

HEAD LINES



Summer 2006

IMPROVING LIFE AFTER TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY

Improving Alabama's System of Services for People with TBI

The Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services (ADRS), the lead agency for traumatic brain injury (TBI) in Alabama was awarded a three year TBI State Implementation Grant by Health Resources Service Administration Maternal and Child Health Bureau (HRSA MCHB) in April 2006. This grant will enable Alabama to improve the existing "Alabama System of Care for People with TBI". Previous TBI State Grants focused on development of a service delivery system for:

- children and youth with TBI,
- TBI and the school system,
- TBI and psychiatric issues and
- TBI and domestic violence.

This 2006 TBI State Grant will address the need to expand the statewide system of care for people:

- with coexisting TBI and blindness or visual impairment (TBI-BVI)
- with outreach to the state's growing Hispanic population, and
- to create access to neurobehavioral health services for Alabamians with TBI.

TBI-Blind & Visually Impaired

Goal one of this grant, to expand the statewide system of care for people with coexisting TBI and blindness or visual impairment (TBI-BVI), is a new initiative for Alabama and will be developed around the existing Alabama TBI System and Alabama's extensive network of services for the blind and visually impaired. Issues related to TBI and the coexistence of TBI-BVI such as neurobehavioral health, screening, intervention, training needs,

policy changes and others will be assessed and a plan for systems change will be developed.

ADRS Blind/Deaf Services Division will take the lead on this project and will collaborate with the Alabama Head Injury Foundation, UAB TBI Model System and other partners to accomplish objectives.



Neurobehavioral Services

Goal two is a continuation of efforts to address the need to create access to neurobehavioral health services for Alabamians with TBI. In 2000-2001 surveys and interviews were conducted to obtain input from consumers, family members and service providers. The need was identified for a variety of behavioral health services for children, youth and adults including behavior management, medication management and monitoring, day treatment, residential and other service options, and training for service providers.

The Alabama Head Injury Foundation will take the lead on this project and will focus on activities that address policy, legislative and funding issues. Input from consumers and families will be obtained through statewide town hall meetings. Check the schedule for the meeting in your area.



Are You
(or a family member)
Experiencing
Behavioral Issues
As a Result of a
Traumatic Brain Injury?

Town Hall Meetings are being held across the state to hear **your needs, your problems, and your suggestions**. Join us for the Town Hall Meeting nearest you!

All meetings begin at 2:00 pm

Birmingham: August 21

Homewood Public Library; Room 101
1721 Oxmoor Road, Homewood
205-877-8661

Contact: Pat Motley (205) 594-4992

Dothan: August 23

Houston-Love Memorial Library
212 West Burdeshaw Street, Dothan
334-793-9767

Contact: Terrie Causey (334) 983-9774

Mobile: August 24

West Mobile Regional Library
5555 Grelot Road, Mobile
251-340-8555

Contact: Teresa Roberts (251) 246-5003

Montgomery: September 21

HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital
4465 Narrow Lane Road, Montgomery
334-284-7700

Contact: Roberta Jackel (334) 821-8221

Anniston: Sept 26

United Way East Central Ala
1505 Wilmer Avenue, Anniston
256-236-8229

Contact: John Hicks (256) 413-8373

Tuscaloosa: Sept 27

Tuscaloosa Public Library
1801 Jack Warner Pkwy, Tuscaloosa
205-345-5820

Contact: Lucia Parsons (205) 424-4255

Huntsville: Sept 25

Huntsville-Madison Co. Public Library
915 Monroe Street, Huntsville
256-532-5940

Contact: Sandy Kiplinger (256) 498-1023
Or Debi Dean (256) 383-5005

Independent Housing Opportunities Increase Across the State



Patton Ridge - Birmingham

One and two bedroom apartments, located in a community setting with banks, grocery stores, shops and restaurants nearby. Each apartment has a full kitchen and bath designed for easy accessibility and safety.

For more information about these beautiful apartments or to receive a Housing Application contact :

Accessible Space, Inc.
1-800-466-7722
www.accessiblespace.org



AHIF Board members visited Patton Ridge on opening day. Left to right: Tom Novak, President, Ann Horne, Jack Woodard, Charlie Priest, AHIF Executive Director, Mary Watkins, Al Ellison, Kim Hooks, Dodd Adair and Sandi Nicholson.



