

**Meeting Location: First Christian Church, 4202 S. Broadway • Tyler 75703**  
Please park behind the sanctuary in front of the Christian Life Center. Every 3rd Monday at 6:30 p.m.

**We need volunteers to keep your Compassionate Friends chapter afloat. Please contact us to help in any capacity—once or for a few months or more. Any help will be greatly appreciated!**



www.TylerTCF.org

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

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**Please join us at 900 S. Broadway Ave. Tyler, TX 75701.  
We hope to see you at our next meeting!**

*We need not walk alone.*



Tyler, Texas 75711  
P.O. Box 9714

**THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS**




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



*We need not walk alone.*

**Volume 22, Issue 9**

**Tyler, Texas**

**September 2021**

**Monthly Group Meeting**

Tyler Area Meeting  
First Christian Church  
4202 S. Broadway  
Tyler, TX 75701  
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, Mary Lingle

Joan & Bill Campbell, Regional Coordinators: (972) 935-0673  
TCF National: (877) 969-0010  
www.compassionatefriends.org

**The Meeting Agenda**

6:30 p.m. - Meeting will begin with announcement of birthdays and anniversaries and reading of the Credo. We will then have open discussion.

8:00 p.m. - Meeting will close by recognizing our childrens' names. Feel free to visit after the meeting or check out books from our library.

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**For David**

It's impossible to explain the pain you have when you lose someone so dear! Your life stops! And when it starts again, it is with a huge gap. Your life as you knew it will never be the same, for you and anyone that knows you. There are many firsts, the birthdays, the holidays; how to answer the questions of strangers—how many children do you have?

As I was thinking about the last 7 1/2 years without you in our lives, I discover that there is a void in my memory. I remember that the days and months ran together. I remember wondering if my life will ever again be like those who move through their days as if nothing devastating has ever happened to them. I notice that I have lost the ability to focus—even today my attention span isn't as good as it used to be. I still feel the pain and the void when I'm counting seating for a family get together; I look forward to my dreams in hopes that you will be there!

The only thing that comes to my mind when trying to compare this pain to a life experience is when you skid and fall, and keep sliding. You badly scrape and cut a knee or an elbow or both. The pain is so unbearable. It's hard to move without it hurting. Your body goes into shock. When it finally starts scabbing over and healing, the slightest movement can open the wound back up; it oozes and it seeps, and you ask if this misery will ever stop! And then the healing process starts all over again.

Finally, the scab is gone, but a scar remains. At first, the scar is red and very tender until it gets used to being there. Then it becomes taught and tight! Then, one day when someone points out the scar—you say, yes, it's a reminder of a very painful accident. I see it every day, but now I am able to bend it without pain.

Some days when the weather changes it becomes harder to bend. It's gets stiff and hurts; it's a fresh reminder of the day I hurt it. But most days I live with it just as it is; it is now a part of me. I remember how painful it was; I remember the scab. But now, I see the scar, and sometimes it even makes me smile.

David, I know you are in a beautiful place with many that have gone before and after you. I see you helping others, laughing, loving, and saving a place for us. I am thankful for your life and the many blessings you still give us. I am thankful to God that you are no longer suffering and in pain, and most days, I feel joy in my heart because I know that you are happy! Your father and I love you now and forever!

*Jill Eagleston, TCF Southlake, TX  
In Memory of our son, David Eagleston*

**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.*

"A discerning look, a listening ear, or a gentle touch can be balm the other person needs to give them a moment's solace. We are companion sojourners, wounded healers and compassionate friends." —Janet Reyes

## 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](http://compassionatefriends.org)  
Also offers grief support for **siblings & grandparents**

**The Childrens Park:** [www.childrensparktyler.org](http://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](http://www.glorybabies.com)

**GriefShare:** [www.griefshare.org](http://www.griefshare.org)

**Smith County Victim Services Division**  
[www.tdcj.state.tx.us/divisions/vs/counties/smith.html](http://www.tdcj.state.tx.us/divisions/vs/counties/smith.html)

