

VOLUNTEER news



March
2017

A Newsletter for the Shepherd Auxiliary & Volunteers

Welcoming Sarah Batts, Foundation Executive Director

In November 2016 – after a long and thorough search for the very best candidate – Ms. Sarah L. Batts accepted the offer of executive director of the foundation and began her career here at Shepherd Center.

Sarah was born and raised in Atlanta and grew up in a family culture of giving back. Her parents actively volunteered through church activities and raised their four children in that tradition. Sarah has childhood memories of volunteering at the food bank and learning to raise money through Junior Civitan. She also acknowledges a broad family history of service in the military and has the deepest respect for men and women who serve their country.

When Sarah was 10, an older cousin was injured in a motorcycle accident. His productive time at Shepherd Center left a strong impression on Sarah at a tender age. She never forgot Shepherd as she graduated from high school and completed her undergraduate degree in history at the University of the South. After her niece was born prematurely, she connected with Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and was able to secure a position in fundraising with the Festival of Trees. She went on to become a development officer focused on the AFLAC Cancer Center at CHOA, and also completed her MBA at Loyola. Her next career step took her to Emory University School of Medicine, where she worked to fund pediatric research. Prior to joining Shepherd Center, she was the managing director of campaigns for Piedmont Healthcare Foundation. Sarah is thrilled to have the opportunity to help lead Shepherd Center, a place for which she has been grateful since she was a child.

Shepherd Center Foundation includes not only the 16 employees on the development side that are tasked with raising about \$12 million dollars annually, but also the three employees in volunteer services. Sarah shares that she wants both the development team and volunteer services team to thrive under her leadership, and for an environment to exist where volunteers and donors have meaningful experiences. She considers our volunteers part of the heart of Shepherd, and she knows they are a big part of helping us maintain excellence.

Sarah looks forward to working with volunteer services to maximize volunteer time, talent, and insight for the advancement of Shepherd Center's mission. She shares, "As we prepare to ensure the legacy of Shepherd Center and move towards our 50th anniversary, volunteers will be vital to our success and I am very grateful for each and every one of them." And we are grateful for a leader with a proven history of great success who will undoubtedly take her early connection to Shepherd Center and apply her passion and multitude of gifts to enhance and advance our mission!



Above: Sarah Batts, Executive Director of Shepherd Center Foundation. Photo credit: Joann Vitelli.

Mandatory Volunteer In-service Session Dates

Session 1: Tuesday 3/21; 8-9 a.m. Auditorium, 7th floor, Callaway

Session 2: Friday 3/24; 1-2 p.m. Auditorium, 7th floor, Callaway

Session 3: Thursday 3/30; 9-10 a.m. 6th floor classrooms

Session 4: Thursday 3/30; 1-2 p.m. 6th floor classrooms

Session 5: Saturday 4/1; 9-10 a.m. 6th floor classrooms



from the AUXILIARY PRESIDENT



Dear Auxiliary & Peach Corps Members,

As we begin to wind down our Auxiliary year, the Executive committee is thinking ahead for ways to reenergize the membership and grow the Auxiliary. Be on the lookout for your membership renewal as we reveal the theme of the upcoming year. Hint: YOU make the difference! Please send back your updated contact information and dues as soon as possible. Exciting changes are on the way and we can't wait to share!

The Sunshine committee was up to spreading joy, yet again! Our chairs, Karen Martin and Jeanie Worlock, headed a successful Valentine project just in time for the big day. Many thanks to those who volunteered: Gayle Rauschenberg, Carol Evans, Karen Martin, Cindy Mayer, Dianne Key, Mary Sue Howard, Betsy Block, Wendy Waterman, Karyn Harris, Beryl Waters, Lisa McAdams, Betsy Cozine, Sabine Sugarman, and Ginny Wolf.

The Auxiliary also hosted a Valentine's Day Bake Sale, chaired by Lois Puckett, who coordinated the beautiful table decorations and led our team of volunteers who sold sweet treats. Many, many thanks to all who delivered baked goods! I'd like to personally thank Lois Puckett for sharing her amazing talents and warm heart all year long with the Auxiliary. Lois is truly one of a kind!

The success of our March Auxiliary t-shirt sale is thanks to Paula Hope, who selects the shirt styles and coordinates volunteers to assist with the sale. If you missed the sale, please see Alex Seblatnigg to order t-shirts.

Our fabulous Nominating committee was headed this year by Lois Puckett. Helping Lois were Karen Martin, Paula Hope, and Lisa Hardymon. The Nominating Committee is hard at work selecting the next slate of officers for 2017-2018. A leadership position within the Shepherd Center Auxiliary is a wonderful opportunity to strengthen your connection to Shepherd Center.

Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for April 25 at the Cherokee Town Club. Be on the lookout for your invitation. Ruth Langsfeld and Linda Morris

are hard at work preparing a beautiful luncheon for the Auxiliary. Last year's event was so lovely; I encourage all of you to attend. Come celebrate all that you have accomplished this year. Invite your friends, meet your new board, and enjoy an afternoon together.

