

www.TylerTCF.org

Thanks to Skillern's Business Systems for printing our newsletter!

Skillern's Business Systems 1604 Grande Blvd., Tyler, TX 75703 903-561-5591 • www.skillerns.com

IMPORTANT NOTICE: We have a NEW meeting location! Please join us at 17555 Hwy. 155 S. (off Loop 49), Flint, TX 75762. We hope to see you at our next meeting!











Volume 18, Issue 4

Tyler, Texas

April 2017

Monthly Group Meeting

Tyler Area Meeting 17555 Hwy. 155 S.

(off Loop 49) Flint, TX 75762

Contact

Phone: (903) 422-0358 www.TylerTCF.org • info@TylerTCF.org P.O. Box 9714 • Tyler, TX 75711

Co-Chapter Leaders..... Cheri Zucca & Trish Mann Taylor SecretaryTrish Mann Taylor Newsletter/WebsiteMary Lingle Tyler Meeting Facilitators: Leslie & Don Dixon

Steering Committee: David & Teresa Terrell, Mary Lingle, Lisa Schoonover, Cheri Zucca, Don & Leslie Dixon, Janet Majors, Trisha Mann Taylor, Barbara Barton, Heather Ogg

Joan & Bill Campbell, Regional Coordinators: (972) 935-0673 TCF National: (877) 969-0010 www.compassionatefriends.org

The Meeting Agenda

6:30 p.m. - Meeting will begin with refreshments followed by announcement of birthdays and anniversaries and reading of the Credo. We will then have open discussion.

8:00 p.m. - Meeting will close by recognizing our childrens' names. Feel free to visit after the meeting or check out books from our library.

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Butterfly Release

Butterflies will be released in memory of all our children at the 2017 Compassionate Friends Butterfly Release set for Saturday, May 20 at 1 p.m.

The setting for this uplifting and peaceful event will be at The Children's Park, corner of Dobbs and Broadway in Tyler. Volunteers are needed at 8 a.m. on Saturday for setup and after the program for take down. We hope you'll join us for refreshments after the ceremony.

No silent auction will be held this year, rather will be selling raffle tickets for your chance to win one of many beautiful plants.

Live butterflies are for sale for \$10 each and must be reserved in plenty of time for ordering. Please send your check and reservation information to TCF at P.O. Box 9714, Tyler, Texas 75711. Reserved butterflies will be picked up for release the day of the event.

Colorful solid-painted wooden butterflies will be sold for \$20 each at the Butterfly Release; we are not taking special orders for personalized butterflies this year.

We look forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones at the Butterfly Release! Your presence means everything to this very special event!

Our 2017 **Butterfly Release T-Shirts!**





Pre-Registration is required this year for your child to be included in the butterfly garden. Please, fill & cut out the form below and mail to PO Box 9714, Tyler, Tx 75711 no later than April 30th. If you are purchasing live butterflies or tshirt mail your check with the form below.

Child's/Children's name(s):	
	_(required)
# of butterflies to purchase(\$10 ea); # of T-shirt's to purchase_	(\$20 ea)
Shirt sizes:	
Your name:	(required

The mission of The Compassionate Friends is to assist families toward the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child of any age and to provide information to help others be supportive.



"As my Compassionate Friends and I have found, with proper grief work over time, the intensity of our feelings has softened. This will happen for you, as well. In the meantime, be gentle with yourself. And remember, "you need not walk alone." —Paula Funk

Welcome

We extend a warm welcome to those who attended their first TCF meeting last month.

We deeply regret the circumstances that brought you to our TCF Chapter. The Compassionate Friends is a mutual assistance, not-for-profit, self-help organization that offers support and understanding to families who have experienced the death of a child. You are cordially invited to attend our monthly meeting (held the third Monday of the month). The meeting is open to everyone and free of charge. You are free to talk, cry or to sit in silence; we respect the individuality of mourning. Comments shared in the meetings remain confidential.

