



1441 Clifton Rd NE, #114A
 Atlanta, GA 30322
 404-712-5504
 800-444-6443
www.braininjurygeorgia.org

Brain Injury Association of Georgia Wishing You A Happy Holiday Season



DECEMBER 11, 2007

Georgia Brain Injury Support Groups

www.braininjurygeorgia.org

Albany

Tom Connelly
 229-883-3911
tom.connelly@dol.state.ga.us

Athens

Floretta Johnson
 706-353-1892
fbjohnson@mindspring.com
 Janice/ Les Ward
 706-548-4397
 Billy Geiger
 770-867-1356
scalemodeler@alltell.net

Atlanta

Buckhead

"Minor Brain Injury Support Group"

Jean Krupa
 770-612-0612
Kropa@bellsouth.net
 Jacques & Monique
 Cappelle
 770-663-8320
jhausscappelle@aol.com

Atlanta/Emory

Dr. Louise Cording
 404-371-0497
lcording@mindspring.com

Atlanta/Shepherd Pathways

Terri Kohn
 404-603-1476
terri_Pkohn@shepherd.org

Atlanta/VA Hosp.

Dr. Inge Thomas
 404-329-4654
Inge.Thomas@med.va.gov

SUPPORT GROUP NEWS

North Fulton Support Groups Support One of its Own!

The **North Fulton Regional Hospital (NFRH) Stroke and TBI Support Groups** met at the Wendy's in Cumming on Tuesday, October 30, 2007 to celebrate the recent employment of one of its members. Group members, including survivors of Stroke and TBI, family members and friends met to have lunch and show their love and support of **Mona Eckels**. She has been a member of the TBI and Family Support Group for about three years, along with her husband Rick, her 16 year old daughter, Kara and her mother, Margaret Smith.

Mona, age 48, experienced a TBI on August 09, 2003 when her car was literally run over by a young man driving a vehicle with oversized tires and a lift exceeding the limits of the law. Mona was critically injured including a very serious traumatic brain injury. She was hospitalized for eight months, requiring medical and rehabilitation treatment. Mona was a hairdresser prior to her accident but found the work too physically demanding.

Mona started her current position as a Dining Room Attendant at **Wendy's** several months ago, with the assistance of a professional job coach. She is responsible for meeting and greeting the customers, cleaning the tables and assisting them to enjoy their dining experience. She likes the customer service, interacting with the clientele and the support she receives from the staff, which she refers to as her "second family". Mona states she is very determined to be successful in whatever job she is involved in and finds the job rewarding. She works four days a week, three hours a day and is transported to her job by the county **Dial A Ride**, allowing her to be more independent. She even gets a food discount!



L to R Front Row seated: Anita, Nancy, Mona, Waring
 L to R Rear standing: Beth, Stuart Hanzman, Howard, Bert, Barbara, Jami



**Georgia
Brain Injury
Support Groups
(Continued)**
www.braininjurygeorgia.org

Cobb County
Martha Leatherwood
770-428-0284
supportgroup@mindspring.com

Columbus Area
(Includes Phenix City, AL)
Kay McCoy
706-565-9298
kaymccoy@hotmail.com
Shiloh Hendricks
706-507-4696

Clayton County
Pat Buice
770-473-7471
Superhope@msn.com

Decatur
"Shepherd Pathways"
Kendra Moon
404-603-1415
Kendra_Moon@shepherd.org

Fannin County
Carolyn Stepp
706-492-5308

**Griffin Barnesville
Thomaston**
Mark & Shannon Huey
770-233-1660
sharonhuey@bellsouth.net

Gwinnett
Dennis Stahl
770-965-9726
dstahls@earthlink.net

**Newton Rockdale
Counties**
Tom Houchins
404-316-3193
hthouchins@yahoo.com

North Fulton
Stuart Hanzman
770-642-4236 X41
stuarthanzman@aol.com

SUPPORT GROUP NEWS

NEWTON/ROCKDALE SUPPORT GROUP NEWS

On Saturday, October 20th, the **Brain Injury Support Group of Newton/Rockdale** hosted a booth at the annual **Conyers (GA) Fall Festival**. This event provides a perfect opportunity for support group members to talk with the public about brain injury and to distribute materials, collect donations for support group activities and invite prospective members to join our group. ***We look forward to seeing 5 new members at our November meeting as a result of our contacts!***

We appreciate our members who worked at the festival:
Erica Gresham, Darren Kilby, Leslie Livesey, John Kerr, Bobbi & Scott Robinson, Greta Ann & Wayne Hurst and Tom & Dee Houchins.



