

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!



**The
Compassionate
Friends**
Supporting Family After a Child Dies



We need not walk alone.

Volume 21, Issue 10

Tyler, Texas

October 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

Chapter Leader: Heather Ogg;
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 anniver-
saries and reading of the Credo. We will
then have open discussion.
8:00 p.m. - Meeting will close by recog-
nizing 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

We are considering the option of a virtual Candle Lighting this year and plan to have more information in our November newsletter. Please call us at 903-422-0358 if you'd like to help with this event. Thank you!

We still have new shirts from our Annual Candle Lighting Event



Call or email to place your order: (903) 422-0358 or info@TylerTCF.org

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

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

Number of T-shirt's to purchase _____ (\$25 ea) Shirt sizes: _____

Your name: _____ (required)

**"Thank you" to TCF leadership and members for
providing resources, friendship, light and glimpses
of life-giving hope over the last 15 years.**
—Carol Thompson

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.

“Share your knowledge. It is a way to achieve immortality.” —*Dalai Lama XIV*

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

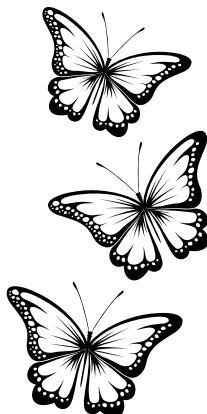
Grief Camps for Kids: www.moyerfoundation.org/programs

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.

“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*

A First Love for Eternity

Most moms remember their child's first love as a sweet child, maybe in kindergarten, who stole their heart for just a little while. I remember my son's first love: the Pontiac GTO. The first GTO was a model. Todd carefully assembled that model over a period of a few days one summer. Then, after an extensive search, he found the perfect teal color for the model. I still have that model on a special shelf. Each time I look at it, I marvel at the amount of time he dedicated to that one tiny car model.

When Todd was 16, he bought a 1967 blue GTO. He worked on it, touched up the paint, kept it in pristine condition. He loved that car. But this wasn't his true love. His true love was always a 1965 GTO.

He and I talked about how he would find a GTO to restore. I suggested buying the mailing list of GTO owners in southeast Texas and sending out a postcard which is exactly what Todd did. For a week he heard nothing. Then one afternoon, a gentleman from rural east Texas called him and asked if he was interested in his 1965 GTO. Todd and my husband were on the way to the man's home within an hour. Todd came home with a 1965 GTO that evening. And the restoration began.

For 12 years Todd invested any extra money he had in his GTO. The ground up restoration started the fall that he entered college. It ended three years after he finished graduate school. Piece by piece, part by part, Todd restored that beautiful car to its original glory. He was so very proud of the finished product. His dream had always been to show his 1965 GTO at Autorama which he did at Thanksgiving. He joined the Gulf Coast GTO Club, and participated in their events and always tried to show his car with them. He won second place in the National GTO show one year in Dallas. He won first place at Autorama in his class. He had so many trophies.....he would line them up for the car show displays in an ever growing row.

Life had moved on: a wife, four children, a new home, another new home and finally the home of his dreams which he built in a lovely neighborhood west of Austin, took a great deal of time. But he always made time for his GTO. He kept his GTO spotless and drove it occasionally. He died five years after he completed his GTO restoration.

Last weekend we changed the oil in Todd's GTO, and I turned the key to make sure all was right. When I heard the sound of the engine, I could sense Todd sitting right next to me, smiling that big, happy GTO smile. If Todd is ever with me, it is when I sit in his GTO and listen to those three deuces purr as I glide through the four speeds. Unbidden tears ran down my cheek as I gradually increased the RPGs and reached over to touch the seat where I could feel Todd's presence. I whispered, "I miss you so much, Todd." I could hear him say, "I miss you, too, Mom." Peace comes to us in our beautiful memories.

Annette Mennen Baldwin, In memory of my son, Todd Mennen, TCF, Katy, TX

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

In loving memory of Sarah Thompson by Carol Thompson



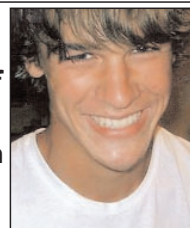
In loving memory of Alex by Robert & Trisha Taylor



In loving memory of Candice Lingle by Mary Lingle



In loving memory of Chris O'Leary by Mary O'Leary Walsh



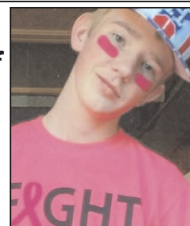
In loving memory of Leah Zucca by Jim & Cheri Zucca



In loving memory of Chad Cavazos by Dale Cavazos



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



In loving memory of Christopher Loper by Tina Loper



In loving memory of Andy Terrell by David & Teresa Terrell





We need not walk alone.

