

A special THANKS to Melissa at Landmark Business Park for discounting our rent so that we can continue meeting at our current location!



www.TylerTCF.org

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

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

We need not walk alone.



THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS
P.O. Box 9714
Tyler, Texas 75711



The
Compassionate
Friends

Supporting Family After a Child Dies



We need not walk alone.

Volume 21, Issue 7

Tyler, Texas

July 2020

Monthly Group Meeting

Tyler Area Meeting
17555 Hwy. 155 S.
(off Loop 49) Flint, TX 75762
3rd Monday of the month, 6:30 p.m.
Find us on Facebook @TylerTCF

Contact

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

Co-Chapter Leaders: Heather Ogg,
Cheri Zucca & Trish Mann Taylor;
Secretary: Trish Mann Taylor;
Newsletter/Website: Mary Lingle; Tyler
Meeting Facilitator: Heather Ogg

Steering Committee: Cheri Zucca, Janet
Majors, Trisha Mann Taylor, Barbara
Barton, Carol Johnson, Heather Ogg,
Kim Cathey, Debra Ritchie, 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 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
Support from Family and Friends.....	5
Anniversaries	6-7
Why We Still Go to TCF	7
Newsletter/Rent Sponsors.....	8-9, 11
Poems	10
Donations	11

The Street Where I Used to Live

The street brought back so many memories of my early youth, a time when I had the world and my life in front of me. The possibilities were endless and dreams made up my day. On my drive to the "Memorial Walk" today I was unconscious of my surroundings until I came to that street.

First I passed the house where I lived when I was five. I saw the house as it is now and then saw it as it was then. It had been painted white with brown trim when I lived there. The front door was open and I was visited by memories of me and my squealing sisters as we went through our Easter baskets on Easter morning. I felt the breeze brought in by the attic fan. My place in the family was security to me and gave me freedom to wonder about my future. The idea of "friends" was introduced to me when I lived there and I loved the idea. My first friends were made on that street. I felt companionship and kinship with another person besides my family and I was excited as the world would be full of friends. But, I didn't know...

A little further down on my right I came to my elementary school. I immediately saw myself walking across the street to school with my brown lunchbox in hand, the lunch box that always smelled like mayonnaise and bologna. Boy, I loved that lunchbox and what it represented, lunchtime and independence. I was seven. Life was good. But, I didn't know...

The next memory that came to mind was of me riding my banana seat bicycle with my little dachshund dog, Schultz, running along beside me as I pedaled my weekends away around the playground of the school. I was 12 and was about to enter Jr. High School and my teenage years. Wow! I was on my way and would conquer the world and all it had to offer. Shultz and I would stop my bike and lie in the grass gazing up at the clouds and dream of life. One time I remember we even asked each other the question (well, I asked and he listened) "Will we remember this?" Funny thing—I do. But I didn't know...

The next landmark was the ball field where I played hundreds of games from the time I was 10 to 18. I loved the feel of the ball in my hand and the sound of it hitting the leather glove. I was good at the game and I felt good while playing. It was one of my gifts. I knew there would be many gifts in my life and I was anxious to discover them. As I passed the ball field I could smell the corndogs and popcorn. I could remember the cleats that fit me snugly and made me feel strong and sure. I had life by the horns and was going someplace. I had a confidence in myself and felt that I was in control of my life and anything was possible. Good things were waiting for me. But, I didn't know...

Finally I came to the end of the street and back to reality where my destiny awaited and I would meet the others in our group of "Compassionate Friends," my new friends, where we would walk to remember our children. The children we lost. I wonder if it was a good thing that "I didn't know."

Dana Rogers, TCF Galveston County, TX
In Memory of my son, Rick

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.

"When your mind cannot find an answer, open your heart and ask for peace."
—sascha

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

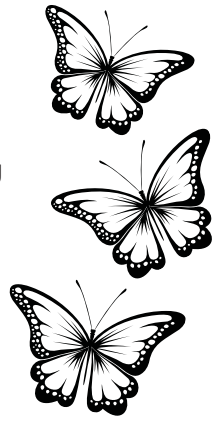
University of Texas at Tyler Psychology and Counseling and Training Clinic: 903-593-2348

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.



We need not walk alone.

"I will open my heart in trust, that in ways I do not now understand, my loved one will continue to be present in my life."
—Martha Whitmore Hickman

Lindsey Barton

In loving memory of Lindsey

by Barbara Barton



Thanks to Barbara Barton for her generous donation.

