



# SPINA BIFIDA ASSOCIATION OF ALABAMA

## October-December 2011

P.O. Box 13254, Birmingham, AL 35202

info@sbaofal.org

www.sbaofal.org

*Our mission is to promote the prevention of Spina Bifida and to enhance the lives of all affected*

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Betsy.hopson@chsys.org

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Chevis.shannon@chsys.org

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Lcturner1978@gmail.com

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Shorne9603@yahoo.com

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BChambliss@nationalrehab.com

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westersbaa@aol.com

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Martin.nalls@gmail.com

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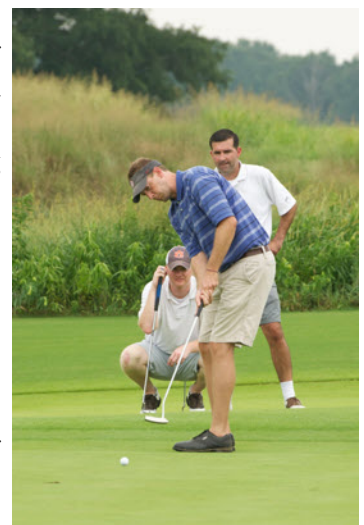
### *5th Annual SBA of AL Horne Family Golf Tournament*



The SBA of AL would like to thank Steven Horne and his entire family for the dedication and hard work they put into the 5th Annual golf tournament. Thanks to their family and the one hundred golfers that participated in the event, this was the most successful tournament yet, raising over \$13,000 to support our Association. Steven works tirelessly every year to ensure that this event is a success, and there is no doubt that without him and the rest of the Horne family, it would not be the incredible event that it has become.

We would also like to thank FarmLinks Golf Club for allowing us to have the tournament on their beautiful golf course. Golfing participants raved that it was their favorite course, and that they were thrilled to have the opportunity to play there. A big thanks also goes out to Steven's family and friends that catered a delicious barbecue lunch to the golfers and to Brandon Swindle who captured the events of the day through his photography.

We are excited to say that the 6th Annual Horne Family Golf Tournament will be held at FarmLinks Golf Club on August 5, 2012. Please mark your calendars and let us know early if you'd like to participate. Space is limited!



**Angie Pate**

**Executive Director**

**256-617-1414**

**Angie.pate@sbaofal.org**



**Thank you to our sponsors!**

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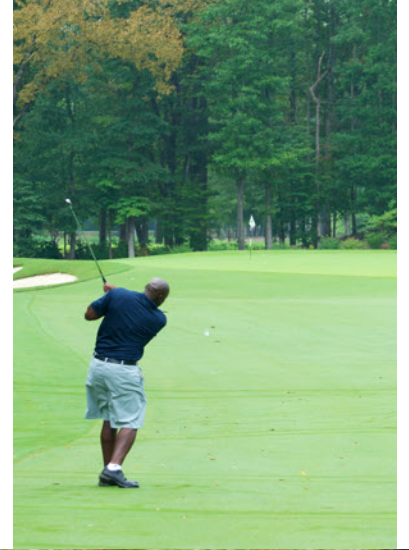
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## 2011 Advanced Education Scholarship Winners



Congratulations to our 2011 Advanced Education Scholarship Winners! We are happy to announce that Cody Bondeson and Jenny Oveson, two outstanding young adults with Spina Bifida, are this year's recipients.

Cody began his Freshmen year this year at Calhoun Community College. He plans to pursue a four year degree in Communications with a minor in Broadcast Journalism.

Jenny Oveson is a Senior at the University of South Alabama. She is pursuing a degree in social work. Jenny is also known to be an incredible advocate for accessibility on her campus.

Both Jenny and Cody state that they have been blessed to have overwhelming support from family and friends which has helped them reach their goals.

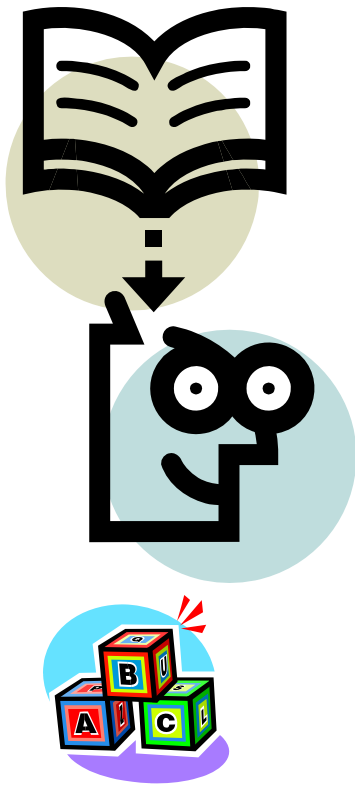
The SBA of AL is so proud of both of these young adults and wish them great success in their future!

