



www.TylerTCF.org

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

Skillern's Business Systems
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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!

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 19, Issue 5

Tyler, Texas

May 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.

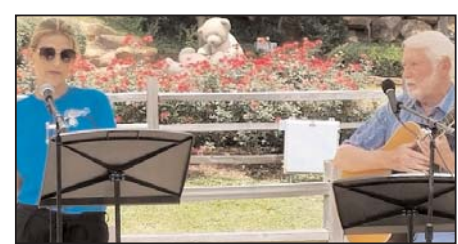
We will hold a silent auction this year, and will be raffling beautiful quilts made by Sandra Perry in memory of her son, Jeremy England. (Learn more on page 8.)

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 during 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.



We need not walk alone.

"The lasting gift that any loved one gives us is their presence in our hearts. It is up to us to dedicate ourselves to integrating that loving spirit into our ongoing lives." —Carol Staudacher, from "A Time to Grieve"

Welcome

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

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

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

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

To Our New Members

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

To Our Old Members

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

Grief Resources

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

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

Children Are A Gift Foundation: www.childrenareagift.com
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

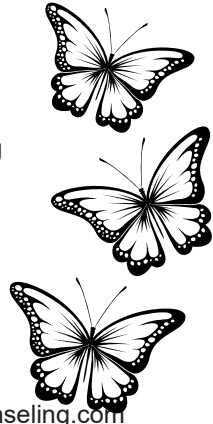
University of Texas at Tyler Psychology and Counseling and Training Clinic: 903-593-2348

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.

"Don't be afraid to cry in front of, or with your children. They need to know that it is alright to cry." —Kim Brundt

May Birthdays



Jamie Allen



Donna Mae Morales



Boston Kade Porter



Caleb Herrera



Joshua Carl Tucker



Sara Ann Plocheck



Tami Kay Brown Roberts



Stephanie Harris Reed



Randall Scott McDaniel



Blythe Madison Harper



Colton Denney



Mahlon Acres



Brian David Stewart



Shanna Marie Redmond



Justin Bloxom



Austin Arvizo



Dustin Dewayne Bruce



Blake Alexander King



Jared Sheets



Michael Angelo Perez



Shane Odening



Stephanie Carol Hester



Kody Dale Hughes



Aaron Sullender



Gabe Levi Hunt



Payton Nicole Herrington



Lance Alan Massey



Derek Brown



Andrew Weldon Braswell



Terry Brendon Reed Pettit



Cashley Sha'Rae Jackson



Coby Deese



Joshua Wilson



Jerry Owen Edwards, Jr.



Todd Andrew Thompson



Matthew Lehw

Continued on next page.



We need not walk alone.

"...I remember when I was pregnant with Kyra, I took two helpings of food because I said, 'I'm eating for two.' Now I will try my best to live life to the fullest and be all that I can because now I'm living for two." —Julie Short

Mother's Day & Graduation

After my daughter Kyra died on November 14 of 2004, one of my first thoughts was I am no longer a mother, because Kyra was my only child. It didn't take me long to realize that that was not true, I am and always will be Kyra's mom. As I have walked my grief journey I have found myself referring to grief as labor. It then came to me that for me, losing Kyra was like giving birth in reverse. I experienced intense emotional and physical pain that I wondered if I could endure, similar to the physical pain of labor, only in grief it lasts for weeks, months and years. It took my breath away, brought me to my knees and often I found myself crying out in anguish and anger, like child birth. It has been over a year and a half since Kyra died and I have felt a break in the pain. It has started back up recently due to graduation but I know it will ease some after May. Some women experience false labor leading up to the birth of their child. I think that those intense pains that come from out of no where and last only a short time is something that I will forever experience. I now realize, that in letting go of her death, I can embrace and carry her spirit with me always. So, I liken grief to giving birth in reverse.

