



2010

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

"The Best Thing About Camp is everyone understands my injury - where I can be me"



Camp is a "life changing" experience



Renews the Mind and Body





Where campers experience the joys of socialization and activities..things many of us take for granted





Where lasting friendships are formed



Camper of the Year!

Testimony from Mark McDonald, a Camp Hardgrove Volunteer Counselor



My name is Mark McDonald and I was a volunteer at Camp Hardgrove this summer. I finished my master's degree program in neurobiology at Georgia State University in Fall of 2009 and am currently working as a researcher in a lab at the GSU Neuroscience Institute. This past summer I applied to medical school and am greatly considering Neurology as my future path.

My interest in the brain arose from the confluence of my interests in philosophy, psychology, and biology and has been energized by my sister's brain tumor and my mother's epilepsy. As I pursued this general interest I came across many detailed and eloquent accounts of the brain-injured in the works of neurologists such as Oliver Sacks, V.S. Ramachandran, and Antonio Damasio. These accounts were very moving as they contained profound tragedy along with instances of incredible triumph and the extraordinary resilience of human spirit.

I became involved with *BIAG* this past March because I believe *BIAG's* mission is of the utmost importance. The magnitude of suffering for those with brain-injuries and their loved ones is like nothing else in the world. In my time with *BIAG* I have met some extraordinary people at the various support groups and had the remarkable opportunity to volunteer at *BIAG's Camp Hardgrove*.

This camp is about creating a comfortable, fun environment where campers can make friends and good memories, share their sorrows and triumphs, and further their personal growth. I remember one camper in particular who was often confused as being a volunteer counselor because he was so helpful, responsible, and attentive. It was very special to be there, to see the look on his face, when he was asked return as a volunteer. I think that all of the challenges he had overcome since his injury, the minor but significant victories he had accrued over the years, became tangible in that moment.

Another important thing about camp is the few days of respite, and bonding, it provides caregivers. Caregivers have an opportunity to spend time together and share their experiences and hardships with one another.

This camp is truly special and I highly recommend it – for Volunteers wanting to make a difference, to survivors and the loved ones wanting to bond and socialize others who understand.



Thank You for your support!



The Brain Injury Association of Georgia (BIAG) is dedicated to increasing access to quality health care, raising awareness and understanding of brain injury through prevention, education and advocacy. Together with its network of affiliates as well as support groups throughout the State of Georgia, BIAG is the "VOICE OF BRAIN INJURY" in Georgia for individuals, their families and the professionals who serve them.

2010 Camp Hardgrove



In Partnership with Camp Twin Lakes