



SA Honored by MODs' National Award 2nd Place Family Team



SHARE Atlanta Families "Walk to Remember" our Special Babies

See pages 4 & 5 for details!

"SA's Inservice and PR



Grief Conferences Committees, & Inservices...

We partner with professionals at the CDC, Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies, Emory, local hospitals, and others who wish to join together in efforts to support our Pregnancy and Newborn Loss Community's issues. Read about our 2006 participation on page 11.

4B's/Blankets of Love..



Dawn Edgeworth, Diane Overton, Kelly, Carrie O'Leary and her mother, Elaine Freeman hold the blankets that they made in June.

Our families and friends make blankets and baby clothes to be given to hospitals to comfort newly bereaved parents. See pg 9. <http://www.shareatlanta.org/blanketoflovemenu.htm>

Festival of Tree's "Memorial" Tree.

<http://www.shareatlanta.org/fotmenu.htm>



Memorial ornaments are donated by our parents and our babies' names are included on the tree. Our tree is sold to raise money for the Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. See page 6.

Lt-rt: LaWanda Lee, Diane Jordan, Julie Franklin, Nikecia Ingram, Suzanne Chezem, Erin Dickerson, Polly Keen, Marcia McGinnis 2004

Annual Memorial Services



Our annual memorial services provide us a safe haven to remember, share, and continue to heal. Please join us. Coming together and supporting one another is part of SA's tradition. See page 3.

Devon & Nihkol Jackson read in memory of Jaden.

<http://www.shareatlanta.org/shareatlantaservices.htm>

October is "Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness" Month - see page 7.

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Events 770.928.5606

www.shareatlanta.org

Email us from our site under "Contact Us."

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Kelly Mishkoff
(4B's Project)

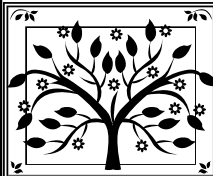
Marcia McGinnis
(Festival of Trees)

Cindy Ivey
(March of Dimes)

Wish to volunteer with us? We always need extra hands. Email, call, or tell one of our members. We welcome your support and outreach.

THE BURNING BUSH

The Editor's Note



SHARE Atlanta's Online Updates & Newsletter

SA is going paperless for much of what we do. We appreciate your patience as we reach our goal.

For news between newsletters ~ go to our site's front page, click on "Updates" for SA's current events.

Our newsletters are online in pdf form... See front page of website under "Newsletter."

Note: We average 400 newsletters at each distribution and our Updates go to over 400 people.

To have SA's Updates & Newsletters emailed to you—send us your email under "Contact Us."

*SA's Family & Friends
..making a difference
as we remember & honor
our special babies.*

Dear Friends, 7/3/06

Today, when Cindy called me about our MODs' National award, Kelly Mishkoff (with her four month old, Hope, six year old, Jessica, and their grandmother, Maureen) was here packaging blankets for the hospitals. The first thing I did was to hand the phone to Kelly because she and Cindy had come through their grief group together. Then, when I took the phone back, Cindy sent us all into gleeful shouts and smiles with her news about SA being honored nationally as the second place Family Team! I immediately wanted to call those who joined together to make this happen—both this year and the years past because, in my mind, it is all accumulative. What Jennifer Greer started 8 years ago has grown to this year's victory march!

We have won an award, but the victory is for our families and for the many families outside of SA that these donations will touch. MODs' research and outreach has made a difference within our group. Through their fund raising efforts, our group has showed their appreciation and desire for more support from MODs.

Ultimately, it is our precious babies that we remember as we walk along our path. Healing gradually happens as we make our special children's presence meaningful in our lives by providing outreach for others.

We are very excited about our award and about the upcoming awards ceremony in Kansas City on October 12! While two of us will actually be there, a picture of each of the year's teams will join us along with a list of our babies' names. We will have pictures of the awards on the website and in our next newsletter!! *SA wishes to thank all of those who have worked hard to continue this incredible outreach.* SA's families and friends have made a difference and our babies will be forever remembered. *Marcia*

Thanks to these volunteers (as well as those listed in the sidebar on this page): Debra Mattis (mails Parent Packets); Melina Smith (receives Parent Packet emailed requests); Lynne Anderson (mails materials); Jennifer Greer and Polly & Joe Keen (memorial bricks); Roger Deane (webserver); Betty Miller (thank you notes); Coretta Monroe (helping with orders); Amy Green & Debra Mattis (story boards); phone and forum committee: Leah Perry, Karen Verner, Kathleen Blum, Valerie Scholovich, Sharon Washington, Julie Franklin, Angela Johnson, Laura O'Brien, Angie Purcell, LaWanda Lee, Debbie Wright, Julie Palmieri, Jane Borman (IL), MaryBeth Nance (MD), Lucy Monahan (NJ). See page 15 for list of 4Bs and MODs volunteers. SA wants to recognize our supportive volunteers, we know that there are others who are helping us in less visible ways...know that we "thank you."

SA's Annual Memorial Celebrations

<http://www.shareatlanta.org/shareatlantaservices.htm>



"Forever in our Hearts"
Angel of Hope Garden Memorial
Music ~ Candlelighting ~ Balloons & Bubbles ~
Mementos ~ Remembering our Babies...Together
Babyland ~ Arlington Memorial Park
Sunday, October 22, 2006 ~ 3:00 PM



- * **Litany** ~ To have your baby's name included in the written program and in the ceremony, click on "SHARE Atlanta Annual Memorial Celebrations" on the front of our website - follow the link and send Marcia an email from the Angel of Hope Memorial page. Or call 770-928-5606 and leave a message. Please spell all names and leave a number where you can be reached in case of questions. Please do this by Friday, October 13 to be included on the written program.
- * **Outreach for Healing** ~ Foster Care Shelter, 4B's Donation, and Festival of Trees' Ornaments received on this day.
- * **Gentle reminder about young children:** For the comfort of our newly bereaved families, please leave your young children with someone you trust. Children ten or over who can remain attentive are welcome.
- * **It's never too late to remember, to grieve and to heal. Please join us whether your loss was 5 days or 55 years ago.**

Directions to Arlington: From I-285, take the Roswell Road exit and turn North (outside the perimeter). At the 2nd traffic light, turn left onto Hammond Drive. When Hammond ends, turn left onto Mt. Vernon and then immediately right into Arlington Memorial Park. Once inside the park, take the first right and the fourth left. The angel will be waiting for you at the bottom of the hill.

