepherd serves.

Together, all these exciting initiatives mean the Innovation Institute will bring existing research and technology teams throughout the hospital into one space.

Here’s a look at some of the programs, labs, and workshops the new facility will house:

SHEPHERD CENTER WELCOMES
New Members to Foundation Board of Trustees
Shepherd Center welcomed six new members to its Foundation Board of Trustees this year. In this role, they will set development policies for Shepherd Center Foundation, the primary fundraising entity for Shepherd Center. Each new member has a history of involvement with Shepherd Center and a commitment to supporting its mission.

STEPHANIE ANDERSON
Associate Judge, Rockdale County Probate Court

ERIC BUSKO
Managing Director, Regional Executive, Alex. Brown

GREG DUNAVANT
Vice President, Customer Operations, Gas South

MEREDITH FORRESTER
Executive Vice President and Chief Audit Executive, Synovus

AMY KREISLER
Executive Director, The O. Wayne Rollins Foundation

KELLIE SCHÖNBERG
Global Head of Corporate Responsibility, Invesco

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERS WHOSE TERMS ENDED THIS YEAR:
Laura Garrison
Bonnie Hardage
Dick Hazel
Lauren Hooks
Elizabeth Pearce
Karen Spiegel
Celebrating the present and looking forward to the future at Shepherd Center.

On the evening of April 11, 2023, board members, Innovation Institute donors, and Shepherd patients and staff gathered in the Callaway Auditorium on Shepherd Center’s 7th floor to celebrate the hospital’s culture of innovation and get a behind-the-scenes look at how innovation drives Shepherd’s extraordinary care.

During the “A Taste of Innovation” event, guests enjoyed cocktails and heavy hors d’oeuvres. At the same time, they had the opportunity to visit more than a dozen stations for demonstrations of some of Shepherd Center’s most innovative offerings in clinical care and research. Guests learned about sensory care and research. Guests learned about sensory devices to help people manage pain. Some of Shepherd’s clinical research scientists were on hand to explain how the Accessibility User Research Collaborative (AURC) helps inform industry partners on how they can deliver better services and products to people with disabilities. Clinicians shared examples of assistive and rehabilitation technology, including power wheelchairs and the Indego® wearable robotic exoskeleton, which Shepherd patients and staff helped test and refine. Researchers from Shepherd’s Hulse Spinal Cord Injury Lab demonstrated electrical stimulation devices and gave guests an overview of studies using these devices to stimulate the brain, spinal cord, and muscles.

The event underscored how the new Marcus Center for Advanced Rehabilitation, under construction now and set to open in 2025, will allow Shepherd Center to continue and expand its rigorous research and further solidify its role as an innovation hub. The expansion will enable Shepherd to serve more patients and advance the use of research and data to create new rehabilitation and assistive technologies, helping patients restore, sustain, and protect their lives.

A short program began with a welcome from Jamie Shepherd, MBA, MHA, president and chief operating officer (COO) of Shepherd Center, and Julie Shepherd, CCM, LMSW, CLCP, director of founding family relations. Rabbi Alvin Sugarman, a longtime friend of Shepherd Center, followed with a moving invocation. He marveled at an assistive technology device on display that allows communication with a blink, saying it reminded him of an old song about the power of a wink and a smile. He also commended the time and talent of Shepherd staff and all of Shepherd’s champions.

During her remarks, Shepherd CEO Sarah Morrison, PT, MBA, MHA, read a statement from Bernie Marcus, Atlanta philanthropist, Home Depot co-founder, and longtime Shepherd board member and partner, whose $80 million grant to Pursuing Possible: The Campaign for Shepherd Center made the Marcus Center for Advanced Rehabilitation possible. In his statement, Marcus said, “Shepherd is often referred to as a place of healing and hope. The Marcus Foundation seeks to invest in ways to change and save lives. This new Center for Advanced Rehabilitation will bring all that and more, putting Shepherd on the cutting edge of new research that will have dramatic and positive effects on patients that seek care here. Billi and I can’t wait to see what discoveries tomorrow brings.”

Two Pursuing Possible Campaign co-chairs, Susan Hawkins and Justin Jones, shared campaign updates and encouraged guests to spread the word and invite friends to tour Shepherd Center to see the extraordinary care the staff provides.

Erik Shaw, D.O., medical director of the Dean Stroud Spine and Pain Institute, and Deborah Backus, Ph.D., Shepherd’s vice president of research and innovation, wrapped up the program by sharing some of the many ways the expansion will allow Shepherd to provide exceptional care to even more patients. “I am so grateful to the Marcus Foundation for their support of all our programs over the years, and I am so excited about this building. It will be a beautiful place where we can continue to expand our research so that we can come up with the most meaningful solutions for our patients,” Backus said.

To learn more about innovation at Shepherd Center and Pursuing Possible: The Campaign for Shepherd Center, visit ExpandingShepherd.org.
The Legendary Party is a legendary success

By Sara Baxter

Shepherd Center’s largest fundraiser raised more than $3 million for the Andrew C. Carlos Multiple Sclerosis Institute.

When guests arrived at last year’s Legendary Party at Flourish, they were greeted by a lavish garden scene with lush greenery and colorful florals, butterflies, and fountains. The décor captured the party’s theme of “Garden of Hope.”

“They were all images that you would find in a well-tended garden,” says Elaine Carlos, who co-chaired The Legendary Party along with daughters Kari and Angela. “It’s a garden where hard work, cultivation, care, and time produce a bountiful and beautiful harvest to enjoy year after year. Shepherd Center is that garden where hope blooms and lives are renewed.”

The 2022 Gala raised an incredible $3.2 million, benefitting Shepherd Center’s Andrew C. Carlos Multiple Sclerosis Institute. Ben Thrower, M.D., medical director of the MS Institute, was the honoree.

“On behalf of our healthcare team at the Andrew C. Carlos MS Institute, I was honored and humbled to be recognized at the 2022 Legendary Party,” Dr. Thrower says. “Our donors make what we do for the MS community possible. I am truly blessed to be a part of the Shepherd Center mission.”
The MS Institute provides a holistic, comprehensive approach to MS treat-
ment and rehabilitation, providing various forms of therapy, counseling, and well-
ness programs to patients who travel from all over the Southeast to receive care. Researchers within the Institute also work to improve clinical outcomes and the quality of life for people with multiple sclerosis.

