



Healing Happens... for SHARE Atlanta (SA) Families...with “Outreach for Healing” Activities

Edited by Marcia McGinnis



1984 2004

Pregnancy and Infant Loss
Advocacy & Awareness Pin ..



Dan and Ana

Ana Johnson, a SA mom, wrote the poem below in memory of Gabriel Gordon, April 14—16, 2010. It is written “from” her baby. The words and feelings express how much we miss our babies, and how we don’t understand why we have to say “Good bye.”



*My mommy got to meet me today,
and I wanted to meet her too.
But that wasn't meant to be for us,
and she doesn't know what to do.*

*She rocked and held me inside her,
she did everything she could.
But I had to leave too early,
with no goodbye, and
she's crying like no one should.*

*She loves me God, so much it hurts.
Please God why can't I Stay?
I want to hug and hold her tight,
I've worked so hard for that day.*

*Please tell her I love her,
that she did her best,
Tell her that I'll always miss her
and I know that I was blessed.*

*Please tell her I'm sorry,
that it's okay to cry,
That I can't stay with her anymore,*

*There is no good goodbye.
Please explain to her why,
the who's and the how's,
since I am unable to speak.*

*Please send her my hugs,
my kisses and love since
I have been born asleep.*

*And Please send her my hugs,
my kisses, my love so
I can snuggle her in her sleep.*

Ana Johnson

In all that SA does, we seek healing and understanding. For each of us, this will mean different things in different time frames. We come to realize that *surviving* this tragic death is part of our walk. Then, for most of us, we want to become the kind of person that our children would want as a parent. This becomes easier when we make our precious babies a special part of who we are. We must find hope and healing. For many of us, we do this by honoring our baby’s memory as we reach out to each other and to others in our community. This newsletter shares what some of our members have *done* to find answers to similar questions and feelings that Ana asks in her poem.

“Please explain to her why, the who's and the how's, since I am unable to speak.”

SA members who have been with us for awhile find some of the “why, the who’s and the how’s” as they begin to share the “gifts” that our babies bring. This is a gradual learning that will bring us some peace and healing.

-Marcia McGinnis

For more healing SA stories: <http://www.shareatlanta.org/legacy/specialmenu.htm>

“Outreach for Healing” Angel Garden & Memorial Bricks

2001: Some of the SA members at the ground breaking ceremony..



The Significance of You

Polly Keen

You were but a whisper on the wind.
Your presence so brief.
You weren't measured in years or months, just weeks.
My heart searched for the significance of you.

I looked for answers to questions most don't ask.

When did you become?
I knew when you were no more.
When did your soul and body meet?

I read you were knitted together in my womb.
I remember my grandmother knitting lace.
Delicate threads brought together into one,
A pattern set from the beginning.
I thought of your chromosomes joining inside of me,
A fragile lace of life.
Your pattern set from the beginning.
Is this where your soul and body met?
What is the eternal significance of you?

Your grandparents didn't know you,
Nor your uncles or aunts.
You aren't counted as a cousin.
You form no significance in this circle closest to us.
How can there be significance to you in this life?

Angel Brochure has details of SA's Garden...

<http://www.shareatlanta.org/legacy/angelbrochure1.11.pdf>



But times moves on.

It doesn't wait on my questions or my grief.
I think of how you would want me to be
after your brief presence.
I know you would want me
Better, not bitter
A healer, not wounded
A comforter, not lost in my grief.

So I try to do the things to become the person
you would want me to be.

The person I want to be so they can know
the significance of you.

*For significance comes not in length of days,
But in how things have changed because of your presence.*

Time moves on,
Years pass by.

Your dad and I help create a garden,
An angel with "Hope" on its wings,
A place.

Formed from your dad's heart,
For he wanted to meet the need of parents
who were now where we used to be.
He planned for every detail.
He laid bricks with loving hands,
The hands that never held you,
Creating a place to help heal
the broken heart of others.