Rain location ~ Arlington's Chapel - Once inside the park, after about 200 feet take the first left. You will see the office directly ahead. After another 200 feet bear right. There will be two buildings on the left. Sunrise Chapel is the second building. There is a covered drop-off area.

I was touched by the beautiful Angel of Hope Memorial Service. It was perfect. Events like this are "bitter sweet" and so helpful in the grieving process. I am glad my mother-in-law went. It helped her to better understand our grief and hers. I was touched the most by the balloons and bubbles at the end. My husband, Derrick, just stared up at the balloons until they were no longer a little dot in the sky. I loved the poem, "No Heartbeat" - isn't that the truth?! *Christy Rowan*



The Candlelight Ceremony meant so much to me. It was such a nice way to remember my babies. On the way home, I thought about what gifts our children have given us. I realized the biggest gift for me was that my babies chose my husband and I to be their parents. That is the greatest gift they could have given us.
Julie Palmieri

Women's Group Candlelighting

November 15 ~ 7:00 PM

At the home of Marcia and Leon McGinnis



Tanya's Memory Box

Join us for this special night of sharing and friendship with old and new friends. Our theme is "forever in our hearts." Each one of our babies is a very special presence in our lives. The thoughts, feelings, and memories shared at our candlelighting service help us continue the process of grieving and healing with gentle support from one another.

- ♦ Please bring a **candle with a holder** to light in memory of your baby. We will have some extras for anyone who doesn't have one and wishes to light a candle.
- ♦ Please bring a **finger food** to share - if you are able.
- ♦ Please bring **mementos** (pictures, scrapbooks, keepsakes, etc.) you would like to share for our *memorial table*.
- ♦ **Outreach for Healing** ~ Foster Care Shelter, 4B's Donation, and Festival of Trees' Ornaments received.
- ♦ For directions (Women's Meeting home) or more information, please call 770-928-5606 or see website.

March of Dimes

Outreach for Healing

Class 1 –companies with less than 250 employees. We have no employees; we are all volunteers!

Team SHARE Atlanta
\$34,062.71

Downtown Location:

"Top Family Team"

"2nd Place in Class 1"

Nationally:

"2nd Place Family Team"

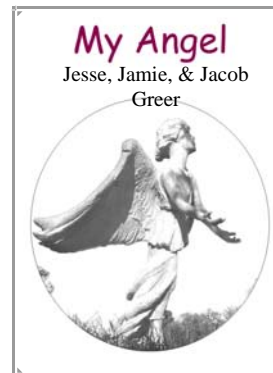


Mother and Daughter
Polly and Emily Keen
"Walk to Remember"
As we Raise Funds for MODs

"SHARE Atlanta ROCKS!!!"



Tamera Pfeifer-Partiss
2006 top fund raiser's quote



**SA's MODs' Shirts...
say it all!**



The rain did not dampen our spirits! Coretta and Adianne held the SA banner that Jennifer Greer made many years ago! Jennifer didn't walk this year, but she began SA's MODs walks in 1998 and continued with her daughter, Grace. We have raised over \$66,000 in the last five years and won 7 awards...all in memory of our babies. These funds help the future for babies and families. <http://www.shareatlanta.org/MODmenu.htm>

Yes you can!!

Tamera..Top Fundraiser for 2006

April 13, 2006 E-mail.. "Marcia, I'm sooo excited! Look so far :) **\$675.00** YEAH!!!! I'm going to keep bugging people!!! I've never had the guts to do something like this, but because I'm doing it in honor of **Kenny** and helping **all the babies**.. I'd do anything! Love, Tamera

WALKAmerica, April 22...\$7,555.00 In memory of Kenny ~
Stillborn at 38 weeks ~ February 13, 2006



WALK America

"Hope for the present and for the future"!

"As a SA member, since the loss of my daughter, Lacey, on September 16, 2003, my thoughts on EVERY aspect of my life and life in general have all changed dramatically and FOREVER. My thoughts have focused on how can I - a) keep her spirit alive and b) turn this tragedy into some sort of positive. That has been "Helping the March of Dimes Put SA Out of Business"! I want to SAVE babies, all the babies that I can. If I do this, then there is a family out there that doesn't have to go through what we have.

We Shine...

I learned soon after deciding to be the Team Captain (THANKS to Jennifer Greer for believing in me and giving me this WONDERFUL opportunity) that many of the SA members felt the same way, and we did SHINE!! To come in 2nd place NATIONALLY for Family Teams was more than I could have imagined. Our efforts are saving babies as we show and share the LOVE that we have for all of our precious little ones that are..Forever In Our Hearts!!!" **Cindy Ivey 7.06**



Cindy, Angie, Elise, Pat, LaWanda
2006 Local Awards

SA Thanks Cindy for all her hard work in organizing the team, and for her uplifting and motivating email messages! They encouraged us onward! **Yes, we can!**

"Walk to Remember" with love...

Lacey McKenna Ivey
Lee Kenneth Partiss
Sarah Katherine Purcell
Emma Margaret O'Brien
James Ryan White
Grace Marie Beltrami
"Our Precious Angel" Flatt
"Baby Brady #1 & #2"
Annabel Wright Ottinger
Kendall Marie Edgeworth
Caleb Bertrand Washington & 2 Angel Siblings
Nathaniel Verbanac
Sophie Margaret Mattis
Robert Anthony Gipson
Joshua and Jordan Ingram
Carter Franklin Britten
Seth David, Catherine Marie, Elizabeth Hope McGinnis
John William Jordan
Kaydie Ann Huddleston

Autumn Bray, Elijah Thomas, Frances Grace,
Sarah Elizabeth, Samuel Brown, Jeremiah David Keen
Jesse David, Jamie Caroline & Jacob Evan Greer
Thomas Andrew Gafney
Zachary Connor Porter
Jess, Kelly and Virginia Anne McGraw
Paula Jean and Timothy Edward Borman
Emily Renee Borman
Robert Anthony Gipson
Nathan Clay
Dorian Rose Perry
Aiden Trent Alvarez
Gabriel Cadence Hunter
Courtney Auxvasse Williams
Bella, Elyse and Maggie Chezem
Hope Elizabeth & Angel Baby Shiflett
All the precious children whose short lives touched the
hearts and lives of their parents and friends.