Nearly 600 guests joined the cele-
bration, including MS patients and numerous graduates of the Center’s acquired brain injury and spinal cord injury rehabilitation inpatient programs. Partygoers viewed the debut of the Pursuing Possible Campaign video, which highlighted the experience of Judge Stephanie Anderson, a patient at the MS Institute. The video show-
cased the hospital’s expansion plans to increase capacity, expand services, and improve the patient experience. Guests also enjoyed a sit-down gourmet meal provided by Legendary Events.

“This was a great evening and a way to celebrate the achievements, the growth, and the work done at Shepherd Center throughout the past year,” says Elaine Carlos. “She believes that the amount of money raised is indicative of the solid commitment supporters have to Shepherd Center. ‘I feel certain that the generosity of Shepherd supporters and spon-
sors is due to the confidence we all have in Shepherd Center as a very special and unique rehabilitation hospital with the sterling reputation of achieving absolutely amazing results,’ she says. ‘Shepherd Center is truly that bridge between ‘I can’t’ and ‘I can’, and each donor sees gener-
ous giving as an opportunity to change lives.’

This year’s Legendary Party will be held on November 4, 2023, at Flourish, with Anne and Andrew Worrell serving as co-chairs. (See related story on page 26.)

The Legendary Party is a Legendary Success

The most after-party for the next genera-
tion of donors." They were treated to a delicious late-night menu as well as music and karaoke by Blast Band.

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Shepherd Center’s Angels

The annual Angel Luncheon gives Shepherd Center a way to honor the support and generosity of its donors and volunteers.

On March 23, Shepherd Center recognized and celebrated the philanthropy and compassion of its major donors, volunteers, and others who support the hospital. A tradition since 1985, the Angel Luncheon gives Shepherd the opportunity to publicly thank the individuals, foundations, companies, and special groups who have made significant gifts of time, talent, and funds.

The 2023 Angel Luncheon was held at Atlanta’s Piedmont Driving Club. In addition to this year’s Angels, hospital leaders, doctors, board members, trustees, and past Angels of the Year were in attendance.

“Shepherd Center wouldn’t be what it is today without the support of all of you,” Shepherd Center Co-Founder Alana Shepherd told the group. “You are truly our angels, and we are so appreciative of you.”

Alana presented the 2023 Angel of the Year award to longtime Shepherd Center supporters Jim and Donna Stephenson. This distinguished award is given to recognize the many years of dedication, service, and compassionate support of a lifetime of giving.

Jim has served on Shepherd Center’s Board of Directors since 2008, and Donna is a member of Women Shaping Shepherd. Since 1985, they have been generous donors to Shepherd Center and continue to support patients through other funds and initiatives. Donna is a member of the Yancey family, who are also longtime supporters of Shepherd Center and continue to support patients through other funds and initiatives. The Yancey Family Housing Program is named for her aunt and uncle, and Goodloe was a board member for many years.

“Discovery is really the key to the future,” Anne says. “And Shepherd Center will be finding new ways to help its patients.”

and her husband Justin Jones. Elizabeth Allen chaired the Legendary Party twice, was a founding member of Women Shaping Shepherd, and is also on Shepherd Center Foundation’s Board of Trustees. Justin Jones serves on Shepherd Center’s Board of Directors. He is also the co-chair of Pursuing Possible: The Campaign for Shepherd Center.

Held annually on the first Saturday in November, the Legendary Party is the hospital’s largest fundraiser, has raised more than $41 million for Shepherd Center’s patient care programs during the past 30 years. Longtime Shepherd supporters Sherry and David Abney will serve as next year’s chairs. To learn more about sponsorship opportunities or purchase tickets, please contact Erica Spurling at Erica.Spurling@Shepherd.org.

At the same time that we celebrate the past, we are also trying to bring in younger people to create a new generation of Shepherd Center supporters,” Anne says.

Proceeds from this year’s event will support Shepherd Center’s Innovation Institute. This 30,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility will be in the new Marcus Center for Advanced Rehabilitation on Shepherd’s main campus. The Innovation Institute will expand the hospital’s research and assistive technology programs to improve the lives of more people with disabilities globally.

“The definition of nostalgia is a sentimental longing or wistful affection for the past,” Anne explains. “The definition of nostalgia is ‘a sentiment of remembering something from the past.’”

November 4, 2023, at Flourish. This year’s theme will be The Legendary Party: The Nostalgia of Discovery. Guests at the kickoff celebration were treated to a preview of what’s to come as the countdown to the 2023 Legendary Party begins.

“Discovery is really the key to the future,” Anne says. “And Shepherd Center will be finding new ways to help its patients.”

On March 29, 2023, Legendary Party sponsors and guests gathered at the Piedmont Driving Club to learn the details of this year’s gala, which will take place on November 4, 2023, at Flourish. This year’s theme will be The Legendary Party: The Nostalgia of Discovery.

“We’re blending both the past and the present,” Anne explains. “The definition of nostalgia is ‘a sentimental longing or wistful affection for the past, typically for a period or place with happy personal associations.’ I think that’s so appropriate for many of us who have had a longtime affection for Shepherd Center.”

Annette’s “longtime affection” for the hospital stems from the fact that her family has been involved with Shepherd Center since the hospital’s early days. Anne worked in the foundation, volunteers in the Center, served as President of the Shepherd Center Auxiliary, and is a member of Women Shaping Shepherd and Shepherd Center’s Advisory Board.

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In addition to their support of Shepherd Center, both Donna and Jim have served on many different boards, volunteer committees, and in several leadership positions. “Today, we recognize and celebrate the leadership and the generosity of Donna and Jim Stephenson as our Angels of the Year,” Alana said as she presented the award. “We are so grateful for their support and commitment to Shepherd Center. Their gifts are truly transformational.”

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BY SARA BAXTER
TAKING A SWING TO SUPPORT SHEPHERD CENTER

The Conlan Company’s inaugural Conlan Cup was a day of fun and philanthropy.

BY SARA BAXTER

The Conlan Company, a construction firm, was looking for an opportunity to get involved in the community and a way for its employees to give back. So, The Conlan Cup was born. “We build buildings as a company,” says Conlan’s Vice President Mark Kunst. “We wanted our employees to be able to take part in a project that didn’t involve building and also provide a way they could use their leadership and organizational skills to have a little fun.”

Kunst oversaw a committee that solicited sponsors, handled the publicity, organized and implemented the tournament, and enlisted volunteers to staff the event. They invited customers and subcontractors to participate in a fun day of golf.

