



SHARE Atlanta's "5" Bs Gathering— 8.24.08 Blankets of Love Outreach Blooms Many have embraced this Outreach...



Lots of Sharing, Caring, and Smiles as...



**20 plus SHARE Atlanta Parents gathered to learn more about our
5 Bs Outreach for Healing Program and Memory Making**

**Lighting our memorial candle...
Our common bond is our babies.**

Diane (lt) first joined us in the 80s, **Jamila** joined us 3 months ago. Being together is important. "Healed and healing" members join us as they can to support new members and to take part in our ongoing activities. Together we continue SA's mission of "outreach for healing" to those who have experienced a pregnancy or newborn loss.



Some of the SA parents who joined us on 8.08 Lt to rt: Erin Dickerson, LaWanda Lee, Donna Huffman, Nicole Scott, Diane Jordan, Kaia Alderson, Jamila Houser, Heather Haney, Sauttee Turner, Betty Miller, Kezia Cook (from Macon area), Allysa Wolf, Kelly Mishkoff, Tamera Partiss, Nathan Wolf

**It was fun to
learn new ideas!**



SA's Nicole Scott told us about Creative Memories and memory scrapbooks.



Kelly telling her story of how she began SA's 4Bs program in memory of Zachary and Jeremy.

SA's Betty Miller, Storybook Lady, describes how to make a storybook online from our memories and photos.



Allysa showed how to make the 5 Bs items. They are given, with SA information, to hospitals for newly bereaved parents and their babies.

How and Why SA's 4 B's Mission Began...

Excerpts from M. McGinnis' 2005 Article..

SA's Blanket of Love—"Wrapping our babies in love..."

SHARE Atlanta (SA) is pleased to announce a very special outreach project that is just unfolding. We believe this will blossom into a very special outreach for many different people over the next years.

Comfort is needed after the tragic loss of a baby...

This outreach was created in loving memory of Zachary and Jeremy who were born still to Kelly and Alan Mishkoff this year. Kelly expressed how comforting it was to hold her sons in tiny handmade blankets that the hospital provided. Jennifer Carter, Kelly's friend, visited me. She took Kelly's idea and suggested the easy to make fleece blankets for babies who would be held for a brief time while "bittersweet hellos and sad good-byes" are said.



Kelly, her mom, Maureen Franco and daughter, Jessica...
Gathering blankets together to take to the hospital - 2006

Blankets Given as Special Mementos..

These blankets can be kept by the parent as a special and comforting remembrance of their baby. A small card will be included that recognizes the person or group who made them, and SA. The family will know that they are not alone in their experience, and that SA members not only care but are ready to support them in their healing journey.

Blankets, Buntings, Bonnets and Booties...

Sharon Gregory, nurse and long time friend from **Dekalb Medical**, showed me tiny donated baby clothes that the nurses often provide to parents. In considering the broader possibilities of these combined ideas, I named our project the 4B's short for "Blankets of Love: Buntings, Bonnets, and Booties." I have found patterns for making simple crocheted, knitted, quilted, or sewn baby blankets, buntings, booties and bonnets that are designed for this very purpose.

The Blessing of Handmaking these Blankets...

Mary Beth Nance, mom of Mikaela and a online member since 1997 from Maryland, wrote: "While it was a bit hard to make a blanket knowing that it wasn't for my baby, it helped me knowing that I might be helping another family who just went through what I did. Making the blankets was more therapeutic than I could have imagined."



MaryBeth's Family in SA's Memorial Garden 2006 with Mikaela's memorial brick: Her husband, Jason, children, Jennifer and Mason. Her parents, Bob and Flo Foard (**Flo** made hats, bracelets, and blankets). **2008: Jennifer** just learned to knit and may lend her hand to our outreach! Incredible!