Top fund-raisers for our 2006 team—These walkers all raised over \$1000 with the top six raising over \$2000.

1st: Tamera Pfeifer-Partiss
2nd: Angie Purcell
3rd: Laura O'Brien
4th: Cindy Ivey
5th: Tamara White
6th: Elise Beltrami
7th: Amanda Flatt
8th: Micaela Brady
9th: Shannon Ottinger

*You can walk anywhere in the country
& still contribute your donations to SA!*

*LaWanda Lee was our 2005 top fund raiser in
memory of Victoria Elise & her Angel Siblings.

AND our youngest registered fund-raiser was
Mr. Caden Ivey (16-months old) who raised \$390.00!!
Our Walkers and those who donate to them do make a difference!
See page 15 for a list of our walkers.

Cindy's thank you..to SA's Team...

"Thank you, thank you, thank you
from the BOTTOM of my heart, I
THANK YOU!! We did a WONDER-
FUL thing and the fact that we did it in
"memory" of our babies makes it
EXTRA, EXTRA special. If interested,
we will do this walk again next year so
look for an email from me around the
end of the year with some details
about...

MODs WalkAmerica 2007."



Festival of Trees

Last year we raised over \$1000 for
Children's Healthcare of Atlanta
<http://www.shareatlanta.org/fotmenu.htm>

Advocacy and Awareness
Come in many different
Activities-year round.

What

Our decorated tree will be judged and sold to raise money for this year's project: The Carlos and Marguerite Mason Transplant Center. *Our tree and name will be viewed and appreciated by over 100,000 visitors!*

For the second year, Kim Shiflett has donated the \$100 for the tree. It was raised from the percentage of her proceeds from Bracelets of Hope, www.braceletsofhope.com. This special donation begins our 2006 project in a positive, sharing manner. We will buy lights and additional decorations (other than the donated ornaments) for the tree.

When and Where

- Dates Saturday, December 2 to Sunday, December 10, 2006
 - Location Georgia World Congress Center, Exhibit Hall A-1
 - Exhibitor Move In and Drop Off: Tuesday, November 28 from 1 to 9 pm. We will do the set-up on this date.
- No one needs to be there during the festival, but visiting is fun and rewarding.

Festival of Trees' Statement of Personal Safety

Due to insurance regulations, no children under 16 will be allowed on the floor during set-up and breakdown. This includes babies in backpacks and strollers.

Sibling Participation

SHARE Atlanta encourages sibling's pre-festival participation by inviting your baby's sibling or close relative to have an ornament from him/her in memory of your special baby. They can 'visit' the finished tree, and the children's activities at the festival are wonderful! I took my boys there every year to start the holiday season.

How

SHARE Atlanta's theme "*Forever in our hearts*"

In keeping with the Festival's theme of *Celebrating Christmas Past*, we will have a Victorian theme. Members may donate angels, hearts, and old fashion "Victorian" ornament(s). We will include the baby's name in our own "memorial" handout (which will be at the Gingerbread Information Center) and on the tree so others will know that we will not forget these little ones. We will include a baby's name if you will *email* it to us. Pictures of the tree and our children's names will be on our website. **Note:** You might consider buying a matching keepsake for your family.

Festival Committee (email Marcia: marciahm@mindspring.com and I will send out Festival Updates.)

- Attends a "Jersey Mike's" planning gathering before our 9/20 meeting at 6 pm—all else will be done via email, possibly one other meeting, and on November 18th in the morning. You can be a part of either or both the planning and Nov. set-up, but please tell me of your interest.
- Plans and buys the rest of the decorations (lights, ribbons, etc.)
- Makes or buys a tree skirt

SHARE Atlanta, with the help of donations, will cover the costs involved.

Donating Ornaments..

We will receive your ornament(s) in these ways:

Bring to -

- Group Meetings
- Memorial Service on October 22, at 3 pm
- Women's Candlelighting Service - November 15, at 7 pm
- Mail to our post box (see back page of newsletter) or Marcia's home.

Include with (*not on*) your donated ornament

- Your baby's name if you have chosen a name.
- Your name and phone number
- If you wish, email me a brief message as to what this donation or experience means to you.

Julie Franklin's 2004 Note:

Seeing all the *ornaments* I realized each represents much more than the child lost... *represents the love, hopes and dreams of the parents*. It is such a special tree, while full of sorrow, full of more love than anyone could fathom. I was honored to work on the tree in memory of Caleb. I am looking forward to next year and already have begun to look for that perfect ornament.



2006's theme: Victorian Memories
Victorian "Snow Angel topper"

- * Snowbabies & Victorian
 - * Angels
 - * Hearts
 - * Snowflakes
- "Ornament Ideas"

Advocacy ~ Understanding Brings Support...

October Is

Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month

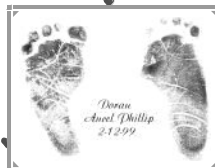
Our Responses and
Actions *do* make a
Difference.



A Walk to Remember

I walk to remember
the steps you'll never take.
I carry you with me
as I firmly plant my feet.
Our trek started long ago,
before my belly swelled.
You were a love that grew-
like butterfly wings that beat.
Your gentle flutters then became
kicks upon which I would dwell.
And I would talk to you, sweet babe,
about the world you soon would meet.
The sun always shone upon us then-
when you were in my womb.
And I was eager to show you the world
that would have been your home.
How you'd have loved the sun shining-
blue skies without a cloud.
The autumn leaves turning-
the snow falling all around.
The flowers in summer-
would have filled your eyes with smiles.
And the rain that might have fallen
would have caused you great surprise.
You would have traveled far with me-
holding me by the hand.
And I'd have shown you all I could-
more that I can imagine.
You hold my *heart* tightly now,
as though we're holding hands.
How far we've traveled, little one-
and my life with you has been sweet.
For I carry you in my heart,
as I firmly plant my feet.