When deciding on a beneficiary for the tournament, it was easy to choose Shepherd Center. David Staley, the company’s chief operating officer, is a former Shepherd Center patient who received rehabilitation after becoming paralyzed due to Guillain-Barré syndrome. “We witnessed his recovery,” Mark says. “He was paralyzed when he went into Shepherd Center and walking by the time he came out. And so many of us have a connection to Shepherd Center through knowing someone who has benefitted from their services. It is near and dear to our hearts.”

On October 24, 2022, 124 golfers (in teams of four) gathered for the first Conlan Cup at Horseshoe Bend Country Club in Roswell, Georgia. The tournament raised $130,000 for Shepherd Center’s Patient Assistance Fund, which helps cover basic needs that insurance does not pay for or that the patient cannot afford. Mark believes the tournament was a success due to The Conlan Company’s long-standing partnerships with customers and subcontractors as well as the commitment of the company’s employees. “We are a relationship company,” Mark notes. “There was a sense of wanting to contribute as a community and give back. We were simply a conduit and catalyst to allow our partners to join us as a team.”

The Conlan Company had the financial support of Platinum sponsors Andrew Electric Company, Cooper Steel, Encore Roofing, Plateau Excavating, and Seahed Industrial Properties; Gold Sponsors Canam Steel Corporation, Nucor Vulcraft Alabama, and Randall Paulson Architects, as well as many other sponsors who generously contributed to the event to make it a success.

The Conlan Company plans to make this an annual event and has already scheduled the next Conlan Cup for October 24, 2023.

Supporting our Veterans

Shepherd’s Men raises funds for Shepherd Center’s SHARE Military Initiative at another successful dinner and clay shoot.

A stay at an oceanfront cabin on Martha’s Vineyard, tickets to sporting events, and a party catered by The Varsity’s food truck were just some of the special items auctioned off at the Shepherd’s Men Dinner and Auction on October 6, 2022, at the Indian Hills Country Club in Marietta, Georgia. The annual event raises money for Shepherd Center’s SHARE Military Initiative. The comprehensive rehabilitation program delivers world-class treatment at no cost to veterans, service members, and first responders who have sustained mild to moderate traumatic brain injuries (TBIs) during their service.

It’s one of the many fundraisers organized by Shepherd’s Men, a group founded in 2014 that advocates for veterans and raises awareness and funds for SHARE. The group has raised $800,000 through its various events this year.

Aside from the auction, other highlights of the evening included a seafood fry, a bourbon tasting, and live music. Travis Ellis, co-founder of Shepherd’s Men, acted as the auctioneer. “It was a great night of food, fun, and fellowship,” says Mitch Rhoden, a Marine Corps veteran and volunteer with Shepherd’s Men, who helped organize the event. “We not only raised money, but we also raised awareness for the SHARE program.”

Annie Oakley Tournament Benefits Shepherd Center

The 19th Annual Annie Oakley Clay Shoot Tournament was a big success, raising more than $83,000 for Shepherd Center’s SHARE Military Initiative and the Recreation Therapy Program. Organized by the Annie Oakley Shooters – a women’s clay shooting club – the tournament was held October 28, 2022, at the Burge Club in Mansfield, Georgia.

In May 2004, the Annies established the first Annie Oakley Tournament – a day of fun and a way to raise money for a charity. After supporting the Trust for Public Land for seven years, the Annies chose Shepherd Center’s SHARE Military Initiative. The comprehensive rehabilitation program delivers world-class treatment at no cost to veterans, service members, and first responders who have sustained mild to moderate traumatic brain injuries (TBIs) during their service.

“A favorite part of the event is the reception at the start of the shoot,” says Mitch Williams, and Ralph Williams. “As a group founded in 2014 that advocates for veterans and raises awareness and funds for SHARE, the tournament was held October 6, 2022, at the Indian Hills Country Club in Marietta, Georgia. The annual event raises money for Shepherd Center’s SHARE Military Initiative. The comprehensive rehabilitation program delivers world-class treatment at no cost to veterans, service members, and first responders who have sustained mild to moderate traumatic brain injuries (TBIs) during their service.

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The 19th Annual Annie Oakley Clay Shoot Tournament was a big success, raising more than $83,000 for Shepherd Center’s SHARE Military Initiative and the Recreation Therapy Program. Organized by the Annie Oakley Shooters – a women’s clay shooting club – the tournament was held October 28, 2022, at the Burge Club in Mansfield, Georgia.

In May 2004, the Annies established the first Annie Oakley Tournament – a day of fun and a way to raise money for a charity. After supporting the Trust for Public Land for seven years, the Annies chose Shepherd Center’s SHARE Military Initiative. The comprehensive rehabilitation program delivers world-class treatment at no cost to veterans, service members, and first responders who have sustained mild to moderate traumatic brain injuries (TBIs) during their service.

A favorite part of the event is the reception at the start of the shoot,” says Mitch Williams, and Ralph Williams. “As a women’s clay shooting club, the tournament was held October 28, 2022, at the Burge Club in Mansfield, Georgia.”

A week later, nearly 175 people gathered at Barnsley Gardens Resort in Adairsville, Georgia, for the Shepherd’s Men Annual Invitational Clay Shoot. Top teams received prizes, and guests enjoyed a barbecue lunch cooked by Local Three Kitchen and Bar.

Mitch had help planning, coordinating, and executing both the dinner and the clay shoot from organizing committee members Amanda Bridges, Duncan Butler, Travis Ellis, Jeremy Fort, Stan Kryder, Sherry Lang, Lindsay Miller, Steve Soteres, Krissy Williams, and Ralph Williams. “As a group founded in 2014 that advocates for veterans and raises awareness and funds for SHARE, the tournament was held October 6, 2022, at the Indian Hills Country Club in Marietta, Georgia.”

The tournament was a success due to The Conlan Company’s long-standing partnerships with customers and subcontractors as well as the commitment of the company’s employees. “We are a relationship company,” Mark notes. “There was a sense of wanting to contribute as a community and give back. We were simply a conduit and catalyst to allow our partners to join us as a team.”

The Conlan Company had the financial support of Platinum sponsors Andrew Electric Company, Cooper Steel, Encore Roofing, Plateau Excavating, and Seahed Industrial Properties; Gold Sponsors Canam Steel Corporation, Nucor Vulcraft Alabama, and Randall Paulson Architects, as well as many other sponsors who generously contributed to the event to make it a success.

The Conlan Company plans to make this an annual event and has already scheduled the next Conlan Cup for October 24, 2023.

