



...that their light may always shine.

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



www.TylerTCF.org

Volunteers wanted!

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 903-422-0358. Thank you!

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

Please join us at 17555 Hwy. 155 S. (off Loop 49), Flint, TX 75762.
We hope to see you at our next meeting!



The Compassionate Friends
Supporting Family After a Child Dies



We need not walk alone.

Volume 19, Issue 12

Tyler, Texas

December 2018

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
Secretary: Trish Mann Taylor
Newsletter/Website: Mary Lingle
Tyler Meeting Facilitators:
Leslie & Don Dixon

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

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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Annual Candle Lighting Ceremony in December

Our Annual Candle Lighting Ceremony will be Sunday, Dec. 9, 2018, 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 903-422-0358. Thank you!

New Shirts for Our Annual Candle Lighting Event



Now taking orders for our 2018 navy shirts. Cost is \$25 and you can pick them up at the ceremony or on Saturday morning, December 8, from 9 am till noon, where we will be setting up for the Sunday event. We appreciate all volunteers! Call or email to place your order: (903) 422-0358 or info@TylerTCF.org

Or, you may fill & cut out the form below and mail your check to P.O. Box 9714, Tyler, TX 75711 to purchase T-Shirts.

Child's/Children's name(s): _____ (required)

Number of T-shirt's to purchase _____ (\$25 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.

We need not walk alone.

P.O. Box 9714
Tyler, Texas 75711

THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS





We need not walk alone.

"Your laughter and joy, your living and compassionate spirit will always be with me, in my memories and in my heart. And though our time together feels so painfully short, I thank God for the time He gave to me, to treasure and cherish." —Selma Calaman

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**

The Childrens Park: www.childrensparktyler.org
Glory Babies meets the third Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at Alison house next to The Children's Park of Tyler: www.glorybabies.com

GriefShare: www.griefshare.org

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.tdcj.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

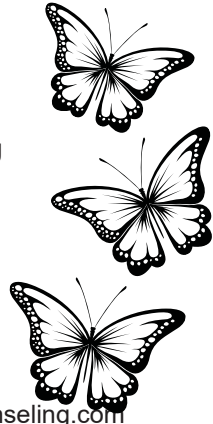
University of Texas at Tyler Psychology and Counseling and Training Clinic: 903-593-2348

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 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)

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.

(Signature) Date: _____

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



We need not walk alone.

"We must learn to live again, love again, feel joy and peace again—or our survival will be without value to ourselves or others." —Renee L.

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



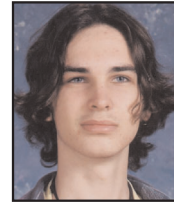
Jeremy Simpson Brown



Tamy Land



Tiffany Johnston



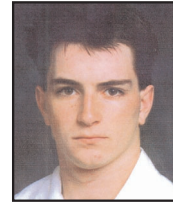
Ryszard Spakovsky



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.

"Is this not our goal, to heal, to find strength to love both yesterday and today? Our children have been the richest part of our lives and today should reflect the grace of that love in all that we are today." —from *We Need Not Walk Alone*

Jared Sheets

**In loving memory
of Jared**

**by James & Linda
Crawford**



This month's newsletter is sponsored by James & Linda Crawford.

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

Christopher Molnari

**In loving memory
of Christopher**

**by Kim & Thomas
Cathey**



This month's newsletter is sponsored by Kim & Thomas Cathey.

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

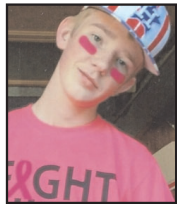




We need not walk alone.

"Walk the grief journey slowly and carefully but bring some of your child's joy for life with you." —Meg Avery