**The Hospice of East Texas:** [www.hospiceofeasttexas.org](http://www.hospiceofeasttexas.org)

**Victim Services Division - Texas Department of Criminal Justice - Online Resource Directory**  
[www.tdcj.state.tx.us/divisions/vs](http://www.tdcj.state.tx.us/divisions/vs)

**Survivors of Suicide:** [www.allianceofhope.org](http://www.allianceofhope.org)

**Samaritan Counseling of Tyler:** [www.scctyler.org](http://www.scctyler.org)

**Tyler Counseling & Assessment, LLP:** [www.tyler-counseling.com](http://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](http://angellayettes.org) • 903-534-5212

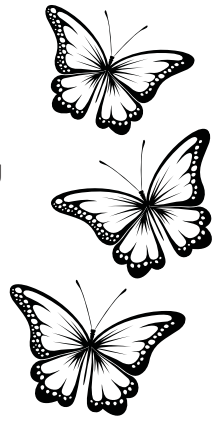
**University of Texas at Tyler Psychology and Counseling and Training Clinic:** 903-593-2348

**The Cope Foundation:** [www.copefoundation.org](http://www.copefoundation.org)

**Grief Camps for Kids:** [www.moyerfoundation.org/programs](http://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.*

"At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us." —Albert Schweitzer

## A Bit Richer

I've heard it said that what you get out of a book depends not on what the book brings to you, but on what you bring to the book.

It's hard to fathom—much less accept—that we can gain anything by losing a child. Once the black hole has been created, we can't imagine that any light will ever enter it. But, in time, tender mercies start to trickle in. If we keep our eyes and hearts open, we do gain a more insightful view of life. We see and feel things at a deeper level than others can even imagine.

I find as a speaker and writer, when I quote books and use examples from movies to help illustrate or clarify my feelings about bereaved parenthood—or more often, life in general—people will say, "I don't remember reading that" "I didn't get that out of it." "I never made that connection."

*Little Women, Pay It Forward, Gladiator, Lost in Yonkers*, and yes, the classic *Gone with the Wind* are just a few of the books and movies that portray the depths of life as WE know it while others merely read words or watch actors on a screen.




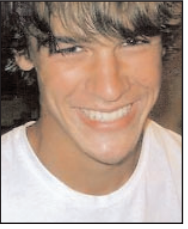





I don't like being where I am. I certainly would never choose to be here. But as I go back to favorite books and movies, I find comfort not only in the familiar, but also in the farther-reaching themes that I didn't see before.

Revisiting books and movies will never make up for the loss of my son, but it can make my life a bit richer. And long as I'm still alive, I'm going to grab whatever I can get.

*Susan Larson (Loren's Mom), TCF, Atlanta, GA*

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

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

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <p>In loving memory of<br/><b>Sarah Thompson</b> by<br/>Carol Thompson</p>                   | <p>In loving memory of<br/><b>Melissa Majors</b> by<br/>Janet Majors</p>       | <p>In loving memory of<br/><b>Alex</b> by Robert &amp;<br/>Trisha Taylor</p>              |
| <p>In loving memory of<br/><b>Chris O'Leary</b> by<br/>Mary O'Leary Walsh</p>                | <p>In loving memory of<br/><b>Leah Zucca</b> by<br/>Jim &amp; Cheri Zucca</p>  | <p>In loving memory of<br/><b>Chad Cavazos</b> by<br/>Dale Cavazos</p>                    |
| <p>In loving memory of<br/><b>Tanner Douglas</b> by<br/>Heather Ogg &amp;<br/>Zach Reed</p>  | <p>In loving memory of<br/><b>Christopher Loper</b><br/>by Tina Loper</p>      | <p>In loving memory of<br/><b>Andy Terrell</b> by<br/>David &amp; Teresa<br/>Terrell</p>  |

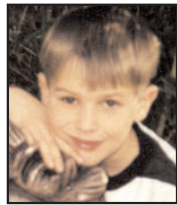




*We need not walk alone.*

"Meetings do not bring about closure. You close on a house, not the death of a child. May you find your own peaceful solution to fit your individual needs for coping with special dates which are painful after losing your child. We are here to help." —Janet G. Reyes