Our chapter is operated entirely by volunteers dedicated to furthering the work of TCF. Your voluntary, tax deductible donations honor your loved one(s) in a meaningful way by enabling us to print and mail this newsletter and meet other expenses involved in reaching out to other grieving families (100% of funds are used for this outreach). Donations, along with the name of the person being honored, may be sent to:

The Compassionate Friends of Tyler P.O. Box 9714 Tyler, Texas 75711

To Our New Members

Coming to your first meeting is the hardest thing to do. But, you have nothing to lose and much to gain. Try not to judge your first meeting as to whether or not TCF will work for you. The second, third or fourth meeting might be the time you will find the right person—or just the right words spoken that will help you in your grief work.

To Our Old Members

We need your encouragement and support. You are the string that ties our group together and the glue that makes it stick. Each meeting we have new parents. Think back—what would it have been like for you if there had not been any "oldies" to welcome you, share your grief and encourage you? It was from them you heard, "Your pain will not always be this bad; it really does get softer."

Grief Resources

Note: Some resources are based on individual opinion and experience and are not officially endorsed by the organization. The hope is that you may find a grief resource helpful to you and your family. We will continue to build on our resources column. Please let us know of any of your personal recommendations. Thank you.

Compassionate Friends (International Website) compassionatefriends.org Also offers grief support for **siblings** & **grandparents**

Children Are A Gift Foundation: www.childrenareagift.com

GriefShare: www.griefshare.org

MADD East Texas (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) www.madd.org/local-offices/tx/east-texas

Smith County Victim Services Division www.tdcj.state.tx.us/divisions/vs/counties/smith.html

The Hospice of East Texas: www.hospiceofeasttexas.org

Victim Services Division - Texas Department of Criminal Justice - Online Resource Directory www.tdci.state.tx.us/divisions/vs

Survivors of Suicide: www.allianceofhope.org

Samaritan Counseling of Tyler: www.scctyler.org

Tyler Counseling & Assessment, LLP: www.tyler-counseling.com

Angel Layettes brings comfort to families grieving over the loss of an infant from miscarriage, stillbirth or death shortly after birth, and honor and dignity to the memory of the precious baby. Angel Layettes provides without charge custom designed burial layettes and keepsakes.angellayettes.org • 903-534-5212

University of Texas at Tyler Psychology and Counseling and Training Clinic: 903-593-2348

The Cope Foundation: www.copefoundation.org

Grief Camps for Kids: www.moyerfoundation.org/programs

WINGS was established through Hospice of East Texas in 1993 to help children navigate the grieving process. WINGS, "a comprehensive bereavement program that provides both emotional support and grief education," offers a camp (Camp G – grieve, grow and go forward) twice a year. For more information or to register for a grief support program, contact the Hospice of East Texas Bereavement Department at 903-266-3400 (Extension 127) or call 1-800-777-9860.

Group Meetings for Survivors of Trauma and Survivors of Suicide Loss, sponsored by Michael's House of Hope at the New Life Worship Center, 18535 Hwy. 69 S., Tyler, room 620. Call Dr. Timothy M. Roddam at 903-681-3161 for more information. Survivors of Trauma meets the the second Thursday of each month from 6-7 p.m.



We're on Facebook! Search for The Compassionate Friends of Tyler and Like our page.



(Signature)



The Compassionate Friends 2

The Compassionate Friends of Tyler

P.O. Box 9714 Tyler, TX 75711

We are happy to send our newsletter to you. We hope that it is helpful to you to be kept informed of chapter resources and activities and that you still wish to receive our newsletters that contain excellent material relating to grief issues.

To keep our mailing list current, we do ask to hear from you each year making sure that our information is correct and that you still wish to receive our mailings. If we did not hear from you in the last year please indicate any appropriate choices below and return the form to the address at the bottom of this page.

