



## Two New Groups Make Meetings More Accessible

SHARE Atlanta is pleased to announce the addition of two new men and women's groups to our list of available meetings. We hope that increasing the number of meetings helps more parents find the face-to-face support that is the foundation of our organization.

The Eastside Baptist Church group in Riverdale will be led by Karen Verner, who came through the Jonesboro group in 2001 after the death of her son, Jonathan. Karen helped with that group until its end, and has looked forward to leading one of her own in this area of town ever since then. This group will meet on the first Thursday of the month.

The Cascade United Methodist Church group will have some faith based information, and will be led by Robin Cash and Lydia Hunlen. Robin and Lydia attended SHARE Atlanta meetings after their losses and have held faith based workshops during October Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness month for the last three years. They wish to extend their group throughout the year. We welcome them as SHARE Atlanta's outreach continues from Cascade Methodist Church in memory of Hope Cash and Baby Boy and Kathleen Hunlen and in honor of Alaina Cash and Morgan Hunlen. This group will meet on the fourth Thursday of the month.

**For more information on these or any of our meetings, email us at [info@shareatlanta.org](mailto:info@shareatlanta.org) or call us at 770-928-9603**

## SHARE Atlanta Joins March of Dimes Chairman's Club

SHARE Atlanta will be honored at the February 4 kickoff luncheon for the March of Dimes WalkAmerica 2005 as members of the Chairman's Club, which represents the top ten fundraising teams for the Downtown Atlanta walk in 2004 (*see p.3 for text of letter*). In addition to this honor, our team also received the "Most Improved" Award and 2nd Place out of teams with fewer than 100 employees for the 2004 walk, which begins and ends in Centennial Olympic Park each April.

2005 will mark the 50th anniversary of the Salk Polio vaccine and the third year of the March of Dimes Prematurity Campaign. Preventing premature births can help the March of Dimes put SHARE Atlanta out of business--wouldn't that be a dream come true!

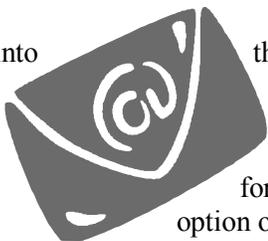
February 4 also marks the beginning of our efforts to recruit walkers for our 2005 team and the start of fundraising. Last year we raised over \$17,000, largely with the March of Dimes internet fundraising tool. The March of Dimes found that walkers who used the internet option raised almost \$200 more on average than those who didn't, and it is much easier--no more fiddling with envelopes of cash or awkward conversations with your sister-in-law. Just one mass e-mail, and those who wish to support you can do so.

*See page 3 for more on how to sign up!*

Visit our website for more on the  
SHARE Atlanta WalkAmerica Team

### Newsletter Available Via E-mail

SHARE Atlanta has moved into the fast lane of the information superhighway! In addition to the vast resources on our website and the new message board and chat forum, our members now have the option of having the newsletter sent to your e-mail address in the Adobe Acrobat format. (This is a free download from the internet.) This will help by allowing resources used for printing and mailing the newsletter to be allocated for other education



and outreach opportunities. We will continue to print a smaller number of paper copies for those without internet access, so just let us know if you'd like one as a keepsake if it's a special issue for you.

All we need is your name and e-mail address. As with all of your personal information, SHARE Atlanta will *never* rent, sell, or give away your e-mail address to any other company or organization.

Just send your name and e-mail address to [newsletter@shareatlanta.org](mailto:newsletter@shareatlanta.org) and put "subscribe" in the subject line, or click on the link on our website at [www.shareatlanta.org](http://www.shareatlanta.org).

## SHARE Atlanta

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Events 770.928.5606  
www.shareatlanta.org

### Board of Directors:

President Marcia McGinnis

Secretary Kathleen Blum

Treasurer Pam Slayback

### Group Leaders:

Summit Baptist, Acworth  
Lynne Anderson

Eastside Baptist, Riverdale  
Karen Verner

Cascade UMC Robin Cash  
Lydia Hunlen

Women's Group  
Marcia McGinnis

Subsequent Pregnancy  
Polly Keen

### Program Coordinators:

Caregivers and Inservice Contact  
Nikecia Ingram

Telephone Karen Verner

Database Taylor Deane

Newsletter Jennifer Greer

Parent Email Melina Smith

### Outreach for Healing:

Shelter Donations  
Valerie Scholovich

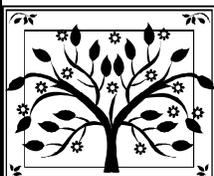
March of Dimes Cindy Ivey  
Jennifer Greer

Blankets of Love (4Bs)

Festival of Trees

## THE BURNING BUSH

The Editor's  
Note



### Fresh Ink

I had the most wonderful moment with my sons after the Memorial Celebration this year. My oldest, Braxton, is 10 and was allowed to attend for the first time. He and his good friend, Kyle Renner, lit the candle together at the beginning of the ceremony. Afterwards our two families met for dinner, and our younger boys immediately began calculating the years until they would be able to participate as well. I loved seeing them talk so openly about the service, apparently unscarred by our families' losses.

Afterwards my younger son, Cullen, who is 8, was riding home alone with me. He was asking me questions about what SHARE is and why I "go there." (Funny, so many adults ask the same question.) When I explained the connection with the brothers and sister he never knew, he was confused. Why were Kyle and Nathan there, too?

I told him that every bad thing has something good that comes from it, even if the bad thing is very bad. I told him that we never would have known Kyle and Nathan (or Jaiko and Aja Celka or many other friends) had it not been for our babies. After all, they live in Stockbridge (or Suwannee or Woodstock) and we live in Alpharetta. How else would we have met? The shock of not knowing these friends who are so interwoven into the fabric of our life silenced him for a moment before he demanded to know "Who else is in on this?"

