

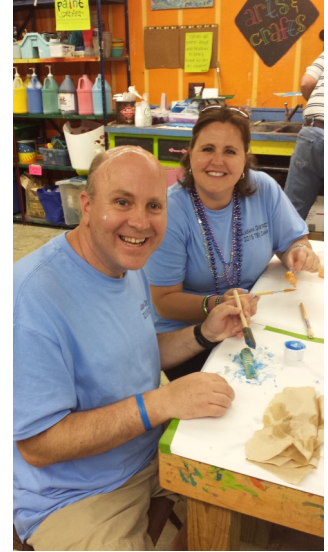
## AHIF partners with Pilot International to provide annual TBI Camp

For the second year, Alabama Head Injury Foundation was proud to partner with the Pilots & Anchors from the Alabama District of Pilot International to provide its annual TBI Camp at Camp ASCCA in Jackson's Gap, AL. AHIF welcomed 21 campers, numerous caregivers, 16 Pilot volunteers, and several members of the Anchor Club, Pilot's high school affiliate, to this year's camp. Campers participated in craft activities, went down a zip line, practiced archery, and had our customary karaoke night and dance.

This is the 26th year that AHIF has provided a TBI camp to our consumers. In just the last two years, campers at TBI camp have come from 16 different Alabama counties.

Camp is a wonderful way to provide our survivors with adventure, social interaction with others and a time where they can just be themselves.

We are very thankful to the Alabama District of Pilot International for making this camp possible and to the Camp ASCCA staff for providing such a wonderful facility.





## A Note from our Executive Director

When I arrived at Alabama Head Injury Foundation in 2014, the next shortest length of service to mine was an eight year veteran. I have to admit that the longevity of its existing staff was both reassuring and intimidating. It was reassuring to know that they were loyal to our mission, that the organization had kept their interest and enthusiasm and that it had made their job rewarding enough for them to stick with it. It was intimidating because it meant it would be many years before I was no longer viewed as “the new guy.”

As you can imagine, I soon came to appreciate just how lucky I was to come into such a situation, and one person in particular. Janet Massey, the AHIF Executive Assistant, will celebrate her 20 year anniversary with AHIF later this year. Outside of AHIF’s first Executive Director, Charlie Priest, this is the longest term of service anyone has had with AHIF.



*Janet Massey*

It would be one thing to have someone for 20 years when everyone hopes and dreams for his/her retirement, and we have all worked with one of those people. With Janet, we hope and pray she never retires, because she is the glue that holds the organization together. Her deep knowledge of the organization’s past, her passion for the work it does to help others and her ability to diffuse any situation with her tremendous work ethic and sincere smile make her an invaluable asset to our organization. I know you will join me in wishing her a Happy Anniversary and share my hope that we celebrate many more.

## AHIF welcomes its first Tuscaloosa Board Member

Alabama Head Injury Foundation is pleased to welcome Dr. Jimmy Robinson to its Board of Directors. Dr. Robinson serves as the Head Team Physician for the University of Alabama, Medical Director for the Alabama High School Athletic Association, Medical Director for DCH Sports Medicine and the Endowed Chair of Sports Medicine at the College of Community Health Science at the University of Alabama. Dr. Robinson is a vocal advocate for improving the awareness and correct diagnosis of sports-related concussions. We are honored to welcome him to our Board of Directors.



## AHIF partners with United Way of Marshall County

Alabama Head Injury Foundation is pleased to announce a new partnership with United Way of Marshall County. United Way of Marshall County has generously allocated funds to AHIF in 2015 and 2016 to help provide services to the hundreds of residents in Marshall County living with traumatic brain injury. We are so thankful for their support, their partnership and the opportunity to collaboratively work with them and the many other nonprofit agencies in Marshall County providing services to those in need.





## Your Contributions Make It All Possible...Thank you!

### Bessemer Elks 721 ride for AHIF

AHIF was honored to have the Bessemer Elks 721 raise \$3,100 in support of AHIF as part of a charity bike ride on April 11th. The Bessemer Elks 721 were formed over 100 years ago to promote community service, and have more than 500 members.



### Poarch Creek Indians support AHIF

The Poarch Creek Indian Council in Atmore, Alabama has supported AHIF through a \$3,500 gift to provide the weekly support group meetings in Mobile, with more than 1,800 attendees each year. In total, the Poarch Creek Indian Council has provided more than \$13,000 to AHIF in support of this initiative.



## Your Giving Truly Makes a Difference

Mr. and Mrs. Simmons came to know AHIF in 1989 when their four-year old son sustained a traumatic brain injury after having a seizure, falling and hitting his head in their kitchen. Since that time, in addition to direct support services, AHIF has provided respite care to the Simmons where a home health worker comes to their home to take care of their son for a short time. In May 2015, Mrs. Simmons requested such a respite care visit so that she could take her husband to a doctor's appointment in Birmingham.

