



THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS



We need not walk alone.

Volume 15, Issue 7

Tyler, Texas

July 2014

Monthly Group Meeting

Tyler Area Meeting

3rd Monday of Each Month
1901 Rickety Ln., Tyler

Contact

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P.O. Box 9714 • Tyler, TX 75711

Chapter LeaderTina Loper
SecretaryPat Settle
Newsletter/Web SiteMary Lingle
Tyler Meeting Facilitators: Leslie & Don Dixon

Steering Committee: Pat Settle, Sam Smith, David & Teresa Terrell, Carol Thompson, Carol Johnson, Mary Lingle, Lisa Schoonover, Cheri Zucca, Ellen Jenkins, Pam Pickett, Don & Leslie Dixon, Janet Majors, Margaret Hall, Robin Mitchell, Jancy Lovelace, Stuart Gilpin, MaryAnn Girard, Trisha Mann Taylor

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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July 4th—"Freedom" for Bereaved Parents?

July 4th . . . Independence Day . . .

A day most Americans celebrate their freedom. For bereaved parents, unfortunately, freedom of the body is far different than freedom of the mind.

Before our children died we knew we had the freedom to...

- watch them take their first step.
- listen for their first word.
- watch them step onto the school bus for the first time.
- watch them go on their first date.
- watch them graduate.
- watch them walk down the aisle to be married.
- see our grandchildren be born.

For bereaved parents these freedoms are gone forever.

Why did we have to lose these freedoms?

Sometimes we lose these freedoms because the world has the wrong priorities.

Sometimes we lose them because people abuse their freedoms.

What freedoms must be changed?

- ...the freedom of cancer to strike our children
- ...the freedom of a drunk driver to be put back on the road with a slap on the wrist
- ...the freedom of AIDS and other diseases to run rampant
- ...the freedom of criminals and students to obtain guns and kill their classmates
- ...the freedom of drivers to ignore the speed limits with impunity
- ...and on and on and on.

When these freedoms are exercised and we are unable to stop them, the deaths of our children destroy our freedom to pursue happiness in our lives.

Our country, of the people, by the people, and for the people, must wake up to the fact that freedom is a fragile commodity. As bereaved parents, we have become a living testimony to this fact.

Wayne Loder, Lakes Area MI TCF Chapter

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.

“Meetings do not bring about closure. You close on a house, not the death of a child.” —Janet G. 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 (national home page)

Also offers grief support for **siblings** and **grandparents**
www.compassionatefriends.org

Children Are A Gift Foundation: www.childrenareagift.com

GriefShare: www.griefshare.org

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

Smith County Victim Services Division
www.tdcj.state.tx.us/divisions/vs/counties/smith.html

The Hospice of East Texas: www.hospiceofeasttexas.org

Victim Services Division - Texas Department of Criminal Justice - Online Resource Directory
www.tdcj.state.tx.us/divisions/vs

Survivors of Suicide: www.allianceofhope.org

Samaritan Counseling of Tyler: www.scctyler.org

Tyler Counseling & Assessment, LLP: www.tyler-counseling.com

Angel Layettes brings comfort to families grieving over the loss of an infant from miscarriage, stillbirth or death shortly after birth, and honor and dignity to the memory of the precious baby. Angel Layettes provides without charge custom designed burial layettes and keepsakes.
www.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



Endowment

Hope gives us vision for regaining the tenderness of memories.

Hope carries us through to survival and healing.

Hope offers us courage for acceptance and overcoming.

Hope gives us new spirit and new laughter.

Hope is among the greatest gifts to be found in time of sorrow.

But hope cannot restore on earth what is lost to death.

Hope can only go forward and make us new.

Give space to hope in your life.

Sascha ~ from “LARGO,” Fall 2001





We need not walk alone.

“Hope begins in the dark, the stubborn hope that if you just show up and try to do the right thing, the dawn will come. You wait and watch and work—you don't give up.” —Anne Lamott

Love Gifts

See more love gifts on pages 7.



Thanks to the following people who make a MONTHLY LOVE GIFT to TCF of Tyler:

(For monthly donors we will post photos of your children on their Birthday and Anniversary dates.)