Kathie Mayo, LaCrosse, Wisconsin, 1986
Bittersweet...hellogoodbye page 3-21
Sister Jane Marie Lamb



"Walk to Remember" - All Year Long SA's "Outreach for Healing" Programs.. A Clear Path for Healing & Advocacy and Awareness

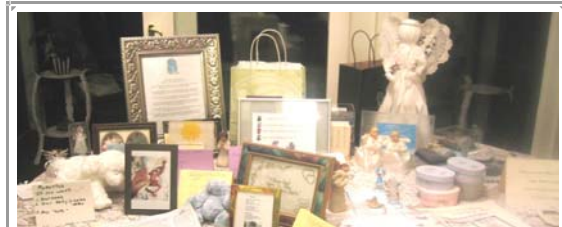
October: Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness

Each year many, across the United States- and increasingly in other countries, who support those in the Pregnancy and Newborn Loss Community walk in memory of their babies. SA holds our annual memorial service during this month, and we begin our participation in our *Festival of Trees Outreach*. SA's official "Walk to Remember" combines with our annual fund raising drive for our MODs WALKAmerica outreach.

Our "Walk to Remember" continues all year long as we work to "plant our feet firmly." At first our steps are wobbly, but as we learn to cope and work through our grief, they become more defined and even. We learn that the meaningful outreach activities that we choose to become part of are an extension of the love we feel for our babies.

Many groups, including SA, often read Kathie's beautiful poem. It highlights how we feel about our special children and how we will carry our babies in our hearts forever - as we walk our path of life. Marcia McGinnis, 7/06

<http://www.shareatlanta.org/special.htm> - more information



Mementos
SA's Candlelighting..



Some Statistics

26,000 stillbirths occur per year.
An estimated 1 in 4 pregnancies ends in miscarriage -
the MODs state 50% of pregnancies end in miscarriage.
19,000 newborns die during the first month.
460,000 babies in the U.S. are born too soon every year,
some so small they fight to survive...

**Advocacy is needed to brighten the future ~
for ourselves and others!**

Mutual-Support and Advocacy

When we become a part of any activity:

- * support meetings or events
- * Outreach for Healing activities
- * memorial services
- * inservices & professional conferences

Or we respond to people who ask about our awareness pins or about our baby..we honor our own and other parents' children. We become *advocates* for the Pregnancy and Newborn Loss Community's issues and needs.

Hannah's Hope



Hannah had already prepared a few things for the baby. The week before, she and John had bought the crib, but then at the last minute they had decided to wait for a more definite ultrasound before choosing between covers of pink or blue. They wanted their baby's room to speak either of ribbons and tea parties or of baseballs and ant farms. No one-color-fits-all-yellow for this baby. They had waited too long. With the pregnancy going so well, they savored the luxury of dreaming in color about their future.

Oh, but that was then. That was before the bleeding had started so unexpectedly. That was before their rush to the hospital in the dark of the night. That was before all their confident expectations went blank, every Technicolor dream erased in just a blink. Who would have guessed it? If only! For the thousandth time, if only!

So, Hannah waited on the steel gurney, alone except for her still, cold child over there across the room -- her child wrapped only in a paper towel for cover in the sink. Hannah shivered. Soon her heart refused to hold even one more drop of grief, as tears overflowed her eyes and would not stop. Real knives could hurt no more than these thoughts that stabbed and cut.

What had she done wrong to see her baby so destroyed? Was this a punishment from God for some fault, recent or long past? Oh, why? Oh, what about her baby in the sink? Tethered still to tubes, Hannah dared not move to save her baby in the sink. Oh, what about her baby in the sink?

Boy or girl? She did not even know. Some mother she was! All she wanted was to keep her baby warm and safe and, even now, to whisper all the mother-words to some small ear, to sing the mother-songs before it was too late.

She needed time -- just time enough to see the little hands, to count the fingers and the toes, to quickly gather up what memories she could save before they scattered in the lonely days of empty arms to come. Oh, for five sweet minutes to treasure up a lifetime to take the place of all the playgrounds and skinned knees and stories in the night. Oh, for just an hour to give the birthday party kisses and the graduation hugs.

Oh, for those few minutes to give a lifetime's love and memorize the face as every parent does. Does he have my chin or yours? Whose ears? What trace of us marks this child's flesh and bone as ours? Whose hands are these, which would have picked the flowers? How Hannah needed then to see her child and so distill a lifetime into minutes! Pennies on the dollar, yes, but treasure all the same.

With swollen eyes and makeup moved by tears, the nurse returned with two small bundles. From the first, she drew a soft pink blanket, no bigger than her hand. She wrapped the quiet baby and brought her to her mom.

Hannah caught her breath. Thumbelina! This baby was so small, so soft, and so lovely! A girl! She had a girl! Like all the parched and thirsty who at last receive a cup, Hannah drank and drank with every sense. She looked and touched and measured, smelled and weighed. She memorized her baby, as mothers always do.

Finally, John came, and together they decided on Susannah for her name. Along with time, the nurse then left this newly grieving family with the other gift -- a gown. In a while, John and Hannah dressed their sweet Susannah all in white and baptized her with tears. They took their pictures, made their plans, and faced the coming day.

Hanna took the blanket home. She kept it with her for some time - at first beneath her pillow through the nights and carried in her pocket through the days. If anyone denied her grief, if only with the eyes, this pink certificate of birth assured her otherwise. Sometimes just to touch it gave her strength to hold her tears for long enough to do the daily tasks of life. Then, in time, in time, she tucked Susannah's blanket safely in a drawer along with other treasured things like Grandpa's antique watch and Grandma's wedding ring.

Ten years have passed since then, and life has changed for John and Hannah, now the parents of three children. Eric was born without a hitch two years after Susannah, and Lizzy came from Russia with a swirl of excitement in an unexpected adoption. Life is good for them, and life is busy. For Eric and for Lizzy, Hannah cheers and cooks and sings, and for her sweet Susannah, Mama does another thing. She makes her baby blankets, sending blessings knit and purled, to the others who will need them to pass softly through this world.

