



THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS



We need not walk alone.

Volume 13, Issue 11

Tyler, Texas

November 2012

Monthly Group Meeting

Tyler Area Meeting

Monday, Nov. 19, 6:30 p.m.
3600 Old Bullard Rd., Bldg. 1,
Ste. 101B, Tyler

Jacksonville Meeting

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

Lufkin/Nacogdoches Area Meeting

Thursday, Nov. 15, 6:30 p.m.
Southside Baptist Church
1615 Tulane Drive in Lufkin

Contact

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

Chapter LeaderTina Loper
Meeting Facilitators Tyler
Don & Leslie Dixon, Cheri Zucca
Meeting Facilitators Lufkin
Lauri Maner, Bill Ottesen
Newsletter/Web SiteMary Lingle
Steering Committee: Sam Smith,
Carol Johnson, Carol Thompson,
Mary Ann Girard, Cheri Zucca, Mary
Lingle, David & Teresa Terrell, Janet
Majors, Don & Leslie Dixon, Kathy
McKinney, Margie Newman,
Pat Settle, Lisa Schoonover

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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Thanksgiving

You may ask, "What do I have to be thankful for now that my child is dead?" After the death of a child, where is the joy in a day off from work? What pleasure can we derive from sitting around a table when someone is missing, and an uttered prayer of thanksgiving echoes hollow in our hearts?

Maybe we have been concentrating on the loss which has brought the overwhelming sorrow of death, and have forgotten the complete joy of life. When I remember laughing brown eyes, a mischievous grin, a scraped knee that Mommy could fix, a new word learned, even the memory of the realization that I had a baby boy, I have a great deal to be thankful for. I had 1 1/2 years of a dream come true, and I'm truly thankful I had my child.

Sure, the agony of grief, the anguish of losing my precious child to death, the torture of wanting to see that child grow and mature and the pain of never knowing, rips me up.

There is no Thanksgiving in entertaining these thoughts, so this month I am going to concentrate on the Living of my child, the Life that brought me so much joy. In this I am thankful that Evan was born, thankful that he lived, thankful that even for those short 30 months—I lived them too. Even so, as he lived once, I live now and want a productive life.

I am thankful I have come that far in my grief work to know I want to live and remember the good times without sorrow. And, I am thankful for my husband, who stood by me during the rough times. The husband who is the father of the child of our love. In him I have found my child, in our marriage I have found love, and that love taught us how to love that child. I am also thankful for you, my real friends-Compassionate Friends.

Edie Kaplan, TCF Ft. Lauderdale, FL ~ In Memory of my son, Evan



We are selling T-shirts for our Annual Candle Lighting. The back side includes the following quote: "Who then can so softly bind up the wound of another as he who has felt the same wound himself?" –Thomas Jefferson

Small, Medium and Large shirts are \$20 each and XXL are \$22 each.

Please send us an email at info@tylertcf.org to place your order.

You may pick up your shirt at the Candle Lighting or at a monthly meeting.

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.

“In this life we cannot do great things. We can only do small things with great love.” —Mother Theresa

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 of Tyler, Texas

<http://www.tylertcf.org>

Compassionate Friends (national home page)

Also offers grief support for **siblings** and **grandparents**

<http://www.compassionatefriends.org>

Children Are A Gift Foundation

<http://www.childrenareagift.com>

GriefShare

<http://www.griefshare.org>

MADD East Texas (Mothers Against Drunk Driving)

<http://www.madd.org/local-offices/tx/east-texas>

Smith County Victim Services Division

<http://www.tdcj.state.tx.us/divisions/vs/counties/smith.html>

The Hospice of East Texas

<http://www.hospiceofeasttexas.org>

The University of Texas at Tyler Psychology and Counseling Training Clinic

Located at the Bethesda Health Clinic

409 W. Ferguson

Tyler, Texas 75702

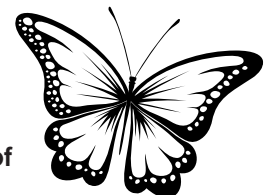
903-592-2348

Touched by Suicide (local)

<http://www.touchedbysuicideeasttexas.org>

Victim Services Division - Texas Department of Criminal Justice - Online Resource Directory

<http://www.tdcj.state.tx.us/divisions/vs>



Is it Easing?

I heard your name today and my heart did not skip a beat, nor was my mind flooded with the emotion of losing you. I heard your name today and it did not bring back the terrible hurt feelings of when you first left me.

