

# HEAD LINES



Spring 2009

IMPROVING LIFE AFTER TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY

## GET READY FOR CAMP!

AHIF is offering a Summer Camp session in 2009 for adults with TBI. The camp is held at beautiful Camp ASCCA on Lake Martin.

Summer Camp is scheduled for the week of August 16-21, 2009. This camp is a "buddy camp". Campers must bring a same-sex buddy to attend.

Space is limited and camper slots are given on a first come, first serve basis.

To request an application or for more information, please call the AHIF at 1-205-823-3818 or 1-800-433-8002.



## Wheelchair Accessible Apartments in Mobile:

### Anderson-Fischer Apartments Now Open



Open House at Anderson-Fischer Apartments held February 6-7, 2009

Anderson-Fischer Apartments, a new, wheelchair accessible affordable apartment community in Mobile is now open offering nineteen wheelchair accessible apartments to very low income households with Traumatic Brain Injury or other physical disability. Sponsored by the Alabama Head Injury Foundation (AHIF) and Accessible Space, Inc. (ASI), a Minnesota based, national nonprofit organization, Anderson-Fischer Apartments is located at 8391 Jeff Hamilton Road Extension in Mobile, Alabama. The one and two-bedroom apartments will be subsidized by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and qualifying households will pay approximately 30% of their monthly income for rent.

The apartments are designed with an open floor plan and meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines for wheelchair accessibility. Apartments include a full kitchen with roll-under counters and accessible ovens and rangetops, and also provide an accessible bathroom with roll-in showers and grab bars. Other features include raised electrical outlets, lowered light switches and lever-action handles on the doors. One-bedroom apartments provide approximately 540 square feet of living space, and two bedrooms provide approximately 800 square feet of additional space.

The apartments are named for Andy Anderson and Jean Fischer, two founders of the Alabama Head Injury Foundation. Primary funding and rental assistance for Anderson-Fischer Apartments was provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Section 811 Program. In addition, generous support from the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB) of Atlanta's Affordable Housing Program / Regions Bank provided critical supplemental construction funding for this important project.

For more information or to request a housing application, please call ASI at 1-800-466-7722. More information about Accessible Space, Inc. (ASI) is available on their website at [www.accessible-space.org](http://www.accessible-space.org). Additional information regarding the Alabama Head Injury foundation can be found at [www.ahif.org](http://www.ahif.org).

## The AHIF TBI Neurobehavioral Clinic Offers Help for Behavior Problems

The AHIF Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Neurobehavior Clinic meets monthly at the UCP LincPoint Center in Birmingham. It's goal is to help you and your family deal with difficult behavioral challenges. Intensive behavior management is provided by a multidisciplinary team consisting of a Psychiatrist, a Neuropsychologist, a Social Worker and a Counselor. This team is very knowledgeable about traumatic brain injuries.

The Clinic is funded by a grant from the Alabama Council on Developmental Disabilities with matching funds from the Alabama Head Injury Foundation, the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services, United Cerebral Palsy, the Daniel Foundation and the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham.

For more information, contact Janet Massey at 205-823-3818 or 1-800-433-8002.

## Sandi Nicholson Honored

by Al Ellison, President  
AHIF Board of Directors



For Two Decades of  
Service to AHIF  
*Thanks Sandi!*



**State Senator Linda Coleman**  
is welcomed to the  
AHIF Board of Directors  
by Charles Priest,  
AHIF Executive Director

## Small Places Expands to Montgomery

Small Places, an AHIF recreational activity group for individuals 18 and older who have sustained a TBI, has expanded to Montgomery. Other locations include Baldwin Co., Birmingham, Calhoun Co., Cullman, Gadsden, Huntsville, the Shoals, Tuscaloosa, and Jasper.

### Details of Small Places Montgomery:

When: Every Tuesday 9 am -1 pm  
Where: Therapeutic Recreation Center  
604 Augusta Avenue  
Montgomery, Al 36111  
What: Bring a sack lunch!  
Come meet new friends!  
Different activities weekly.

