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**IMPORTANT NOTICE: Our newsletters are now posted online at TylerTCF.org. Please review our form on page 11 regarding your options on receiving our newsletter. We will continue to send a printed version to anyone who does not have access to the Internet.**

*We need not walk alone.*



Tyler, Texas 75711  
P.O. Box 9714

**THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS**



**The Compassionate Friends**

Supporting Family After a Child Dies



*We need not walk alone.*

**Volume 17, Issue 12**

**Tyler, Texas**

**December 2016**

**Monthly Group Meeting**

**Tyler Area Meeting**

3rd Monday of Each Month  
1901 Rickety Ln., Tyler

**Contact**

Phone: (903) 258-2547  
www.TylerTCF.org • info@TylerTCF.org  
P.O. Box 9714 • Tyler, TX 75711

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

Steering Committee: Sam Smith, David & Teresa Terrell, Mary Lingle, Lisa Schoonover, Cheri Zucca, Ellen Jenkins, Pam Pickett, Don & Leslie Dixon, Janet Majors, MaryAnn Girard, 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.

**In This Issue...**

Welcome .....2  
Grief Resources .....2  
Announcements .....3  
Birthdays .....4-5  
Anniversaries .....5-6  
The Gift of the TCF Worldwide Candle Lighting.....6  
I Am Your Sister and Always Will Be ....7  
Donations .....7  
It's Okay to Grieve .....8  
Newsletter Sponsor .....8  
Take Your Time.....9  
Survivors of Suicide .....9  
Poems .....10

**Annual Candle Lighting Memorial**

Our Annual Candle Lighting Ceremony will be Sunday, Dec. 11, 2016 at Crossroads Community Church, 13730 Hwy 155 South, Tyler. The service begins at 6:30 p.m. This year, canned food for the food pantry at our host church. as well as new toys will be collected at the Candle Lighting.

This is a great way to meet and get to know the members of The Compassionate Friends. Getting involved will likely help you as well as the other members! Everyone is needed and welcomed! Please consider bringing a finger food of your choice. We need everything from sandwiches and chips to sweets and drinks. Your contribution will be appreciated and enjoyed on this special evening. **If you would like to help with the Candle Lighting set up, Saturday, the day before the event, take down and anything in between, please call the TCF line at 903-258-2547. Thank you!**

**Candles in the Night**

A heart broken by the death of a child can never be healed. As parents we try every way that can be thought of to cope with the loss, but the void will always be there. At first that emptiness seems to take your breath away and most times we wish it would.

This becomes different with the passage of time. It never goes away, but at some point we learn to live with it, and in fact this horrible feeling becomes a lifeline of sorts. One of our biggest fears is to forget our children. Forget how they looked or how their voices sounded. The smiles and tears that blur together to make a child. This emptiness in effect becomes a constant yearning to remember our children.

Our hearts force us to find ways to fill that void to maintain our role as parents. Some are as simple as visiting the cemetery and some are as complex as changing our entire lives, dedicated to the memory of our child. In between are the many rituals we create or borrow from others to honor the memories and to keep our child's name alive.

Lighting a candle and saying a child's name keeps their memory burning bright. It means we are struggling to cope with this unwanted role of bereaved parent in the only positive manner we can. We will most certainly shed tears every time and we will still miss our child, but we are doing something that allows the world to hear our child's name and for that one moment the candle means so much more than anyone else could ever understand.

For a fleeting second that is our universe and every memory we have comes flooding back to us as we see the flame through tears, distorting it into something magical. It's the only gift we can give our children. This is as close as we can get to our child now. A tiny, flickering flame that can warm the heart and it's nice to think that perhaps they can see it also. It's a beacon, our light in the window, our shining star in the darkness. It's an opening of our hearts and a way to share our grief.

We gather to honor the memories of our children and to share this bond of lighting a candle for the children all over the world. We miss them so much.

*Jim Lowery, Sugar Land/SW Houston TCF Houston, TX*

**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.



We need not walk alone.