I heard your name today with a calmness that surprised me. Many another child carries your name, and it had been torture hearing it and seeing the smiling faces on those little girls.

But today I knew-I found out-what others in my footsteps found out and tried to tell me. The hurt will ease; but the memories, the love, the good times will never go away.

Phoebe C. Redman, TCF Bradenton, FL



We need not walk alone.

"I had to accept the reality that I would never be the same person, that some part of my heart, perhaps the best part, had been cut out and buried with my sons. What was left? Now there was a question worth contemplating."
—Gordon Livingston, MD

Love Gifts



Sara Fincke & Roxanne Ray in memory of James Fincke

Casey Wilbanks in memory of A.J. & Cobin Frazier

Dolly Mobley in memory of Shannon Scheffler & Shane Crim

Tree Fund Donations

(See page 6 for more information.)

Mary & Erin Lingle in memory of Candice

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

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.

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.

Announcements

Our first tree planting will be held on Dec. 1, 2012 at 10 a.m. The location is South Tyler Trails, beside the American Red Cross Building located at 320 E Rieck Rd., Tyler TX. The first tree will be a Chinese Pistache tree. The city will prepare the site and TCF members will plant the tree. All TCF members are encouraged to attend and help plant the tree in memory of our children. (See page 7 for more info.)



*...that their
light may
always shine.*

Light a candle for all children who have died.
2nd Sunday in December, 6:30 p.m.

TCF Annual Candle Lighting Ceremony:

Our Annual Candle Lighting Ceremony will be Dec. 9, 2012 at Crossroads Community Church, 13730 Hwy 155 South, Tyler. The service

begins at 6:30 p.m. This year canned food for the food pantry at our host church will be collected at the Candle Lighting. Please remember to collect canned goods and bring them that evening. If you would like to help with the Candle Lighting set up, take down and anything in between, please call the TCF line at 903-258-2547. This is a great way to meet and get to know the members of The Compassionate Friends. Getting involved will likely help you as well as the other members! Everyone is needed and welcomed! Please consider bringing a finger food of your choice. We need everything from sandwiches and chips to sweets and drinks. Your contribution will be appreciated and enjoyed on this special evening. Thank you!

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/Nacogdoches Area TCF Meeting: The meeting for the Lufkin and Nacogdoches area is held on the third Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m., at the Southside Baptist Church, 1615 Tulane Dr. in Lufkin across from the LiveWell Fitness. Contact Bill Ottesen at 936-634-6422 or Lauri Maner at 936-854-2002. You may also email them at CompassionateFriends4lufkinnac@yahoo.com.

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.





We need not walk alone.

"Love knows no limit to its endurance, no end to its trust, no fading of its hope; it can outlast anything. Love still stands when all else has fallen."

—Author unknown

November Birthdays



Wade Goetze
11-29-76 ~ 10-28-01
Son of
Charlotte Nelson



Rusty Welch
11-29-57 ~ 1-1-67
Son of Travis
& Martha Welch



Nathaniel Bolom
11-6-93 ~ 11-27-93
Son of
Jane Manley



Shane Crim
11-25-71 ~ 11-9-05
Son of
Dolly Mobley



Christopher Jordan Pope
11-10-90 ~ 6-16-03
Son of Edward
& Brenda Pope



Mike Loughmiller
11-14-62 ~ 12-6-07
Son of Suzanne
Loughmiller



Lindsey Stewart
11-6-87 ~ 4-2-04
Daughter of
Stephanie Stewart



Erik Scott McKinney
11-26-86 ~ 8-16-06
Son of Kevin &
Kathy McKinney



Kayla Smith
11-7-89 ~ 3-5-04
Daughter of
Debbie Smith



Bobby Knott
11-6-68 ~ 4-24-83
Son of Bobby
& Virginia Knott



Mary Adams
11-28 ~ 1-28-06
Sister of
Vicki Adams



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



Kristi Diaz
11-7-72 ~ 4-7-99
Daughter of
Julie Diaz



Jill Tompkins
11-3-77 ~ 4-24-99
Daughter of
Karen Tompkins



Mikel Conway
11-17-57 ~ 10-11-01
Son of Viola Conway
Brother of Margie Newman



Haylee Lee
11-23-90 ~ 1-23-02



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



Lorie McLain
11-14-67 ~ 8-9-04
Daughter of
Sandy White



Austin Lane Phillips
11-8-96 ~ 11-8-96
Son of Stacie
Phillips Montegudo



Whitni Ray
11-16-86 ~ 12-22-04
Daughter of Rachelle
Threadgill Brooks



Brytnie Leah Stithem
11-3-94 ~ 1-18-12
Daughter of
Gary & Tracy Stithem



Christina Boyd
11-20-81 ~ 6-6-07
Daughter of
Sherri Haltom



Gaaron Hicks
11-8-91 ~ 1-6-09
Son of Diane
Richardson





We need not walk alone.