Shepherd’s Men raises funds for Shepherd Center’s SHARE Military Initiative at another successful dinner and clay shoot.

A stay at an oceanfront cabin on Martha’s Vineyard, tickets to sporting events, and a party catered by The Varsity’s food truck were just some of the special items auctioned off at the Shepherd’s Men Dinner and Auction on October 6, 2022, at the Indian Hills Country Club in Marietta, Georgia. The annual event raises money for Shepherd Center’s SHARE Military Initiative. The comprehensive rehabilitation program delivers world-class treatment at no cost to veterans, service members, and first responders who have sustained mild to moderate traumatic brain injuries (TBIs) during their service.

It’s one of the many fundraisers organized by Shepherd’s Men, a group founded in 2014 that advocates for veterans and raises awareness and funds for SHARE. The group has raised $800,000 through its various events this year.

Aside from the auction, other highlights of the evening included a seafood fry, a bourbon tasting, and live music. Travis Ellis, co-founder of Shepherd’s Men, acted as the auctioneer. “It was a great night of food, fun, and fellowship,” says Mitch Rhoden, a Marine Corps veteran and volunteer with Shepherd’s Men, who helped organize the event. “We not only raised money, but we also raised awareness for the SHARE program.”

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The Conlan Company plans to make this an annual event and has already scheduled the next Conlan Cup for October 24, 2023.
The goal for ShepherdCares — the annual employee giving campaign that raises funds for Shepherd Center — was set at a respectable $175,000. But dedicated and generous Shepherd Center employees blew right past that goal, raising an impressive $248,885 in five weeks. That’s 42 percent — or nearly $74,000 — over what the hospital had hoped to raise. The 2023 campaign had 75% employee participation – another inspiring feat considering giving is voluntary.

“Shepherd Center employees have big hearts,” says Alex Seblatnigg, CAVS, CPXP, director of volunteer services and internal engagement for Shepherd Center and chair of the ShepherdCares Campaign. “Part of the reason we see such incredible success with this campaign each year is because employees can see the direct impact of those gifts. The consistent support we see each year is just another example of our special, strong culture, and shows how invested our employees are in our mission.”

This year’s donations will support Shepherd Center’s Pursuing Possible Campaign. The campaign, launched in September 2022, aims to raise funds to increase access to Shepherd’s services and improve the patient and family experience at the hospital.

“It was a great day for golf as 160 players took to the course at the Cherokee Country Club in Atlanta on September 12, 2022, for another successful Shepherd Center Cup Golf Tournament. Following the tournament, golfers enjoyed time to eat, relax, and socialize. Chaired by Paul Pilcher, the tournament raised more than $150,000 to benefit Shepherd Center’s Delores Ann and Goodloe Yancey Family Housing Program. Funding for this program allows Shepherd Center to provide up to 30 days of donor-funded housing to out-of-town families while their loved ones receive care at the Center.

This year’s Shepherd Cup is slated for September 18, at Cherokee Country Club. All proceeds will benefit Shepherd Center’s Recreation Therapy Program, which helps patients with temporary or permanent disabilities lead healthy and active lifestyles as independently as possible through recreation activities by providing education, skill development, and community reintegration opportunities.

For information and sponsorship opportunities, contact Shanna Thorpe at Shanna.Thorpe@shepherd.org.

BY SARA BAXTER

Making Patient Access a Priority
Shepherd employees show they care by raising money to increase patient access.

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“The Pursuing Possible campaign will allow us to serve even more patients and their families when they need us the most,” Seblatnigg says. ©

Hitting the Fairways for Shepherd Center
Golfers enjoyed one of Shepherd Center’s longest-running events, the Shepherd Center Cup.

BY SARA BAXTER

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On September 10, 2022, the 11th annual RPM 9/11 5K took place at Atlanta’s Chastain Park, with nearly 400 people participating.

The event raised nearly $185,000 for Shepherd Center’s SHARE Military Initiative, a comprehensive rehabilitation program that delivers care at no cost to veterans, service members, and first responders dealing with traumatic brain injuries and mental health concerns. The annual race is held in honor of Ryan P. Means, a member of the U.S. Army’s Special Forces Unit who passed away in 2009 following a deployment in Iraq. Ryan’s family plans the 5K race, and for the last seven years, all the proceeds have gone to SHARE.

The Means family’s mission for the race is to provide a day of patriotic remembrance for those most affected by the events of September 11, 2001, and support patients and veterans at Shepherd Center. “This is a way for us to keep his memory alive,” says Liz Means, Ryan’s sister-in-law. “It is so important that veterans have access to the care they need and deserve. We’ve heard the success stories, and they inspire us to keep going.”

The 2022 race stands out for the Means family because one race participant, also a SHARE client, served in the same unit as Ryan. “He made the connection the night before and reached out to us,” Liz says. “It was unbelievable to us that they served together, and he was now at Shepherd Center getting the help he needed. We were touched and honored, and it reminded us how important SHARE is.”

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 November 1, 2022 and March 31, 2023.

