



Shepherd Center Presentation & Tour October 11, 2022

At the age of 22, James Shepherd sustained a spinal cord injury and was paralyzed from the neck down when he was slammed to the ocean floor by a wave in a bodysurfing accident off a beach in Rio de Janeiro. After spending five weeks in a Brazilian hospital struggling to survive, he returned to the United States and to a local Atlanta Hospital. There was no facility in Atlanta that offered rehabilitation services, so James went to a specialized facility in Denver. After months of intensive therapy, James regained his ability to walk with a leg brace and cane. Upon returning to Atlanta, James and his family decided that they wanted people in the Southeast to have the option of rehabilitation services.

Ranked as one of the top 10 rehabilitation hospitals in the nation, Shepherd Center is a private, not-for-profit hospital specializing in medical treatment, research, and rehabilitation for people with spinal cord injury, brain injury, stroke, multiple sclerosis, spine and chronic pain and other neuromuscular conditions. In its more than four decades, Shepherd Center has grown from a six-bed rehabilitation unit to a world-renowned, 152-bed hospital that treats more than 743 inpatients, 277-day program patients and more than 7,161 outpatients each year in more than 46,000 visits.

Patients in Shepherd Center's rehabilitation programs get more than just medical care: They get an experience that brings healing and hope. Shepherd's team of highly specialized, experienced clinicians are dedicated to helping their patients rebuild their lives with hope, independence, and dignity, advocating for their full inclusion in all aspects of community life while promoting safety and injury prevention. To learn more about Shepherd Center and the Shepherd Family [click here](#).

Shepherd Center Schedule:

1:00 - 1:30 pm - Boxed Lunch

1:30 - Alana Shepherd, Co-Founder and Sarah Morrison, CEO welcome group

1:45 - [Grant Brunson](#) (former patient) and [Cheryl Linden](#), Shepherd Center Adolescent Counselor – Shepherd Center Adolescent Program

2:10 - Innovation Video & Presentation by [Dr. Debbie Backus](#), Vice President of Research and Innovation

2:50 - 4:00 - Breakout tours of Shepherd Center

[Shepherd Center - The Bridge from I can't to I can!](#)