

emorywheel.com

Emory University's student newspaper

Home News Editorials Sports Arts & Living Entertainment Advertise Blogs Business Center Soletron Search

[home](#) | [news](#)

Emory, Braves Partnership Seeks to Aid Veterans' PTSD Recovery

By [Jordan Friedman](#)

Posted: 06/12/2011

[PRINT](#) [COMMENT](#) [EMAIL](#)

[BOOKMARK](#) [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [LinkedIn](#)

Emory established a partnership with the Atlanta Braves on Memorial Day, creating a three-year initiative that provides resources to veterans recovering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in the Southeast upon their returns from Iraq and Afghanistan.

In a joint email to the Wheel, Psychologist and Assistant Professor at the Emory School of Medicine Maryrose Gerardi and BraveHeart Clinical Care Coordinator and Emory Senior Psychological Specialist Michelle Hammond-Susten, who are both involved in running the initiative, wrote that the "BraveHeart: Welcome Back Veterans Southeast Initiative" provides veterans and their families with education and outreach resources for the PTSD recovery process.

According to the BraveHeart website, the partnership and the initiative have several primary goals. BraveHeart aims to help those with PTSD overcome barriers often associated with the disorder and to increase awareness of PTSD through a combination of online services, fundraising and public service announcements.

Atlanta Braves players will host veterans and their families at Braves games and also visit veterans at medical centers and military bases, according to a May 26 University press release. In addition, the initiative helps improve communications between veterans and healthcare providers and offers education for healthcare providers, according to Gerardi and Hammond-Susten. Through BraveHeart, veterans with PTSD can communicate directly with healthcare specialists through email.

The program was made possible through a \$1 million grant from the Welcome Back Veterans Initiative, a partnership between the Robert R. McCormick Foundation and Major League Baseball under the initiative of Director of Trauma and Anxiety Recovery Program Barbara Rothbaum, according to the press release.

Gerardi and Hammond-Susten wrote that those in charge of the initiative reach out to veterans in rural areas through information that local doctors provide and encourage veterans to seek help by visiting [BraveHeart](#).

The website enables veterans and their families to find information about PTSD, in addition to providing resources such as locations of local treatment locations. Veterans also have access to Emory's clinical care coordinator who can provide them with treatment options.

"Understanding the stigma attached to PTSD and asking for help and treatment, the Emory Trauma and Anxiety Program is enthusiastic about this partnership with our 'hometown heroes,'" Hammond-Susten and Gerardi wrote.

Gerardi and Hammond-Susten wrote that BraveHeart will help educate both the public as well as veterans themselves on the subject of PTSD.

"The partnership with the Braves will involve their support in helping people to understand that like recovering from a sports injury, PTSD also requires rehab and is treatable," they wrote. They added that the Braves will help veterans and the functionality of the program through public service announcements and hosting events to benefit the program.

They wrote in the email that the Robert R. McCormick Foundation in collaboration with the Major League Baseball Charities invited Emory to apply for a grant that

Top Stories

- ▶ [Indie Band 'Gives' the Gift of Weirdness](#)
- ▶ [Google Grant Enables Emory OMPS to Expand](#)
- ▶ [Wheel/Summer Dispatch: Borough-ing Out](#)
- ▶ [Director Gives Scoop on New 'Beginnings'](#)
- ▶ ['Super 8' Makes for an Old-Fashioned Thrill Ride](#)
- ▶ [Community Responds to Student Arrests](#)

Related Stories

- ▶ [Emory Law School Student Arrested on Accusations of Spying](#)
- ▶ [Tuberculosis scare at Emory Hospital](#)
- ▶ [More Than 3,900 Students to Graduate](#)
- ▶ [Law School Dean to Step Down After June](#)
- ▶ [Chelsea Handler Advises Students to Pursue Passions](#)
- ▶ [Emory Police Arrest Seven for Trespassing on Quad](#)

[Most Read](#) [Latest](#) [Most Commented](#)

[Emory Law School Student Arrested on Accusations of Spying](#)

[Tuberculosis scare at Emory Hospital](#)

[Indie Band 'Gives' the Gift of Weirdness](#)

[Google Grant Enables Emory OMPS to Expand](#)

The Emory Wheel



Download the PDF of the Emory Wheel

[DOWNLOAD](#)

- ▶ [Archives of Past Issues](#)
- ▶ [About The Emory Wheel](#)
- ▶ [The Emory Wheel Staff](#)
- ▶ [Advertising](#)
- ▶ [Place a Classified Ad](#)

Helpful Links

- ▶ [Emory University](#)
- ▶ [Emory Report](#)

would enable a partnership between the Braves and Emory.

There are similar initiatives across the country, according to Gerardi and Hammond-Susten. The Homebase program partners the Boston Red Sox and Massachusetts General Hospital, for example. Other examples include the Regents of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, supported by the Detroit Tigers; the Red Sox Foundation in Boston, supported by the Boston Red Sox; and the University of California in Los Angeles, supported by the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim.

— *Contact [Jordan Friedman](#).*

Comments



There are no comments posted yet. [Be the first one!](#)

Post a new comment



Enter text right here!

Comment as a Guest, or login:



Name

Email

Website (optional)

Displayed next to your comments.

Not displayed publicly.

If you have a website, link to it here.

Subscribe to

Submit Comment

[disclaimer](#) | [privacy policy](#)