



SHARE Atlanta



Pregnancy and Newborn Loss Grief Support

Spring 2006

Issue #71



SA's "Outreach for Healing"

..comfort & healing as we remember & honor our special baby.

SHARE Atlanta's "Outreach for Healing" program is three-fold. As our members reach out to others in memory of their baby(s), they are providing comfort and support to others as they work to find peace and strength for healing within themselves. They also are making the issues and needs that we in the Pregnancy and Newborn Loss Community are so aware of...visible to others. Love and sadness mingle as we struggle to cope with the tragic death of our baby. If we embrace our feelings, use grief's energies to do outreach and other activities that bring comfort to us, healing slowly happens. Healing happens at different paces for different people, but with work and support each person can gradually realize that as healing happens...

"The love stays..forever in our hearts."



"Walk to Remember" - Walk America



Team 2004

March of Dimes...April 22

Walk in memory of your baby to help MODs. In the last three years we have raised over \$33,000 to help MODs' programs that support our Pregnancy and Newborn Loss Community's issues. Read about our 2006 participation on page 3.

4B's/Blankets of Love..



Dawn Edgeworth, Diane Overton, and Debra Mattis hold the beautiful blankets they made at the January workshop.

Our families and friends make blankets and baby clothes to be given to hospitals to comfort newly bereaved parents. See page 4.

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.

Lt-rt: LaWanda Lee, Tammy White, Julie Franklin, Debra Mattis

Donations to Foster Care Shelter



One way we *remember our baby* is by giving, to the Foster Care Shelter in SHARE Atlanta's name, toys, food items, or clothing that would be appropriate for our baby if s/he was still with us. This is especially meaningful during various holidays during the spring months, *Mother's or Father's Day* or close to our child's anniversary or due date. "All Kids Count." FCS



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

More "Outreach" - Parent advocates bring hope to those who experience Stillbirth: page 10.

SHARE Atlanta

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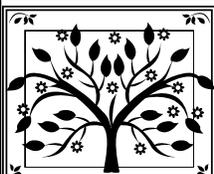
Cindy Ivey

(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 Email Updates

For news between newsletters ~ go to our site's front page, click on "Email Updates," and send us your email address. Or click on "Updates" for the latest news.

We hope to have an emailed newsletter. We appreciate your patience as we reach our goal. *Our latest newsletters are online in pdf form.*

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

Dear Friends,

Transitions and change are part of and significant for a viable organization such as SHARE Atlanta.

Pat Nielsen, from Athens Regional, shared that in opening a SHARE group, it has helped her to read SA's online history. Our "story" embraces the concept that there is a "process of growth" in creating a group. I added that the *process* doesn't (and shouldn't) stop! Gratefully, people continually bring ideas to our group. Ideas that will stretch our outreach and provide more options for families to *heal*.

In the last two years, several of our previous "long term" volunteers have had to take a break due to life changes, and we have been blessed with many parents willing to help. The changes in volunteer support have been paired with numerous new and growing outreaches (4Bs, forum, FOTs, MODs, Grandparent forum, etc.) that are taking hold. We also have been offered inservice opportunities (CDC, Stephen Ministry, Rollin's College, SIDs' Grief Conference, etc.) that have included national and local studies and venues. All are answers to past hopes and hard work.

It is challenging to "get it all done" within our volunteer context. But, SA welcomes these changes because they mean we are stretching to meet more needs. We could not accomplish these efforts without volunteer support-both in person and from afar via email, phone, our forum and website members.

We now offer many online opportunities and information: newsletter, updates, forum, parent packet, etc. Please help us by sending us your name, email, home address, and phone, and specifying if you wish to receive the newsletter online or by mail. You may do this either by email - <http://www.shareatlanta.org/newsletterform.htm> or by filling out the attached form in your hard copy newsletter. Leah P. will be the editor for our summer newsletter entitled: "Outreach, Mementoes, and Healing." So make sure you receive it!

I thank all who have helped to ease us through these *transitions*. *Helping parents heal* is our mission, and we are blessed with so many *helping hands* in that mission.