Your Name:				
		Relationship:		
Birth Date:	Death Date:	Cause	of Death:	
Address:				
			Zip:	
Home Telephone:				
Please check any of follo	wing that apply:			
☐ Due to the rising cost	of postage, please send newsletters	via email. My email a	ddress is	
☐ I prefer not to receive address you have on file		uld like to continue ha	ving a hard copy sent to the mailing	
☐ Please update my mai	ling address:			
☐ No thank you, I'd pre	fer to stop receiving the newsletter	. (Newsletters are post	ed monthly on our webite.)	
☐ Please include my child	d's name and picture in the slide pres	entation at the Candle L	ighting Ceremony.	
☐ Please include my child	d's picture and information on the TC	CF Tyler Web site. (www	v.TylerTCF.org)	
☐ I am enclosing a memo	orial to support The Compassionate F	riends in the amount of		
☐ In memory of			Please make check payable to TCF	
	☐ TCF Newsletter ☐ Butterfly Relea			
The continuation of this chory of your child please co	napter's work depends on donations. onsider taking this time to give a gift	If you have not taken the that will help reach out	e opportunity to give a donation in mem- to other newly bereaved parents.	
Lighting Ceremony or any		e withdrawn at any time	ure in the newsletter, Web site, Candle by written request. This information is er activities such as the newsletter	

Please return completed form to: The Compassionate Friends of Tyler, P.O. Box 9714, Tyler, TX 75711

Date:

"That's what Compassionate Friends do—they help to bring our children into our lives even though our children are no longer alive. For a few hours each month, our children return to us." —Annette Mennen Baldwin

🤏 We need not walk alone.

"Perhaps laughter is also the beginning of Nature's way of mending, of healing us." —Dave Ziv

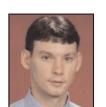
April Birthdays



Matthew Thomas Crooks



Christopher Loper







Daniel Wayne Thornton





Jarren Moser

John Patrick

Carnahan

Kaila McKinsev

Payne

Cheyenne Ramirez

Christopher Baggett



Kyle Monroe

Leon Wayne Lasiter

James Permenter



Jeremy Newman



Timothy Treadwell



Pablo Salinas



Brady Bryant



Brian St. Clair



Wayne Clinton **Davis**



James Lee Lary, II Collin Ray Sheffield





Joel Tucker





Margie Starkey





Maryn McIntire



Russell McGilvray



Isaih Eli Moa



Joe Maland

Cameron Lee

Robinson



Derek Nolan

Simoneaux





Joshua Walker

Continued on next page.

Grief and Marriage

When our son was killed, I remember thinking through the haze of pain that this most horrifying of life experiences would somehow bring us closer. Sharing the loss of a child created and loved by both of us for twenty years would surely deepen the bond between us. I was in for a surprise.

We clung almost blindly to each other until the shock began to give way to ugly reality. As we each moved to our individual pattern of grieving, differences began to emerge. I felt like a time bomb about to explode. I needed desperately to talk about our son. My husband refused to verbalize his feelings and became angry at my overtures. I stopped trying to communicate This was beyond my comprehension. Where was my helpmate, my best friend? I felt rejected, unloved and terribly alone. Anger overwhelmed me as I literally realized that I wasn't going to be able to share my grieving with the person who meant the most to me in the world. I knew that many marriages fail after the death of a child. Dear God, how could we possibly survive an additional tragedy?

We attended a few Compassionate Friends meetings, and then I continued alone. The gentle acceptance of others who had lost children permitted me to talk or cry without guilt. Our problem was definitely not unique; many other parents expressed similar frustrations. So many couples experience marital difficulties after the death of a child that it is now considered the norm. We weren't going crazy; and just because our grieving styles were different didn't mean that our whole marriage would fall apart. My anger began to dissipate as I slowly faced the fact that I had been placing unrealistic expectations on my husband. Hurting at least as much as I, he simply could not meet my needs for support.

Much later, the knowledge that support had been there all along from my friends if I had only asked for it saddened me. I had to admit that I simply had been too proud to reveal myself as a suffering person in need of help.

I will be forever grateful to Compassionate Friends for being there with loving, open arms. We began to have some honest discussions, agreeing that we needed each other's nurturing in order to survive and find meaning in life. We learned to respect each other's feelings. We tried to please each other in little ways: a hug, a special meal, anything that expressed caring. Patience with each other smoothed over many rough moments.

Time spent alone or together was very healing. It took a conscious decision from both of us to try harder. Some days, we didn't have any energy left when grief was particularly painful. It wasn't always easy as we couldn't talk about our son for a long time.

