



Brain Injury Association of Georgia MINDmatters

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Q3 2012

Camp Hardgrove 2012

If a picture is worth a thousand words, then these photos taken of Camp Hardgrove Campers enjoying themselves speak volumes!

Every September the Brain Injury Association of Georgia hosts a camp for adult survivors of brain injury at Camp Twin Lake's Ft. Yargo camp in Winder, GA.

Some of the challenging and most rewarding aspects of camp include water activities, giant swing, archery and bicycling. They enjoy our arts,

crafts and game activities and especially our dance which builds on socialization skills and helps renew their spirits. All of our activities provide personal goals and achievements, building self trust, critical thinking and self expression.

Friends and families of the 80 campers and volunteers who attended Camp Hardgrove packed into the Camp Twin Lakes facility to watch the closing ceremony. Every camper received an award recognizing a special talent or an achievement they accomplished during camp.



Campers



Camper of the Year



Awards Closing Ceremony



"The Volunteer team was positive and encouraging throughout camp" said Annie Garrett CTL Camp Coordinator. "They really helped to make everything fun!"



Camp Hargrove 2012 Caregiver Respite Camp

More than any other service respite, or a much needed break, is what family caregivers want and need.



While the campers were enjoying themselves, Caregiver Respite Camp is being held across Ft. Yargo led by Stuart Hanzman, LCSW. Stuart holds a daily group session where family members share their experiences and challenges together.

Respite Camp provides time for rejuvenation, renewal and builds energy to keep the Caregiver going. It can also help strengthen relationships between spouses and between parents and their loved ones.

Activities offered included social outings, Tai Chi, fishing, playing games or just relaxing with a book.



Peer Visitor for Veteran Program Volunteers Tom and Dee Houchins were honored by the Brain Injury Association of Georgia and Dr. Inge Thomas, VA Medical Center in Atlanta

The Veterans' Traumatic Brain Injury Peer Visitor for Veterans Program PVVP was initiated at the Atlanta VA Medical Center VAMC on 5/18/06 through a partnership of the VA Volunteer Program and Brain Injury Association of Georgia.

Tom Houchins was the first Peer Visitor at the Atlanta VAMC and has served faithfully for over six (6) years. The Chief of Volunteer Services reported Tom has a total of 2,040 volunteer hours at the VA.

Brain Injury Association of Georgia and the Atlanta VA Medical Center held an Appreciation Day for Tom and Dee Houchins to honor them.

Robert Beaham and Jane Jackson from Brain Injury Association of Georgia presented the Houchins with a Certificate of Appreciation, a restaurant gift card and a framed collage of photos taken of Dee and Tom during their volunteer activities over the years.

Dr. Inge Thomas, coordinator of the TBI Program, wrote and read a St. Nicholas personal verse in honor of Tom's volunteer service. They were also presented with flowers and a gift card.

We greatly appreciate having Tom and Dee Houchins dedicated service to a program that serves our military veterans and their families.

Thank You from all of us!



Name Your Newsletter Contest Winner!

After much deliberation, the Support Group Steering Committee selected the winner of the Name Your Newsletter contest!

Grand prize of a catered meal goes to "MINDMatters" submitted by the HOPE Southwest Support Group led by Rick and Vickie Gipson.

We want say a big THANK YOU to all the participating Support Groups.

You sent in some great suggestions and we found it quite difficult to make a final decision. Names such as the Brain Gang, Brain Connections, Surviving and Thriving, TBI Connections, The Brain Junction and Think It Through.

A big THANK YOU to all and CONGRATULATIONS to the HOPE Support Group!



Educational, Public Hearing, Grant Opportunities

[Brain Injury Association of America](#) is offering the following upcoming Webinars. Visit [BIAA](#) to verify details, costs and registration information.

Nov 14th: Using Computers to Assist in Cognitive Rehabilitation— This webinar will offer an overview on how computer based training programs can help cognitive recovery.



Nov 29th: Community Resources—A Business of Brain Injury — Dr. Williams will discuss resources available within the community for people with brain injury, their families and caregivers

and the professionals who provide services to them.

Nov 19th: Atlanta Regional Commission ARC invites you to attend a public hearing on Nov 19th. They are seeking input from you concerning programs and services for older adult, persons with disabilities and caregivers. For details and information call 404-463-8671 or email mblumberg@atlantaregional.com

Support Group Leaders: Take the opportunity to participate in ongoing education and leadership for your group through BIAA webinars; let your voices be heard by attending the ARC public hearing! Invite your members to participate!