The 2012 SBA of AL Advanced Education Scholarship will be available online at [www.sbaofal.org](http://www.sbaofal.org) beginning January 2012. All young adults who are affected by Spina Bifida and plan to attend college the 2012-2013 year are encouraged to apply. For more information, contact Angie Pate at 256-617-1414 ([angie.pate@sbaofal.org](mailto:angie.pate@sbaofal.org)). The application deadline for the 2012 Advanced Education Scholarship will be April 1st.

**SBA of AL and  
Children's Hospital  
Present the 5th  
Annual Learning  
conference**

# Spina Bifida Back to the Basics

**Save the  
Date!  
October 28th  
2011**



## AGENDA

- 8:00-8:30 Registration and pick up breakfast  
8:30-9:30 Dr. Carol Russell and Tally Russell– Nonverbal Learning tips and strategies.  
9:30-9:40 Break  
9:40-10:50 Dr. Blount– Tethered cord, when to operate, symptomatic chiari malformation, and syrinx.  
10:50-11:00 Break  
11:00-12:00 Dr. Conklin– compare and contrast both operative and non-operative options for scoliosis and foot deformities.  
12:00-12:10 Pick up lunch and return to conference room for adult panel  
12:10-12:50 Adult Panel– candid Q & A with adults with SB.  
12:50-1:00 Break  
1:00-1:50 Judy Thibadeau– Update on national SB research.  
1:50-3:00 Jean Brown– social continence for people with SB.  
3:00-3:10 Break  
3:10-4:10 Dr. Joseph– how to plan for the future and keep kidneys healthy throughout one's lifetime.

The Spina Bifida “Back to the Basics” conference will be held at the Bradley Lecture Center-4th Floor-  
**1600 6th Ave. South Birmingham Alabama**

For more information please call Betsy Hopson at 205-939-5281  
Or Angie Pate at 256-617-1414

**REGISTER EARLY, SPACE IS LIMITED. REGISTRATION WILL BE OPEN FROM SEPTEMBER 1ST- OCTOBER 15TH. Register at [sbaofal.org](http://sbaofal.org)**

**October 28, 2011  
8:00 am-4:00 pm  
REGISTRATION FEE:  
\$35.00**

Includes breakfast, lunch, and educational materials.

**8 CEU credits approved**



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**T** 1-888-303-1164 **F** 1-888-844-0528 **W** [www.nationalrehab.com](http://www.nationalrehab.com)

# Latex Sensitivity and Allergies in Spina Bifida

There are many challenges that individuals with Spina Bifida face on a daily basis such as bowel and bladder incontinence, paralysis, and learning difficulties. Many not only face these challenges but also face a life threatening latex allergy. Research has shown that 73% of individuals with Spina Bifida are also sensitive to latex. The cause of the increased sensitivity with this birth defect is not known but has been linked to overexposure through the many medical procedures and examinations that people with Spina Bifida face from infancy.

Exposure to latex can occur when products containing rubber come in contact with a person's skin or mucous membranes such as the mouth, eyes, genitals, bladder or rectum. Latex is found in medical products such as latex examination gloves, IV ports and syringes, blood pressure cuffs, certain types of catheters, bandages and band-aids. Since children with this birth defect are exposed to many of these materials during their doctor and hospital visits, sensitivity to latex can develop. Therefore, it is of utmost importance that every step is taken to prevent exposure.

Parents of children with Spina Bifida must remain a constant advocate for their child when it comes to their exposure to items containing latex. They not only need to make sure that their child doesn't come in contact with everyday latex items such as balloons and rubber bands, but they must also use caution during their child's visits to the doctor, dentist, and other medical professionals and facilities. They also need to assure that they are being prescribed medical products such as catheters and items used in bowel management programs that are latex free. Although many medical professionals have become much more aware of the link between Spina Bifida and latex sensitivity and have taken the necessary precautions to insure a latex free environment, many who do not treat patients with this birth defect regularly may still need to be reminded of a child's special latex free needs.

How does a parent know if their child is developing an allergy to latex? Symptoms of latex allergies can range from mild such as rash and itching at the area of skin contact, watering and itchy eyes, and sneezing to more severe, life threatening symptoms such as trouble breathing, wheezing, swelling of the wind pipe, and anaphylactic shock. If a parent thinks that their child may be having a serious allergic reaction, it is imperative that they call 911 immediately.