Merri Walsh in memory of Chris O'Leary - rent

Martha Lewis in memory of Burke - rent

Carol Thompson in memory of Sarah - rent

Carol & Shane Johnson in memory of Jared Sheets - rent

Danny & Pat Settle in memory of Stephanie - rent

Claudette Brown in memory of Terry Wayne - rent

Sue Roberts in memory of Jake Schoonover - rent

Dale & Phyllis Cavazos in memory of Chad - newsletter

Tina, Johnathan & Heather Loper
in memory of Christopher - TCF Phone

David & Teresa Terrell in memory of Andy -
use of a storage building



See more love gifts on page 7.

Newsletter Submissions

TCF Tyler welcomes all submissions to our newsletter. Send articles, poetry, love messages and scanned photos to: TCF Tyler, 5401 Hollytree Drive, 1204, Tyler, Texas 75703. 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 903-258-2547. 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 Tina or Pat so that we may email you announcements and updates about TCF of Tyler. Tina's email: lil-bluebutterfly6@gmail.com ~ Pat's email: beachbum2201@gmail.com

Save the date! The 38th National Compassionate Friends Conference will be July 10-12, 2015 in Dallas.

Announcements

Tyler TCF Meeting: The meeting in Tyler is held on the third Monday of the month, 6:30 p.m., at 1901 Ricketty Lane in Tyler. For more information, please call 903-258-2547.

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! For more information about our next meeting, call 903-258-2547.

MADD Heart meets 2nd Tuesday of the month at the MADD office, 215 Winchester Dr. Ste., 100, Tyler, TX 75701. For more info call 888-665-6233 or email Melissa at melissa.granberry@madd.org.

Looking forward: Dallas will host the Compassionate Friends National Conference in 2015. Our regional coordinators, Joan and Bill Campbell, are looking for volunteers who would like to help with this event. You can contact Joan and Bill at 972-935-0673 to let them know of your interest in participating. They are planning a great two-day conference and welcome help from all Texas chapters. This is a great opportunity to help others who are grieving and grow through your own grief as well! You can check the national Compassionate Friends website www.compassionatefriends.org for conference event planning details.

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 of Tyler Memorial Quilt

If you would like to have your child's photo included on a TCF memorial quilt, please mail a \$25 donation to P.O. Box 9714, Tyler, TX 75711. For more information contact us at (903) 258-2547, or email us at info@TylerTCF.org. Thanks to Teresa and David Terrell for donating their talent and time on these beautiful quilts which are displayed in our meeting room and special events.





We need not walk alone.

“Eventually we can relive our memories with real joy, grateful for them and even more appreciative of the time we had together. If you are in the midst of painful memories at the moment, take heart that it will not always be so.”
—Shirley Ottman

July Birthdays



Morgan Finley Lambeth
7-29-06 ~ 7-29-06
Daughter of
John & Nicole Lambeth



Robert Lynn McMahon
7-18-72 ~ 3-6-92
Son of
Dana Wright



William Jeffrey Stack
7-6-65 ~ 6-22-11
Son of
Robyn Stack



Melissa Elaine Majors
7-14-80 ~ 5-8-08
Daughter of Janet Majors
Daughter of Greg Majors



