



## Team SHARE Atlanta Raises Over \$15,000 for The March of Dimes

On Saturday, April 24, the largest SHARE Atlanta team ever joined the March of Dimes WalkAmerica in Centennial Olympic Park. While last year's team of fifteen walkers raised \$2400 and broke all previous records, that total paled in comparison to the 2004 numbers. Team Captain, Jennifer Greer, declared this year's walk "the best ever" for SHARE Atlanta, and attributed the increase in support to improved communication and the inspiring participation of Marcia McGinnis, SHARE Atlanta President and Foundress. The other key factor was the dedication of SHARE Atlanta mom, Cindy Ivey, a seasoned fundraiser and enthusiastic volunteer. Cindy has participated with a tight-knit group of friends in the Avon 3-Day Walk and the Relay for Life events over the last several years. After her daughter, Lacey MaKenna, was stillborn on September 16, 2003, Cindy placed her focus on WalkAmerica. Her group of friends added an extra 17 people to the team, most of whom have no connection to SHARE Atlanta except for their love and support for Cindy and Lacey.

"Being surrounded by love is what has made the last 7 months bearable for me," says Ivey of her devoted friends.

Watch this space for details on how to participate in next year's WalkAmerica.



### Outreach for Healing Brings Hope and Peace

*By Marcia McGinnis*

Teresa Cochran shared at our February 18th Women's Meeting "Parent your child...do things for other children that you might do for your baby that died. Then, your child's presence continues to mean something special to you." Teresa joins us each year on Evan's anniversary to share her path of healing and to support our newly bereaved parents. We treasure her uplifting story that includes the adoption (on Evan's first anniversary!) of Devon. She shares how giving and doing things in memory of Evan gives her

(See "Outreach" on page 9)

### The Festival of Trees, Atlanta's Premier Holiday Event: Benefits Children's Healthcare of Atlanta

*Egleston's Festival of Trees...*

*showing that our babies are real and special to us  
while raising money to benefit the health of children.*

Giving in memory of our babies or parenting our child by remembering other children can be healing for grieving parents. Different activities help to ease our pain and provide positive ways to remember our babies. We have had many such projects through the years...The Walk to Remember/March of Dimes Walk, our memory quilt, the Outreach for Healing (see left), memorial services, the brick pathway and the Angel of Hope, to name a few. (See "Festival" on page 13)

**SHARE Atlanta**  
*Pregnancy and Newborn Loss  
 Grief Support Group*  
*Free, non-denominational  
 mutual support since 1984*

**PMB 212  
 9925 Haynes Bridge Road  
 Suite 200  
 Alpharetta, GA 30022  
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 Events 770.928.5606  
 www.shareatlanta.org**

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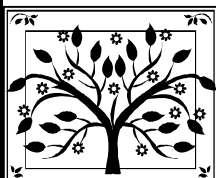
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Check the date on  
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**Mark Your Calendar Now for the Memorial Celebration!  
 Sunday, October 24, 2004 ~ 3 PM**

Wow!

What else can I say about a day that generated so much goodwill and camaraderie? The March of Dimes WalkAmerica made me take another look at the "limits" of a local non-profit group with NO paid employees! My modest expectations were shattered by the teamwork and dedication of this year's walkers. The highlight of my day had to be meeting Kelly Ann McGraw, the baby I wrote about in our Spring issue. Kelly looks nothing like the undersized preemie she was in January, and more like a typical three month old baby. (check out her picture with Emily Keen on page 11). I know that a large part of her progress is due to the love and support of our SHARE Atlanta members and the progressive medical attention she received, much of which was researched with funds from the March of Dimes.

Just eight days later I saw Kelly Ann again at the SHARE Atlanta family reunion. Watching the children playing together and seeing their parents with healthy babies reminded once again about why I walk the Walk. We passed the little ones around and reminisced, caught up on absent friends and welcomed new ones.

I'm glad these two events are so close on the calendar, although they make for a hectic few weeks. They are the essence of what SHARE Atlanta is—memory of the past, friendship for the present, and hope for the future.

This month we honor our fathers. I hope you all have a peaceful and sunny Father's Day, filled with memories more sweet than bitter.

*Jen*

**Autumn Newsletter Deadline**

The autumn newsletter will focus on anniversaries, due dates, and holidays. Please send us your thoughts and ideas for coping with these special days. Of course, we always love to print parents' writings on any topic!

Also in September, we will write about families and friends. We want and need any stories, poems, or thoughts by or about the significant people in your life and how they dealt with the loss of your child. Please respond by **August 1, 2004**

**SHARE Atlanta**

**PMB 212**

**9925 Haynes Bridge Road, Suite 200**

**Alpharetta, GA 30022**

Or e-mail me at my NEW address: **jenggreer@comcast.net**

## Scrapbook

by Emily Keen

Pictures of family fill the first page.  
My mother, my father, and ones that departed when I was still  
at a young age.