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

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

In loving memory of
Scarlet Smith by
Lisa & Kirby Smith



In loving memory of
Sarah Thompson by
Carol Thompson



In loving memory of
Tanner Douglas by
Heather Ogg &
Zach Reed



In loving memory of
Chris O'Leary by
Mary O'Leary 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
Andy Terrell by
David & Teresa
Terrell



"I stay on the lookout for butterflies, for every time I see one it renews my faith and reminds me that my daughter is in heaven." —*Dr. Sam Smith*

July Birthdays



Morgan Finley Lambeth



Robert Lynn McMahon



William Jeffrey Stack



Melissa Elaine Majors



Shiloh Paisleigh Gray



Justin Corey Modisette



Madeline Joy Kearney



Cobin Frazier



Terry Wayne Brown



Grant Williams



Cameron Weatherly



Lester "Bubba" Chase



Andrew Moreno



Ryan Delaney



John Shade



Ashton Wayne Yates



Josh Chambers



Laura Wilkinson



Kyle Beck



Lindsey Peyton Goen



Carly Smith



John Wallace



Adrian Hampton



James Fincke



James Wilkinson



Jaime Arellano, Jr.



Christopher Mize



Felicia Hobbs



J.L. Adams



Nathan Spataro



Tommy Ford



Evan Blake Alexander



Alex King



Darrell Lynn Sallas, II



Darrell Bolton



Brad (BJ) Huggins

Continued on next page.

"Hope isn't a place or a thing. Hope isn't the absence of pain, fear or sadness. Hope is the possibility of renewed joy. It is the memory of love given and received. Hope is you and me and the person next to you and across the room, down the street and in your dreams." —*Darcie D. Sims, Ph.D.*

Burke Lewis

**In loving memory
of Burke**

by Martha Lewis



Thanks to Martha Lewis for her generous donation.

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

Missy Rogers

**In Memory of Missy
We Love you so . . .**

by CeCe & Dan Brotton



Thanks to CeCe & Dan Brotton for their generous donation.

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



We need not walk alone.

"The common denominator that all of us share is the need to find a precious flicker of hope which we can nurture and coax to a radiant glow. We all find it in different ways and at different times on our grief journey."
—Annette Mennen Baldwin

July Anniversaries



Erika Reyes



Sara Ann Plocheck



Shiloh Paisliegh Gray



Jamie Allen



George Washington Shaw, III



Shanna Marie Redmond



Michael Knight



Jason Bollard



Trey Dobbs



Kathy Jo Tumminello



Brian St. Clair



Ryan Delaney



Adam Grabill



Brian Christopher Harris



Christopher Andrews



Grant Williams



Gregory Davis, Jr.



Coby Deese



Herby Parr



Kody Dale Hughes



Shane Odening



Lance Alan Massey



Scott Bradshaw



Graham Gill



Ke'Andre Ross



Justin Turbeville



Aceyn Richards



Ashley King



Keith Radabaugh



Megan Parrish



Joshua McDaniel



Brian McDaniel



Kayla Denise Wager



Linton Daniel Wilgus



Johnny Snyder



Glenn Ray Hawkins

Continued on next page.



We need not walk alone.

"The loss of an only child is neither greater nor less than the loss of one of many children. However, the loss of an only child is experienced differently. It is different because you lose your parenthood, which is such a large part of the life of any parent." —Bill Snapp

July Anniversaries Cont.



Renee Seale



Caleb Scott Jones



James Permenter



Matt Mears



Walter Dale "Skipper" Winningham



Christopher Mize



Lisa Marie Tutt



Chandler James "Jimmy" Brazell



James E. Abbie, Jr.



Dex Bailey McLean



Morgan Finley Lambeth



Ben Smith



Andrew Moreno



Allison Carson



Brian David Stewart



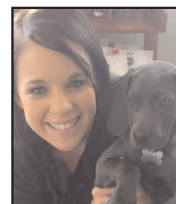
Missy Rogers



Chasen Shirley



Timothy Allen Hawkins



Rachel Jackson

Find us on Facebook at: [Facebook.com/TylerTCF](https://www.facebook.com/TylerTCF)

Why We Still Go to TCF

"Are you still involved with that group? Aren't you over it yet? Why do you go?" These are questions I often hear now that it has been more than seven years since Mark died. I suspect you hear them too. There are easy answers. But not everyone understands, unless you have been there. Here are ten I can think of:

1. Because we never want the world to forget our child, so what we do we do in his or her name.
2. Because when we reach out to help someone else, we also help ourselves.
3. Because someone was there for us when we needed it most; now the best way to say "thank you" is to pass it on by being there for others.
4. Because it is the one thing we do that can bring something positive out of tragedy.
5. Because we have found in TCF better friends and closer bonds than we ever thought possible. Here we can cry and hug people even if we don't know their last name or what they do for a living. And it doesn't matter.
6. Because few people are qualified to walk up to a newly bereaved family and say, "I know how you feel." And because we can, we must.
7. Because sometimes we need to talk, too, and to remember and share. We are further along than many around us, but we never forget.
8. Because many of us believe that one day we will meet our child or brother or sister again, and he or she will ask, "So what did you do with your life after I left?" And we will have an answer.
9. Because our presence might help newly bereaved families understand that they will survive and even laugh again.
10. Because we love cold coffee, cookies and hard metal chairs.