Shiloh Paisleigh Gray
7-28-06 ~ 7-28-06
Daughter of Jody
& Elizabeth Gray



Justin Corey Modisette
7-24-84 ~ 6-10-10
Son of
Linda Modisette



Madeline Joy Kearney
7-15-86 ~ 10-6-05
Daughter of
Melody Burnett Kearney



Cobin Frazier
7-2-07 ~ 9-18-09
Son of
Leslee Frazier



Terry Wayne Brown
7-13-69 ~ 5-27-03
Son of Claudette Brown
Son of Melton Brown



Grant Williams
7-8-10 ~ 7-8-10
Son of Clay &
Tammie Williams



Cameron Weatherly
7-3-78 ~ 9-25-07
Son of Ike &
Diana Weatherly



Lester "Bubba" Chase
7-20-70 ~ 6-27-95
Son of
Debbie Chase



Andrew Moreno
7-25-05 ~ 7-29-05
Grandson of
Tawna Andrews



Ryan Delaney
7-10-80 ~ 7-20-03
Son of Mary
Delaney



John Shade
7-9-86 ~ 9-29-08
Son of
Julie Clifton



Ashton Wayne Yates
7-9-91 ~ 12-6-11
Son of Kim
Yates



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



Laura Wilkinson
7-16-90 ~ 3-7-08
Daughter of
Peggy Cunningham



Kyle Beck
7-21-89 ~ 6-23-05
Son of
Angela Yates



Lindsey Peyton Goen
7-2-02 ~ 12-18-03
Daughter of
Robin & Joe Goen



Carly Smith
7-14-88 ~ 2-1-11
Daughter of
Beth Page



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



Adrian Hampton
7-31-86 ~ 7-22-07
Son of Michael &
Julie Brosang



James Fincke
7-15-80 ~ 12-25-99
Son of Sara
Fincke



James Wilkinson
7-6-67 ~ 3-9-06
Son of Bill &
Betty Wilkinson



Jaime Arellano, Jr.
7-31-92 ~ 8-27-05
Son of Marie
Arellano



Christopher Mize
7-11-91 ~ 7-27-08
Son of Edith
Mize



Felicia Hobbs
7-19-61 ~ 12-1-09
Daughter of
Muriel Rogers



J.L. Adams
7-6-85 ~ 10-26-08
Nephew of Vicki
Adams



Nathan Spataro
7-6-87 ~ 6-19-09
Son of Becky
Hicks

Continued on next page





We need not walk alone.

"Please be kind and allow me to see him in my own way, because he exists in my world and I see him when you let me." —Cindy Nevins

July Birthdays (cont.)