"Our healing will eventually cause our pain to move out and make room for our loved ones memories. We learn to make a new life for ourselves. Holidays get better and we learn how to live again." —*Marie Hofmockel*

October Birthdays



Cindy Dingler



Marshall Charles Donahue



Joey Moore



George Washington Shaw, III



Jeremy Mark Lawler



Christopher Andrews



Brittany Butler



James Brady Langston



Kendrick Clark



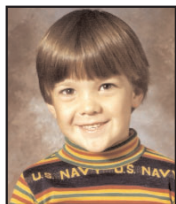
Patton Ross



Sandi McLain



Austin Dixon



Richard Heerdt



Mark Turner



Kenneth Melvin



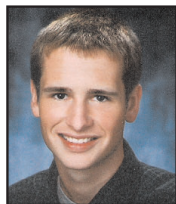
Trey Dobbs



Suzie Gorman



Rosa Linda Serrano



Neil Defenbaugh



Emily Elizabeth Ellis



Jessica Maureen Nix



Bonnie Lee Benson



A.J. Huggins



Clayton Norton



Allison Carson



Cason Gimble



J.D. Adams



Loren Saunders



Shellae Vicknair



Jesse Lee Irby



Patti Ann Gage



Gauge Austin Thomas



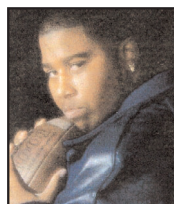
Ricardo Gonzalez



Michael Knight



Stephanie Mata



Todd Dean



We need not walk alone.

"I am learning that 'Helping is Healing' and the more I give the more I seem to get back. More gifts arrive as I become able to speak and write about my journey." —*Rick Mirabile*

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.

Christopher Molnari

**In loving memory
of Christopher**

by Kim Cathey



Thanks to Kim Cathey 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.



We need not walk alone.

"I do not believe that sheer suffering teaches. If suffering alone taught, all the world would be wise, since everyone suffers. To suffering must be added mourning, understanding, patience, love, openness, and the willingness to remain vulnerable." —Anne Morrow Lindbergh

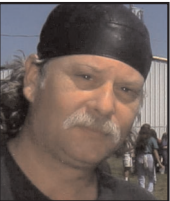
October Anniversaries



Wade Goetze



Sean Smith



Bill Bouslog



Janet Florey



Mikel Conway



T.J. Anderson



Erica Smith



Jake Schoonover



Jacob Mikal Burrell



Alexander Johnson



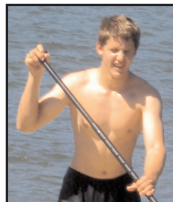
Cory Wayne Channon



J.L. Adams



Candace Beggs



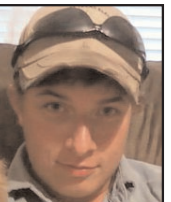
Zachary Bradley



Stacey Smith



John Patrick
Camahan



Aaron Sullender



J.D. Adams



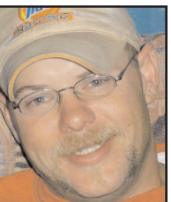
Madeline Joy
Kearney



James Lee Lary



Alyssa Kathryn
Crim



Jonathan Shipman



Amanda Claire
Miller



Jackson Thomas
Feliciano



Joey Moore



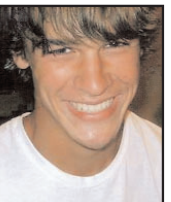
Kathy Robertson



Christopher Bullock



Rosa Linda Serrano



Chris O'Leary



Hanna Olivia Collie



Todd Andrew
Thompson



Jennifer Massey



Trenton Cole
Bailey



Randy Thomas
Meyers



Stacy Hunter



Cheyenne
Stevenson

Continued on next page.



We need not walk alone.

"Memory is a way of holding onto the things you love, the things you are, the things you never want to lose." —*The Wonder Years*

October Anniversaries Cont.