The sounds of my mom singing a lullaby,  
The taste of my great-grandmother's rice with gravy and  
pumpkin pie.

The wonderful smell of my dad's cologne,  
And my little brother who never likes to be left alone.

Later there are the things that I love,  
My family, books, the snowy white of a dove.  
Camping trips, ballet, and majestic green trees,  
Trips out west, playing clarinet, and the person that I really  
want to be.  
The trusting face of my little cat, the wonderful power of  
words,  
The gentle murmur of a creek, and the calming song of a bird.

Things that aren't as nice, that are sometimes sad,  
Are on another page as well, for my life wouldn't be the same if  
those things were never had.

Six brothers and sisters that were never born,  
But later an angel of hope glowing with radiance in the early  
morn.

My mom unable to walk for two years,  
And the death of my great-grandmother, although her voice is  
still clear in my ears.

Last, there are the pages that are still blank, white and  
incomplete,

But what they will bring to my life I eagerly greet.  
I don't know what the future may hold,  
And I may not even meet any of my ambitious goals.  
But my life is still a story waiting to be written,  
Tears for crying, and surprises for getting.

My scrapbook of memories, one that only I see,  
Is kept in my mind, and forever there it will be.  
So many more things than that can be written down,  
Feelings from all five senses, even emotions and sounds.  
Never complete, never finished,  
And the joy it gives me will never diminish.

2004

Marcia's note: Emily's family has been an active part of SHARE Atlanta since Polly first came to our grief support group in 1996. Joe and Polly designed and their landscaping business built "our" angel that Emily refers to in her poem.

This touching poem speaks to many of our parents' fear of how the death of their baby will influence their living or subsequent children. Emily was two when Polly and Joe experienced their first loss on November 1991. She was "there" for all of her siblings' deaths plus the limiting pregnancy that Polly experienced with their son, seven year old, Joseph. With all of these experiences, Emily is a wonderful young lady of 14. She is a joy to be around and, like so many of our special babies' siblings, very caring and responsive to the people and world that surrounds them.

Emily's poem was chosen to represent Peachtree Charter Middle School in the cultural arts contest, "Reflections," sponsored by the nationwide PTA. This year's theme was "I Am Happiest When." Her poem now will be included in a district wide contest. Emily, though, is the treasure here for her family and all she touches.

We thank Emily for sharing her loving and thought provoking poem with us. We plan to use it in a booklet or, perhaps a scrapbook, of other thoughts and poems and pictures from our SHARE Atlanta siblings through the years. If you have something you would like to have included in it, please email it to me from the website or mail it to our address.



Emily (right) and her mom, Polly Keen, at the 2004 March of Dimes WalkAmerica

# Looking Forward

This fall marks the 20th anniversary of SHARE Atlanta, twenty years since that first meeting with Marcia and Larry [Connelly] and the only person to show up—a devastated father who left the new leaders anxiously wondering if they'd helped at all. As we look to the future and the hope for prevention of pregnancy loss and newborn deaths, we also take a moment to look back at the past and remember the amazing changes we've already witnessed.

As I prepared this newsletter, I went back through the old issues. The pages from the 1980s are stiff with glue and tape—back when “clip art” was a literal phrase. I remember a time when none of us had an email address, much less a website. I’m grateful for the resources of the present, and wonder if I’d get a single issue out the “old way”!

One thing that is exactly the same, though, is the love we have for our children and the bond we feel with other parents who have experienced this tragedy. The poem Larry wrote for his son's first birthday (opposite page) is filled with the same mix of pride and grief that the later writings show. I hope these bring you the feelings of connectedness that filled me as I read them. It reminds me that, though time passes, I am never alone.

On March 18, 1994 Kendall was born at 31 weeks gestation by emergency c/section because of fetal stress and dips in his heart rate. He was small for a 31 weeker because there were not enough nutrients getting to his body. He only weighed 1 pound 15 ounces.

At first, we thought he was just a small premature baby and in time he would grow and would go home. But a week after he was born the Doctors found that his endotracheal tube would not go to the point where they wanted it to go. He was transferred to Egelston from Dekalb to undergo further testing. It was suspected that he had a narrowing of his trachea. Once he was there, he became unstable. The rest of his life became a constant battle to stabilize him. At one point, the neonatologist at Egleston (Dr. Reese Clark who was so absolutely wonderful) talked to us about making Kendall a "do not resuscitate". He said that it appeared that Kendall had this extreme narrowing and that his tiny body would not be able to sustain life.

