



SOUTHEASTERN BRAIN TUMOR FOUNDATION'S HORIZONS OF HOPE

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

RACE FOR RESEARCH

The 23rd annual event raises funds, awareness and hope for the brain tumor community

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NEW SBTF STAFF MEMBER

As the Foundation grows, so does our commitment to excellence with the hiring of Sharita Lang

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SBTF WELCOMES SHARITA LANG

In August, Sharita Lang joined the staff of the Southeastern Brain Tumor Foundation as Associate Executive Director with the plan to transition into the Executive Director role in January 2023.

The Foundation has grown in many ways since its inception in 1995. What began as a family searching for resources for their son after his diagnosis became a fundraising Foundation with a dedicated group of volunteers. A Board was formed from those volunteers and for many years the SBTF relied on the time and services of its Board members to plan and host the Race for Research.

However, as the needs of the Foundation grew along with its impact on brain tumor research, it became evident the Foundation required assistance. Geri Shaffer became the first part-time paid employee in 2012 and a life-saver for the SBTF. She has become the face of the Foundation and the backbone of our continued growth. With her leadership, the SBTF has expanded to offer Scholarships, Patient Programs, additional Support Groups, and continues to fund important brain tumor research.

Since then the Foundation has added a second part-time employee to assist with events, Joy Basham. Joy has been instrumental in the growth and success of both the Muddy Duck Dash and the Race for Research. She is currently working on our first Pickleball tournament and Golf Invitational.

The Foundation is excited to announce that, thanks to the hard work by those two ladies and the SBTF's Board, the Foundation is again ready to grow. Sharita Lang began her position as Associate Executive Director on August 8, 2022 and will transition into Geri's role of Executive Director in January of 2023. Geri will stay active with the Foundation, focusing on our Support Groups in a limited capacity.

Sharita Lang has been instrumental in garnering change for organizations for over the last 20 years. Having earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology and a Master's degree in public administration, she has utilized her expertise to reshape the foundations of organizations to ensure their success and the accomplishments of those they serve. Sharita's life was transformed early by the diagnosis of a close relative similarly to all of those who serve on the SBTF Board of Directors. Dedicated to continuing the excellent reputation of the SBTF, Sharita is committed to keeping the mission of offering Support, Hope, and Courage while together we find a cure for all diagnosed with a brain tumor.



PICKLEBALLIN' FOR BRAINS

PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT SCHEDULED NOVEMBER 2022

Come see what all the excitement is about! Never heard of "pickleball?" It is a sport similar to tennis that is gaining popularity quickly! The Foundation will host the 'Pickleballin' for Brains' tournament on November 11 - 13th at Cresswind Twin Lakes facility in Hoschton, GA. There are brackets for many skill levels and ages and, of course, spectators are welcome.

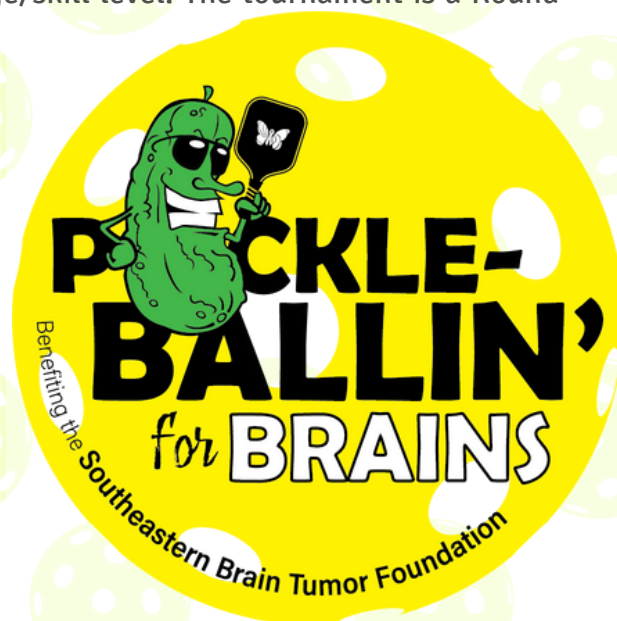
On Friday, singles will compete, Saturday is men's and women's doubles and Sunday the mixed doubles hit the courts. Awards will be given to the top three in each age/skill level. The tournament is a Round Robin format and each day food trucks will be on site.

TO REGISTER: [HTTPS://A2MPICKLEBALL.COM/3640](https://a2mpickleball.com/3640)

The first event is \$55 and each additional event is \$10 more. Prices increase on October 28, 2022 - register now!

Interested in sponsoring the event? Email events@sbtf.org to be sent a sponsor document and select your level. This event over three days will attract more than 300 local participants!

Spectators are not charged a gate fee, so if you are around the area, come by and see what all the excitement is about!



AMAZON WISH LIST FOR PATIENTS

The Foundation created a "wish list" of items commonly appreciated by patients. We invite you to view our [Amazon wish list](#) and purchase an item which will be sent to our staff to create Care Bags for patients. The list includes items such as hard candy, Biotene mouthwash, lip balm, puzzle books, journals, blankets, masks, fuzzy socks, and more.

Donations have been received from supporters at the Race for Research, at the Summer Fun Concert and through a partnership with RockHaven Homes.

SCAN TO VISIT THE LIST





BRAIN TUMOR "THRIVERS"

In this segment of our quarterly newsletter we salute and recognize brain tumor THRIVERS. Each and every day post-diagnosis is a day to celebrate and a day to share stories of Thrivorship. If you are a brain tumor thriver, be sure to let us know so we can celebrate you in our quarterly newsletter.