Just as Cullen couldn't picture his life without these friends, I cannot fathom mine without all of you. You have made it bearable, survivable, wonderful, inspiring, and a blessing. You are a gift from my children that I will always treasure.

Now, after ten years, it's time to let some fresh ink run across these pages. I am passing my pen but not saying goodbye. Please don't think you've heard the last of me.

And to all of you newly bereaved parents who can't imagine ever finding the purpose in all your pain, who can't begin to believe you will live through it, find a friend who understands your grief and support one another. I promise, it will be a blessing for both of you.

Jen

*Please remember in your thoughts and prayers the SHARE Atlanta families who have suffered a subsequent loss in recent months:*

*Phillis Almgren and Mitchell Friedman, big sister Eva and big brother Carl, who lost their "Pumpkin" to miscarriage this fall.  
The Almgren Friedman family remembers with love  
William Axel, who was stillborn June 21, 1992.*

*Kelly and Alan Mishkoff and big sister Jessica whose son and brother, Jeremy, was stillborn at 23 weeks on November 15, 2004.*

*The Mishkoff family remembers with love  
Zachary, who was stillborn at 38 weeks on January 27, 2004.*

*LaWanda and Roary Lee, who lost their baby to ectopic pregnancy in January 2005. The Lee family remembers with love Victoria Elise, who was born October 2 and died October 15, 2003, and her four angel siblings.*

*Julianne and Dave Whisnant, who lost Dawson on August 9, 2004 and Dyre on November 11, 2004 to miscarriage. The Whisnant family remembers with love Sloane, miscarried October 24, 2003; and Grace, miscarried March 21, 2004.*

# March of Dimes WalkAmerica

Register Online for Team SHARE Atlanta  
and March of Dimes WalkAmerica  
Saturday, April 30, 2005 ~ 9:00 am

It's time to start training for WalkAmerica! This fundraiser will once again focus on the half a million babies every year who are born prematurely. Finding a way to keep these babies safely in the womb, and treatments to help those who must be born early will greatly reduce SHARE Atlanta's membership.

To register using the online fundraising tool, just visit [walkamerica.org](http://walkamerica.org). If you have used it before, fill in your user name and password (they can e-mail it to you if you can't remember). You will have the option of signing up with your previous team or a different team. If you haven't used this tool before, click on the option of walking with a team. Type, "SHARE Atlanta" into the search function, and click on the link (there is only one—it does come up as a Fayetteville address). Then fill in your personal profile and follow the directions to personalize your webpage and start fundraising.

Whether you use the online tool or would like to raise money the traditional way, please contact Cindy Ivey by calling our events line at 770-928-5606, or email [mod@shareatlanta.org](mailto:mod@shareatlanta.org) to let her know you plan to walk with us. She can help you with any questions you might have. There are also some t-shirts left from previous walks, and we may place an additional order if there is enough interest.

Text of letter from the March of Dimes

Dear Ms. Greer:

*With SHARE Atlanta's support, we have celebrated many milestones. Just as we met the challenge of polio with determination—and succeeded in defeating this threat to our children's health, we are just as determined to fight against prematurity. Please join us as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Salk vaccine and kickoff our 3rd year of the Prematurity campaign. We sincerely hope that you and your Team Captains will be able to attend, as SHARE Atlanta will be recognized as a member of the Chairman's Club.*

*The Chairman's Club represents the Top Ten Downtown Atlanta teams fund-raising teams in 2004, and SHARE Atlanta will receive special recognition at the Kickoff Luncheon...*

*You and your team captains should take great pride in this accomplishment! We appreciate the wonderful volunteers and team walkers that make up the 2004 Chairman's Club.*

*No one is working harder than the March of Dimes to fight premature birth. We will continue the fight until we reach the day when every baby is born healthy.*

*Saving Babies Together,*

*Susan R. Boltz, Deloitte.  
2005 Downtown Atlanta WalkAmerica Chair*

## Inservice Notes

by Marcia McGinnis:

On November 30, 2004, SHARE Atlanta was invited to give a brief overview of our program for the National Institute of Health stillbirth study's gathering of bereavement teams from those hospitals that will be involved in the study. Polly Keen, Robin Cash, and Marcia McGinnis were honored to be part of this wonderful group of people. Hospitals that are included in this study are: Rockdale County, Dekalb Medical, Dunwoody Medical, Northside, Atlanta Medical, Crawford Long, Piedmont, and Grady.

It was a wonderful opportunity for renewing old friendships and making

new acquaintances. It is exciting to learn more about this study that is sponsored by the NIH. Rollins College at Emory University is one of the five research teams located around the United States. We will keep you



*Polly Keen, Robin Cash, Janice Daniels, Dr. Carol Hogue, and Marcia McGinnis at the Emory Stillbirth Study Team Conference.*

updated on the progress and depth of this study as it is shared with us. There is more about it and the history of this kind of research on our site under "Pregnancy and Newborn Loss Issues."

On January 13, 2005, SHARE Atlanta was asked to present a brief overview of our handout materials for the hospital and our programs for the

bereaved parent at Grady Hospital by Connie Baker-Cousins, Social Work Supervisor, Emory University Department of Pediatrics, Division of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine. Robin Cash did this presentation with a new inservice booklet that Marcia McGinnis has authored. Robin presented to nurses and social workers from Crawford Long, Dekalb Medical, Egleston as well as Grady.