Take care, 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); Betty Miller, Lydia Hunlen, Polly Keen, and Lynne Anderson (mails materials) (working with groups); Jennifer Greer and Polly & Joe Keen (memorial bricks); Roger Deane (webserver); Coretta Monroe (helping with orders); 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, Jane Borman (IL), MaryBeth Nance (MD), Lucy Monahan (NJ). I want to recognize our supportive volunteers, I know that there are others who are helping us in less visible ways...know that we "thank you" very much for that support. ***Our next newsletter will recognize those who have participated in our 4Bs outreach.***

March of Dimes WalkAmerica



Team #562- SHARE Atlanta
Raising Money and Awareness
For Medical Research- Materials-Understanding
As we “Walk to Remember” Our Babies..
Saturday—April 22, 2006

Cindy Ivey, SA’s Team Captain: “I INVITE all of you to join me and SHARE Atlanta as we walk the 5.2 miles and raise money to help “SAVE BABIES.” It is a WONDERFUL day spent walking in downtown Atlanta, and very rewarding knowing that we are helping this WONDERFUL cause. To join our team, PLEASE make sure to register under the SHARE Atlanta team and sign up for the downtown Atlanta walk site *or *sign up with our team and walk at another location**. Feel free to contact me should you need help: i_cynthi@bellsouth.net For those of you who walked last year, you can use your same LOG IN and PASSWORD. See you on April 22!” **More info** <http://www.shareatlanta.org/MODmenu.htm>



Tammy White: “The full circle of finding SA and participating in our group and in the Walk”

The first time I ever heard about SHARE Atlanta was at the 2004 WalkAmerica walk. Having lost Ryan just 5 months earlier, I decided that I needed to "do" something in honor of him so I decided to head up the MODS’ campaign for the office I worked in. At the walk, I was walking behind a women who had the SA t-shirt that says, "Helping the March of Dimes to put us out of business." Of course, I had to ask what this meant. A grandmother (Cindy’s mom, Pat!) told me about SA and gave me one of their cards. I remember thinking that finding a support group might be helpful.

When I finished the walk I realized that I had dropped the SA’s business card along the way. I was devastated. I couldn’t remember what the website was. So, I started a mad search to find this group. I went to my first SA meeting in July 2004 and have participated in the Women’s Group, the Subsequent Pregnancy Group and am now leading the Kennesaw/Acworth Men and Women’s Group. SA gave me an outlet that I didn’t realize I needed at first, but I am so thankful for now.

I wasn’t able to participate in the walk last year because I was VERY Pregnant. I was upset that I couldn’t participate, but I knew that I would have next year. When Marcia asked me to participate in the MODS Kickoff luncheon, in the Ocean’s Ballroom at the Georgia Aquarium this year, I was thrilled and actually kicked off my "campaign" that same day. I have already raised over \$1500 for the walk. I am beyond thankful to the MODs for all that they do. The MODs’ research is what gave me the 6 amazing days with Ryan when he was born at 32 weeks, and it is also what saved Luke’s life when he was born at 34 weeks.



Tammy, Pat, Monica (MODs), Thea, and Cindy join Luke who gave a inspirational speech at the Kickoff Luncheon about how the MODs had helped him survive as a preemie.

“Hope for the present and for the future”!

Order SHARE Atlanta MODS’ Shirts...

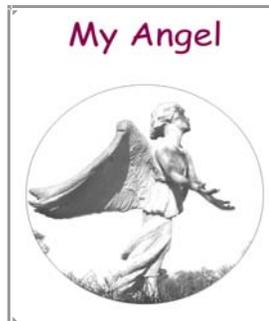
coretta6@aim.com

Coretta Monroe is taking orders for our shirts...

\$10 a piece.

Include in your email:

- Name, Email & Phone Number, & Sizes needed
- How you wish to pick it up: Marcia’s meeting in April or at the walk.



Front of shirt..

Use fabric pen to include baby’s name under “My Angel..”



Back of shirt

Healing Stories

from SHARE Atlanta Parents...

PART 1 ~ Email from Carrie (Evan's mom)

I remember being upset that I didn't get to have a blanket like those that SA is making for Evan Elaine. After the candlelighting, my mom told me that Evan did have a blanket, but when she was brought back to our room, she didn't have it. This made me so sad!

A couple of weeks later I was having a bad night. I told God that I was tired of being so sad, and that I was going to go upstairs and unpack one of Evan's last boxes. He told me to go ahead. It must seem funny to throw a temper tantrum to God, but I felt like that was what I was doing. Then He called me on it! He said go and unpack that box! I really didn't want to, I was just sort of 'stamping my foot' at Him, but I did. I had looked in the box before and there were toys and beautiful clothes for Evan from my baby shower. When I opened the box there in a ziplock plastic bag with the words 'lg girl' written on it was Evans 4Bs' blanket! I had looked in there before and had not seen her 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. I believe God led me to that box that night. I also believe He is leading us to help each other. I am so grateful!



