

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!





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Tyler, Texas 75711





Volume 19, Issue 3

Tyler, Texas

March 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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Butterfly Release

Butterflies will be released in memory of all our children at the 2018 Compassionate Friends Butterfly Release set for Saturday, May 19 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.

We will hold a silent auction this year, and will be raffling beautiful quilts made by Sandra Perry in memory of her son, Jeremy England. (Learn more on page 8.)

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!

Photos from a Previous Butterfly Release









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.



"You will miss your child; no magic potion can wipe the pain away. Enjoy what you can you deserve some pleasure. And may some measure of peace overtake you before this year ends." —*Elizabeth B. Estes*

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."

The Compassionate Friends

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 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

5111110. 300 030 2040

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.

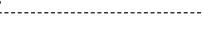
Group Meetings for Survivors of Trauma and Survivors of Suicide Loss, sponsored by Michael's House of Hope at the New Life Worship Center, 18535 Hwy. 69 S., Tyler, room 620. Call Dr. Timothy M. Roddam at 903-681-3161 for more information. Survivors of Trauma meets the the second Thursday of each month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



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



(Signature)



The Compassionate Friends 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: 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 maili 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	terain the form to the address	at the bottom of this page.			
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Address: City:	Child's Name:		Relationship:		
City:	Birth Date:	Death Date:	Cause of Death:		
City:	Address:				
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The continuation of this chapter's work depends on donations. If you have not taken the opportunity to give a donation in me ory of your child please consider taking this time to give a gift that will help reach out to other newly bereaved parents.					ıem-
We must have your written permission on file to use your child's name and/or picture in the newsletter, Web site, Canolighting Ceremony or any other TCF event. Permission may be withdrawn at any time by written request. This information used to maintain our Chapter Database. It is confidential and is only utilized for Chapter activities such as the newsletter.	Lighting Ceremony or any ot	her TCF event. Permission may	be withdrawn at any tim	e by written request. This information	

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

Date:

"Nothing will ever bring him back to me, but one day I will go to him. I can't ever say a final good-bye, only that 'I miss you so." — Carla Smith

March Birthdays



Roozbeh Arianpour



Michael Schmidt



Gary R. Gribble



Hightower



Joshua "Josh" Wilcox



Colton Allen France





Randy Joe Cannon, Jr.



Andrea Young



Wadiya Adnan Bdah



Amanda Kay Stone



Ben Smith





Jodi Lvnn



Scott Bradshaw



Danielle Celeste



Cathy Key



Adam Grabill



Charles Bryan Meadows







Noah Boone Bridges



Jackson Huse



Jill Rozell





Deanna Holcomb



Makenzie Shyanne



Tumminello



Tommy Jack Burchfield

The Compassionate Friends



Brandon Krpec





Jamye Marie

Zi'lain Cummings



Sally Ryan

Snodgrass

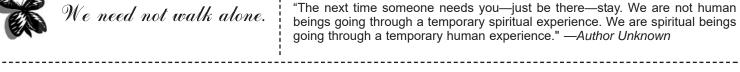
Daniel Thomas Khirallah





Rachel Wilder

Continued on next page.



"The next time someone needs you—just be there—stay. We are not human beings going through a temporary spiritual experience. We are spiritual beings going through a temporary human experience." —Author Unknown

The Eyes of the Doe by Patricia Taylor Wells

The Eyes of the Doe by Patricia Taylor Wells of Tyler, Texas, intertwines the fictional Hendricks' family struggle to endure the loss of Jake, a son and brother, with the author's hard-hitting "real life" loss of her brother to cancer when she was fifteen and her brother, age fourteen. Set in East Texas in 1963, the book's main characters are Jake's sisters, Holly and Kathleen, and their parents, Jewell and Ross.

The book's dedication gives the reader the heart of the story—"for my brother, and the oft forgotten siblings of those who were taken too soon." Each chapter of the book is written from the point of view of one character and reveals the inner thinking of that family member or friend. "I hope," said Ms. Wells, that The Eyes of the Doe "gives a voice to the voiceless children who often cannot articulate how they feel."

Ms. Wells artfully weaves back and forth between the lanes of fiction and non-fiction, leaving even readers who may know her personally to wonder, "did that really happen?" or "did she make that part up?"

The reader's curiosity really doesn't matter to the telling of the story from the writer's point of view. The book, said Ms. Wells, "has a higher purpose," to recognize the point of view of the sibling, "that the child has lost something, too." Grieving parents may be totally unaware that the child needs help, explained Ms. Wells. "People find it easier not to confront grief in another person," she said, "especially in a young person."

Misdirected anger, evident among the members of the Hendricks family, is a too common reality among families in grief. Family situations, such as drinking too much alcohol, may already be an issue before the child's death. Many people do not have the skill set to deal with these problems compounded with the tragedy of losing a child.