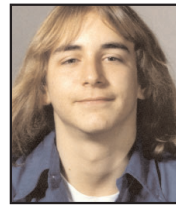
### September Birthdays



Justin Dover



Chad Cavazos



Jon Lee Hardwick



Theresa Kay Talley



Tommy Gresham



Bobby Jack Stanley



Robert Attaway



Shantrice Willingham



Autumn Dale Romine



Michael R. Peymon



Austin Cheek



Chase Cyrus Naquin



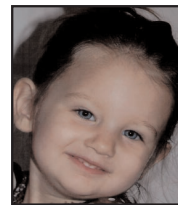
Gary Dean Arnold



Stacey Smith



Michael Toby Tobias



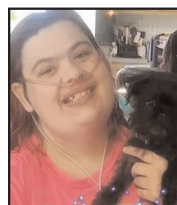
Ava Faith Knight



Betsi Marie Wyatt



Bill Bouslog



Tiffany Conklin



Joshua Jolley



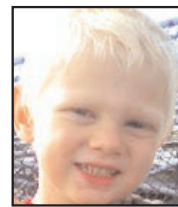
Douglas Johnson, Amanda Claire Miller



Leah Zucca



Aaron Willman



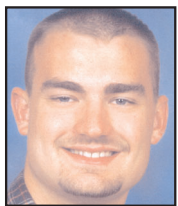
Chance Aaron Chandler



Catherine McCarty



Samantha Johnson



Adam Thomas Pritchard



Joshua Washburn



Jake Schoonover



Lee Sammons



Kyle James Horn



Christopher Molnari



Lillian Oldham



Jiree Mobley



Melinda Orr



Tommy Gresham



Brooklynn Woods



Brian McDaniel



Colby Ivey



*We need not walk alone.*

"I still interact with you nightly in my dreams, only to awake and accept the reality of your physical absence daily. May you R.I.P. Marc. May your spirit soar gloriously above the heavens, gracefully free like a butterfly chasing a rainbow." —Lisa Pearlman

## Christopher Molnari

### In loving memory of Christopher

### by Uncle Tom & Aunt Kim



**Thanks, Kim Cathey, for your generous donation.**

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

### 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*

### An Empty Chair

The first wedding was two years after Alan, my twin-brother, passed away. My second oldest brother was getting married. I was waiting for the question, "When was I going to get married?" I was never asked so I couldn't use my prepared response, "When Alan could be my best man."

I thought if I did get married I would have an empty chair next to me. If Alan couldn't be my best man, I didn't want anyone. My brother's name would appear in the program (that he would have designed) as honorary best man.

This year I turned thirty-six, it was my sixth birthday without Alan. At the restaurant we had made a mistake, the reservation had been made for one too many. I had ended up sitting next to an empty chair.

I thought I was doing better, no longer crying at family events. I now realize that I will not have an empty chair at my wedding, if I can ever bring myself to get married without Alan being there. The loss I feel will always be there, but it's much worse seeing an empty chair.

*Daniel Yoffee*







*We need not walk alone.*

"Give yourself something to hold on to and look forward to. We all know that the death of our child is something that we will never 'get over' but we can try to find ways to make it through the really bad days. We are here to help."  
—Janet Reyes

### September Anniversaries



Tim Cole



Cindy Dingler



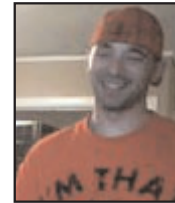
Stephen Townsend



Cason Gimble



Jonathan Lee Daniel Sanders



Nathaniel Blake Dark



Stephanie Harris Reed



Amanda Stone



Mahlon Acres



Joshua Brandon "Josh" Wilcox



Michael Angelo Perez



Jennifer Booth Musick



Mary Jennifer Stone



Toni Wood



Joshua Malone



Ashlee Ann Davis



Cameron Weatherly



Robby Cano



Shantrice Willingham



Robert Attaway Jr.



