



**Monthly Group Meeting**

**Tyler Area Meeting**

Monday, February 15, 6:30 p.m.  
Bridging The Gap, 12872 Hwy. 155 S.

**Jacksonville Meeting**

Tuesday, February 2, 6:30 p.m.  
Sam Smith's office, 1401 E. Rusk

**Lufkin Meeting**

Thursday, February 18, 6:30 p.m.  
Southside Baptist Church, 1615  
Tulane Drive

**Contact**

Phone: (903) 258-2547  
www.TylerTCF.org • info@TylerTCF.org  
P.O. Box 9714 • Tyler, TX 75711

Chapter Leader .....Tina Loper  
Chapter Leader.....Pat Settle  
Newsletter/Web Site .....Mary Lingle  
Steering Committee: Sam Smith,  
Carol Johnson, Carol Thompson,  
Patricia Miller, Charisse Smith, Mary  
Ann Girard, Cheri Zucca, Mary Lingle,  
David & Teresa Terrell

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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**Grief: Our Act of Love**

"I had a child who died." How simple these words are, yet how painful they are to say. The death of a child is the harshest blow life has to offer; it destroys our trust in the world at the most basic level. Grief is our total response to the death of a child; our body, mind, emotions and spirit all react to the loss. While many of us wish to stop the intense grief work we are doing, we find it impossible for many reasons.

First, grief is an act of love, not a lack of strength or faith. The more we loved our child, the greater will be our grief. The more integrated our lives were with the life of our child, the more we will miss his or her very presence. The intensity of our grief is often representative of our love. Second, grief is a necessary process that we must go through in order to maintain our wholeness and sanity. If we do not grieve, we will not heal.

One of the earliest and hardest lessons we bereaved parents learn is that men and women grieve differently; women, in general, grieve more openly than do men, and women, on the whole, are more comfortable verbally expressing their feelings of loss. While segments of our culture indicate it is more "manly" not to cry, we know this is not true.

Grief work also helps us to complete unfinished business with our child and close the past relationship that we had. We will never "get over" the loss of our child, nor would we ever really want to. We are who we are partly because of our relationship to that child. Our lives will always be influenced by our son or daughter, but most of us will eventually learn to live a meaningful life, despite our tragedy.

Our child will always be with us in spirit and in love, and we often feel a need to hold on to tangible items, such as toys or clothes, to maintain that feeling of closeness. But, intense grief work allows us to let go of the relationship we had and create a new relationship with our child. Our remembrances, love and feelings of oneness with our child can never be destroyed. I cannot see nor touch my Philip, but I vividly remember him. I have completed earthly mothering, but I still have an intense mother-child relationship with my son.

Grief over the death of a child is the hardest work that most of us will ever do. While we all wish for the pain to stop, we need to remember that we grieve intensely because we loved intensely. It is unrealistic to expect that grief to ever totally go away, because the love we have for our child will never go away. Our grief is an act of love and is nothing for which we should be ashamed.

*Elaine Grier, Philip's Mom ~ TCF, Atlanta, GA*

**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.*

"You do not 'get over' grief. Anyone who says you can, or tells you how they did, is not to be believed. Grief keepers accept their grief and weave it into the fabric of their lives." —Harold I.S

## 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.”

## A Valentine to All My Compassionate Friends

We who have had our hearts so badly broken know each other; we have lost a child, grandchild, sister or brother. It matters not if we've seen each other's faces. At first our hearts feel shredded and torn; we might even wish that we'd never been born. We don't understand how our lives went so wrong. Everyone tells us they're so glad that we're strong. All we know is that we hurt to the core; because our child, dearly loved is with us no more. With time, patience and understanding we begin to heal. We begin to accept what is and life starts to seem real. Each time we tell our tale, each hug we receive, puts a band aid on the hurting spots and gives us reason to believe that we will feel joy again; that life goes on; though we're never quite the same since our child is gone. Compassionate Friends teach us ways we can cope until we can live again and face life with hope. So to TCF members, whether we've met or not, thank you for the band aids on that bruised healing spot.

*Kathy Hahn ~ TCF, Lower Bucks, PA*

## Memories

When a child dies our memories are held tightly with lots of pain, just like the tightly folded petals of the rose bud with the many thorns to stick and prick causing pain.

As we talk about our child and share memories with others, we begin to open ourselves to healing as the rose petals start to open ever so gradually.