### Inservices to come:

- ◆ April, 2005: NFUMC's Stephen's Ministry at 7 pm.
- ◆ Inservices in the making: Crawford Long, the Cartersville area, and Grady Hospital.

Please call or email me at [inservice@shareatlanta.org](mailto:inservice@shareatlanta.org) if you are interested in these or upcoming inservices either as a participant or to learn more about SHARE Atlanta.

# The love stays...



SHARE Atlanta's memorial celebration on October 24, 2004, was set against the backdrop of a gorgeous autumn day with a stirring soundtrack by Amon Sherriff (left) and his bamboo flute, vibraphone, chimes, and gong. The spirit of the music brought much peace and love to the program.

Many SHARE Atlanta parents, old and new, came to celebrate the 20th anniversary of this special connection, and to remember their babies with candlelight, music, flowers, and the simple ritual of saying the names aloud.

At right, Leah Perry reads "His Candle" by Julie Branch, in memory of Dorian Rose Perry, while Braxton Greer and Kyle Renner light the memorial candle.



Braxton and Kyle's mothers, Jennifer and Pam, became friends while working on the 15th anniversary quilt project, and their families have become entwined in each others' lives. This deep and abiding friendship is just one of the many gifts from their children in Heaven.

Below, Karen Verner and Jennifer Greer give bereaved parents Nikhol and Devon Jackson an angel memento and offer rose petals for them to sprinkle in the bowl of water, "symbolizing our hearts, flooded with emotion."



## *The Ceremony*

*The vessel placed before us symbolizes our hearts. When we conceived and when we lost our babies our hearts were flooded with emotions. Emotions of joy, happiness and wonderful dreams when we conceived, then emotions of grief, anger and extreme loss when our sweet baby died.*

*The water inside symbolizes the tears we each have cried. Some alone and some on the shoulders of our loved ones and friends. Our shared tears have become one tear for the many parents who suffer similar losses each day. The tears we shed gradually lead us to wisdom, strength, compassion and endurance.*

*One of God's creations, 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 who are here with us today in our hearts. The pink petals are the love we have for our babies and the yellow rose petals are for the growing peace that we wish to find as we heal.*

*During the litany, as you come to receive your angel memento, let's join together in sharing the path toward peace as we place some rose petals in our vessel by the SHARE Atlanta Memorial Candle knowing that our special babies will be ... forever in our hearts..*

# forever in our hearts

The essence of the group, captured here, is our mutual support of one another as bereaved parents.

We gather to comfort each other and to remember, to reminisce and to offer hope for healing in the future.

We are *SHARE Atlanta*.



Above: Old friends mingled with new ones. Right: Mark and Reese Ritter, who came through the group in 1987 after the death of their daughter Dorothy Ellen, greet Marcia with subsequent child, Isaac.



Left: Balloons and bubbles were a childlike and peaceful sign of hope and release.

*The white roses placed in the angel's arms represent the innocence of our special babies and the innocence we have lost. They are the raw, new grief and the nearness of Heaven as we take the initial steps down grief's path.*

*The lavender roses represent the serenity we all hope to find, and the peace that healing can bring. Their delicate, silver hue reminds us of "the silver lining" 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. JG*



# SHARE Atlanta's 20 Year's Story in Pictures

## A pathway of love and support

### People are what make our group viable...

Through the years there have been members who have held each other together by supportive words and outreach. These people are as important, in many ways, as those who have held offices on the board, run groups, supported us through financial gifts, started and carried through outreach projects, inservices, awareness activities, been interviewed, or worked on minute details to make an important event even more special. EVERY person is important in a group such as SHARE Atlanta.

The picture timeline below highlights the events and programs that the parents and friends of SHARE Atlanta have done through the years to help make SHARE Atlanta the important resource that it is today in our community. All of this has been accomplished as the love for our babies carried us along our pathway. This love turns our thoughts to outreach and support for each other to honor their memory. Even in our volunteering, we preserve the kindness that helped us to heal.

Marcia McGinnis



**1985:** Our first official group meeting was in January, 1985, and these are the first memorial candles in December, 1985.



**1986:** First Baby Reunion was in February and evolved to Family Reunions as members brought older children over the years.

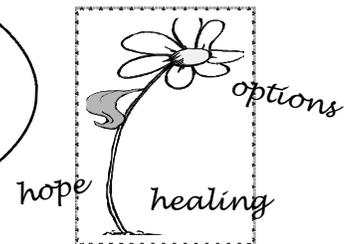


**1986:** Informal inservices began and continued in the 90s with radio, television and newspaper coverage for advocacy and awareness.



1994: Our double heart logo and tag line were created for our newsletter and our increasing number of brochures and booklets that we had written since the mid 80s.

Pregnancy and Newborn Loss  
Grief Support Group



**1989:** First Memorial service, at Springdale Park on Ponce De Leon was a "Walk to Remember" and a tree planting on October 15.



**1990s:** Volunteer retreat weekends or Saturdays to work on SHARE Atlanta's path, to educate our leaders, to refresh our bonds of friendship, to relax and have fun.



**1996:** SHARE Atlanta's first annual Memorial Celebration in May was at St. Luke's Presbyterian Church.



**1997:** [www.shareatlanta.org](http://www.shareatlanta.org): SHARE Atlanta's website opened doors for grieving parents around the world.



*connections*



**1997:** Garden and bench in Babyland at Arlington Memorial Park is dedicated. WXIA anchor Wes Sarginson does a segment on the Volunteer of the Week.



**1998:** Outreach for Healing programs begin with donations to charities in 1998, and continue with our first March of Dimes Walk in 1998.