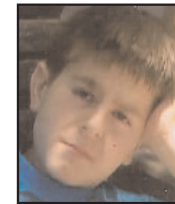
Seth Henry Porter



A.J. Frazier



Cobin Frazier



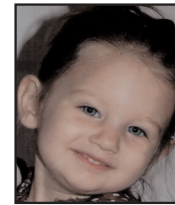
Alec Heath Thigpen



Sarah Thompson



Jared Sheets



Ava Faith Knight



John Shade



D. Anriloten Bennett



Sarah Wheeler



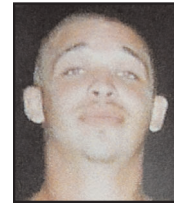
Doug Norton



Daniel Wayne Thornton



Randall Thornton, Jr.



Colton James Bain



Amber Drake



Keisha Knauss



*We need not walk alone.*

"We are still actively parenting our children. We continue to bring life to our children by loving them now and forever. There is not and should never be a word to signify the endless love of a parent." —Janet G. Reyes

### September Anniversaries Cont.



Daryn Keith Selman



Wayne Davis



Doug Bennett



Amanda Anderson



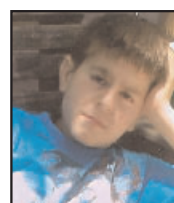
Derek Russell



James Rawls



Richard Allen Wilgus



Alec Heath Thigpen



Kevin Paul Elbert

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

### The Depths of Grief

We are all bereaved parents or bereaved family members. We live with the pain of loss each day, every day. We are veterans of a most unholy pain, rising each day to begin again the struggle to survive, the fight to make sense of a world that—for us—has become senseless.

Now our ranks have sadly swelled.

On the eleventh day of September many thousands of innocent people perished. The killing was as indiscriminate as it was impersonal; husbands, wives, daughters, sons, brothers and sisters died. Each life lost on that day represents, as we know all too well, a forthcoming struggle of the survivors to go on in a newly painful world that will make little sense.

As the relentless news poured in on that black day, my sorrow grew exponentially. Grief and horror mushroomed—demanding to be expressed. Tears fell as they had not in a number of years. Inside of me, the raw pain of grief blossomed anew. "What's going on?" I asked myself. "Why this overwhelming reaction? This isn't the first tragedy you've been witness to since the death of your little girl!" My pain seemed disproportionate, yet I continued to feel raw and weepy. I was unable to hinder the tides of emotion that swept over me that day, and all the days that have followed. Eventually I began to realize I was closely relating on two levels to the thousands who—without warning—had lost those most precious to them. The devastation that occurred in New York had happened in the place my heart called home, so on that level this was a personal tragedy. And as a grieving parent, I cringed at the unimaginable agony of those left behind—the weeks, months and years of anguished days and sleepless nights that lay in store for those frantic with fear on this horrendous day. I suspected that each of them was convinced that this was the most devastating day of their lives, and while I would not dispute that, I knew they were innocently unaware of the battles to come—the nightmares that lay in wait in the days and weeks ahead.

The tears I could not control were also for the innumerable acts of selflessness seen so many times throughout this horror. People put themselves at risk to help others; the injured lent a willing hand of support to those whose need seemed greater. As I watched this on television I was again so deeply moved. It seems our strongest bonds can be forged during the worst times in our lives. This lesson is one I learned first-hand when my own tragedy struck, and my anguish led me to The Compassionate Friends. There, other grieving parents held out their hands to me, and it was there I found the unwavering support that helped me survive my pain.

Now I could only hope each of these survivors would find a safe place to voice their grief.

So many have been so cruelly thrust into our world. We are here, hands outstretched, for those who need us.

Sally Migliaccio, Editor, TCF, Babylon, NY

Continued on next page.







*We need not walk alone.*

"If you have not been to a Compassionate Friends meeting, please muster all of the strength and courage you have and walk in the door for that first meeting. We'll help you from there. We care. We understand. We too have the same wounds as you. We need not walk alone." —*Janet G. Reyes*



*We need not walk alone.*

"A wounded heart, not allowed to mend from the depth of its agony, will be as an abscess to swell and undermine, erupting at a distant time. Or, suppressed, will slowly choke the spirit of its host. Only the bearer will know when his heart has healed." —*Nancy Green*