Festival Photo from past events at Conyers, GA

**Remember: Your Support Group news can be
included in this space!**

**Send us your news and/or photos to:
info@braininjurygeorgia.org**



**Georgia
Brain Injury
Support Groups
(Continued)**

www.braininjurygeorgia.org

Rome

Kathy Adams
706-291-0168
Linda Studdard
706-509-6623

Roswell

Seminole Spirit
"Speech Listening Group"
Mark N. Halverson
404-434-7452
seekinmotion2005@yahoo.com

**Sandy Springs
CHOA at Scottish Rite**

"Children & Adolescent"
Carole Hampton
404-250-2994

Savannah

Andy Patrick
912-354-6611
George Maust
912-927-7901

Southeast Georgia

Debra Gordon
912-285-7994
debrag@wayxcable.com

**Incorporated
Groups:**

**Northeast Georgia
Support Group
(Ft. Oglethorpe)**

"Jimmy Simpson
Foundation Group"
Kim Goodwin
706-375-9520
kimjgoodwin@mindspring.com

Stone Mountain

"Side By Side Clubhouse"
Cindi Johnson
404-378-1139
cindisidebyside@bellsouth.net

"A meeting place for people
with brain injury to
transition from medical
patient to contributing
community member"

SUPPORT GROUP NEWS

FANNIN COUNTY SUPPORT GROUP NEWS

**Fundraising Ideas for your Support Groups!!
Yard Sale....Portrait Program....Home Interior**

**Contact Carolyn Stepp for details on the fundraising ideas
listed below: 706-492-5308**

The members of the **Fannin County** Support held a group **YARD SALE** and raised **\$600** in 4 ½ hours!



We are also sponsoring a **PORTRAIT PROGRAM** to raise Christmas money for our group dinner to be held at a local restaurant along with giving a gift certificate for each group member.

The Portrait Program is a great way to make money fast and everyone loves the portraits.

Anyone who refers this program through the *L&S Family Portrait*, L&S will give BIAG \$100 contribution!

L&S Family Portrait (877-577-4686) Leslie & Shirley.

Let them know Carolyn Stepp was a referral.



We set a table up at the **Picture Program** while people are coming in for the portrait to sell products (such as candles, room and bath products, Note Cards) from the **Home Interior Fundraising Program** during the event, which everyone loves for themselves or to give as Christmas or birthday gifts.

Contact Carolyn Stepp, who is a consultant for Home Interior. She can help your group get started.

For information on Home Interior fundraising event and information you can also go to www.homeinteriors.com, select Fundraising at the bottom of the screen after you enter it, OR contact **Carolyn Stepp, 706-492-5308.**

Fundraising products pictured below





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georgia.org](mailto:info@braininjurygeorgia.org)

PEER VISITOR PROGRAM

The Brain Injury **Peer Visitor Program** of Georgia provides **HOPE, SUPPORT, & RESOURCES** for hospitalized and rehab brain injury survivors, their families and/or caregivers, from Peer Visitors **“WHO HAVE BEEN THERE And DONE THAT.”**

Peer Visitors provide hope, **direction, information, and referral services**, as well as answer questions about **rehabilitation and recovery**. These services are **free, confidential**, and provided by individuals who undergo background checks, health screenings, and have been trained by community brain injury professionals.