"We quickly realize there are no words to describe the experience after losing a child. For those who have not lost a child, no explanation will do. For those who have, no explanation is necessary." —Mary Lingle

November Anniversaries



Thomas 'Chuck' Carroll
6-2-73 ~ 11-13-93
Son of Linda & Thomas Carroll



Salvador Estrada
12-11-79 ~ 11-3-01
Son of Charlotte Estrada



Erika Stafford
1-4-79 ~ 11-10-05
Daughter of Marilyn Stafford



Austin Lane Phillips
11-8-96 ~ 11-8-96
Son of Stacie Phillips Monteagudo



Shane Crim
11-25-71 ~ 11-9-05
Son of Dolly Mobley



Scottie Baker
8-3-86 ~ 11-29-04
Son of Steve Baker & Julie Stokes



Jonathan Reynolds
12-14-98 ~ 11-16-02
Son of Addison & Debra Reynolds



Cameron Lee Robinson
4-19-96 ~ 11-12-99
Son of Amie Jo Gibson-Robinson



Nathaniel Bolom
11-06-93 ~ 11-27-93
Son of Jane Manley



Randy Cannon, Jr.
03-26-84 ~ 11-06-05
Son of Randy Cannon, Sr.



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



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



Ronald Gary Smith
6-1-78 ~ 11-4-08
Son of Gloria Smith



Crystal Greene
8-6-82 ~ 11-13-00
Daughter of Lory Greene
Niece of Audrey & Claude Mapps



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



Timothy Treadwell
4-1-80 ~ 11-23-04
Son of Tammy Treadwell



Justin Goodman
2-11-84 ~ 11-19-11
Son of Kelly Goodman



Derek Brown
5-6-66 ~ 11-25-08
Son of Pam Pickett



A.J. Huggins
10-15-70 ~ 11-14-08
Son of Sue Langdon



Calan Cameron Decker McKeethan
8-10-00 ~ 11-29-01
Son of Mary Decker



Brooke Wallace
1-16-81 ~ 11-24-98
Daughter of Charles & Tammy Wallace



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



Burke Warren Lewis
12-20-75 ~ 11-14-09
Son of Martha Sloan Lewis



Kyle Foster
4-1-93 ~ 11-1-03
Son of Barbara Foster
Son of Greg Foster



Carolyn Love
1-4-38 ~ 11-25-06
Sister of Liz Lachey





We need not walk alone.

"You loved; therefore, you grieve. You may succeed in postponing your grief for a time, but it will resurface some day in some way. You are encouraged to deal with it now so that it won't be waiting ten or fifteen years down the road for you." —*Mary Cleckley*

Dear Compassionate Friends,

Thank you so much for the faithful publication of the newsletter each month. When I find it in my mailbox I get excited and enjoy it so much.

I see there are a number of more recent deaths of beautiful children and as I look at each picture my heart cries out for those parents and loved ones grieving right that very minute because I feel that sudden terror that grips them and the pain they are living through, if you can call it "living."

When I see my daughter's face in the August issue, and my son's face in the November issue each year, I know I'm not alone in this ongoing struggle to just maintain life without my children. They died two years apart and I can't believe I didn't "lose my mind." I certainly am a mother changed, with occasional nightmares, unexpected outbursts of tears, and then great joy when I embrace my grandchildren and see my children's faces all over again. Oh! I sure hope they both know how well and beautiful and loving their children have grown to be. Somehow I think they just might since they're now with the One who knows everything. The blessings I receive now from my grandchildren and great grandchildren help fill the empty places in me and give me reason to go on.

I know so many grieving parents have lost their children at younger ages and can never know the joy of watching a grandchild from a distance and gasp aloud and feel their heart race thinking for just an instant that it's their child they no longer can see! This seems to me like double loss and grief: one for who they had and is now gone, and, for those they'll never see and enjoy.

What sorrow we all share when we lose our children! Unspeakable, unshakable, gripping pain. Just knowing Compassionate Friends is there for us is reassuring and comforting. Please know I appreciate all you do: your energy, the persistence you have in reaching us who are hurting, and your determination to make a difference in the lives of those broken and staggering parents and loved ones trying to get through each day, just to face the reality at the next sunrise of the situation all over again.