For more information  
call Holli or Darrell in Montgomery  
at (334) 290-0646

**Visit Our Website!**

**[www.AHIF.org](http://www.AHIF.org)**

- Learn about AHIF services and programs
- Download current articles on brain injury
- Link to other sites concerning brain injury
- Review opportunities to be an AHIF volunteer
- Sign up to be a volunteer
- Help AHIF provide valuable resources by making a donation

**[www.AHIF.org](http://www.AHIF.org)**

### To Contact AHIF

Toll Free phone: 1-800-433-8002  
Local Phone: 205-823-3818  
Fax: 205-823-4544  
Website: [www.AHIF.org](http://www.AHIF.org)  
Email: [AHIF1@bellsouth.net](mailto:AHIF1@bellsouth.net)

# ANNUAL REPORT FY-2008

*The mission of the Alabama Head Injury Foundation is to improve the quality of life for people who have survived traumatic brain injuries and for their families.*

Revenues	
Contributions	\$ 21,159
Grants	924,888
Fundraising	81,261
United Way(s)	154,784
Client Fees, Interest, Other	<u>40,807</u>
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$1,222,899</b>

Expenses	
Program Services	\$ 1,064,662
General & Administrative	163,625
Fundraising	<u>80,895</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,309,182</b>

### Board of Directors

2008-2009

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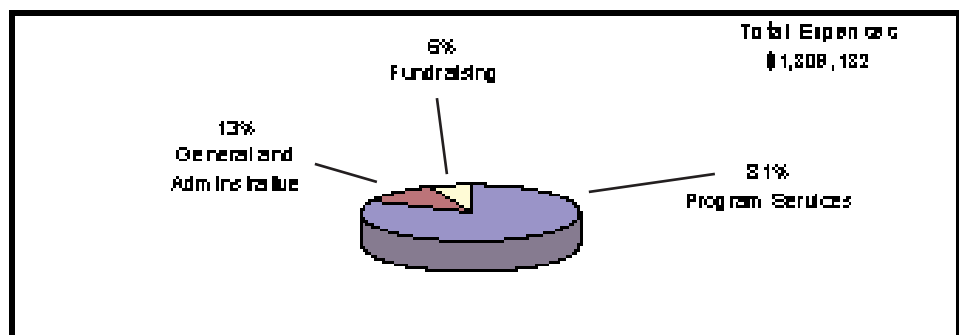
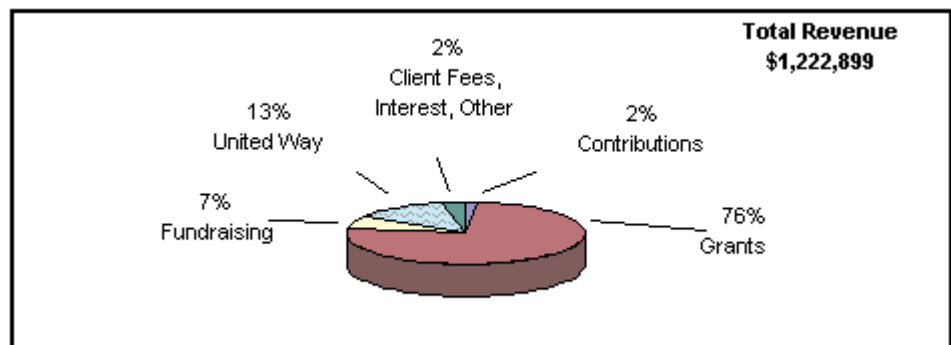
Deane Giles

Ann Horne

Tom Novack

Mary Watkins

Charles Priest  
Executive Director



## ANNUAL REPORT FY-2008

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During fiscal year, FY - 2008, AHIF continued to address the needs of its constituency through a variety of programs and services.

**Resource Coordination was provided to 1,017 people throughout the state, 375 newly injured.** A total of \$473,934 was secured for clientele in donated goods and services.

**Housing:** The U. S. Dept of Housing and Urban Development approved funding in the amount of \$2,927,400 to develop the Anderson-Fischer Apartments in Mobile. An additional \$95,000 was awarded by the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta.

**Information and Referral:** During the year, 541 people requested information on a variety of topics.

**Respite Care:** Through contracts with Home Health Agencies across the state, 58 caregivers were able to enjoy breaks from the constant duty of round-the-clock care valued at \$58,454.

**Recreation:** During the past year, the Small Places recreation program served 136 people in Birmingham, Anniston, Jasper, Huntsville, Cullman, Tuscaloosa, Florence, and Gadsden. New programs opened in Montgomery and Baldwin County.

