# Forever in Our Hearts



SHARE *Atlanta* Memoríal Celebratíon



"You are still here." A beautiful promise! Through the rain, the hope still shines!"

Crystal Shoemal

SHARE *Atlanta (SA)* welcomes you. We hope that this special service, in memory of all of our babies, brings you hope, peace, and continued healing. As we share together, we know that the love we feel for our children will be *forever in our hearts.* Please sign our guest book ...

### The Love Stays...

### "Breath of Light" (Prelude) "Inner Space"

from The Peace-Filled Journey CD by Amon Sherriff

### "SHARE Atlanta" by Pam Slayback

Working through our grief with each other; Sharing our fears and feelings; Knowing we are not alone in our pain; Learning our pain and feelings are normal, and that we aren't losing our minds Finding hope from those who have made it through their grief to the other side; Hope for our own survival and healing, and for future happiness; Very special people. Daniel 6.14-15.85

### **Amon Sherriff**

**Coretta Monroe** In memory of Gabriel Cadence Hunter

### **Every Child Is Special...**

### "Hope Still Shines"

by Crystal Shoemaker In memory of Jacob Daniel, Amelia Grace, Alisha Faith, Charles Jeffrey "CJ," and Isiah Thomas Shoemaker

> Darkness envelops me, The clouds are overhead, The wind begins to moan A drop falls down on the thirsty earth.

My skin is soaked and my body shivers, My eyes are filled with the brine. Pain envelops my soul-Losing you cuts deep; As I look into the sky, I see a hint of color.

**Tanya Mitchell** In memory of Kayden McKynzie Cobb

Alan, Kelly, and Jessica Mishkoff

In memory of Zachary Gabriel and

Jeremy Gabriel Mishkoff

Yes! There it is, a bit of blue and yellow-A little more shows and then-You are still here. A beautiful promise! Through the rain, the hope still shines!

Written in honor of our daughter, Hope Allison SHARE Atlanta 2006

### **Lighting of Memorial Candle**

In loving memory of all the precious children whose short lives touched the hearts of their parents and friends.

> January - Remembering you in the winter and longing for spring. February - I love you and miss you and wish I could just hear you sing. March - Blowing earth kisses to the angel of mine. Apríl - While there are showers of grief the sun still shines. May - A time of peek a boo butterflies dancing like you danced in my womb. June - You would have loved this bright and sunny time, you left to soon. July - Celebrations of Red, White and Blue remain though you aren't here to see. August - The lazy warm gentle days for you were not meant to be. **September** - In this school of grief you have taught me so much. October - While I carve the pumpkin it is you I long to touch. November - A harvest we can not share except in our hearts. **December** - You are wrapped tightly within me. I light a candle in memory. From you I will not part. Karen Major 10.2001 Read at the Angel Dedication 2001

SA's children are a very special part of our group. When our baby dies, some parents have living children, and other couples experience the death of their first baby. We all are concerned about how this grief will impact our evolving family. SA encourages parents to be truthful and open about their experience. Our precious babies will always be a part of our family, and forever in our hearts.

### "No Heartbeat"

by Roger Deane In memory of Russell Joseph Deane

No Heartbeat Nothing else need be said We cannot find the heartbeat I am afraid your son is dead

Two words that changed our lives forever Nothing will be the same

...Strangers ask me everyday How many children do you have I don't quite know what to say

I tell them I have a son Who died before he was born He was truly an inspiration Now we only can mourn

Don't be so sad they say You are still so very young It was meant to be, they say You can always have another one

How stupid you are in your world No understanding for my pain My child was alive and we loved him Nothing will ever be the same

Now we know we aren't alone Two words have affected so many We all love our children Even when our arms are empty

We cannot find the heartbeat We cannot find the rhythm Our child has died and left us We will hold him again in heaven

Roger's poem tells our collective story. It expresses the \*reality\* of what we have faced and embraces the intense love that we carry for our child. This love is essential for our healing. Roger, a SA dad, first read his poem in 1996 in memory of Russell stillborn-4.7.92. The GA Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth (CBRS) was named "The No Heartbeat Act" after this poem. SA members, with Erin Dickerson and Marcia McGinnis at the helm, made this law happen in May 2008.