**1998:** "Pathway of Healing" with memorial bricks is dedicated.



**1999:** "For our 15th anniversary, we felt a quilt was an appropriate analogy for the way we are putting the pieces of our lives back together to heal so we can slowly go down the path of *what will be* in our lives." JG



**2001:** Some of the SHARE Atlanta members, who helped coordinate the building of the SHARE Atlanta angel garden during 2000 and 2001, at the ground breaking ceremony.



**October 21, 2001**—Angel of Hope garden dedicated. Richard Paul Evans, author of The Christmas Box, gives the keynote address and Wes Sarginson of WXIA emcees the service at Sandy Springs Methodist Church. A Walk to Remember, led by a SHARE Atlanta bagpipe player, moves the celebration to the garden at Arlington Memorial Park's Babyland. Flowers are laid in the angel's arms and balloons are released.



**2004:** Festival of Trees Tree Topper... Outreach for Healing continues as SHARE Atlanta raises around \$1000. for Children's Healthcare with our first "Forever in our Hearts" memorial tree.

*remembering*



**2005:** "Blankets of Love... Buntings, Bonnets, and Booties" is begun as an Outreach for Healing project.

**New 2005:** Timeline and history of SHARE Atlanta with many of our volunteers through the years: [www.shareatlanta.org/sahistorymenu.htm](http://www.shareatlanta.org/sahistorymenu.htm)

*Each step of the way...people's outreach made the difference...*

# Remembered With Love

## December

Rebecca Nicole Grantier  
Daughter of Julie and Dave  
Stillborn December 1, 2000

Tyler Waterman Bishop  
Son of Buff and John  
Brother of Evan and Amanda  
Stillborn December 2, 1997

Ectopic Baby Hudgins  
Child of Daniel and Sharon McDaniel-Hudgins  
Sibling of Danielle and Joshua  
Ectopic pregnancy December 5, 2002  
Angel siblings Baby Allred, Kayla, Deanna,  
Deanna's twin Baby Hudgins, and Disney

Cole Alexander Blurton  
Son of Leah and Clay  
Brother of Katherine  
December 13-14, 2000

Baby Thuma  
Child of Dana and Tim  
Sibling of Nolan  
Miscarried December 14, 1999  
Angel sibling Timothy

Jamie Caroline Greer  
Daughter of Jennifer and Braxton  
Sister of Braxton, Cullen and Grace  
Miscarried December 16, 1993  
Angel siblings Jesse and Jacob

Brandon Lee Bowes  
Son of Lisa and Doug  
Brother of Brian and Brittany  
Stillborn December 18, 1991

Lillie Tian Wau Wong  
Daughter of Karen and Tom  
Sister of Justin, Kammie, Arianna, and Aiden  
Stillborn December 18, 1999

Tyler Read  
Son of Malia and Mark  
Brother of Megan and Marissa  
Miscarried December 27, 1999  
Angel siblings Jacob, Chloe and Frederick

Morgan Virginia Bruner  
Daughter of Karen and Jim Bruner  
Sister of Katlyn and Hunter  
Stillborn December 28, 2003

## January

Michael Weber  
Son of Colleen and Chris  
Brother John and Paul  
Stillborn January 6, 1994  
Angel sibling Kelly

Payton Elizabeth McFaun  
Daughter of Amy and Bennet  
Sister of Collin and Riley  
Stillborn January 7, 1999

Baby Boy Blum  
Son of Kathleen and Bob  
Brother of Joseph and Matthew  
Miscarried January 8, 1992  
Angel sibling Baby Girl Blum

Jesse David Greer  
Son of Jennifer and Braxton  
Brother of Braxton, Cullen, and Grace  
Miscarried January 14, 1993  
Angel siblings Jamie and Jacob

Megan Elizabeth Scholovich  
Daughter of Valerie and Pete  
Sister of Ben, Nick and Jack  
Stillborn January 17, 2000  
Angel sibling Kathryn

Ryan Andrew Burke  
Son of Lisa and Andy  
Brother of Adam  
January 17-20, 1997

Juliana Hisae Hamada  
Daughter of Lori and Kevin  
Sister of Jacqueline  
January 20—21, 2003

Matthew Hogan Clay  
Son of Robin  
Brother of Luke  
Stillborn January 22, 1999

*Please accept our most sincere apologies if your child was not included in this list. Due to a computer virus, several records were lost. If your baby's name has not been printed in a previous issue or was left out of this one, please resubmit your information as directed at the end of the next page. Thanks for understanding!*

# Remembered With Love

Baby McHale  
Child of Kelley and John  
Sibling of Brooke, Jack, and Chandler  
Miscarried January 26, 2001

Zachary Gabriel Mishkoff  
Son of Kelly and Alan  
Brother of Jessica  
Stillborn January 27, 2004  
Angel sibling Jeremy

"Bubba Lee" Anderson  
Son of Lynne and John  
Brother of Ryan, Colin, Elyse and Annalea  
Born and died January 28, 1985  
Angel sibling "Nubbin"

Pamela Tea'DeShun Cunningham  
Daughter of Felicia  
January 29-February 11, 2002  
Angel sibling Quentin

## *February*

Autumn Bray Keen  
Daughter of Polly and Joe  
Sister of Emily and Joseph  
Miscarried February, 1992  
Angel siblings Elijah, Frances, Sarah,  
Samuel, and Jeremiah

Baby Allario  
Child of Michelle and Mike  
Sibling of Haleigh, Bella, and Nicole  
Miscarried February, 1999  
Angel siblings Kaila, the Allario Babies,  
and Baby Mikey

Baby Renner  
Child of Pam and Jim  
Sibling of Kyle and Nathan  
Miscarried February 4, 1996  
Angel siblings Allie and the Renner Babies