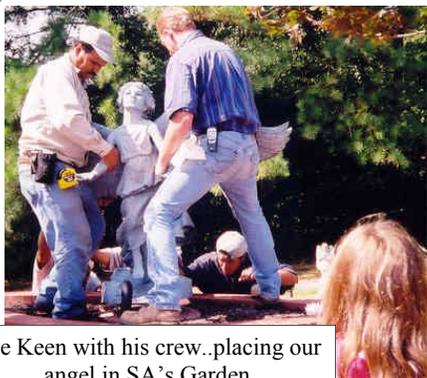
And then on a stormy October afternoon,
Gathered in the Angel Garden,
In a ceremony of remembrance,

Answers to my question.

*Spoken on the lips of the mothers and fathers
Broken by the grief of the loss of their child.
They speak words of healing, hope, and peace
That they have found in a place,
A garden. A garden that was made because of
the significance of you.*

In memory of...

Elijah Thomas, Autumn Bray, Frances Grace, Sarah
Elizabeth, Samuel Brown and Jeremiah Davis.



Joe Keen with his crew..placing our
angel in SA's Garden.
Abby Gipson, SA mom- Karen
Gipson's daughter, is watching.



Joe, Polly, and Joseph Keen at the
angel site during construction.

<http://www.shareatlanta.org/legacy/anglmenu.htm>
For more info..garden and memorial bricks.



Lt. Cindy Ivey
SA's Team Captain
With National Award

"Outreach for Healing" March for Babies

My Angel



SHARE Atlanta
Helping the
March of Dimes
Put Us Out of
Business!

www.shareatlanta.org

SA's annual
"Walk to Remember"
April 30, 2011

"SHARE Atlanta ROCKS!!!"

The front and back of SA's March for Babies shirt!

Jennifer Greer, originator of our involvement with MODS (since 1998), designed the backs of our MODS' shirts. The shirt says it ALL!!

SA—5 years in a row..Top Downtown Family Team!!
<http://www.shareatlanta.org/legacy/MODmenu.htm> SA & MODS



Lt. Jennifer with SA
mom, Christie.

Thoughts from Some of our Top Walkers...



Yes you can!! Tamera - 2006 Top Fundraiser

4.13.06 E-mail: "Marcia, I'm sooo excited! Look so far :) \$675.00 YEAH!!!! I'm going to keep bugging people!!! I've never had the guts to do something like this, but because I'm doing it in honor of **Kenny** and helping **all the babies**. I'd do anything!

Tammy's Final Total: \$7,555.00 !!!

In memory of Kenny ~ Stillborn at 38 weeks 2.13.06



"Once again, I am walking to honor my three daughters - Grace Marie, who was lost to a 2nd trimester miscarriage on 6.14.03, and my precious miracle twins, Margaret Rose and Katherine Patricia, who were born 6 weeks early on 1.13.05 after an extremely difficult pregnancy. They have grown from tiny preemies to active toddlers who challenge and delight us every single day."

Elise Beltrami 2007



Tammy & Chris

'08- SA's Team Aidan

On May 16, 2007, my son Aidan Grey Campbell was born still at 22 weeks and 2 days. Quite simply, there is nothing worse than losing a child. Of course, along with the loss of your child, there is the loss of your dreams and hopes for that child.

After May 16th I knew that I would never be able to do all the things I had planned to do with Aidan. There would be no trips to the aquarium or to the zoo. I would never get to comfort him after he got hurt or kiss him goodnight. Never again could I hold him in my arms or tell him "I love you." *All the usual ways that mothers get to share their love and affection with their child were no longer available to me.*

Instead, I had to find other ways to show how much I love my son.

The MODS' March for Babies was one wonderful way for me and my husband to show our friends and family just how important Aidan is to us. Our SA team was named "Team Aidan Campbell" to honor Aidan's memory. On our MODS' website, we were able to share Aidan's story. As the donations came pouring in, we found ourselves overwhelmed not only by the generosity shown, but also by the thoughtful responses we received.