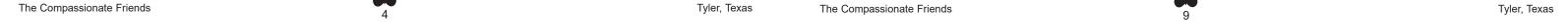
As I look back, I see that ignorance of grief and the impact it can have on a marriage was the basis for our problems. But in retrospect, how could we possibly have been prepared for the onslaught of paralyzing emotions that overwhelmed us? Anguish of this intensity can reveal a spouse you've never seen before. Deeply wounded, both of you will be inevitably changed from the experience of losing a child. Back then, understanding these simple facts would have immeasurably helped us.

Pat Retzloff, TCF Oshkosh, WI

The Wounded Heart

Children have preceded their parents in death for eons of time. We are not the first, nor will we be the last to enter the realm of "Bereaved Parents." But for now—right now—it is OUR HEARTS that are freshly wounded and OUR HEARTS in need of mending. Wounded hearts must be allowed to mourn and lament their loss, to pour out their pain, agony, sadness, hurt and anger, and to release their well of tears. Wounded hearts need to be wrapped in quietness, gentleness and compassion, away from the turmoil of daily life. A wounded heart not allowed to mend from the depth of its agony, will be an abscess—to swell and undermine—erupting at a distant time. Or, suppressed, it will slowly choke the spirit of its host. Only the bearer will know when his heart has healed. The wounded heart, encouraged and given time and freedom to mend, will carry in its chambers the memory and shared love of a precious child.

Nancy G., TCF Livonia, MI



"Each of us has the same opportunities now as we had before. We can permit time to simply pass, or we can work to mold its passage into constructive growth." —Don Hackett

April Anniversaries Cont.







Stephanie Carol Hester



Bobby Knott







Patrick Bowman



Sydney Jane Farris



Caleb Herrera



Zain Hussain



Tommy Gresham



Melinda Orr







Colin Ray Sheffield



Trisha Thomas



Vanessa Wilcox





Kathryn Michelle Grimes



Jiree Mobley

Please share your stories, poems or love messages for inclusion in our newsletter.

5th Annual For The Love of Alex... **Stop Texting and Driving**

race will be held at Lonestar Speedway on Saturday, April 29, 2017.





"To spare oneself from grief at all cost can be achieved only at the price of total detachment, which excludes the ability to experience happiness.

When A Child Dies

When the thing that one only imagines—actually happens, you discover very quickly that you have a difficult time speaking about it. People who have lost a child, including myself, act in all kinds of weird ways in order to deny the awful truth—not just because of the awful pain of losing a person they loved—many of us have lost parents, mates and friends, and no matter how painful, it's just not the same. But because what has happened is so unnatural, so against the necessary order of things, that we cannot accept it—it is almost beyond our comprehension that children should die before the adults. It contradicts history, violates basic physics, and so, when we lose a child or children, life seems to lose all meaning. We are changed forever.

Anne D., TCF Oklahoma City, OK

Remember

"When you remember me, it means that you have carried something of who I am with you, that I have left some mark of who I am on who you are. It means that you can summon me back to your mind even though countless years and miles may stand between us. It means that if we meet again, you will know me. It means that even after I died, you can still see my face and hear my voice and speak to me in your heart."

Frederick Buechner, Whistling in the Dark: A Doubter's Dictionary

Thanks for your donations and continued support of TCF of Tyler.

In loving memory of **Lindsey Barton by Barbara Barton**



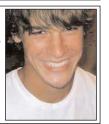
In loving memory of Alex Conway by Robert & Trisha **Taylor**



In loving memory o **Andy Terrell by David & Teresa Terrell**



In loving memory of Chris O'Leary by Merri Walsh



In loving memory of Leah Zucca by Jim & Cheri Zucca



In loving memory of Chad Cavazos by **Dale Cavazos**



In loving memory of **Christopher Loper** by Tina Loper



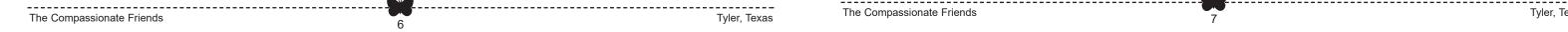
In loving memory of Jared Sheets by Carol & Shane Johnson



In loving memory of **Stephanie Settle by Danny & Pat Settle**



Please share your stories, poems or love messages for inclusion in our newsletter.