**Recreation Support Groups:** held 155 meetings across the state with 3,015 in attendance.

**Volunteers:** 349 volunteers provided 5,488 hours of service to AHIF.

**Two Camp Sessions:** were held on Lake Martin serving 70 campers.

**Safety/Prevention:** AHIF developed the "Car Seats for Kids" Program in response to Act #2006-623 and issued 633 vouchers for free car seats.

**Grant Activity:** AHIF and its partners, the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services, continued work toward increasing access to neurobehavioral treatment funded by the U.S. Maternal & Child Health Bureau. AHIF also secured a grant from the Alabama Developmental Disabilities Council to establish a model Neurobehavior Clinic with additional support from the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham and the Daniel Foundation.

**Education/Training:** AHIF and ADRS hosted the Annual Alabama State of the State TBI Conference in February in Birmingham, with over 200 in attendance.

**Staff Development:** Staff members of AHIF continued to become nationally certified as brain injury specialists by the American Academy of Certified Brain Injury Specialists - AACBIS.

**Services are funded** in whole or in part by the Alabama Impaired Drivers Trust Fund.



## Third Annual Ryan Davidson Memorial Bike Day and Ride

*Ryan Davidson was honored and remembered during the third Annual Ryan Davidson Memorial event held at the Calvary Baptist Church in Rock Creek to benefit the Alabama Head Injury Foundation. Many of the motorcycle riders have participated all three years and agreed that this was the best event yet.*

*The day's activities, organized by Chairperson Missy Wisham and Calvary's Pastor Jimmy King, included entertainment by the Praise Team and the Drama Team of Calvary Baptist, exciting door prizes such as motorcycle gear and Rick & Bubba tickets, as well as t-shirts, patches and videos available for purchase. Lunch was served to everyone who attended.*

*Major Sponsor of the event was Sam's Club, with additional sponsorship from Weldon Pharmacy and Iron Works Fitness who provided water bottles for riders. The ride was escorted by the Sheriff's Department of Jefferson County.*

*Ryan's mother, Cindy McCormick, rode for the first time this year. Afterward she thanked everyone for coming together for such a good cause. "Ryan left behind a true loving heart for others and we (at this ride) only help him to carry out that truth."*



*Pictured above left to right: Charles Priest, Kim Hooks, Pastor Jimmy King, Missy Wisham, Cindy McCormick, Rick McCormick, Janie McCormick, Cathy Davidson, Kevin Davidson and their baby Kyleigh Ryan Davidson.*



## In The Spotlight: Debra Gray, AHIF Volunteer



Debra Gray at Camp ASCCA

*ed murder.*

*After living in an abusive relationship for ten years, Debra Gray was shot four times by her partner-once in the head and three times in her lower back and hips. Miraculously, she survived the extreme domestic violence but was left with a traumatic brain injury. Her abuser is now serving a twenty-five year sentence for attempt-*

*Debra is now an AHIF volunteer, advocating for and assisting people with traumatic brain injury as well as victims of domestic violence. She speaks to organizations, school groups and company employees about preventing TBI caused by Domestic Violence; she participates in fundraising activities and events, and she serves on numerous community committees.*

*Debra volunteered to appear in a video telling her story, and the effects on a person surviving a domestic violence relationship with traumatic brain injury. It was produced in 2004 by the Alabama Head Injury Foundation, the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services and the Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence with funding from the US Department of Health and Human Services Maternal and Child Health Bureau.*

*Debra has moved forward with her life with the determination to achieve and give back. In spite of numerous learning challenges, Debra Gray recently earned a bachelors degree in social work from The University of North Alabama!*

*AHIF commends Debra for her achievements and efforts to improve, not only her own life, but the quality of life for other survivors of brain injury!*

### You Can Become an AHIF Volunteer

*You will not only be helping others, but you will also be making your own life more meaningful!*

*Contact Sandy Koplon  
Director of Community Outreach  
1-800-433-8002 or visit [www.ahif.org](http://www.ahif.org).*

Alabama Head Injury Foundation

# AHIF

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Hoover, AL 35216

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**AHIF**

**6**

**HEADLINES**

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Mail the completed form to:

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Suite 200  
Hoover, AL 35216

or

Email the information to  
[AHIF1@bellsouth.net](mailto:AHIF1@bellsouth.net)

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