

www.TylerTCF.org

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

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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!





THE COMPASSIONATE
PO. Box 9714
Ityler, Texas 75711





Volume 18, Issue 10

Tyler, Texas

October 2017

## 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. 10, 2017, 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.

We are selling 12" poinsettia's in memory of our children and pre-order is required. At the end of the ceremony, you will be able to take your poinsettia home. Please mail a check for \$15 along with child's name to P.O. Box 9714, Tyler, Texas 75711.

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!



"The world loves closure, loves a thing that can, as they say, be gotten through. This is why it comes as a great surprise to find that loss is forever, that two decades after the event there are those occasions when something in you cries out at the continual presence of an absence." —Anna Quindlen

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.



"The pain does dull somewhat with the years, but tears will always spring to our eyes at certain moments. The special days will always tug at our heart-strings in a way that non-bereaved parents will never fully understand."

—Kathy H.

#### 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

GriefShare: www.griefshare.org

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

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 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

## 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.

return the form to the addi	ess at the bottom of this page.				
Your Name:					
Child's Name:		Relationship:			
Birth Date: Death Date:		Cause	Cause of Death:		
Address:					
City:		State:	Zip:		
Home Telephone:					
E-mail:					
Please check any of follow					
☐ Due to the rising cost of	of postage, please send newsletters	via email. My email a	ddress is		
☐ I prefer not to receive address you have on file		ıld like to continue ha	ving a hard copy sent to the mailin		
☐ Please update my mail	ing address:				
☐ No thank you, I'd pref	er to stop receiving the newsletter	. (Newsletters are poste	ed monthly on our webite.)		
☐ Please include my child	's name and picture in the slide pres	entation at the Candle L	ighting Ceremony.		
☐ Please include my child	's picture and information on the TC	F Tyler Web site. (www	7.TylerTCF.org)		
☐ I am enclosing a memor	rial to support The Compassionate F	riends in the amount of			
☐ In memory of			Please make check payable to TCF		
	TCF Newsletter ☐ Butterfly Relea				
The continuation of this chory of your child please co	apter's work depends on donations.  onsider taking this time to give a gift	If you have not taken the that will help reach out	opportunity to give a donation in mem to other newly bereaved parents.		
Lighting Ceremony or any		e withdrawn at any time	are in the newsletter, Web site, Candle by written request. This information is er activities such as the newsletter.		

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

Date:

"There is an old saying that has some truth: 'The only way out is through.' Thus the first step is to acknowledge the grief and to recognize that the road is tough and long." —Bob Rosenberger

# **N**e need not walk alone.

"The monthly meetings of The Compassionate Friends is a special time we can set aside to gain and maintain our balance. We need a lot of encouragement to endure and experience our emotions and to express ourselves while grieving. Coming to a meeting can help alleviate the feeling of being alone in sorrow." —N. Hunt

### **October Birthdays**



**Marshall Charles** 



**Donahue** 





George Washington Shaw, III

**Patton Ross** 



Jeremy Mark



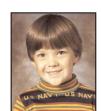
Christopher



Sandi McLain



**Austin Dixon** 





James Brady Langston



Kendrick Clark

**Kenneth Melvin** 





Suzie Gorman



Rosa Linda Serrano





**Emily Elizabeth Ellis** 





Jessica Maureen Nix Bonnie Lee Benson

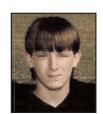


A.J. Huggins





Shellae Vicknair



Jesse Lee Irby







**In Loving Memory** of Christopher

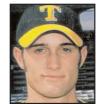
**Kim Cathey** 



This month's newsletter sponsored by Kim Cathey.



