

VOLUNTEER *news*

A Newsletter for the Shepherd Auxiliary & Volunteers

June
2015

2015 Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation Grant Awarded

Recently, the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation gave a 2015 Quality of Life grant to an organization that does a great deal of good at Shepherd Center. The Brain Injury Peer Visitor Association® is an organization completely led by volunteers, dedicated to providing the hope, support, empathy, education and information necessary to help hospitalized and brain injury survivors in rehabilitation and their families navigate the often difficult and confusing recovery process associated with brain injuries. Over 40 percent of Shepherd's yearly inpatient population have brain injuries, so we always have a need for the support of this association!

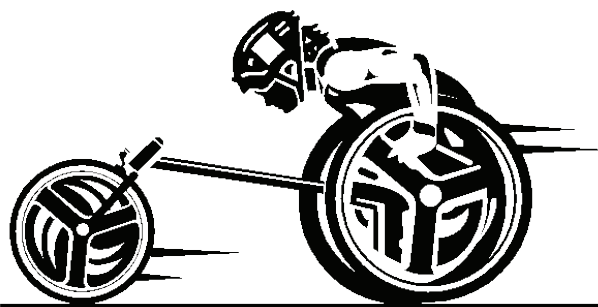
The 25 Shepherd Center volunteers trained by founder and director Ann Boriskie are either brain injury survivors or the caregivers of a survivor. They strive throughout the year to connect with patients and their family members in many ways, including leading semi-weekly support meetings at multiple locations on our campus. Whether it's leading those meetings, or visiting patients and their loved ones in their Shepherd rooms, or even later, out in the community, the volunteers make sure they provide a comprehensive information packet to all in need that matches the type of brain injury the family is dealing with. The grant the Brain Injury Peer Visitor Association received will help pay for the making of copies that are included in those packets, falling right in line with one of the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation's goals of improving the daily lives of people living with injury.

Recently, Ann Boriskie trained eight more peer visitors to serve right here at Shepherd. Amazingly, since the founding of the organization in 2006, Ann has grown it to include a total of over 150 trained peer visitors that serve in Georgia and now in Naples, Fla. These volunteers regularly support brain injury survivors and their families not just in Buckhead, but also in other parts of Georgia including Decatur, Demorest, Duluth, Fayetteville, Gainesville, Riverdale, Snellville, Stockbridge and Columbus. By the end of 2014, a total of 25,668 total peer visits had been made!

Shepherd Center is very grateful for the Quality of Life grant that assists the ongoing work of the Brain Injury Peer Visitor Association. The unique year-round support organized by Ann Boriskie and carried out by Shepherd volunteers here is invaluable to our patients and their families.



Above (l-r): Ann Boriskie, Kris Lorenz, RoseAnn Olson, Laura Allen and Bruce Allen visit with ABI patients and offer peer support.



2015 AJC Peachtree Road Race 34th Annual Wheelchair Division

sponsored by Shepherd Center

Saturday, July 4

**Come cheer on the racers from Shepherd Center or
tune in to watch the race on WXIA-TV.**

Wheelchair start time: 6:45am