



OUR MISSION: *"To enhance the quality of life for brain-injured survivors by enabling them to maximize their potential."*



Crumley House facing challenges amid COVID-19 pandemic

Count The Crumley House Brain Rehabilitation Center as one of the numerous non-profit organizations across the region to feel a major impact as a result of the of the COVID-19 virus pandemic.

Established in 1992, the only non-profit brain injury rehabilitation facility in Tennessee relies heavily upon individual and corporate monetary donations, fundraising events, material contributions and volunteer support to satisfy needs for its yearly operational expenses. Each of these areas have been, to some degree, affected due to COVID-19.



Executive Director, Guynn Edwards reviews projected COVID-19 impacts on 2020 Crumley House budget.

Most notably, due to the pandemic, The Crumley House canceled its two major 2020 fundraisers, the Joggin' for the Noggin! 5k Run/Walk and the highly popular Polynesian Beach Party. Combined, these two events annually generate \$125k to \$175k for the facility. Additionally, The Crumley House was dropped as a recipient from the United Way of Washington County Tennessee funds for 2020, resulting in an additional \$12,000 loss.

"Canceling these events impacts The Crumley House greatly," said Guynn Edwards, Executive Director. "Rest assured, our board of directors and our staff are busy planning alternative means to solicit donations and raise funds, but it will be a monumental challenge to even get close to our typical income from these events, on which we depend greatly each year.

"While we're disappointed to cancel these events, it was not a hard decision to make. We fully understand the important issue at hand is the health, safety and well-being of everyone including our Crumley House residents, members and staff. Naturally our events depend heavily on corporate partnerships, food donations and community support. However, we realize under these

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circumstances all are challenged, making decisions so difficult when it comes to monetary or material donations and discretionary spending.”

Be it a “virtual” 5k Run/Walk, or a date for the event to be scheduled later, Edwards states, “The Joggin’ for the Noggin! may take place in some form. But that’s still just a small drop in the bucket.”

Adding to the COVID-19 stresses of The Crumley House is the inability for the facility to operate its Adult Day Care Program under current circumstances. A typical day at the brain rehabilitation center sees anywhere from 15 to 25 individuals utilizing public transportation to travel to and from The Crumley House to participate in the program which features physical training, cognitive training, computer training, cognitive training and community re-entry skills. Due to the virus, the day program has been temporarily suspended.

Often, those dealing with brain injuries also experience a compromised immune system due to certain medications and the injury itself, placing members at a more significant risk.

Edwards adds, “Our Adult Day Program is a crucial part of what we do here to assist many brain injury survivors in their rehabilitation and get them on a solid road to community re-entry. This is a ‘billable’ resource for us that equates to anywhere from \$7,000 to \$12,000 each month. While we look forward to getting the program back up and running soon, we still must place the safety and well-being of our residents as our top priority.”

During early May, The Crumley House launched a “donate now” option on its web site, as well as a social media campaign on its Facebook page.

Some progress is being made. East Tennessee Foundation awarded a \$5,000 grant to The Crumley House, and the Tri-Cities Military Affairs Council presented a \$1,000 donation (see related articles on this page).

“It’s a start, but there is so much we must make up,” said Edwards. “Again, we understand giving is difficult during these times, but please know we appreciate any and all that can be done to assist us in our efforts.”

The Crumley House Brain Injury Rehab Center currently is accepting donations online at crumleyhouse.com or via mail to The Crumley House, 300 Urbana Road, Limestone, TN 37681. For more information, please call 423.257.3644.

Crumley House receives \$5,000 Grant from East Tennessee Foundation

The Crumley House Brain Injury Rehabilitation Center recently received a \$5,000 grant from East Tennessee Foundation as part of that organization’s COVID-19 Neighbor to Neighbor Disaster Relief Fund. The grant will assist in The Crumley House in operational expenses.



“We are greatly appreciative of East Tennessee Foundation and its assistance with this grant. The foundation has been a great partner with The Crumley House over the years,” said Guynn Edwards, Crumley House Executive Director. “It was a blessing to learn we were approved for these funds, but we still face a significant challenge to make up for the shortfall we will experience throughout 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.”

East Tennessee Foundation (ETF) is a public charity and community foundation created by and for the people of East Tennessee. For more information on the organization, please visit easttennesseefoundation.org.

Tri-Cities Military Affairs Council donates \$1,000

Amid the COVID-19 crisis and strain experienced by The Crumley House, the Tri-Cities Military Affairs Council (TCMAC) recently stepped up to present the brain injury rehabilitation center with a \$1,000 donation as well as some needed supplies.

