



Volume 13, Issue 5

Tyler, Texas

May 2012

Monthly Group Meeting Tyler Area Meeting

Monday, May 21, 6:30 p.m.
3600 Old Bullard Rd., Bldg. 1,
Ste. 101B, Tyler
Jacksonville Meeting
Tuesday, May 1, 6:30 p.m.
Sam Smith's office, 1401 E. Rusk
Lufkin Meeting
Call for details.

Contact

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

> 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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Butterfly Release

Butterflies will be released in memory of all our children at the 2012 Compassionate Friends Butterfly Release set for Saturday, May 19, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. The setting for this uplifting and peaceful event will be the First Baptist Church South Campus, 17002 Highway 69 South in Tyler.





Live butterflies are for sale for \$10 each and must be reserved in plenty of time for ordering. Please send your check and reservation information to TCF at P.O. Box 9714, Tyler, Texas 75711. Reserved butterflies will be picked up for release the day of the event.

Colorful solid-painted wooden butterflies will be sold for \$20 each at the Butterfly Release; we are not taking special orders for personalized butterflies this year.

Silent auction items are being collected. If something catches your eye that you think those attending would enjoy bidding on, please consider donating. For donation information, please contact Cheri Zucca at cheriz708@yahoo.com.

Proceeds from the Butterfly Release will again be used for outreach efforts and materials.

The Butterfly Release begins at 1 p.m. that Saturday but volunteers are needed and welcomed for either set-up work the Friday evening before, or beginning at 8 a.m. Saturday the day of the release. Please contact us at 903-258-2547 if you want to volunteer.

Enjoying refreshments and visiting with TCF friends and family after the butterflies are released is a special part of the day. If you would like to donate any finger food—cookies, chips/dips, small sandwiches, pickles, olives, cheese cubes, fruit chunks or veggies—any of your special favorites—please contact Carol Thompson at 903-539-0458! Cake will be served and bottled iced water will be available.

We look forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones at the Butterfly Release! Your presence means everything to this very special event!

(See our flier on page 7.)

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

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.



"Give me strength to break out of the cocoon of my grief. But may I never forget it is the place where I grew my wings, becoming a new person because of my loss." —Janice H.

Welcome

We extend a warm welcome to those who attended their first TCF meeting last month.

We deeply regret the circumstances that brought you to our TCF Chapter. The Compassionate Friends is a mutual assistance, not-for-profit, self-help organization that offers support and understanding to families who have experienced the death of a child. You are cordially invited to attend our monthly meeting (held the third Monday of the month). The meeting is open to everyone and free of charge. You are free to talk, cry or to sit in silence; we respect the individuality of mourning. Comments shared in the meetings remain confidential.

Our chapter is operated entirely by volunteers dedicated to furthering the work of TCF. Your voluntary, tax deductible donations honor your loved one(s) in a meaningful way by enabling us to print and mail this newsletter and meet other expenses involved in reaching out to other grieving families (100% of funds are used for this outreach). Donations, along with the name of the person being honored, may be sent to:

The Compassionate Friends of Tyler P.O. Box 9714 Tyler, Texas 75711

To Our New Members

Coming to your first meeting is the hardest thing to do. But, you have nothing to lose and much to gain. Try not to judge your first meeting as to whether or not TCF will work for you. The second, third or fourth meeting might be the time you will find the right person—or just the right words spoken that will help you in your grief work.

To Our Old Members

We need your encouragement and support. You are the string that ties our group together and the glue that makes it stick. Each meeting we have new parents. Think back—what would it have been like for you if there had not been any "oldies" to welcome you, share your grief and encourage you? It was from them you heard, "Your pain will not always be this bad; it really does get softer."

Walking the Lonesome Valley

One of my favorite gospel songs is "You've Got to Walk That Lonesome Valley" which is attributed to various composers in the early 20th Century. Many adaptations have been made to the words, yet all seem to fit.