# 19th Annual Day of Remembrance Children's Park of Tyler



**Date:**  
Saturday, October 23, 2021

**Purpose:**  
To remember and celebrate the lives of children no longer with us.

**Location:**  
The Children's Park of Tyler  
110 E. Dobbs St  
Tyler, TX 75701

**Time:**  
10 AM for Children's Last Names  
Beginning with A - I  
Registration at 9 AM

2 PM for Children's Last Names  
Beginning with J-Z  
Registration at 1 PM

**Additional Information:**  
Registration fee is \$10 per child being remembered.

Online Registration is open through **October 15**. Registrations received by **October 1** will ensure your child's name is added to the program and the back of the t-shirt. All registrations will include a personalized angel and each child's name read out loud.

T-shirts are also available to order until **October 1**.

**Visit [childrensparktyler.org](http://childrensparktyler.org) for more information and to register online.**

## Meeting Location: First Christian Church

**4202 S. Broadway • Tyler 75703**

Please park behind the sanctuary in front of the Christian Life Center. Every 3rd Monday at 6:30 p.m.

## Differences Between A Man's Grief and A Woman's Grief

I have attended many support groups since my daughter, Kristina's death May 26th, 2008. I have observed differences in how grief is experienced in men and how grief is experienced in women. I have also heard it said by many leaders and in many articles how unique grief is to each individual. So even though I feel I can make some generalizations based on what I have personally seen and heard, there will invariably be many exceptions.

My opinion is that the difference in how grief is experienced is at its peak in the earliest days, weeks, and months of the grief journey. There may still be differences after six months and to a lesser extent after a year, but over time as grief is processed men and women seem to become more similar in handling grief. I have noticed how men differ from women when they speak at support group meetings. Many men will choke up and become unable to speak. Women may become very emotional, but most women still can speak even if it is with difficulty. Also, the men seem to be more of one extreme or the other, either they become too choked up to speak, or they can speak about their loss with apparent ease. Many women need to have a number of friends to repeat their story over and over. Men, on the other hand, have very few friends they choose to share with, and many times no one at all. Another difference I have experienced more myself than observed at meetings is called "compartmentalizing." I assume I am not the only one to experience this because I ran into a description of this in a book also.

It seems like men in general have difficulty with verbalizing about their loss. Many times it seems to bring on an intense emotional experience which has happened to me at times. I think it is for that reason many men do not attend support group meetings. Many times men will attend one meeting and never return. A number of those tried to speak at a meeting and found themselves unable to speak because of being too choked up. Women seem to be able to speak even at times they become emotional. This has varied widely in the groups I have attended, sometimes women can speak fairly freely and other times have a great deal of difficulty.

There is a video/book called "Tear Soup" that deals with the subject of loss from many causes. The premise is that grief can be from many things, not only from a death. The video portrays the man keeping off to himself while the woman is talking to many others. This seems to me like a realistic portrayal based on what I have heard in support groups. In my opinion this is most relevant in the first few weeks after a loss, as the shock starts to wear off the men will socialize more, but not necessarily talk about their loss. Women will look for people to talk to from the beginning. My experience was similar to men in general, I had one special person that I talked to about my feelings of grief, rather than many. It seems that women are better than men at listening, especially when it comes to feelings, and the person I talked to was a woman. She was willing to take a call about anytime, although for me the early morning hours were the most common time for intense sadness. I will never know what would have happened if I there had not been that special person to listen to me.

The concept of "compartmentalizing" I have found varies so much between people that some people seem to understand the concept immediately when it is introduced into a conversation and others seem to have no idea what it is. In my opinion this compartmentalizing is more common to men than women, but by no means exclusive. A leader in one of my support groups feels a more logically minded person is more prone to this compartmentalizing than a person who is not as logical in their thinking. In my reading I don't find this to be supported. In any case the way this is manifested is the rational side of the mind "knows" the truth, understands the death, but the emotional side does not. For me it was the strangest feeling when this was more intense, how can you know that something has happened and "feel" like it has not? I have had this sense of "unreality" become more intense and less intense at various times. Even after two or three years these feelings resurface at holidays, these feelings of "unreality." The explanation given for this in books I have read is that it is the mind's way of protecting itself. From that perspective the grief journey is more difficult for those that do not have so much of a gap between rational understanding and emotional understanding.