Patti Ann Gage

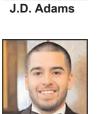


**Cason Gimble** 



**Gauge Austin** 



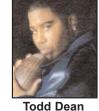


Ricardo Gonzalez



**Loren Saunders** 



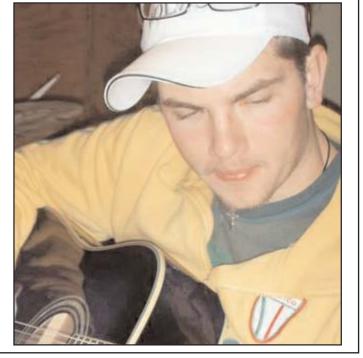


**Todd Dean** 

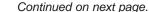
**Jake Schoonover** 

**In Loving Memory** of Jake

Lisa Schoonover



This month's newsletter sponsored by Lisa Schoonover.



The Compassionate Friends The Compassionate Friends

"We have many relationships in our lives, but the unique nature of the parentchild relationship is so special, so deep, so life changing, that we endure and even embrace the pain because we had, for that time in our lives, a relationship of pure love and pure joy with our child." —Annette Mennen Baldwin

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#### October Anniversaries Cont.



Terry Brendon **Reed Pettit** 



Phoebe Fair





**Robert Ryan White** 



**Leon Wayne Lasiter** 



**Chevenne Ramirez** 



Todd Andrew **Thompson** 



Jennifer Massey



Trenton Cole Bailev



**Randy Thomas** Meyers



**Stacy Hunter** 



Chevenne Stevenson



Candace Beggs **Zachary Bradley** 





Carnahan





**Aaron Sullender** 





Kearney



James Lee Lary



Alyssa Kathryn Crim



Jonathan Shipman



**Amanda Claire** 



**Jackson Thomas Feliciano** 



Kathy Robertson



Christopher Bullock



Rosa Linda Serrano



Chris O'Leary

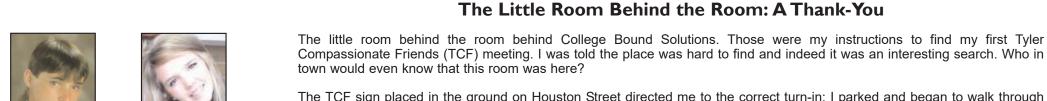




Maxwell **Edward-Ray Glass** 

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





The TCF sign placed in the ground on Houston Street directed me to the correct turn-in; I parked and began to walk through another parking lot, under a covered area and then over a little slatted bridge in a wooded area to the meeting room. I did not know what I expected nor did I know what was expected of me. Here I was going into a room to meet people who, like me, had lost a child or children. How would such a meeting be conducted and what would we say? I did not know—I only knew that I wanted to be in the room, meet with the people and find out.

to help one another; try it." —Anne Byrnes

The room was small, cozy and comfortable, filled with couches, chairs, books to check out, pictures on the wall and two quilts covered with children's faces, names and dates. There were only a few people as the meeting began and then more came in. They were caring, friendly and inviting, seemed at ease with each other and were talking about "normal" things and sharing a few laughs. There was a little apprehension on my part—how was my lost and blubbering self, a person new to the agony of grief, going to fit in?

We went around the room, invited to speak if we wanted, assured that it was fine to sit and listen and say nothing if that made us comfortable. We were asked to give Compassionate Friends a chance, to attend a second meeting no matter how we felt after the first one.

The little room behind the room has given me forever friendships, a safety zone to blurt out whatever is on my mind—a haven. I realize that the little bridge is truly symbolic—whether it's a "bridge over troubled water" or a bridge that helps us move to a better place in life. The healing that takes place in the room cannot be overstated. Now those of us who were "new" are able to welcome those who are just beginning their grief journey. To share with them that there is a better day in sight, that we cannot take away their pain or give them answers, but that we will walk the whole journey with them, is a priceless privilege.

We are now moving to another meeting place. Words cannot express how grateful we are to have had the College Bound Solutions meeting room. When we close our last meeting there. I know that we will pack up the heart that is in that little room. and take it with us as we continue our journey.

Carol Thompson, TCF Tyler, TX, 9-21-2008

We need not walk alone.