Just as a rose becomes more beautiful as it blossoms, so do the memories of our child!

Yes, the thorns are still there and will hurt when touched, but oh how beautiful the rose and oh, how beautiful the memory of our children!

Share the memory of your child so that memory can start to bloom to become as beautiful as a rose.

*Julie Timmerman ~ TCF, Tulsa, OK*

## February

The month of February arrives with Valentines posted all over the store fronts, reminding us of the ones we love, and sometimes, of the ones we lost.

As we send our wishes of love to our favorite Valentines, we want to also remember our sons, daughters, grandchildren, brothers and sisters who have died.

They are the Valentines who will remain forever in our hearts. We send our wishes of love to them everyday, in our thoughts, in our hearts.

Happy Valentine's Day, February 14th to the ones we hold most dear in our minds and hearts.

*Cathy H. ~ TCF, Algona, IA*



*We need not walk alone.*

"I made a choice. I picked up the remains of my life—my aching heart and wounded spirit, my broken dreams and disbelief—and wrapped them carefully in my blanket of grief. Holding them closely to me, I walked steadfastly ahead into the storm with faith in the promise of peace on the other side."

—Sharron Cordaro

## Love Gifts



Sue Langdon in memory of A.J. Huggins

Ike Weatherly in memory of Cameron & Brandon

Paul Sapaugh

Ron & Mona Anderson in memory of T.J.

Claudette Brown in memory of Terry Wayne

Dale & Phyliss Cavazos in memory of Chad



## Special Thanks!

**Thanks to Cheri Zucca, Carol Thompson and Patricia Miller for helping with the assembly of the January newsletter.**

**Thanks to the following people who make a monthly contribution to TCF of Tyler:**

Claudette Brown in memory of Terry Wayne, Dale & Phyllis Cavazos in memory of Chad, Sam Smith in memory of Stacey - use of his office for the Jacksonville meeting, Bridging The Gap Ministries - Tyler meeting location, David & Teresa Terrell in memory of Andy - use of a storage building

## Newsletter Submissions

TCF Tyler welcomes all submissions to our newsletter. Send articles, poetry, love messages and scanned photos to: TCF Tyler, 5401 Hollytree Drive, 1204, Tyler, Texas 75703. Or e-mail text and photos to: [info@TylerTCF.org](mailto: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: Please notify us if any of your information is incorrect.

**Email Addresses:** If we do not have your email address or it has changed, please email it to Tina or Pat so that we may email you announcements and updates about TCF of Tyler. Tina's email: [butterfly6@nctv.com](mailto:butterfly6@nctv.com) ~ Pat's email: [pdsettle@wmconnect.com](mailto:pdsettle@wmconnect.com)

## Announcements

**We will be holding our 7th Annual Butterfly Release** on May 15. We are personalizing wood butterflies for an additional charge again this year. If you want a butterfly designed specifically for your child, please let us know. Football, baseball, softball, cheerleading, dance, military, etc., are a few of the designs available. Personalized butterflies are \$20 and need to be paid for in advance. Live Monarch butterflies are available for \$10 each. You must place your order and pre-pay by May 8. If you are interested in donating refreshments this year, or would like to help with the set up in loving memory of your child, please contact us at [info@tylertcf.org](mailto:info@tylertcf.org), or call (903) 258-2547.

**Jacksonville TCF Meeting:** The meeting in Jacksonville is held on the first Tuesday of the month, 6:30 p.m., at Sam Smith's office, 1401 E. Rusk, Jacksonville. For more information, please email [pdsettle@wmconnect.com](mailto:pdsettle@wmconnect.com) or [butterfly6@nctv.com](mailto:butterfly6@nctv.com), or call 903-258-2547.

**Lufkin TCF Meeting:** Join us at the Lufkin meeting held at 6:30 p.m. every 3rd Thursday of the month at Southside Baptist Church, 1615 Tulane Drive, Lufkin, TX 75901. For more information, contact Lauri Maner at 936-854-2002 or Sherri Tutt at 936-404-9517.

**The Touched by Suicide** meeting is held the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. The meeting is held at the East Texas Center for Independent Living, located at 4713 Troup Hwy, Tyler, in the Highland shopping center. Anyone who has lost someone they love to suicide is welcome to attend this peer support group. Note that it is not the proper forum for those who have attempted suicide and survived. For more information please call 903-574-3127.