"Know that someday you will once again welcome spring. Be gentle and patient with yourself and with nature. Don't expect too much. Be ready to let a little of the hope that spring can offer into your heart." —Evelyn B.

.....

We need not walk alone.

"He that conceals his grief finds no remedy for it." —Turkish Proverb

Grief and Anger

In our chapter meeting this month we will be discussing anger in our grief. Many experience anger after their child or loved one dies. A description of anger is "A feeling of rage, an emotional agitation to what is viewed as unfair, unjust and sometimes even shameful."

When we are angry we need a target. Sometimes the target may be God. (He understands.) Some may even feel anger at their child or loved one, thinking, "How could he/she leave me like this? Why? Doesn't he/she know I'm hurting and in pain?" Some people are angry at the doctors, some at the funeral directors, some even feel anger toward themselves, thinking they could have done something to prevent the death.

We may even be angry at our spouse. He/she may not grieve the same way and we may misunderstand their feelings that are just as deep as our own. Maybe our clergyman is not as compassionate as we believe they should be, or maybe they were not available to us at all. We are angry because we feel abandoned and that life is unfair. We also feel very alone and no longer in control of our emotions. We may also think nothing will ever be the same, and it won't. But as time goes on, it does get somewhat easier as you work through your grief.

We all try at times to not let this anger show to others, but suppressing it can only lead to sickness and withdrawal. Masking anger will often hurt the ones around you and may even drive them away from you. You may even risk losing your closest support system.

Dealing with your anger and admitting it and also seeking help from others who have experienced this feeling is always the healthy thing to do. Personally, talking has been the best help for me. Attending a Compassionate Friends meeting and talking to others who have "been there" has helped many.

Jackie Wesley, TCF East Central Indiana & Miami-Whitewater Chapters Frederick B., TCF "Whistling in the Dark" Houston West Chapter

Alex Conway

In loving memory of Alex

Robert & Trisha Taylor



This month's newsletter is sponsored by Robert & Trisha Taylor. Newsletter sponsorship is \$75. Contact us if you'd like to be a sponsor in memory of your loved one.

April Birthdays Cont.



Jason Bollard



Kathryn Michelle **Grimes**



Castleberry



Ana Danniel Franklin



Jordan Deon Mims



Noah Bass



Jennifer Musick



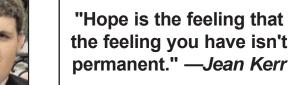
Kappy Lane Kolb



Megan Parrish



Patrick Bowman April Anniversaries

















Quinn Martin









Deanna Holcomb



Joshua Carl Tucker



Zackery Browne





Alexandria Conway



Ashley Allison

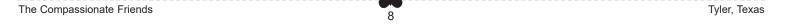








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The Compassionate Friends



"Give me strength to break out of the cocoon of my grief. But may I never forget it is the place where I grew my wings, becoming a new person because of mv loss." —Janice H.

Three Angels By B. Walker

Three angels came in a dream one night Standing in a row. I looked upon the first of them and my tears began to flow.

"I came for him," the angel said. "I know it broke your heart. The young and noble, fair of face— They never should depart." A glistening tear upon her cheek that sparkled as the dew, Showed me she understood my pain as she added, "God loves you."

The second angel bowed her head. repentant in her strife. She said she'd been appointed to quard him all his life. "The Master had a different plan, and He is in control. The time had come, the hour arose. When God would free his soul."

The pain pierced wildly in my heart And crying with loud voice, I screamed. "I praved always for him! So why was this God's choice?"

The third of angels raised his head, A radiance all around... I saw his face in change and form and my heart began to pound! There was my son, with the biggest smile! He said, "Oh Mom, don't weep! I see you in your tears and pain, An angel's watch I keep. I'm sorry its so hard for you On earth without me there. But my love is with you always and God and I do care. I'll help you take each tiny step and lift you from your sorrow; And very soon we'll get to hug! It will seem just like tomorrow! Please look for me in all the things Of beauty that you see, For I live on in love and peace— I am forever free!"

I felt a calm, unlike before.

and wiped the tears away. I said, "I love you" and woke up... to face another day.