### "Tiny Footprints"

By Tamara Barker, Hope's Mommy

These are my footprints, so perfect and so small. These tiny footprints, never touched the ground at all.

Not one tiny footprint, for now I have my wings. These tiny footprints were meant for other things.

You will hear my tiny footprints, in the patter of the rain. Gentle drops like angel's tears, of joy and not from pain.

### "The Touch of an Angel"

#### Nicole Kirby In memory of Ethan Wyatt and Alexis Paige Kirby

You will see my tiny footprints, in each butterflies' lazy dance. I'll let vou know I'm with vou. if you just give me a chance.

You will see my tiny footprints, in the rustle of the leaves. I will whisper names into the wind, and call each one that grieves.

Most of all, these tiny footprints, are found on mommy's heart. 'Cause even though I'm gone now, we'll NEVER truly part.

### Valerie Scholovich

In memory of Megan Elizabeth and Kathryn Anne Scholovich

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 And forget for the while sad spirits and heavy hearts But instead feel the rustle of your wings and hear the whispers of the babies 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.

### **Roses of Honor**

The white roses represent the innocence of our special babies and the innocence we have lost. They are the raw, new grief as we take the initial steps down grief's path. The pink roses represent the serenity we all hope to find, and the peace that healing can bring. Their delicate hue reminds us of preciousness of our children's lives - the love, the joy, and the bittersweet memories of a too-brief life and its eternal imprint on each of our hearts. Jennifer Greer, SA mom, 2002

### **Scholovich Family**

### Jeff and Margaret Lowe

In memory of Nathan Zachary Lowe

### **Eric and Shakina Williams**

In memory of Courtney AuxVasse Williams

## .. Forever in Our Hearts

### "My Little Girl"

### **Percy L Keyes** In memory of Phara Lynae Keyes

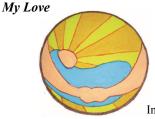
Life feels so dark and empty now that you are gone. Since I'm a man, everyone expects me to be strong. That doesn't change the fact of how much pain I hold. I feel like a bomb or volcano set to explode. Just remember Daddy loves you. You're his little girl. I have cried more than I ever thought I would. In my heart I know, your Mommy and I did everything we could. Everyone tells me it all happens for a reason. They say you will make it through this season. Just remember Daddy loves you. You're his little girl.

### I feel as if my heart has been pulled from my chest. Only God knows how much it hurts to see you laid to rest. I don't think I will ever lose this pain.

For the first time in my life, I think I may go insane. Just remember Daddy loves you. You're his little girl. Only time will heal my holes that remain from you being stripped from me.

The loss of you makes me blind to life, but one day I hope to see. Maybe that day will never come to pass. I just know for sure that a piece of me is in heaven at last. Just remember Daddy loves you. You're his little girl.

> To my loving Angel, Phara Lynae Keyes. Love, Daddy



### "Hugs for Hunter"

### A Letter to my Son

They say it's not my fault, that I did nothing wrong. But all I know for certain is that my little boy is gone. A mother is supposed to protect her children. to keep them safe and sound. I can't help but think I surely let you down. You'll never have the chance to laugh and play, skin your knee, pretend to run away. I'll never see you loose a tooth, make a mistake, or blow out candles on a birthday cake. Take tractor rides with your dad. Make your sister super mad. I can't ever wipe your tears away, Or dance with you on your wedding day. Instead I lay awake at night, praying that god is holding you tight. I need you to know and understand, this living nightmare was not my plan. I had the privilege to carry you for 9 short months. I felt you move, heard your heartbeat, Saw a picture of your tiny feet! Then finally to see your face, a sleeping angel already in gods grace. I can only hope and pray. I will dance in heaven with you one day.