William Dent Acree
Mrs. Laura W. Smith
Dean Anderson
Mrs. Christine A. Anderson
Philip Assey
Ms. Annabelle Patzlaff
Rez Ayres Williams
Mr. Dean Melcher
Joe “Barr” Barrett Bailey
Ms. Myra B. Kay
Colonel James S. Branch, US Army
Signal Corps
Anonymous
Rich Brannon
Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Davis
James Buxbee
Mr. James A. Curtis
Mrs. Alana S. Shepherd
Stacey Barnard
Atlanta Lawn Tennis Association
Brandon Dwayne Barnett
Mr. and Mrs. William Sullivan
Helen Batte
Mr. and Mrs. Alan Hunn
Robert Bubom
Mr. Scott Ruffett
William “Buddy” Black III
Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Bone
Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Bowen, Sr.
Mr. Charles Boyd
Mr. Jon R. Burke
Mr. and Mrs. Billy R. Campbell
Mr. and Mrs. George W. Darden
Mr. and Mrs. Al Fleming
Ms. Susan Fleming
Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Glover
Hedden Family Foundation
Ms. Dovina S. Morris
Ms. Kathleen A. Norris
Mr. and Mrs. Don Shumlin
Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Walters, Jr.
Ms. Diana W. Weeks
Mr. James T. Willsoughby
Ms. Sharon H. Wilkin
Bruce Boyer
Mr. Ernesto Motta
Peggy Anderson Branch
Ms. Melissa Bryan
Harry L. Broome, MD
Dr. and Mrs. H. Henderson Murray
Joy Brown
Mr. and Mrs. James L. Bruce
Mr. David Conard
Andrew Buehl
Dr. Ramin Saghafl
Bruce Burton
Mrs. Marisa J. Pauly
Mary Busko
Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Bernhardt, Sr.
Mr. Eric Busko
Dana Conrey
James Cawless
Mr. and Mrs. David M. Black
Mr. and Mrs. Michael G. Walsh
George Chaffins
Mr. and Mrs. John V. Zalewski
J. Richard Chambers
Mrs. Nancy L. Chambers
Charles Howell Champion III
Mrs. Patricia A. Champion
Dallis Champion
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph V. Quares
Dodie Chapman
Mr. and Mrs. James R. Cawless II
Mrs. Alana A. Shepherd
Mr. Hamilton H. Stockton, Jr.
Thomas “Tom” Chupp
Mr. and Mrs. John Allen
Beckley Anna Shag Club
Mr. and Mrs. Danto Castrodale
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Cavendish
Mr. and Mrs. Michael J. Davies
Mr. William H. Frix III
Mr. Sylvester Firewol
Mr. and Mrs. Harry L. Haer
Ms. Judy Harrell
Joyce Hill
Mr. and Mrs. Francis W. Hughes
Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Laster
Mr. and Mrs. Dave Maloney
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Molishan
Mr. Bryan Palmer
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Prusnelli
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Riggs
Mrs. Sonny Rogers Jarrell and Mr. James M. Jarrell
Mr. and Mrs. Tyrece E. Shurting
Mr. and Mrs. L. Michael Steuer
Mr. and Mrs. William R. Straub, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Syler
Mr. and Mrs. Pat B. Trottier
Mr. Keith Vorderby
Mr. Gerald Wait
Burt Cloud
Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Sargen
Helen Clouney
Capital Corriveau Co.
Ms. Karen L. Pringle
Mr. and Mrs. John W. Shealy
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Silva
Lieutenant Paramedic Mark Quick, center, of Atlanta Fire Rescue was severely injured when he was hit while assisting at the scene of a car crash. Mark wanted to thank the Dekalb-County Georgia first responders who rushed to his aid, as Sheep staff arranged a visit.

Debbie Goot
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Bennett, Jr.
Mr. James A. Curtis
Mr. and Mrs. David Markovitz
Mr. and Mrs. Warren Goldstein
Mr. and Mrs. J. Rhodies Harvy
Mrs. Mary Kay Howard
Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Howard
Mr. Barry V. Hutner
Mrs. Mary Z. Kay
Mrs. Rebecca Klaw
Ladies Investment Limited Inc.
Mrs. Marilyn W. Lauer
Mrs. Jissi Nabbanyan
Mr. and Mrs. I. L. Bachelon
Mr. Bruce P. Schambler
Mr. Alex E. Seldaggio
Mr. and Mrs. Tim Shannon
Mrs. Alana S. Shepherd
Mr. and Mrs. James H. Shepherd III
Mr. and Mrs. Deb B. Sloan
Stephen Goot
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Davidson
Bryan Griffin
Mrs. Sara C. Atwell
George T. Gunell
LTC (Dr) and Mrs. Victor Macias
Robert Hagermeyer
Mr. and Mrs. John W. Patterson
Catherine Hairston
Mr. Charles M. Hariston
Michael T. Hale
John R. Hall

Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Huggins
Gary Harper
Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Adams
Mr. and Mrs. George A. Burton
Mr. and Mrs. John M. Ihlenfeld
Richard Lewis Hoffman, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. John C. Bacon
Linda Holbrook
Mr. Frank F. Holbrook
Libba Holt
Mr. and Mrs. David G. Hunter II

Elizabeth H. Homer
Mr. and Mrs. Roger W. Moister, Jr.
Samuel W. Horner
Mrs. Mary Eleanor Vachon
Mike Huddles
Mr. and Mrs. Doug Kohler

Colonel Lloydsgren, US Army
Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Huggins
Sally Hughes
Mr. Charles M. Lipman
Frank W. “Billy” Mule IV
Theresa M. Mule
Brian Keith Jackson
Ms. Barbara Blender
Mr. Henry J. Cole
Mr. Howard Lawson
Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Lipman
Ms. and Mrs. Bobby J. Sanders
Megan Gabrielle Jensen
Mr. Randi Butler

Ms. Jeanne Jones
Ms. Joy T. Elder
Mr. and Mrs. Fred A. Gravitt
Mr. and Mrs. Lance Holt

Mr. and Mrs. James H. Shepherd III
Mr. and Mrs. Dave B. Sloan
Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Huggins
Mr. and Mrs. John M. Ihlenfeld
Mr. and Mrs. John C. Bacon
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Mr. and Mrs. J. Rhodies Harvy
Mrs. Mary Kay Howard
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Mr. Barry V. Hutner
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Mr. Alex E. Seldaggio
Mr. and Mrs. Tim Shannon
Mrs. Alana S. Shepherd
Mr. and Mrs. James H. Shepherd III
Mr. and Mrs. Deb B. Sloan

Left rear, center: In Memoriam. Right rear: Whose Name You Remember.

Mrs. Mary Theresa J. Ellis
Mr. and Mrs. Tim Blancke
Mr. and Mrs. Jeremy A. Ellis
Mrs. Sam Arogeti
Philbrick R. Dorsey
Rudolph Dobbs
Mr. and Mrs. Tipton Dobbs
Phyllis B. Dorsey
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Dorsey
Ms. Tara Atwood

Richard Colby
Anonymous
Jennifer Coleman
Ms. Irene Coleman
Scott Critzer
Mr. Wade King
Mr. and Mrs. Ross A. Grimmel
Alana S. Shepherd

Jonathan Davis
Ms. Maya Israel
Jack Deleo
Ms. Sam Angeli
Randy Dennis
Ms. Tanis Arzner

Richard A. “Dick” Denny, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Murray
Nancy Dobbs
Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Chanin
Mr. and Mrs. Rosalind Grimmel
Alana S. Shepherd