4Bs Outreach for Healing

Blankets ~ Buntings ~ Bonnets ~ Booties

Why the 4 B's Outreach is important...Nurses now have a way to provide comfort to grieving families. "Parenting" our special babies is very important for healing. Mistie's story is where Mary Grace, who wrote *Hannah's Hope*, got her inspiration for the piece. Melonese's story is a true *Hannah's Hope* story! <http://www.shareatlanta.org/blanketoflovemenu.htm>



Mistie's Story of Love...

Sadness: Somewhere between midnight and 1:00 AM on Dec. 29, 2005, I lost my Angel (pronounced *on-hail*.) Although there were some expressions of sympathy by the nurses, I feel that my daughter was treated like nothing more than garbage. After delivering her, they put her on a cold stainless steel surgical table, covered her up with what looked like a paper towel, put a plastic-lidded container, which looked like an oatmeal container, next to her and left the room. I was so upset, and so in shock, that it did not occur to me to voice an objection or even to pick her up. Sadly, my baby daughter was all alone on that cold table for hours; while I was left in the bed next to the table to recover. I now wish with all my heart that someone would have told me that it was okay to pick her up and hold her. My arms actually physically ached for days afterward because they never got to feel her in them. Also, when the medical staff put my Angel in that container, where did she go? How does a mother get over not knowing where her baby was laid to rest? These thoughts are so painful that sometimes I can hardly bear them.

Building Peace: I did not know how to handle the amount of grief and loss that I was feeling, so I went online to find some help. I found SHARE Atlanta. At my first meeting in January, Marcia told me that I could choose from a collection of decorative boxes made by the seniors of CareShare. I chose a blue, star-shaped box covered in tiny white beads because Angel passed four days after Christmas. Later, I put cards and a few other mementoes in the box and placed it in my living room where I spend most of my at home time. Then, I received from SA a tiny teddy bear and a pink bunting blanket. I put the bunting blanket in the box, and put the teddy bear on top of the blanket. I was four months along when I lost Angel, so I never got to set up a nursery, nor do I have very many mementoes. *The box has become Angel's "room" where I can go and remember her.* Mistie Medendorp ~ In memory of Angel Segura stillborn at 17 weeks, December 29, 2005



Melonese's Story...

A soft pink blanket, no bigger than her hand...

Since it was Melonese's first meeting, I asked her where she had heard of SA. She started to reply and then reached for her purse and drew from it the bag that holds our blankets. She opened it and gently took out, what I knew to be, my mother's crocheted tiny pink blanket! I couldn't believe my eyes! She shared that she had received a pretty card, along with this blanket from SA. She said it touched her that the blanket had been made by a SA grandmother in memory of her three grandchildren. She expressed that this grandmother meant a great deal to her and she wished she could know who she was.

Melonese tenderly removed the tiny blanket from the packet and explained that it went everywhere with her. She slept with it, if she was upset her husband got it for her, and she carried it in her purse. I shared with her that this was the blanket that my mom had worried might be too small, but mom loved it, and wanted it to be given for a very special baby.

This was the second time our blankets had been welcomed back into my home, and the first time that my babies' names had been on the card along with my dear mothers. As I shared this reality to Melonese, the others in the room were also moved by our collective story! Tears and cries of happiness and sweetness filled the room as Melonese and I hugged. A special bond was created. Carrie O'Leary took our picture holding the pink blanket. Later, I called my mother, sent her Melonese's message and filled her heart with joy as well. The love we share comes from our special babies. We bond with them, and if we will, we carry their love forward...*forever*. Marcia McGinnis 7/06



Marcia & her mom,
Hope Brooks

Melonese's thoughts...

Marcia, I really enjoyed the support group meeting. I felt like I have known you forever. I never thought I would meet the mommy of the children that McKenna's blanket was dedicated to. *Your mother is truly an angel.*

We picked the pink crochet blanket especially for McKenna and we placed it in her bed as we took pictures. My husband removed it, and it's been with me every since. Your mom is a blessing. She has unknowingly provided me with such comfort in the darkest time of my life. I don't know her, but I love her. Please let her know that I truly appreciate her. In memory of McKenna Reese Close stillborn at 6 months ~ June 22, 2006

Miracles

*the hands who listened and cared,
who sat with me and shared something of themselves.*

*the hands who offered hope
when my other friends could not cope with me.*

*the hands who covered me with a warm blanket
when I shook uncontrollably from the pain.*

*the hands who touched my tears and my labor,
who soothed my fears away.*

*the hands who wrapped her tenderly
and held her up for me to see a little girl.*

*the hands who made the hat and tiny clothes to wear
I could not believe they were so small.*

*the hands who printed her feet and fingers,
you gave me a sweet and endearing memory.*

*the hands who made me tea
and propped me up to drink it
quietly with no need for words.*

*the hands who anointed my child's head
unrepulsed and pointed out my child's soul.*

*the hands who let me touch
again my child's soft hair
stuck to the bloody stain hidden in her bonnet.*

the hands who offered hope..

*Debbie Rutledge in Memory of Sara - May 16, 1995
[www.shareatlanta.org..Debbie's Diary.htm](http://www.shareatlanta.org..Debbie's%20Diary.htm)*

This poem was on the handout with "Hannah's Hope" for the caregivers who attended SA's two grief sessions at the Bereavement Conference. It speaks to all those special and giving people who wrap around a family as they experience the death of their baby. Lynne, Tammy and I thanked the caregivers for their loving extension of themselves in the care that they provided our families. The caregivers spoke of how important the 4B's Outreach was in helping them better provide a meaningful parenting and together time for families. The 4Bs Outreach happens because of the loving hands that create the blankets, bonnets, booties and buntings (and now gowns) in memory of their own special baby(s). We *thank everyone* who has touched a family by extending their *hands in love*. Marcia McGinnis, 7/06

Awareness and Advocacy Continue with Conferences & Planning for the Future...



Mark, Larry, Lynne & Marcia
SA Members & Conference Presenters

“Grief, Grieving and Grief Support” Conference

About 100 caregivers attended the April 27th conference held at Clayton College for first responders (nurses, fireman, social workers, funeral directors, etc.) and parents. The day was planned by representatives from several area hospitals, the public health programs, Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies, and SHARE Atlanta, and was sponsored by Morehouse Medical College. The keynote speaker, Charlie Walton, author of the inspirational book, When There Are No Words helped us appreciate the importance of supportive care after the death of our children. He provided suggestions for support by caregivers and friends. Tammy and I spent a delightful hour with Charlie. We realized that we were expressing the same viewpoints about the need for supportive groups, materials and outreach. I only wish we had gotten a picture of all of us together!