Rachel Elie  
Daughter of Maria and Hayden  
Stillborn February 10, 2001

McKenna Archibald  
Child of Virginia and Art  
Sibling of Ward and Adeline  
Miscarried February 10, 2001  
Angel sibling Baby Archibald

Nicole Anderson Clontz  
Daughter of Chris and Terry  
Big sister of Ryan and Tyler  
Stillborn February 11, 1993

Morgan Pope  
Child of Caroline and Brandon  
Miscarried February 14, 2002  
Angel sibling Brice

Jacob Read  
Son of Malia and Mark  
Brother of Megan and Marissa  
Miscarried February 16, 1999  
Angel siblings Chloe, Tyler and Frederick

Kathryn Anne Scholovich  
Daughter of Valerie and Pete  
Sister of Ben, Nick, and Jack  
Miscarried February 23, 2001  
Angel sibling Megan

Avery Nava Seskin  
Daughter of Janna and Aaron  
Sister of Rowan  
February 23- February 28, 2002

Devin Tyler Guy  
Son of Paula and Brian  
Brother of Justin  
Stillborn February 25, 2003

Charles Major  
Son of Karen and Charlie  
Brother of Jenna and Sophie  
Stillborn February 28, 1991  
Angel siblings Christian, Michael,  
Cole and Tracy

To have your baby's name included in this list, please call 770.928.5606  
or e-mail to [newsletter@shareatlanta.org](mailto:newsletter@shareatlanta.org)  
Please include parents' names, any siblings (living or deceased),  
the date and type of loss.

## Parenting our Babies...

### SHARE Atlanta's Blanket of Love or Our "4B's" Mission *"Wrapping our babies in love..."*

SHARE Atlanta 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 is most special because it has been created in loving memory of two of our very own precious babies, Zachary and Jeremy Mishkoff who were born still to Kelly and Alan Mishkoff in 2004. In her loss of their sons, Kelly had expressed how comforting it was to hold her sons in blankets that the hospital provided. Jennifer Carter, Kelly's close friend, visited me in an effort to explore possible ideas to support this family and other SHARE Atlanta families. Jennifer introduced me to the idea of making tiny sized fleece blankets for babies who would be held for a brief time while "bittersweet hellos and sad good-byes" are said.

#### **Special mementos..**

These blankets will be given to the parent as a special remembrance of their baby to help comfort them in their journey for healing.

These soft, baby patterned, fleece blankets will have our heart logo on them. A small card recognizing the person or group who made them, and SHARE Atlanta as the group donating it, will be attached. Jennifer is willing to teach some of our mothers and the women from CareShare senior centers (who lovingly make our memorial boxes) how to create these easily made blankets. **We will have a workshop to kick-off this project on February 19 from 10:30-1:30 at Marcia's home.**

In November, Sharon Gregory, nurse and long time friend from Dekalb Medical, had shown me tiny baby clothes that they have had given to them, and my mind took off! In considering the broader possibilities of these combined ideas, I have named our project "the 4B's., which is 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 hand making these blankets...**

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

This is a project that you can do from the comfort of your home or join us at the senior center or one of our work shops that we will be holding. Healing comes from outreach and mutually supporting one another. Now, thanks to Jennifer and Sharon, and in memory of Zachary and Jeremy and your own special baby, another door has been opened for our parents. For more details, please visit our site, look for our email updates and our next newsletter. **If you are interested in being part of this project email me at [4bs@shareatlanta.org](mailto:4bs@shareatlanta.org) or call our Event's Line at 770-928-5606.**



### MOM, DAD and FAMILY

As a new day comes  
now you all see  
I had to pass by  
and leave my family.

I will always remember my  
brother talking to me  
and my big sister just could not wait  
to hold me.

Mom and Dad, I will always know  
how strong your love was for me  
that made me grow.

As you look at me  
rubbing my brown hair  
just to comfort me  
just know  
I will always love my family.

You gave me a name  
so special to me  
after my Memaw  
I will one day see.

This is a time for all to see  
not to be selfish  
for GOD needs me.

I will also know  
you will carry a place for me  
deep in your hearts  
and in the air you breathe.

My family took me to church  
for me to see  
GODS way of life  
and the streets of gold he paved for me.

Good-bye my family  
for I must go  
with GOD by my side  
to heaven above.

Just remember me  
when you see a ray of light  
it's me  
Morgan Virginia your little baby.

*written by Brandie Bruner  
for Morgan's Mom,  
Dad and Family  
If she could have told us,  
this is what she  
would have said.*

# The Climb

Jennifer Greer

I wrote "The Climb" eleven years ago after the loss of my second child to miscarriage. Looking back at my path through grief, I still find that the analogy holds true.

During our climb, the people we love have waited and prayed for our return. They have wished that we never started up that mountain, fearful that we might fall and be irretrievably broken, not knowing that only the climb itself could help us put the pieces of our hearts and souls back together. They miss the people we used to be, finding the newer version just a little hard to accept.

In my time as a volunteer for SHARE Atlanta, I have lingered near the bottom of the mountain, waiting to help other climbers reach it safely. There is a wariness in those who know me when they realize this. I think they wonder when I will be completely free of this task, and find it hard to understand why I would embrace it, share stories of my trek, and feel connected to others who have made the journey. Family members of other bereaved parents are uncertain of my role and motives as well. They wonder if I would be needed to help them down at all if I hadn't encouraged them up there to begin with!

In the end, I think I have made my way up and down the mountain of grief for the same reason given by those who climb Mt. Everest - because it's there. My grief was there whether I chose to

face it or not. Ignoring it would not make it crumble. Only through the difficult but necessary journey can we find our way to hope and healing, and be forever changed by the process.