Terry Brendon
Reed Pettit



Phoebe Fair



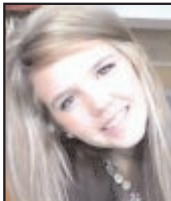
Matthew Lehw



Robert Ryan White



Leon Wayne Lasiter



Cheyenne Ramirez



Jeff Maurer



Maxwell
Edward-Ray Glass



Catherine McCarty

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

Shared Thoughts on Healing

Healing is the one gift all bereaved parents & siblings are searching for. Because our pain is so all consuming and overwhelming, it makes us feel that it would be impossible to laugh or be happy again. We and all those around us want the impossible, which is to return to the way we were before the death of our child or sibling.

The shock of our loss usually insulates us, which helps us to get through those first few weeks of grief, but unfortunately that is about as long as some of our friends and family will hang in there with us. We are grieving for our child or sibling, but most friend's primary grief is for us and the pain we are going through, their tolerance for our extended grief wears thin. They want us to hurry and feel better so that their pain will go away.

About this time even we ask ourselves, "when will I feel better?" I can remember, after Doug's death, of wondering if the pain would ever ease. Life seemed so pointless and without hope. Just to survive a day seemed so difficult and demanded every ounce of strength I had.

Gradually, (and never as soon as we would like it to come), we do feel a glimmer of hope for some small interest in life again. No matter how small our accomplishment, we need to recognize this as healing. Little by little our empty feelings diminish, even though they are not gone. Since our healing time is proportionate to our loss, the road is very long and hard.

We at Compassionate Friends, have traveled the road. We never want to forget our loved ones. Our child or sibling died, but the love lives on, and what ever we were to one another, we still are. Healing is not forgetting, it's remembering without pain.

Our deep pain blocks our objectivity, but someday this agony (and the love for our child or sibling) will bring us new meanings about life. We have to choose our own path for peace and healing.

During your grief, if you feel more compassionate toward another's loss, refine your priorities, are less judgmental, want to ease someone's pain, or can remember your loved one without intense pain. You are healing!

Come share—we need one another to get to the other side of grief.

God Bless, Marie Hofmockel, TCF Valley Forge, PA





We need not walk alone.

“Although it's difficult today to see beyond the sorrow, may looking back in memory help comfort you tomorrow. —*Author Unknown*

Blessings Inside Sorrow

There are blessings inside sorrow, or so I have been told. I am not sure I always agree. At times I can see the gifts I have been given. Love...without measure...fills my heart when I think of you. But I loved you then too, when you were in my arms, not in my heart. And I miss you now. The emptiness you left can never be filled, not by any blessings I might receive from sorrow.

And yet, still, I wonder. Are there blessings? Would I have known how much I cared for you...for your brothers, for your Dad, were it not for your coming, and so suddenly, softly, leaving, without a good-bye? Would I treasure life I have remaining if it weren't for your loss? Certainly I loved and treasured before you left, but hasn't my sorrow caused me to express that love and to treasure more highly those around me? I KNOW I can't take for granted they will always be.

In the aftermath of losing you, when life lay crumbled around me... still was there not a glimmer of hope? That life would go on, somehow, we would survive and build on the ashes of our broken hearts. Building somehow in spite of our pain. Mixing the cement of our love with tears, we bound ourselves together even more tightly than ever before. And our love grows stronger. And we have not forgotten.

What a bitter lesson! And still, the emptiness will never be filled. There yet remains a hole in my heart...and in all our hearts. Dear son, we will never forget you. The blessings inside our sorrow will never fill the hole you left in our fabric of our lives. It remains open, a testament that you mattered, and that your coming and soft going made a difference. And in that difference lies the blessing inside our sorrow.

We were blessed to have held you for a time, even though you could not stay. And even through our tears, we smile at the memories. And we know that you are not completely alone. You shadow our lives, affecting them in big ways and small. And though I would trade blessings in a minute just to have you back in my arms, I am indeed grateful for the blessings inside sorrow.

Lisa Sculley, TCF Jacksonville, Orange Park Chapter

Melissa Majors

**In loving memory
of Melissa**

by Janet Majors



Thanks to Janet Majors 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.



We need not walk alone.

“I began to realize that there were plenty of things to look forward to, and it was possible to be happy and keep her in my heart. I also realized that even though she died, I still had an entire life to live. I decided to live this life for her. For the both of us. —*Amanda Geisinger*

October Birthdays Cont.



**Irish Faye
Haggerty**



**Sydney Jane
Farris**



Dana Regester



Robin Reynolds



Keith Radabaugh



Amanda Anderson



Randy Meyers



Kara Belanger



**Cheyenne
Stevenson**



**Carson Kerry
Rose**



**Linton Daniel
Wilgus**



**Tanner Michael
Douglas**



**Maxwell
Edward-Ray Glass**



Wyatt Lee Hibdon

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!