What important things can a parent do for the sisters and brothers of a deceased child? Communicate directly with your surviving children. In the book, Holly wanted to be included. Because she was a child, she was shut out of the adult conversation and got her information by overhearing what was said at home by others or during telephone conversations. Everyone kept their distance and did not want Holly "to show feelings that were too painful for them" to handle. "You don't have to deal with it." said Ms. Wells. "Just listen."

Does the author, now an experienced adult, believe that Holly could have done anything differently to make her needs known? A child, she said, is not equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to cope with what is happening, and often feels that he or she must be strong for the parents. "If Holly showed emotion, that elicited emotion." Then, if emotion was shown in front of her, she left the room, "partly out of fear of being pushed away." In the story, Holly learned to accept that her mother could not provide the needed guidance as an empathetic, nurturing mother, and that her father was out of her control—that she was not the reason for "setting things off."

In the book, Holly sought help outside of her immediate family by spending time with her friend, Marilyn Davis, and going to spend the hot summer down in Land of Goshen with her grandmother, Mama Hendricks, and Mama Hendricks' caretaker, Antartica. "Sometimes," said Ms. Wells, "it's easier to look for help outside of family." Antartica urged Holly on with a gem of wisdom—"when a bird falls out of the nest it had better learn to fly." Ms. Wells sought the help of a professional counselor later in her life.

The book title comes from Edna St. Vincent Millay's poem, "The Buck in the Snow." "I felt it. It spoke to me, especially the last line," said the author. "Life, looking out attentive from the eyes of the doe." After what she has experienced, Ms. Wells said she is "looking out at life" and "will always be cautious and wary."

Each chapter of the book begins with a pearl of insight original to the author that the reader will want to ponder. Ms. Wells' favorite begins Chapter Twenty-Eight. "The distance between two hearts is the longest journey ever traveled."

Note from author Patricia Taylor Wells: "For me, the quote from Chapter Twenty-Eight describes the vast gulf that existed between me and my family—and to be honest, that journey has never ended. We closed the gap a bit, is all. I think we all learn to live with loss, some better than others. Writing the book was just my way of taking all the broken parts of me and putting them together in order to make sense of things. It didn't make me whole again; I think I will always have a feeling of deep longing for how things were and how they could have been. But I also think that without longing, life would be empty--though we always think it's the other way around."

The Eyes of the Doe, published by Bedazzled Ink Publishing, Inc. of California, is available through Amazon, Barnes & Noble and other booksellers. (www.patricia-taylor-wells.com)

Carol Thompson, TCF Tyler, TX



"The power of the mind to begin to see reason, to begin to seek hope, to climb this mountain of trauma and travail cannot be overstated. This power is pure courage, raw courage, desperate courage, but courage in its purest form." —Annette Mennen Baldwin

We need not walk alone.

"Some people come into our lives and leave footprints on our hearts and we are never ever the same." —Flavia Weedn

March Anniversaries



Tyler Roberts







Amanda Valadez



Jeremy Kersh



Cory Blackmon







Gary Dean Arnold



Noah Boone Bridges











Joshua Andrews



Joshua Washburn



Trey LePelley



Laura Wilkinson



David Matthew (Matt) Morris

Maryn McIntire





Douglas Johnson



Wadiva Adnan Bdah



Rowdy Cunningham





Irish Fave Haggerty

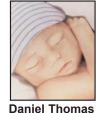


Jessica Spence



Dvlan Prichard

Kappy Lane Kolb



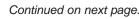
Khirallah





Justin Bloxom

Harper







Kyle James Horn





Christopher Molnari

How Long Will the Pain Last?

How long will the pain last?" a broken hearted mourner asked me. "All the rest of your Life." I have to answer truthfully. We never quite forget. No matter how many years pass, we remember. The loss of a loved one is like a major operation. Part of us is removed, and we have a scar for the rest of our lives. As years go by, we manage. There are things to do, people to care for, tasks that call for full attention. But the pain is still there, not far below the surface. We see a face that looks familiar, hear a voice that echoes, see a photograph in someone's album, see a landscape that once we saw together, and it seems as though a knife were in the wound again. But not so painfully. And mixed with joy, too. Because remembering a happy time is not all sorrow, it brings back happiness with it.

How long will the pain last?

All the rest of your life. But the things to remember is that not only the pain will last, but the blessed memories as well. Tears are proof of life. The more love, the more tears. If this be true, then how could we ever ask that the pain cease altogether. For then the memory of love would go with it.

The pain of grief is the price we pay for love.

Author Unknown

Tanner Douglas

In loving memory of **Tanner**

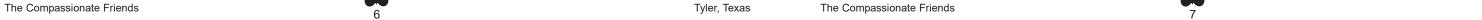
> by Michael & **Bobby Ogg**



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

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





"Be there, be there for me. Understand my unspoken words. See my broken heart. Understand. Listen to my story, a story of my child. Remember his life, remember

his death." —Annette Mennen Baldwin

Beautiful Hand-Made Quilts Raffle!