They say grief is a depth that you sink to,  
But I have to disagree.  
Grief is a mountain you climb and climb  
Away from how life used to be.

Slowly you leave all your loved ones behind,  
And all they can do is just stare.  
They know they can't reach you, and higher you climb,  
forgetting just how much they care.

Once at the top you sit and you sob,  
And look at the world with new eyes.  
Everyone else's problems seem small  
While yours are as wide as the sky.

The choice now is yours, are you willing to risk  
The treacherous trip to the ground?  
Though you know you may fall and get hurt once again,  
It's worth it to finally come down.

You could stay at the top till your broken heart stops,  
And finally you no longer live  
From fear, lack of trust, and the absence of love  
That the ones on the ground used to give.

So you take a tentative step now and then,  
And soon to your wonder and joy,  
The ones on the ground reach up, help you down,  
And support you the rest of the way.

I wish many things that I'd done, thought or said,  
I wish for the way things could be.  
But the wish that I wish with all of my heart  
Is for Jamie to be here with me.

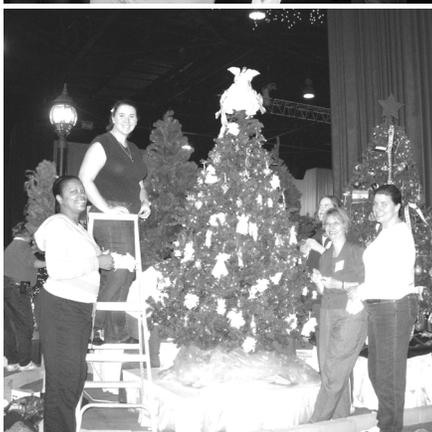
Jennifer Greer  
1/31/94  
SHARE Atlanta

# Outreach for Healing - Festival of Trees and Holiday Shelter Donations

*Our Gifts in memory of our babies: We feel as though our donations - both to the shelter and to the Festival of Trees have provided hope both to those who received and those who gave. In both activities we honored our special babies by remembering their presence in our lives and by helping other people learn about SHARE Atlanta's organization (for those who might need our support). We also broaden our efforts to find medical and emotional support for parents and future babies. We hope that the material gifts of clothes, toys, or money may bring comfort and/or support to other children as well. (We estimate that SHARE Atlanta raised around or over \$1000 for Children's Healthcare of Atlanta with our tree.)*



Top Left: Women's Group members (back, l-r: Suzanne Chezem, LaWanda Lee, Marcia McGinnis, Erin Dickerson. Front, l-r: Nikecia Ingram and Angie Purcell) gather at Marcia's home to plan for the Festival. Bottom Left: Committee members decorate the tree at the festival. Top right: Committee members LaWanda Lee, Diane Jordan, Julie Franklin, Nikecia Ingram, Suzanne Chezem, Erin Dickerson, Polly Keen, and Marcia McGinnis. Below, our beautiful tree skirt made by committee member Debbie Bader (not pictured).



Another story of honoring, remembering and giving is from Valerie Scholovich, our SHARE Atlanta mom who takes our donations to the Foster Care Shelter. The story focuses on all of our donations, but most especially the one made from Nikecia and Vincent Ingram who had made a donation of two toy trucks in memory of their twin sons, Jordan and Joshua.

December 2004...

*Today I took all of the many donations we have recently received from SHARE Atlanta moms to the Foster Care Center. The center volunteers are so touched by what SHARE Atlanta does, and that we have chosen them as part of our outreach. It is always heartwarming for me to see the many volunteers and the hard work they are doing for these kids, but this day was especially neat.*

*As the ladies opened our packages they oohed and aahed over every item and were quite excited to receive formula for the newborns. There were several notes from the SHARE Atlanta moms in loving memory of their lost babies among the packages. Seeing the baby names in writing brought such a touching and emotional reality to the situation - there was not a dry eye around. The volunteers all really felt good that at least a small amount of peace and good could come to all of us from sharing in this way.*

*I shared with the volunteers that the two new trucks which were*

*being donated were purchased in memory of twin boys lost this year, and that their mother and father really wanted to give something they thought their boys would have one day enjoyed. After more sobs and tissues, the ladies reviewed the current placement orders and were able to find twin boys in South Georgia who would be the right age to enjoy the trucks. It was so sweet, and so perfect.*

*As I pulled out of the parking lot, I continued to cry. I cried for the generosity of the SHARE Atlanta parents, the babies they have lost, and the amazing commitment of the center volunteers. The privilege of being there today is surely one of the blessed gifts of my girls.*

Many thanks to those who made donations in loving memory of:

- Jordan and Joshua by Vincent and Nikecia Ingram
- Grace Emily by Julie and Bryan Palmieri
- Hope Elizabeth and her angel siblings by Kim and Chris Shiflett
- Akash Cary by Nima and Milan Janmeja
- Jesse, Nicole Kelly, and Virginia Ann by Christie and Charlie McGraw

If you brought something for the shelter and your name is not listed, please contact Valerie at [gifts@shareatlanta.org](mailto:gifts@shareatlanta.org). All of these babies and parents are recognized on our website's litany.

# New Arrivals

**Cindy and Greg Ivey** announce the arrival of **Caden Lee** on December 28, 2004. Caden weighed 7lbs, 12oz and was 21 inches long. The Ivey family remembers with love **Lacey MaKenna**, who was stillborn on September 16, 2003.