It was a very difficult decision. I, his mother, am a nurse, and it was a great burden having the knowledge to realize what was going on and having to explain these things to the rest of the family. After discussion, we decided to make Kendall a "do not resuscitate". He lived for a few more days, and then morning his tiny body could no longer take it. He died at 11:07 that morning. I remember watching his heart beat get slower and slower on the monitor until at last there was not another beat. I thought my life would never be the same.

I knew of SHARE Atlanta from being a nurse and working in labor and delivery and attended the meetings at DeKalb Hospital. Marcia was there. I so admired her. Here was a woman who had had losses and she seemed so....normal. The journey of grief seemed like a long road with a bridge near the end of the journey, and once I could cross over that bridge, I could be like Marcia. I didn't think it would ever happen. But in time, the pain became less sharp and my life started to resemble something of what I once deemed "normal." I realized one day that I was across that bridge. By realizing that Marcia had done it, I had gotten there myself.

Kendall would have been 10 now. There are still days that I consider "bad Kendall days". They are few and far between now. And I am thankful I had the opportunity to know Marcia at that time in my life. To all those parents who are still suffering the fresh sting of their loss, please know that it WILL get better one day.

Melissa Wagoner, SHARE Atlanta

*Summer, 2004*

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*page 4*

# Looking Back

To Little Jordan ~ August 5-10, 1981

By Larry Connelly, SHARE Atlanta co-founder, January 9, 1982

No one could ever have told me, my son  
That we could have loved you so;  
That you would have touched your mom and I  
Far deeper than feelings can go.

Today was a difficult visit for us  
As the winter winds whirled around  
We wanted so badly to just take you home  
And away from that cold, frozen ground.

T'was five months tomorrow you drifted away  
On that rain-stormy August night;  
You showed so much courage, my dear precious son,  
And gave it one hell of a fight.

I sure hope you knew I was there that night,  
My tiny but brave little man,  
As we fought death together, both arm in arm,  
My pinky in your little hand.

If only you knew what courage I've drawn,  
From the gallant battle you fought;  
How grateful and proud I am, my son,  
Of the life so abundant you brought.

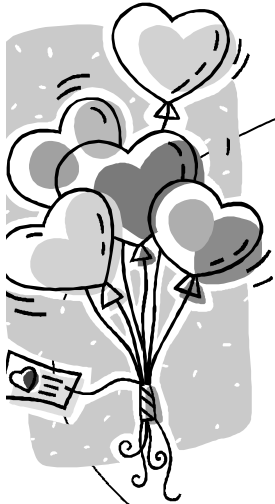
Some days, little Jordan, I remember too well,  
How quiet and gentle you were;  
The miracle of life I held in my arms,  
Your sweet little headful of "fur."

So terribly brief, yet so wonderfully full,  
Such joy and such sorrow to know;  
That you, little angel, should enter our hearts,  
Yet so shortly thereafter should go.

But you are beyond now this vulnerable life,  
Yet you still speak to us every day;  
For you hold our hearts now instead of our hands,  
And touch us beyond what words can say.

Oh, hurry sweet Spring with your warm breeze of hope,  
With new grass springing green on the hill;  
May sorrow and sadness once more turn to joy  
And our hopes and our dreams be fulfilled.

And now, little Jordan, with your head held high,  
May you stand tall and proud, little one;  
And know how much your Mom and Dad  
Still love their first little son.



*Friday was Amelia's birthday.  
Todd and I took the kids to Kroger and got  
5 pink tulips and 5 pink balloons.  
We went down to the Angel garden and released the balloons as we said  
"Happy Birthday".  
We left the flowers on her brick and took pictures with the angel.  
It is so special to have such a wonderful place to go.  
It was an especially hard anniversary this year because of my sister.  
She was in labor and I was so tense.  
Also I really did not want her baby to be born on Amelia's birthday.  
I just felt that it would make celebrations in the years to come so hard.  
Luckily, she waited until May 1st. and it was a boy. I was much relieved.  
Thank you for all you do.  
Love, Melina Smith, May, 2004*



# Fetal Death Certificates: More Than “Just a Piece of Paper”

By Laura Darden, SHARE Atlanta

*I miscarried my first child in Illinois. My husband and I had flown up there for a long weekend. We were blessed to be in a hospital that had a nurse who represented SHARE. Our son was 14.5 weeks gestation. His death was attributed to attaching near a growing fibroid. When we were told that miscarriage was inevitable, after days of hemorrhaging, I was given Cervodil, in order to deliver him. After he was delivered, I was given a D&C to remove any remaining placenta.*