When we walked with the other twelve members of Team Aidan, it was an uplifting experience seeing all of us in our matching t-shirts and knowing that we were all there because of how important Aidan was to us. I know Aidan was very proud of us that day. I think he was especially proud of his grandmother who walked the entire 5.2 miles even though she suffers permanent damage from a stroke. *And perhaps, even more rewarding is the thought that the money we raised to honor Aidan may prevent other families from having to suffer the same tremendous loss.*



“Outreach for Healing” Wrapping our babies in Love...

5 Bs- Blankets, Buntings, Booties, Bonnets, and Bracelets.

How it all began...

In 2007, Kelly and Alan Mishkoff expressed how comforting it was to hold their sons in tiny blankets that the hospital provided. We agreed, and SA’s “5Bs” outreach was created. We make these tiny items and give them to local hospitals for their patients who will suffer a pregnancy or newborn loss. Since then, it has been embraced by an incredible number of SA families and friends.

In memory of
Zachary Gabriel-1.27.04
Jeremy Gabriel-11.15.04



Kelly with her mother and oldest daughter

Kelly’s Continued Healing...”It was very special and continued my healing, to do the inservice. (1.28.11) For so long, I have lumped my 2 loses together. The main focus has always been Zachary. I could come up with the gifts that I got from Zachary, but with Jeremy I just couldn't understand. It never made sense for it to happen again. It wasn't until today, almost 7 years later, that I realized that if I hadn't had the second loss, *the blanket project would not have happened. To see how far it has come and how many lives it has touched just fills me up.* So- I thank you for giving me the opportunity to receive that gift today!” Kelly Mishkoff

The blanket and the photo are the most cherished belongings I have of him..Melissa Montes



Blankets of Love...

Make a Difference..

One Mother’s Thoughts...

Thank you so much for making these sweet blankets for our little angels.

My son, Ernest Luis, was born still on February 18, 2010 at Kenestone Hospital. He was 36 weeks. The blanket and the photo are the most cherished belongings I have of him. He was wearing his little white hat and booties, too, when the nurse handed him to me. They were made by Betsy Turner. (from St. Luke’s Presbyterian Church for SHARE Atlanta’s 5Bs-Blankets of Love Outreach).

What SHARE Atlanta does for mothers like me is appreciated immensely. I will always have his blanket to hold on to and remember him. Thank you, Melissa M. - SA mom

Sautee Turner’s family honor Miquael’s (7.07) anniversary by making blankets.



SA Blanket Workshop

PDFs that explain more about this Outreach:

<http://www.shareatlanta.org/legacy/news08sluke.pdf> SA’s 5Bs Story

<http://www.shareatlanta.org/legacy/5bsbrochure1.11pdf> Blanket Brochure...

More Information and How to Make these Items...:

<http://www.shareatlanta.org/legacy/blanketoflovenu.htm>

“Outreach for Healing” Significant Personal Art, Videos, Poems

If the bricks could talk, what amazing and timeless stories they would surely tell.

*Tales of sorrow, despair, and broken hearts.
Lives forever changed against their will -
raw, utter sadness and
a fragile, unending vulnerability.*

*But the bricks would also tell the story of healing,
the story of courage and hope.
A place beyond this earth, warm and safe;
a bittersweet peace.*

*They would tell us to hold ever close
our precious dreams,
and they would sing the little babies lullabies
to soothe our mending souls.*

*Singing sweet songs of love-
undeniable love.*



Valerie and Pete reading at an Angel Garden Memorial.

*Valerie Scholovich,
SHARE Atlanta, 2003
In memory of
Megan Elizabeth 1/17/00
Kathryn Anne 3/1/01*

SA's Angel & Memorial Brick Garden Video



Reece and Mark with their family.

In 2009, Reece Ritter created this beautiful video that brings together visually the “story” of SA’s Angel and Memorial Brick Garden.

Garden Video- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l->

Reece shares: “It occurred to me, as I looked at the photos from the garden, that bereaved parents are a diverse group in so many ways. Yet, those differences dissolve when we gather to discuss our children. *What we have in common are matters of the heart. We are parents, and we love our children. We want the world to know that they existed and were important.*”

In memory of Dorothy Ellen Ritter
July 10, 1987



Alive in me.