A full circle of love... Carrie cradled her daughter, Evan, in the blanket that Allison had made in memory of her daughter, Hannah. Evan's picture is resting on her blanket...



Allison Egger

Marcia's email to Carrie about Hannah's Parents

As I was reading your email, Jason and Allison Egger showed up on my front porch to bring some cute fleece for our next 4Bs' workshop. They are due in March with baby Owen, and Allison wanted to make sure we had some fleece from them. They came in, and we had a grand time chatting about plans for baby Owen! Then, I retrieved your note and read your story to them. They were greatly touched! Allison was so glad to know that her blanket had supported you! Wasn't it interesting that your note and the Egger's arrival were timed together...

Email from Carrie

I was so excited to hear back from you. I am amazed and have tears in my eyes over the way God works! I am beyond thrilled that Allison and her husband are, first, due in March and, second, showed up at your house today!!!!

I am so glad you shared the letter with her! I hope she felt good in her heart about what she has done to help others. I would love to bring Evan's blanket to the meeting on Wednesday!! It has so inspired me to want to help in all ways that I can. I am a walking testimony of how the kindness of those in SA can not only help a hurting heart; they can soothe a heart-broken mother.

Thank you, Marcia, for your sweet and perfectly timed note today. My husband and I are both just basking in your words! My husband, Mike, is still in awe at the timing of all of this-so am I!

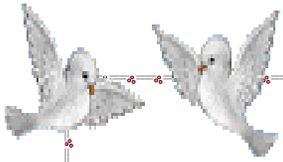


February 2005's 4Bs' Workshop..

Julie Franklin, Kimberly Hallmark, Allison Egger, Coretta Monroe, Julia McClure, & Kelly Mishkoff

4Bs' "Blankets of Love"
<http://www.shareatlanta.org/blanketoflovemenu.htm>

Our Special Children...



CASEY'S GIFT

The spirit of the spring
The spirit of the warm summer
The beauty of the spirit of the autumn with its golds,
and reds, oranges, and greens was the time you
came and touched our souls.

The spirit of winter
The spirit of dawn
The spirit of twilight
The spirit of slumber
are now protecting your love and joy that was
given for such a short time for us - your
mummy and daddy and brother Declan to treasure.

I see you now in a beautiful place asleep beneath the protecting tree
A shaft of sunlight streaming down in this tranquil place.
All the spirits above are there
to take you on your journeys of joy and wonderment.

Through my eyes you will see the sunsets and beauties of the world
Through your daddy's eyes the beauties of nature.
Through Declan's eyes you will grow and walk
beside him always.

You will be the cool whisper of a wind on a hot summer's day.
You will be the joy Declan feels at Christmas
because all these things you give to him.

Lisa

Casey Brock Jowett ~25/10/200-13/11/00 ~ England
<http://www.shareatlanta.org/specialgmenu.htm>

MY DAUGHTER, MY BLESSING

Written for my daughter Evan Elaine O'Leary born May 28th 2005



I thought I'd teach you safety as I swaddled you in Pink
A gentle kiss so tender on your perfect newborn cheek
I thought I'd soothe you with my voice whenever you would cry
Always in those early days I knew I'd be nearby
I thought we'd learn together how to do those baby things
The bathing's and the changing's- we'd master your routine
And with my proudest mommy smile I'd show you to the world
But while I'd let them see you, I'd protect my precious girl
I thought I'd watch you sweetly learn the miracles of life
The beauty and the blessings and the guidance God provides
I thought you'd see your nursery and snuggle in your bed
But God our Father whispered something else instead
Not this time, my daughter, He told me in my heart
Know your child is with me and she's never very far
Look at all the lessons **she** is teaching **you**
And so my sweetest angel that is what I'm going to do
You have taught me safety throughout this storm of grief
And shown me that no matter what I'm strongest on my knees
You soothe us with your giggles we hear deep inside of us
Our daughter's joyful laughter cuts through all that is unjust
When in those very early days all I could do was cry
Jesus held you close to me I felt you dry my eyes
And with my proudest mommy smile I show you at special times
With stories of your presence and how you've changed so many lives
Through your eyes I've learned again the blessings of this life
Peace and joy and love and hope are your giving lullabies
I'm often in your nursery I feel your presence there
My precious little teacher we've so much more to share
Thank you God for our daughter she's all our dreams come true
Through our love for one another we've learned the miracle of You
My children, He said gently, I know this pain that you both feel
The anger, tears and heartbreak are all so very real
I too saw my child hurting-for others' sins He died
Though death could not contain Him His sufferings made me cry
He came Home very quickly and one day you will see
You've not lost a child, my dear, for Evan is with Me.
Evan, we love you very, very much