*Following the surgery, Stephen was brought in again for us to see. He was lying on a crocheted blanket that was placed inside a baby Moses basket. The chaplain had placed a white cloth with a cross on it over his chest. I baptized his body, knowing his soul was already in Heaven. Sometime during all of this, a nurse completed his death certificate at my bedside. I never thought of it again until I received the certificate in the mail from the funeral home that had handled his burial.*

*When I lost my second child, I inquired about getting her death certificate. The hospital chaplain (Georgia) didn't know anything about getting a death certificate, and speculated that none were issued for miscarried babies. After many phone calls to the Medical Records department, as well as Vital Records, I learned otherwise. With my third child, I requested that a death certificate be placed with all of my pre-op*

*As awful as miscarriage is, my first loss "set the standard" for my future losses. Sadly, Stephen was the only child I saw, because the other three died very early. Since Stephen was treated with such dignity, I wanted the same for all of my children. Other than ultrasound pictures, I had nothing tangible that I could connect to my other three children's lives. The death certificates show that I am a mother, that these children were named, and that they existed for a time inside me.*

**“The death certificates show that I am a mother, that these children were named, and that they existed for a time inside me.”**

*information, so I could fill it out correctly before my D&C. When I finally received the certificate, it was as if no one had paid attention to the one I filled out-it was full of "unknowns" in blanks that I had filled out previously.*

*With my fourth child, my maiden name was misspelled, and my child's name was not on the certificate. I was able to get these mistakes corrected easily.*

*In memory of...*

*son, Stephen Millard Darden, 7/3/01  
daughter, Liana Grace Darden, 3/22/02  
son, Angel Andrea Darden, 10/9/02  
daughter, Ashley Lynn Darden, 4/29/03*

We are pleased to bring you a happy ending to this story. Briana Gayle was born safely on May 28, just as we went to print. We know you join us as we send Laura and David congratulations. See page 10 for details and our other “Safe Arrivals” news. -Ed.

In Georgia, fetal death certificates are available for everyone who has ever conceived and then lost a child before birth unless they had an elective abortion. I have been told that Vital Records does not keep the fetal death certificate information on computer, but it is filed by the mother's maiden name. Do not be surprised to see the certificate filled out by hand rather than typed. Also, it takes several weeks to get the death certificate from the hospital to Vital Records. You can include your child's name in the death certificate; otherwise, there will just be an identification number in the blank where a name would usually be.

You should be aware that there are frequent mistakes in the certificates, mainly because those completing them will just put "unknown" rather than verify information. Most common mistakes include: demographic (address, county, etc.), misspelled mother/father/child names, putting "unknown" for sex, even when chromosome testing is done, putting "unknown" in the blank that concerns whether baby died before labor. All of these mistakes showed up on my last three fetal death certificates.

The good news is that all are correctable. If you need corrections made, you can call Vital Records at (404) 679-4701 and ask for Wilma Watson. She can guide you through the process that I have outlined. Some information can be corrected by you; other information, such as the baby's sex, has to be corrected by your physician writing a letter on physician's letterhead. (Have the

Summer, 2004

physician send this to you, then send it to Vital Records.) To obtain a copy of your child's fetal death certificate, write:

Vital Records, attention Wilma Watson.  
1600 Skyland Drive, N.E.  
Atlanta, Georgia

Include a money order for \$10 for each certified copy. Here are the facts to include in your letter of request:

- ◆ Mother's maiden name and social security number
- ◆ Father's name
- ◆ Date of loss
- ◆ Hospital where D&C performed or delivery occurred
- ◆ Doctor or midwife's name

All of the above may seem like a hassle but, for many of us, this certificate is a tangible validation of our child's brief life on earth. Please feel free to e-mail me via the link on SHARE Atlanta's website with questions about the above information.

*(Note from Marcia: Recognizing our babies, in many different ways brings healing. It also helps those in our community learn how important all children are. We thank Laura for doing the research, remembering and honoring her children, and for sharing her thoughts and findings with us.)*

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page 6

# Remembered With Love

## June

Daniel G. Matulevicius  
Son of Debby and Mark  
Triplet brother of Kelley  
Miscarried June, 2001  
Angel sibling Joseph

Jose Maria Ridenhour  
Child of Suzanne and Mark  
Miscarried June, 2003

Carson Cryor  
Child of Sharon and Dennis  
Sibling of Ian and Lelia  
Lost to ectopic pregnancy June 2, 1996  
Angel siblings Lindsay, Lorin,  
Camille, and Elizabeth

Bella Rylan Smith  
Daughter of Kirsten and Ryan  
Sister of Willow  
Stillborn June 11, 2002