> All My Love, Mommy

**by Allysa Wolf** In memory of Ethan Wolf

Amy Guzowski

In memory of Hunter Thomas Guzowski

"Hugs From Hunter" - www.facebook.com/ hugsfromhunter

Excerpt from Amy Guzowski's story: On February 10, 2012. I gave birth to my beautiful baby boy, Hunter Thomas Guzowski. We had successfully moved through several pre-birth medical issues. Hunter was growing and fine. Tragically, a placental issue during the last day was one hurdle we could not get over. Hunter was born still at 37 weeks.

"Hugs from Hunter" was created in memory of my son Hunter Thomas Guzowski born still 2.10.12.

In the hospital my grief brought many tears. I remember thinking the hospital tissues were a horrible tissue paper consistency. I went through <u>10 boxes</u> of those horrible hospital tissues. I felt alone and without comfort. From this emotion grew "Hugs From Hunter."

A box of a good quality tissues given to a grieving family would be my symbolic "HUG" from Hunter. One that would bring Hope in knowing that someone else understood the pain of loss and the comfort of support.

Please Help! Donate good quality (Puff, Kleenex, etc.). SHARE Atlanta (SA) has included "Hugs from Hunter" in their Outreach for Healing program. SA information will be included with each box.

Details: Amy Guzowski <amyguzowski@gmail.com>

### "More than Just a Moment in Time"

### **Margaret** Lowe

In memory of Nathan Zachary Lowe

You were a dream, a wish, a hope and then you came to be What a big surprise when we learned you'd been conceived We were told "never in a million years" could a pregnancy happen to me But God's plans were bigger and He knew what was meant to be.

Your life filled us with joy, from the conceptual start. Such dreams we had for you, tucked inside our hearts. We couldn't wait to see a picture of who I was carrying inside But God's plans were bigger; He knew the things that would come in time

Come to find out you were more special than we knew could be You would come into this world, with a broken body Our hearts ached because we knew there would not be much time Now God's plans were bigger than the things troubling in our minds

Even with your difficulties you were strong and growing well Protected in Mommy's womb, for as long as time could tell To make it as far as possible, but knowing you'd be here soon God's plans were bigger than that, which was growing in my womb I carried you for nine months, what an incredible feeling I never wanted to give you up, my heart just wasn't willing. The day you would be born, would be our worldly part But God's plans are bigger than all of this, even from the start.

You were amazing to hold and to see your tiny eyes You were so soft and cuddly, what a sweet little surprise Your precious little hands, I longed to forever caress But God's plans were bigger than losing you, our biggest distress

We had you for two hours, but we've loved you for so much more A moment in time for life, but a lifetime of love our hearts forever pour Our broken hopes and dreams remain since losing you that day But God's plans are greater and His love will help us through the pain

God's plans have always been bigger than anyone can see He lovingly answered our prayers and made us parents-to-be. Through it all He gave us hope, in our deepest dismay And thanks to His love, we'll have an eternity to know you again one day

Now you are in Heaven, and still here in my heart I imagine what you would be like, and wish we were not apart One year after losing you, my heart still aches with pain But God knew what he was doing, to be your Mommy I'm thankful everyday

Jeff and Margaret placed the white roses in our angels arms last year as they began their grief journey. Today they placed the pink roses signifying gradual healing. Margaret's poem reflects her thoughts written on Nathan's first anniversary (B.D.6.2.11).

#### A big sister makes a difference!

Jessica and her parents Alan and Kelly Mishkoff

In memory of Zachary Gabriel and Jeremy Gabriel Mishkoff

Hi, I'm Jessica. Eight years ago, when I was only 4 years old, I lost two brothers. My first brother, Zachary, died in January 2004 at birth. He had two knots in his umbilical cord. It was a very hard time for my family. Later that year, my mom became pregnant with my second brother, Jeremy. At the 6-month mark, we found out he was stillborn.

