

**MODS'
Kickoff
Luncheon
2008**

**“Walk America”
NOW
“March for Babies”
ALL BABIES
There ARE Answers!**



SHARE Atlanta won top 10 Downtown Chairman's Club Award for the 4th year. We earned a TENT again so we will have a Memory Corner and materials at the MARCH.



Standing It-rt: Angie, Cindy-Team Captain, LaWanda, Tammy, Coretta, Mark Gibson (MODS' State Dir.)
Sitting: Susan, Marcia, and Catherine holding our Chairman's Club award.

**Memo & Danyael..
“We walk because...”**

**In Memory of Paz García
Loss to Miscarriage—October 9, 2006**

We had only three and half months with our baby, Paz (“Peace,” pronounced ‘Pas’), but in that short time, Paz brought us more peace, hope, and joy than we ever could have expected. We miss Paz very much, and want to celebrate our baby’s extraordinary spirit.

On April 28, 2007 we walk in memory of our little one – Paz would have been one week old. Please consider sponsoring us and supporting the March of Dimes with your donation, however large or small. The funds you donate will support research that saves babies’ lives.

Memo and Danyael Garcia, SA mom and dad
They raised over \$1000. for healthy babies and families!



Danyael and Memo with their family members 2007.



**SHARE Atlanta
Families & Friends
March in Memory
of Our Babies...**

Why We March...for Children like Catharine Louise...

Catherine Louise was born at 24 weeks and weighed 1 pound. Her family is MODS’ ambassador family because they credit the MODS as a significant reason why Catherine is the happy, caring five year old that she is today. She and her mom, Susan, were a joy to meet. Susan had specifically asked to meet us after our group’s name was called for a Chairman’s Award. **We are making connections!!**





Come Join Nationally Recognized Family Team SHARE Atlanta ~ April 26, 2008

We would love for you to join us downtown for our march, but you can march anywhere in the US and march for SA's Team #562! A list of options and the way to sign-up to march are on the March for Babies website: www.marchforbabies.org

Where:

Centennial Olympic Park, Atlanta, GA
North Park
265 Park Ave. West NW
Atlanta

Your donation is tax deductible
as a charitable contribution.

With: SHARE Atlanta's MOD's "562" Team

When:

Saturday Morning, April 26, 2008 at 9 am. But, see "Tent"
The march is 5.2 miles long.

Encouragement and support: Vans come along frequently for anyone who wishes a "lift" back to the park. Juice, fruit and bagels are given out along the way! And, various stations along the way have people to cheer walkers on and to offer any support that might be needed.

Tent: We need volunteers to help in our tent!

9:00 AM - March begins, but please meet around 8 am in OUR SHARE Atlanta Team TENT! We take our Team pictures during this time. Then, we will have a particular time (emailed nearer the actual date) to get our Team pictures made by the MODs!



Weather:

The march takes place rain or shine! If there is severe weather, obviously the march would be cancelled. Turn to Star 94 for updates.

More Information:Email Cindy Ivey our Team Captain: cynthiaivey@comcast.net

"SHARE Atlanta ROCKS!!!"

**...Because of the people who march "with" SHARE Atlanta
in memory of their babies!**



The **more members on our TEAM**, the more likely we are to reach a goal of having a Chairman's TENT to support other bereaved parents during the march. Even a few hundred dollars per walker will help our cause and support the MODS' efforts.

Come join SA!!

**SHARE Atlanta Team #562 ~ 2006
Nationally: 2nd Place Family Team out of 9000!**

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

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



**2007
5th**



**2006
2nd**

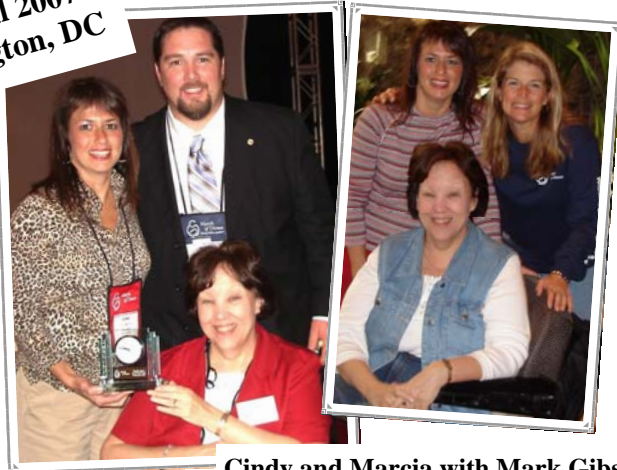


**Some of our 40 Walkers!
TENT & Memory Corner**



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

**National 2007
Washington, DC**

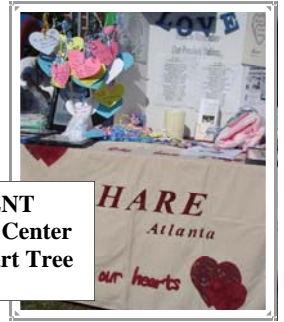


**Cindy and Marcia with Mark Gibson,
GA’s State Director, & Cathy Kanefsky,
Director of Family Team Development**



Some of SA’s 2006 Walkers!

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



MODS TENT
SA's Memory Center
Memorial Heart Tree

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

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

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

MODS' Helps SA Get Our Message to the Public

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

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

WalkAmericia NOW “March for Babies”

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

Celebrity and Corporate Support

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

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

Share Your Story Reunion

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

SHARE Atlanta will March for Babies in 2008!

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

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

Marcia McGinnis, 10.07; revised 2.08