



SOUTHEASTERN BRAIN TUMOR FOUNDATION'S

# HORIZONS OF HOPE

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

## FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

The SBTF strives to be excellent stewards of your donated funds. See how your gifts were used.

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## TEAM LD HITS \$50K

Long-tenure team crosses the \$50,000 lifetime raised milestone! Learn about the team and why they support the SBTF at the Race.

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## PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT

Tournament results in funds raised and a great event for all participants. Mark your calendars for 2023 events!

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## TEAM LD - \$50,000 LIFETIME RAISED

LaDonna Hocker, Captain of Team LD, recently celebrated 15 years of participation in Race For Research, our signature 5K event. Over the years, she and her husband Scott logged numerous volunteer hours and have organized benefactor events. This year LaDonna and her team reached a fundraising milestone and crossed over the \$50,000 mark! Congrats Team!



Corporate gift matching, employee giving, and year-over-year donors helped the team achieve this significant goal. Why is this fundraising achievement so significant? This amount is synonymous with funding of an SBTF research grant award (like the one below). Since inception of our brain tumor research grant program, the SBTF has awarded nearly \$3 million in grants. Congrats Team LD, and thank you to all who make research grant funding possible.

## "CANCER CELLS ARE SMART"



Research Grant Awarded - Fall 2022

Congrats Dr. Edjah Nduom  
Emory University  
Atlanta, GA

SBTF supporters enabled the funding of cutting-edge, innovative research which has the potential to change current diagnostic and/or treatment standards of care.

Through out partnership with the ABTA, the SBTF recently funded a \$50,000 Discovery Grant. The research grant recipient is Dr. Edjah Nduom, of Emory University. Dr. Nduom's project, titled "Intratumoral Anti-CD29 Treatment to Improve Brain Tumor Immune Therapy", will study a combination immunotherapy that could provide a critical breakthrough for patients diagnosed with glioblastoma.

"Cancer cells are smart and prevent the immune system from attacking them by stimulating "checkpoints" that tell the immune system to stand down. Checkpoint inhibitors block these immunosuppressive checkpoints and restore the ability of the immune system to attack cancer directly. Unfortunately, checkpoint inhibitor therapy has not worked well enough for patients suffering from glioblastoma. Scientists believe this is due to a population of cells called macrophages that keep active immune cells out of the tumor. A promising new treatment, OS2966, could block these macrophages and enable checkpoint inhibitors to work in glioblastoma".

Visit [sbtf.org/impact](http://sbtf.org/impact) for updates on this this research project and other projects funded by your support.

# Brain Tumor & Aphasia Support Group



I am a Speech-Language Pathologist who facilitates the SBTF bi-weekly Brain Tumor & Aphasia Support Group Meeting. My name is Erica Freestone.

Did you know 30-50% of people with brain tumors experience aphasia, or a language disorder? This can result in difficulties talking, understanding, reading, and writing. It can also result in isolation.

Aphasia can have a **profound impact** on one's ability to complete daily activities, as well as impact a patients' quality of life.

Aphasia support groups have proven effective to address and improve both speech-language skills and psychosocial factors. Unfortunately, many of the aphasia-based community resources are directed to the stroke population



The SBTF Brain Tumor & Aphasia support group provides a unique service to the brain tumor population. Without this group, our participants would have to be an “outsider” in other predominately stroke-based aphasia groups or forgo the speech-language and psychosocial benefits aphasia-directed support groups provide altogether.

The SBTF Brain Tumor & Aphasia support group is a free service SBTF provides to the brain tumor and aphasia population. I welcome the opportunity to lead this distinctive group’s biweekly meetings.

For additional details about our bi-weekly meetings, please contact us via e:mail at [info@sbtfo.org](mailto:info@sbtfo.org)

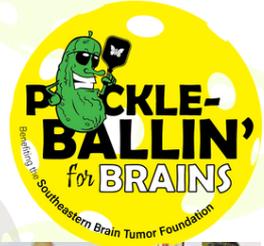
Erica Freestone, MS, CCC-SLP  
Speech Pathologist II  
Emory Johns Creek Hospital Rehab Dept.



Ask us about aphasia cards; they can be a great tool for the Aphasia brain tumor patient.