"I have learned two lessons in my life: first, there are no sufficient literary, psychological or historical answers to human tragedy, only moral ones. Second, just as despair can come to one another only from other human beings, hope, too, can be given to one only by other human beings." —Elie Wiesel

### 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](http://compassionatefriends.org)  
Also offers grief support for **siblings & grandparents**

**Children Are A Gift Foundation:** [www.childrenareagift.com](http://www.childrenareagift.com)

**GriefShare:** [www.griefshare.org](http://www.griefshare.org)

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

**Smith County Victim Services Division**  
[www.tdcj.state.tx.us/divisions/vs/counties/smith.html](http://www.tdcj.state.tx.us/divisions/vs/counties/smith.html)

**The Hospice of East Texas:** [www.hospiceofeasttexas.org](http://www.hospiceofeasttexas.org)

**Victim Services Division - Texas Department of Criminal Justice - Online Resource Directory**  
[www.tdcj.state.tx.us/divisions/vs](http://www.tdcj.state.tx.us/divisions/vs)

**Survivors of Suicide:** [www.allianceofhope.org](http://www.allianceofhope.org)

**Samaritan Counseling of Tyler:** [www.scctyler.org](http://www.scctyler.org)

**Tyler Counseling & Assessment, LLP:** [www.tyler-counseling.com](http://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](http://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](http://www.copefoundation.org)

**Grief Camps for Kids:** [www.moyerfoundation.org/programs](http://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 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.



## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Death Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Cause of Death: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Please check any of following that apply:

Due to the rising cost of postage, please send newsletters via email. My email address is \_\_\_\_\_.

I prefer not to receive the newsletter via email and would like to continue having a hard copy sent to the mailing address you have on file for me.

Please update my mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

No thank you, I'd prefer to stop receiving the newsletter. (Newsletters are posted monthly on our website.)

Please include my child's name and picture in the slide presentation at the Candle Lighting Ceremony.

Please include my child's picture and information on the TCF Tyler Web site. ([www.TylerTCF.org](http://www.TylerTCF.org))

I am enclosing a memorial to support The Compassionate Friends in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_  
Please make check payable to TCF

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Please use this gift for:  TCF Newsletter  Butterfly Release  Candle Lighting  TCF Events

The continuation of this chapter's work depends on donations. If you have not taken the opportunity to give a donation in memory of your child please consider taking this time to give a gift that will help reach out to other newly bereaved parents.

We must have your written permission on file to use your child's name and/or picture in the newsletter, Web site, Candle Lighting Ceremony or any other TCF event. Permission may be withdrawn at any time by written request. This information is used to maintain our Chapter Database. It is confidential and is only utilized for Chapter activities such as the newsletter.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(Signature)

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



*We need not walk alone.*

"The Compassionate Friends meeting won't make the pain go away, but it is a place where you can honestly and truly believe when someone says, "I know how you feel." They mean it and their eyes prove it." —Janice Lopez

### December Birthdays



Jonathan Reynolds



Erica Smith



Graham Gill



Zackery Browne



Heath Hopson



Logan Alexander



Renee Seale



Dex Bailey McLean



Daniel Anderson



Christopher John Fisher



Shelby Williams



Amber Drake



Stephanie Settle



Salvador Estrada



Phillip Kuhn



Jessica Noelle Kirkpatrick



Jeremy Simpson Brown



Tamy Land



Tiffany Johnston



Ryszard Spakovsky



Alexander Fleming



Tiffany LeAnn Tanner



Brandon Weatherly



James Rowland Allen



Sarah Harvey



Shannon Scheffler



Ashley McCaa



Taylor Davis



Cory Blackmon



Stephen Townsend



Lindsey LeMon



Dawn Marie Wilson



Burke Warren Lewis



David LaTrell Milton



A.J. Frazier



Lauren Campbell

*Continued on next page.*



*We need not walk alone.*

"Lighting a candle and saying a child's name keeps their memory burning bright." —Jim Lowery

### Take Your Time

One of the hardest things about grief is the so-called "time table." You are told you should be feeling one way or the other. You are given a time to mourn by the outside world, and then you must be "over it." "Get on with your life." "Count your blessings."

All of this can make you both angry and afraid. Angry because (a) you don't WANT to "get over it," (b) you are "getting on" with your life in the best way you know how, and (c) your "blessings" have nothing whatsoever to do with the pain of your loss! Afraid because you are not having some of the feelings you think you should be having because you are not reacting "normally." There is a period of extreme shock that can last from a few weeks to several months; you may not feel anything except numbness for awhile. That's OK!

