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**BRAIN & SPINAL INJURY TRUST FUND COMMISSION HONORS
ADVOCATES WITH PATHFINDER AWARD**

ATLANTA -- The Brain & Spinal Injury Trust Fund Commission -- Georgia's only state agency dedicated to the needs of persons with traumatic brain and/or spinal cord injuries -- has named two individuals and one group as recipients of this year's Pathfinder Awards. The Columbus Area Brain Injury Support Group, brain injury community advocate Debra Gordon of Waycross, GA and former interim Commission director Bobby Goldberg of Atlanta were honored at a statewide banquet held in Columbus on July 26, the 17th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Each year the Pathfinder award is given to individuals and organizations that advance the lives of Georgians with traumatic brain and spinal cord injuries. This year's award was a print from an original oil painting created by Atlanta-based artist Katharine Hartwig Dahl, who is also a brain injury survivor.

The Columbus Area Brain Injury Support Group is one of the oldest and most active traumatic brain injury support groups in Georgia. It helps survivors cope with their injuries and build more independent lives. Gordon and Goldberg were recognized for their outstanding advocacy and stewardship efforts to the people of Georgia and the Commission.

Outstanding Service awards recognizing unique contributions to the Commission were given to Larry Huggins, Ray Lerer, Justin Pressley, and Wes Rutland-Brown.

The Trust Fund

The mission of the Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund Commission is to enhance the lives of Georgians with traumatic brain and spinal cord injuries. Guided by the aspirations of people with traumatic injuries, the Commission supports lives of meaning, independence, and inclusion. As the state's Lead Agency on Traumatic Injuries, we:

- Administer the Central Registry to identify those who are injured
- Distribute resources through the Trust Fund, and
- Advocate for improvements in statewide services.

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