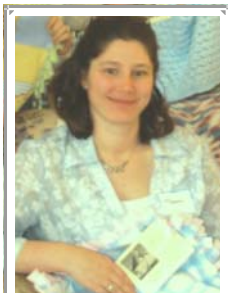
SA's Grief Sessions

Both of SA's break-out sessions were attended by a total of 50 people. *Tammy White*, *Lynne Anderson* and I highlighted what grief means for those who experience the death of their child. We discussed how caregivers could begin the healing process for families by giving them “permission to grieve.” Our power point presentation has pictures of our Outreach for Healing programs, and what SA can offer a newly bereaved family. We had positive discussion within our groups. We were encouraged to see the level of care that the caregivers wished to provide for their patients. *Leah Perry* joined us in the audience. My dear friend, Mary Lou Pagano, attended with information about Safe America: driving support for GA's teens to keep them safe.

Highlights: Making New Friends and Seeing Old Friends & Memorial Service

The panel “First Impressions Manner” was composed of *Larry Connelly* (Piedmont's Chaplain), *Lynne Anderson* (RN...What hat hasn't Lynne worn in SA?), *Mark Ritter* (former police officer now funeral director because of Dorothy's death) —all SA members who have made a lasting place within our community. Sharon Gregory, our long time friend from Dekalb Medical, was also on the panel. We visited with Janice Daniels (from Emory) and Tiffany Parr (from CDC) - who joined us in our session. The conference provided a good way to renew old friendships and make new ones! We thank *Debra Mattis* and *Amy Green* for their creative energy put into our beautiful new SA story boards.

Closing with a memorial service, Travis Shinholster played and John Mobley sang the song he wrote in memory of his daughter, Olivia Grace. SA had been instrumental in the power point presentation that Diane Manheim's son put together. Larry dedicated a bench by the lake, “In loving memory of the special lives lost too soon.”



Tammy also presented
with SA.

My hope is that there will be an even larger group at the next conference...more parents and caregivers. Diane is a good organizer with her own good ideas. Those of us who helped plan along side of her brought many concepts and understandings to the table. Our collaborative efforts created a meaningful conference for the caregivers and parents who attended that day. Marcia McGinnis 7/06

<http://www.shareatlanta.org/special.htm> -
More about Advocacy & SA Inservice

SA will present several workshops at the *Southern Regional Medical Center's Bereavement Training* on Sept. 27. We look forward to this opportunity!



Mary Lou and Marcia beside SA's new
storyboards made by Debra and Amy.



Planning for the Future...

When and what: July 25, 2006 - Planning Committee purposed by Diane Manheim form Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies; hosted by Janice Daniels and staff (Emory Stillbirth Study); partnered with—Dr. Wes Duke and Tiffany Parr (CDC Stillbirth Surveillance Study); Sharon Gregory (Dekalb Medical Hospital) and several other hospitals and groups in the Atlanta area, and Marcia McGinnis
Why: Begin planning for:

- * Perinatal Advocacy Training Program for Parents and Caregivers
- * State-wide Bereavement Training Program



Marcia took the picture!

Lt-rt. Kerry Ann Kelly, Susan Brown, Tiffany Parr, Dr. Wes Duke, Diane Manheim, sitting: Kristy Fors, Janice Daniels
Not pictured: Sharon Gregory

Down the Path...

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 or email Shenja Kirkland (shenjakirkland@yahoo.com) **or Betty Miller, group facilitators.**

Topics... Second Wed. of each month...

October - Keeping your marriage strong, "loss of innocence."

November - Will the birth of this baby bring up grief issues?

December - **Dads invited**—Dad's concerns and expectations. How to deal with Mom.

January - Will this pregnancy ever feel "safe"?

February—Keeping your marriage strong, "loss of innocence."



**Subsequent Pregnancy
Support Online**

Check out the special Subsequent
Pregnancy section of our website at:
<http://www.shareatlanta.org/subpgmenu.htm>

Read SA moms' subsequent pregnancy diaries for support.



Other helpful links:

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

Multiplicity - Support while expecting multiples
<http://www.synspectrum.com/multiplicity.html>

Are you on bed rest?

Contact **SIDELINES** for support:

<http://www.sidelines.org>

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



SHARE Atlanta Family Reunion

Mark your calendars for September 17, 2005 from 2 to 5.

Even when it is storming, the sun always shines on our family reunions each year. We gather to meet our newest subsequent babies and to marvel at the size of the Earliest "safe arrivals." Some of these children are now in college! The kids, big and little, can be seen playing ball or on the great playground equipment in the beautiful back yard of *Polly and Joe Keen*. Meanwhile the grown-ups catch up and enjoy the delicious offerings of the day. This year's theme is, once again, "**Fall Picnic**" because we had so much fun last year! We ask that each family bring a picnic type food and a blanket to sit on so we can gather together outside to share the beauty of the day. (If it is raining, we will "picnic" inside.) There's something special about this day every year. We look around at the smiling families and know that there is the promise of hope, for all the newly bereaved and for each one of us. There is hope and joy in our futures.

What to bring: If your last name starts with A-M please bring easy to eat main food or fun finger food; N-Z please bring dessert, fruit or fun finger food.

RSVP or Questions...email Shenja Kirkland, shenjakirkland@yahoo.com.

If at the last moment you can make it, and you haven't called, please do come along—there is always plenty of food and lots of wonderful memories! **Hope to see you there!**

<http://www.shareatlanta.org/Annualfamilyreunion.htm>



New Arrivals

Nathan and Shannon Ottinger announce the birth of **Noah Jackson** on September 7, 2005. Noah weighed 6 lbs, 9oz, and was 19 inches long. Their daughter, Annabel Wright, was born into heaven on Sept 18, 2004 at 28 weeks.