I go from Mother's day to Graduation, because Kyra would have graduated from High School at the end of May. Graduation was something I knew would be hard for me to endure without her here, alive and being part of the celebration. I thought about what Kyra graduating would mean to me and it didn't take me long to come up with, it was going to be my day to celebrate. Kyra was an intelligent child with a low attention span, a need to talk, and lower than I would have liked motivation. It was a frustration that her teachers and I shared. So, homework time was a challenge and I used motivational charts, rewards and even punishment. But, I quickly found that you can't force someone to be motivated and went back to encouraging. I knew that she would come around and become motivated and I started seeing it her Junior year the year she died. I thought that graduation would be the reward for all the long nights and constantly trying to encourage and motivate. Well, it's not to be and I had to decide how will I endure graduation. I began to think about all she is missing. I believe in Heaven so I don't believe she is missing any joy or good times, because I believe she is now experiencing indescribable joy and unimaginable good times. The reality of what she is missing is, she is missing misery, pain, frustration, disappointment, a broken heart, grief, hopelessness and agony. And I am missing her incredible, joy and zest for life, her strong faith, beautiful smile and her wonderful heart.

As I close I remember when I was pregnant with Kyra, I took two helpings of food because I said, 'I'm eating for two.' Now I will try my best to live life to the fullest and be all that I can because now I'm living for two. Just as her living made me want to be a better person, her dying will make me a better person if I allow it, because I now carry her with me. I will strive to do and see life the way she would have if she could have stayed here longer.

Julie Short ~ In Loving Memory of Kyra ~ TCF, Southeastern, IL

Jared Sheets

In loving memory of Jared

by Jim & Linda Crawford



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

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



"Just as her living made me want to be a better person, her dying will make me a better person if I allow it, because I now carry her with me. I will strive to do and see life the way she would have if she could have stayed here longer."
—Julie Short

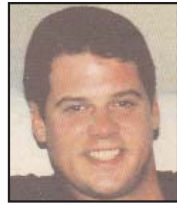
May Anniversaries



Blake Owens



Samantha Johnson



Brad (BJ) Huggins



Justin Clakley



Joshua Jolley



Patrick Pinkerton



Kenny Ivy



Donna Morales



Kendrick Clark



Jon Lee Hardwick



Alexander Fleming



ShiAnn Renee Robinson



Stephanie Settle



Marshall Charles Donahue



Leslie Eugene Robb



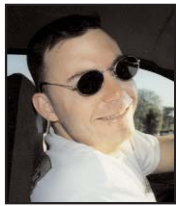
Jarren Moser



Kimberly Pryor



Colton Denney



Terry Wayne Brown



Leah Zucca



Melissa Elaine Majors



Tiffany Sue Hightower



Brady Bryant



Daniel Anderson



Marcos Lopez



Derek Miller



Jerry Owen Edwards, Jr.



Natalie Whitehead



Jasmine Elizabeth Thomas



Chase Cyrus Naquin



Ana Danniell Franklin



Crystal Cudd



Kara Belanger



Dwayne Russell



Alyssa Howerton



Pablo Salinas

Continued on next page.

"Grief, I've learned, is really just love. It's all the love you want to give, but cannot. All that unspent love gathers up in the corners of your eyes, the lump in your throat, and in that hollow part of your chest. Grief is just love with no place to go." —Jamie Anderson

May Anniversaries Cont.



Keith Padgett



Allison Hiatt



Terry Haley



Tyler Steven Galpin



Andrew Weldon Braswell



Tommy Ford



Haile Rae Beasley



Brandon Weatherly



Kaila McKinsey Payne



Ryan Goff



Colleen Herriage



Stephen Cudd, II

Volunteers needed for our Annual Butterfly Release ceremony held in May!

Editor's Note:

Our sincere apologies for the incorrect listing of several anniversary photos in the April issue. This has been corrected and you can download the new version at tylertcf.org/newsletters.

Leah Zucca

In loving memory of Leah

by Jim & Cheri Zucca



This month's newsletter is sponsored by Jim & Cheri Zucca.

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.

"The pain doesn't end. It simply reshapes itself into a quiet, soft ache that gives us a gentle, often tearful, reminder that our child will always be with us. And perhaps that is as it should be." —Annette Mennen Baldwin



We need not walk alone.