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





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

"If I could leave you with a thought, it would be this: 'You will help yourself by help-

ing others.' That was the lesson I learned from my painful journey. We are all here



In loving memory of Chris O'Leary by Merri Walsh



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In loving memory of Leah Zucca by Jim & Cheri Zucca



In loving memory of Chad Cavazos by **Dale Cavazos** 

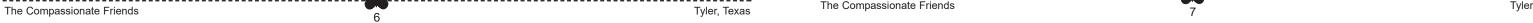


In loving memory of In loving memory of lared Sheets by **Christopher Loper** Carol & Shane by Tina Loper Johnson



In loving memory of Stephanie Settle by **Danny & Pat Settle** 







"Slowly you will find new patterns. You will force yourself to take the first steps. You will accomplish little victories; none of us will tell you it is easy. Grieve well, my friend; for grief well grieved is truly life well lived; once accomplished, you will discover untold new dimensions in your life; because a child died." -Shirley Melin

#### A Grandson's Gift

Jake was seventeen when his grandfather passed away. Up to that time they had celebrated their birthdays together. As their birthdays were one day apart-Jake's on September 15th, and Papa's on September 16th.

When Jake turned eighteen, a large birthday party was held in celebration. Music, food, and friends all gathered to honor a young man who was friend to all he met. In the midst of all the partying I noticed that someone was missing. That someone was the honoree. Where could be be?

In a short while he returned, I quickly asked him "where did you go, Jake? Did you go see Papa?" Yes, he had been to the cemetery to spend some birthday time with Papa as he always had. "I didn't have a gift for him, but, I had two quarters in my pocket and I left them for him" I was overwhelmed by my love for this beautiful young man and still am today.

When Jake passed away three years after his Papa, it became a family tradition to leave quarters for Jake. And at some point the guarters started to disappear. We always hoped it was some friends who took them, Just someone who wanted a remembrance of Jake.

But, no one ever took the guarters Jake had left for Papa. Perhaps people knew the story of a young boy's gift to his beloved grandfather.

Until this year, almost eleven years after the quarters were place on marker of his grandfather, no one had ever disturbed them. A few months ago, someone took the gift-we don't know who or why or exactly when.

Those quarters that came from Jake's pocket, placed there by his hands, meant much more to us than the value of the coins. We would gladly have given more than that to whoever needed it.

The quarters are irreplaceable to us, as is the young man who placed them there.

Of course ,we know that Jake and Papa have no need to quarters in Heaven, but, for us they represented a shining tribute of a grandson's love for his grandfather.

Though the guarters are gone, the gift of love lives, and we will not forget.

In loving memory of Jake Schoonover; Written by his beloved Nana, Sue Roberts

#### My Salvation

Actor's Theater, in Talent, Oregon, has been a kind salvation for me. I lost my husband and our only child within two years of each other. And, I am an only child. Oh, the loneliness.

What to do? Many find solace in gardening, but I scarcely know which end of a plant goes in the ground. Some find needle work calming, (my daughter did beautiful needlepoint) but I don't sew. I have counseled with bereaved relatives and friends, near and far, by telephone, but with six years of caregiving and facilitating a group for caregivers, I needed something that would challenge me to the extreme.

Education and small theater had once been a large part of my life. So I dared to try out for Actor's Theater October production of To Kill a Mockingbird. What joy I felt when they called to tell me I was cast in a small part. The entire company has been welcoming, supportive and encouraging. My days were busy learning lines, at a slower rate than when I had more of my neurons. Rehearsals were nightly, preparing for several weekly performances.

When you feel almost ready to emerge from the greatest depths of your grief, my best counsel would be: Search yourself, your soul and your past for the lifetime delights. Then dare to find a group with which to work, to relate and to give. To create with fellow artists is a reincarnation for your body, mind and spirit. The group creative process, like our groups process grief, is healing.

God speed.