Sakina "on radio 98.5 FM"

Outreach & Advocacy for Medical & Emotional Support Different types of "Outreaches for Healing"

When our baby dies we have many *secondary losses* - the loss of: control, innocence, self-esteem, self-worth, communication, and hope. There is no immediate *fix* to making all of this better. Society allows a grieving parent two weeks to a month to heal. Pressure can be taken off a parent's shoulders when they embrace their grief as a *process* - one that takes varying time limits for different individuals. Giving ourselves "permission to grieve" is the first step to healing. Then finding ways to cope continues the process.

Outreach and support can strengthen the process and can be as meaningful as a hug, a smile of support, or lending a sympathetic ear. These are not complicated, but, most often, only those who have experienced the death of their baby are truly able to lend this type of support. Participating in activities such as our "Outreach to Healing" or inservice programs, gives parents ways to honor their baby. Each person's grief is unique, but there are some defined "givens" that are aided through education, support, and outreach. It takes courage to grieve, and inspiration to find meaning in our baby's brief life and give to others. Each person decides what this might mean for personal healing.

The reality continues to be that bereaved parents are capable of supporting one another. Twenty five years ago, there were no materials, medical or emotional support for healing available, but the advent of support groups, in the general population, began. Then, Sister Jane Marie advocated for "mutual-support" groups led by parents and only occasionally touched by caring professionals. It is in the act of supportive activities that parents give meaning to the tragic loss of their baby. We learn that grief is not an illness; it is what happens after a tragic loss occurs. As we identify coping ideas, we take those secondary losses and gradually turn them back. This is not easy, but it is "doable" if we choose to heal.

Outreach, awareness, advocacy, and support are significant healing techniques. *Hope* is what comes out of *working together* to find answers and to express the love we feel for our children. Some people start support groups, others start medical advocacy groups, still others work within these groups to help keep them going so they will "be there" for other bereaved parents. Samples of these are on these two pages.

Together - bereaved parents, are helping our Pregnancy and Newborn Loss Community and the larger community of today and of the future. As our MODS' shirts express, we would like to see fewer parents who actually need groups and coping ideas. But, this comes in time with lots of meaningful direction during that timeframe. Marcia McGinnis



2006 Festival of Tree's Committee: Jennifer Nulty, Suzanne Chezem, Julie Franklin, Allison Egger, & Tammy White. (Debra Mattis, LaWanda Lee, Coretta Monroe, & Marcia McGinnis participated in decorating tree.)



The two stillbirth efforts (below) were started because a parent carried his or her personal experience forward to advocate for clearer support.

Wisconsin Stillbirth Service Program "Since 1983, WiSSP has provided a statewide service to families and the medical care providers who help them. With thorough stillbirth assessment and generating specific protocols for this etiologic investigation, WiSSP has attempted to overcome obstacles which have impeded adequate assessments of stillborns in the past. WiSSP is community-based and University-supported. Dr. Pauli's establishment and continuing commitment to the WiSSP initially *arose because of the stillbirth of his son, Zachary.* <http://www.wisc.edu/wissp/>

Iowa state & CDC funding for a Stillbirth Registry In 2003, when Janet Petersen was nine months pregnant, *her daughter, Grace, was stillborn.* Petersen began her quest to create a national stillbirth registry. Bill 2362 created a statewide protocol for collecting stillbirth records. U.S. Sen. Tom Harkin secured \$900,000 in CDC funding for a stillbirth registry project in Iowa and Atlanta. http://www.idph.state.ia.us/genetics/stillbirth_prevention.asp

SHARE Atlanta's Growth: The AMEND Group, started by bereaved mom, Joan Dewar, and Ina Moore, in 1981 - was the forerunner for the SHARE Atlanta group. In 1984, as AMEND's doors closed, Larry Connelly, Anne Thrift, Carol Mitchell, Jane Groseman, and Marcia McGinnis were determined to continue a pregnancy loss group in Atlanta. By 1985, as most of these members left due to various family issues, some of our newest members were ready to begin outreach! AMEND and SHARE Atlanta are testimony to the strength that people gain from reaching out to each other. Some of these parents still volunteer for SA today. <http://www.shareatlanta.org/sahistorymenu.htm> (How SA grew.)



