



1441 Clifton Rd NE
 Atlanta, GA 30322
 404-712-5504
www.braininjurygeorgia.org
info@braininjurygeorgia.org

Brain Injury Association of Georgia

News You Can Use!

SEPT-OCT 2008

“Hope” Southwest GA TBI Support Group - Thomasville



Founding meeting of “Hope” in October 2008

Vicky & Rick Gipson have established a new support group, “**Hope**”, in Thomasville. Their son, **Jonathan**, is a brain injury survivor. Board support group liaison members, Tom & Dee Houchins, attended this first meeting in October.

The Gipson sons, **Jonathan**, and **Dustin**, recently participated in the Leadership Summit Conference and Camp Hardgrove, and they are enthusiastic about the other programs and services of **BIAG**.

The entire family invites everyone with a brain injury, their families and friends to join with them the 2nd Monday of each month for a covered dish supper at 6:30 PM and meeting at 7:30 at the Northwoods Church of God social hall, 640 Hall RD, Thomasville.

For more information contact the Gipsons at 229-224-1680 or rgipson@windstream.net



Wal-Mart Partners with BIAG for Camp Hardgrove



Wal-Mart Community Involvement Coordinator with Dee & Tom Houchins

Longtime camper, **Stan Snead**, has worked with Wal-Mart, Johnson Ferry RD, Marietta, for many years to provide funds for Camp Hardgrove. In August **Wal-Mart donated \$1,000** to **BIAG** for Camp Hardgrove and appears on the Honored Donor list of **BIAG**.

VA RESEARCHES BALANCE, GAIT AND QUALITY OF LIFE

Researchers at the **Atlanta VA Rehab R & D Center** are studying the usefulness of a device to find out if stimulation of the tongue by the device can improve balance, gait, and the quality of life in patients with TBI and balance deficits.

Veterans who wish to participate must be 18 years or older, had the TBI for 3 months or longer, and have trouble with balance.

This study requires up to 9 visits to the Atlanta VAMC and/or Emory and 11 weeks of home training with the device.

For other eligibility criteria or information, please call Starla @ 404-321-6111 X396.

Board Member Receives Prestigious Award



David Gudelock, immediate past chairman of **BIAG**, was honored recently by the Professional Rehabilitation Suppliers of Georgia (case workers) with the Larry Huggins Rehabilitation Professional of the Year Award. **David is the first recipient of the award** which bears the name of Larry Huggins, an extraordinary man who contributed so much to people with brain injuries.

Congratulations, David!

WELCOME!

NEW BOARD MEMBERS REPRESENT NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN GEORGIA!

The Board of Directors of the *Brain Injury Association of Georgia* announces and welcomes new Board members: **Carolyn Stepp** (caregiver) of Blue Ridge, **Kay McCoy Jones** (survivor) of Columbus and **Ricky Gipson** (caregiver) of Thomasville



Carolyn

Kay

Ricky

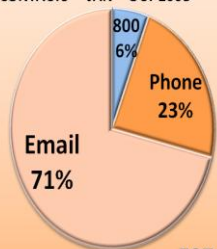


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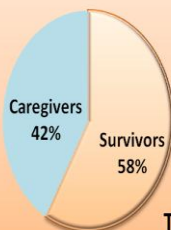
REMEMBER THIS NEWSLETTER IS FOR YOU! SUBMIT ARTICLES, INFORMATION, EVENTS OR HAPPENINGS ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY, SUPPORT GROUP OR GROUP MEMBERS to Jane Jackson info@braininjurygeorgia.org

INFORMATION & RESOURCE FACILITATOR -
CONTACTS - JAN - OCT 2008



TOTAL - 3,949

PEER VISITS - Jan - Oct 2008



TOTAL = 681

BIAG has 25 Support Groups around GA.

To locate a Support Group near you, log onto:
www.braininjurygeorgia.org

Don't undermine your worth by comparing yourself with others - it is because we are different that each of us is special...

MEET OUR BOARD MEMBERS!

Dee and Tom Houchins



Tom sustained a brain injury in 1991 when a man hydroplaned and pinned Tom in his burning truck against a railroad bank. Tom was hospitalized for 3 months and spent an additional 2 months in the day rehabilitation program at Emory. Since his BI, **Tom & Dee** have committed themselves to providing support, services and programs for others who suffer BI and for their families.

In 1992 they founded and continue to facilitate the **Brain Injury Support Group of Newton/Rockdale**.

In addition to their service on the Board, they travel throughout the state providing **encouragement to local support groups**, serving as **counselors at Camp Hardgrove**, making **presentations to service organization** to educate the general population about brain injury and to generate funds for **BIAG**, working as **volunteers** in the **BIAG** office, and serving as **peer visitors** at Emory Rehabilitation Center, The Shepherd Center, Emory Eastside, Shepherd Pathways and the VA Hospital in Decatur, which is especially important to Tom (a Marine).

Tom & Dee graduated from Eckerd College (formerly Florida Presbyterian College) where they met and married. They have a daughter who is an attorney and son who is a captain in the United States Marine Corps. They have 2 grandchildren and a third grandchild is expected in February.

Tom serves on the communications committee of the **Brain & Spinal Cord Trust Fund Commission**, and he actively participates as "Buckshot" in the Shrine Red Devil clowns to raise money for their children's hospitals.

Dee is a retired school teacher whose notes from 5th grade are generating an interesting book on the past 25 years of public education.



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NEWSFLASH!

**CAMP HARDGROVE FOR THE CAMPERS AND CAREGIVERS WAS A SUCCESS!
LOOK FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS, AND PHOTO'S IN A FUTURE NEWSLETTER
AND ON www.braininjurygeorgia.org!**

**Waring is still putting together a slide show of the event to be sent to the Support Groups.
If you were in attendance, took photographs, please email them to wij1@bellsouth.net.**



2008 CAMP HARDGROVE CAMPERS



2008 CAMP HARDGROVE CAREGIVERS



2008 *BIAG* LEADERSHIP SUMMIT ATTENDEES



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EVENTS: Upcoming and Recent

DISABILITY DAY 2009



WHAT: Disability Day
WHEN: February 25, 2009
WHERE: Ga State Capital in Atlanta
WHY: To be heard and recognized
 Become an Advocate for TBI!

With your help, and support, 2009 will be bigger and better. We were noticed last year, now let's be recognized.

Help me change our viewing under the Gold Dome, the medical field and the public in general. They have to know we are here...and there are a lot of us.

Please begin making plans to attend.

I will need volunteers!!!

Contact: Waring Jackson; wj1@bellsouth.net; 770-924-7609



Saul Raisin Bicycle Hope Ride

BIAG was represented by Marc Davis, Tom and Dee Houchins with a table display for the Hope Ride held October 4th & 5th.



Saul Raisin welcomed Board chair Marc Davis and members Tom & Dee Houchins to his Raisin Hope Ride in Dalton in October.

Saul generously donated some of the proceeds from this event to the *Brain Injury Association of Georgia*.

Saul Raisin Website: <http://raisinhope.ning.com>

UPCOMING HOLIDAY SHOPPING REMINDER HELP to support BIAG



Use **GOODSEARCH.COM** – Do most of your ordering via internet. It's easy, and retailers (such as Amazon, eBay, Target, Staples, Wal-Mart...and many others) will ship direct to you or someone you designate.

You can access their website via www.braininjurygeorgia.org

BIAG is a beneficiary from purchases made through GOODSEARCH!!