The First 4Bs Gathering—2.05



Lt to rt: **Julie Franklin, Kimberly Hallmark, Allison Egger, Ryan Holden, Julie McClure, Kelly Mishkoff**

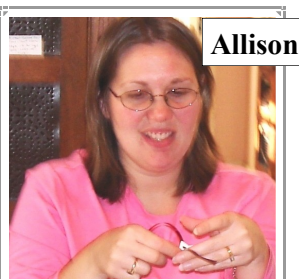
2008: Members take 5Bs Gift Packets to 17 Hospitals and Hospice Atlanta.



Marie Elie (takes blankets to **Gwinnett**), **Tammy White** (takes blankets to **N'side**), and **Kelly** (**Piedmont**) are grouping the packets for the hospitals. We started with 6 hospitals.

Parents who have been touched by 5Bs...

Allison's Blanket of Love gifted to Carrie.



Allison

Carrie O'Leary, 2005, was one of the first SA moms to receive a SA blanket.

Carrie's thoughts about Evan's blanket:
"I slept with it that night and hold it often. It meant and continues to mean so much to me. I found a card pinned to the blanket telling me it was made by Allison Egger in memory of her baby, Hannah. I hope she knew when she was making this blanket that it really would make such a difference in a mother's life and in her heart."



And the Rest of the Story...
Carrie and her mother, Elaine Freeman joined one of our gatherings and made blankets in memory of Evan for other families.



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 reached into her purse and drew out a bag that holds our blankets. She 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, too, 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 knew 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. She carried it in her purse. I told her that this was the blanket that my mom had worried might be too small, but it would be for a very special baby.

This was the second time our blankets had been welcomed back into my home. It was the first time that my babies' names had been on the card along with my dear mothers. As I shared this with Melonese, cries of happiness and sweetness filled the room as Melonese and I hugged. A special bond was created. 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

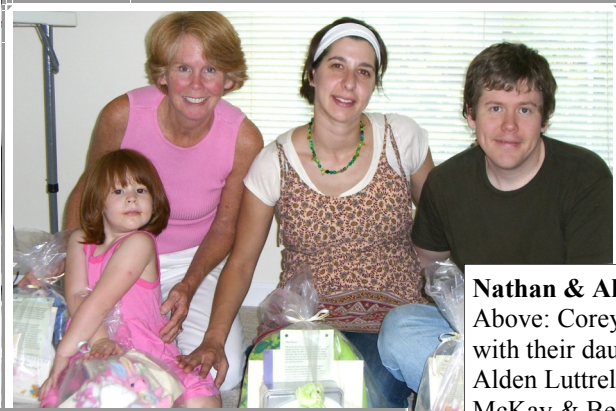
Melonese's thoughts...

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.

In memory of McKenna Reese Close stillborn at 6 months ~ June 22, 2006 (The Close family welcomed Jackson in 2007, and McKenna's blanket was in the delivery room.)

SA Parents Make Blankets with Family and Friends on Anniversaries, Due Dates... in Memory of Their Precious Babies



Nathan & Allysa's Family..
Above: Corey and his wife
with their daughter, Mary
Alden Luttrell; Below: Jim
McKay & Beth Bayer

Allysa and Nathan have done a great deal for SA and for the 5Bs Outreach. All has been done in memory of Ethan 5.07. They celebrated Ethan's birthday by inviting family and friends to make 5Bs packets and then by delivering them to N. Fulton where Ethan was born. Nathan cut out many bears, bunnies and blankets for our 8.08 Gathering. What Kelly began continues now with bracelets, bears, and bunnies thanks to Allysa!



Nurse Laura, and Linda, bereavement counselor, at **North Fulton**, received the 5Bs gift packets made in memory of Ethan—stillborn 5.07.



Mary Alice, Allysa's mom from LA, showing a packet during the SA Women's meeting in 5.08. The baby bracelets can then be worn on a parents' finger.



Coretta and some of her family have made MANY of our blankets of love in memory of Gabriel miscarried 11.04. She takes blankets to **Cobb Hospital** where she has established a growing relationship.



Cobb H. Nurse Abby McKenzie receives blankets from Coretta.



**5Bs: Blankets of Love Outreach...
DOES make a difference...**

A letter sent to SA from grandparents of a family that received a 5Bs Gift Packet..