Daniel Slayback Policastro  
Son of Pam and George  
Big brother of Erin  
Stillborn June 14, 1985

Stephen Vickery  
Son of Nancy and David  
Brother of Elizabeth  
Miscarried June 14, 1998  
Angel siblings Natalie, Claire, Sam, and David

William Axel Almgren-Friedman  
Son of Phillis and Mitchell  
Big brother of Eva and Carl  
Stillborn June 21, 1992

Sarabeth Kysar  
Daughter of Jessica and Chris  
Big sister of CJ and Kyle  
Stillborn June 22, 1995

Baby Renner  
Child of Pam and Jim  
Sibling of Kyle and Nathan  
Miscarried June 22, 1999  
Angel siblings Allie and The Renner Babies

Baby Kelly  
Child of Janet and Ronald  
Sibling of Brenden and Carson  
Miscarried June 26, 2000  
Angel sibling Sean

## July

Baby Allario  
Child of Michelle and Mike  
Sibling of Haleigh, Bella, and Nicole  
Miscarried July, 2001  
Angel siblings Kaila, Baby Allario  
and Little Mikey

Kelly Weber  
Daughter of Colleen and Chris  
Sister of Christopher and Paul  
Miscarried July 1, 1994  
Angel sibling Michael

Stephen Millard Darden  
Son of Laura and David  
Miscarried July 3, 2001  
Brother of Briana  
Angel siblings Liana, Angel, and Ashley

Brice Mackensie Pope  
Daughter of Caroline and Brandon  
Big sister of Matthew  
Stillborn July 12, 1999  
Angel sibling Morgan

Jade Alexa Hanson  
Daughter of Sakina and Clarence  
Big sister of Jasmine and Jayla  
Stillborn July 12, 1999

*Please accept our most sincere apologies if your child was not included in this list. Due to a computer virus, several records were lost. If your baby's name has not been printed in a previous issue or was left out of this one, please resubmit your information as directed at the end of the next page. Thanks for understanding!*

# Remembered With Love

Elizabeth Jones  
Child of Alyse and Lee  
Sibling of Eli, Esther, and Ethan and Ezra  
Miscarried July 14, 2000

Morgan Faye Rowen  
Daughter of Stacey and Erik  
Big sister of Dylan  
Stillborn July 16, 2001

Brian Kevin Miller, Jr  
Son of Brian and Betty Miller  
July 21, 2003-August 4, 2003

Sean Wesley Kelly  
Son of Janet and Ronald  
Big brother of Brenden and Carson  
July 26-28, 1995  
Angel sibling Baby Kelly

## August

Augustus Lawwill Feininger  
Son of Eleanore and John  
Brother of Sterling, Harrison, and Ansley  
Stillborn August 5, 1997

Benjamin Levy  
Son of Lori and Marty  
Brother of Anna, Cara, and Evan  
Stillborn August 9, 2001

Robert Anthony Gipson  
Son of Karen and Randy  
Big brother of Andrew and Abby  
Born and died August 12, 1992

Clare Joy O'Brien  
Daughter of Lynne and Mark  
Big sister of Kristen, Matthew and Grace  
August 11-13, 1995

Jesse McGraw  
Child of Christie and Charlie  
Sibling of Katherine and Kelly Ann  
Miscarried August 14, 1998  
Angel siblings Kelly and Virginia

Quentin Mikael Bridges  
Son of Felicia Cunningham  
Stillborn August 14, 1998  
Angel siblings Baby and Pamela

Erin Rose Connelly  
Daughter of Mary and Pat  
Stillborn August 27, 1994

Baby Girl Blum  
Daughter of Kathleen and Bob  
Sister of Joseph and Matthew  
Miscarried August 28, 1995  
Angel sibling Baby Boy Blum

Deanna Rose Hudgins  
Daughter of Sharon and Daniel  
Baby sister of Danielle and Joshua  
August 29, 2002  
Angel siblings Baby Allred,  
Kayla Rosalie, and her twin,  
lost early in pregnancy

Lindsay Cryor  
Child of Sharon and Dennis  
Sibling of Ian and Lelia  
Lost to ectopic pregnancy  
August 31, 1995  
Angel siblings Carson, Lorin,  
Camille, and Elizabeth

Frances Grace Keen  
Daughter of Polly and Joe  
Sister of Emily and Joseph  
Miscarried August, 1993  
Angel siblings Elijah, Autumn,  
Sarah, Samuel, and Jeremiah

Jeremiah Davis Keen  
Son of Polly and Joe  
Brother of Emily and twin of Joseph  
Miscarried August, 1996  
Angel siblings Elijah, Autumn.  
Frances, Sarah, and Samuel

*To have your baby's name included in this list, please call 770.928.5606  
or e-mail to [jenggreer@comcast.net](mailto:jenggreer@comcast.net)*

*Please include parents' names, any siblings (living or deceased),  
the date and type of loss.*



*(Outreach...continued from page 1)*

great comfort. It allows her to "parent" her child that will always be the closest to her heart.