This gospel song is particularly poignant for bereaved parents. We must take our grief journey alone. We must take our grief journey on our own terms and in our own way. I found myself humming and then singing this gospel song after my son died over nine years ago.

I was never really alone in this lonesome valley, however; many are taking this same walk, in their own ways and on their own terms. In TCF, we learn from other parents who walk the lonesome valley. We receive hope from those who take this journey with us. Some bereaved parents choose to return to the darkest places in the lonesome valley and help our newly bereaved parents as they define their own personal journey. Gradually, after thousands of steps, the bereaved parent comes to the place of resolution and emerges from the valley into the gauzy sunlight of hope and peace.

Reach out for assuring words and thoughts and ideas and hope. Take comfort in knowing that each of us is walking the lonesome valley.

You've got to walk that lonesome valley You've got to walk it by yourself There's no one here can walk it for you You've got to walk it by yourself I must walk this lonesome valley, I have to walk it by myself, Oh, nobody else can walk it for me, I have to walk it by myself. I must go and stand my trial, I have to stand it by myself, O, nobody else can stand it for me, I have to stand it by myself.

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

This month's printing of our newsletter sponsored by Janet Majors.

In loving memory of
Melissa Elaine Majors
7-14-80 ~ 5-8-08
daughter of
Janet & Greg Majors



Call (903) 258-2547 to sponsor a monthly newsletter.

"Each of us travels this road differently, but we owe it to ourselves to do our grief work. Not easy work, not fun work, not immediately rewarding work, but this is work, just the same." — Annette Mennen Baldwin

Love Gifts



Maryann Girard in memory of Joe Maland
King & Angie Campbell in memory of Kelly
Jim & Linda Crawford in memory of Jared Sheets
Carol & Shane Johnson in memory of Jared Sheets

Thanks to the following members who have made a rent donation for our meeting place this month:

Merri Walsh in memory of Chris O'Leary
Jim & Cheri Zucca in memory of Leah
Martha Lewis in memory of Burke
Tina, Johnathan & Heather Loper
in memory of Christopher
Carol & Shane Johnson & Touched By Suicide
in memory of Jared Sheets















Thanks to the following people who make a MONTHLY LOVE GIFT 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
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

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: bluebutterfly6@gmail.com ~ Pat's email: beachbum2201@gmail.com

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!

Announcements

Tyler TCF Meeting: The meeting in Tyler is held on the third Monday of the month, 6:30 p.m., at 3600 Old Bullard Rd., Bldg. 1, Ste. 101B in Tyler. For more information, please call 903-258-2547 or email beachbum2201@gmail.com or lilbluebutterfly6@gmail.com.

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 beachbum2201@gmail.com or lilbluebutterfly6@gmail.com, or call 903-258-2547.

Lufkin TCF Meeting: Call 903-258-2547 for information.

The Touched by Suicide meeting is held the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the same, new location as TCF, 3600 Old Bullard Rd., Bldg. 1, Ste. 101B in Tyler. Anyone who has lost someone they love to suicide is welcome to attend this peer support group. For more info please call 903-330-0678 or visit www.touchedbysuicideeasttexas.org.

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.

General Assembly: Join us each month to assemble the newsletter and mail out cards. We hope to get some new volunteers to help with this monthly project. Call 903-258-2547 for details.

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.

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.



"Know that someday you will once again welcome spring. Be gentle and patient with yourself and with nature. Don't expect too much. Be ready to let a little of the hope that spring can offer into your heart." —Evelyn B.

