

BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA

1441 Clifton RD., NE, Atlanta, GA 30322
404-712-5504 HelpLine 1-800-444-6443 www.braininjurygeorgia.org
Affiliated with the Brain Injury Association of America
Volume 2 Issue 4

HAPPY 4TH OF JULY

NEWS FROM THE COLUMBUS SUPPORT GROUP



Disability Day event in Columbus with Board member, Kay McCoy Jones, holding button exhibit prepared by Waring Jackson who stands to Kay's left

The Columbus Brain Injury & Stoke Support Group met 25th June 2009. We had open discussion.

Marcus A. Alexander Inspirational Fitness & Character Building Company will be our speaker 8th July, 2009. Please bring family & friends.

Let's get our camp applications in please.

WASHINGTON STATE ENACTS 1ST BI PROTECTION FOR YOUNG ATHLETES

In May 2009, the State of Washington enacted the Zackery Lystedt Law. This is the first state law that requires young athletes participating in school sports, who show signs of a concussion, be removed from practice or play. The student may not return to play without a licensed health care provider's written approval. The law is intended to prevent young athletes from having greater injury by limiting their participation in competition until the original injury has healed.

TRAINING FOR NEW PEER VISITORS

By Ann Boriskie

On April 4, 2009, 30 new participants began their training to become Peer Visitors with the Brain Injury Peer Visitor Program. They will continue their training by completing two "shadow" Peer Visits in their assigned hospital/facility. Then they will go through their hospital/facility's Volunteer Orientation. Each of these new volunteers were referred by one of our current hospitals or facilities, or they called or emailed Ann Boriskie after reading about our program on the Brain Injury Association of Georgia's website.

Ann Boriskie, Program Coordinator, conducted a 7-hour classroom training session held in one of the newly built 6th floor classrooms at the Shepherd Center. A wide range of topics was covered which relate to Peer Visiting such as: history of the program; hospital volunteer programs; volunteer guidelines; the mechanics of Peer Visiting (schedules, forms, job responsibilities); Peer Visiting guidelines; the interdisciplinary team; making a Peer Visit; do's and don'ts; listening skills; and other subjects.

Guest speakers shared information with the Peer Visitor trainees:

Jami Hanzman, Peer Visitor at Shepherd Center – gave his own testimonial about his recovery, his experiences during this past year as a Peer Visitor, and the importance of the program and volunteering is to his life

Stuart Hanzman, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, North Fulton Regional Hospital and private practice – spoke on Suggested Guidelines for Peer Visitors; he led the class in a very helpful role-play

Ayanna Anderson – Stewardship Coordinator, Brain & Spinal Injury Trust Fund Commission – shared information about the Trust Fund and how to apply, and explained who qualifies for a grant and the types of grants awarded

Tanas Ball – Outpatient Services Manager, Wellstar Kennestone Hospital – Explained outpatient services and the interdisciplinary team (those hospital and facility individuals who help the survivor and caregiver

Allen London – Artist and new Peer Visitor Trainee – gave his testimonial about how the Peer Visits which he received "helped save his life", and why he now wants to help others by Peer Visiting

Our training program ended with Wynell and Scotty Hunt handing out copies of the book that Wynell Hunt wrote about Scotty's car wreck, Why Scotty? Both Wynell and Scotty were members of this new class. Then each new trainee received his or her blue Peer Visitor uniform.

Each trainee left the room with enthusiasm, excited to begin their Peer Visiting.

If you are interested in becoming a new Peer Visitor, contact Ann Boriskie at 770-330-8416 or brain.injury.georgia.org



Recent Peer Visitor trainees with Ann Boriskie, program director (front row, right end)

2nd Annual Restore Banquet Honors TBI Survivors

Saturday, May the 9th, North Brook United Methodist Church in Roswell, Georgia, held the 2nd annual Restore Neuro Behavioral Banquet honoring clients and families of TBI survivors for a wonderful dinner banquet of home cooked chicken and pork with freshly made desserts.

This Brain Injury banquet was sponsored by the "Iona Brackett Prayer Fellowship". The banquet was held in the North Brook United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. Two Seminole Spirit Members, Ms. Mona Eckles and Mr. Mark Halvorsen, were once clients of Restore in 2001 and 2003. The banquet's guest speaker was Mr. Scotty Hunt, a 1985 TBI survivor and a Peer Visitor

in the community today. His parents, Jimmy and Wynell Hunt, along with Cathy, his wife, were also on hand to hear this survivor give a tremendous survivor's life story.

Mr. Charlie Corbitt, a Seminole Spirit Member, North Brook United Methodist member and Restore Bible study leader, was the chief coordinator of this wonderful valuing people event.



Scotty & Cathy Hunt at Restore event

PRO BONO SERVICES FOR VETS EXTENDED THROUGH 2010

The State Bar of Georgia Board of Governors passed the 2009-10 budget that includes funding for the Veterans & Service members Pro Bono and Referral Program. The funding will allow a full-time attorney and provide for administrative support for the project.

Veterans with traumatic brain injuries in need of pro bono (free) legal service should contact Mike Monahan, pro bono director, State Bar of Georgia mikem@georgiabar.org 404-527-8762.

CAMP HARDGROVE 2009

In partnership with Camp Twin Lakes, Winder, GA

August 21-24

Applications for camp and caregiver's camp are available online at braininjurygeorgia.org

Join us for this great event !

The inclusion of advertising or logos in this newsletter does not constitute an endorsement by the Brain Injury Association of Georgia regarding the products or services so advertised.

*Aerodynamically, the bumble
bee shouldn't be able to fly, but
the bumble bee doesn't know
it so it goes on flying anyway,*

- Mary Kay Ash

Smith, Gambrell & Russell is proud to support the Brain Injury Association of Georgia. SGR helps families secure the future of those challenged by disabling conditions. For more information, contact Kristen M. Lewis, Esq. at klewis@sgrlaw.com or 404.815.3500.

SGR SMITH, GAMBRELL
& RUSSELL, LLP
Attorneys at Law

Atlanta
Frankfurt
Jacksonville
New York
Washington, D.C.
www.sgrlaw.com

**Are you 18-65 years of age
and have Excessive Sleepiness Associated with Mild or Moderate
Closed Brain Injury?**

Sleep Disorders Center of Georgia
is conducting a clinical research study for individuals who suffer from
Excessive Sleepiness Associated With Mild or Moderate Closed Brain
Injury

To qualify you must:

- Be 18 to 65 years of age
- Be in good health

**For more information,
please call: Ms. Thomas
404-256-6545 Ext: 209**

If you qualify you will receive:

- Study medication
- Study related physical exams
- Compensation for time & travel