The Thums welcomed **Samantha Katherine Thum (Kate)** on September 11, 2005 at 3:33 AM. She was born into her mothers and fathers waiting hands after about 1 hour of labor. She was a planned homebirth. Kate weighed 8 lbs 8 oz and was 22 inches long. She has beautiful brown eyes, and just enough hair to know it's brown. The family remembers with love, Halia, who was miscarried on August 4, 2004 at 9 weeks and 5 days.

Bryan and Julie Palmieri welcomed their beautiful baby girl, **Olivia Grace**, into this world on October 29, 2005. She weighed 8lbs. 14 ozs and was 21 inches long. The Palmieri family remembers with much love Grace Emily who was born and returned to Heaven on August 18, 2004. Grace was born at 24 weeks due to an incompetent cervix.

Alan, Kelly and Big Sister Jessica Mishkoff joyfully announce the adoption of their baby, **Hope**, born on March 29, 2006. She was 7 lbs and 9 oz. and 20 inches long. The Mishkoff family remembers with love Zachary, stillborn at 38 weeks on January 27, 2004 and Jeremy, stillborn at 24 weeks on November 15, 2004.

Kelly and Tammy Porter welcome their sweet angel **Taylor Montana**. We delivered her on April 14th (Good Friday) at 10:25 am. She weighed in at 6 pounds and 2 ozs and is absolutely perfect. We have had a long journey to get her here, but we are so blessed she is safe and healthy. Thank you for your support and kindness over the past year and half. After Zachary Connor died (8.6.04) I felt so lost, and SA helped get me back to a peaceful place.

Vincent and Nikecia Ingram are thrilled to announce the arrival of twins, **Autumn McKenna** (5 lbs 2 oz) and **Vincent Alexander** (5 lbs) on May 27, 2006. Autumn and Alex were born on the same holiday weekend as their older brothers...Memorial Day! We hold the love and beautiful memory of our angel babies, Joshua and Jordan, in our hearts forever (Born and Died May 31, 2004).

Jeff and Laura Smith welcomed **Tyler Jackson Smith** on June 11, 2006 at 3:28 am. Tyler was 7 pounds 7 ounces and 21 inches long. The Smith family remembers with love Ella James and Grace Ann, May 4, 2005. When we'd been home a few days, Jeff and I took Tyler to the brick pathway. I am so glad to have such a special place to visit- we know our 2 little angels helped to make sure Tyler made it here safe and sound.

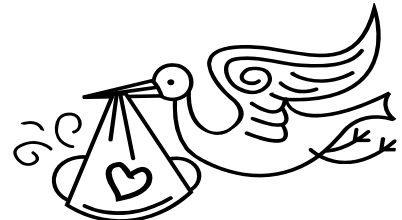
Laura and David Darden are blessed to announce the arrival of their daughter, **Olivia Lee**, on July 10, 2006. She weighed 7 lbs., 12 oz., and was 21" long. She joins her big sister Briana, age 2. The Dardens remember with love their other children, son Stephen Millard, daughter Liana Grace, son Angel Andrea, and daughter Ashley Lynn.

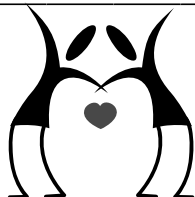
Melissa Lang and Harold Wilson welcomed their son **Campbell Lang Wilson** on July 25th, 2006. He weighed 8 pounds, 9 ounces and was 21 inches long. They remember their twin boys who were lost in February 2004.

Susan Henderson and Dale Hue are thrilled to announce the safe arrival of our baby girl, Mitra Lan, on Saturday, July 29. She weighed 7 pounds 4 ounces and was 21 inches long. Susan and Dale brought Mitra home to meet big sisters Daria and Tara. Susan is recovering from a c-section, Mitra is feeding and sleeping well, and Dale is now thoroughly outnumbered by females in the house. Mitra is a Persian name, meaning goddess of light. Lan is Chinese for Orchid. Words can not describe the happiness we feel with this addition to our family. We are grateful to our family and friends for their love and support, as well as the excellent medical care we received at Piedmont Hospital.

Sharing Your News!

Please send an email with details and any brief thought to: Shenia, our 2006 columnist for New Arrivals- sheniakirkland@yahoo.com Not on email-please send this info to our P.O. Box.
Our subsequent babies are very special to all of us.





Donations

Donations made directly to SHARE Atlanta, Inc. are the *only* financial support we have. We receive no grant money or funds from anyone other than our members and friends.

We offer most of our programs and materials at *no charge* so everyone can participate.

All donations cover: Printing of: Parent Packets, meeting booklets, grief and advocacy information brochures. Mementos given to parents. Telephone answering system and mailbox. Upkeep of memorial garden. Materials used for inservices. Any promotional or outreach activities that require funds. **We thank those who have supported us. Because of this support, we can continue our outreach within our community.**

Reg & Mary Jo Girdharry in loving memory of their granddaughter Anna Marie Friend. "Thanks for all you do. The right sized clothes for Anna meant a lot to them. It was a hard time for all of us, and you were there to ease some of the pain." The donation will go towards funds for our 4B's Outreach.

Jen Mann from Placerville, CO in loving memory of Clovis Thomas, December 18, 2005. Jen is a SA forum member.

Jean Carr "Please accept the donation in memory of the first birthdate of my first grandchild, Sophie Margaret Mattis." Sophie was stillborn May 16, 2005 at 37 weeks.

Elise Beltrami donated some books that had helped her heal -in memory of Grace Marie and in honor of Margaret and Katherine.

Donna Sealine is a long time member from Little Ferry, NJ in memory of Joshua Lawrence, Nov. 22, 1996 to April 2, 1997.

Note: Our volunteers make every effort to make sure that we keep our records up to date. If you have sent in a donation or other information, and it has not been recognized here, we apologize. Please email us with that information, and we will include it in our next newsletter. We thank you very much for supporting our efforts in our outreach to the Pregnancy and Newborn Loss Community.