Rudolph Dobbs
Mr. and Mrs. Hugh D. Paterson
Philbrick R. Dorsey
Ms. Serenna D. Dorsey
Jeff Duddman
Ms. Sam Angeli
David Ellis
Mr. and Mrs. Jeremy A. Ellis
Judge Greely Ellis
Ms. Barbara Alexander
Mr. and Mrs. Pauline Ellis
Mr. Jerry D. Bouchlou
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas L. Craves
Mr. and Mrs. William D. Forsyth, Jr.
Mr. Martin G. Green
Ms. Lucy M. Molina
Mr. and Mrs. Alexander G. Morehouse
Mr. Ann Parker
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald J. Younker
Ms. Janice P. Williams
Ms. Maggie O’Brien Cooper
Mr. and Mrs. Alfred I. Means III
Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Norris
Ms. Brenda Rosen
Shawn Satterfield
Mr. Mike Westbrock
Pam Williamson
Zania Ousterchek
Ms. Dorothy A. Dryman
Mr. and Mrs. John S. Dryman
Talitha Schloss
Pine Crest Park Ladies Golf Association
Mr. Barbara H. Fleming
Mr. Dennis McRae
Ms. Sharon J. Newhard
Ms. Judy Perry
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Slader
Ms. Elizabeth A. Tarsia
The Center for Athletics and Rheumatic Diseases, P.C.
Philips Schoonover
Ms. Patti Schoonover
Peggy and Emory Schwall
John Croft, Jr.
Edith Shadburn

Mr. and Mrs. Jaffrey M. Herbert
Mr. and Mrs. Beth B. Macklin
CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

Shepherd Center’s Board of Directors would like to congratulate our determined adolescent patients for their graduations from high school in May:

José Martínez | DAWSON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL
Anderson Jones | BEAUFORT HIGH SCHOOL
Chase Smiley | ASHDOWN HIGH SCHOOL
Caden Herron | HILLSBORO HIGH SCHOOL
Hank Devaney | COE-BROOK NORTHWEST ACADEMY

Ellen Whitaker
Mrs. James O. Patterson
Lynn and Mildred Whitaker
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Townsend

Aubry Williams
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Townsend

Eugene “Bitchie” Williams
Mr. Tiley Bell, Jr.
Perri Brown
Mr. Jack Cramer
Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Cramer
Mr. and Mrs. Allan N. Crawford III
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Crowe
Mr. and Mrs. David Evans
Dr. and Mrs. Roger L. Flannel
Mr. Jeremy Freitas
Nancy Gableabela
Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Ginden
Manny Green
Buzz and Keith Hightower Bjorklund
Andy Higa
Mega Hosteller
Teteya Hubbard
Mr. and Mrs. Steven M. Klayman
Mr. Linda Levy
Julia Lindstrom
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth G. Mendez
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Palawaski
Betty Moira and Mr. Mark H. Pendergraft
Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce N. Street
Mr. William Taylor
Laure Thaweesi
Mrs. Mary Beth Williams

Dennis Wilson
Ms. Sharon Caskin
Mr. and Mrs. P. Dan Yatas, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis C. Coole, Jr.
Young
Mr. Charles Hutchison
Stephen Yoder
Mr. and Mrs. Henry H. Smith III
Lois Zupon
Ms. Jerry Ison
Mr. Richard Zack

In partnership with Georgia Aquarium, Shepherd Center’s Spinal Cord Injury Day Program patients were invited to the Ocean Voyager exhibit to partake in several interactive activities. Outing like these help patients regain confidence and practice skills like wheelchairs transfers, navigating a community locker room, and advocating for themselves in a community setting.

Saul Abercrombie
Mr. Jerry Brown
Michael Adams
Ms. Sandy Durr
Patricia Alturs
Mr. and Mrs. David Barnett
Fred Atlas — Thank you Mr. Jessica Williams
David Anderson
Mr. and Mrs. Donald R. Anderson
Charlotte Anderson McCalis
Ms. Gail Anderson
Annie Oakley Shooters
Dr. and Mrs. Richard Bailey
Ruth Dobbs Anthony
Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Chmarr
Dr. David Apple, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher R. Hardage
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew S. McDonald
Dr. Jeffrey T. Repeau
Mr. and Mrs. Emily F. Pearce, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene L. Pearce, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel T. Reves
Cyndas Arraralle
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Callahan
Mr. and Mrs. Donald C. Chapman, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Lige K. Sims
Willis Atwater
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph W. Atwater

Sam and Karissa Better’s Wedding
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Better
Karen Bibb’s Birthday
Mr. John S. Bibb, Jr.
James Blackwell
Mr. and Mrs. Linda C. Coan
Ms. Mary E. Graham
Brennen Brown
Mr. and Mrs. John B. Bowen
Neil Bradbury — Happy Holidays
Ms. Clinton B. Kennedy
Ms. Marilyn P. Moore
Neil Bradbury Wishes Merry Christmas to:
Mrs. Clinton B. Kennedy
Ms. Marilyn P. Moore
Ms. Linda Lucas
Ms. Tina Maddox
Ms. Janet Torman
Ms. Robin Parker
Clara Brown
Ms. Debra L. Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Bill L. Garret
David A. Bruno
Mr. James A. Bruno
Ms. Tricia Buce
Mr. and Mrs. Walter F. Buce
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Buce
Kathleen Burch
Ms. Hallie Hooks and Mr. Adam Malone
Joy and Burt Bums
Ms. Al R. Howell
Corb Burton
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Burton
Alvin L. Buttermore
Mr. and Mrs. Charles S. Owenth
Candice Cain
Mr. Gary Cain
Jim Calise
Ms. Kathleen Calise
Clare Cardomy — Merry Christmas Anonymous
Pat Carm
Mr. James Neuberger
Andy “JB” Reese
Pittsburgh Forge Rugby Club
Sableh Chaif — Happy Holidays Ms. Marie Candassou
Katie Choate
Mrs. Sandy Whatley
Abbey Climer
Mr. Jack Turner
Rhomda Coler
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Sardina
Corey Reault
Mr. and Mrs. John W. Lundsden III