Valerie, in the project that Phillis Almgren carried for many years, continues this outreach to other children in memory of our babies. She has made beautiful mementos in honor of your baby that you will receive when you donate to the Foster Care Shelter. We will also light a virtual candle, online, when a donation is made, in memory of your child. You can find out more about our program online under "Outreach for Healing" in our Main Drop Down Box.

Here is Valerie's story...

"My due date was still more than two weeks away, when one of my neighbors came bouncing across the lawn with a beautiful package for the arrival to be. I remember wincing, with something in the back of my mind always nagging me, wondering if this baby would be ok. But, it was thoughtful and caring on the part of my neighbor and most of my family and friends had treated my pregnancy as a non-event, given that this was to be my third child.

The gift was very generous: a sweet little outfit with a matching bib, booties and blanket. Although the colors of the outfit were gender neutral, it somehow screamed out GIRL to me. I winced again (how I would love a girl, but I still have a sinking feeling about this pregnancy ) My precious daughter, Megan, was stillborn three weeks after I opened the neighbor's gift. After losing her, there were many logistics to deal with, including what do I do with that gift?? My neighbor did not want the gift back; she didn't know what to say or do regarding the gift. I couldn't return it. If it were returned, wouldn't that be acting as if my child did not exist? My child did exist! It was all terribly awkward.

There were many things which I clung to in desperation and held near to my heart after losing Megan, but this outfit somehow signified my anger and outrage. This cute little outfit was meant for a live, active, moving child - my child. Why wasn't my little girl here to wear it? Why was this so unfair? Would I ever have another baby to hold who could wear the outfit? Who knew. Would I even want a new baby to wear something destined for Megan? Probably not. Why, God, am I having to deal with any of this at all?

As I began my path of grief and became involved with SHARE Atlanta, I decided to donate the gift to another family who hopefully needed and wanted it. Somehow, that simple act brought me a lot of peace. I freed myself of the object which was just too poignant of a reminder to keep in my house. Perhaps in some small way I felt that Megan lived on because I had given something of hers to a living child - something of hers which was tangible, and meant for this earth even though she could not be here. Perhaps it was as simple as passing on the kindness my neighbor had extended to me, in hopes that someday my soul would again feel generous, kind-hearted, and alive."

Valerie Scholovich, SHARE Atlanta  
Outreach for Healing Coordinator

# New Arrivals

**Jennafer (Haley) and Chip Evans** are thrilled to announce the arrival of **Jaden Nicole** on April 10, 2004. Jaden weighed 8lbs, 6oz and was 20 inches long. The Evans family remembers with love **Christian Allen**, who was born and died on April 23, 2001.

**Sakina and Clarence Hanson** and big sister, **Jasmine**, joyfully announce the arrival of **Jayla Amaya** on May 4, 2004. Jayla weighed 6lbs, 11 oz and was 19 inches long. The Hanson family remembers with love **Jade Alexa**, who was stillborn on July 12, 1999.

**Kim and Robby Burgess** proudly announce the arrival of their twin sons, **Thomas Olin** and **Weston Grey**, on January 1, 2004. Thomas weighed 5lbs, 13oz and was 19 inches long. Weston weighed 6lbs, 9oz and was 18 1/2 inches long. The Burgess family remembers with love **Hannah Michelle**, who was born and died on March 15, 1998.

**Leah and Clay Blurton** joyfully announce the arrival of **Katherine Nicole** on March 12, 2004. Katie weighed 7lbs, 3oz and was 19 1/2 inches long. The Blurton family remembers with love **Cole Alexander**, who was born on December 13 and died December 14, 2000.

**Laura and David Darden** are "happy, grateful, and relieved" to announce the arrival of **Briana Gayle** on May 28, 2004. Briana weighed 6lbs, 6oz and was 20 1/4 inches long. The Darden family remembers with love **Stephen Millard**, miscarried on July 3, 2001; **Liana Grace**, miscarried March 22, 2002; **Angel Andrea**, miscarried on October 9, 2002; and **Ashley Lynne**, miscarried on April 29, 2003.

*Our group facilitators love receiving announcements of your baby's birth, but ask that you also send an announcement with any other details you wish to have included to:*

SHARE Atlanta, PMB 212; 9925 Haynes Bridge Road, Suite 200; Alpharetta, GA 30022  
You may also e-mail it to my new email address [jenggreer@comcast.net](mailto:jenggreer@comcast.net)

## Subsequent Pregnancy Group

Are you expecting again? Nervous?  
Excited? Confused about your emotions?  
There's a group just for you.

