



**BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA**

1441 CLIFTON RD. NE #114-A • ATLANTA, GA 30322 •

PHONE: 404-712-5504 •

FAX: 404-712-0463 •

1-800-444-6443

[www.braininjurygeorgia.org](http://www.braininjurygeorgia.org)



**BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA**

**News you can use!**

*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from our Support Group to Yours*

**SUPPORT GROUPS**  
(Listed By County)  
Please visit our [website](http://www.braininjurygeorgia.org) for details on group meetings and contact information

**BIBB COUNTY**

Macon, GA

"Macon Support Group"

**CATOOSA COUNTY**

Ft. Oglethorpe, GA

"Jimmy Simpson Foundation"

**CHATHAM COUNTY**

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**

Atlanta, GA

"VA TBI Support Group" For Veterans

"Peer Visitor for Veterans Program"

VA Medical Center Decatur, GA



Support Our Cause!

Do your shopping now through GoodSearch. Designate Brain Injury Association—Georgia



Carolyn Stepp  
Blue Ridge Support Group



Stuart Hanzman,  
North Fulton Support Group



Carl Griffith  
Emory Support Group



**SUPPORT GROUPS Cont.**  
(Listed By County)

Please visit our [websites](#) for details on group meetings & contact information

**DEKALB COUNTY (Cont)**

**"Emory Support Group"**

Emory Rehab Center  
Atlanta, GA

**DOUGHERTY COUNTY**

Albany, GA  
"Albany Support Group"

**FANNIN COUNTY**

Blue Ridge, GA  
"Blue Ridge Support Group"

**FLOYD COUNTY**

Rome, GA  
"Rome Support Group"

**FULTON COUNTY**

**"Children & Adolescent Support Group"**

Children's Healthcare of Atlanta  
at Scottish Rite  
Atlanta, GA

**"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"

## Isaiah Krull's story

It was only a mile or so to the next farm field. Two years ago, when Isaiah Krull, then 16, climbed into the back seat of his friend's car on the way to the next detasseling job, he thought, "I don't need to wear a seat belt; it's only a mile or so." When Isaiah woke up several weeks later in the hospital, memories of the crash that nearly took his life were shady at best.



*Isaiah was in a coma for 10 days following his crash.  
Photo courtesy of Isaiah Krull.*

Isaiah and his two friends had been detasseling corn near the northeast Iowa town of Reinbeck. It was a hot, dusty day when the car with the three teens finished one field and prepared to move on to the next. Isaiah said, "The other two got in the front seat and put on their seat belts because that was the law. Since I was in the back seat, I didn't put mine on because I didn't have to."

On the way to the next field, the dust was so thick the driver never saw the converted school bus, until it was too late. Isaiah said the front seat passenger in the vehicle instinctively put his head between his legs, just as the window above him was shattered and the top half of the car severed. "That saved his life," said Isaiah. "I bounced around the back seat and ended up with many injuries, but I was lucky to be alive. I think I'm alive today to share the message that everyone needs to wear a seat belt, no matter where you are in the car and no matter how old you are."

Isaiah, a 220-pound football player at the time of the crash, thought restraints in the back seat were only for children. "I always thought little kids should wear seat belts. It is easy to see where they might be thrown around if they didn't have seat belts. But I thought I was too big for that. I was wrong." Upon impact with the bus, Isaiah's body was projected forward, tossing him toward his friends. The roof of the car came down and sent him back to the back seat. When emergency responders arrived at the scene, he was airlifted to Covenant Hospital in Waterloo, where he remained briefly; and then he was airlifted to Iowa City due to the severity of his brain injury..



*Isaiah suffered severe head trauma as a passenger in a friend's car that collided with a converted school bus.  
Photo courtesy of Isaiah Krull.*

He said, "My injuries were caused by flying around during the crash and hitting my head. If I had been wearing



*Once he regained consciousness following the crash, Isaiah was in the hospital for several more months. Photo courtesy of Isaiah Krull.*

a seat belt that day, I probably would have been fine, just like the driver."

As a result of the crash, Isaiah suffered a fractured right cheek and severe traumatic brain injury. He spent 10 days in a coma, a month in the Iowa City Children's Hospital, and then another two and a half months at a rehabilitation clinic in Chicago where he had to relearn to walk and talk. For much of that time, he was fed through a feeding tube. "They told my parents that they didn't think I would ever be able to do much," said Isaiah, now a student at Hawkeye Community College. "I know God saved my life that day. Now I can help get the word out that seat belts do save lives."