The Brain Injury Peer Visitor Program, modeled after the American Stroke Association’s successful Peer Program, will provide:

- **Information and Referral Services** – share information about brain injury, how to care for someone with a brain injury, provide referrals for support groups, medical resources, etc
- **Empathy** – serve as a listening ear and a sounding board for caregivers and survivors
- **Coping Strategies** – share positive strategies that have worked for them
- **Direction** – provide a “roadmap” in navigating the road ahead including how to obtain financial support for therapies, treatments and services from organizations that provide monetary support.

We are currently doing Brain Injury Peer Visits in the following hospitals and facilities: **Emory Hospital Rehab** (Atlanta); **The Shepherd Center** (Atlanta); **Shepherd Pathways** (Decatur); **Veteran’s Administration Medical Center** (Decatur); **Glancy Rehabilitation Center** (Duluth); and **North Fulton Regional Hospital** (Roswell), **Emory Eastside Medical Center** (Snellville). Wellstar **Kennestone Hospital** (Marietta) will begin the program in January 2008.

If you have any questions about this program please contact **BIAG, 404-712-5504** or **Ann Boriskie, Program Coordinator 770-330-8416**.

Additional information about the Peer Visitor Program can be found at www.braininjurygeorgia.org.

1st Peer Visitor Team Training class, 2006





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georgia.org](mailto:info@braininjurygeorgia.org)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Spin for Kids Update



Capt. Houchins



Darren Kilby

October 28th was a great day at **Camp Twin Lakes!** The event consisted of a 5, 25, 50 & 100 mile ride. **Captain Clint Houchin completed the 50 mile ride.** **Darren Kilby** teamed with Captain Houchin representing BIAG.

Tom & Dee Houchins, Waring & Jane Jackson, and Kimberly and Karen Parsley represented BIAG at the event.

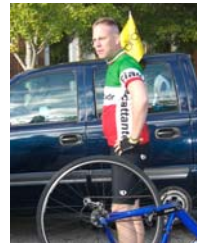
Tom, Dee, Kim and **Waring** drove the **50 mile trail** with first aid and help for any bikers in trouble. **Karen** worked the **finish line**, checking bikers in after their ride. **Jane** worked the **Arts & Crafts** room, and **Waring** took **photographs** of the event. Check our website, www.braininjurygeorgia.org for future photographs of this event.

The BIAG Team brought in \$800 towards the Camp Hardgrove event for next summer

This is the same weekend we will be there for Camp Hardgrove next year. The colors were beautiful!



Dee, Capt Houchins, Tom, Darren



Capt. Houchins - bike break



Kim, Jane, Karen



Jane, Karen planning for **2008 Camp Hardgrove**



Karen checking in bikers





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UPCOMING EVENTS and HAPPENINGS

REMINDER: Disability Day at the Georgia Capitol

- **Thursday, Feb. 21st, 2008 is Disability Day.**
- Mark your calendars and plan to participate!
- Emails went out to the team leaders to spread the word, and the documents that were attached.
- Contact **BIAG** @ 404-712-5504 if you need additional copies of these documents.
- Contact **Waring Jackson** @ 770-924-7609 who is in charge of coordinating this event if you can attend. He also needs volunteers to be Sergeants on the day of the event.

"LET'S MAKE OUR PRESENCE AND VOICES BE HEARD AS A UNIFIED GROUP!!"



Disability Day 2007-Atlanta Falcons quarterback D.J. Schockley

Waring has been meeting with the various support groups around the state to enlist your participation in Disability Day along with promoting letter writing/phone call campaign to support the various bills, funding and legislation that support Traumatic Brain Injury. Expect a visit if he has not met with you. Do not hesitate to contact Waring for questions.





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FUNDRAISER UPDATES

Note Cards Update(see Attachment A)

Over \$3,000 has been raised by the Support Groups who have participated.

This is money these support groups will use for various reasons for their members; such as providing lunch or dinners, Christmas gifts or put into a "slush" fund

Waring Jackson has attempted to contact the support groups in order to:

- 1st) Determine if you are interested in participating
- 2nd) Obtain a point of contact(s) and mailing address to ship the note cards.

We cannot ship materials (now or in the future) to an address listing where your meetings are located (i.e. hospital, church, restaurant). We need information on 1 or 2 main support group leaders with a physical mailing address, phone number, and email address.

