

# SHARE Atlanta Places in National Top Family Teams Two Years in a Row... “Helping MODS Put SA Out of Business”



2007  
5th



**THANK YOU to SA's Team  
Members and Sponsors!!**



2006  
2nd



Some of our 40 Walkers!



**Advocacy and Awareness  
Keys to Answers and Support**

**National 2007**



**Cindy and Marcia with Mark Gibson,  
GA's State Director, & Cathy Kanefsky,  
Director of Family Team Development**



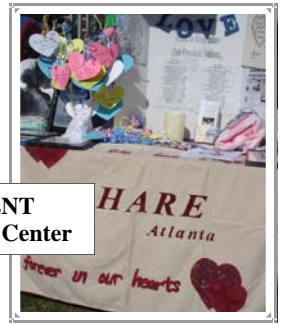
**Some of SA's 2006 Walkers!**

# SHARE Atlanta Wins 5th Place 2007 Family Team “Helping MODS Put SA Out of Business”

## SHARE Atlanta: Fifth Place - Top Family Team Nationally Out of 12,000

Team Captain, Cindy Ivey and I spent, October 18 - 21, in Washington DC to receive this incredible award and to meet the MODS' staff and volunteers who attended the National Volunteer Conference. Just like last year, in Kansas, everyone was enthusiastic and kind.

MODS TENT  
SA's Memory Center



There were 12,000 family teams this year! The 10th family team raised around \$27,000 and the number one family team raised over \$100,000! We raised close to \$38,000. and placed fifth. Last year, we won 2nd Place Top Family Team out of 9000 with \$34,000. It is not easy to be in the Top Family Teams. That is why it is important to work *together* each year. Individual Family Teams and people who walk in other locations can still be *part of SA's team*.

## MODS' Helps SA Get Our Message to the Public

When they presented us the award, our name, a brief description, and pictures of our MODS TENT, Memory Corner and team were shown on two huge screens in front of 500 people. We had our picture made with Jennifer Howse, the president of March of Dimes after she handed us our award. Just like last year, people congratulated us all weekend..

**As a result of being so visible**, people asked about SA. We handed our Walk America mini-newsletters and SHARE Atlanta brochures to interested staff and volunteers.

## WalkAmericia NOW “March for Babies”

We viewed wonderfully positive stories about what the MODS is accomplishing in their quest for the health of our babies. They have changed the WalkAmerica name to "March for Babies" to include many different issues and to speak to the specific types of efforts that they are working towards. I have been saying for years that their research and subsequent programs are addressing issues that will help to end birth defects and other conditions that not only cause prematurity but stillbirths and early death. So, the new name is perfect!

## Celebrity and Corporate Support

These types of support have long been important for the MODS. The Views, Sherri Shepherd, who had a premature son, shared her touching story and brought humor into motherhood during dinner on Friday night. She presented awards to top fund raisers and long time volunteers for March of Dimes.

The top corporate awards went to KMART, Farmers, and Citi with FEDX close behind. They are gracious and funny about the competition involved in these honors. It is a positive experience to share in their hard work and fun.

## Share Your Story Reunion

On Saturday, Cindy and I attended the Share Your Story reunion. About 50 moms and some dads who are active on the MODS preemie Share Your Story forum met. This forum is similar to SA's website and forum in that parents come together to "share their stories" and offer support to each other. They held a lovely service to honor their babies who survived and to remember their special babies. They learned more about MODS and spent Sunday scrap-booking. We were glad to meet everyone. We hope that more of their group that has lost a baby will visit our site. We would like to offer them support.

## SHARE Atlanta will March for Babies in 2008!

We had a meaningful and fun time. The activities and workshops made it clear to us that supporting the MODS is a good option for our "Outreach for Healing" program. Their organization WILL make a difference for our families.

Families have been marching with the March of Dimes since 1938. They helped cure polio. They are finding answers for prematurity, birth defects, and more. We march for answers and cures to health issues that touch our children. SHARE Atlanta will continue to “March for Babies” in 2008. Our children will continue that march in the future. It is an ongoing effort. It is good to have this ongoing hope for our futures.

Marcia McGinnis, 10.07

See: SA and March for Babies: <http://www.shareatlanta.org/mod07TENT.htm>