SHARE Atlanta's Subsequent Pregnancy Group is the perfect place to share your most fervent wishes and irrational fears with those who completely understand.

**RSVP for more info – 770.928.9603**  
**-Polly Keen**

### **Wednesday, June 9 -**

Keeping your marriage strong, "loss of innocence"

### **Wednesday, July 14 -**

Will the birth of this baby bring up grief issues?

### **Wednesday, August 11 – Dads invited**

Dad's concerns and expectations, dealing with Mom

### **Wednesday, September 8 –**

Will this pregnancy ever feel "safe"?

## *Subsequent Pregnancy Support Online*



*Check out the special Subsequent Pregnancy section of our website at:*

**[www.shareatlanta.org](http://www.shareatlanta.org)**

**Other helpful links:**

**Subsequent Pregnancy After a Loss**  
**[www.spals.com/home/index.html](http://www.spals.com/home/index.html)**

**Multiplicity - Support while expecting multiples**

**[www.synspectrum.com/multiplicity.html](http://www.synspectrum.com/multiplicity.html)**



*Are you on bed rest?*

*Contact **SIDELINES** for support:*

**[www.sidelines.org](http://www.sidelines.org)**

***Or Call (888) 447-4754 (HI-RISK4)***

# SHARE Atlanta Family Reunion



Above: Emily Keen, 14, and Kelly Ann McGraw, 3 months, were the oldest and youngest "babies."

Below: Marcia McGinnis grabs some cuddle time with Ezra Jones.



Summer, 2004

This year's Family Reunion was a birthday celebration of sorts, in honor of the twentieth anniversary of SHARE Atlanta. We gathered together with new friends and old to reconnect with the parents who have walked our path. The big kids are each a little taller this year, and there were new babies to "ooh and ah" over. Once again we extend our most sincere gratitude to the Keen family for opening their home to all of us. I think the toys may be picked up by now, and the cat over her trauma! We also appreciate the effort of the families who attended, especially those who spent close to an hour in the car to be with us. We love to watch as our SHARE Atlanta family members grow roots and wings.



## "Are we done yet?"

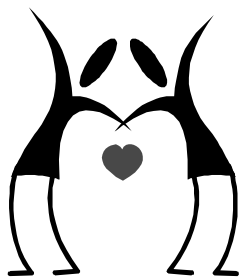
Back Row: Kyle Renner, Braxton and Cullen Greer, Emily Keen, Esther and Ezra Jones.

Front Row: Nathan Renner, Grace Greer, Kathryn and Kelly Ann McGraw, Joseph Keen, Jack Scholovich, and Ethan Jones.

## Board Update:

- Upcoming inservices are being scheduled. We will be at Kennestone Hospital on July 14 at 10 AM, and Crawford Long on a date TBD.
- Mary Morgan has agreed to take the helm of the Acworth group. Call our support line at 770-928-9603 for more details.
- Robin Cash hopes to begin a faith-based SHARE Atlanta group at her church in January, 2005.
- Thanks to Karen Verner, Kathleen Blum, Valerie Scholovich, Stacy Gilbert, Karen Jordan-Allen, Leah Blurton, Robin Cash, and Tracy Martin for their help on the phone committee.

The next board meeting will be held in August 30, 2004 at 7 PM at the home of Marcia McGinnis. Anyone interested in helping out in a small or large role should call 770-928-5606.



## Donations

**SHARE exists on donations. We use these gifts to continue our outreach in our community: telephone expenses, printing and mailing the newsletter and telephone packets, printing group information and inservice information, at no charge to the bereaved families. We thank all of our friends and members who have remembered our cause.**

**Betty and Brian Miller** in loving memory of **Brian Kevin, Jr.**, who was born on July 21 and died August 4, 2003.

**Amanda Thompson** in memory of her son, **Bradley Elijah**, who was lost on January 20, 2003.

**Julie and Dave Grantier** in loving memory of Rebecca Nicole, who was stillborn on December 1, 2000.

**All donations can be sent to:**  
**SHARE Atlanta**  
**PMB 212**  
**9925 Haynes Bridge Road, Suite 200**  
**Alpharetta, GA 30022**  
**...and are tax deductible**

**Some companies have matching donation programs. Does yours? Our C-3 (taxpayer ID#) is 58-1792723**

## Upcoming Meeting Topics

- ♦ **June** - Grief \*Women's group changed to 6/2/04
- ♦ **July** - Grief and Emotions  
\*Acworth meeting changed to 7/15
- ♦ **August** - Grief and Relationships
- ♦ **September** - Subsequent Decisions
- ♦ **October** - The Significance of You and

**A letter to the following address will stop about 75% of baby related mail received during the first year after a baby's death.**

Mail Preference Service  
Direct Marketing Association  
PO Box 9008  
Farmingdale, NY 11735

## Name Bricks in Angel Garden Still Available

Thanks to continued member support of SHARE Atlanta and a family run brick company, we are able to continue to offer the bricks at a cost of \$25.00 each. Neither SHARE Atlanta nor Arlington Memorial Park profit from this project.

