



ANGELS CHARITY, INC.

## Meet Our Charity, Join Our Fight

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Anne Meguiar

Bill Covert

C. A. (Bubba) Sumerlin

Vivian Rahn

Walette Widener, NP

*SMA Angels Charity is a 100% volunteer, non-profit charity, that was inspired by two amazing little girls, Cassie and Skylar Swanson. They were born March 7, 1997 and at five months were diagnosed with the deadly disease Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA). These beautiful identical twins inspired not only their family, but a community of friends. Determined that no parent should ever again hear, "Your child, will never sit, stand or walk and they will die before the age of two," our Charity began its fight against SMA.*

*SMA in its severest form is the "Number One Genetic Killer of Children Under Two". Our fundraising efforts throughout the year provide us with opportunities to help in this fight against SMA. Through research, education and outreach, members of our charity, as well as countless volunteers, remain active year round; committed to eradicating this disease.*

### PRESIDENT

Anne Meguiar

### VICE PRESIDENT

Diane Sumerlin

### SECRETARY

Kim Jarboe

### TREASURER

Runette Parker

**Supports Crucial Research.** *There have been many milestones in the quest for a treatment or cure for SMA. The defective gene was discovered in 1995, SMA replicated in mice in 2000, 1st clinical trials in 2004, Phase I and Phase II clinical trials in 2007. Gene Therapy reverses effects in mice 2010. In 2014 the first FDA-approved gene therapy clinical trial was opened for Type I (the severest form of SMA) patients. In 2015 the number of drugs and therapies has greatly expanded and are entering different phases of clinical trials. The progress continues and the hope for a cure becomes more real.*

**Working to improve Quality of Care:** *There have been amazing advances in care options for children with SMA in the past few years. Two major contributions are advancements in respiratory care and nutritional management. SMA Angels Charity, Inc. has been proactive in working to bring these important issues to the forefront. We are currently supporting two research projects studying nutrition and improvements in daily care options for children with SMA.*

### ADVISORY BOARD

#### FINANCIAL ADVISOR

Mike Odom

#### MEDICAL ADVISORS

Eric Pearlman, M.D.

#### SMA ADVISOR

Dana Swanson

**Angel Wings Arm Slings Project:** *Many children with SMA Type 1 cannot lift their arms. Our charity designed and constructs a PVC gym with an arm sling attached. It helps children have the ability to play independently. We give them as gifts to families all over the United States and abroad.*

**Local Support:** *We pride ourselves in our service to local SMA families by providing support, medical supplies, diapers, and Christmas gifts. We sponsor families to attend SMA conferences and try to help improve the quality of life of children with SMA.*

**Advocates and Educators:** *Members of our Charity serve as advocates both locally and nationally. We travel to Washington DC each year and meet with our Senators and Congressmen to share information and discuss Spinal Muscular Atrophy. We attend conferences, work with physicians who specialize in SMA, and participate on national and international committees. We are committed to educating our community and sharing the knowledge we learn with families and health care professionals.*

*Thank you for taking the time to learn more about our charity. We hope you will be inspired to lend your support to our cause. Your support will enable us to continue this important work.*

## Joining Together To Cure SMA

P.O. Box 308 Richmond Hill, Georgia 31324 • phone (912)727-4SMA • fax (912)727-2698

Website: [www.smaangels.org](http://www.smaangels.org) • e-mail: [smacharity@aol.com](mailto:smacharity@aol.com)

501 c3 organization #58-2562501