**Steering Committee:** If you are interested in participating in our chapter by serving on the steering committee, please plan to attend a steering committee meeting in 2010. Our next meeting is Feb. 17. For more information, call 903-258-2547.

**General Assembly:** Join us each month to assemble the newsletter and mail out cards. Call 903-258-2547 for information on meeting times.

**If you would like to buy a copy of the documentary, *Motherland*,** on DVD, we have it available for \$20. Visit [www.motherland-thefilm.org](http://www.motherland-thefilm.org) for information on this very inspiring film, and call 903-258-2547 to buy your copy.

**Griefshare.org** offers comfort, hope and healing resources when we want something reassuring to read at any time of the day or night.





*We need not walk alone.*

"The wounded heart encouraged and given the time and freedom to mend will carry in its chambers the memory and shared love of a precious child."  
—Nancy Green

### February Birthdays



**Justin Clakley**  
2-25-83 ~ 5-15-03  
Son of Teri Clakley



**Michelle "Missy" Green**  
2-09-69 ~ 1-30-93  
Daughter of Elena Glasscock



**Dylan Corey**  
2-21-97 ~ 1-24-01  
Son of Christy Corey



**Colleen Herriage**  
2-23-67 ~ 5-14-83  
Daughter of Ruth Herriage



**Caleb Scott Jones**  
2-27-86 ~ 7-24-03  
Son of Lee Ann Colwell



**Shane McDade**  
2-17-85 ~ 4-12-03  
Son of Gina McDade Culligan



**Walter Dale "Skipper" Winningham**  
2-23-68 ~ 7-02-85  
Son of Lucy Winningham



**Kody Maner**  
2-10-87 ~ 4-16-06  
Son of Lauri Maner



**Sean Smith**  
2-2-87 ~ 10-27-01  
Son of Randy & Judy Smith



**Mary Jennifer Stone**  
2-22-81 ~ 9-21-96  
Daughter of Dick & Denise Stone



**Chasen Sean Shirley**  
2-13-82 ~ 7-3-06  
Son of Debbie Shirley



**Cynthia Harper**  
2-27-54 ~ 11-16-04  
Daughter of Jackie & Roland Young



**John Andy Terrell**  
2-11-72 ~ 11-25-03  
Son of David & Teresa Terrell



**Cheryl Heerd**  
2-22-71 ~ 2-22-81  
Granddaughter of Larry Batte



**Jeremiah Barker**  
2-11-78 ~ 6-17-91  
Son of Betty Fiederlein



**T.J. Anderson**  
2-8-77 ~ 10-5-09  
Son of Ron & Mona Anderson



**Ijuan Deshaun Simms**  
2-20-79 ~ 11-7-01  
Son of Sharon Simms



**Candice Lingle**  
2-21-91 ~ 11-8-93  
Daughter of Mary Lingle



**Roger Lee Rush**  
2-14-02 ~ 2-14-02  
Son of C.R. & Judy Rush



*We need not walk alone.*

"This winter of your life will pass, as all seasons do. Stay in your season of Winterness as long as need be, for everything you feel is appropriate. There is no right way to grieve. There is just your way. It will take as long as it takes."  
—Rusty Berkus