All of you at TCF know exactly what I say because each one of you is very familiar with the agony of losing a child.

May God richly bless you and ease your suffering and pain more and more, with His abiding peace.

Sincerely,

*Dolly Mobley, TCF Tyler, TX
In memory of my son, Shane Crim, and daughter, Shannon Scheffler*

Bittersweet Memories

One of the most precious things to a parent who has lost a child is the memories. Without them, it would be as if their child never was. With them, it is so bittersweet that it can make a parent laugh and cry, rejoice and anguish, touch the sweetness to the lips and taste the salt from the tears.

Memories keep the heart from crushing under the weight of sorrow. They give a parent the chance to be with their child again. They can walk through their memories like they were a movie. When the memories are so vivid, you can almost feel them, touch them, hug them, and kiss them. It is so bittersweet when the reality comes and you realize it is just a memory, a thought and you are reminded of what you have lost.

If you asked a parent if they would give up the memories so they did not have to feel the pain of knowing their child is gone, they would tell you no. As painful as it may be, not having the memories or feeling their presence, is just as unbearable as losing them.

There is no happy place to go to, but there is a place to be with your child. You know before you step into that realm that it will be painful, but you know that it will be joyful too.

So as we let the memories take us to a time that our child was safe with us, just rest a while until it is time to go and the next time try not to think of what is gone but what is still in your heart and will always be.

Vickie Van Antwerp TCF, Brevard, NC





We need not walk alone.

“Finally, allow yourself private time as you need to, but also remember it's important to allow others to try to bring you comfort and give you extra help during the holidays. Loved ones need feedback that says: "I'm trying to recover, and I appreciate your help. Peace be with you." —Ann Frost

Before and After—Our Lives Have Forever Changed

At a recent TCF meeting, we discussed the ways our lives changed after our children died. We all agreed that our lives could be divided into two stages: our lives before and our lives after.

History timelines are divided in two classifications: B.C. [Before Christ] and A.D. [Anno Domini—In the year of our Lord.]

For bereaved parents, the time of our lives are divided by the time before our child died and the time after. We can use these acronyms: B.C.D. [before our child died] and A.C.D. [after our child died] B.C.D. we are one person. A.C.D. we are different—oh so different.

B.C.D. we looked forward to watching our child grow up, graduate, get a job, get married, have children. We looked forward to school parties, ball games, graduation gowns, wedding gowns and grandchildren. In so many ways, our lives were centered around our children. We went through their happy times and their hard times with them. We loved them more than we had ever loved anything - more than life itself. We expected a normal lifetime of their growing up and our growing old. That just seems to be the natural order of life.

A.C.D. that all goes away. Regardless of their age, the natural order of life is turned upside down. The level of the pain and grief are the same for all. Oh, we handle it differently with our different personalities; but when we discuss our feelings at the time of their death there are remarkable similarities. And the holes in our broken hearts, those holes that can never be refilled, are just as big and just as empty. We had a child - an adored, beloved, cherished, child—and they are gone. Yes, our lives have forever changed.

Thank God for faith and time. We hold on to our faith, believing that our child is in heaven; and we will see them again. As time goes by, the pain changes. I started to say "lessens," but that is not the way it is. We still cry for our child, just not with every breath, not every night. We still grieve, but as time passes we have times that we think of other things. Thank God, also, for the healing offered by The Compassionate Friends; the most caring, understanding group of folks I have ever known.

My daughter, Stacey, has been gone for 24 years. I miss her just as much today as I did 24 years ago, but most of my pain has healed. I give all the credit to my Lord, Jesus Christ, and time—and a great deal to TCF. I am a different man than I was. A better man in so many ways, but definitely different. Oct 4, 1988 changed me forever. The day your child died changed you forever. Our deepest heartfelt prayer is that you can hold on to the hope that your faith and time will help you heal. As you heal, you will have the capability to help other bereaved parents heal, as well. We are at our best when we are helping others, and there is healing in so doing. The Compassionate Friends is an excellent venue to help others.

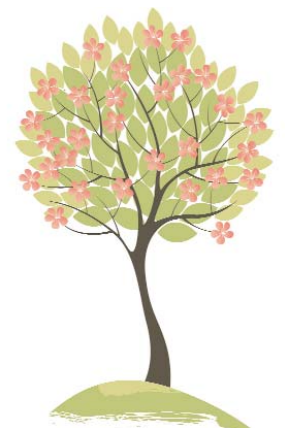
We use this quote from Thomas Jefferson, "Who better to heal the wounds of another than those who have suffered the wound themselves." [paraphrased] We have suffered the greatest wound known to mankind—the death of our child. We are forever changed. Pray that we can use the changes in our lives to help others.

