



1441 Clifton Rd NE
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www.braininjurygeorgia.org
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Brain Injury Association of Georgia



DECEMBER 2008

NEWS you can use!

SUPPORT GROUP AGREEMENTS ARE DUE!



Please remember to send in your signed agreement OR contact Tom or Dee Houchins at 404-316-3193 or email hthouchins@yahoo.com if you have any questions or concerns.

MEMBERSHIPS

Encourage your support group members to join **BIAG**. They can obtain a copy of the membership form by downloading from our website or asking your group leader for a copy.



***** **INFORMATION** *****

The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)** has released quality ratings for each of the nation's 15,800 nursing homes that participate in Medicare or Medicaid. Facilities are assigned star ratings from a low of one star to a high of five stars based on health inspection surveys, staffing information and quality of care measures. The search system allows users to simply input their Zip Code to get star ratings of nursing homes in their area.

This information has recently been updated, and can be accessed by visiting this link:
<http://www.disabilityinfo.gov/digov-public/public/DisplayPage.do?parentFolderId=138>.

DISABILITY DAY!



The big day is coming up - **FEB 25, 2009**. Last year law makers and many other state agencies took notice of **BIAG's** turnout! Thank you to those who came and made us noticed by wearing the bandannas and carrying balloons!

*The pebble that started rolling down the mountain last year has turned into a bolder so we need to pull together, make plans to show up, hoot and holler and proudly wear our uniform....what uniform you ask?.....**Bandannas, Balloons, Buttons and Mardi Gras beads!***



If we want to be recognized, get the help we often need, it's going to take **YOU** coming out with **ME** and show we are **UNITED**...we are **HERE**...and a force to be **RECKONED WITH!**

More details will be in future emails, newsletters and sent to your group leaders to be shared at the group meetings - or contact **Waring Jackson** - 770-924-7609, or email: wij1@bellsouth.net.

We will need volunteers so call if you can come early to help me.



Getting to know your Board Members!



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Bill Frazier

Bill is the Manager of the Recovery Management Division of *SunTrust Banks, Inc.* and has been with *SunTrust Bank* for nine years, specializing in Trust & Estate planning for individuals with disabilities. The Recovery Management Division is responsible for numerous relationships nationwide for individuals with disabilities and their families, addressing all of their financial needs. His extensive list of contacts around the country has afforded him the ability to serve as a resource for various types of services for colleagues throughout *SunTrust Bank* as well as the families he works with. Additionally, he created the *Atlanta Special Needs Professional Group* which is a forum for trust advisors, drafting attorneys, plaintiff attorneys, case managers and representatives from the Department of *Community Health* to discuss Special Needs Trusts and the changing laws.

In addition to serving on the *Disability Council* for *SunTrust Bank*, **Bill** currently serves on the *Board of Directors* for the *Brain Injury Association of Georgia*. He has also served on the committee for planned charitable giving with *Southern Regional Medical Center*. **Bill** has been a guest speaker on several occasions for ICLE meetings held at the *Georgia State Bar* on topics including SNT Administrative Techniques and The Trustee Selection Process and is a continual speaker for Crawford & Company, training incoming case managers on the relationship between the case manager and the Trustee.

Bill attended the University of Florida, receiving his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration double majoring in Finance & Economics. Bill's contact information is:



Bill Frazier
First Vice President
Division Manager
Recovery Management Division
25 Park Place, 2nd Floor
Atlanta, GA 30303
(404) 827-6935
Bill.Frazier@suntrust.com



To view a listing of BIAG affiliated Support Groups around the state of Georgia log onto our website:
www.braininjurygeorgia.org

"Year's end is neither an end nor a beginning but a going on, with all the wisdom that experience can instill in us"
....Hal Borland

A LOOK AT THE PAST 12 MONTHS IN 2008



DISABILITY DAY AT THE CAPITOL



CAMP HARDGROVE



CAREGIVER CAMP



Expansion of Peer Visitor
Volunteers - 2008
Training Class Graduates



Saul Raisin Hope Ride
Fundraiser for Camp
Hardgrove



NOTE CARD
Fundraiser for Support
Groups and BIAG
(2007-2008)



BUTTONS to raise awareness and fundraising



SUPPORT GROUP LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

3 New Board Members



Number of
Support Groups
Increases to
25!