Dogwood Terrace in Florence, AL Has Limited Vacancies.

Contact Accessible Space, Inc. today for an application.
1-800-466-7722

HUD Grant Awarded AHIF

Wallace Davis, Executive Director, Volunteers of America Southeast, Inc. (VOA), hosted HUD and 40 representatives of Mobile area agencies at a consolidated grant award ceremony on January 26, 2006.

Charles Priest, Executive Director, Alabama Head Injury Foundation accepted an award of \$1,687,500 for a project his organization has undertaken with the Minneapolis, MN-based Accessible Space. The Mobile accessible housing project is the third project the Head Injury Foundation has provided services or oversight for, but the first 811 project in which the Foundation has been a co-applicant.

The consolidated award ceremony emphasized HUD's reliance on local organizations, such as Public Housing Agencies (PHAs), resident organizations, homeless providers and nonprofit organizations, to carry out its federally funded assistance programs.

Alabama Protects Children With New Child Passenger Restraint Law

A collaboration of legislators, advocacy organizations and non-profit agencies , including the Alabama Head Injury Foundation, joined together to focus the Alabama legislature on the protection of children traveling in automobiles. As of July 1, 2006, all passengers under the age of 15 in all vehicles are to be properly restrained in car seats, booster seats or seat belts as appropriate. AHIF will receive a portion of the fines for violation of this law for the purpose of issuing car seat vouchers to low income Alabamians.

VOICES for Alabama's Children, a children's advocacy organization led by Executive Director Linda Tilly, was an especially strong ally in this undertaking. VOICES also advocates for children's care, education, and health. In addition, they research and publish the annual Alabama Kids Count Data Book.

Today, thanks to the passage of Act 2006-623, Alabama's children will travel more safely with less danger of life-changing injury. We commend the concerns and combined efforts of all involved.



Front Row (L to R) Rep. Mac Gipson, Apreill Hartsfield, Dr. Cheryl Outland, Gov. Bob Riley, Dr. Marsha Raulerson and Linda Tilly. Back Row (L to R) Charles Priest, Dr. V. Haranatha Reddy, Dr. Carden Johnston, Aisha McGough, Blake Brazeal, Barbara Stoner, Speaker Seth Hammet, and Sen. Quinton Ross

Katrina Relief Fund:

Assisting Hurricane Survivors with TBI/SCI

The Alabama Head Injury Foundation, with funding from the **Christopher Reeve Foundation** and the **Brain Injury Association**, has provided assistance to eleven victims of Hurricane Katrina through its "Katrina Relief Fund". The recipients of the fund are either Alabamians or evacuees from surrounding states currently residing in Alabama. All are disabled due to traumatic brain injury or spinal cord injury, and thus required unique help in recovering from the devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina. The following examples illustrate these survivors' plight and the benefits of the Katrina Relief Fund:

- Steven L., of Grand Bay Alabama, sustained a Spinal Cord Injury in 2001 resulting in tetraplegia. Katrina damaged the trailer in which Steven lived alone with his dog. While he received money from FEMA for materials to repair the trailer, he had to borrow money for the labor. Meanwhile, his bed had been damaged by water, and he was sleeping on an air mattress on the floor which put him at risk of developing decubitus ulcers. The Katrina Fund provided a queen size mattress set.

- Selena B. lived in Bayou la Batre, Alabama with her Mom and has a spinal cord injury. Katrina dumped 5 feet of water in the area and destroyed their home. Afterward, in alternative housing Selena did not have her usual hospital bed or her custom fitted wheelchair. Selena was sleeping on a cot and using an older, substandard chair which brought about decubital breakdown. When she applied for the Katrina Fund, she was in a long-term care facility recuperating from surgery. The Katrina Fund replaced her disability related equipment and supplies.

- Rosemary S., 19 years old from Mobile, sustained an acquired brain injury due to meningitis/encephalitis at age 3. Rosemary is tube fed, requires a suction machine and a nebulizer for her asthma, and is paralyzed on her right side. After Katrina severely damaged their trailer, including extensive mold which posed a danger to Rosemary's health, she and her family relocated. Some of Rosemary's equipment was stored and, from the storage unit, her nebulizer, suction machine and parts to her wheelchair were stolen. AHIF located a free hospital bed for Rosemary at the Huntsville Waste Not Recycling Center. The Katrina Fund provided equipment/ supplies that included a new suction machine, a nebulizer, a shampooer and three cases of diapers and hospital gowns.