Richard Edler, TCF, South Bay/LA, CA





We need not walk alone.

"One of the benefits mentioned most often of Compassionate Friends, whether it's by attending the meetings, using the available listeners by phone or through the newsletter, is hearing that your feelings are not unusual after all."
—Carolyn Reineke



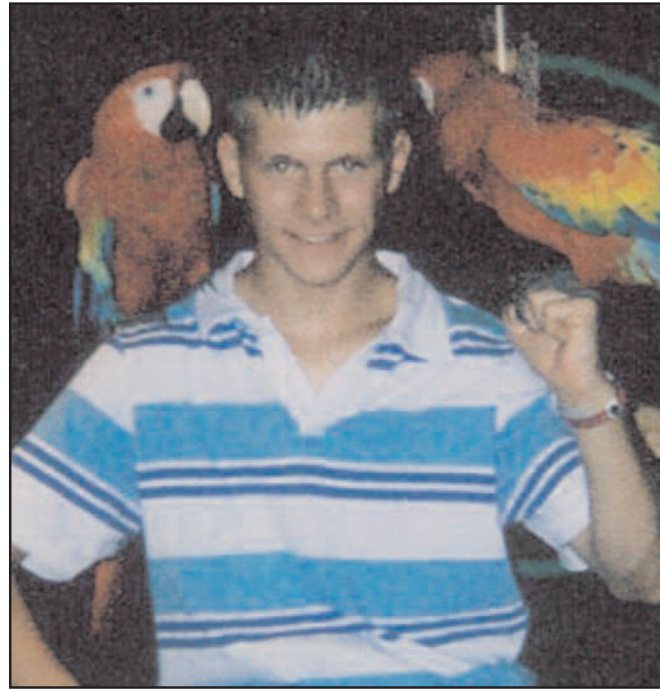
We need not walk alone.

"Thinking back to the beginning of this tragic event in our lives, I should have sought counseling from a grief therapist. My wife and I both should have done this. I truly believe this would have helped us develop better coping skills. At that time I didn't think private counseling would help. I was wrong."
—Albert Tapia

Dex Bailey McLean

**We love and miss you.
You are forever in our hearts.**

Mom & Dad



Thanks to Charles & Chanda McLean for their generous donation.

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

July Birthdays Cont.



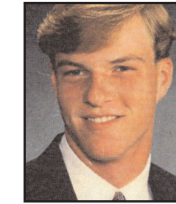
Lindsey Barton



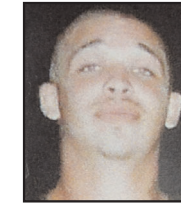
Stephen "Chadwick"
Williford



Jason Eubank



Ryan Goff



Colton James Bain



Keisha Knauss



Michael Slay
Chapman



Travis Morris



Angela Frazier



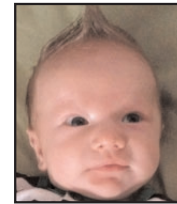
Suzanne Renee'
Glover



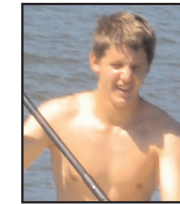
Sheila Nolen



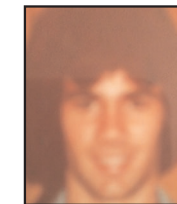
Jasmine Pruitt



Brevon McCarty



Zachary Bradley



James Rawls



Joshua Baker



Ke'Andre Ross



Zain Hussain



Garrett Sullivan

Thank you for your generous donations to TCF of Tyler. These 'love gifts' allow us to provide our local chapter with special events, the TCF Newsletter, our website and more!

Support from Family and Friends

There are many things that a newly bereaved person needs during the first few weeks. One of the most important is support from their family and friends, who should be there to let them talk and to really listen, to give hugs, and to help with any chores the bereaved are not able to accomplish yet. It's hard for them to even think ahead to what should be done—washing clothes, cleaning, even answering the telephone may seem impossible. Many families have found it hard to go shopping for just basic groceries. They need someone to lend some thoughtful ideas and maybe see to some of these tasks a few times until their numbness has lightened a little.