Waring Jackson sustained a traumatic brain injury from a motorcycle accident in 1998. After his release he was sent home undiagnosed. Over the next 3-4 years no one connected Waring's increasingly odd behavior to the trauma he received from the accident because he looked and sounded normal. He had short-term memory and would become lost driving to/from home, among many other wide ranging symptoms.

After many false starts with finding the right kind of help, Waring received a TBI diagnosis and found a

neuropsychologist who has been helping him and his family understand and manage his "new normal" - new personality traits and behaviors. He was able to obtain a GPS navigational system helping with his transportation guidance.

Waring likes to share with others "This was possible thanks to receiving a **Trust Fund Grant Award** for the GPS system and to help pay for my counseling sessions" which has been crucial to his rehabilitation.

Thanks to the Trust Fund Grant Award, it made a huge difference for Waring and his family! As a result, Waring has become an advocate for the brain injury helping to give a "Voice"!



Waring Jackson received an award in 2010 in appreciation for completion of the 2 year Trust Fund Leadership Development Program

If you have sustained a traumatic brain injury and are interested in finding out about eligibility or applying for a grant, contact:

www.bsitfc.state.ga.us
888-233-5760
info-bsift@dhr.state.ga.us

New Medicare Benefits Under The Affordable Care Act



HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius

Health and Human Services partners with Pharmacies to Educate Medicare Beneficiaries about New Health Benefits

Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced partnerships with several pharmacies to help customers learn about new Medicare benefits available to them under the Affordable Care Act – the health care law. These partnerships – with CVS Caremark, Walgreens, Thrifty White, Walmart, and Sam’s Club – will provide Medicare beneficiaries a range of educational materials on newly available preventive services, as well as savings on prescription drug spending in the “donut hole” coverage gap.

Some examples of how pharmacy partners are working to increase awareness of preventive services available under Medicare include the following:

- ◇ CVS Caremark is distributing material about new preventive services covered at no cost to beneficiaries at its more than 7,300 CVS/pharmacy stores and 600 Minute Clinic locations, through brochures, register receipt messages and online.

- ◇ Thrifty White Pharmacy is providing information on preventive services through its 85 locations throughout the Midwest.
- ◇ Walgreens is distributing information in nearly 8,000 pharmacies and over 350 Take Care Clinic locations, as well as using in-store announcements and providing this information as part of its Walgreens Way to Well Health Tour with AARP.
- ◇ HHS is working with Walmart and Sam’s Club to provide healthcare information to their shoppers online.

Other pharmacies or partners can find information on how to work with CMS to educate consumers about the benefits available to them at: www.cms.gov (Go to Outreach and Education-Current Partnership Opportunities)

ATTENTION!

Our Annual LEADERSHIP SUMMIT has been moved to MARCH 2013 which is Brain Injury Awareness Month

November 6th, citizens across the U.S. will vote for the next president, as well as other state and local offices. Almost every state has a voter registration deadline, information about how and where to register and voter eligibility.

[Find Your State’s Voter Registration Deadline now!](#)

Board of Director New Board Members!



The Brain Injury Association of Georgia is pleased to announce a new President of the Board of Directors, **Paige Johnson**.

Paige received her Bachelor's degree in Social Work from Baylor University. She, then, received her Master's degree in Social Work from Virginia Commonwealth University. Until this year Paige was the CEO of Aurora Pavilion Psychiatric Hospital. She has left her leadership role as a CEO in order to begin working with the Brain Injury Association of Georgia. Her desire is to passionately advocate for those who cannot advocate for themselves.

As a therapist, Paige would like to see more education, awareness and prevention of brain injury. Aside from having had first hand experience helping others recover from brain injury, Paige has also experienced a traumatic brain injury personally. She articulates being grateful that she "exceeded all of our (Doctors) expectations". She appreciates, so much, the fact that she was hit by a truck while jogging that she wrote her new life commitment statement:

"I have had the power, the prestige, possessions and the position...NOW, I have an open heart and I have become a servant. My service is to be available to be wherever I am needed at the moment. Whenever I have the opportunity, I will do what is good for

everyone. The conditions do not need to be perfect...I WILL get things done! I commit to do everything with my whole heart. I will do "great" things by doing the little things. I will not leave anything half undone. I will not get discouraged. I will not quit. I will be dependable. I will be worthy of trust. I will maintain a low profile and remain humble. This commitment summarizes my second chance to LIVE and what I choose in my second career as well"

Brain Injury Association of Georgia Welcomes Paige Johnson to our Board of Directors!



The Brain Injury Association of Georgia is pleased to announce a new board member, **David Dodson**.