# PICKLEBALLIN' FOR BRAINS

On November 11th and 12th, we held our first ever pickleball tournament, "Pickleballin' for Brains" at the beautiful Cresswind Twin Lakes facility in Hoschton, Georgia. We had music, raffles, swag, a food truck and more! We were overwhelmed by the support we received from the pickleball community, as well as our amazing sponsors. We look forward to our upcoming pickleball events that will be held in late winter/early spring (location TBD) and again on Nov 4-5, 2023 at Cresswind. Connect with other patients or help raise awareness about the impact of a brain tumor diagnosis while having fun and supporting a great cause. To receive the most recent updates via Facebook search "SBTF Pickleball" and like and follow . Or go to: <https://www.facebook.com/sbtfpickleball>



## PATIENT CARE BAGS

Pictured below are members of the SBTF/Emory St. Joe's Adult support group. They recently gathered prior to the Christmas holiday and assembled patient care bags.

Canvas tote bags were filled with fleece blankets, Chapstick, hand lotion, knitted caps, word search puzzle, fuzzy socks, pens and much more. Thanks to all who donated through the SBTF Amazon Wish List program; you made the SBTF Patient Care Bag program a success!



Special delivery by Jessica Munday, above, who reached out to the SBTF on behalf of the Footnotes Dance and Acrobatics Vibe Competition team in Roswell. "A team members family was impacted by brain cancer. We decided to make fleece hats to donate to the Southeastern Brain Tumor Foundation as patient care items". The timing couldn't have been more perfect. Over 60 individuals came together to create nearly 100 hats for our Patient Care bags. A huge thank you to the Vibes competition team from Roswell.



# BRAIN TUMOR "THRIVERS"



*Kimberlee Baker*

Kimberlee Baker is the founder of her own greeting card business, Kimmie's Heart Cards. Kimberlee is a brain tumor survivor who found art during her recovery and uses the medium to give back. Her goal for Kimmie's Heart Cards is to make sure no one feels alone and hopeless like she

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 Thrivership. If you are a brain tumor thriver, be sure to let us know so we can celebrate you in our quarterly newsletter.



## KYMBERLEE BAKER

On February 17, 2020, Kimberlee's life came to a screeching halt. She required emergency brain surgery to remove two tumors and was told "notify your family immediately". Her career as an Assistant General Manager in the hotel industry suddenly ended. The subsequent traumatic injury to her brain resulted in communication, as well as physical, deficits. It was during her in-patient rehab days at the Shepherd Center in Atlanta when Kimberlee regained writing skills and began crafting customized cards of encouragement; cards which she created for her medical team and other patients at the Shepherd Center.

Nearly three years post diagnosis, Kimberlee has re-learned several life skills; skills which we all take for granted. Unable to physically return to life "as it was", she learned survival and coping skills which allowed her to identify ways in which to thrive despite challenges caused by her diagnosis.

Through the Synergies Work i2i Program, which enables individuals with disabilities to launch and grow sustainable businesses, Kimberlee is learning how to take her talent for developing custom greeting cards to another level. She has, in fact, generated some customized greeting cards for the SBTF. Just recently she developed a line of holiday cards which she is distributing under the name of Kimmie's Heart Cards on Etsy. We wish her much success with her business endeavor. Best of luck Kimberlee.

If you received one of these hand-crafted SBTF cards, made by Kimberlee, let us know at [info@sbtf.org](mailto:info@sbtf.org).



**Are you a brain tumor Thriver?  
Send us your story: [info@sbtf.org](mailto:info@sbtf.org)**



# FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Each year the Foundation hosts several events and campaigns to raise funds to support our programs. Those events include the Race for Research, the Muddy Duck Dash, Pickleballin' for Brains, the SBTF's birthday, Giving Tuesday, Go Gray in May as well as other events hosted by our supporters. We also **seek** sponsorships, grants, donor-advised funds, and corporate matching donations. Social media has become a popular way for our supporters to create fundraisers benefiting the Foundation as well. Gifts are received from wills, retirement account distributions, in lieu of flowers and other avenues.

All of the monies received are carefully held and used to fund research grants, award scholarships, host support groups, and offer acts of kindness to patients. We strive to minimize any expenses which do not support our programs. We take stewardship of the funds your generosity provided very seriously. Each expense is weighed against how it will impact our brain tumor community.