“We’re incredibly thankful for the Tri-Cities Military Affairs Council,” said Fundraising Coordinator Ben Trout. “We have a great relationship with the entire organization, their



TCMAC Treasurer Sam Jones (left), presents a \$1,000 check and supplies to Fundraising Coordinator, Ben Trout representing The Crumley House.

President Ernie Rumsby and Treasurer Sam Jones and we appreciate the group for being aware of our needs and their willingness to provide assistance to The Crumley House.” For more information on the TCMAC and its mission, please visit tc-mac.org online.

Service Coordination Program plays key role in brain injury care at The Crumley House and throughout the region

Brain Injury Service Coordinator, Fredda Roberts settles behind her desk as the phone rings. It's a call from a regional brain injury survivor with questions regarding assistance and available rehabilitation options. Roberts pops the top on her computer and the two immediately go to work to discover best solutions and next steps. It's a typical morning for Roberts, who serves nine counties throughout East Tennessee as part of the Tennessee Department of Health Brain Injury Service Coordination Program.

The Service Coordination Program works to improve the quality of life for persons with a brain injury and their family members. Be it developing a comprehensive plan of care, providing the proper referrals, or coordinating the proper client advocacy, Fredda focuses on bridging the gaps and connecting brain injured clients with the best possible service delivery system(s) to meet their needs.

“So much of what I do is discovery, evaluation and problem solving to match clients with proper services that best suit their needs and current situation,” says Roberts. “It takes understanding of the specific type of brain injury, the current abilities of the client; and issues such as coping with insurance and financial impacts.”

In addition to client facilitation, Roberts also works regularly with colleges, universities, high schools and health organizations to create awareness, and also to develop training and individual education plans suited to the specific needs of individuals with brain injuries.

Aside from office time, Roberts regularly travels the nine-county area meeting with clients and their respective families to aid in determining the best course of action. Be it on-the-phone counseling, face-to-face meetings as well as discussions with providers, all aspects of the service program are crucial for all parties involved.

“It's a wide spectrum as brain injuries range from mild concussions to severe injuries that result in comas, loss of speech and/or motor skills,” adds Roberts. “I wear a lot of hats in my job and it can be simple to very complex, and that is something I really like about my job.

“I may assist with a client in developing a new hobby. It may be that I assist them with a plan that helps them in their day-to-day living skills, or it may be as substantial as arranging for comprehensive care such as the residential or day care programs here at The Crumley House,” said Roberts.

Fredda Roberts came to The Crumley House from the Tennessee Division of Rehabilitation Services in 2001 and has been the Tennessee East Region Service Coordinator since that time. Her professional background is in Vocational Rehabilitation and Therapeutic Foster Care. She earned her B.S. in Sociology at Tennessee Technological University, and later earning here specialist certification from the Academy of Certified Brain Injury Specialists.

Originally from Crossville, Tennessee, Roberts has been in the Tri-Cities region since 1998 and resides in Jonesborough with her husband Terry, daughter Brooke and son Perry.

For more information on the Tennessee Department of Health Brain Injury Service Program at The Crumley House, please visit crumleyhouse.com/service-coordination.



The Crumley House serves as the Service Coordination location for Tennessee's East Region and is directed by Fredda Roberts, a certified brain injury specialist.

McCready, Jones fill Crumley House Cognitive Instruction and Physical Training positions



Debbie McCready

Two important positions at The Crumley House recently have been filled. Assuming the role of Cognitive Instructor is Debbie McCready. No stranger to The Crumley House team, McCready has been part of the CH staff since 1992. She takes on her new position with pride as she steps in for her late husband, Ron McCready, who passed away last December.

“I’m honored to take on this new role and to have the opportunity to further assist our members,” said McCready. Cognitive Instruction at The Crumley House includes developing individualized plans, basic reading, writing and mathematics instruction. The program also includes focus upon memory, retention and comprehension. “It’s our goal to create independence as part of the Cognitive Instruction process,” added McCready. “Through planning, instruction and evaluation we desire to equip members with basic life skills as part of our rehabilitation efforts.”



Darnell Jones

New to The Crumley House staff is Darnell Jones, who steps in as Exercise Specialist. Jones works daily with members on physical training and motor/coordination skills. Jones, a 2016 ETSU graduate and Dean’s List student, holds a degree B.S. degree in Sports Management and comes to The Crumley House following a successful stint at the Kingsport YMCA.

“I’ve always had an interest in physical training and athletics,” said Jones, a standout athlete in basketball, track and soccer. “I even have a stronger desire to help others, and I have a chance to combine those here at The Crumley House.”

Jones fills the role left vacant by Clay Morelock who was promoted to Crumley House Program Director earlier this year.