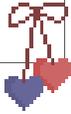


**Bereaved Parents make a difference...
A Sampling of How & Why...
non-profit—volunteer organizations**

The Group B Strep Association (GBSA) was one of the very first “big” changes that was significant. SA’s group had lost numerous babies due to B Strep...now, thankfully, we rarely have a parent who has had this experience.

The Group B Strep Association (GBSA) was formed in June 1990 by parents whose babies died from this devastating infection. Through their volunteer efforts, these individuals are educating their local communities via newspaper, television, educational pamphlets, etc. to prevent this disease from happening to others. "...the numbers of infant infection and death each year [has] been reduced by over 70% since formation of GBSA..." <http://www.groupbstrep.org/>

CLIMB is based in Alaska, serving families throughout the United States, Canada and beyond. They provide parent-to-parent support for all who have experienced the death of one or more twins or higher multiple birth children at any time from conception through birth to early childhood. Their founder’s, Jean Kollantai, fraternal twin son, Andrew, was stillborn at term in April, 1986. “Everyone contributes what they can.. while knowing we are not alone and that our children matter.” <http://www.climb-support.org/index.html>



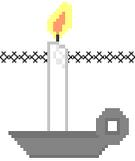
Parents supporting Parents...

“INCIID”’s web site was launched by three women in March, 1995 and became the Internet’s first nonprofit site dedicated to advocacy for those with reproductive failure. All three women became pregnant and carried their babies to term the following summer. INCIID has grown into a global organization with international membership. The website accommodates the needs of those who are infertile, women who conceive following fertility treatment, or women with repeated pregnancy loss and those choosing adoption.” <http://www.inciid.org/>

Sidelines “When I co-founded this group in July of 1991 with Laura Maurer of Phoenix, I could not have imagined what Sidelines would become ..It is the best example of what women can do working together with conviction and compassion. *Candace Hurley* (ed. They are activists in order to promote pregnancy care and medical support. They recommend as does SA: "Become actively involved in your care".) <http://www.sidelines.org/>

In memory of a special baby...

The MISS Foundation is committed to providing crisis support and long term aid to families after the death of a child from any cause. MISS participates in advocacy issues and education opportunities. MISS was started by Joanne Cacciatore after the stillbirth of her daughter, Cheyenne, 7/27/94. Joan’s email to me reflecting on Cheyenne’s death and the beginnings of MISS in February 1998 is on the site- <http://www.shareatlanta.org/parentgr.htm> <http://www.missfoundation.org/>



“THE HELLP SYNDROME SOCIETY, INC. was founded in August 1995 by the parents of Taylor Hope Bohach. We have chapter representatives in many states and countries around the world. Their board is made up of members whose lives have been affected by HELLP.. Our goals are to educate and inform others about HELLP Syndrome as well as to provide moral support to families and to raise money for research.” <http://www.hellpsyndrome.org/> A note from Judy to me in 1998: <http://www.shareatlanta.org/profhellp.htm>

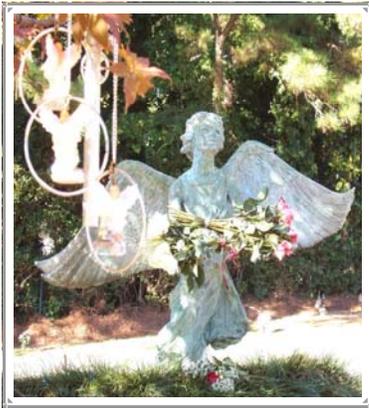
Our mission is to help parents cope to heal...

A Place To Remember (not non-profit or volunteer) is committed to publishing and providing uplifting support materials and resources for those who have been touched by a crisis in pregnancy or the death of a baby. The parent company, deRuyter-Nelson Publications, continues, with Timothy Nelson, who is an author of *A Father’s Story* which is about the stillbirth of his daughter, Kathleen Riley, in 1983. Calvin deRuyter brought his interest in ceramics into the business by adding several ceramic pieces into the line of products, and created their web site. <http://www.aplacetoremember.com/>



“H.A.N.D. of Texas is a support group for parents whose babies have died any time from conception through late infancy. Our mission is to help parents cope with feelings of grief and isolation which accompany infant death. Although H.A.N.D. is primarily set up to support the community of the greater Houston area, their outreach is there for anyone who needs them.” This group has been online for almost ten years and are volunteer parents. http://www.hand.net/ab_mission.html

Links for Support/Medical, Grief, Resources
<http://www.shareatlanta.org/navlinks.htm>



An "Australian" SHARE Atlanta Parent's
Healing Story...
"Brandon Lucas Tolmie - Into the Light".