The best advice is...take your time. Be gentle with yourself. Do what you need to do, not what you think you should do. Don't clutter up your life with things that will exhaust you physically and weaken you emotionally. Remember, you are fighting the hardest battle you will ever have to face, so give yourself the best weapons you can.

Rest, get in touch with your feelings, and talk. Say your child's name to anyone who will listen...take time...your time...to heal.

*Sandra Young, TCF Knoxville, TN*

### Survivors of Suicide

Parents and siblings of a young person who has completed suicide face an almost overwhelming burden of emotions. It is one of the cruelest tragedies that can happen to a family. To pull oneself out of the emotional wreckage is a mighty struggle. Each parent can be utterly devastated and unable to be supportive to their mate or to surviving children. Other family members are shocked and unable to cope with the event. They do not know how to console or help us. Our friends wonder, "How could such a thing happen?" They too, do not know how to help us. We struggle with the "Whys?"...the unanswered questions and painful memories.

We, who count ourselves as survivors—we've made it a year, two years, some of us are in the third year—would like to share a few thoughts. First, you are not alone. We understand whatever you may be feeling for we have been there! Suicide can intensify the feelings of shock, denial, guilt, anger, depression—all a part of the grief process. The course of recovery is up and down. Give yourself plenty of time. You need a great deal of support, at least through the first year. The suicide of one's child raises painful questions and doubts and fears. We can find ourselves in a spiritual crisis. We question our beliefs and may feel cut off from God. Through sharing with others and listening to others who have walked the same path, you may gain some understanding of your reactions and learn some ways to cope.

But most of all, we, who are in the process of rebuilding our lives, have not forgotten the dark hours of those early days and weeks when we thought we could not live again. We cannot offer you any shortcut through the pain. There isn't any. But you can help yourself along the way to healing. We can offer you support, encouragement, and the hand of friendship.

*JoAnn Dodson, TCF Louisville, KY*





*We need not walk alone.*

"We cannot offer you any shortcut through the pain. There isn't any. But you can help yourself along the way to healing. We can offer you support, encouragement, and the hand of friendship." —*JoAnn Dodson*

**December Anniversaries Cont.**



Tanner Douglas



Cashley Jackson

**Calling all volunteers for the Candle Lighting in December!**

Please contact us at 903-258-2547 or [info@tylertcf.org](mailto:info@tylertcf.org) if you'd like to help this year!

**The Gift of the TCF Worldwide Candle Lighting**

May 11, 1995, 45 years after I had taken my first breath of life, would now sadly and incomprehensibly mark my precious daughter's last. On a blisteringly hot day, six of our family vacationed in Orlando on a freeway many hundreds of miles from our home in Minnesota. An alcohol-impaired driver fell asleep at the wheel crashing into the side of the car where Nina was seated thereby ending the promising life of my vibrantly beautiful 15-year-old daughter, killing her instantly. A week that began in joyful family togetherness ended in unspeakable tragedy.

Brokenhearted, we returned home to begin the daunting task of learning to live without Nina. We catatonically walked through the mind-numbing chore of making arrangements for our daughter's funeral, our house filled with people aiding us however they could. But soon after the service, the silence in our home was deafening. My son wondered aloud where everyone had gone. Though hard to conceive that the sun still rose and set every day; that people continued to work, breathe, laugh and love, I undoubtedly knew the answer to his question; they had returned to the normalcy of their untainted existence while our lives felt irreparably shattered.

While others had gone back to the "real world", even in the midst of my cavernous grief I knew I had to preserve Nina's memory; I needed to find others who also desired their loved ones not be forgotten, realizing that it had to be another bereaved parent. I also needed reassurance there was hope that the raw pain of my loss would not continue forever, and that I was not alone on this most difficult of journeys. Thankfully, the funeral director in our city led me to The Compassionate Friends (TCF), a self-help group for bereaved parents, siblings and grandparents. There I found the support and understanding that I so desperately craved, along with many distinctive, creative ways from seasoned grievers to ensure that Nina would be forever remembered.

This became particularly important as I neared the first Christmas without Nina. They showed me I could bring her into the holiday season she loved so much by attending our chapter's annual holiday candle lighting. A few short years later, I became involved in chapter leadership. During that time, the TCF Worldwide Candle Lighting (WCL) came into existence and culminated into what is believed to be the world's largest candle lighting. Held the second Sunday of December at 7:00 p.m. in each time zone around the world candles are lit for one hour. As the candles burn down in one time zone, they are lit in the next, creating a virtual 24-hour wave of light around the globe.