- Brittny B. sustained a Traumatic Brain Injury in 2003 from a motor vehicle crash. She resided with her family in Bayou la Batre, Alabama until Katrina severely damaged their home and its contents. Destroyed, along with all of their other possessions, was Brittny's computer that she used for school. The Katrina Fund replaced the computer, printer and monitor.

- Keith C., a resident of Mount Vernon, Alabama, sustained a Spinal Cord Injury in 1999, at age 19. Now in his senior year at The University of South Alabama, Keith is a computer science major. Following Katrina, a ten day power outage prevented use of Keith's electric lift; his power wheelchair could not be recharged; the refrigerator could not keep his medication at the temperature required; nor could his room air conditioner maintain a cool environment (especially important as Keith had lost his ability to regulate his own temperature). The Katrina Fund purchased a small generator to provide back-up power for future emergencies.



Thanks to the efforts of the AHIF staff and our funding partners, the devastating impact of Katrina was reduced for these and other Katrina survivors with TBI/SCI.



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Annual Conference

An annual conference: "Alabama: State of the State" will be held to provide training and to report on grant activities to stakeholders. More information and details about the conference will be published in our next newsletter.

Alabama Head Injury Task Force

The Alabama Head Injury Task Force (AHITF) assisted in establishing these grant goals and will oversee activities, monitor progress and provide guidance and coordination among partners. The AHITF was established in 1989 and provides leadership and guidance for state policy makers, agencies, organizations and partners involved in developing the ideal service delivery system and options for peoples with TBI and their families

For information about this grant contact:

Maria Crowley

Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services

phone: (205) 290-4590

email: mcrowley@rehab.state.al.us

2006 Inverness Member-Guest Tennis Tournament Marks 10 Years

For the 10th year in a row, tennis players from Inverness Country Club and their guests have combined their competitive drive and their philanthropic spirit to support the Alabama Head Injury Foundation.

May 4th -6th were the dates for this year's outstanding tournament. As usual there was ample opportunity to socialize as well as compete, thanks to the diligent efforts of volunteers and the generosity of in-kind donations.

The culmination of the event was a fabulous dinner graciously hosted by Ronnie and Dean Giles. Chairman of the 2006 Inverness Member-Guest tournament was Mark Gallivan. Chair of the Corporate Fundraising Committee was Jack Woodard. Members included Dodd Adair, Omar Alcaino, Rick Bonsack, Art Boudreaux, Bennie Bumpers, Tim Dobson, Marsha Falkner, Dean & Ronnie Giles, Ken Horne, Jim & Cindy Kiel, Buddy & Louise McDaniel, Jerry Nixon, Carrie Phillips, Charlie Priest, Robert Rourke, Julie Schweer, Martha Smith, Susan Smith, Charlie Stevens, Tracey Thomson, and Herman Thrash.



Left to right: Susan Smith, Ann Horne, Dean Giles, and Martha Smith at the Silent Auction.

In addition, Susan Smith coordinated the many details of our wonderful Silent Auction. Martha Smith and Marsha Faulkner made sure everyone was well fed with delicious fare during the tournament. Betty Sue and Gary Wates were kind enough to allow us to use their trolley and they even drove! Tournament graphics were designed and printed by Virginia College staff members Jennifer Brown, Daniel Bryant, Jennifer Lathrop and Andre Villanueva. As always, we thank Jerry Nixon and Omar Alcaino, Inverness Pros, and their staff for all they do to support AHIF.

A very special thank you to the Horne Family Charitable Trust which supports this event with the utmost generosity.

Sponsors and Donors also included:

Alabama Power Foundation
American Donation Group
BellSouth/Susan Tafolla
BE&K
BlueCross BlueShield of Alabama
Bradley Arant Rose & White
C&A Food Systems (Milo's)
Compass Bank
Charity Employee Fund
DiPazza, LaRocca, McDowell & Cade
Drummond Company
First Commercial Bank
Golden Rule Barbeque
Hilb Rogal & Hobbs
Inverness Racquet Club
Motion Industries
NBC Securities
NeuroRestorative Associates
Royal Cup Coffee
ServisFirst Bank
Siemens Westinghouse Power
Southern Nuclear Operating Co.
The Giles Group
UAB Hospital
Vulcan Materials Company
Wachovia Wealth Management
Wesban Financial Consultants

Dodd Adair
Jimmie Barnes & Family
Benny & Sonia Bumpers
Ed & Diane Clower
Dean & Ron Giles
Shane & Virginia Hill
Ken & Ann Horne
Kathy Honeycutt
David Molitoris
Jerry Nixon
Paula Ponder
Wilmer Poyner, III
Thomas Waters
Jack Woodard



Paula Ponder and Dean Giles prepare to receive guests.