Family and friends need to realize that the person who is grieving may never be the same. They will always be without their loved one and their lives will never be the same as before the death.

Since my daughter Teresa died I too have changed a lot; I have many new friends; I do things I'd have never done before, such as becoming a chapter leader, a newsletter editor and just recently writing articles on grief in these newspapers. I have more compassion towards others than before, and my interests are so very different now. If there were gifts resulting from a death, I'd say I have received many. Some people may think what I do is depressing. I feel it is helping others and at the same time helping me with my own healing.

Jackie Wesley, TCF, East Central Indiana and Miami-Whitewater Chapters

Zane Allen Collier

**In memory of our
grandson, Zane**

**by Charles & Chandra
McLean**



Thanks to Charles & Chanda McLean for their generous donation.

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





We need not walk alone.

"And when our life is different and better because our child lived, then that child is never forgotten. Each of us would do anything in the world to go back in time, but we can't. It is up to us now to go forward, and we can." —Richard Edler

For My Daughter

I love you now, as I so loved you then
your Spirit is with me forever
When you were born all of heaven sang out
Joyous that we were together

Your eyes twinkled bright as a billion stars
Your lashes brushed sweet angel's kisses
As you snuggled so warmly against my neck
So serenely, you gave me such bliss

As I stroked your head, very gently My Dear
Your hair felt as soft as down feathers
Your fingers, so tiny, wove tightly with mine
Rainbow's end couldn't give me more treasure

I remember you now, I'll remember you when
every day and each night begins
You're a part of my soul, every beat of my heart
I promise, My Darling, Amen

*Karinelyn Paul
Broomfield, CO
In Memory of my daughter, Katrina*

God's Plan - Matthew Moyers

A little boy was announced to be coming soon
A baby brother for Madi and Macy, he'd be
Getting ready to come into this world
Screaming and kicking, a happy baby boy we'd see

He's God's blessing and plan
An angel boy to help us along
Clearly seen, in a vision so bright
To help us through hard times, not yet in sight

The day came and Matthew arrived
So strong, healthy, and pink
We trailed him right into ICU
Just to say, "Matthew we love you"

Now let me tell you the story
Matthew helped Dawson survive
And kept MeMaw and PawPaw young
It was God's Wisdom, sending this son

Matthew was brought in and out of our lives
For reasons of good, and some never known
We worried and prayed that someday
He'd be allowed back in our homes

Then finding some resolution
Visitations were again allowed
With the miracle of Matthew back in our lives
He made us happy, and Oh so proud

Macy and Loral rose up to heaven
When Matthew was just two years old
But, he was a big boy, so wise beyond his age
He held others up, with the courage he displayed

Matthew suffers the loss of his sister Macy
And sometime speaks of his cousin Loral
No way, will he try to take their place
He lights up our lives, when with tears on our face

Now Matthew is six years old
So deeply bonded with love in our hearts
Doing life's purpose in a world so vast
He just seems to be growing up so fast

Matthew is strong, smart, and wise
He has all it takes
To be the leader of people
Maybe the President, of the United States

Just watch, this boy will be a great man
Thinking of yesterday, living for today,
He's preparing for tomorrow
Just watch him swinging away

Matthew is truly a blessing from Heaven
Standing so tall in the midst of our love
A Son, a Grandson, a Brother, God sent him to be
He was sent here to help us all, just watch and you'll see

*Matthew's Pawpaw, Donald Moyers
TCF Galveston County, TX
In Memory of Macy and Loral*

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



We need not walk alone.

"When you have resolved your grief by reinvesting in life, you will be able to realize that nothing is ever "the same." Life is change. We would not have it be otherwise, for that is the valley of the shadow. Change has the promise of beginning and the excitement of discovery." —Marcia F. Alig

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

There is a sacredness in tears.
They are not the mark of weakness, but of power.
They speak more eloquently than 10,000 tongues.
They are the messengers of overwhelming grief, of deep contrition and of unspeakable love.
—Washington Irving

Announcements

Meeting Info: (postponed in April) The 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.

TCF Quilt Announcement!

We are compiling names and photos for our 7th quilt! Please mail your \$30 donation for a square, child's name, and make sure we have a quality picture of your child that will show up well. Let us know quickly as we anticipate the list of 30 will fill up fast. You can mail your donation to TCF Tyler PO Box 9714 Tyler Texas 75711, please note on your check what it is for. Photos or questions can be emailed to info@TylerTCF.org.



With our current self-isolating, grief can feel especially lonely. Remember to visit our website for a long list of TCF newsletters: www.tylertcf.org Also, TCF's National website has lots of great resources: www.compassionatefriends.org