### February Anniversaries



**Cheryl Heerdt**  
2-22-71 ~ 2-22-81  
Granddaughter of Larry Batte



**Richard Heerdt**  
10-31-76 ~ 2-22-81  
Grandson of Larry Batte



**Josh Chambers**  
7-20-73 ~ 2-18-07  
Son of Joan Curtis



**Austin Dixon**  
10-20-88 ~ 2-19-07  
Son of Don & Leslie Dixon



**Jackie Heerdt**  
6-30-1946 ~ 2-22-1981  
Daughter of Larry Batte



**Darell Bolton**  
7-21-61 ~ 2-22-03  
Brother of Kathy Bolton-Polk



**Lori Campbell**  
8-27-78 ~ 2-28-00  
Daughter of Pam Johnson



**Andrea Young**  
3-15-56 ~ 2-1-97  
Daughter of  
Roland & Jackie Young



**Ryszard Spakovsky**  
12-2-80 ~ 2-20-98  
Sherrell & Greg Smith, Foreign  
Exchange Parents



**Tiffany Johnston**  
12-29-81 ~ 2-20-98  
Daughter of  
Sherrell & Greg Smith



**Austin Arvizo**  
5-14-01 ~ 2-9-06  
Son of  
Vincent & Paula Arvizo



**Brandon Krpec**  
3-27-79 ~ 2-11-08  
Son of Larry & Debby Krpec



**Michael Schmidt**  
3-11-83 ~ 2-10-03  
Son of Patricia Jeffery



**James Brady Langston**  
10-13-96 ~ 2-15-01  
Son of Jamie Langston Dacus



**Roger Lee Rush**  
2-14-02 ~ 2-14-02  
Son of C.R. & Judy Rush



**John Wallace**  
7-1-80 ~ 2-2-99  
Son of Barbara Wallace



**Adam Thomas Pritchard**  
9-21-82 ~ 2-21-04  
Son of  
Thomas & Ginger Pritchard

**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!

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



*We need not walk alone.*

“Compassionate Friends teach us ways we can cope until we can live again and face life with hope. So to TCF members, whether we’ve met or not, thank you for the band aids on that bruised healing spot.” —*Kathy Hahn*

## T.J. Anderson

My first meeting with The Compassionate Friends: I was on my way to the first meeting and got lost, so I called a Compassionate Friends’ leader and told her, “I’m lost. I’m just gonna go back home.” She said, “We will come get you.” So they did and I followed them to my first meeting. Now that’s true “compassion.” That night, I felt less lost from the loss of our son.



This story is in memory of our beautiful loving son, Travis Jernigan “T.J.” Anderson. I know he was only on loan from God. I’m thankful we had him 32 years. He was a sacrifice for all. He was born in Feb. of ’77 and died in Oct. ’09. It rained nine days straight from his death. We all said, “It was all his tears and pain, coming down from Heaven.” I would not have dreamed I would be the one who would lose a special angel. Now he’s one of God’s guardian angels.

Travis was on of the most-handsome, outgoing, loveable people you could ever know. He had the most beautiful big blue eyes. We have many good memories of him. He will be greatly missed. He had many friends and family that knew and loved him. Our son was an old soul in a young body. He always told me, “Everything is everything; and of all the amazing beauty in the world, a lot of people take it for granted.”

I told my son I would always stand by him and to call me anytime if he needed anything. He told me a few months before he passed away, “Thank you ‘moms,’ you were always there for me.”

Travis was my baby son and my life. I have a lot of good memories of him. He was a joy to be around. He had an amazing magnetic personality and was the life force of any room he entered. He lived everyday to enjoy life—and he did. He was very receptive of love and kindness as well as giving it. Our son was a gift for people to feel love and have better lives. He spread himself thin a lot of times, maybe, to get all his life in his 32 years. He had many creative talents. He lived his life with such energy, one could hardly keep up with him.

Travis has a beautiful smart four-year-old son. I will give all my son’s love and memories back to his son, Griffin—so he will know his dad. His son was his greatest joy. It breaks our hearts knowing his son won’t grow up with his father. I guess I have said “if I” or “I should have” at least a hundred times over. People tell me, “There is nothing we could have done. God was in control and there was a bigger picture and I wasn’t supposed to know.”

Travis seemed too good to leave this world. We realize God had a better reason. We raise our children all their lives to protect them because they are our lives. So it makes it almost unbearable to lose them. The world is all different now. So now we have to reconnect our lives. I have asked a lot of people and friends for help and how do you get through it? They tell me, “A lot of praying and time.”

I have gone through all the grieving steps up and down and back again. I’m still numb. It still seems like a bad dream and unreal, and I’ve got to wake up. I misplace a lot of things; lose my car when I park it. I hold his pictures to my heart and cry everyday, several times. I still smell his clothes and talk to him.

People tell me, “You’re not losing your mind.” “You’re just going through the grieving process,” and “Do whatever you have to do to get through it all.”

What I miss the most now is calling my son and talking to him. It’s been three months and it’s still difficult. The world seems empty and lonely and holidays are too painful. The Compassionate Friends tell us, “It will get softer.”

I don’t know how much searching and healing it will take to get past the numbness and grief. Many friends and family opened their hearts to us with their love and prayers. We know God is a redeeming and loving God and he will get us through the fire some way. I do know this: The Compassionate Friends organization has helped me a lot. I thank God our son got to love and be loved. I believe our son’s in an amazing, peaceful place with angels and with God.