Dear **SHARE Atlanta**:
The "right" sized clothes
for Anna meant a lot to our
family. It was a hard time
for all of us and you were
there to ease some of the
pain. Thanks for all you
do. Reg & Mary Jo



10.07 at a SA meeting, Allysa shared Ethan's blanket that gently wrapped their son along with a picture of him it. As we suggest, it was not washed. It will forever hold precious memories of the Ethan.

**SA Parents with Friends & Family
Make 5Bs Gift Packets to Continue SA's Outreach for Healing...
in Memory of Their Precious Babies**



Rhonda Donehoo, Joan Jordan (grandmother), Judy Johnson (mom), Nancy Hicks (cousin)

On Robert James Donehoo, stillborn April 21, 2006, anniversary Rhonda and her family made baby gowns out of her wedding dress and a boy and girl's christening dress for her future children.



Sauttee Turner had her family honor Miquael's (7.07) anniversary by making blankets from fleece that Debbie Bader had cut out.



Rhonda's Wedding Dress..



Betty Miller's MOMS Club made blankets on a Mom's Night Out evening in memory of Brian 07/21/2003--08/04/2003. Debbie's church, St. Ann's Women's Guild, donated \$100.00 to our mission.



Debra Mattis and Debbie Bader

Debbie bought fleece and cut over 100 blankets for parents to tie. She involved Crochet Partners who provided bonnets and booties. Both ladies have volunteered in other SA outreaches. (Debra mailed our Parent Packets for several years. Debbie made a beautiful FOT's tree skirt.)

Sophie Margaret Mattis, stillborn 5.16.05.
Angie Olga-12/6/92, Gloria Lynn -10/7/95, Kaleigh Madison- 6/96, Bailey Rose- 9/96, Taylor Brooke-8/31/98, Gabriella Grace Bader-4/5/99 - loss to miscarriage.



Patricia Jochimsen from Wisconsin, **Elise Beltrami's** mother, made these precious buntings in memory of Grace Marie, miscarried on 6.14.03. Elise takes SA blankets to **Dekalb Medical**.

SA's Outreach Supported by Friends in the Community...

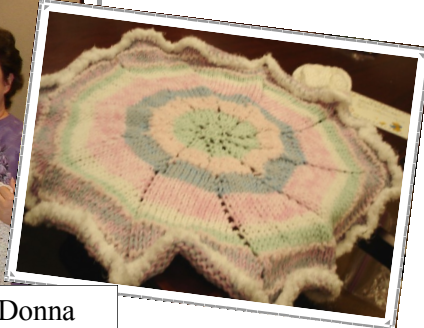
Buntings...



St. Luke's Presbyterian's ROCKERS



Some of the 45 members who are SA Friends: Peggy Tienken, Donna Nall, Kimey Reed, Cathy Ray, Jan Billions, Karleen Buchholz, Karen McAlarney, Marcia McGinnis. They have made over 300 beautiful blanket sets that include booties and bonnets many with bows, ribbons and unique designs. We could not have expanded as rapidly as we have without their support. We thank them for their meaningful outreach.



Two Incredible Ladies... Jane Borman and Nancy Goodson...



Jane, IL, is a long time supporter of SA and grief support groups having volunteered in National SHARE's office for years. She volunteers in memory of her own babies and her granddaughter. Her lovely blankets are of many different designs with unique embedded beauty such as hearts and flowers. We thank her for her ongoing outreach.



Nancy Goodson from AL and a friend of Marcia and SA, has made many of the sewn buntings that the nurses love to have for 8 to 20 week babies as well as knitted bonnets, booties, and blankets. We thank Nancy for her outreach to our community.



Ms Angie Purcell's Third Grade Class



Several of the Children's Notes...

"I am glad I made the blanket for the babies. I put a lot of love and care in the blankets. From Jacquelyn"

"It was an honor making this blanket for your child. It was made with love and care. Sincerely, Parker"

"I was happy when I made the blankets because the hospital got them for the babies. I was glad that we were doing a good deed. From John"

"I am Riley. My class and I made some baby blankets for small babies. I was helping babies and mothers in an amazing way."