Joyce Cox
Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Dyson
Laura Crawford
Mr. Jacques Goupi
Laura Cummings
Mr. and Mrs. R. Bill Baker
Bob Cunningham
The John and Rosemary Brown Family Foundation
Mrs. Carol M. Curtis Wishes Happy Holidays to:
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Adair
Mr. and Mrs. John Alston
Ms. Wanda Hopkins
Mrs. Jane Knigh
Dr. and Mrs. Jerome Lynn
Mr. and Mrs. CV Nally
Mrs. Sally Nutnily
Mrs. Lula Post
Mrs. Laura Speaman
Mrs. Harriet Warren
Mr. and Mrs. James Wells
James Curtis
Anonymous
JCF Foundation
James Curtis’ Birthday
Ms. Beryl C. Waters
James A. Curtis Wishes Happy Holidays to:
Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Adair
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Fletcher
Ms. Joan F. Caldwell
The Honoraria of Max C. Jealind
Anna Collins and John Richard Harber
Mr. and Mrs. Brad Courts
Mr. and Mrs. Richard W. Courts II
Mr. and Mrs. Allen Curtis
Ms. Lauren Dane
Mr. and Mrs. Josh D. Davis
Mr. and Mrs. Troy F. Davis
Mr. and Mrs. Blake G. Dexter
Mr. and Mrs. Allen Edson
Mr. and Mrs. David Glass
Dr. Matt and Kierri Grabowski
Mr. and Mrs. Ryan Hardage
Ms. Renee Hart
Ms. Sharon L. Hollis
Ms. Greg Logan
Dr. and Mrs. Jerome W. Lynn
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Maloney
Mr. and Mrs. John Martin
Mr. and Mrs. Todd Norwood
Ms. Sally Nazerly
Mr. and Mrs. Josh E. Rowan
Ms. Marsha Schmitt
Mr. and Mrs. Del Skals
Mr. and Mrs. Ian M. Smith
Dr. and Mrs. Richard L. Sturm
Mr. and Mrs. Nathan B. Uitz
Mr. and Mrs. James Wells
Mr. and Mrs. Zachary Wilson
Mr. and Mrs. David Withers
Melinda and David Dabbire
Ms. Tena G. Sanders
Suzanne Dabney
Mr. Stewart D. Daniy

Honoraria 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 November 1, 2022 and March 31, 2023.

Willow Smith
Mr. William C. Smith
Douglas A. Spece
Mr. Misses H. Spece
Norma Spece
Mr. Misses H. Spece
Cherie Stammard
Mr. Joseph Bolduc
Sami Linsky
Donald Staton
Mrs. Sarah A. Morrison
Mr. and Mrs. James C. Shepherd III
Margaret Armstrong Statham
Ms. Louise S. Gunn
Kenneth Howard Summermill
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Roberts
Captain G. Emory Summer, US Army
Mrs. Misses Robert L. Huggins
Luther “Luke” Taylor
Mrs. Alice T. Long
Blaine Thompson
Ms. Amy Spring
Gordon Thompson
Ms. Gail Pennington
Louis “All” Thompson
Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Pulley
Earl Townsend
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Townsend
Steven Trever
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Casey
Wendell Turner
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Casey
Steve Skates
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Townsend
Dr. Carter Smith, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. William B. Andley, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. John L. Ludlow, Sr.
Dr. and Mrs. Hornton Murray
Mr. James O. Patterson
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Woosick
Dianne Smith
Ms. Louise Martin
Joshua James Smith
Mr. Danny Richmond
Marie Smith
Mr. W. Norman Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Maningham
Ms. Rowe Maningham
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Woodward
Richard Wallack
Mr. and Mrs. David Ables
Elizabeth A. Walz
Mr. Jack V. Walz
Dot Watkins
The Estate of Mr. John E. Watson
David Webb
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis J. Webb, Jr.
John Roger “Bucky” Webster
Dr. and Mrs. H. Herndon Murray
David M. Wheeler
Ms. Sally Wheeler
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Crowe
Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Chmarr
Dr. David Apple, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher R. Hardage
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew S. McDonald
Dr. Jeffrey T. Repeau
Mr. and Mrs. Emily F. Pearce, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene L. Pearce, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel T. Reves
Cyndas Arraralle
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Callahan
Mr. and Mrs. Donald C. Chapman, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Lige K. Sims
Willis Atwater
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph W. Atwater

Margaret Shanks
Mr. Charles J. Shanks
Dana Shepherd
Ms. Elizabeth Shepherd
Harold Shepherd
Mr. Dean Hickett
Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Heirweiler, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas O. Powell
James Shepherd
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis C. Coole, Jr.
Frank W. Holste Charitable Trust
Mr. Dean Melcher
Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Heirweiler, Jr.
Ms. Elizabeth Shepherd
Mildred Shepherd
Ms. Sandra Besett
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Douglass
Mr. Cheryl Shepherd Leonard
Put Ray Reese
Rebecca “Bosca” Shaw Shepherd
Ms. Paulette A. Brown and Mrs. Wendy L. Conrad
Mr. and Mrs. William W. Bush
Mr. James S. Lunsford
Claire Sherrill
Ms. Melanie P. Allers
Ms. Alana S. Shepherd
Michael Shinskey
Dr. and Mrs. Rob E. Crumet
Steve Skates
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Townsend
Dr. Carter Smith, Jr.
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Dr. and Mrs. H. Herndon Murray
David M. Wheeler
Ms. Sally Wheeler