The past few years I have been the MC for our chapter's program in conjunction with the WCL. From my vantage point, I clearly see each tear-stained face. Though the room is dimly lit in the beginning, as each flame is lit for a child gone too soon, the room gradually becomes bathed in a warm and peaceful glow. The candles are held proudly aloft in a show of fortitude and solidarity, with the belief that our children look down and see our lights of love and hope lifted heavenward, signifying that though gone is the life, never is their light.

The TCF Worldwide Candle Lighting is the gift I give myself (and Nina) each holiday season, and many family members and friends gift me with their presence at the chapter event or light a candle at 7 p.m. in remembrance of Nina. For all of us whose precious children have died it is a beautiful and special way to ensure forevermore "...that their light may always shine."

*With gentle thoughts over the holiday season, and always...*  
*Cathy L. Seehuetter, TCF St. Paul Chapter*



*We need not walk alone.*

"As we walk through this grief of losing our children, we owe no explanations. Our love for our dead children lingers, and in that love is a goodness and purity that allows us to gently be ourselves." —*Annette Mennen Baldwin*

**I Am Your Sister and Always Will Be**

"I am your sister and always will be." That's how Susie signed her cards to me. After a while, she shortened it to, "I am..." And of course I knew the rest of it Susie was two and one-half years younger than I. She was alive one evening talking on the phone to Mom about the Oscars and to Dad about moving. The next day she was found. Whatever it was—it ended her life and changed mine forever.

There was a wonderful side of my sister that I didn't pay enough attention to. She was a kind and loving person, always ready to shelter lost animals and lost souls. When she was in a good mood, her smiles warmed my heart. Yet I spent most of my life wishing that things were different—wishing that she thought more of herself, wishing that she would take my advice, wishing that she were happier, wishing that we could accept each other.

Now, for two years, I've done nothing but wish she were here so we could have another chance to work at our relationship. Now, I wish that I had been able to give her my unconditional love and support. (She needed it and deserved it.) Now, I wish that I could have been with her that night so she would not have been alone. Now, I wish that I would have held her in my arms and told her how very much I loved her. Because, Susie, I am your sister and always will be.

*Michele Walters, TCF Baltimore, MD*

In loving memory of Sarah Kathryn Thompson by Carol Thompson



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

In loving memory of Daniel James Anderson by Kerry & Cheryl Anderson



In loving memory of Alex Conway by Robert & Trisha Taylor



In loving memory of 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.**





*We need not walk alone.*

"From this tangle of emotions, one truth emerged: As long as I choose to embrace the miracles around me, my heart will dance. Whether in the slow dance of grief or skipping to the beat as I cuddle and coo with grandbabies yet to come, hope and joy will emerge in the rhythms of the dance."  
—JoAnne Rademacher

### It's Okay to Grieve

#### It's Okay to Grieve.

The death of a child is a reluctant and drastic amputation, without anesthesia. The pain cannot be described, and no scale can measure the loss. We despise the truth that the death cannot be reversed and, somehow, our dear one returned. Such hurt! It's okay to grieve.

#### It's Okay to Cry.

Tears release the flood of sorrow, of missing and of love. Tears relieve the brute force of hurting, enabling us to level off and continue our cruise along the stream of life. It's okay to cry.

#### It's Okay to Heal.

We do not need to prove we love our child. As the months pass, we are slowly able to move around with less outward grieving each day. We need not feel guilty, for this is not an indication that we love less. It does mean that, although we don't like it, we are learning to accept death. It's a healthy sign of healing. It's okay to heal.

#### It's Okay to Laugh.

Laughter is not a sign of less grief. Laughter is not a sign of less love. It's a sign that many of our thoughts and memories are happy ones. It's a sign that we know our dear one would have us laugh. It's okay to laugh.

*Patricia Lufty Nevitt, TCF Austin, TX*

## Burke Warren Lewis

### In loving memory of Burke

## Martha Sloan Lewis



**This month's newsletter is sponsored by Martha Sloan Lewis.**

Newsletter sponsorship is \$75. Contact us if you'd like to be a sponsor in memory of your loved one.



*We need not walk alone.*

"Next to love, sympathy is the divinest passion of the human heart."  
—Edmund Burke

### December Birthdays Cont.



Gregory Thomas Davis Jr.