May Birthdays



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



Donna Mae Morales 5-8-96 ~ 5-14-01 Daughter of Misty Morales



Boston Kade Porter 5-27-05 ~ 8-12-06 Son of Kim Porter



Joshua Carl Tucker 5-17-76 ~ 4-15-92 Son of Judy C. Googins



Tami Kay Brown Roberts 5-17-72 ~ 6-10-00 Daughter of Kenn & Ann Somerville



Stephanie Harris Reed 5-18-79 ~ 9-5-98 Daughter of Rick & Susan Harris



Randall Scott McDaniel 5-07-88 ~ 3-17-07 Son of Kathryn Webb



Blythe Madison Harper 5-2-03 ~ 3-8-06 Daughter of Stephanie & Joshua Harper



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



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



Justin Bloxom 5-29-97 ~ 3-10-10 Son of Amy Bloxom Fletcher



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



Margie Starkey 4-30 ~ 12-3 Daughter of Betty Abbie



Jared Sheets 5-14-87 ~ 9-27-05 Son of Carol Johnson



Michael Angelo Perez 05/16/81 ~ 09/28/99 Son of Victoria Gonzalez



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



Stephanie Carol Hester 5-9-88 ~ 4-2-04 Daughter of Troy & Glenna Nicolls



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



Gabe Levi Hunt 5-2-79 ~ 6-25-06 Son of Deborah Hunt



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



Derek Brown 5-6-66 ~ 11-25-10 Son of Pam Pickett



Andrew Weldon Braswell 5-14-08 ~ 5-14-08 Son of Chad & Sara Braswell



Dustin Dewayne Bruce 5-5-82 ~ 8-3-82 Son of Bonnie Jones

"We grieve as individuals, and there is no standard plan for it. Do what you need to do to survive, but don't deny the presence of your grief. It's a part of you now. Ignoring it will not help." —Scott Mastley

May Anniversaries



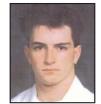
Brady Bryant 4-30-01 ~ 5-2-01 Son of Windy & Bradley Bryant



Daniel Anderson 12-27-79 ~ 5-15-95 Son of Kerry & Cheryl Anderson



Blake Owens 11-19-86 ~ 5-26-11 Son of Jancy Lovelace



Brandon Weatherly 12-14-72 ~ 5-20-95 Son of Ike & Diana Weatherly



Kaila McKinsey Payne 4-6-03 ~ 5-28-03 Daughter of Keith Payne Grand. of Gracie Farris



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



Samantha Johnson 9-23-86 ~ 5-13-02 Daughter of Dennis & Vicki Johnson



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



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



Joshua Jolley 9-29-78 ~ 5-12-02 Son of Brenda Jolley



Kenny Ivy 3-10-65 ~ 5-12-85 Son of JoAnne Ivy



Donna Morales 5-8-96 ~ 5-14-01 Daughter of Misty Morales



Kendrick Clark 10-21-87~ 5-10-11 Son of Jan Dickerson



Jon Lee Hardwick 9-29-61 ~ 5-7-77 Brother of Vicki Johnson



Alexander Fleming 12-4-89 ~ 5-8-07 Son of Amy Fleming



Stephanie Settle 12-22-81 ~ 5-27-98 Daughter of Danny & Pat Settle



Marshall Charles Donahue 10-18-65 ~ 5-18-00 Son of Joyce Neely



Leslie Eugene Robb 6-11-71 ~ 5-16-08 Son of Rena L. Surratt



Jarren Moser 4-28-00 ~ 5-31-05 Son of Robert & Misty Hendrickson



Kimberly Pryor 1-2-73 ~ 5-30-07 Daughter of Jerry & Judy Olson



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



Leah Zucca 9-3-85 ~ 5-10-06 Daughter of Jim & Cheri Zucca



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



Tiffeny Sue Hightower 3-31-89 ~ 5-12-06 Daughter of Donna Hightower



Andrew Weldon Braswell 5-14-08 ~ 5-14-08 Son of Chad & Sara Braswell



"The most beautiful people we have known are those who have known defeat, know suffering, know struggle, know loss, and have found their way out of the depths. These persons have an appreciation, a sensitivity and an understanding of life that fills them with compassion, gentleness, and a deep loving concern. Beautiful people do not just happen." —*Elizabeth Kubler-Ross*

Mother's Day Revisited

Many of us in TCF do not look forward to Mother's Day. On this holiday, when the whole nation is celebrating the joys of parenthood, grieving parents often feel a special anguish.