The following day, Mr. Simmons was in a terrible car accident himself, and remains in critical condition at a Mobile hospital. Mrs. Simmons contacted AHIF with the most tragic of dilemmas. Her son does not handle staying away from home very well, and yet she wants to be with her husband as much

as possible in Mobile. Mrs. Simmons acknowledged that she had used up her respite voucher for the year, but wanted to know if there was anything that could be done. Contributions to AHIF make respite care possible, and AHIF was able to offer another voucher so that Mrs. Simmons could be with her husband and know that her son was also in good hands. When AHIF employee Janice Waters, who coordinates the respite care program, called Mrs. Simmons to let her know, Mrs. Simmons immediately began crying and thanking Jesus. She said that words could not express how grateful she is for the respite care hours. AHIF similarly cannot express how grateful we are to those who generously support our programs so that we can help individuals like the Simmons family in their time of need. Thank you.

## AHIF graduates its first Matter of Balance class

For AHIF Program Director Holli Driver, teaching the Matter of Balance class is so much more than her job. On July 2014, her grandfather fell on his porch, hit his head and had a seizure. He went to a local hospital, was transferred to UAB, and then to HealthSouth Lakeshore for rehabilitation. Thankfully, her grandfather recovered from his fall, but the entire incident left her thinking about ways to prevent falls and how AHIF could assist Alabama's aging

population.

AHIF recently learned of a fall prevention program for seniors called Matter of Balance. Through a grant from the Lucille Beeson Trust, Holli Driver was trained to implement this program locally.

AHIF graduated its first class on August 26, 2015. The class consisted of individuals ages 67-90. The class met twice a week for two hours at Hunter Street

Baptist Church. Individuals learned about managing falls, concerns and fears about falls, "fall-ty behaviors" in the home and completed a home safety checklist. AHIF is excited to be a partner in helping spread the word on fall prevention.



## AHIF welcomes a new Resource Coordinator to its staff

### Adam's Contact Information:

E-mail: [adamtyus.ahif@gmail.com](mailto:adamtyus.ahif@gmail.com)

Phone: (205) 370-9540



### Adam Tyus

Adam Tyus, the new AHIF Resource Coordinator covering the Madison/Marshall County area carries a Masters of Science from Portland State University with a specialization in Conflict Resolution and Mediation.

Most recently, he worked for Ability Plus as Program Director & Qualified Development Disability Professional. He will be working primarily in part of the territory left vacant with the departure of 18 year AHIF veteran Sandy Kiplinger.

*"I am so excited to have the opportunity to support people from all walks of life, without regard to race, gender, sex, religion or orientation, where my primary focus can be simple... supporting those who have endured a brain injury and their families."*

## AHIF introduces new territories for its consumers

With the arrival of new staff, AHIF has tweaked its territories to align with geographic common sense and to reduce the overall caseload for Resource Coordinators so they can deliver greater individualized services to consumers within their territory. The new territories are as follows:

### Northwest Alabama

**Resource Coordinator:**  
Debi Dean



**Counties Served:** Colbert, Cullman, Fayette, Franklin, Lamar, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, Marion, Morgan, Walker, Winston

### Northeast Alabama

**Resource Coordinator:**  
Adam Tyus



**Counties Served:** DeKalb, Jackson, Madison, Marshall

### West Central Alabama

**Resource Coordinator:** Holli Driver (Interim)

**Counties Served:** Bibb, Greene, Hale, Jefferson, Pickens, Shelby, Sumter, Tuscaloosa

### East Central Alabama

**Resource Coordinator:**  
Pat Motley



**Counties Served:** Blount, Calhoun, Chambers, Clay, Cleburne, Coosa, Etowah, Randolph, St. Clair, Talladega, Tallapoosa

### South Central Alabama

**Resource Coordinator:**  
Cat Barlow



**Counties Served:** Autauga, Bullock, Chilton, Dallas, Elmore, Lee, Lowndes, Macon, Montgomery, Perry, Russell

### Southeast Alabama

**Resource Coordinator:**  
Terrie Causey



**Counties Served:** Barbour, Butler, Coffee, Conecuh, Covington, Crenshaw, Dale, Geneva, Henry, Houston, Pike

### Southwest Alabama

**Resource Coordinator:**  
Teresa Roberts



**Counties Served:** Baldwin, Clarke, Choctaw, Escambia, Marengo, Mobile, Monroe, Washington, Wilcox

If you need additional assistance, call our state office at **(205) 823-3818** or **1-800-433-8002**. Our mailing address is:

**Alabama Head Injury Foundation**  
**3100 Lorna Road, Suite 203**  
**Hoover, AL 35216-5451**



3100 Lorna Road Suite 203  
 Hoover, AL 35216  
 Phone: (205) 823-3818

NON-PROFIT  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 BIRMINGHAM, AL  
 PERMIT NO. 3246

**Our Mission:** *To improve the quality of life for survivors of traumatic brain injury and for their families*

AHIF is a proud partner of:

United Ways of Central Alabama, Lee County, Marshall County, and West Alabama



## AHIF Represented at the Christening of the USS Gabrielle Giffords

On June 13th, AHIF was proud to have its Mobile Resource Coordinator, Teresa Roberts, and Mobile Board Member Melissa Slater present for the christening of the USS Gabrielle Giffords. Gabby Giffords and her husband were present for the

ceremony. Former AHIF Board Member Andy Anderson was instrumental in securing the invitation to the prestigious ceremony to honor Representative Giffords and her courageous personal battle with traumatic brain injury.



USS Gabrielle Giffords



Gabby Giffords, her husband Mark Kelly and AHIF staff member Teresa Roberts