Waring has not been able to make contact, or obtain physical mailing address, with some of the support groups.

PLEASE call BIAG at 404-712-5504, or send an email to biagatl1@hotmail.com, to let us know of your interest and to update contact information.

Leave a detailed message if you get our voice mail.

- The note card boxes have 10 cards & envelopes per box.
- They sell for \$10 a box.
- \$2.50 per box sold will be given back to the support groups who participate
- The purchase or donation for the note cards is tax deductible. (see Attachment A)

- Plan on submitting artwork or photographs from your support group members for future note card, or similar, fundraising events.

- If you have other fund raising ideas that you feel **BIAG** and the entire Ga. support group family could participate in, or as an idea to be shared with others, send them in! We will share with each other in future newsletters!





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NOTE CARD FUNDRAISING PROJECT

Attachment A

If your support group has not had a chance to participate, there is still time. This is a good way to generate revenue for your Group and to bring recognition to the TBI world.

Please call or email BIAG if you have not had a chance to participate. For the Support Groups who have participated, please give BIAG an update as to status of your boxes sold or money collected.

The Brain Injury Association of Georgia is a non-profit organization serving individuals with brain injuries and their families, friends, and service providers. Founded in 1982, we strive to prevent brain injuries, provide education, advocacy, and support services. We would like to thank Jean Sorensen LeLoup, (who herself is a brain injury survivor) for her generosity in providing the artwork for this very worthy cause.



Verbiage on the back of each card



Receipt will be included with boxes shipped to be provided for purchase or donation towards Note Card(s)



1441 Clifton Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30322

Date: _____

Received From: _____ \$ _____

FOR: NOTE CARDS BY: _____ Check: _____ Cash: _____

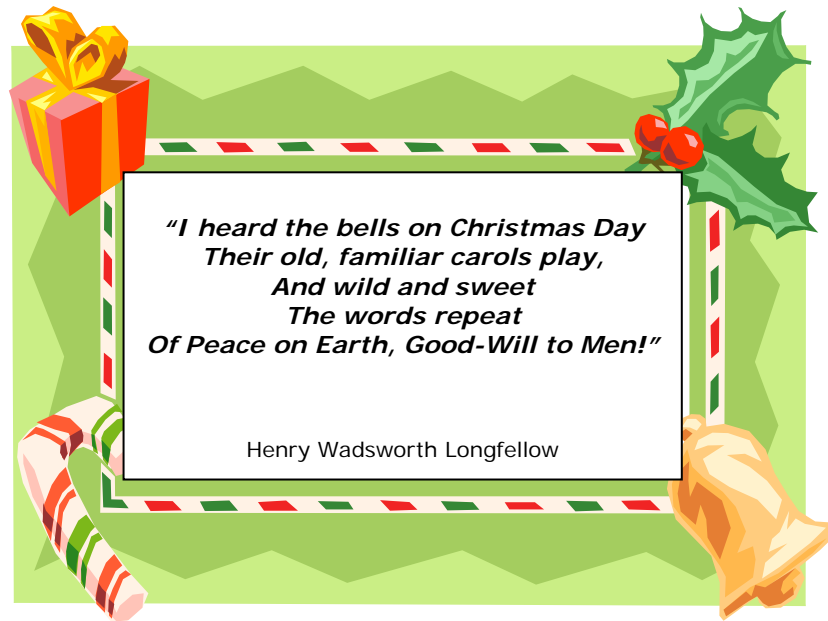
THANK YOU. The Brain Injury Association of Georgia is a non-profit organization. Your donation is tax deductible under the fullest extent of the law.

If your support group would like to participate in the note card fundraiser, please call the office at 404-712-5504 and leave a message. Your call will be returned! You can also email us at info@braininjurygeorgia.org





Brain Injury Association of Georgia
Wishing You A Happy Holiday Season



*May the peace, joy and good-will of the holiday season be
with each of you throughout the coming year!*

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Karen Parsley, Executive Director

Jane Jackson, Neuro-Resource Facilitator

