



March of Dimes...Thank you for your research and support SHARE Atlanta Parents with Premies share their stories...

SHARE Atlanta Parents “Walk to Remember” their special babies and a growing number also walk to honor their living children. Many of our parents thank March of Dimes because their preemie baby most likely survived due to the research and support that the March of Dime’s programs provide. The March of Dimes is also researching pregnancy conditions that may cause other issues such as birth defects, stillbirth, and early loss. Over time, we will look at our walkers who have experienced other losses as well. ALL of our babies are important and mean so much to each one of us at SHARE Atlanta.

Here are some pictures of these special children and their parents at our SHARE Atlanta “Walk to Remember” WALKAmerica as they walk to bring HOPE to families in the present and in the future.



Marcia with Eric & Olivia

Elise and John Beltrami’s Story..



Elise Beltrami with twins
Margaret & Katherine
John was also at the walk.

Once again, I am walking to honor my three daughters...

Grace Marie, who was lost to a 2nd trimester miscarriage on June 14, 2003, and my precious miracle twins, Margaret Rose and Katherine Patricia, who were born 6 weeks early on January 13, 2005 after an extremely difficult pregnancy. Margaret and Katherine have grown from tiny 4 1/2 pound preemies to active 2-year-old toddlers who challenge and delight us every single day.

Elise after the walk: Here is a picture of me with Margaret and Katherine as we neared the finish line of the 5.5-mile walk. We had perfect day, and the girls did well in their stroller. During mile 1, they ate Cheerios and watched the crowd. During mile 2, they played the stroller version of the classic backseat car game, “MOM, she’s touching me!!!” During mile 3, they received balloons, which kept them entertained until mile 5, when Margaret’s balloon began losing helium at an alarming rate. Luckily, at the 4.5-mile marker, they were given boxes of popcorn which proved fun to eat and throw during the last stretch of our walk.



Elise Beltrami, 2007

Adrienne and Robert Verbanac’s Story...



Adrienne Verbanac with Olivia
Robert had cut out our Memory Hearts
for our Memory Corner.

I am honored to once again walk for the March of Dimes. I will be walking in memory of Nathaniel and in honor of Olivia to help prevent the leading cause in pregnancy and newborn loss, prematurity. Babies like Olivia who are born at 29 1/2 weeks have a chance to survive because of their efforts. My hope is that one day babies like Nathaniel, who was delivered at 18.6 weeks, may also survive. My greatest wish is that one day all babies will be born at term. Robert and I know the blessing that God has bestowed upon our family with the birth and life of Olivia. Unlike other babies born at her gestational age Olivia is able to breath on her own. She is not blind nor deaf (a common problem with premature infants) and above all she was born alive and has the chance at a full and promising life. Please consider supporting me in my

walk to continue research in finding cures for issues such as incompetent cervix (the cause of Nate's death and Olivia's prematurity) and other such illnesses. Every little bit helps. Adrienne Verbanac, 2007



Olivia and Robert in
the hospital.

Tammy and David White's Story...

This is the 4th year that I have participated in this Walk and I know that it will not be my last. This is the only way that I can think of where I can show the March of Dimes how thankful I am for what they do.

A lot of families never experience a premature birth or the effects of one. In the last 3 1/2 years, I have personally experienced it twice.

Our first child, Ryan, was born at 33 weeks from a placental abruption. While he only lived 6 days, it was because of research that the MOD had done that gave us those 6 days.



Ryan at birth



Luke with the bear in memory of Ryan

When I got pregnant with Luke, all the doctors said that it was extremely unlikely that I would have a second placental issue.... well, they were wrong. Luke was born 6 weeks early because my doctors were able to determine that there was another placental issue and delivered him early to prevent another loss. Luke was very lucky, he only had to spend 2 weeks in the NICU. I know without a doubt that it was all of the research that the March of Dimes has done that gave Luke's doctors the knowledge and tools they needed in order for him to survive.

While the doctors are unsure of what caused the rupture in my placenta, organizations like the March of Dimes continue to do research and educate mothers and doctors to help prevent and treat premature births. Just 10 years ago, the doctors would not have had the technology needed that detected the problem in the first place in my situation. The LORD had a greater purpose for Ryan and took him home - for Luke his purpose is here but there are MANY babies and mothers each year that are faced with prematurity and the problems that can arise.