Mother's Day this year looms as a particularly difficult milestone for me, Sunday, May 10, 1998, is not only Mother's Day but also the second anniversary of the death of my ten-year-old son, Jacob. Because this day of private sadness also happens to be a day of public celebration, I decided that I should start thinking early about the occasion. I engaged in a little research about the holiday and learned a story that I think is worth sharing.

Mother's Day was the creation of a woman named Anna Jarvis in the early years of this century. Anna, who never married and never had children of her own, devoted herself to establishing a national Mother's Day as a way of honoring her beloved mother, who died on May 9, 1905. In Anna's view, her mother deserved a memorial because she had lived selflessly and endured considerable suffering—seven of her eleven children had died in early childhood. According to historians, Anna's mother mourned the deaths of her children throughout her life.

Anna insisted that the holiday always fall on a Sunday so that it would retain its spiritual moorings. Because of her efforts, President Woodrow Wilson finally proclaimed the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day. Although Anna couldn't prevent the new holiday from quickly becoming a marketing phenomenon, she did try. Speaking out against "the mire of commercialization" that threatened to engulf Mother's Day, Anna attempted to preserve her creation as a true "holy day," a time for solemn reflection and prayer.

Mother's Day, then, was borne of a daughter's grief and love. More importantly, it was intended as a tribute to a bereaved mother—a brave woman who lost multiple children but who managed to live with an abiding kindness and generosity toward others. I like knowing this background, and my attitude towards Mother's Day has been colored by the knowledge. The holiday now makes me think of the common sorrow that links all bereaved parents. I feel a bond with Anna's mother that stretches over time and space. In a broader sense, the woman for whom the holiday was founded reminds me of people I've met at TCF who have continued to live productive, meaningful lives in the face of unthinkable loss.

Finally, Mother's Day in its origins symbolizes both the joy and the vulnerability inherent in parenthood. Anna's mother knew all too well that from the moment a child is born, hope and the possibility of tragedy go hand in hand. She understood the fragility of life.

Enriched by its own history, Mother's Day is easier for me to tolerate. The coincidence of dates this year—Mother's Day and the anniversary of my son's death—is not as jarring as it once seemed. Although the commercial images of the modern Mother's Day still make me wince, I can turn off the television and envision the kind of day that Anna Jarvis had in mind: a time for quiet reflection and the sharing of cherished memories.

Barbara Atwood ~ In memory of Jacob, TCF, Tucson, AZ

Should We Have a Credo for Friends?

We are the friends of those who lost their children to death. We want to be part of your grieving by helping you, our friends, through this very difficult time. We do not know what to say and might inadvertently say the wrong thing. We need you to help to tell us when this happens. Most of all, we want you to know that we hurt with you. You are our friends and we feel helpless.

We do not want to force you to hurry with your grieving, but we want you to make us part of it. We do not know your pain and hope that we never will, but we feel your pain because we care for you.

We are here to listen, so you may talk to us about your loved one. If we were not privileged to know your child, tell us about your child so we also understand the special person he or she was. Most of all, trust us, we are here when you need us.

We will not ask you to show a happy face when sadness is in your heart. We will not diminish your grief by uttering useless phrases like "God must have wanted your child more than you." We know that in time we will once again see you smile. But we are willing to wait until you are ready. We are "The Friends of those who Grieve" and we have compassion for your loss.

Karin Powell, TCF, Volusia/Flagler, FL

The Compassionate Friends of Tyler

Butterfly Release

Release a butterfly for all children who have died.

Saturday, May 19 at 1:00 p.m.

www.TylerTCF.org • 903-258-2547



Please join us for our 9th Annual Butterfly Release on May 19 at 1:00 p.m. at the First Baptist Church south campus, 17002 Hwy. 69 S., Tyler. Live Monarch butterflies are available for \$10 each. Please contact us at (903) 258-2547 for more information.