ICLE - March 31st Brain Injury
Seminar a Success!
"What Professionals Need to Know About TBI"

Blue Ridge/Fannin County Support Group

In the hills of North Georgia lies the town of Blue Ridge and it is here where **Carolyn Stepp**, Support Group Leader, gathers her group members. The **Blue Ridge Support Group**, founded by **Carolyn Stepp** and the late **Barbara Curtis**, was founded in 1998. Barbara had a teenager, **Allen** who suffered a TBI when hit in the head, and **Carolyn** has a daughter, **Karen**, who was in a car accident at the age of 18 and received a TBI.

The **Blue Ridge Support Group** is not only open to survivors of traumatic brain injury but to people in that area with any kind of disability. Carolyn's entire family helps provide meals and other assistance valuable to her group members, as does the **Levi Strauss Company**, which had a plant in Blue Ridge and offers financial assistance to the betterment of these people's lives.

The group members enjoy numerous field trips, are offered assistance in attending BIAG's annual camps and are helped with many things they are not able to do for themselves. The group also helps to support many of these activities by hosting **yard sales**, **sponsoring a Portrait Program (through L&S Family Portrait)** and a **Home Interior Fundraising Program**.

You can contact Carolyn directly for information about her fundraising efforts (1-706-492-5308 or james-stepp@att.net)

The group's annual Thanksgiving dinner is well known and at this dinner each member is given a monetary Christmas gift provided through the support of Levi and her group's fundraisers.

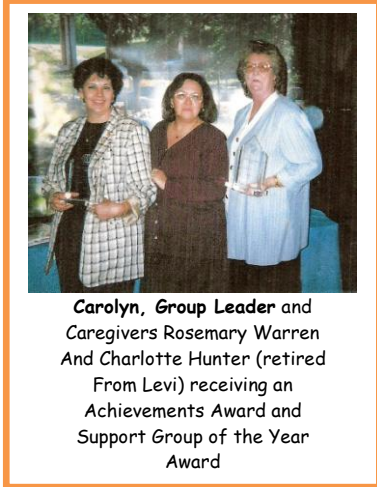
Carolyn is obviously one generous and caring woman. Her support group draws members of the disabled community from the mountainous area surrounding Blue Ridge and her accomplishments are well known and applauded by many associated with **BIAG**. She has recently become a member of the board on **BIAG**. Carolyn's devotion and the time and effort directed toward the lives of her group members are exemplary. **Yes there is gold in these hills** and it belongs to **Carolyn Stepp** and the **Blue Ridge Support Group!**



Carolyn and her group members welcome all of you to their group meetings held the 2nd Tuesday of each month @ 7:00 PM in the United Community Bank of Fannin County located in Blue Ridge!



Allen with sisters Lisa and Tracy



Carolyn, Group Leader and Caregivers Rosemary Warren and Charlotte Hunter (retired From Levi) receiving an Achievements Award and Support Group of the Year Award



Camp Hardgrove

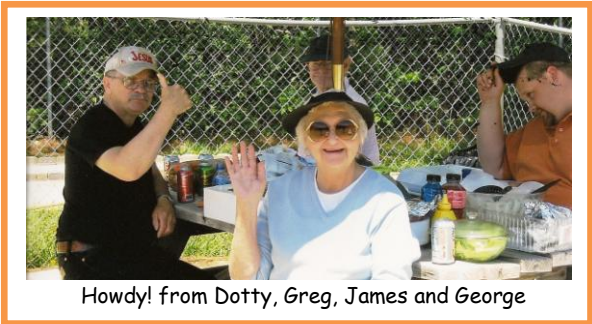


Group cookout

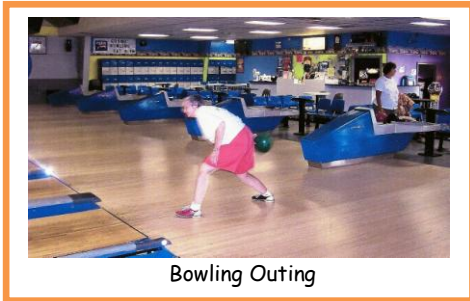
Blue Ridge outings were supported by their fundraising efforts and the Levi grant



Carolyn & Karen; Margaret and Sarah Hunter at a pool party held at Coosawattee River Resort in Ellijay



Howdy! from Dotty, Greg, James and George



Bowling Outing

Remember to send your photos and write up so your group can be sponsored in a future newsletter to Jane Jackson

Christmas Parties from North Fulton and Blue Ridge Support Groups

If you would like your group featured, please forward photos and/or write-up to Jane Jackson - info@braininjurygeorgia.org

NORTH FULTON SUPPORT GROUP



MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!



Stuart Hanzman, Group Leader, seated on floor chatting with other group members



BLUE RIDGE SUPPORT GROUP

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Carolyn Stepp
Group Leader