Spring Thaws The Wounded Heart

Alice J. Wisler Inspired by the life of Daniel Paul Wisler 8-25-92 to 2-2-97

> That first spring came too soon why did daffodils show sunny faces around the grave stone why did warm breezes blow clouds away my world, a gray dismal had no room for this season. Now years later the blossoms of love, hope and healing have broken through grounds of utter despair warmed by memories of you I ioin the daffodils bringing my own smile.

The Comfort My Heat Holds

My heart is so very grateful For the pictures in my mind. The precious thoughts and memories My grandson left behind.

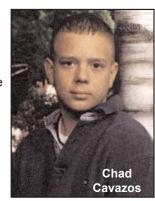
> The pain that grips my heart Is quieted by the joy Of things he said and did While just a growing boy.

I long to have him here once more And watch him as he grows.

Yet, the joyful life he has now Is the comfort my heart holds.

Not one single day goes by Without a thought of him. In time and with God's loving grace This pain will grow more dim.

In memory of Chad Cavazos by his grandmother, Patsy Murray, TCF Tyler, TX





"But eventually we must seek balance, finds ways of coping with our soul-shattering loss and ground ourselves in our new reality. The Compassionate Friends has done all of that for me. But, I had to take the first step." —Annette Mennen Baldwin

Love Gifts



Thanks to the following people who make a MONTHLY **LOVE GIFT to TCF of Tyler:**

> (For monthly donors we will post photos of your children.)

Merri Walsh in memory of Chris O'Leary - rent Carol & Shane Johnson in memory of Jared Sheets - rent Danny & Pat Settle in memory of Stephanie - rent

Jim & Cheri Zucca in memory of Leah - rent

Robert & Trisha Taylor in memory of Alex Conway - rent Barbara Barton in memory of Lindsey - rent

Dale & Phyllis Cavazos in memory of Chad - newsletter

Tina, Johnathan & Heather Loper in memory of Christopher - TCF Phone

David & Teresa Terrell in memory of Andy use of a storage building

See more love gifts on page 7.



Newsletter Submissions

TCF Tyler welcomes all submissions to our newsletter. Send articles, poetry, love messages and scanned photos to: The Compassionate Friends of Tyler, P.O. Box 9714, Tyler, Texas 75711. Or e-mail text and photos to: info@TylerTCF.org; We reserve the right to edit for space and/or content.

Deadline for submissions is the 5th of each month. TCF Chapters may copy articles from this publication provided credit is given to the author and the original source.

Errors and Omissions: We try very hard to be sure that all of the names and dates of our children are correct. If you see an error in the newsletter, please contact TCF at 903-422-0358. We want to get it right and will correct the information for future use. Thanks very much.

Email Addresses: If we do not have your email address or it has changed, please email it to info@tylertcf.org so that we may email you announcements and updates about TCF of Tyler.

Sign up for email notifications of events and to be notified when the newsletter is posted online at: www.tylertcf.org

Announcements

NEW MEETING PLACE! The new meeting location is 17555 Hwy. 155 S. (off Loop 49), Flint, TX 75762. Our meeting is held on the third Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. For more information, please call 903-422-0358.

Steering Committee Meeting: If you are interested in participating in our chapter by serving on the steering committee, please plan to attend a steering committee meeting. Anyone who would like to become more involved in TCF and serve on the steering committee is welcome to come! Steering meetings are every third Thursday at 11:45 a.m. at Fuzzy Taco Shop (working lunch) located at 1871 Troup Hwy., Tyler, TX 75709.

News from National: Compassionate Friends National offers webinars for the public on grief related topics. Upcoming public webinars will include Death of a Child By Suicide, Pregnancy and Infant Loss, The Death of a Special Needs Child and How Can I Help When A Child Dies? Check out www.compassionatefriends.org for dates and times.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!

Dear TCF Members,

As always, we welcome volunteers to serve in any capacity within our group, including sending out birthday and anniversary cards each month. We would like to get two people per month, as it's getting to be a lot for one person to do.

Sincerely, Cheri & Trisha

Join us for our Annual Butterfly Release in May!