The first time I saw you on the ultrasound screen bouncing around, I knew you were alive in me.

Every time you kicked and stuck your little butt out, I knew that you were alive in me.

When your daddy would read to you and you moved around excitedly, I knew you were alive in me.

There were so many times I couldn't help but get excited to have you, my little Ethan, alive inside of me.

When you died, I thought you weren't alive inside of me anymore.
I was wrong.

You are still alive in me.

You are my courage to do what I need to do to be happy.

You are my strength to keep going even when all I want to do is give up.

You help me find hope again when everything feels meaningless.

You are my reminder to enjoy every moment in anyway I can.

From your ashes I was reborn. You are a part of me. Alive in me. You are in my heart, and in everything I do, I carry you with me Always and forever.

Allysa Wolf
In loving memory of Ethan
May 26, 2007

*Artwork for
Healing...*



Allysa with SA mom, Maya. Maya is holding a memory box that Allysa made for her.
Allysa’s beautiful artwork in memory of her son, Ethan:

**<http://www.shareatlanta.org/legacy/allysasartms2007.pdf>
<http://www.shareatlanta.org/legacy/allysaart.htm>**

“Outreach for Healing” Newspaper & TV Recognition

Heather Makes Blankets and Finds Ways to Mend A Broken Heart

In 2008, Heather Haney embraced SA’s 5 Bs Outreach and took it a step further to create an awareness of the Pregnancy and Newborn Loss Community’s issues. First, she and her family made blankets in memory of Bishop. Then, when she presented them to the hospital that Bishop was born in, the local newspaper, Georgian Times, did an article about her and the outreach..AND ITS MEANING. It was entitled: “Maternity patient finds way to mend a broken heart.”

Read the article: <http://www.shareatlanta.org/legacy/heather1.pdf>



Heather with one of Allysa’s memory boxes for her son, Bishop, 8.21.07

Betty Speaks Out Through Heritage Makers, 5 B’s Outreach & “Walk to Remember” Video for Channel 2



Betty Miller has accomplished much in memory of their son, Brian, Jr. (7.21.-8.4.03)

Betty’s passion for photos and stories brought her to a successful career with Heritage Makers. In the picture, she holds two beautiful and loving books that she has made for Brian, Jr. and her son, Joey. She now helps other parents create their own storybooks.

She has promoted the 5Bs program with her MOPS group and her sorority, Sigma Beta. Betty writes SA’s thank you notes and has been a co-facilitator for our Subsequent Pregnancy group.

Betty has “Walked to Remember” Brian, Jr with her husband, Brian. The piece clearly shares a mom’s feelings about her precious child as well as a dad’s reflections about his baby son, and their young son, Joey’s reactions. The piece is an inspiration because Betty describes how healing happens as you do things in memory of your baby.

- Walk to Remember interview: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6vAodw4iJ9Q>
- SA Poster for the 5Bs with her sorority: <http://www.heritagemakers.com/projectBrowserStandAlone.cfm?projectId=1047406&productId=29&projectSponsor=252540>

The March of Dimes Supports SA



SHARE Atlanta's & The Pregnancy and Newborn Loss Community's Story with Adrienne Verbanac, Cindy Ivey, Jennifer Greer, and Marcia McGinnis.

It shares our mission, our goals, our stories and mementos. We thank WSB TV and the March of Dimes for giving us another Awareness and Advocacy Opportunity. We thank the MODS' for making a difference for so many of our members and for other families across the USA.

The Story - <http://www.wsbtv.com/video/22986827/index.html>

**Jennifer, Cindy, Marcia, and Adrienne
Tell SA’s & March for Babies’ Story
With People to People 2010 & 11**

**Overview of SA:
<http://www.shareatlanta.org/legacy/cirhealingsaoverview2011.pdf>**

“Outreach for Healing” Significant Outreaches...

**Coretta makes a difference with her: power point presentation “My Healing Journey,”
Mother’s Day Program, making blankets, and other SA Outreaches...**



Coretta Monroe with a blanket that she has made in her son, Gabriel’s memory.