Having a latex allergy affects a person's life in many ways. Individuals who have had a previous reaction to latex must use all necessary precautions to avoid any further exposure to latex products. Therefore, common everyday activities such as eating out or going to a birthday party become difficult for them. They have to worry constantly about latex exposure through skin contact or through airborne exposure from items such as balloons, the powder from latex gloves, or even their own clothes. Since wearing latex gloves for food preparation in restaurants is common, eating out also becomes dangerous for those with latex allergies. They may also have a cross sensitivity to food such as bananas, chestnuts, kiwi fruit, avocado and tomatoes. Parents of children with latex allergies are continually educating teachers, family members, and others about the importance of keeping a latex free environment for their child. Individuals with a latex allergy must also always wear a medical alert bracelet or necklace and carry an auto injectable dose of epinephrine with them at all times.

Having a latex allergy definitely creates more challenges for the person living with Spina Bifida. There is no treatment for a latex allergy, so once a person has an allergic reaction, the only course of action is the total elimination of all latex exposure. Since latex is so commonly found in products, this can be very difficult. This is why in the case of latex allergy, prevention is the best medicine. Steps must be taken from birth to decrease exposure to latex in children with Spina Bifida.

For more information on latex allergies and products containing latex, visit [www.sbaofal.org](http://www.sbaofal.org) and click on Latex List and Latex Allergy Facts under Resources.

## Resources

[www.spinabifidaassociation.org](http://www.spinabifidaassociation.org) fact sheet [Latex \(Natural Rubber\) Allergy in Spina Bifida](#)

## Upcoming SBA of AL Events

### **Gadsden Bowl-a-thon**

**October 22nd  
1-3 p.m. (12:30 registration)  
Paradise Lanes**

For more information contact Angie Pate at  
256-617-1414(angie.pate@gmail.com)

### **Spina Bifida ~ Back to the Basics**

**October 28th  
8 a.m. - 4:10 p.m.  
The Children's Hospital  
Bradley Lecture Center**

For more information or to register go to  
www.sbaofal.org and click on 2011 Conference  
under Current Events or contact Betsy Hopson  
at 205-939-5281 (betsy.hopson@childrensal.org).

## **2nd Annual SBA of AL Christmas Party**

**Sunday, December 4th**

**2-4 p.m.**

**Vestavia Lodge in Vestavia, AL**



*Don't miss this event! Families have said that last year's SBA of AL Christmas party was one of their favorite experiences of the holiday season! Come enjoy music, good food, a visit from Santa, and enjoy watching your kids open a special gift from us. All families affected by Spina Bifida are invited to attend. To RSVP please contact us by calling 256-617-1414 or e-mailing Angie Pate at [angie.pate@sbaofal.org](mailto:angie.pate@sbaofal.org).*

## **SBA of AL Membership Form**

January 1 – December 31, 2011

We firmly believe that every form completed is another "voice" to help gain supporters, grants, and sponsors. There is no fee for membership. Each person who responds can draw more public and political attention to our mission to promote prevention of Spina Bifida through folic acid awareness while enhancing the lives of all currently affected. Please help us make a difference by completing and returning this information.

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (Day) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

(Evening) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

(Cell) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of person with Spina Bifida and date of birth:

\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Person with SB is (circle) Male / Female

**Please check all items that best describe you.**

- Parent of a child w/SB  
 Adult with SB  
 Family member with SB (not parent)  
 Friend/Supporter  
 Medical Professional  
 Other

I am: \_\_\_White\_\_\_ Black\_\_\_ Asian\_\_\_ Hispanic\_\_\_ Other

**Send a copy of this to:**

SBA of AL  
P.O. Box 13254  
Birmingham, AL 35202

\_\_\_ I/We am/are willing to be included in the directory

\_\_\_ I/We am/are willing to be contacted as a source of support to individuals/families affected by Spina Bifida.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Donations are welcomed!**



**P.O. Box 13254  
Birmingham, AL 35202**

---

**Phone: 256-617-1414**

**E-mail: [support@sbaofal.org](mailto:support@sbaofal.org)**

**Website: [www.sbaofal.org](http://www.sbaofal.org)**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



## **Gadsden Bowl-a-thon**

**October 22nd**

**1-3 p.m.**

**Paradise Bowling Lanes**

**For more information, call 256-617-1414,  
e-mail [angie.pate@sbaofal.org](mailto:angie.pate@sbaofal.org), or visit  
[www.sbaofal.org](http://www.sbaofal.org) and click on Gadsden  
Bowl-a-thon under Current Events.**