CHRISTIAN JOHNSON

In May of 2020, I began having very severe headaches while teaching from home. I shrugged them off as migraines for a couple of days until they started making me feel weird. About six days later, my husband took me to urgent care, where they told him to get me immediately to the ER. I was hospitalized for 10 days, mostly in ICU. A huge mass in my right temporal lobe was originally slightly reacting to antibiotics but causing severe pain. I went home on a PICC line to continue antibiotics until the mass was no longer shrinking. After having had a seizure, we biopsied the mass and I was diagnosed with an Anaplastic Astrocytoma in December. The next month, I went in for a craniotomy where a softball size portion of my right temporal lobe was removed. A little more than a month later, I went through eight weeks of simultaneous chemo and radiation treatments. After those eight weeks, I started a monthly cycle of chemo treatments for a year. Through the treatments, I lost a lot of hair and was originally losing weight due to the chemo keeping me sick. I completed chemo indefinitely in May of this past year. Currently, I am at a healthy weight, off of all of my medications, and feeling better than I ever have. I've been able to reach through it all and have such an amazing support system and medical teams that keep me going! Thank you also to the SBTF for providing my family with gas cards through this progress as I drive about 45 minutes to each appointment!



Are you a brain tumor Thriver?
Send us your story: info@sbtf.org



RACE FOR RESEARCH

The 23d annual Race for Research 1k/5k benefiting the Southeastern Brain Tumor Foundation was held September 24th on the Green at Atlantic Station. YOU are the backbone of this event and the reason the Foundation can award research grants, offer scholarships and host support groups. Each team, each group, each individual represents a loved one fighting or lost to a brain tumor. A big THANK YOU to everyone who participated, volunteered or donated to make the Race a success.

Team LD crossed the \$50,000 lifetime raised milestone with 15 years of support. Team DenFeyer became the sixth team to reach \$150,000 lifetime fundraising mark. Team captain Josh Denham held a summer concert fundraiser to push him over the line. Josh shared his story and why he continues to support the SBTF at the Race for Research.

Amazing team spirit was shown by Hope for Heather, Peaceful Warriors and The Diddlebugs and many other groups. Be sure to check out our Flickr site and download your Race photos for free! Tag us on social media so we can share in your excitement.

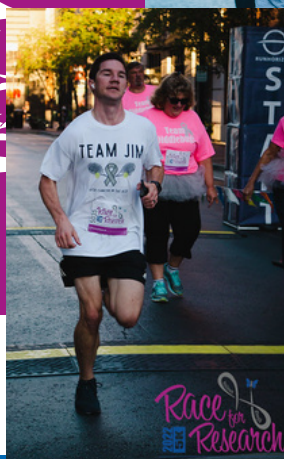
To date, the event has raised over \$142,000 and the site remains open for donations until the end of October. Monies raised are earmarked for critical brain tumor research.

[HTTPS://WWW.FLICKR.COM/PHOTOS/SBTF/ALBUMS](https://www.flickr.com/photos/sbtf/albums)

**1ST PLACE TEAM - TEAM
DENFEYER \$23,540**

**1ST PLACE INDIVIDUAL -
DON HUFFNER \$15,035**

**TEAM SPIRIT WINNER -
THE DIDDLEBUGS**





MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our 23rd Race was this past weekend and my cup is filled. Each event is so meaningful to me and to the staff and Board at the Foundation. We see your spirit, your hope and your courage as you walk or run the course. We cherish the signs and photos you share on the Wall of Honor and love seeing your smiles as you took photos with the butterfly. It is a morning of camaraderie and reflection with a bit of fun mixed in too. While we all hate that new teams have a reason to form, we welcomed nine new teams and celebrated ten years with Gray for Clay, Shawna's Soldiers and The Might Menhunes.

As the Foundation continues to grow, I am excited to work with Sharita and discover how she can assist the Foundation's mission. This Fall the SBTF will host our first pickle ball tournament- come learn with me all about this sport!

Next spring we introduce another new event, our first Golf Invitational! It will be held at The Landing at Renyolds near Lake Oconee. Be on the lookout for more details first of the year. This event is in partnership with Dr. McCracken of Piedmont Brain Tumor Center.

As we start to look towards year end, remember to mark your calendars for Giving Tuesday (all proceeds benefit our patient services fund) and fill out your matching gift paperwork before 2022 ends! Those dollars are a simple way to double your impact on the brain tumor community.

Thanks for another amazing Race for Research- don't forget to check and see if we snapped a photo of you!

Kelly Turner

UPCOMING EVENTS

2022

Oct 23: Alive in Roswell
Oct 29: Intl Brain Tumor Awareness
Nov 11: Pickleballin' for Brains
Nov 29: Giving Tuesday

2023

May 6: SBTF Golf Invitational

Want to find out more about our Events?

Visit our website events page!

<https://sbtbf.org/brain-tumor-events/>

LEARN MORE AT [SBTF.ORG](https://sbtbf.org)



EVENTS BENEFITING THE SBTF:

▶ ALIVE IN ROSWELL:

Date: Oct 23, 2022
Location: Downtown Roswell
Website: aliveinRoswell.com

To participate: No tickets necessary, open to public. visit Councilman Mike Palermo's beverage tent and purchase a beverage; proceeds benefit the SBTF

▶ PICKLEBALLIN' FOR BRAINS:

Date: Nov 11-13, 2022
Location: Cresswind Twin Lakes, Hoschton GA
Website: <https://a2mpickleball.com/3640>

To participate: Tourney will be open to a limited number of Picklers of various ages and skill levels. Further details coming soon!