“I have reached out to other hurting parents in many different ways. I make blankets for hospitals and am a contact to a local hospital for this mission. I’ve done a few interviews on behalf of the March of Dimes and done SA inservices at various hospitals. I have “Walked to Remember” Gabriel with SHARE Atlanta’s March for Babies Top Family Team for several years. I created a SA Mother’s Day Celebration, with Adrienne Verbanac’s wonderful support. I made an educational board for the nursing staff on how to present a lifeless little one to their parents – no matter how small their baby is.”

“The more I reach out to help other bereaved parents and advocate for families having healthy pregnancies, the more I tend to soothe my own heartache and add purpose to the short life of our Gabriel (11.3.04).”

<http://www.shareatlanta.org/legacy/corettam2011.html> — See Coretta’s Story on SA’s website. It includes the pdf of her power point and Mother’s Day Celebration.

Erin Dickerson and Marcia McGinnis Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth

Erin Dickerson, SA mom and Lawyer, and Marcia McGinnis, SA mom and President and co-founder of SA, teamed together to make this important bill happen in Georgia.

*“I want a CBRS as tangible proof that this child who forever changed me, was real, and was here, if only for a short time.”
Erin Dickerson 2008 In memory of James Lincoln 330.04*

<http://www.shareatlanta.org/legacy/GACBRS.htm> CBRS



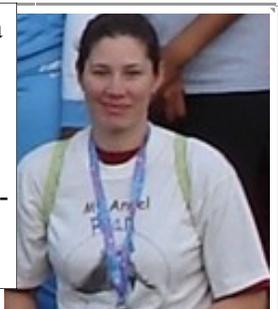
It to rt: Rep. Fran Millar, Tammy and Chris Campbell (SA parents), Gov. Sonny Perdue, Erin Dickerson with Sara Grace, Senator Dan Weber, and Marcia McGinnis

Groups and Forums...Helping others to Heal. Tammy White, Adrienne Verbanac & Allysa Wolf (subsequent pregnancy forum)



“I know that nothing will ever bring our Nathaniel back to us, but *I am thankful that I do not have to walk this journey alone.*” Adrienne
In memory of Nathaniel—10.30.05
See this link for more about Adrienne...
<http://www.shareatlanta.org/legacy/forummoderatorsA.htm>

Tammy White has been active with SHARE Atlanta since 2004. She has been instrumental in our inservice program as well as our Outreach Programs. She has made and delivered many blankets, been a top walker for our March of Dimes annual outreach and been a key in making our memorial tree program successful. Tammy has lead the Men/Women’s Group for over 5 years. In memory of Ryan - 10.27.03-11.1.03.



Note by Marcia: There are many more SA stories of healing. They are shared throughout our website and archived in old SA newsletters. Many are from our **incredible and compassionate volunteers** who keep SA vibrant. **We thank them for all they do!!!**

SA is our Members - <http://www.shareatlanta.org/legacy/satimeline2010.pdf>

Artwork for
Healing...

“Outreach for Healing” Reaching Out to Each Other...

you are not

ALONE



Coping with a miscarriage can overwhelm you, but you do not have to conquer it alone. There is a local community of men and women that have been through exactly what you are going through. SHARE is a non-profit organization that provides local grief support groups, services, workshops and outreach for healing and advocacy at no fee. Memory bricks and an angel memorial garden in Sandy Springs, GA are available through the group and we also provide a phone number, website, forums and written materials to help you get through this trying time, and you WILL get through it. Please allow us to help.

SHAREatlanta
www.shareatlanta.org

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

Pam Slayback ~ Mother of Daniel 6/15/85

SA mom, Lori Dunfee, made this poster that expresses what many feel about pregnancy and newborn loss and SA.

In memory of Addison, loss through miscarriage on 6.20.06.

Sharing our babies' Mementos...