Local Fundraising Highlights: MOBILE

On Dec. 3, 2006, a Christmas Tour of Homes in the Oakleigh Historic District of Mobile was held that benefited Alabama Head Injury Foundation consumers in Baldwin, Clarke, Mobile and Washington Counties.

Four homes were on the tour and owners graciously welcoming visitors to their beautifully decorated homes on behalf of AHIF were Dr. Roma Hanks, Dr. Raymond and Stella Hester, Dave Johnson and Cecelia Murphy, as well as Don and Anita Winn.

Other Mobile events for AHIF:

The annual MARC Christmas Bazaar held at the Fred Delchamps Center in early December 2005 included items whose sale price were donated to AHIF.

The Pilot Club of West Mobile made a donation to the AHIF Socialization Group in Mobile during their Thanksgiving Dinner Party honoring Lucy and Ron Hayes.

THANKS to everyone who conducted and participated in these efforts!



On the doorstep of the home of Anita and Don Winn during the Christmas Homes Tour in the Oakleigh Historic District of Mobile are left to right: one of the lovely Mobile Azalea Trail Maids, Anita, Don, Melissa Slater, and Charlie Priest.

Fishing, Family and Fundraising



Combining fishing, family and fundraising, the 6th annual Jimmy League Memorial Bream Rodeo to benefit the Alabama Head Injury Foundation was a great success. Teams competed for first, second and third place in two divisions, as well as biggest and smallest fish caught. Families and friends enjoyed lunch, refreshments and games. This annual event is conducted by the Huntsville law firm of Siniard, Timberlake and League, P.C. Sponsors included Jim 'N Nicks Bar-B-Q, SportsMed, ITAC, the Bentley Group, Colonial Graphics Group, HuntFishCook, Citigroup, the Spine and Neurosurgery Center, Accurate Mailing, Jerry Damson Honda, and Drive Away Today Motors.



Veteran Volunteer Honored for Dedication at Camp ASCCA

Paula Crosby, a speech pathologist with the Shelby County School System, celebrated her 17th year as a volunteer for the Alabama Head Injury Foundation's Spring Weekend Camp for adults with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and their families at Camp ASCCA in Jackson Gap, Alabama this past May.

In her second year she requested to work in Arts and Crafts and she is still there in 2006! Each year campers and family members gather at Paula's Craft Shack to talk, visit and create a special art project from their weekend at Camp!

"Paula's continued dedication to our Spring Camp weekend is greatly appreciated! Campers and their families love the Arts and Crafts activities. Paula's smile is so welcoming and she is extremely patient with each camper!" reports Susie



Tina Adamson presents Paula Crosby with a gift of appreciation for her continued service and dedication to TBI camp programs.

Montgomery, Director of Recreation for AHIF.

At Camp, Paula witnesses first hand the physical and cognitive challenges that people with TBI and their families face. "They have an inner strength that most of us will never know," said Paula. "Camp gives them the opportunity to meet new friends, and just have fun in an accepting, accessible environment."

Volunteering is a Crosby family affair. Husband, Bob Crosby, joins Paula as a volunteer, as have their two adopted daughters. Li Li, nine years old, and seven year old Roxie have come to AHIF Camp since they were infants. In recent years they have become old enough to volunteer themselves, emulating their parents' spirit.

Visit Our Website Today!

www.AHIF.org

Learn about AHIF services and programs

Download current articles on brain injury

Link to other sites concerning brain injury

Review opportunities and sign up as a AHIF volunteer

Help AHIF provide valuable resources by making a donation

www.AHIF.org

Won't you join our volunteer team?

You will not only be helping others, but you will be making your own life more meaningful! Contact Sandy Koplon, Director of Community Outreach, 1-800-433-8002 or go to www.ahif.org. **Contact us today!**

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Alabama Head Injury Foundation

AHIF

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