These beautiful quilts will be displayed at the Butterfly Release in May. Raffle tickets are now available for \$5 each per quilt. There will additional items for sale including totes on the same day. In addition, orders can be placed with a deposit. The items were lovingly created and donated in memory of Jeremy England by his mother Sandra Perry. To buy one or more raffle tickets in advance, please mail a check for \$5 per ticket to The Compassionate Friends of Tyler, P.O. Box 9714, Tyler, Texas 75711. Please specify which quilt your ticket is for (butterfly or sports themed). You need not be present at the May Butterfly Release to win.







In Honor and Loving **Memory of Jeremy**



Join us for crafts and more!

Carol Johnson will facilitate craft fun, March 10, 2018, starting at 10:30 a.m. at our meeting place. Light snacks will be provided. Bring your creative ideas or just attend for the fellowship. We are planning to have a journaling workshop soon! Watch for details. If anyone is interested in holding a grief share workshop, we would love to accommodate at our nice meeting place.



"Gradually, the pain subsides and the world becomes bearable again. Hope sneaks through the cracks in the walls built up as protection against hurt. Energy is regained. The process of rebuilding seems possible." -Myrna Grandgenett, PhD

March Birthdays Cont.



Sandifer



Timothy Andrew Lever



Doug Bennett



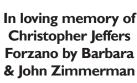
Joseph Richard Watson, Jr.



Book Review Shadows in the Sun: The Experiences of Sibling Bereavement in Childhood by Betty Davies, NF

"This book covers the immediate, short-term, and long-term responses to the death of a brother or sister in childhood and adolescence. It also describes the subsequent generational effects of sibling bereavement. Although the book is intended for professional caregivers, surviving siblings can learn much about themselves from a careful reading of this book. The final chapter brings together all that has gone before into a comprehensive model of sibling bereavement. Practical guidelines are offered for those who seek to help grieving siblings, children and families." Quoted from the tcfrochester.org website.

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





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



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

In loving memory of **Lindsey Barton by**

Barbara Barton



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 lared Sheets by Carol & Shane Johnson



In loving memory of Stephanie Settle by Danny & Pat Settle



The Compassionate Friends The Compassionate Friends



The Sharing of Grief

I cannot carry this burden alone, the road is too steep and the pain too great.

I shall only get to the top of the hill if I am able to lean on a firm shoulder whose strength lies in the reality of the feet which bear its weight.

The sharing of grief is the only solution to the crisis that surrounds bereavement in our age.

To share a person's sorrow is to accept their reality and to acknowledge the fact that none of us is immune from death.

Rev. Dr. Simon Stephens, Founder of The Compassionate Friends

Ben's Birthday

This day This dreaded day Before highly anticipated, I wake up cataloging the others Wearing your first cake, Cookie cakes and steak dinners, Dalmatian cakes, skating, pancake breakfasts. Carloads of boys going to the park The last...family, and best friends, celebrating a milestone.

The world holds promise, the golden age of independence, future, and choice. We are so proud. A year later, we are in another world, one without you. Now, what do we do? We grieve the lost hope and possibilities.

We ask why?

We make bouquets of festive flowers, and take green balloons to where you lay. Your precious sister and I sit on the ground

arranging flowers and talking.

Your friends join us. You are remembered. You are loved. We scream silently, wanting you back, and wondering how, and even why we are standing here, why you are gone.

The world keeps turning, and we keep looking back, wishing. Daily, we miss you our darling boy. Happy Birthday my baby.

> Charisse Smith TCF Tyler, TX

Forgive Me, My Son

Forgive me if I do not cry the day you die.

The simplest reason that I know is fathers are not supposed to cry.

I figured you would expect me to be strong to act the way I would have taught you.

> Forgive me, my son, if I do not cry the day you die.

> > Forgive me if I do.

Author Unknown

On Vacation

I sat and watched the waves come in & out. I looked for you there, but you weren't about.

I saw a young child about your size, And I thought it was you, till I looked in his eyes.

I heard a strange voice call your name, And I thought for a second you were home again.

I went to the jetty where you used to fish; I gazed at the stars and made a wish.

Then I closed my eyes and I heard you say,

"I love you, Mommy, but it can't be that way; I can't come back to earth as you know.

But I will live within you wherever you go;

For I am with God in a place so divine Where there is no pain, no space and no time."

Then I opened my eyes and I walked away And I've known where you are since that day.

Penny Linehan, TCF Morris, NJ



"It takes a lot of grief before our days can have more good hours than bad. But it does come. Most of us can not even imagine that progress in our early grief. Eventually, we can make peace with our loss and our painful memories become warm treasures. Even though we always think of our child daily, it is with thankfulness that they were a part of our lives." —Marie Hofmockel

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! 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.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!

We welcome volunteers to serve in any capacity within our group, including sending out birthday and anniversary cards each month, setting up the monthly meeting and help with our annual events.

If you'd like to get involved as a volunteer and/or steering committee member, please reach out to us. We'd love to have you aboard and we're sure you'll experience some healing in this capacity.

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 Web site and more!

Butterfly Release 2018

If you would like to help with the Butterfly Release in May, please call the TCF line at 903-422-0358. Thank you!