SA's Angie Purcell's classes have made SA blankets for several years. They are very special to us. Angie miscarried Baby Purcell in '03, and Sarah Katherine was stillborn 5.18.04

Thank You, All for Supporting SA's 5Bs Outreach...



Julie, Lt, at our first 5Bs Gathering 2.05

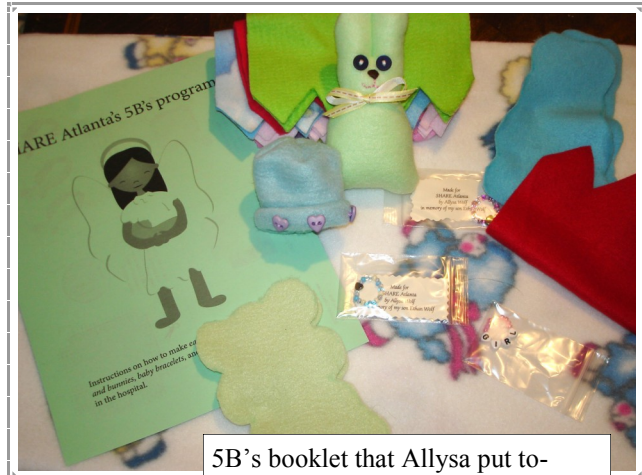
Girl Scouts from Christ the King School in Buckhead...Julie Franklin's Outreach

"I was a Girl Scout at this school and many of the girls were born at Piedmont. They were excited to know **the blankets will be going to Piedmont.**" Julie Caleb Andrew, 8/17-25/04 delivered at Piedmont & subsequent baby Sara Catherine -11. 6. 06.

Gowns for 1 & 2 lb Babies



Tammy Campbell, who has also made 5Bs Gift Packets for **Kennestone**, in memory of Aiden, stillborn 5.16.07, found these darling gowns for 1 to 2 pound babies. If you wish to help provide these, let us know.



5B's booklet that Allysa put together with one of her bunnies. 8.08

Thank You to YOU! Members, family, and friends of SA who have made a difference... 5Bs' Outreach for Healing - 2005 to 2008—I have tried to list the many folks who have supported our outreach. If you know someone who should be included, please email their name to me. Thanks!

Julie Franklin and Christ the King Girl Scout troop, Coretta Monroe, Jodi Firestone, Allison Egger and her father-in-law, Robert Egger, Kimberly Hallmark and her niece, Jessica, Debbie Bader, Crochet Partners, Thea Hodges, Hope Brooks (Marcia's mother), Diane Overton, Kim Schulte, Rhonda Donehoo and her family, Lori Putman, Dawn Edgeworth, Tammy White, Debra Mattis, Lauren Reagin, Kim Shiflett, Angie Purcell & her third grade class, Kim Schulte, Julie Palmeri and her mother-in-law Joan Palmieri (NY), Jennifer Nulty and her family-O'Connor, Bouchard & D'Amore (donation for fleece), Samuel M. and Eva Figuerora-Mishkoff, Amelie Bagwell (donation for fleece) FL, Jennifer Carter, Kelly Mishkoff, Jessica Mishkoff, Jane Borman (IL), Nancy Goodson (AL), Nicole Weidlich (sent fleece), Susan from Indiana, Julie Schafer (sent fleece)- (Dallas, TX), Nicole Weidlich (sent fleece), Tammy Campbell and family, Heather Haney and her family, Maya Briahn Smith, Nathan and Allysa Wolf and their family, Jennifer Davis and her family, Memo and Danyael Garcia and their family, Kristen Roan, Debbie Wright, Adrienne Verbanac, Carrie O'Leary and her mother Elaine Freeman, Elise Beltrami and her mother Patricia Jochimsen from WI, Reece Ritter, 45 members of St. Luke's Presbyterian Church. I am sure there are others—let me know!