Join us in celebrating our 3rd Place finish in the National Wheelchair Basketball Association Adult Division III National Championship.
### HONORARIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Shirley Herbert</td>
<td>Honorarium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. and Mrs. Albert L. Labovitz</td>
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<td>Mr. and Mrs. Robert N. Dokson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Constance L. Frazier</td>
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<td>Ms. Julie Jones</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rod and Lee Frazer - Happy Holidays</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Geneva Daniels</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chase Ferguson</td>
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<td>Mr. Timothy Ewing</td>
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<td>Mr. and Mrs. Todd Erickson</td>
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<td>Dr. Elmers and her Team</td>
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<td>Travis Ellis</td>
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<td>Mr. David E. Shipley</td>
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<td>Tom Eaton</td>
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<td>Mr. and Mrs. John S. Wallace</td>
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<td>Mr. C. Calhoun Peterson</td>
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<td>Mr. and Mrs. Bobby M. Thomas</td>
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<td>Ms. Candy Willis</td>
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<td>Ms. Melissa Fuller</td>
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<td>The Aderhold Family Foundation</td>
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<td>Virginia Ruth Davis</td>
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<td>Ms. Maria Holland Law</td>
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<td>Connie Hart</td>
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<td>Elaine Harmon</td>
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<td>Sybil Stiver</td>
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<td>Susan Hawkins’ Special Birthday</td>
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<td>Scotty Hinkle</td>
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<td>Dr. Andrew A. Hendrickson</td>
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<td>Dr. Stephen E. Schapary</td>
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<td>Ms. Denise Webster</td>
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<td>Dr. Jorge Rosen</td>
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<td>Ms. Patricia A. Pasch</td>
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<td>Dr. Julie Segal</td>
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<td>Ms. Kristina Taylor</td>
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<td>Ms. Renee L. Bradley</td>
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<td>Ms. Karen Sebastian</td>
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<td>Ms. Diana H. Baggett</td>
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<td>Ms. Catherine May</td>
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<td>Ms. Nancy Michaelis</td>
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<td>Ms. Marcia Harris</td>
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<td>Dr. Ford Vox</td>
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<td>Ms. Cassandra H. Kahle</td>
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<td>Dr. Donald P. Leslie</td>
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<td>Dr. Rusty Gore</td>
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<td>Dr. Mark Salis</td>
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<td>Dr. Ashley Johnson</td>
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<td>Ms. Bonnie Smiley</td>
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**GIFTS IN HONOR OF SHEPHERD CENTER DOCTORS FOR DOCTORS’ DAY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. David Apple, Jr.</td>
<td>Gift for Doctors’ Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. and Mrs. David M. Kramer</td>
<td>Gift for Doctors’ Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Angela Benninga</td>
<td>Gift for Doctors’ Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Renee L. Bradley</td>
<td>Gift for Doctors’ Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Kimberly Goodwin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Karen Sebastian</td>
<td>Gift for Doctors’ Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Brock Bowman</td>
<td>Gift for Doctors’ Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. William Wills</td>
<td>Gift for Doctors’ Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. and Mr. Richard B. Meadows</td>
<td>Gift for Doctors’ Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. and Mrs. Robert T. Meade</td>
<td>Gift for Doctors’ Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. and Mrs. Charles Moore</td>
<td>Gift for Doctors’ Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Strat</td>
<td>Gift for Doctors’ Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Aaron Shaw</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Gift for Doctors’ Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Kristina Taylor</td>
<td>Gift for Doctors’ Day</td>
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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- News.shepherd.org Spinal Column ® | Spring 2023 •

- Teaching fellow patients how to make delicious spring rolls!

- Ms. Janie Dixon

- Bill Jaynes - Happy Holidays

- Ms. Tonya Harbison

- Ms. Ellen Allen

- Pat Higgins - Happy Holidays

- Ms. Denise Webster

- Dr. Erik Shaw

- Ms. Diana H. Baggett

- Ms. Richelle Hall

- Ms. Andrea G. Simmons

- Ms. Jennifer L. Wallace

- Ms. Diane H. Baggett

- Ms. Richelle Hall

- Ms. Andrea G. Simmons

- Ms. Jennifer L. Wallace

- Ms. Jennifer L. Wallace

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- Ms. Jennifer L. Wallace

- Ms. Diane H. Baggett

- Ms. Richelle Hall

- Ms. Andrea G. Simmons

- Ms. Jennifer L. Wallace
Shepherd Center Needs Your Feedback!

We would like your feedback on your experience with Shepherd Center. Please scan the QR code with your phone to participate in a quick survey. Thank you.

For a paper survey, contact Jacqueline Barton-Lee, PhD, CPHQ, FMP, director of quality and communications management, at Jacqueline.Barton-Lee@shepherd.org or 404-387-1059.

Grant Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Jamie Smith
Dixon Smith
Mr. and Mrs. and Mrs. Dana G. Smith
Shameeka Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Paul J. Smith

Mr. and Mrs. P. Daniel Yates
Mr. and Mrs. Randy Bryan
Mr. and Mrs. Wilma Branch
Mr. and Mrs. David Dubose
Mr. and Mrs. Keith Hicks
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Johnson
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Johnston
Dr. and Mrs. Donald P. Leke Leslie
Mrs. Phil Houck
Mr. and Mrs. Louis Pittman
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Ripley
Alana Shepherd
Dr. Jacqueline Barton-Lee
Co-Founder, President & COO, REPAY

John W. Stephenson, Jr., Vice President, Special Projects & Special Events, Chick-fil-A, Inc.
Krispy Kreme Donuts, Inc.

Spring 2023 •

 Bikbock Whaley
Dr. Virginia Lippincott

Mr. and Mrs. Douglas J. Lindauer
Ms. Jeanne Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Gentry R. Strickland
Ms. Judy Turnell
Joy Quigley
Mr. Teddy Witherspoon
David Putzer
Ms. Julie Jones
Robert and Margaret Proctor
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas M. Frazer
Robert Proctor
Ms. Claudia Chadwick
Mary Katherine Poston
R. Sullivan
Happy Holidays

Shepherd Center CRU Staff
Ms. and Mrs. Jeffy W. Walters

Shepherd Center Foundation
Board of Trustees

Officers
Andrew Aliou – Chair
Vice President, Sales and Marketing, REPAY
Stephen R. Helleman, MD, FACS – Treasurer, Chief Financial Officer, Shepherd Center
Sarah A. Montmarant – CEO, Shepherd Center
Sarah Bath – Senior VP of Advancement, Shepherd Center Foundation
Aliena Shepherd – Secretary

Members
Sherry Aliou, Chief Volunteer
Elizabeth Allen, Civic Volunteer
Stephanie Anderson, Associate Judge, Rockdale County Probate Court
David F. Apple, Jr., MD, Medical Director Emeritus, Shepherd Center
James R. Ball, Jr., Director, Executive Services
Eric Barnatt, Chief Operating Officer, Advance Sound Services
Angela Blake, Civic Volunteer
Eric Bentsch, Managing Director & Regional Executive, Axis, Brown
William Cheilor, Founder & Executive Chairman, Close Construction Company
Brad Courts, Vice President, Atlanta Investment Company
David Dobie, Board Member and Legal Advisor, OneTrust
Dr. Keith Dockery, Founder, Shepherd Center
Paul Dubose, Chairman, and Legal Advisor, OneTrust
Mark E. Dunn, Civic Volunteer

Sarah A. Morrison*
Stephen B. Holleman, MBA, CPA – Treasurer,
Andrew Alias

Abigail L. Walker, Principal, Shepherd Center Foundation

Michael Keough, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Shepherd Center
Debbie Howard,
Kari Carlos Dunn, Vice President,
Chairman and CEO, Shepherd Center
Dr. Keith Dockery,
Board Member
Brad Courts, Co-Founder, President & CEO,
The Brookdale Group
Debbie Howard, Managing Director,
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Chairman and CEO, Shepherd Center
Dr. Keith Dockery,
Board Member
Brad Courts, Co-Founder, President & CEO,
This Summer, Shepherd Center’s Injury Prevention Program Reminds You: Don’t Dive, Go in Feet First!

Scan the QR code for more information.