After both Zachary and Jeremy had died, my mom started the 5 B's blanket project with Marcia. My mom wanted to help other mothers heal from their loss so she started making blankets for mothers who had just lost babies. On the blankets are little cards with information about SHARE Atlanta. I remember always wanting to go to their support groups with my mom, but it wasn't meant for children.

When I started training for my Bat Mitzvah, I was told to think of a mitzvah project, or a good deed. I wanted to do something that felt personal to me. I thought about the blankets, and how much it must have affected so many people. I decided that I would have different gatherings to make blankets and buntings. I will have some with my friends and my family, but not a lot of them will truly understand what it feels like going through something this hard. I want to also hold a gathering where mothers and children can come and make the blankets. They will feel comfortable knowing that everyone else in that room has gone through what they have gone through.



After a few years, we adopted my little sister, Hope. She has had such a huge impact on my life. Even though she wasn't here when it happened, she talks about my brothers very often, and how they are playing video games with God. Having a sibling is the best gift I could have asked for.

I still think about my brothers a lot. Sometimes I'll stay up at night and just talk to them. I even have dreams about them. My whole family keeps their memory in our hearts, and that is how they have stayed a part of our family all these years.

These blankets are part of SA's 5 Bs-Blankets, Buntings, Bonnets, Booties, and Bracelets created by Kelly Mishkoff in '04 in memory of Zachary and Jeremy. Newly bereaved parents wrap their precious baby in love. We thank Kelly for this outreach.



### "My Precious Jonathan William"

At first the tears fell like a relentless storm as the thunder crashed in my soul I fought every day to make it through the rain to once again become whole Each second a battle within me as I survived only from one heartbeat to the next The thought of living the rest of my life without you seemed impossible at best At times I merely existed, a shell of the person I was before you were gone

Months and months went by and the storm became more of a slow and steady rain My heart ached for you every waking moment and with each breath I took My mind constantly filled with thoughts of what you would be doing now I longed for the joy of hearing you laugh and seeing you smile for the first time I still could not comprehend why our time together seemed but just a moment

### Karen Verner

In memory of Jonathan William Verner

The months turned into a year and the rain had become just a light sprinkle The clouds had begun to lift and the sun slowly peeked through Shining at times just enough to make me able to laugh again Inside I still missed you each day, but I smiled more and cried less as my journey carried me one step at a time, closer to peace and happiness

One year has now become three and the rainbow has come out after the rain It's colors are bright and beautiful just like the colors you brought to my life From the tears has bloomed a garden of friends I would never have known without you I have found an inner strength I didn't even know existed until you came along Your brief presence in my life has given me more than I ever dreamed possible

I know that you are always with me, a part of me, just as I am a part of you When I tell others about you now, I know they can see you there in my eyes Any tears shed now are happy ones knowing that someday we'll be reunited in paradise My angel, I thank God each day for giving me the gift of being your Mother Having you helped make me the person I am today, because of you I am forever changed.



### Lítany Ceremony

This vessel symbolizes our hearts. When we conceived and when we lost our babies our hearts were flooded with emotions. Emotions of happiness and wonderful dreams when we conceived. Then, emotions of extreme grief when our sweet baby died.

The water inside symbolizes the tears we each have cried. Some alone and some with our loved ones and friends. Our shared tears have become one tear for the many parents who have suffered similar losses. These tears gradually lead us to wisdom, strength, compassion, and endurance.

The rose, with its thorns and lovely colors and fragrance, is a symbol of beauty and pain. Today our rose petals symbolize the sweetness of our babies. The white petals are our babies so soft and pure. The pink petals are the love we have for our babies, and the yellow rose petals are for the growing peace found in our healing journey. They also reflect the friendships found in SHARE Atlanta that have helped us heal.

During the litany, as you come to receive your memento, let's join together in sharing the path toward peace as we place some rose petals in our vessel - knowing that our special babies will be.....forever in our hearts. by Diane Campbell for SA in 1996 n memory of Hope and Faith Campbell



by Allysa Wolf

There is a memento for every child included on SA's litany. Each baby is precious.