While the grief journey for men and woman starts out very different they become more similar over time. Men tend to stay off to themselves in the early months of grief, then gradually resume being more social. The people that have strong compartmentalizing in the early months of grief, more men than woman, find that this lessens over time.

*Lance Beigh*  
*TCF of the Greater Kankakee Area, IL*



*We need not walk alone.*

"The hurt never goes away. We never forget. We never get over it. We don't want to. We hurt so much because we loved so much. But the focus on death and the event fades and the warmth of good memories replaces it."  
—Richard Edler



*We need not walk alone.*

"In the art of losing we can choose who we will be. We break, but we break open so that we can include more of life, more of love. We get bigger in order to carry with us what we choose to continue loving." —Deborah Morris Coryell

### Happy Birthday in Heaven

Today we remember the day  
we were blessed with your birth.

How wonderful to have your  
life to share upon this earth.

Too few birthdays you spent with us,  
now another in heaven.

We wonder what our lives would be  
if you were still here in them.

But sadly it is not our fate to  
spend our days with you.

So we will cherish our memories  
to help see us through.

Our memories of your smile,  
compassionate, generous ways,

The joy you brought to all you  
saw each and every day.

Oh Son how we wish so bad  
we could be together,

But always know we love you today,  
tomorrow and forever.

Happy Birthday precious angel,  
may your spirit soar above,

Mom, Dad, Sister, family and  
friends sending all our love.

*Cindy McClain  
TCF of the Wabash Valley, IN  
In Memory of my son Dylan*

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

### A Crayola Day

The trees with leaves so lushly green  
Creating a beautiful sight to be seen  
Bright skies of blue and clouds fluffy white  
All combined for this glorious sight  
Of a perfect Crayola day

The earth warm and brown  
As we dig in the ground  
Produces flowers of most every hue  
Red, green, and yellow, and violet blue  
Make a splendid Crayola day

All different colors of birds on the wing  
The bluebird, the robin and redbirds that sing  
Flashing their beauty while taking their flight  
Providing us again with great delight  
And a wonderful Crayola day

From the day you saw light  
'Til you took your last flight  
You colored our world in every way  
Bringing such joy, we can only say,  
Thanks for each Crayola day.

*In loving memory of Jake Schoonover  
By his Nana, Sue Roberts*

### The Comfort My Heat Holds

My heart is so very grateful  
For the pictures in my mind.  
The precious thoughts and memories  
My grandson left behind.  
The pain that grips my heart  
Is quieted by the joy  
Of things he said and did  
While just a growing boy.  
I long to have him here once more  
And watch him as he grows.  
Yet, the joyful life he has now  
Is the comfort my heart holds.  
Not one single day goes by  
Without a thought of him.  
In time and with God's loving grace  
This pain will grow more dim.

*In memory of Chad Cavazos by his  
grandmother, Patsy Murray, TCF, Tyler, TX*

### 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](http://www.tylertcf.org)**

**We need volunteers to keep your East Texas Compassionate Friends chapter afloat. Please contact us to help in any capacity—once or for a few months or more. Any help will be greatly appreciated!**

### Announcements

**Meeting Info:** Our meeting is held at the First Christian Church, 4202 S. Broadway, Tyler 75703. Please park behind the sanctuary in front of Christian Life Center. 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](http://www.compassionatefriends.org) for dates and times.

### Donations Appreciated!

**Please consider making a donation to your local TCF group, which serves East Texas. Donations help pay for meeting extras, electric, mailing and paper cost of our newsletter, bank fees, P.O. Box fee, office supplies, storage fee and more.**

**We are thankful that Skillern's Business Systems has printed our newsletter at no cost for years. If you need office automation solutions, please contact them and tell them TCF sent you. Visit them online at [www.skillerns.com](http://www.skillerns.com), or call 903-561-5591.**

**Remember to visit our website for a long list of TCF newsletters: [www.tylertcf.org](http://www.tylertcf.org) Also, TCF's National website has lots of great resources: [www.compassionatefriends.org](http://www.compassionatefriends.org)**