December Anniversaries



Tanner Douglas



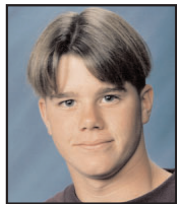
Christopher Loper



Felicia Hobbs



Gena Forest



James Fincke



Angela Frazier



Cheryl Graebner Cook



Jocelyn McCormick



Karen Lowe



Mike Loughmiller



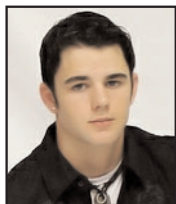
Jessica Noelle Kirkpatrick



Tosha Nichole Minatrea



Tamy Land



Ashton Wayne Yates



Alfred Donnell Guthrie, III



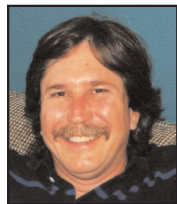
Kristi Otteson



Tim Fry



Carmen Leanna Jenkins



Lee Sammons



Theresa Kay Talley



Kelly Ann Campbell



Margie Starkey



Jeremy England



Whitni Danielle Ray



Matt Thomas Crooks



Joey Green



Jeremy Simpson Brown



Jake Higgins



Lindsey Goen



James Snyman



Gauge Austin Thomas



Scarlet Lynne Smith



Jason Lee Eubank



John Miller



Cashley Jackson



Joshua Wilson

Continued on next page.



We need not walk alone.

"We don't have closure. We have times of growing reality. Reality does not come all at once. We must gradually come to grips with our loss. We go through a time of "real but not real." We know it has happened, but we still think it is a dream and we will soon awaken. Reality develops gradually through many experiences." —Doug Manning

December Anniversaries cont.

Annual Candle Lighting Ceremony in December

If you would like to help with the Candle Lighting, please call the TCF line at 903-422-0358. Thank you!



Jordan Mims



Wrangler Akin



Robin Reynolds



Aaron Yarbrough



Antonia Rothrock



Suzanne Glover



Martha Fields

The seasons change and people change but the heart knows that love stays the same. What we wouldn't give to hear "Hey Mom and Dad, guess what?" We parents all have special moments. They stop our world. And for that moment we're with our child. We cherish the memories and whisper...

WE LOVE YOU...FOREVER!
TCF, Seacoast, NH

Burke Warren Lewis

In loving memory of Burke

by Henry & Martha Lewis



This month's newsletter is sponsored by Henry & Martha 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.

"I have found it to be true that most of the time the anticipation of a holiday is worse than the actual holiday. The best advice is to continue to take this journey one day at a time and to honor the memory of your child in your own way."
—Debra Reagan

Seasons

The change of seasons is difficult. It reminds me that I must change if I am to live again. We can become stuck in our grief, full of self-pity and overwhelmed with pain. I do not believe our children would want us to live the rest of our lives in pain and misery. It is so easy to fall into the "black pit" and never have the strength or courage to crawl out—because crawl out we must...on our bellies...

We are different now, with different priorities and goals. We must find a new purpose for going on, and we must accept the changes in our lives—including ourselves, for we are different now. We cannot go backward, though there are times we yearn to. We must go forward. If we don't, we stay stuck at the point our world changed. I used to say "ended".

Change is difficult. To accept the loss of our child is the most difficult of all. Our comfort comes from believing that the love we share will go on for all eternity and that we will be reunited again—and each day brings us closer. We must learn to live again, love again, feel joy and peace again—or our survival will be without value to ourselves or others.

Renee L., TCF Fort Collins, CO

We hope to see you at the annual TCF Candle Lighting Ceremony in December!

In loving memory of
T.J. Anderson by
Mona Anderson



In loving memory of
Chris O'Leary by
Merri Walsh



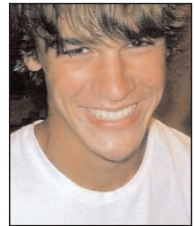
In loving memory of
Alex Conway by
Robert & Trisha
Taylor



In loving memory of
Candice Lingle by
Mary Lingle



In loving memory of
Chris O'Leary by
Merri Walsh



In loving memory of
Leah Zucca by
Jim & Cheri Zucca



In loving memory of
Christopher Loper
by Tina Loper



In loving memory of
Jared Sheets by
Carol & Shane
Johnson



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

In loving memory of
Andy Terrell by
David & Teresa
Terrell



In loving memory of
Chad Cavazos by
Dale Cavazos



In loving memory of
Stephanie Settle by
Danny & Pat Settle



We need not walk alone.

"Whether we cry on the inside or cry on the outside is predetermined by society, our genetics and a host of other factors. But we do cry these beautiful tears for our deceased children. These tears somehow remind us of the connection to our children, their departure and our deep, deep loss." —Annette Mennen Baldwin

December Birthdays Cont.