"Sharing connects us and makes us realize how much people need one another in this world." —Flavia Weedn

A Poem for My Daughter

I love you now, as I so loved you then your Spirit is with me forever When you were born all of heaven sang out Joyous that we were together

Your eyes twinkled bright as a billion stars Your lashes brushed sweet angel's kisses As you snuggled so warmly against my neck So serenely, you gave me such bliss

As I stroked your head, very gently My Dear Your hair felt as soft as down feathers Your fingers, so tiny, wove tightly with mine Rainbow's end couldn't give me more treasure

I remember you now, I'll remember you when every day and each night begins You're a part of my soul, every beat of my heart I promise, My Darling, Amen

> Karinelyn Paul Broomfield, CO In Memory of my daughter, Katrina

My Sunset Day

Yes today is my Sunset Day
I know it has been seven long years to you
But up here, a Sunset Day I've had just one
It was the day when straight to Heaven I flew

Yes, I have gone "Beyond the Sunset"
To this bright city, forever of peace, joy, and love
You see, I am here in a life eternal
It is a place called "Heaven Above"

Today is your special time with the memories you hold So carry yourself well with your head held high Because someday we'll meet again In heaven, where time is called, "By and By"

> I love you, Tim

Donald Moyers TCF Galveston County, TX

Spring's Tears

When the sun's sharp brilliance echoes in the luminescent blue A grim, oppressive darkness stabs my aching heart anew. Its golden glow upon my face, the warmth of winter's sun Holds the promise of renewal when the icy months are done.

It is this vow of nature's of resurgence in the spring
That bows my head, and breaks my heart; unlocks my suffering.
For you will miss again the beauty of this time of year
The growing warmth, the sunny days when life will reappear.

For nature has no power over death that holds you still, And though I know, I still resent spring's early daffodil.
Oh, would that I could speak to Mother Nature face to face!
To beg she work her magic on your lonely resting place.

Why can't it be YOUR rebirth when the gray, cold days are done?
Why mightn't YOU not live again to see spring's fresh new dawn and feel the warmth of sunshine relish in the greening earth... to open arms, embracing life why can't it be YOUR birth?

You were so young, your life so new when death crept in the door, And in my grief, beloved child, I'll ask forever more
The reason why the earth's renewed when spring comes 'round each year Yet in your grave you're silent still, and I condemned am here.

Sally Migliaccio TCF Babylon, NY In Memory of Tracey

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:	s Name:		Relationship:	
Birth Date:	Death Date:	Cause o	Cause of Death:	
Address:				
			Zip:	
Home Telephone:				
E-mail:				
Please check any of follow	ving that apply.			
☐ Please continue sending	g the newsletter.			
☐ No thank you, I'd prefe	er to stop receiving the newsletter. (N	Newsletters are posted mor	nthly on our Web site.)	
☐ Please include my child	I's name and picture in the slide pres	sentation at the Candle Lig	ghting Ceremony.	
☐ Please include my child	I's picture and information on the TO	CF Tyler Web site. (www.	ГylerTCF.org)	
☐ I am enclosing a memo	rial to support The Compassionate F	Friends in the amount of		
-			Please make check payable to TCF	
☐ In memory of				
Please use this gift for:				
☐ TCF Newsletter ☐ But	terfly Release Candle Lighting	☐ TCF Events ☐ Other		
	napter's work depends on donations. Onsider taking this time to give a gift	•	opportunity to give a donation in memory of other newly bereaved parents.	
Lighting Ceremony or any	1	be withdrawn at any time l	re in the newsletter, Web site, Candle by written request. This information is activities such as the newsletter.	
			Date:	
(Signature)				

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

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"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



P.O. Box 9714 Tyler, Texas 75711





www.TylerTCF.org

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

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