As I have said before, my introduction to Shepherd Center was through the Peach Corps. The Spring Cookout is scheduled for April 30. At the cookout, Peach Corps families host Shepherd's patients and families. Students of all ages are welcome. It's such a special event; I really can't say enough about Peach Corps! Contact Lori Ewing at lori.ewing@paceacademy.org or Donna Pottorff at donna.pottorff@paceacademy.org to let them know of a family who might be interested in joining.

Amy

Amy Trujillo

amy.trujillo@paceacademy.org



Above: The Valentine's Day Bake sale, beautifully decorated, was a success!

Upcoming Events

April 25

**Annual Business Meeting
and Spring Luncheon**
Cherokee Town Club

April 26

**Annual In-Hospital Volunteer
Appreciation Dinner**
Callaway Auditorium - 7th floor

Volunteer Spotlight: Bill Heidecker

Perhaps no one enjoys going to the dentist, but think for a moment about what makes a great one. Maybe they're outstanding in their medical education and skills, yet have a warm personality, gentle enough to calm the most anxiety-ridden patient? Now you can picture one of our excellent brain injury peer visitors, Dr. Donald William Heidecker!

Bill was born in Cascade Heights here in Atlanta as an only child of parents who were teachers and lifelong volunteers at their church. He excelled through the years, serving in student government in high school and becoming an Eagle Scout. He spent seven years at Emory University, completing his undergrad and dental degrees and working as a night shift nursing assistant in the delivery room at Crawford Long Hospital, now Emory University Hospital Midtown. Bill soon realized that the high standards and detailed hand skills he had learned from his father in wood working and carving would contribute to his success in dentistry.

Bill went on to serve in the Navy, giving dental care to those who were returning from Vietnam. He then joined a private dental practice, and a few years later met and married his wife, Cynthia. Bill shares that the two of them enjoyed the long process of planning and building a second home with unique woodworking details on Lake Burton, and they've cherished their time during weekends there for over 25 years.

One weekend spent at the lake in 2013, Bill had a stroke in the middle of the night while taking his dog out. Fortunately, the dog ran inside and woke up Bill's wife, which ultimately saved his life. From that moment on Bill's life took an unexpected turn, but he worked hard in rehabilitation at Shepherd Center and chose to share all those experiences in helping others as a Shepherd Center volunteer through the Brain Injury Peer Visitation Association. His favorite part of practicing dentistry for 45 years was building relationships with his patients, and he cherishes visiting patients on the ABI floor of the Shepherd building every Tuesday and spending time with folks at Shepherd Pathways, too. He likes to share wisdom with patients telling them, "God determines when you get function back, but you have to do your part in therapy!" He feels it's also important to encourage the caregivers not to automatically do everything for their loved one as they improve, allowing them to learn to be more independent.

Bill confesses that each time he comes to Shepherd Center he hopes he will lift the spirits of the patients and families he visits, but he KNOWS that his spirits will be lifted in the process. "I can identify with them, and they can identify with me," he says. What a blessing that a retired dentist with such a humble heart and caring bedside manner has chosen to invest his time volunteering at Shepherd!



Above: Bill visits and encourages an ABI patient.

WITH A LITTLE
LOVE



AND A BIT OF
LUCK

We can save a life.

DONATE BLOOD.

Red Cross Blood Drive at Shepherd Center

Callaway Auditorium
Marcus Building, 7th Floor

Wednesday, March 15 · 12 - 5 p.m.

To register, contact Gale Eckstein at
gale_eckstein@shepherd.org or

404-367-1351.

spotlight



Above (L-R): James and Clementine Baker get ready to enjoy the brunch sponsored by Oakwood Worldwide which was hosted by employees Shanequa Harper, Chris Giovanetti, and Danielle Lee.



Above (L-R): Charles Alexander is served brunch by Dwayne Dean and Genise Stephens of DoubleTree Buckhead, who sponsored the event for patients and families.



Left: Courtney Kloberdanz (far right), her children, and their friends brought Valentine love to patients and their families.



Shepherd Center

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VOLUNTEER news

Sarah Batts, Executive Director, Shepherd Center Foundation
Alex Seblatnigg, Director, Volunteer Services
Mindy Moore, Coordinator, Volunteer Services
Gale Eckstein, Family Support Services Coordinator
Newsletter Co-editors: Mindy Moore and Gale Eckstein

Membership in the Shepherd Center Auxiliary, Peach Corps, SCS, and Junior Committee is open to all volunteers. Members provide ongoing fundraising and volunteer support to Shepherd Center. For more information on becoming a member of one of these groups, contact Alex Seblatnigg at (404) 350-7315 or visit www.shepherd.org.

Shepherd Center's mission is to help people with a temporary or permanent disability caused by injury or disease rebuild their lives with hope, independence, and dignity, advocating for their full inclusion in all aspects of community life while promoting safety and injury prevention.