Tammy in the SA Team picture.

I am very involved in a local support group called SHARE Atlanta, that offers support to families after pregnancy loss. The majority of the women in the group that I lead all had premature births. It is our hope that by helping the March of Dimes, there will come a time when our services are no longer needed. The complexity of a pregnancy loss is mind-numbing and I pray that others do not have to experience it. I know that the March of Dimes is working to eliminate prematurity and pregnancy loss. Tammy White,

Shakina and Eric Williams' Story..



Eric and Shakina with EJ



EJ

Eric & I walked this year in memory of our precious daughter Courtney Auxvasse and in honor of our "miracle" man Eric Elias Williams Jr. We could think of no better way to show our support for such a worthy organization and cause. Our first child Courtney was born too soon at 18 weeks. Eric and I were naive enough to believe that nothing could go wrong with our second pregnancy. EJ was born at 26 weeks weighing in at only 11b 5 oz. We truly believe that he survived due to the amazing effort and research of the March of Dimes. He is now a active 8 month old with no physical or mental impairments. As his parents we are so thankful for MODS and for our sponsor team SHARE Atlanta. ShakinaWillaims, 2007



EJ in the hospital.



Brett and Seth Williams' Story..



Seth and Britt Williams with Reid and Grantham.

All three of our sons were born prematurely. Hugh was born 16 weeks early, but thanks to medical advances, we were able to spend five precious days with him. Reid and Grantham arrived eight weeks early, and thanks to the prenatal medical care I received, were very healthy considering the early timing of their births.

To show our appreciation, Seth, Reid, Grantham, and I will be participating in the March of Dimes' WalkAmerica on April 28th. We walk in memory of Hugh and in honor of Reid and Grantham. The funds we raise will support research that saves babies' lives.

Brett Williams, 2007

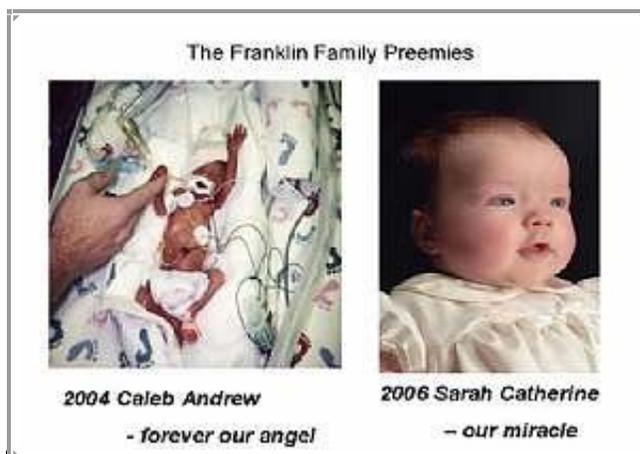


In honor of our twin preemies, Reid Marshall and Grantham Anderson Williams. In loving memory of our firstborn, Hugh McIntyre Williams.

Julie and Andy Franklin's Story..

The past 2 years we have walked in memory of our son Caleb Andrew, born 16 weeks early with us only 8 days. This year we will walk in memory of Caleb but also in honor of our daughter Sarah Cate born 3.5 weeks early, safe and sound. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR PAST SUPPORT, WITHOUT IT WE WOULD NOT HAVE SARAH CATE!** We continue our efforts to help other parents and babies.

Today in the U.S., 1 in every 8 babies will be born prematurely. Like our angel Caleb, some of them won't survive, and others will have health problems that could last a lifetime. The funds we raise in WalkAmerica support research that saves babies' lives. We attribute this research to the successful pregnancy and birth of our daughter Sarah Catherine. Julie was closely monitored during her pregnancy because of her history and the course of treatment to help keep baby Sarah Cate in her belly for as long as possible was due to the research of March of Dimes. Julie was experiencing early contractions but the doctors were able to keep Sarah safe in the womb for critical development.



We will never forget our son - his story has changed our lives forever. Thanks for your support, we really appreciate it and it WILL make a difference for others. Julie Franklin, 2007

*Every child is special...each one makes a difference...
...all are blessings forever.*