Isaiah joined lawmakers, law enforcement officers and Iowa DOT officials to promote stricter seat belt laws. On July 1, a new restriction was put in place that all individuals under age 18 must be restrained regardless of vehicle seating position.

But Isaiah isn't done yet. "This was a first step," he said, "The next time around the law needs to be for everyone, including adults, to wear seat belts. I don't want anyone to have to go through what I've been through."



To learn out about the BSITFC grant opportunities for TBI's — [click here](#). To see if you are eligible for a Trust Fund Grant—you may contact Ayanna Anderson, Stewardship Coordinator 404-825-1466, [alanderson@dhr.state.ga.us](mailto:alanderson@dhr.state.ga.us)

**SUPPORT GROUPS Cont. (Listed By County)**  
 Please visit our [website](#) for details on group meetings & contact information

**NEWTON/ROCKDALE COUNTY**  
 Conyers, GA  
 "Brain Injury Support Group of Newton/Rockdale"

**RICHMOND COUNTY**  
 Augusta, GA  
 "Brain Injury Support Group"  
 Walton West Transitional Living Center

**SPALDING/LAMAR/UPSON COUNTY**  
 Griffin, GA  
 "Lost and Found Support Group"

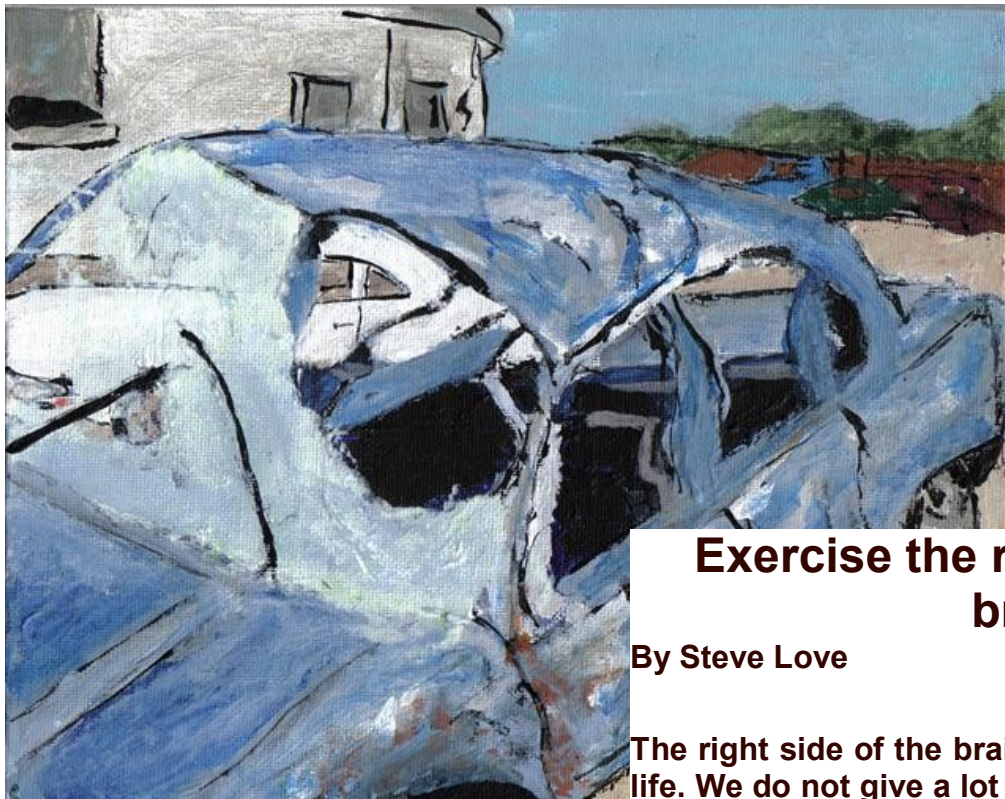
**THOMAS COUNTY**  
 Boston, GA  
 "Hope"

**WARE COUNTY**  
 Waycross, GA  
 "Southeast Georgia TBI Support Group"

We will open the book.  
 Its pages are blank.  
 We are going to put words on them ourselves.  
 The book is called "Opportunity" and its first chapter is New Year' Day"  
 - E.L. Peirce