*Dr. Sam Smith, Butterfly Ministry
TCF Jacksonville, Texas, ssmithkate@aol.com*

The City of Tyler is promoting a tree initiative for the next few years. The TCF Tyler steering committee discussed this idea and thought planting a tree is a beautiful way to honor our children. The tree will cost \$300 and will be planted near the Rose Rudman or South Tyler Trail. The specific location is undecided. We will also purchase a granite marker to place with the tree at a cost of \$250.

Our first tree planting will be held on Dec. 1, 2012 at 10 a.m. The location is South Tyler Trails, beside the American Red Cross Building located at 320 E Rieck Rd., Tyler TX. The first tree will be a Chinese Pistache tree. The city will prepare the site and TCF members will plant the tree. All TCF members are encouraged to attend and help plant the tree in memory of our children.

Please contribute as little as a dollar to honor your child, grandchild or sibling. Visit www.tylertcf.org to make an online donation or mail checks payable to The Compassionate Friends of Tyler, P.O. Box 9714, Tyler, Texas 75711.





We need not walk alone.

"We need our Compassionate Friends at the holiday season. We need to know that others have walked this road, have lived this nightmare and have managed to survive. We each continue to rediscover hope through our Compassionate Friends. And in finding that hope we have given and received the purest gift of the season: the possibility of peace." —*Annette Mennen Baldwin*

Borrowed Hope

Lend me your hope for a while
I seem to have mislaid mine.
Loss and the hopeless feelings accompany me daily.
Pain and confusion are my companions.
I know not where to turn.
Looking ahead to the future times
Does not bring forth images of renewed hope.
I see mirthless times, pain filled days, and more tragedy.
Lend me your hope for a while.
I seem to have mislaid mine.
Hold my hand and hug me.
Listen to all my ramblings.
I need to unleash the pain and let it tumble out.
Recovery seems so far distant.
The road to healing, a long and lonely one.
Stand by me. Offer me your presence.
Your ears and your love.
Acknowledge my pain, it is so real and ever present.
I am overwhelmed
With sad and conflicting thoughts.
Lend me your hope for a while.
A time will come when I will heal.
And I will lend my renewed hope to others.

*Eloise Cole
TCF Phoenix, AZ*

My Time To Leave

I'm sorry it was my time to leave
But please, don't cry or grieve
You see, God gave me his hand to go home.
Now I don't have to roam alone.

It's more beautiful here than I've ever seen,
Even in my most vivid dream,
I will miss seeing you everyday
But remember, I am only a breath away.

I was welcomed with such loving arms,
So far away from all of life's harms
So it is here I will stay,
Until we see each other again one day.

The joy we will have on that day
Is really not too far away
So think of me every once and a while,
But only with a happy heart, and a smile

Because in your heart I will forever be
Every time you think of me.

*Nittie Hickman
TCF San Diego, CA*

The Gift of Someone Who Listens

Those of us who have traveled a while
Along this path called grief
Need to stop and remember that mile,
That first mile of no relief.
It wasn't the person with answers
Who told us of ways to deal.
It wasn't the one who talked and talked
That helped us start to heal.
Think of the friends who quietly sat
And held our hands in theirs.
The ones who let us talk and talk
And hugged away our tears.
We need to always remember
That more than the words we speak,
It's the gift of someone who listens
That most of us desperately seek.

*Nancy Myerholtz
TCF Waterville/Toledo, OH*

Remember

Remember the children, we ask tonight,
As we continue this wave of light.
Remember the babies, never given a chance,
To grow, to play, to love, or dance.
Remember the toddlers, just starting to live,
Teddy Bears and blankies and big hugs to give.
Remember the children, who grew strong and true,
Maybe struck by an illness that devastated you.
Remember the teen-agers and the promise in each,
Taken suddenly or slowly, beyond our reach.
Don't forget the adult child, fully grown,
Whether 18 or 80, we still called them our own.
Our grandchildren, sisters and brothers have died,
For nieces and nephews and cousins, we've cried.
Some of us say, "I've lost my dreams,"
While others say, "my memories."
So tonight we remember with this candlelight,
So like our love that shines so bright.

*Marilyn Rollins
TCF Lake-Porter County, IN*

**We hope you'll join us for
the 2012 Candle Lighting
in December. See page 3
for information.**

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



"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

**Thanks to Skillern's Business
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