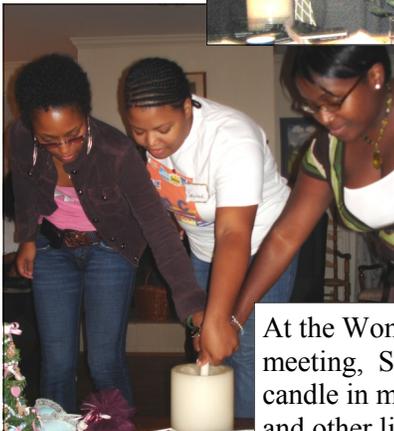


Women's Candlelighting...



Coming together, at our group meetings, events, & forums, gives us a way to meet others who understand and can help us walk our path of healing. We find that we are not alone.

At the Women's Grief Support meeting, SA moms light the SA candle in memory of their babies and other little ones.



Candles at a Women's Candlelighting...

For more about SA....2011 Parent Packet
<http://www.shareatlanta.org/legacy/parentpacket06.htm>

“Outreach for Healing” “Circle of Healing” Inservices



Kennestone Hospital
1.28.11

SA presents 3 to 4 inservices a year. Our SA volunteers join me. Some have experienced a loss during the last 2 years...most are further down the path. Their clarity of expression and care to say what needs to be shared, all with compassion, creates a caring, learning environment for our audience..

Marcia McGinnis' "Circle of Healing" program covers: grief after a pregnancy or newborn loss; what the caregiver (person caring for patient/family) might say and do/not say and do that will support the family; and the role of the caregiver and of SA for healing. We distribute written materials that cover these topics as well as information about the CBRS and patient discharge support. We include two brief videos that focus on pregnancy loss.

During the program, SA parents share their thoughts, mementos, scrapbooks, etc. with the audience. We suggest helpful ways to make a difference for grieving families who have experienced miscarriages, stillbirths, and newborn death. We often have interaction between our audience and SA members. Our hope is to work together to help families begin to heal.

Our evaluations are consistently positive. Their comments include- I better understand: the grief process - what to say/do or not to say/do - how parents feel - how to help the family bond with their baby - the role I can play/SA can play in healing. Many say it is the first time that they feel less apprehensive about interacting with a grieving family.

Healing Happens...
As SA Members Reach Out to Community
Some thoughts and pictures of SA Volunteers... A huge “Thank you” to all who join our efforts.

Frequent Speakers...Erin Dickerson, Mindy Seger, Lynne Anderson, Other recent Inservice Supporters who are not in pictures..Leah Perry, Nikecia I., Alyse Jones, Tammy Campbell, Maya Smith, Rodericka Parks, Kimberly Pinto, Kelly Mishkoff



Inservice at Egleston with It Shenia Kirkland, nurse Stephenie, Coretta Monroe, and Marcia McGinnis



Kennestone Hos. 2.08-
Back: SA Members: Lynne Anderson, Memo & Danyael Garcia, Adrienne Verbanac, Allysa Wolf, Erin Dickerson
Front: Nurse Karen F., Marcia McGinnis, Coretta Monroe, Kristin Frazier, supporter from Hospice

Thanks for sharing the opportunity with me to do the inservice. I am so glad I came. It was a good new healing experience for me. The audience seemed really interested ...there was lots of good information. Kimberly Pinto - In memory of Julianna Rose 11.26.08

“Outreach for Healing”

Healing leads to New Understandings...

WHAT I HAVE LEARNED

-by Lynne Anderson—2004



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 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 men and women's 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 the 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 total "closure." The memory of our loss will always be there and it's OK to revisit it from time to time for the rest of our lives. Revisiting, in itself, can be healing.

Lynne designed our logo in 1994. She has devoted many hours of loving care to SA by wearing various "hats" in our organization. Besides leading the group, she headed up our phone committee, participated in our memorial services, was a co-president, and helped do whatever else needed to be accomplished. For over 10 years, Lynne has mailed our written materials to hospitals, etc. Lynne also joins us for SA insertives. Today, she and her husband, John, have 4 active children.

In memory of

"Nubbin" Anderson 3.22.84
"Bubba Lee" Anderson 1.28.85