**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**



## Exercise the right side of your brain!

By Steve Love

The right side of the brain is a vital part of an artist's life. We do not give a lot of thought to how our brains work until something happens to them. In September 2004, I was in a car accident and my life was forever changed. On that date I received my traumatic brain injury. The left side of my brain was severely damaged. The left side of our brains is where our words, cognitive thinking skills, and math and science skills are stored. The right sides of our brains hold our visual records, and the artistic side of our nature lives within us there. The world is a left side brain run world. Our schooling forces us to think mainly with the left side of our brain, reading, writing, and arithmetic. Music, art, and drama classes are the main right brain thinking classes within our school systems. Every time you take a brush to a canvas, play a musical instrument, dance, take a photo, or take part in a play you are exercising the right side of your brain. The more you exercise that part of your brain the more you open up your artistic side. I let over 30 years go by without painting. I started painting again just before my accident. Painting is now one of my joys in life. The right side of my brain is the less damaged part. I see the world using mainly the right side of my brain. I see patterns where before I saw nothing. The more I exercise the right side of my brain the better artist I become. Exercise the right side of your brain today and become more involved in the Arts.



If you have news to share—an event, happening, article, story about someone in your group —send a short write up to [jane@braininjurygeorgia.org](mailto:jane@braininjurygeorgia.org)—include photographs.

*News You Can Use From*  
**Marsha Still**

Marsha@braininjurygeorgia.org

**Happy New Year**  
**To Our Survivors, Caregivers, Friends, Professional Advisors and**  
**Board Members**

Hello to you all!!! We are having the time of our lives, and hope you all are thoroughly enjoying an upcoming wonderful, life changing New Year.

In an effort to have a positive impact on your life this year, we will continue to work on implementing your wonderful ideas throughout the year. One of our most exciting developments is the reduced rate of our membership fees to our Support Group Members. The fee is now only \$2.00 per member, with \$1.00 of that fee going back to your support group. In an attempt to build our membership base, we feel confident we will be able to make a difference for the brain injury survivors in Georgia. We will be able to take our concerns right to the top with the power of our membership base. We will stand unwavering to “voice” the issues that are important to our members.

**The key to any changes revolves around numbers.**

**With numbers comes power.**

**With power comes influence.**

**And with influence comes success.**

We have many exciting announcements to come...stay tuned, and please let us know what we can do to make your life easier today!!!

As this year draws to a close, I want to thank each of you for your invaluable contributions. I am extremely proud of our Board of Director's dedication to innovation and commitment to delivering the highest quality of volunteerism to this organization.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone and your families a wonderful Holiday Season and a Happy New Year! Together we will build an even stronger Brain Injury Association of Georgia in 2011.

Warmest regards for a safe and healthy 2011!

Marsha Still, Madam Chair

**Board of Directors**

**Marsha Still**  
 Madam Chairperson  
 Professional & Survivor  
 CEO  
The Brandon Group, Inc.

**Diane Ohmann**  
 Board Treasurer  
 PVVP Committee  
 Owner  
SAS Partners

**Kay Jones**  
 Board Secretary  
 Education Committee  
 Survivor, Support Group Leader  
 Columbus , GA

**Clint W. Sitton**  
 Board Member  
 Public Policy & Relations, Legal &  
 Legislative Advisory Committee  
Kopelman Sitton Law Group

**Dan Vasquenza**  
 Board Member  
 Public Relations Committee  
Atlanta Falcons Radio  
Network

**Rick Gipson**  
 Past Board Chair  
 Executive Planning Committee  
 Caregiver & Support Group  
 Leader—"Hope" Boston , GA

**Dan Coe**  
 Board Member  
 Fundraising Committee  
 Professional & Survivor  
 Savannah

**Dan Miears**  
 Board Member  
 Marketing Committee  
 Professional & Survivor  
Accord Services

**Dr. Stephen Macciocchi, Ph.D.**  
 Board Member  
 Fundraising Committee  
 Medical Professional  
Shepherd Center

**David Goudelock**  
 Past Board Chair  
 Executive Planning Committee  
 Rehabilitation/Life Care Planner

**Carolyn Stepp**  
 Board Member  
 Cookbook and Membership  
 Committee  
 Caregiver & Support Group Leader