However, we always want to accomplish more. Fund more research. Offer more scholarships. Host more support groups. Find more resources for patients. To do this we rely on volunteers and the generosity of our supporters. Please consider continuing your support of the Southeastern Brain Tumor Foundation in 2023 and the possibility of becoming a recurring donor. A \$100 donation is amazing, but \$10 per month equals a \$120 donation in the calendar year with less impact to your monthly budget. Also, be sure to verify if your employer will match your charitable donations. Our website offers a tool to see if your employer matches and then lists the steps to request the funds be matched. A few clicks can greatly impact the amount of support we can offer the brain tumor community. If all donations were matched we would double our income and double our ability to search for a cure.

Volunteerism is another large part of our ability to achieve our goals. We need volunteers at events and during the year. If you are interested in getting involved, please email [ExecDirector@sbtf.org](mailto:ExecDirector@sbtf.org).

For every **\$1.00** donated to the Southeastern Brain Tumor Foundation:

- \$0.11** PROVIDES PATIENT ACTS OF KINDNESS
- \$0.45** FUNDS CRITICAL RESEARCH GRANTS
- \$0.18** OFFERS SCHOLARSHIPS
- \$0.06** FACILITATES SUPPORT GROUPS
- \$0.21** GOES TO EDUCATION, GROWTH SERVICES AND ENHANCEMENT



## SBTF Golf Invitational CHIP IN FOR BRAIN CANCER

The SBTF is hosting a Golf Invitational on May 6, 2023 at the Landing Golf Course at Reynolds Lake Oconee. Participation is limited so early registration is recommended. All food, beverage and activities are included in the registration fee.

The event includes private use of the course, round of golf, cart and all food and beverage during the event. A reception will follow play and will include an auction and refreshments.

Lodging is available at the Ritz Carlton hotel on site and a block has been reserved with special pricing for our participants. ([LINK](#) to reserve) Please reserve your room prior to 4/5/2023.

Sponsoring the event is a great way to get involved and support the SBTF's mission of finding a cure for brain tumors while supporting current patients. If you or your employer may be interested, please download our sponsor package by clicking [HERE](#).



**So join us for a great day of golf and chip in for brain cancer and tumors!**

Scan the QR code to register today!



KELLY TURNER

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As another year comes to a close, I look back at all the Foundation has accomplished this year. With your support we have awarded more scholarships than last year allowing over 20 students impacted by a brain tumor diagnosis to attend college or trade school. We funded several research projects for scientists searching for better treatments and a cure. We hosted support groups - even a few in person again - to offer hope and resources to patients. We gave a helping hand to current patients to assist with things such as transportation and groceries. Our mission was accomplished but not finished.

As we look forward to 2023, we add two new board members (look for them on our website in January) and continue to find ways to support the brain tumor community. We are adding new events and partnerships to achieve our goals.

However, we, like many, struggled in 2022 to meet our income goals. We take our role of financial stewardship very seriously and finished under our expected expenses in 2022 but were short in what we were able to fund due to also finishing under our anticipated income. Our goal for 2023 is to be able to provide all the resources we can for the brain tumor community and continue to push for cutting-edge research opportunities. To do this, we count on your support as a volunteer, a participant and as a donor.

Please consider continuing your support of our mission in 2023, the entire brain tumor community thanks you as do I, the staff and Board of Directors of the Foundation.

*Kelly Turner* 

## UPCOMING EVENTS

2023

- May 1: Scholarship App Opens
- May: Brain Tumor Awareness Mth
- May 6: SBTF Golf Invitational
- June 25: SBTF Birthday
- Sept 23: Race for Research
- Nov 5: Pickleballin' for Brains

**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:

### ➤ GOLF INVITATIONAL

**Date:** May 6, 2023

**Location:** The Landing Golf Course

**Website:** [support.sbtbf.org/golf](https://support.sbtbf.org/golf)

**To participate:** Register online. For questions, email [info@sbtbf.org](mailto:info@sbtbf.org). Hotel rooms are available at special pricing. Event includes a player gift, round of golf, cart, all food & beverage, reception and auction.