Brandon was beautiful. A full dark head of curly hair, lashes Max Factor could never duplicate in a million years...Full cherub cheeks and a look of such peaceful sleeping, I was hoping at any moment to hear that cry. I'll never know my child's cry, never see what curious gaze he'd give my husband and me. His perfect hands and feet will never clutch my fingers... *But from the moment I held his hands I was forever wrapped around his fingers.*

Brandon, meaning fiery hill or sword- Lucas, meaning Luminous, or bringer of light; I was told by a woman that babies names are picked by them. As parents we only think we name our children, but before they are born, they plan out their names and whisper them to us in our dreams. How ironic Brandon chose such a name. *He will forever be a beacon that someday, when I'm no longer of this earth, I know he will call me back to him, and we'll find each other in the light.* Until that time comes, I believe he's looking down on me. My husband and I are keeping the hope. We wish to make Brandon a big brother.

Knowing he's looking down on us, our guardian angel, every chance I get I try and look up to the sun light or the starlight and smile for him. I hope he sees the smile and knows that while I was very sad to lose him, I will always have a place in my heart that is all his. *I will always have hope.*

Brandon's Memorial Brick: *We found SHARE Atlanta through some friends that upon hearing of our loss, purchased a memorial brick to be placed in the SA Memorial Garden. Our friends are in Wisconsin (where I used to live), but my husband and I are currently in Australia. We intend on making a pilgrimage to find his brick and spend some time with him.*

Like most mothers that have experienced this loss, we'd much rather fulfill all of the hopes and dreams we had for our children. *But I'm also glad there's a place that, though many miles away, carries his name and the hope and love we carried with them, that will live on for them.* It's a place that I'm sure, though incredibly painful, is also very serene and will bring me a sense of peace and strength.

Christine Tolmie in memory of Brandon, Stillborn ~ 1.17.2006

Recent Entries -<http://www.shareatlanta.org/stories2.htm>

Memorial Bricks with Rose Petals...



Down the Path...

SHARE Atlanta Subsequent Pregnancy Group

Are you expecting again? Nervous? Excited? Confused about your emotions? There's a SHARE Atlanta 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. We have a four month rotating topic plan with dads attending on the fourth month.

RSVP for more info – 770.928.9603 or email Shenia, group facilitator (sheniakirkland@yahoo.com), from our site <http://www.shareatlanta.org/subpgmenu.htm>



**Subsequent Pregnancy
Support Online**

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

Follow along with Nikecia's Ongoing Diary.



Subsequent Pregnancy After a Loss
<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)



New Arrivals

Seth and Brett Williams welcomed **Reid Marshall**, 3lb. 8 oz—15 inches, and **Grantham Anderson**, 4lb 3 oz.— 17 3/4 inches, at 32 weeks on June 11, 2005. They remember in love **Hugh McIntyre** born at 24 weeks on April 7 and died on April 11, 2004. Brett shared that she “loves being a mom to their twin boys”!

Christy & Derrick Rowan are pleased to announce the birth of a son. **Tyler Matthew Rowan** was born on Saturday, November 19th, 2005 weighing in at 7 pounds, 2 ounces and 20 1/4 inches long. He is as healthy as can be, and we are truly blessed! We also know that he has a big brother, **Baby Rowan**, in heaven watching over him.

Shana and Alan Stukalsky are proud to announce the arrival of their daughter, **Nessa Simon**, on January 3, 2006. Nessa weighed 5 lbs 6 oz, and measured 17 inches long. Nessa's siblings **Eli** (10.20.04), **Liza** (5.18.05), and **Owen** (5.18.05) are remembered with love.

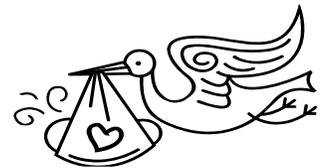
Kevin and Lori Hamada have been blessed with a new addition to our family, **Meredith Faith**. She was born on January 4, 2006 and weighed 6 pounds 14 ounces. Meredith shares her day of birth with her big sister **Jacqueline Hope** (1/4/04), making January 4 extra special for our family. The Hamada family lovingly remembers **Juliana Hisae** who was born on January 20, 2003 and passed away on January 21, 2003.