Tommy Ford
7-12-90 ~ 5-29-11
Son of Corine & Tom Peacock



Evan Blake Alexander
7-22-80 ~ 8-20-11
Son of Richard & Shay Persinger



Alex King
7-22-92 ~ 8-21-11
Son of DeeAnn King



Darrell Lynn Sallas, II
7-30-79 ~ 8-30-11
Grandson of Debra Robinson



Darrell Bolton
Sister of Kathy Bolton-Polk
7-21-61 ~ 2-22-03



Brad (BJ) Huggins
7-27-72 ~ 5-21-11
Son of Sue Langdon



Lindsey Barton
7-12-83 ~ 6-1-12
Daughter of Barbara Barton



Stephen "Chadwick" Williford
7-4-62 ~ 8-19-00
Son of Janet Marie Dobbs-Neal



Jason Eubank
7-21-69 ~ 12-8-12
Son of Tommy & Joy Eubank



Ryan Goff
7-22-77 ~ 5-4-12
Son of Sherry Reston



Colton James Bain
7-30-89 ~ 9-18-12
Son of JoNelle Holland



Keisha Knauss
7-6-96 ~ 9-29-11
Daughter of Vicki Knauss



Michael Slay Chapman
7-9-84 ~ 11-28-09
Son of Wayne & Teresa Chapman



Adrian Hampton
7-31-86 ~ 7-22-07
Son of Michael & Julie Brosang



Angela Frazier
7-8-72 ~ 12-5-12
Daughter of Linda Frazier



Suzanne Renee' Glover
7-6-70 ~ 12-29-13
Daughter of Joe & Ann Glover



Sheila Nolen
7-14-66 ~ 8-10-13
Daughter of Wanda Boyette



Jasmine Pruitt
7-3-96 ~ 2-20-11
Daughter of Tracy & Michelle Glasco

July Anniversaries



Renee Seale
12-21-63 ~ 7-13-90
Daughter of Lana Kaye Taylor



Caleb Scott Jones
2-27-86 ~ 7-24-03
Son of LeeAnn Colwell



James Permenter
4-2-79 ~ 7-12-09
Son of Shirley Hall



Matt Mears
6-7-83 ~ 7-16-06
Son of Norma & Kerry Mears
Husband of Ashley Mears



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



Christopher Mize
7-11-91 ~ 7-27-08
Son of Edith Mize



Lisa Marie Tutt
3-20-87 ~ 7-30-04
Daughter of Steve & Sherri Tutt



Chandler James "Jimmy" Brazell
6-4-92 ~ 7-31-11
Son of Chuck & Rhonda Brazell



James E. Abbie, Jr.
1-31-60 ~ 7-15-91
Son of Bettie Abbie



Dex Bailey McLean
12-18-87 ~ 7-4-08
Son of Charles & Chanda McLean



Morgan Finley Lambeth
7-29-06 ~ 7-29-06
Daughter of John & Nicole Lambeth



Ben Smith
3-1-88 ~ 7-21-06
Son of Charisse Smith
Son of Doug Smith



We need not walk alone.

"I choose joy over sadness. If there is one overriding thought in these years, including 10 TCF conferences in a row, it is simply this: Grief is inevitable; misery is optional. It does no good to sit in a hole. It does no good for the loss of one life to lead to the loss of two." —Richard Edler

July Anniversaries (cont.)



Andrew Moreno
7-25-05 ~ 7-29-05
Grandson of
Tawna Andrews



Allison Carson
10-29-92 ~ 7-5-93
Granddaughter of
Phil & Ann Brown



Brian David Stewart
5-16-56 ~ 7-8-56
Son of Melton
& Joyce Stewart



Missy Rogers
11-25-63 ~ 7-21-07
Daughter of
CeCe & Dan Brotton



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



Timothy Allen Hawkins
6-30-78 ~ 7-7-78
Son of Bill &
Linda Hawkins



Herby Parr
4-19-61 ~ 7-30-09
Son of Sandy &
Herbert Parr



Kody Dale Hughes
5-5-89 ~ 7-30-10
Grandson of Sue Hughes
Grandson Howard Hughes



Shane Odening
5-23-88 ~ 7-3-11
Son of Janet
S. Francis



Lance Alan Massey
5-16-80 ~ 7-16-05
Son of
Cindy Massey



Scott Bradshaw
3-26-69 ~ 7-19-06
Son of Bud
Bradshaw



Graham Gill
2-19-84 ~ 7-25-10
Son of Pat Gill



Erika Reyes
6-8-77 ~ 7-27-05
Daughter of Sheila
Whittington Steel



Sara Ann Plocheck
5-21-80 ~ 7-11-11
Daughter of Marla
Plocheck



Shiloh Paisliegh Gray
7-28-06 ~ 7-28-06
Daughter of Jody
& Elizabeth Gray



Jamie Allen
5-24-75 ~ 7-8-01
Son of Cindy
Allen



**George Washington
Shaw, III**
10-18-78 ~ 7-3-05
Son of Bobbie Williams



Shanna Marie Redmond
5-5-85 ~ 7-30-94
Daughter of
Patricia Miller



Michael Knight
10-16-89 ~ 7-8-08
Son of Patricia
Knight



Jason Bollard
4-5-74 ~ 7-16-11
Son of Candy
Bollard



Trey Dobbs
10-20-02 ~ 7-20-71
Son of Debbie
Johnson



Kathy Jo Tumminello
3-19-59 ~ 7-20-04
Sister of
Susie Gorman



Brian St. Clair
4-24-60 ~ 7-26-97
Son of
Janet St. Clair



Ryan Delaney
7-10-80 ~ 7-20-03
Son of Mary
Delaney



Adam Grabill
3-6-74 ~ 7-23-83
Son of Beth
Jones



Brian Christopher Harris
6-8-72 ~ 7-29-99
Son of Jolyn &
Richard Harris



Christopher Andrews
10-23-73 ~ 7-8-99
Son of Andy &
Anita Andrews



Grant Williams
7-8-10 ~ 7-8-10
Son of Clay &
Tammie Williams



**Davis Jr., Gregory
Thomas**
12-16-91 ~ 7-9-11
Son of Julie Davis



Coby Deese
5-4-82 ~ 7-12-98
Son of Tommy &
Yvonne Deese



Continued on next page



We need not walk alone.

"Those who weep recover more quickly than those who smile." —Jean Giraudoux

July Anniversaries (cont.)