Everyday I pray to make it through the day and at night I thank God for another day. And when I see a bird sing, I will pause longer and see my son’s soul in that precious singing bird.

In closing, I will say I have seen many well stated signs on the road that read: Prayer—America’s only hope. What a powerful statement!

*This story is in memory of our loving son. You’re forever in our hearts.  
Your ‘Moms’ and Dad, Mona and Ron Anderson ~ TCF, Tyler, TX*





*We need not walk alone.*

"We, the members of Compassionate Friends, have known the tragedy which death brings. We've lived the hurts and the despair. And so with hands outstretched in love, we welcome you to join us. And we promise you that we will lend a listening ear." —*Lorraine Weaver*

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## **We Comfort Others From the Comfort We Ourselves Have Received**

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God." [2 Corinthians 1:3-4]

Ten years ago the Lord led me to The Compassionate Friends, a worldwide grief support group for parents and families who have experienced the death of a child. I say, "the Lord led me" because it has been a wonderful blessing that has greatly enriched my life. Anytime something that good happens, I know it is a blessing from the Lord.

When I read the words from Paul in 2 Corinthians regarding comfort The Compassionate Friends [TCF] come to mind. In our greatest times of need, we receive comfort from Father God. As a result of His comforting, "we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God." That describes The Compassionate Friends perfectly.

TCF is made up of parents who have lost a child. When bereaved parents attend a TCF meeting they are surrounded by the only people in the world whom truly understand what they are going through. The parents that through grace and time have experienced some measure of healing are able to offer immeasurable help to the newly bereaved. When a parent's heart is broken, their world shattered and they are wondering if they will ever breathe normally again, they search for any comfort they can find. Spending time with a "seasoned griever" often offers comfort as nothing else can. Just seeing that, given time, a bereaved parent is able to function again and can have a life outside of grief, gives one hope that they, too, will survive.

For me, it has been 21 years since my 16-year-old daughter, Stacey, died. At times it seems that those 21 years have been a blur, a dream. But when I recall the early years, and when I see a parent who only recently lost their child, I realize how much healing I have been granted—from my faith, from time, from the love of my family, and from the love of The Compassionate Friends.

The Compassionate Friends help grieving parents in several ways. A TCF meeting offers grieving parents a safe-haven, a place where they can share anything and everything that is on their hearts without the feeling that they will be judged or criticized or misunderstood. What happens in a TCF meeting stays in a TCF meeting. I have never known a group of people who are so dedicated to each other and to assuring confidentiality.

TCF offers parents a place to honor the memory of their children. Parents who have lost a child need to know that their child will not be forgotten. After a while, TCF members feel as though they know every child of every parent who attends the meetings. When I talk about Stacey to this group, it is as though I am talking about someone they all know—as though she is their friend. That is so important to a parent, and I know of no other place where that happens.

Another beautiful help offered by The Compassionate Friends, and perhaps the most important to our healing, is that it gives grieving parents a place where they can help others. I have found, as have many others, that we are at our best when we are helping other people. We often use this quote from Thomas Jefferson, "Who better to softly bind the wound of one, than he who has suffered the wound himself." As bereaved parents, we have a unique, unparalleled vantage point—one that we never wanted, of course—from which to understand, identify with and lovingly help each other heal. No one in this world understands the pain and grief associated with the death of a child as another parent who has lived through it. Wonderful, well-meaning folks try to help and say they understand, but they don't—they can't. Only a bereaved parent can truly understand the pain of another bereaved parent.

When asked how I managed to survive Stacey's death, I always first acknowledge my greatest source of strength and healing—my Lord, Jesus Christ. I know that all other believers say the same. If I did not truly believe that I will see Stacey again through the love and grace offered by Jesus, I sincerely do not believe I would have ever experienced the healing that I know came from Him.

This brings us back to the opening Scripture. I know God comforted me in my time of the greatest heartache and pain known to man: the death of a child. Therefore, I, and many other bereaved parents, "Can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God." [2 Corinthians 1:3-4]

*Dr. Sam Smith, Butterfly Ministry*





*We need not walk alone.*

“Life turns out best for those who make the best of the way life turns out.”  
—Art Linkletter (*Father of two children who died*)

### A.J.

My son, my 1st born, A.J.  
How my heart misses you.  
My heart is not whole without you here beside me.

