

## **Gary Tramontina**

Gary Tramontina is a Pittsburgh native who has been earning a living as a photographer since 1982. He attended the Art Institute of Pittsburgh and the University of Pittsburgh. He was a staff photographer for United Press International and for the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center before becoming exclusively freelance in 1994. His photographic experience is broad and varied, including more than 1,000 assignments for the Associated Press.

He has covered events ranging from the 9/11 crash of United Flight 93, to the professional bass fishing tour, and to the world's first successful cross-species organ transplant. His career has taken him across the breadth of America and abroad -- from the funeral of Andy Warhol to the legendary Groundhog Day; from the Kentucky Derby to the Super Bowl; from olive groves in Greece to the streets of Istanbul. He has photographed every U.S. president since Ronald Reagan, and celebrities as diverse as Michael Jordan, Madonna and Mr. Rogers.

His work has appeared on the pages of newspapers across the world; in magazines such as Time, Newsweek, U.S. News and Stern; and in books such as "America's Heroes" and "Alabama 24/7." His current clients include the New York Times, USA Today, ESPN, the University of Alabama at Birmingham, Getty Images, Polaris Images, Corbis, the Mario Lemieux Foundation and Bloomberg News. After learning about the work of RUSH Initiative, Gary saw an undeniable opportunity - to step into the homes of families RUSH serves with its First Teacher@home (a family centered literacy preschool program) and give the viewer an intimacy with these families through photographs. With dignity and respect, he offers access to a world known well by those trapped within it and seen by few who are not. This is not some Third World country, it's "Just Down the Road".

Gary Tramontina lives in Birmingham, Alabama, with his wife, Birmingham News editorial writer and columnist Robin DeMonia.