# A Special Garden to Grieve, Hope, and Heal

In memory of all children whose brief presence touched our hearts forever.

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"Nicole was stillborn in February 1993. We were overcome with grief, and only with the help of SHARE Atlanta did we come to peace with her loss. Over time, they showed us how to put meaning around her loss, and to continue to remember Nicole in ways that are special to us."

"The Angel is a symbol of inspiration, tranquility, and hope for families and friends who have suffered pregnancy and newborn loss. By the angel being in Arlington *all* who grieve can come to heal." Chris and Terry Clontz, Angel's Benefactors





### "Sanctuary"

From the first moment that Joe Keen, SHARE Atlanta parent and the garden's architect, explained his vision of the garden, I immediately imagined a place of safety, peace, and comfort.

I see this garden as a haven for our babies' memories to fly free, where no one will judge our ties to them. I know it will become a place where my tears are free to flow. It is my calm harbor in the stormy emotions of grief where I am sure my heart can find shelter. Jennifer Greer ~ In memory of Jesse, Jamie, and Jacob miscarried '93 & '98 (SHARE Atlanta)

#### Angel of Hope ~ An Enduring Message

The Angel statue is inspired by Richard Paul Evans' book, <u>The Christmas Box</u>, "the touching story of a widow (Mary) and the young family who moves in with her. Though the story is mostly fictional, the angel monument once existed but was destroyed. The new angel statue was commissioned by Evans in response to reports that grieving parents were seeking the angel as a place to grieve and heal." www.richardpaulevans.com/statue.html

The book embraces the process of healing with a tender message that with healing we can then reach out to others and make our loss meaningful. Our hope can lift us, and we can grow as Mary did.

At the base of an angel monument, Mary mourned the loss of her child. Then she shared her love for her child in life's most treasured lesson as her lasting outreach.



#### The First Dedication ~ December 6, 1994

In Salt Lake City Cemetery, Evans' mother placed the first flower at the Christmas Box Angel of Hope statue in honor of her daughter, Sue, who was stillborn.

The dedication completed a circle of understanding and love brought about as Evans was writing his book. As he wrote, he had a strong sense of Sue's presence asking that this story be given for their mother.

In placing the flower by the angel, his parents were able, after thirty years of unresolved grief, to find peace and healing through their children's gift.

Whether your loss was 5 days or 55 years ago, please visit our garden. It is never too late to grieve, to heal, or to remember.

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## The Touch of An Angel

May all who stand before you bask in the warmth of your knowing face

As they share a special moment of peace and love
With precious little ones that time has not left behind

But instead feel the rustle of your wings and hear the whispers of the babies

And forget for the while sad spirits and heavy hearts

So soft ... so near ... like feathers falling from the sky

Letting your warmth surround them in a wave of newfound hope

As gentle as the breeze ... as sure as the sunrise.

Valerie Scholovich SHARE Atlanta In memory of Megan stillborn 1/2000 and Kathryn miscarried 2/2001



## The angel's garden is a special place for you to:

- \* sit quietly and reflect or pray
- \* bring flowers or small mementos in memory of a loved baby
- have a memory brick with a name, date, or loving thought—especially if you have no other memorial
- \* hold a memorial or burial service
- \* share some special moments with loved ones who want to be with you



SHARE Atlanta's angel is the 24th Christmas Box Angel of Hope in the United States.

## If the bricks could talk,

what amazing and timeless stories they would surely tell.

Tales of sorrow, despair, and broken hearts. Lives forever changed against their willraw, utter sadness and a fragile, unending vulnerability.

But the bricks would also tell the story of healing, the story of courage and hope.

A place beyond this earth, warm and safe; a bittersweet peace.

They would tell us to hold ever close our precious dreams, and they would sing the little babies lullabies to soothe our mending souls.

Singing sweet songs of love - undeniable love.

Valerie Scholovich, SHARE Atlanta, 2003 In memory of Megan Elizabeth & Kathryn Anne



Memory brick from Memorial Pathway In Arlington Park



#### Order form for Memorial Brick:\*\*

14 characters per line-do not count spaces.

Please print clearly. Please one brick per baby - we want future families to be able to share in our garden.

Line 1

Line 2		
Line 3		
Icons - Heart Sta	ar Star of David_	_ Cross_
None		

Pathway Brick \$25. Keepsake Brick \$20.

Orders must be received by 8.15. You will be notified when the bricks are placed in the garden. Details & directions www.shareatlanta.org/angelmenu.htm. On separate sheet: include your name, *email*, address & phone number- mail with check to address below. **You can also order Online.** Thanks!

SHARE Atlanta's Mailing Address
SHARE Atlanta, Inc.
PMB 212
9925 Haynes Bridge Road
Suite 200-212
Alpharetta, GA 30022
Questions??
http://www.shareatlanta.org/angelmenu.htm
(770) 928-9603



#### SHARE Atlanta is:

- a grief support group for families who have experienced ectopic, miscarriage, stillbirth and newborn loss
- a non-profit organization since 1984
- staffed and led by parent volunteers
- funded completely by tax deductible donations
- non-denominational: no fees

Angel sketch by Mary Morgan in memory of her brother, John, ('72) and Allie (Newborn Loss –6/92)

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## SHARE Atlanta

Pregnancy and Newborn Loss Grief Support Group

SHARE Atlanta's Angel Garden with Memorial Bricks...



Arlington Memorial Park Babyland 201 Mt Vernon Hwy Sandy Springs, GA 30328