All donations can be sent to:

SHARE Atlanta
PMB 212 9925 Haynes Bridge Road,
Suite 200 Alpharetta, GA 30022
...and are tax deductible
<http://www.shareatlanta.org/donations.htm>

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

A Special Garden to Grieve, Hope, and Heal



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

Memorial Pathway Bricks—\$25.00

Keepsake Memorial Bricks—\$20.00

- * Orders received by: 2/1, 5/1, 8/1, 11/1
- * Details & ordering form:
<http://www.shareatlanta.org/angelpath.htm>
- * You will be notified when the bricks are placed in the garden.



Holiday Foster Care Shelter Donations...

"The people at the foster care shelter were *thrilled* with my truckload of toys, books and clothes! They especially liked the matching trucks that will go to twin boys. What a great Christmas these two boys will have thanks to *Vincent and Nikecia Ingram*"! Valerie Scholovich, coordinator, 2004

Bring a *Holiday Donation* to one of our meetings or events, and you will receive a holiday keepsake with your baby's name on it.

- * Holiday children's books or toys
- * Holiday clothing
- * <http://www.shareatlanta.org/sheltermenu.htm>

Subscription Renewal & E-mailed Newsletter Information: New members receive a year of hard copy newsletters at no charge. After the first year, we ask for a \$6.00 donation to cover expenses. The date on your mailing label will indicate the last month you will get a newsletter. **SA is going paperless** so everyone who we have an email address for will receive the newsletter electronically. We will have hard copies for special occasions or for those who wish to receive a mailed copy. Please make your check out to "SHARE Atlanta" and mail it to: SHARE Atlanta, PMB 212, 9925 Haynes Bridge Road, Suite 200, Alpharetta, GA 30022. Thanks! Please send email address to Leah: lperryers@earthlink.net. OR <http://www.shareatlanta.org/Newsletter.htm>

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

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

"Outreach for Healing" Volunteers SA Members and Their Family and Friends



*In the garden of our lives, you bloomed.
In the night sky of our dreams, you shone.
In the music of our hearts, you are loved.*

We remember you always

Jennifer Greer, SA

In memory of ~ Jesse David, Jamie Caroline, and Jacob Evan Greer

We remember you always by making your presence meaningful in our lives...

Below is a listing of parents, family members, and friends who have volunteered in our "Outreach for Healing" programs. FOTs participants will have their babies' names on our tree and website. If we have missed someone...please know that *everyone who "shares"* helps to make a difference. **SA thanks all who have volunteered.**

4Bs' Outreach for Healing - 2006

Made items: Julie Franklin, Coretta Monroe, Jodi Firestone, Allison Egger, Kimberly Hallmark & her niece Jessica, Debbie Bader, Thea Hodges, Diane Overton, Rhonda Donehoo & her mom Judy Johnson & cousin Nancy Hicks, Lori Putman, Dawn Edgeworth, Tammy White, Debra Mattis, Lauren Reagin, Kim Shiflett, Carrie O'Leary & her mom Elaine Freeman, Angie Purcell & her third grade class, Kim Schulte, Julie Palmieri & her mother-in-law Joan Palmieri-NY, Julia McClure, Jennifer Carter, Kelly Mishkoff, Jessica Mishkoff, age 6 has helped her mommy Kelly, by making blankets, packing and delivering items to the hospital, The "ROCKERS"- St. Luke's Presbyterian Church's knitting group, Grandmother Hope Brooks-FL, CareShare Seniors, Jane Borman-IL, Nancy Goodson-AL; *Donation for fleece:* Jennifer Nulty & her family-O'Connor, Bouchard & D'Amore, Grandparents Samuel M. & Eva Figuerora-Mishkoff-FL, Amelie Bagwell-GA, Grandfather-Robert Egger; *Sent fleece:* Nicole Weidlich-FL, Susan-IN, Julie Schafer-TX



March of Dimes' Outreach for Healing - 2006

Cindy & Baby Caden Ivey, Caden's grandmother-Pat Gillespie, John & Elise with daughters Katherine & Margaret Beltrami, Sean & Laura O'Brien, Dan & Micaela Brady, Linda Collins, Joe & Polly with Emily & Joseph Keen, Mandy Gillespie, Bryan & Dawn Edgeworth & Family with the Jim Wade Family & Laura Sweet (12 people), Julie Blum, John & Debra Mattis, Angie Allen, Patty Vaccar & her daughter, Stephanie Bullman, Adrienne Verbanac, Marcia McGinnis, Thea Hodges, John & Amanda Flatt, Angie Campbell, Stacy Alvarez, Amber Broadnax, Sharon Washington, Angie Purcell, Tamera Pfeifer-Partiss, Stefanie Merritt, Penelope Redwine, Linda Levasseur, Julie Ivey, Kristi Oates, Jeff & Jodi Firestone, Gayle Harp & Family, Amy Green, Coretta Monroe, Nathan & Shannon with baby Noah Ottinger, Tammy White



Pam Renner

Note: Many of our donations came from SA members, and we appreciate their support.

Together—we make a difference!



SHARE Atlanta Meetings

Directions are in our Parent Packet: request one - 770.928.9603

<http://www.shareatlanta.org/parentpacket.htm>

There are NO December meetings except for Subsequent Pregnancy
All Meetings are from 7 to 9 p.m. No charge for our programs. Non-denominational
Upcoming Grief Group Meeting Topics - <http://www.shareatlanta.org/shareatl.htm>

**For Parents, their Family
And Supportive Friends**

Southside
Email Karen for info.
1st Thursday
Karen

Summit Baptist
Acworth, GA
2nd Thursday
Lynne

Cascade UNITED Methodist Church
Faith based information.
Atlanta, Ga 30311
4th Thursday - call for Nov.
Robin

Please RSVP, Email & Directions;
<http://www.shareatlanta.org/directions2.htm>

**For Moms, Grandmoms,
Sisters, and Girlfriends**

Women's Group Meeting
Dunwoody, GA
3rd Wednesday
Marcia

For Pregnant Moms

Subsequent Pregnancy Support
Dunwoody, GA
2nd Wednesday
Polly

Parent Packet:

- * Booklist
- * Meeting and Program info.
- * Directions to Meetings
- * Email Contacts
- * Grief Information



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



**October is
Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month
Are you wearing your pin and/or bracelet?
Advocacy and Awareness Info Inside**

Grief Support for *healing* after a miscarriage,
ectopic pregnancy, stillbirth or newborn death.