Tim Fry



Carmen Leanna Jenkins



Alec Heath Thigpen



Sarah Wheeler



Justin Turbeville



Jennifer Massey



Wrangler Akin



Allison Hiatt



Shelby Williams



Christopher Forzano



Derek Russell

### December Anniversaries



Britney Trahan



Christopher Loper



Felicia Hobbs



Gena Forest



James Fincke



Angela Frazier



Cheryl Graebner Cook



Jocelyn McCormick



Karen Lowe



Mike Loughmiller



Jessica Noelle Kirkpatrick



Tosha Nichole Minatrea



Tamy Land



Ashton Wayne Yates



Alfred Donnell Guthrie, III



Kristi Otteson



Tim Fry



Carmen Leanna Jenkins



Lee Sammons



Theresa Kay Talley



Kelly Ann Campbell



Margie Starkey



Jeremy England



Whitni Danielle Ray

*Continued on next page.*





*We need not walk alone.*

"To be in one's own heart in kindly sympathy with all things; this is the nature of righteousness." —Confucius

### Thirty Years

Thirty years ago today  
On a cold snowy winter day  
You came into my life, my son  
And changed my life in many ways

You taught me unconditional love  
And what a mom should feel  
You taught me compassion in many ways  
The kind only the heart reveals

You taught me how to smile  
When heartprints ruled my days  
You taught me so much laughter  
My love was endless in so many ways

I taught you, as you taught me  
The years flew by too fast  
And then God's Angels called you home  
All I had left, was memories of the past.....

Today's your 30th birthday, Andy  
And I sit here all alone  
Wondering how you're spending yours  
While I spend my at home

Thinking of the ones we had,  
The double birthdays we once shared  
I close my eyes and remember  
It makes my eyes begin to tear

I remember when you were one  
And I was twenty-seven  
If I'd known then, in four years  
God was calling you to heaven.....

I'd held you even more tightly,  
I'd have kissed you even more  
And probably went to school with you  
Each day you went out the door

I'd have tucked you in more tightly  
I'd have read more stories at night  
And had I known what life held  
I'd never let you out of my sight

But none of us knows what life holds  
Or what our future will be  
God gave us five great years  
I treasure those precious memories

Happy Birthday Andy  
I love you with all my heart  
One day again we will share this day  
But for now, I'll share you in my heart

I'll love you forever my son.....  
on air, land, and sea  
and through eternity

*In Memory of Andy Dunbar's 30th birthday  
January 22, 1972-October 24, 1977  
By Mom, Sharon Bryant*



### Lights of Love

Can you see our candles  
Burning in the night?  
Lights of love we send you  
Rays of purest white

Children we remember  
Though missing from our sight  
In honor and remembrance  
We light candles in the night

All across the big blue marble  
Spinning out in space  
Can you see the candles burning  
From this human place?

Oh, angels gone before us  
Who taught us perfect love  
This night the world lights candles  
That you may see them from above

Tonight the globe is lit by love  
Of those who know great sorrow,  
But as we remember our yesterdays  
Let's light one candle for tomorrow

We will not forget,  
And every year in deep December  
On Earth we will light candles  
As . . . we remember

*Jacqueline Brown, Peace Valley TCF New Britain, PA*



*We need not walk alone.*

"It's a beacon, our light in the window, our shining star in the darkness. It's an opening of our hearts and a way to share our grief. We gather to honor the memories of our children and to share this bond of lighting a candle for the children all over the world. We miss them so much." —Jim Lowery

### 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
- 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 903-258-2547. 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](http://www.tylertcf.org)**

### Announcements

**Tyler TCF Meeting:** The meeting in Tyler is held on the third Monday of the month, 6:30 p.m., at 1901 Ricketty Lane in Tyler. For more information, please call 903-258-2547.

**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! For more information about our next meeting, call 903-258-2547.

**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](http://www.compassionatefriends.org) for dates and times.

**Quilt Update:** All squares have now been filled for our final quilt and it's being worked on by MsMary's Quilts.



*...that their light may always shine.*

*Light a candle for all children who have died.  
2nd Sunday in December, 6:30 p.m.*

**Calling all volunteers for the Candle Lighting in December!**

**Please contact us at 903-258-2547 or [info@tylertcf.org](mailto:info@tylertcf.org) if you'd like to help this year!**