A printable order form with detailed information can be found on our website. Please make checks payable to "SHARE Atlanta" and write "Pathway Project" in the memo section of your check. Include your name, phone number and address on the order. You will be notified when the brick will be installed.

If you would like a brick to keep as a memento, please include a note to that effect with your order along with an additional \$20 per keepsake brick.

Bricks will continue to be sold on a space available basis and added to the garden pathway. We hope to continue to make this garden a place of peace for our members and all bereaved parents.

\*Please submit your order by August 1 for the Autumn installation.

## *Festival...continued from page 1*

The Compassionate Friends (a parent-led grief support group for those who have lost children of all ages) of Atlanta started creating “memory trees” a few years ago. They found much comfort in the actual process of gathering together and in preparing the tree ornaments and memorial booklet. With this project, they also make it clear for the 165,000 people who pass by their tree, that TCF’s group exists for comforting parents who have lost their children and that these children will not be forgotten. You can see their trees and their memorial books online at: <http://www.tcfatlanta.org/>

SHARE Atlanta is trying to see if we have enough interest within our group to make a similar project happen for us. Using the theme “Forever in our hearts” we would collect heart shaped ornaments in memory of our babies. For those who contribute an ornament, we would include their baby’s name and/or dates in our own “memorial” booklet and hopefully a handout so others will know that we will not forget these little ones. We will also include pictures of the tree and our children’s names on our website.

We would need a few people who will keep up with the donations of ornaments, be able to set the tree up the first week in December, and put the booklet/handouts together. The actual tree is donated by the festival organizers and is sold during the festival to raise money for the hospital’s children’s programs.

There site has information about the festival : <http://www.choa.org/festival/default.shtml>

If you are interested in this project please email Marcia, on our Parent E-mail Forms/Questions & Comment Form on our website or call our Events line at (770)928-5606 and ask for someone to call you. We need initial responses by the end of July because we must sign up for the festival in the summer. The actual collection, etc will be in the fall. We will include additional “helpers” during November and for the tree set-up so parents who join us in the fall can be a part of our outreach. We will be waiting for your thoughts..... Marcia McGinnis



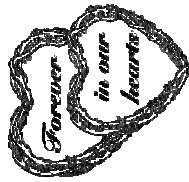
### **Subscription Renewal Information**

Please check the date on your mailing label. It will indicate the last month you will get a newsletter. The first year of the newsletter is free; after the first year we request a \$6 per year donation to help cover mailing and printing costs. If you wish to continue receiving the SHARE Atlanta newsletter, please fill out the form below, make your \$6.00 check out to “SHARE Atlanta” and mail it to: SHARE Atlanta, PMB 212, 9925 Haynes Bridge Road, Suite 200, Alpharetta, GA 30022. You can also use this form if your address has changed.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

*\*\*If you are making a donation at the same time, it is not necessary to write separate checks. Thank you!*



SHARE Atlanta  
PMB 212  
9925 Haynes Bridge Road, Suite 200  
Alpharetta, GA 30022

*SHARE Atlanta Meetings  
For More Information Call  
770.928.9603  
[www.shareatlanta.org](http://www.shareatlanta.org)*

*Pregnancy and Newborn Loss Support Group  
Free, non-denominational mutual support since 1984*

There are NO December meetings except for  
Subsequent Pregnancy

For Moms, Grandmoms,  
Sisters, and Girlfriends

Women's Group Meeting  
Dunwoody, GA  
3rd Wednesday of every month\*  
7:00 – 9:00 pm  
*Marcia*

**\*Note: June meeting changed to 6/2/04**

For Men and Women

Summit Baptist Church  
Acworth, GA  
2nd Thursday of every month  
7:00-9:00 pm  
*Mary*

**\*July meeting changed to 7/15/04**

For Pregnant Moms

Subsequent Pregnancy Support  
Dunwoody, GA  
2nd Wednesday of every month  
7:00 – 9:00 pm  
*Polly*

Look for the online forum in August at [www.shareatlanta.org](http://www.shareatlanta.org)