Shared by **Christy: Jacob and I** never thought that we would see this day come....The Lord has given us a child. His name is **Elijah Lane Brown**. He was born on March 3, 2006. He weighed 7lbs 6oz and was 20 and 3/4 in long. He is so precious. We thank God everyday for the blessing that he has given to us. We are indeed richly and truly blessed. I enjoy so much being a mother. Well I was a mother before, but I get to actively care for our child and there is no feeling like that in the world. The Brown family remembers in love both of their angels **Lanie Grayce Brown** born June 18, 2004 died June 18, 2004 and **Baby Brown** - November 27, 2004.

Jason and Allison Egger announce the birth of **Owen Craig** on March 14, 2006 at 8:05pm. He was 7 pounds, 13 ounces and 20-1/2 inches long. Allison shares that he has a head full of dark hair and dark grey eyes. The Egger family remembers in love **Hannah** born December 7, 2004.

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.



With Love...
With Love...



Owen and Hannah Egger...Brother and Sister...I am always touched by the many ways that our members remember their special baby as their family life changes and healing happens. After Owen's birth, Allison and Jason sent me pictures, and included in them was a beautiful and special bouquet of flowers that was pictured first with baby Owen then on Hannah's memorial which is near our angel garden. Baby Owen's picture is amongst the flowers in the bouquet. Brother and sister are shared together. Hannah and Owen's parents share how our "special babies" will always be a part of our lives..part of "who we are." Marcia McGinnis/3/06



Advocacy and Awareness

Grief, Grieving and Grief Support Conference-April 27, 2006 CDC's and Emory Rollin's College - Stillbirth Studies

“Grief, Grieving and Grief Support” Conference April 27, 2006 ~ Clayton College First Responders and Parents

Diane Manheim of SIDS Project invited SA to participate in the planning and presentation of this conference. The conference's focus is on helping “first responders” (police, nurses, ER, paramedics, funeral directors, firemen, social workers, chaplain, etc.) better understand how and why their first responses during a traumatic situation can influence the initial and thus the ongoing grief process for a family. The conference suggests “what to say and not to say,” what type of actions are helpful, and what community resources for continued healing and support are available.

Marcia McGinnis was one of several who wrote letters of support to help gain the initial grant money from Morehouse Medical College. She also helped on the planning committee.

The keynote speaker is Charlie Walton author of When There Are No Words. Our own, Lynne Anderson (medical assistant) and Mark Ritter (funeral director and former police officer) will be part of a panel: “First Impressions Matter.” Afternoon sessions will include: family grief support, Sharon Rugg (a friend of SA's Sheri Cohen), spiritual support by Larry Connelly (chaplain and former SA member and co-founder), and effective grief support by Marcia and Lynne Anderson.

The day will close with a memorial celebration by the lake where a memorial bench in memory of those children who have passed away has been placed. The celebration will offer pictures of children, mementos, and outreaches that have helped parents to heal. Music will be presented by a bereaved father and other parents.

Parents are invited to join us either for the full day or during the afternoon sessions and memorial program. We are hopeful that the interaction between parents and first responders proves to be positive for a better understanding of how our broad community can support grieving families and those who care for them. We all are a community of one because any one of us could be in need of immediate care during a traumatic situation. Knowing how to support one another is very important, and “grieve starts at the beginning.” Those first moments and days are difficult to deal with. Follow-up resources and care are part of the total healing process.

<http://www.sidsga.org> (for details & registration)

If you are interested in joining us, please let Marcia know so we can plan volunteer activities. Thanks! marciahm@mindspring.com

CDC's Stillbirth Studies and Research.. Healing is aided knowing that the medical community is embracing our issues.



Lt-rt: Kelly Mishkoff, Marcia McGinnis, Dr. Charles “Wes” Duke, Diane Manheim

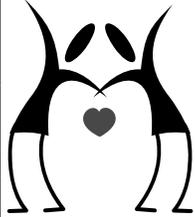
Because of continuing focus by parent and some medical advocates on the Pregnancy and Newborn Loss Community during the last twenty years, our community is seeing more research and studies being conducted by the medical community. Most recently, two studies are being conducted locally that also have connections nationally.

In the fall of 2004 the Rollins School of Public Health Emory University– Stillbirth Network and this winter the Center for Disease Control's MACDP (Metropolitan Atlanta Congenital Defects Program), started programs focused on stillbirth issues. SHARE Atlanta has been acknowledged as a significant support system for those experiencing perinatal loss by both of these local organizations.