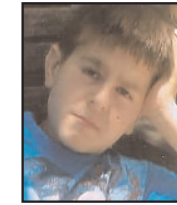
Gregory Thomas
Davis Jr.



Tim Fry



Carmen Leanna
enkins



Alec Heath
Thigpen



Sarah Wheeler



Justin Turbeville



Jennifer Massey



Wrangler Akin



Allison Hiett



Shelby Williams



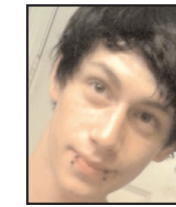
Christopher Forzano



Derek Russell



Britney Trahan



Kaleb Mize



Kevin Paul Elbert



Zayin Wells

Tanner Douglas

In loving memory of Tanner

by Michael & Heather Ogg



This month's newsletter is sponsored by Michael & Heather Ogg.

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.

"No matter where you are in your journey toward healing, bolster the hope that arises within you. Your healing is probably the best memorial you may erect to your dead child!" —Robert Gloor

As I sit in Silence

It all replays time and time again
Nothing I say
Nothing I do
Will change the fact that
I will always miss you.

Your life was never perfect
Nor was I to you.
You deserved so much better
Than what was given to you

The love I have for you
Will never go away
You will always be my baby and
No matter how much time passes
I promise you will never
Fade away...

It's almost been three years
Since you left me
And my eyes were filled with tears.
I would give anything
For this all to be different
So I could become more coherent
In life is now

I know I will be with you again one day
But right now it feels like that time
Is so long away...

*Written By: Heather Ogg
In memory of Tanner Michael Douglas
10/26/99-12/03/15*

First Christmas

It can't possibly be Christmas without her being here.
Yet the world is singing 'round me, joyful tidings and good cheer.

Though I try to put on armor and brave the sights and sounds,
a few moments worth of shopping, and the tears are spilling down.

I pray for strength to do it, find a path through holidays,
look for shortcuts, good ideas, some directions through the maze.

Then I find at last the answer: I'll include her symbolically.
And the giving becomes perfect; her love's flowing down
through me.

*Genesse Bourdeau Gentry
From Stars in the Deepest Night—After the Death of a Child*

Merry Christmas from Heaven

I still hear the songs
I still see the lights
I still feel your love
On cold wintery nights

I still share your hopes
And all of your cares
I'll even remind you
To please say your prayers

I just want to tell you
You still make me proud
You still stand head and shoulders
Above all the crowd

Keep trying each moment
To stay in His grace
I came here before you
To help set your place

You don't have to be
Perfect all of the time
He forgives you the slip
If you continue to climb

To my family and friends
Please be thankful today
I'm still close beside you
In a new special way

© 1989 by John Mooney

While We Are Apart I Will Hold You in My Heart and Never Let You Go

Distance may separate us,
But my heart will never let you go,
For I carry a part of you
With me always

It keeps me going through the day
It brings a smile to my face
And tears to my eyes
It is a part of my dreams
That I live for and cherish

That part is my wish, my only one,
To see you again soon
I know that wish will someday come true,
But for now I will hold in my heart
The memory of you
And never let you go

Author Unknown



We need not walk alone.

"You loved; therefore, you grieve. You may succeed in postponing your grief for a time, but it will resurface some day in some way. You are encouraged to deal with it now so that it won't be waiting ten or fifteen years down the road for you." —Mary Cleckley

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 - rental 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! Email us at info@tylertcf.org to get involved!

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.

Event reminders for parents:

- If anyone is interested in singing at the Candle Lighting in December or if you know of anyone who is blessed with musical talent, and would like to participate, please contact us.
- If you have a butterfly release sign, please put it out the end of April or first of May.
- If we are storing your butterfly sign, please contact us to pick it up the end of April or first of May so you can put it out at place of your choice.
- Pre-Registration is required every year to have your child's picture in the butterfly garden. (We are very sorry, but due to growth we need to know who will be attending.)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!

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 are already planning our Annual Candlelighting Ceremony for December and would love to have your help!

If you'd like to get involved as a volunteer or steering committee member, please reach out to us. We'd love to have you aboard!

Sincerely,
Cheri & Trisha