"Of course, nothing can wipe away much of your pain, but sharing grief is helpful. You will know that after you have expressed the painful sorrow you once kept hidden, and you find yourself, finally, smiling at the memories and the blessings of past summertimes." —Sascha Wagner

Knox Knight

In loving memory of Knox

by Chris & Andrea Knight



This month's newsletter is sponsored by Chris & Andrea Knight.

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



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 be 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



May Birthdays Cont.



Vanessa Wilcox



Crystal Cudd



Cheyenne Lackey



Keith Padgett



Lincoln Garyt Allen



Tyler Steven Galpin



Xander Rebel Kelly



Robbie Kempker



Terry Haley



Trevor Benson

Editor's Note:

Our sincere apologies for the incorrect listing of several birthday photos in the April issue. This has been corrected and you can download the new version at tylertcf.org/newsletters.

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

In loving memory of Jonathan Sanders by Tammy McCutcheon



In loving memory of Lindsey Barton by Barbara Barton



In loving memory of Christopher Molinari by Kim Cathey



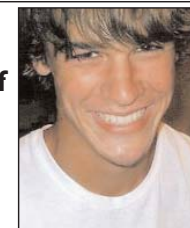
In loving memory of Alex Conway by Robert & Trisha Taylor



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





We need not walk alone.

"Life goes on whether we want it to or not. Thank God for TCF—a sanctuary where others know how I feel and where I'm coming from. A 'family' who gives me the love and support I need to go on." —*Jenny Feyt*

The Butterfly

I asked God to send me one so I would know,
She is in heaven with beautiful wings she is proud to Show,
And sure enough on that day
It was fluttering around me and I knew it was her
Trying to say...
Tell everyone I'm fine,
Tell everyone I'm great,
And when it's theirs and your turn,
I'll be waiting for you at those pearly gates.
And until then I will be here
Watching over you until you appear
Until then you will know if you're smart,
I'll be forever and always in your heart.
So live like there is no tomorrow and smile everyday,
For you know you will see me,
When you spread your wings and finally come home
To Stay.

*By Caitlin Daniels, April 26, 2004
In Memory of Sarah D. Harvey*

Seasoned Grief

From We Need Not Walk Alone, Spring 1999 Issue
There used to be a point to summing up a year just past
not as a personal accomplishment but as a reflection.
Leaving previous hurts behind was welcomed
and the sensible thing to do.
I thought I was getting wiser as I was getting older.

With new years clean and full of possibilities,
becoming another person seemed simple,
another chance at getting it right,
like a redemption, being forgiven for
having blundered or been found wanting.

But death changed everything, without permission.
Resolutions, made sincerely and broken quickly,
offended my need to hold on to the past,
to rewind life, fast backwards,
so I could capture what I had lost.

Still, time went on, regardless of my pleas.
And when exhaustion set in, as eventually it must,
I understood there would be another future,
not the one I thought I had the right to expect
but one where I dared carry hope in my heart again.

©1999 by Eva Lager
Eva Lager ~ TCF, Perth, Western Australia



Early Spring Drive

Young leaves of green and yellow,
falling too soon before my windshield in early spring,
remind me that the natural order
may summon its own variance.

These leaves will not flutter gracefully
as expected on trees of spring and summer,
shading, cooling and delighting.

They have fallen to the ground long before their season,
knowing other leaves will join them in future autumn.

*Carol Thompson ~ TCF, Tyler, Texas
In memory of Sarah, 3-7-2007*

It Will Be Another Birthday Without You

The sun will shine
roses bloom, geese fly
throughout the sky

stocks will trade,
the weatherman predict
politicians debate

it'll seem like another day
just a day, same 24 hours
not a special holiday

But to this mother
who will stand at the grave
lifting balloons into the sky

serving angelfood cupcakes
with rainbow icing
coated with tears

fluctuating between emotions:
the grief over death
the celebration over birth

For this mother
it will be yet
another birthday without you.

In Memory of Daniel

Alice J. Wisler ~ TCF, Wake County, NC



We need not walk alone.

"Romance fails us and so do friendships, but the relationship of parent and child, less noisy than all others, remains indelible and indestructible, the strongest relationship on earth." —*Theodore Belk*

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.

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.

Join us for our Annual Butterfly Release in May!