At Emory, Robin Cash, Polly Keen and I spoke about our program for perinatal loss to coordinators of seven local hospitals. In March, seven of our members joined 5 other invited guests and brainstormed our thoughts with Dr. Wes Duke MD, MPH, Medical Officer and some of the members of the medical team from the CDC. Tiffany Parr invited us to have an exhibit table of our materials and programs. We are pleased by their interest in and support of our group, and we are very anxious to show our encouragement in *their* research. See our website for more information. (Marcia McGinnis)



Lt-rt: Leah Perry, Kelly Mishkoff, Tiffany Parr, Debbie Wright, Joseph Nulty with MISS, Adrienne Verbanc, Sakina Hansn, Marcia McGinnis (not pictured:Robin Cash)



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. We are all volunteers, and we have no paid staff.

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.**

Norcross First United Methodist Church— “Thank you!! Marcia, you and Tammy (White) did such a wonderful presentation to our Stephen Ministry on November 7, 2005. Thanks for sharing your story and for helping others in dealing with this situation. You both are a blessing to us and God’s kingdom. We wanted to make a donation to SA. Please use it for the bricks, blankets, or tfor the parent packets. We appreciate you and the lives that you’ve touched through this ministry. God bless, Susan Sharp”

Wayne A. Acoba in loving memory of **Juliana H. Hamada**, January 20-21, 2003.

Hayden and Maria Elie in loving memory of **Rachel Elie**, February 10, 2001.

Kenny and Sharon Washington in memory of **Caleb Bertrand**, April 23, 2003.

Samuel M. and Eva Figueroa-Mishkoff for 4Bs Outreach, in memory of grandsons Zachary, January 27, 2004, and Jeremy, November 15, 2004. They wrote how much Kelly's 4Bs Outreach, which was started in memory of their grandsons, meant to them.

Greg and Cindy Ivey in memory of **Lacey MaKenna**, September 16, 2003.

Jean Carr in memory of her granddaughter, **Sophie Margaret**, May 16, 2005. “Thank you for all the hard work in arranging the angel garden memorial ceremony. Please use the donation towards expenses incurred.”

Kimberly Shiflett donation from "Bracelets by Kim" for SA's Festival of Tree's tree in memory of **Hope**, September 10, 2004.

Lee Partiss and Tamera Pfeifer-Partiss in memory of **Lee Kenneth “Kenny”**, February 13, 2006.

O'Connor, Bouchard and D'Amore Families - in memory of **Liam Joseph Nulty**, February 6, 2005. A donation to help continue the 4Bs' “Outreach for Healing” program. This program means a lot to our family.

Doug and Julie Gafney in loving memory of **Thomas Andrew**, May 14, 2004.

Lee and Alyse Jones in loving memory of **Baby Elizabeth Jones**, July 14, 2000.

Adam and Robin Garfinkle in loving memory of **Marissa Caroline**, May 27, 1995

Robert Egger in loving memory of his granddaughter, **Hannah Louise Egger**, December 7, 2004. Robert’s donation goes towards the purchase of fleece for our 4Bs’ outreach.

Hope Brooks in memory of her three grandchildren: **Seth David, Catherine Marie, and Elizabeth Hope McGinnis** and in honor of Joel and Aaron McGinnis.

Note: We are in numerous transitions—one of them is a new newsletter editor. Our hope is that all is moving along smoothly, but 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. Thanks for supporting us...and for being patient.

All donations can be sent to:
SHARE Atlanta
PMB 212
9925 Haynes Bridge Road,
Suite 200 Alpharetta, GA 30022
...and are tax deductible

Some companies have matching donation programs. Does yours?
Our C-3 (taxpayer ID#) is
58-1792723
<http://www.shareatlanta.org/donations.htm>

SHARE Atlanta Meetings

Directions are in our Parent Packet: request one - 770.928.9603

<http://www.shareatlanta.org/parentpacket06.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

For Parents, their Family And Supportive Friends

Southside
1st Thursday
Karen

Summit Baptist
Acworth, GA
2nd Thursday
Tammy

Cascade UNITED Methodist Church
Faith based information.
Atlanta, Ga 30311
4th Thursday - call for November's details.
Robin & Lydia

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
Shenia & Betty

Parent Packet: mailed or online

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

<http://www.shareatlanta.org/directions2.htm> for
facilitator's emails & directions to meetings



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



Pregnancy and Newborn Loss Awareness Pin
Advocacy and Awareness happen all year 'round.

SHARE Atlanta helps plan & participates in
"Grief, Grieving, and Grief Support" Conference April 27-page 10.

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