Glenn Ray Hawkins
1-26-76 ~ 7-2-12
Son of Jannie
Bryant



Kayla Denise Wager
2-23-94 ~ 7-8-11
Daughter of Erin
& Helen Jordan

To Those Who Come After

I never knew my brother, yet I knew him well through my Mother's eyes, I have seen him and love him still. I'll grow tall and strong like him, yet not like him at all. He'll be my guardian angel, and we'll grow through life together, as one. I have his clothes and his toys and his photos. I hold them dear to me. But most of all, I treasure the loving memories—the memories my Mother gave me.

Karen Holland ~ TCF, Brisbane, Australia

For the Newly Bereaved

We welcome you, we are sorry for the cause that brings you to us and we know how devastated you are. We have all been there. Nothing is required of you and there are no dues or fees. You need not speak a word or you can share. Attending your first meeting does take courage, but our members who attend find a comforting network of support, friendship and understanding that only friends who have "been there" can give. Based on our experiences, we suggest you attend three or four meetings before evaluating the benefit of our group to you. Just come, be as comfortable as you can and let us walk with you.

Meetings are a place to talk about your child, a place to remember the joys of their life and the pain and struggle of living without them. It is a place to meet other parents who have in fact survived what may seem impossible to you right now.

Meetings are not "the answer." Grief is not a problem to be solved and meetings are not "pity parties" although there are tears and sadness, but there is also hope.

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
TCF Alamo Area Chapter, TX

"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*

Thanks to these families for their continued support of TCF of Tyler.

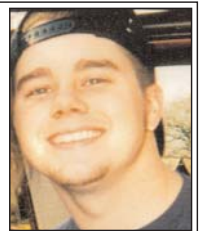
**In loving memory of
A.J. Frazier
by Raymond &
Debra Frazier**



**In loving memory of
Cobin Frazier
by Raymond &
Debra Frazier**



**In loving memory of
Jamie Fincke
by Sara Fincke**



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



**In loving memory of
Jeremy Newman
by Margie
Newman**



**In loving memory of
Patrick Pinkerton
by Miriam
Pinkerton**





We need not walk alone.

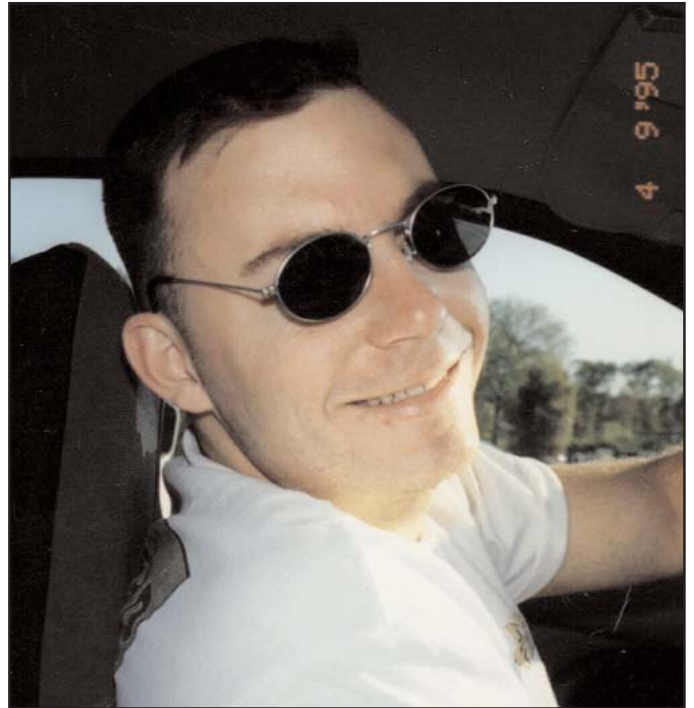
"Grief. The pain now is part of the happiness then. That's the deal." —C.S. Lewis

Terry Wayne Brown

7-13-69 ~ 5-27-03

**In loving memory of
my son, Terry Wayne.**

Claudette Brown



**This month's printing of our newsletter sponsored by Claudette Brown.
Call (903) 258-2547 to sponsor a monthly newsletter.**

Lindsey Barton

7-13-69 ~ 5-27-03

**In loving memory of
our daughter, Lindsey.**

Barbara & Lee Barton



**This month's printing of our newsletter sponsored by Barbara & Lee Barton.
Call (903) 258-2547 to sponsor a monthly newsletter.**





We need not walk alone.

