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 National Helpline: 800-444-6443
www.braininjurygeorgia.org
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Brain Injury Association of Georgia

Support Group of the Month!

MAY 2008

No Georgia Support Group:

**Northeast Georgia
 (Ft. Oglethorpe)
 Catoosa County**

"Jimmy Simpson Foundation
 Group"

www.jimmysimpsonfoundation.org

Kim Goodwin
 706-375-9520

kim_goodwin@mindspring.com

Event Photos



Tom with a mural he painted



Tom, Amy, Laura, Jim enjoying a group picnic



Kim Goodwin, Les Kile
 enjoying the picnic



Carol Kile, Denia and
 Janice Cruden, President of the
 CABIA Board

North Georgia Support Group

The Jimmy Simpson Foundation helped start the **North Georgia Support Group** in July of 2004. We have a small but active group with attendance of about 7-15 at each meeting, although there are over 150 on our mailing list and we do receive phone calls from those who cannot attend but enjoy the newsletter monthly.

We have several dedicated families who are the core of the group and have made a big difference. They have taken the initiative to arrange **bowling outings, participate in the Saul Raisin race as volunteers, develop fundraisers for the group, and attend Disability Days.**

One member is coordinating the **recycling of newspapers** and another coordinated **selling coupon books for area restaurants.**

We have also participated in the **note card sales from BIAG.** Since we are in the Chattanooga area and most of our residents receive medical care and many other services from this area, we have also been fortunate to be a part of their many activities. They have a young adult group that has social outings each month.

We often have **speakers** at our group, and we have covered topics from **behavioral issues, medications, grief and loss, coping as caregivers, applying for disability, vocational issues, recreational opportunities, etc.**

We try to take every third meeting for discussion and breakouts for survivors and family members. Chattanooga has many wonderful resources for us to draw from, but we also have to address the differences in funding and resources in Georgia, so we draw on many Georgia groups as well. We have been able to participate with the **Chattanooga Area Parks Therapeutic Recreation** division in activities such as **painting murals** that were displayed in downtown Chattanooga.

We have sponsored the **Kids on the Block** group to our meeting and invited the **Girl Scout** group at the church where we meet to join us.

We have also had a community meeting and invited teachers from all the schools to hear about **Project Brain**, the Tennessee program that works with educating teachers to work with those who have brain injuries.

We want to make a difference in our community by helping with education and support.

We have had several members of our group who have received the **Caregiver of the Year Award** at the Chattanooga Annual Caregiver Banquet. **Carol Simpson** received this award in 2005, **Denise Lusk** received it in 2007, and **Denia** and **Carol Kile** received it this year.

By Kim Goodwin, Support Group Leader



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Visit:

www.braininjurygeorgia.org
for listing of:

- Advocacy and Legislation updates
- Become a Member
- Calendar of Events
- Make a Donation
- Peer Visitor
- Resources
- Support Group Listing

REMINDER

- .Oct. 4th: Raisin Hope Ride
 - .Oct 30th: Leadership Summit for Support Group Leaders
 - .Oct 31st-Nov 2: Camp Hardgrove
- Go to calendar of events for updates as they are released!

If you would like to submit..

- Article related to TBI
 - Events
 - Poems
 - Short Stories
 - Story about someone in your support group
 - TBI Advocacy Ideas & Accomplishments
 - Ways to bring TBI awareness within our community
- ..for a future newsletter insert, please send to BIAG via email or mail.

This newsletter is for YOU to get to know, and support, each other!

Please forward to BIAG a short write up about your support group along with photographs!

All materials submitted are subject to review & approval by BIAG.

What can I do for TBI

*Awareness..... Nobody knows we're here!
How do I get the word out?
How do I Find friends in high places?
Who needs us?*

Politicians need votes and helpers.
"A match made in Heaven", I thought to myself.

I got in touch with my local state Representative and Senator and asked him "What can I do For You? I am here to volunteer."
My representative was thrilled "When can you start? What can you do?" He asks. "What do you need?" I replied.

Soon we figured out where I could help. I have been involved in my local campaign for better than a month now...And having a blast!
I'm meeting lots of passionate people. But the most important is putting a face to Traumatic Brain Injury.

He now knows about the more than 53,000 of us. We may not be the people we were, but we care, we try, we give. We don't want a hand out, but may need a helping hand.

This is the time to get involved. The election is around the corner. The next TBI legislation or resolution could be around the corner needing our representative's support! Roll up your sleeves and put a face to TBI.

By Waring Jackson



YOU ARE INVITED!



You and a friend are invited to the
Hawaii Summer Dance Night

Saturday, June 21
7 pm -10 pm
Decatur Recreation Center

Sponsored by Side by Side Brain Injury Clubhouse





Please RSVP before June 13th
Contact:
Side by Side Brain Injury Clubhouse
Phone: 770 -469 -9355
Email: Emma@sidebysideclubhouse.org

Decatur Recreation Center/
Active Living
231 Sycamore Street
Downtown Decatur
1/2 block from Decatur MARTA Station

See attachment from Side by Side on how you can help volunteer, donate or support the Hawaii Summer Dance Night event – Contact Side by Side today!