**Malia and Mark Read** and big sister **Megan** announce the arrival of **Marissa Jane** on December 29, 2004. Marissa weighed 7lbs, 8oz and was 20 inches long. The Read family remembers with love their four babies lost to miscarriage: **Jacob**, on February 16, 1999; **Chloe**, on September 16, 1999; **Tyler**, on December 27, 1999; and **Thomas Frederick**, on October 2, 2003.

**Betty and Brian Miller** announce the arrival of **Joseph Brian** on November 23, 2004. Joseph weighed 6lbs, 12oz and was 19 inches long. The Miller family remembers with love **Brian Kevin, Jr.**, who was born July 21 and died August 1, 2003.

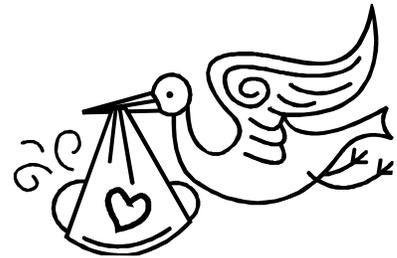
**James and Michele Pickett** and big brother **Donovan** announce the arrival of **Evan Jameson** on January 14, 2005. Evan weighed 7lbs, 1oz and was 21 inches long. The Pickett family remembers with love their son, **Jaden**, who was stillborn November 25, 2003.

**Elise and John Beltrami** announce the arrival of **Margaret Rose** and **Katherine Patricia** on January 13, 2005. Margaret weighed 4lbs, 9oz and Katherine weighed 4lbs, 11oz. Both girls were 17 3/4 inches long. The Beltrami family remembers with love **Grace Marie**, who was miscarried on June 14, 2003.

Our group facilitators love receiving announcements of your baby's birth, but ask that you also send an announcement with any other details you wish to have included to:

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

You may also e-mail it to [newsletter@shareatlanta.org](mailto:newsletter@shareatlanta.org)



## 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 [sub.pg@shareatlanta.org](mailto:sub.pg@shareatlanta.org)  
-Polly Keen**

**Wednesday, February 9 -**

Keeping your marriage strong, "loss of innocence"

**Wednesday, March 9 -**

Will the birth of this baby bring up grief issues?

**Wednesday, April 13 – Dads invited**

Dad's concerns and expectations,  
dealing with Mom

**Wednesday, May 11 –**

Will this pregnancy ever feel "safe"?

## *Subsequent Pregnancy Support Online*

*Check out the special  
Subsequent Pregnancy section of our website at:*

**[www.shareatlanta.org](http://www.shareatlanta.org)**



**Other helpful links:**

**Subsequent Pregnancy After a Loss**

**[www.spals.com/home/index.html](http://www.spals.com/home/index.html)**

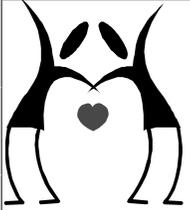
**Are you on bedrest?**

**[www.sidelines.org](http://www.sidelines.org)**



**Multiplicity - Support while expecting multiples**

**[www.synspectrum.com/multiplicity.html](http://www.synspectrum.com/multiplicity.html)**



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

Donations cover: printing of parent packets, group meeting booklets, grief and advocacy information booklets and brochures; mementos given to parents, awareness pins for parents; telephone answering system and mailbox; upkeep of memorial garden materials used for inservices; and 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.

**Kelley and John McHale** in loving memory of **Baby McHale**, who was lost to miscarriage on January 26, 2001.

**Lisa and Andy Burke** in loving memory of **Ryan Andrew**, who was born January 17 and died January 20, 1997. *"Thanks for all you do!"*

**Debby and Mark Matulevicus** and triplet sister **Kelley**, in loving memory of **Daniel G.**, who was lost to miscarriage in June, 2001, and **Joseph B.**, who was stillborn on September 11, 2001. *"We love and miss you."*

**Claire Voulgarelis**, on behalf of **Laura and Mike Mosley** *"who were recently comforted by members of your organization. Thank you."*

**Zenia Lis**, in loving memory of **Anthony and Ann**, who were born and died December 31, 1995.

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

## Upcoming Meeting Topics

- ◆ February - Grief and Emotions
- ◆ March - Grief and Relationships
- ◆ April - Subsequent Decisions
- ◆ May - The Significance of You and Your Baby (bring mementos)
- ◆ June - Grief and Secondary Losses



## Phone and Email Volunteers Keep us Connected!

Many thanks to phone committee members **Karen Verner, Valerie Scholovich, and Kathleen Blum** and our email correspondent **Melina Smith** for their many hours of loving hard work on the **SHARE** lines!

## Name Bricks in Angel Garden Still Available

Thanks to continued member support of SHARE and a family run brick company, we are able to continue to offer the bricks at a cost of \$25.00 each. Neither SHARE nor Arlington Memorial Park profit from this project.

A printable order form with detailed information can be found on our website.

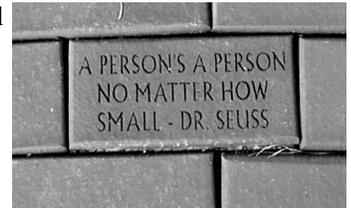
Please make checks payable to "SHARE Atlanta" and write "Pathway Project" in the memo section of your check. Include your name, phone number and address on the order. You will be notified when the brick will be installed.

If you would like a brick to keep as a memento, please include a note to that effect with your order along with an additional \$20 per keepsake brick.

Bricks will continue to be sold on a space available basis and added to the garden pathway. We hope to continue to make this garden a place of peace for our members and all bereaved parents.

For any questions please call our event line or email us at [pathway@shareatlanta.org](mailto:pathway@shareatlanta.org).

\*Please submit your order by May 1 for the Summer Installation.