"Tearless grief bleeds inwardly."
—Christian Nevell Bovee

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*

Disenfranchised Grief

There is a particular type of grief that sadly more and more parents are suffering from today called "disenfranchised grief." Counselors and therapists also refer to it as "stigmatized grief." The children of these parents died from suicide, drug related overdose, and aids. These bereaved parents are often scorned, ostracized and denigrated. Many receive little or no support from family, friends, co-workers and society in general. With unspoken words, the world casts a pall of blame and shame on these individuals with the unspoken implication that if they had been better parents they could have somehow prevented such a tragedy from occurring. Many people never hear their friends or loved ones mention their precious child's name again. They generally do not receive the same level of support that accidental and natural cause deaths do. This exacerbates the grief process. This ever increasing phenomenon has very little literature or research available at this time to aid these parents in their journey through grief. As members of TCF we need to be especially tender with these parents. We can embrace them and welcome them to share the stories about their children. The heartbreaking circumstances under which these children died do not define their lives as a whole. We all loved our children dearly and were the best parents that we knew how to be. If it were otherwise we would not need TCF and the support it gives.

*Janet Reyes
TCF/AAC*

"Who cares that you hurt, that you are sad, that things are bad right now? I do, dear friend, I do." —Fay H. Smith Hardin





We need not walk alone.

“Give yourself time, time, and more time. It takes months, even years, to open your heart and mind to healing. Choose to survive and then be patient with yourself. In time, your grief will soften as you begin to heal, and you will feel like investing in life again.” —*From The Compassionate Friends national Web site*

Think of Me

Think of me with joy and love
Rejoice as I am in Heaven above.
There is no more pain or sorrow here,
No more things for me to fear.

Be thankful for the years
we had together,
I will watch over you
and love you forever.

I will be the rainbow
in the sky,
Putting that twinkle
back in your eye.

When a breeze
moves your hair,
Know that Colton Bain
is right there.

Be strong, go on, God has work
He needs you to do.
I am here with Jesus,
waiting for you.

Don't be sad and think of
“what ifs,”
Eternity in Heaven
is a precious gift.

Time to say goodbye,
as I need to go,
One more thing
I need you to know...

I love you all,
I know you love me,
But I am in Heaven,
rejoice for me.

*(written by JoNelle Holland, Colton's Mother,
in loving memory of Colton)*

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

July's Child

Fireworks race toward heaven
Brilliant colors in the sky.
Their splendor ends in seconds
On this evening in July.
"Her birthday is this Saturday,"
I whisper with a sigh.
She was born this month,
She loved this month
And she chose this month to die.
Like the bright and beautiful fireworks
Glowing briefly in the dark
They are gone too soon, and so was she
Having been, and left her mark.
A glorious incandescent life,
A catalyst, a spark...
Her being gently lit my path
And softened all things stark.
The July birth, the July death of
my happy summer child
Marked a life too brief that ended
Without rancor, without guile.
Like the fireworks that leave images
On unprotected eyes...
Her lustrous life engraved my heart...
With love that never dies.

*Sally Migliaccio
TCF Babylon, Long Island, NY*

"You are so strong"

Empty words
That don't touch the reality
That my life has become.
Walking through fog
Incredible pain
Searching for the beloved face
I crave to see
The voice that I strain to hear over the noises
Of people who have no idea
Of what the world has lost

*Charisse Smith
TCF Tyler, TX*



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)

I am enclosing a memorial to support The Compassionate Friends in the amount of _____

Please make check payable to TCF

In memory of _____

Please use this gift for: TCF Newsletter Butterfly Release Candle Lighting TCF Events

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

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

(Signature) Date: _____

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



www.TylerTCF.org

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

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We need not walk alone.



THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS
P.O. Box 9714
Tyler, Texas 75711

