



## The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Rainbow of Roses Celebration

The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Rainbow of Roses Remembrance Celebration went better than we ever could have hoped as we honored nearly 350 babies. The weather was perfect, a cool crisp evening with not a drop of rain in sight! Our volunteers did a wonderful job of setting up the event and helping everything run smoothly. What was most wonderful about this year's gathering is the number of families who attended. It wasn't a huge crowd, maybe 40 or so, but it was a group who came together for a common and important purpose, to remember their babies they never got to meet or their babies who left too soon.

Poems were written and read by a bereaved mother and sibling and another local mom shared her heartbreaking story of the loss of her twins just two years ago at 20 weeks gestation. My own grief counselor, Jeanine Dungan from Church of the Apostles in Atlanta gave a wonderful speech entitled "The gift of a child who has been taken away." She spoke of the fact that even amidst the loss of a child, there is a gift, the gift of that child. This is a difficult concept to accept and believe in as a bereaved parent, and it is one that took me quite a while personally to trust in, but it is also a concept that has liberated my own heart in my loss of Zoe.

A dear friend and great supporter of mine sang four beautiful songs and as we started the candle lighting we invited each of the families present to light the candle(s) for their own angel(s). That was my favorite moment of the night to witness these parents and family members walking among the candles scattered along the hill, lighting a candle for their much loved and much missed baby. It touched me deeply to know that this simple act of lighting a candle, reading a name, acknowledging the importance of an all too short life, is so incredibly powerful and so meaningful for these families. It does not take grand gestures to make a difference. We should all realize that simple acts of kindness and compassion are the moments that truly touch another person's heart.

[Jacquelyne Landa](#) was our photographer and is editing the photos from the event. She will be creating our personalized mementos for all the parents who requested them and she will also be providing us with the images so we can add a slideshow of the event to the website. If you were at the event and you see a photo that you want a copy of I will be sure to have her contact information for you.

Thanks so all our volunteers, donors, and participants for making this remembrance so meaningful.