## Summer Newsletter Deadline

- ◆ The Summer newsletter will focus on Fathers Day.
- ◆ Please send us your thoughts and ideas for coping with this important day after your loss. Of course, we always love to print parents' writings on any topic!

- ◆ Also in June, we will write about the grief of subsequent and surviving children. We want and need any drawings, articles, poems, or thoughts you would like to contribute on these or any other subject.

Please respond by **May 1, 2004** to:

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

Or e-mail [newsletter@shareatlanta.org](mailto:newsletter@shareatlanta.org)

## What I Have Learned -by Lynne Anderson

Last July, 2004, my first born son would have been 20 years old.

Twenty years old!! I have to shake my head in disbelief. I cannot possibly be old enough to have a 20 year old child! Then again, I realize I am not the same person I was when he was born and I was 25. I'd like to think I have 20 more years of maturity under my belt. I'd like to believe I've learned a few things about life, and unfortunately, about and death.

While I was putting my daughters to bed tonight, two daughters who would not be here had it not been for the deaths of their older brothers, I made an inventory of life's lessons in grief. I realized that a lot of the important things I've learned about life I've learned since the deaths of my first two sons. I've also learned so much from the many, many bereaved parents who came through the couples group that I led for 11 years.

I have learned that bad things do happen to good people.

I have learned that when it's YOUR baby and YOUR body, statistics don't matter.

I have learned that lightening can strike more than once in the same place.

I have learned that life is not fair and no one ever said it would be.

I have learned that even the best of friends can say the worst things.

I have learned that society gives us about 3 weeks to grieve.

I have learned that the stages of grief do not necessarily come in order.

I have learned that shock, denial, anger, sadness, despair and acceptance come and go for a long time.

I've learned that it's hard to be patient.

I have learned that religions don't necessarily help us grieve, but faith does.

I have learned that time doesn't heal all wounds, it's what you do with the time that makes the difference.

I have learned that even the best husbands cannot read minds.

I have learned that if men cannot fix it, they see no need to dwell on it.

I have learned that men's grief is often overlooked.

I have learned that talking can help, but there's nothing like talking to someone who's "been there."

I have learned that most of us are stronger and more resilient than we give ourselves credit for.

I have learned that anger is both normal and scary.

I have learned that although some aspects of grief are universal, we all grieve differently.

I have learned that we can complicate our grief by wasting time trying to make others know how we feel.

I have learned that some people will never understand the depth of our sadness.

I have learned that help, support and understanding can come from the most unexpected places and people.

I have learned that you never "get over" a loss, but incorporate it into who and what you become.

I have learned that there is no such thing as "closure." The memory of our loss will always be there, and that it's OK to revisit it from time to time for the rest of our lives. Revisiting, in itself, can be healing.

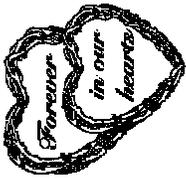
**Subscription Renewal Information** SHARE Atlanta is pleased to announce the arrival of our e-newsletter. This full color version will allow significant resources to be redirected to our other outreach and education opportunities. To sign up, please visit our website at [shareatlanta.org](http://shareatlanta.org) or email us at [newsletter@shareatlanta.org](mailto:newsletter@shareatlanta.org). This version of the newsletter is free of charge, and will continue until you "unsubscribe," or until your email address is rejected.

For those who do not use email, we will continue to print a smaller number of paper copies of the newsletter. Please check the date on your mailing label. It will indicate the last month you will get a newsletter. The first year of the newsletter is free; after the first year we request a \$6 per year donation to help cover mailing and printing costs. If you wish to continue receiving the SHARE Atlanta newsletter, please fill out the form below, make your \$6.00 check out to "SHARE Atlanta" and mail it to: SHARE Atlanta, PMB 212, 9925 Haynes Bridge Road, Suite 200, Alpharetta, GA 30022. You can also use this form if your address has changed.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

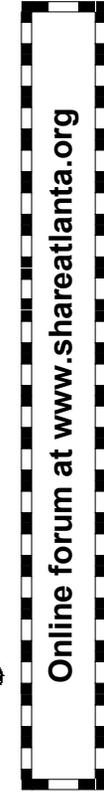
Address \_\_\_\_\_

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



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

**SHARE Atlanta Meetings  
 For More Information Call  
 770.928.9603**



Online forum at [www.shareatlanta.org](http://www.shareatlanta.org)

[www.shareatlanta.org](http://www.shareatlanta.org)

There are NO December meetings except for  
 Subsequent Pregnancy

<p><u>For Men and Women</u>  <b>Summit Baptist Church</b>          4310 Moon Station Lane, NW          Acworth, GA 30101          2nd Thursday of every month          7:00-9:00 pm  <i>Lynne</i></p>	<p><u>For Moms, Grandmoms,          Sisters, and Girlfriends</u>  <b>Women's Group Meeting</b>          Dunwoody, GA          3rd Wednesday of every month          7:00 – 9:00 pm  <i>Marcia</i></p>	<p><u>Faith Based Group          For Men and Women</u>  <b>Cascade UMC</b>          3244 Cascade Road, SW          Atlanta, GA 30311          4th Thursday of every month          7:00-9:00 pm  <i>Robin and Lydia</i></p>	<p><u>For Pregnant Moms</u>  <b>Subsequent Pregnancy Support</b>          Dunwoody, GA          2nd Wednesday of every month          7:00 – 9:00 pm  <i>Polly</i></p>
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**Eastside Baptist Church**  
 170 Upper Riverdale Road, SW  
 Riverdale, GA 30274  
 1st Thursday of every month  
 7:00 - 9:00 pm  
*Karen*

*Sign up now to receive  
 your newsletter online!*



1984 2004