Aside from having first hand experience with both severe traumatic brain injuries in his extended family, as well as dealt with sports-related brain injuries personally and in his family, David has worked with brain injury survivors and their caregivers over the years in his

experience as a trust specialist and financial advisor.

David would like to see more education, awareness and recognition of the impact of brain injury.

David served as an US Army Officer during Operation Desert Storm following completion of his undergraduate degree from the University of Tampa. He earned his MBA from Indiana University, Bloomington.

David is Executive Director, Financial Advisor, at Morgan Stanley Wealth Management in Atlanta GA.

Brain Injury Association of Georgia Welcomes David Dodson to our Board of Directors!

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SUPPORT GROUPS

(Listed By County)

Please visit our [website](#) for details on group meetings and contact information

BIBB COUNTY

Macon, GA
 "Macon Support Group"

CATOOSA & WALKER COUNTY

Rock Spring, GA
 "Jimmy Simpson Foundation"

CHATHAM COUNTY (2)

Savannah, GA

Goodwill

"Advance Acquired Brain Injury"

Memorial Rehab Center

"Gray Matters"

CLARKE COUNTY

Athens, GA
 "Athens Support Group"

CLAYTON COUNTY

Riverdale, GA
 "Miracles Happen"

COBB COUNTY

Marietta, GA
 "Unlimited Possibilities"

DEKALB COUNTY (2)

Atlanta, GA

For Veterans

"VA TBI Support Group"

"Peer Visitor for Veterans Program"

VA Medical Center

Decatur, GA

"Emory Support Group"

Emory Rehab Center
 Atlanta, GA

FANNIN COUNTY

Blue Ridge, GA
 "Blue Ridge Support Group"

FLOYD COUNTY

Rome, GA
 "Rome Support Group"

FULTON COUNTY (3)

"North Fulton Support Group"

Alpharetta/Roswell, GA
 770-642-4236 x41



"Minor Brain Injury Support Group"

Atlanta/Buckhead

"The Seminole Spirit—A
 Speech Listening Group"

Roswell, GA

GORDON COUNTY

Calhoun, GA
 "Divine Restoration Abounds"

GWINNETT COUNTY

Lawrenceville, GA
 "The Gwinnett County Area Support Group"

MUSCOGEE COUNTY

Columbus, GA
 "Columbus Support Group"

NEWTON/ROCKDALE COUNTY

Conyers, GA
 "Brain Injury Support Group of Newton/Rockdale"

RICHMOND COUNTY

Augusta, GA
 "Augusta BI Support Group"
 NeuroRestorative Rehab Center

SPALDING/LAMAR/UPSON COUNTY

Griffin, GA
 "Lost and Found"

THOMAS COUNTY

Boston, GA
 "Hope"

**COMING SOON! PEDIATRIC
 BRAIN INJURY SUPPORT GROUP**

When: January 20th, 2013 -
 3rd Sunday of each month

Time: 2:00-3:30 PM

Location: Scottish Rite Hospital,
 room TBA

Additional Information to follow



Follow us on
 Facebook!
 Become a fan



Support Our Cause!
 Designate Brain Injury
 Association-Georgia
 as your cause!

Board of Directors

Paige Johnson
 Board President

Diane Ohmann
 Board Treasurer

Kay Jones
 Board Secretary

Kristen L. Beightol, Esq.
 Board Member

David Dodson
 Board Member

Dr. Jeremy Hertz, PsyD.
 Board Member

Jean Kropa
 Board Member
 Support Group Liaison

Gwen McKee
 Board Member
 Support Group Steering Committee Chair

Beth Ann Miller
 Board Member

Carolyn Stepp
 Board Member

Brain Injury Association of Georgia would like to Thank and Acknowledge the following for their support towards Camp Hardgrove . YOU made camp possible this year!

Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund

Shepherd Center

Emory Healthcare

Peachtree Pilot Club of Atlanta & Winder

Kim Demott

Jill East

Camp Committee: Samantha Renfro, LuRae Ahrendt, Leanne Dennis, Stuart Hanzman, Beth Vogel, Jane Jackson

Photographer and Video producer: Waring Jackson

Camp Twin Lakes, Staff (Annie Garret and Morgan) and the many wonderful Volunteers!

Walton Foundation for Independence

Synergy HomeCare, No Atlanta

Fannin County Support Group,
 Carolyn Stepp

Newton/Rockdale Support Group,
 Tom & Dee Houchins

Paul & Louise Kohlheim

David Guy

The mission of the Brain Injury Association of Georgia is to provide help, hope and support to the citizens of Georgia that have sustained or have been affected by brain injury.