Rodna Shutes, TCF Medford, OR

\_\_\_\_\_\_ The Compassionate Friends



"If I had known the last time I talked to you on the phone was going to be the last I would hear your voice, I would have paid more attention to the sound of your voice and I would have told you how much you mean to me. I miss you so much." -Claudia Ellison

#### October Birthdays Cont.



Irish Faye Haggerty



Sydney Jane Farris

Kara Belanger



**Dana Regester** 



Robin Reynolds



Keith Radabaugh





**Carson Kerry** Rose



**Linton Daniel** Wilgus



**Tanner Michael Douglas** 



**Randy Meyers** 

Maxwell **Edward-Ray Glass** 

"Hope is the feeling that the feeling you have isn't permanent." —Jean Kerr

Cheyenne

Stevenson

"Why does it hurt so much? Why is this grief so incapacitating? If only the hurt weren't so crushing. Sounds familiar? All of us have known hurts before, but none of our previous 'ouchies' can compare with the hurt we feel. Nothing can touch the pain of burying a child." —Darcie D. Sims

## **October Anniversaries**

















Jake Schoonover



Jacob Mikal Burrell





Alexander Johnson Cory Wayne Channon



Continued on next page.

Volunteers needed for our Annual Candle Lighting ceremony held in December!

The Compassionate Friends



"But there was no need to be ashamed of tears, for tears bore witness that a

man had the greatest of courage, the courage to suffer." —Viktor E. Frankl

#### Peace

By Donna B. in memory of her daughter Sarah

Weep no more my mother Please, let your sorrow go. You'll find me in each apple bough and each Silver flake of snow.

Grieve no more my mother I have not gone away You'll hear me in each sparrow's song And in the gentle rain.

> Smile again my mother Please, let your sorrow go. You'll see me in each butterfly And petal of our rose.



#### The Fall of Fall

What is it about the season that takes me back in time Everything I do, I find you are on my mind. Haunting dreams find me at night when I try to sleep And every little detail is replayed, and the sadness falls so deep.

Something about the close of summer seems to bring it back Making it so hard to move onward and stay on track. Something about the dying and fading of the trees Brings my heart to sorrow, with the falling of the leaves.

How I long to stop it, to keep the fall away But time marches on, and summer just won't stay. I know with the fall, winters not far behind Another lonely season, and the memories flood my mind.

I cry my tears of sorrow, and pray for spring to come A rebirth of the earth, and the warmness of the sun. It makes the memories softer and gentler to recall But now my life is saddened with the nearing of fall

Sheila Simmons In Memory of my son Steven March 24, 1970-October 19, 1999 Reprinted from TCF Atlanta Online Sharing. Tuesday's Child Section

#### What My World is Like Without You

By Lydia R. Burns

They say that death changes the way you think, It changes the way we eat and drink, It changes the way we plan our lives It makes us just want to crawl and hide. Our future is forever now unknown Each day my heart aches and I groan There is no sparkle in my eyes Unless you count those many tears inside. I wonder what our future will bring Not the sound of your children singing No babies to hug, no son to hold What would it be like growing old? Your father and I still talk about you And all the things we thought you'd do Those dreams are gone, and so is the rest Of those things in life that you did best.

Love you, Ma; 6/20/2008

In memory of my beloved son, David William Burns Gone four years; Born 9-11-1972 and left us 7-2-2004 We love and miss you so much.

### In Memory of Erin Leigh Moody

She was a classmate of yours at Holly Spring Elementary School, Her life ended at the age of nine, A Stroke took her away before her prime,

She missed those high school times, Football games, playing in the band, Sweet 16, Driver's Ed., Junior-Senior Prom, Senior pictures, Senior ring, Graduation invitations.

When you don your cap and gown, And receive your high school diploma, Remember those classmates who Have graduated to heaven.

"Some people come into our lives and quickly go... Some stay awhile and leave footprints on our hearts... and we are never the same "

We miss you Erin.

Mom, Dad, Daniel, Mama and Papa Moody, Grandmother and Granddaddy Rowell, Other family and friends.



"Vulnerability to death is one of the given conditions of life. We can't explain it any more than we can explain life itself. We can't control it, or sometimes even postpone it. All we can do is try to rise beyond the question, "Why did it happen?" and begin to ask the question, "What do I do now that it has happened?" —Harold S. Kushner

#### **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 voluteer and/or steering committee member, please reach out to us. We'd love to have you aboard and we're sure you'll expereince 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!

## **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!

The Compassionate Friends The Compassionate Friends