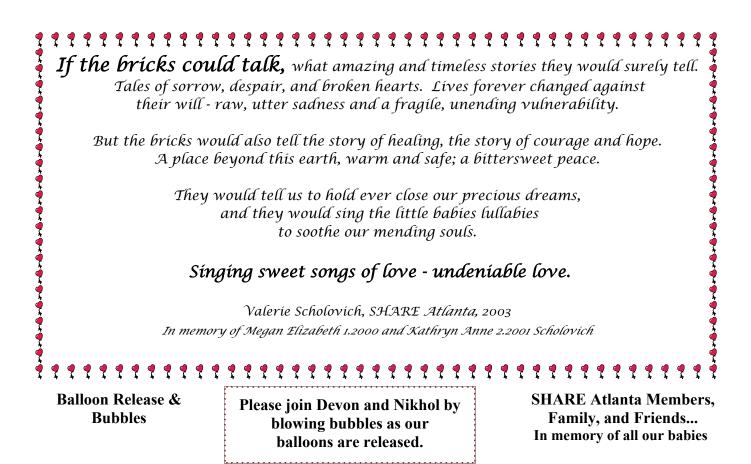
John and Amanda Flatt In memory of Precious Angel Flatt

Our heart mementos, created by the Flatts and Don and Shere Lowery (Amanda's parents), are SA's gift to you as we remember, together, how precious our children are to us. If your baby's name is not on our litany, please know there is a heart for you after our ceremony.



"If the Bricks Could Talk"

**Devon and Nikhol Jackson** In memory of Jaden Alexandria Jackson



**"Shadow of the Crow"** CD by Amon Sherriff **Amon Sherriff** 

### We wish you hope, peace, and healing.



Before or after the service: SHARE Atlanta volunteers are here for you if you want support. Please sign our guest book. If you wish for your baby's name to be called, and it is not on our litany, please tell the SHARE Atlanta Volunteer who is standing by our guest book. Our guests and members are important to us. \*Together\* we create special memories.

### October is Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month.

SA recognizes this month and its importance by offering, for a small donation, awareness pins and brochures. When we can, we hold an Angel Garden Memorial Service during the month of October. Advocacy and Awareness is a year long quest with our inservices, our November Women's Candlelighting Service, and other "Outreach for Healing" activities. SA's "Walk to Remember" combines with our March of Dime's fundraising drive for Walk for Babies in April. For our efforts, we have won "#1 Family Team Downtown" as well as a National Family Team every year since 2005. Our sweetest reward is to support families through these outreaches. All year long, we "Walk to Remember" as we work to "plant our feet firmly" in hopes of healing. At first our steps are wobbly, but as we learn to cope, they become more sure. Families come to understand that the *love* they feel for their baby grows as they reach out to others.

### The love stays...forever in their hearts.

October Loss Awareness Information - http://www.shareatlanta.org/legacy/special.htm SHARE Atlanta's "Outreach for Healing" Programs - http://www.shareatlanta.org/legacy/outreachmenu.htm





**"Thank yous"** We thank Maureen David and Arlington Memorial Park. A special thank you goes to Amon, my friend, for sharing his beautiful music with us over the years. He is an important person for our service. We thank all of our SA volunteers who work year round to fulfill our mission, and those members who participated today. Together, we continue our outreach to those who experience a pregnancy or newborn loss. Marcia McGinnis, President & Co-founder of SA

### SHARE Atlanta is ...

- for families who have had ectopic, miscarriage, stillbirth and newborn loss.
- a *volunteer*, mutual-help group
- a nonprofit organization since '84.
- nondenominational; no fees.
- funded by tax deductible donations.
- annually supports over 500 parents.

Walk Amercia: April 2013. SA walks Downtown, but you may walk any where and/or on a Personal Family Team. <u>We can combine your funds</u> <u>with SA's Team</u>. Since 2005, SA has annually raised enough funds (over \$20,000.) to be blessed to have one of the 10 TENTS on the grounds. Then, we can carry *our message* to families *during* the yearly walk.

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