Our hugs, our kisses, our talks and our giggles,  
Plus the tears I saw you shed.

How I wish I could have fixed every hurt you ever had.  
But only God could do that.

You're now in a peaceful place  
Where no one can ever hurt you again.



I love you,  
Mamma

*Sue Langdon ~ TCF, Tyler, TX*

### Grief

Written by a 19 year old man upon the death of his 18 year  
old sister of cancer

A tear drip forms in an eye and softly falls on a cheek  
Its path continues down a face to an uncertain stop  
This tear is followed by yet another, like raindrops in a storm  
A heart is overshadowed with great pain  
The pain deadens all reality  
A body trembles in its sorrow  
Making the grief apparent to all  
A name is whispered yet no sound is heard.  
The tears continue, steady in their flow  
A sun shower quickly becomes a storm  
A vision becomes blurred  
An ache fills a heart like no other ever has  
A body trembles with its memories  
as grief becomes a constant companion

### Memories

Unique as snowflakes  
Impossible to hold but for a moment  
Yet there is another gliding down upon the first  
Until they become blankets  
Of protection against storms of  
Loneliness  
Memories gently Memories

*Marcia F.A. ~ TCF, Mercer*

### Valentine Wishes

I thought I heard your laugh today,  
While watching children run and play.  
You chuckled in that special way,  
and then you were gone.

I thought I saw your gentle face,  
that look which time cannot erase.  
Then it was gone without a trace,  
and then I was alone.

I thought I heard your voice today.  
And suddenly my world was gay.  
I thought I heard you softly say,  
"I Love you, Mom,  
Happy Valentine's Day."

Oh, how I wish...

*TCF, North Hollywood, CA*

### On Vacation

I sat & watched the waves come in & out.  
I looked for you there, but you weren't about.  
I saw a young child about your size,  
And I thought it was you, till I looked in his eyes.  
I heard a strange voice call your name,  
And I thought for a second you were home again.  
I went to the jetty where you used to fish;  
I gazed at the stars and made a wish.  
Then I closed my eyes and I heard you say,

I love you, Mommy,  
but it can't be that way;  
I can't come back to earth  
as you know  
But I will live within you  
wherever you go;  
For I am with God in a  
place so divine  
Where there is no pain,  
no space and no time.

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

*Penny Linehan ~ TCF, Morris Area, NJ*



# The Compassionate Friends of Tyler

P.O. Box 9714  
Tyler, TX 75711

We are happy to send our newsletter to you. We hope that it is helpful to you to be kept informed of chapter resources and activities and that you still wish to receive our newsletters that contain excellent material relating to grief issues.

To keep our mailing list current, we do ask to hear from you each year making sure that our information is correct and that you still wish to receive our mailings. If we did not hear from you in the last year please indicate any appropriate choices below and return the form to the address at the bottom of this page.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Death Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Cause of Death: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check any of following that apply.

Please continue sending the newsletter.

No thank you, I'd prefer to stop receiving the newsletter. (Newsletters are posted monthly on our Web site.)

Please include my child's name and picture in the slide presentation at the Candle Lighting Ceremony.

Please include my child's picture and information on the TCF Tyler Web site. ([www.TylerTCF.org](http://www.TylerTCF.org))

I am enclosing a memorial to support The Compassionate Friends in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_  
Please make check payable to TCF

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

## Please use this gift for:

TCF Newsletter  Butterfly Release  Candle Lighting  TCF Events  Other \_\_\_\_\_

The continuation of this chapter's work depends on donations. If you have not taken the opportunity to give a donation in memory of your child please consider taking this time to give a gift that will help reach out to other newly bereaved parents.

We must have your written permission on file to use your child's name and/or picture in the newsletter, Web site, Candle Lighting Ceremony or any other TCF event. Permission may be withdrawn at any time by written request. This information is used to maintain our Chapter Database. It is confidential and is only utilized for Chapter activities such as the newsletter.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature) Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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



**"I don't think you ever stop giving. I really don't. I think it's an on-going process. And it's not just about being able to write a check. It's being able to touch somebody's life." —Oprah Winfrey**



# THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

P.O. Box 9714  
Tyler, Texas 75711



*We need not walk alone.*



[www.TylerTCF.org](http://www.TylerTCF.org)