Fall

It is so hard to believe that summer is over! Even though summer is technically still here until September, the cool evenings we have been having, school starting, and football games being played are all signs that fall is here. And I love it!

To me, fall is the most invigorating time of the year. The crispness of the air, the beautiful coloration of the trees, the smell of leaf and wood smoke, the sky full of birds traveling south "talking" with one another as they go, are all part of this wonderful world we live in. I hope all of you will be able to feel and see the wonders of fall.

Sometimes we are so "down" and preoccupied with our child's death, and we are working so hard to just get through each day, that we are unable to appreciate what is going on in the world around us. Try to take a few minutes each day and look around. If you can focus on a beautiful tree or leaf, smell the chrysanthemums blooming in the garden or bite into a fresh apple just picked and enjoy doing this for just a few minutes, it will make your day seem brighter. And, if you are up to it, go to a high school football game or a band competition. The enthusiasm of the young people participating in these events is contagious.

Yes, it sometimes hurts. We want our children to be there also, enjoying these activities. But it also gives us renewed faith that life does go on, and there is happiness and excitement in the world. I hope you all can find some beauty and peace in the fall months ahead.

Peggy Hartzell, TCF Ambler, PA

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!





We need not walk alone.

“Recall the unforgettable memories of the past as you search for a meaningful future. Even in your overwhelming despair, you will realize that part of that child's life will live with you forever.” —*Rabbi Earl A. Grollman*

Farewell to Dreams

Once upon a time we lived a fairy tale
Where all lived happily ever after
God's sun was bright and the stars at night
Joined in the joy and laughter

We met each day in a composed way
And met also each tribulation
We survived each blow and resultant woe
And loved without ration

Then one day the dreams went astray
We bid goodbye to "ever after"
Eyes filled with tears dissolved the cheers
And goodbye to joy and laughter

Unhappily tossed, our dreams were lost
In clouded skies there are no beams
Ours to remember a glowing ember
But goodbye to tales and farewell to dreams

*Harvey Hockstein
TCF Morris Area, NJ
In Memory of my daughter, Marilyn*

Peace, my heart,
let the time for the parting be sweet.

Let it not be a death but completeness.

Let love melt into memory and pain into songs.

Let the flight through the sky end
in the folding of the wings over the nest.

Let the last touch of your hands be gentle
like the flower of the night.

Stand still, O Beautiful End, for a moment,
and say your last words in silence.

I bow to you and hold up my lamp
to light you on your way.

Rabindranath Tagore

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



I Sure Miss You

If life could only bring again,
the days I took for granted when,
To hear your voice was just a call away.
Oh what I'd give for just some time to say,
the things that slipped my mind.
There's so much now I'd really like to say.

But I can never go back when,
we did those things we did back then,
I'll store those precious memories in my mind.

I'll take what you've instilled in me,
I'll try to be all I can be,
and walk the path that you have left behind.

I sure miss you.

Life will never be the same with you not here.
Each passing day has brought much pain.
But with God's grace my strength remains.

I sure miss you; but heaven's sweeter with you there.

The little things that seemed so small
are now gold in a memory vault.
I cherish every one I have of you,
now I can see and recognize the part you
played to shape my life.
I often see you in the things I do.

In God's design and master plan,
He saw the hurting hearts of man.
As we would say good-bye to those so dear.
So with our family and friends we'll be
together once again.
We'll view all heaven's splendor hand in hand.

I sure miss you.

My life will never be the same with you not here.

Love,
Mom

*Lisa Moody in memory of my son,
Jonathan Lee Daniel Sanders
TCF Tyler, TX*



We need not walk alone.

“The spiritual meaning of love is measured by what it can do. Love is meant to heal. Love is meant to renew.” —*Deepak Chopra*

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

Benchmarks

Good bye would be too difficult,
Although I know you are gone.
Instead, I keep you in my heart
And your memory lives on.
I have redefined my purpose, son,
Since you are no longer here.
With your death I faced a choice
To die, exist or to live free.
My life has changed forever, child,
I'm redefined each week,
You would call these "benchmarks"
Of goals set and then achieved.
And so I set my benchmarks,
Achieving many, reshaping some...
But everything is different now
Except your mother's love.

*Annette Mennen Baldwin
TCF Katy, TX, In Memory of my son, Todd Mennen*

Announcements

Meeting Info: 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.



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

