



Monthly Group Meeting

Tyler Area Meeting

Monday, Oct. 18, 6:30 p.m.
12949 C.R. 42 (McDougle Rd.)

Jacksonville Meeting

Tuesday, Oct. 5, 6:30 p.m.
Sam Smith's office, 1401 E. Rusk

Lufkin Meeting

Thursday, Oct. 21, 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 LeaderTina Loper
Chapter Leader.....Pat Settle
Meeting Facilitators
Don & Leslie Dixon, Cheri Zucca
Newsletter/Web SiteMary Lingle
Steering Committee: Sam Smith,
Carol Johnson, Carol Thompson,
Patricia Miller, Charisse Smith, Mary
Ann Girard, Cheri Zucca, Mary Lingle,
David & Teresa Terrell, Janet Majors,
Don & Leslie Dixon, Kathy McKinney

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.

In This Issue...

Welcome	2
Blessings Inside Sorrow	2
Love Gifts/Announcements	3
Birthdays	4
Anniversaries	5
One Year Has Passed	6
2nd Annual Concert Info/Flier	7
Poems	8

A Stranger—My Friend

I don't remember who, but someone called me to the phone that day. A lady said she didn't know me, but just wanted to say that she had lost her child, too, and would pray for my deep pain. My days that had been sunny were now filled with crashing rain.

Her voice was kind and soothing as she spoke to me with care. I grasped each word intensely that the stranger was willing to share. Her child died in a way similar to mine, a passenger in a car. She knew my shocking sorrow and recognized my new, deadening scar.

She said we have a mutual friend in the funeral director there, for he buried her child too and now mine—I could not bear. I cried and cried as she talked to me that sad, heartbreaking day. But she quickly instilled in my mind right then that crying was okay.

She briefly spoke of brighter days to come somewhere along the way. She assured me, too, that God was there if only I could pray. I don't remember all she said, my mind was far away, but I thank God for sending her, a stranger—my friend—that day.

She called me again a few days later to see if I was alive. Still in shock, I remembered her—the lady who has survived. Such grief, such devastating sadness, I was totally in despair. But my new friend called again, keeping me in her care.

We came to meet, this lady and I, in life's ungracious bend. I love her now, this total stranger, she's my Compassionate Friend.

Diana G. ~ TCF, Kokoma, IN

Take This Thread

Take this thread of hope and let it be a new beginning—a thread in the new fabric of life you must now weave. Choose your color: You have known the blues and sunk deep into them, yet also known the calming of a cloudless sky. You have known reds, sublime sunsets, flashes of anger, flames of passion. What about green? You have known the gentle cushion, the balmy restfulness of a grassy verge. Known also the green-eyed monster, jealous of those who still have what you have lost. You have seen the sunny yellows absent for a while now overtaken by gray.

Choose these threads of hope draw them together; take the positives, turn the grays into silvers. Remember how it was and know you will once again, some time, come to that place of harmony. But first choose your threads carefully and much later, much stitching later, weaving, working. After much hard work, love and care your fabric will glow again a different fabric. For it can never be the same, but it will be beautiful, a new form of beautiful.

Carolyn S. ~ TCF, Walcha, New South Wales

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.

"I began to realize that there were plenty of things to look forward to, and it was possible to be happy and keep her in my heart. I also realized that even though she died, I still had an entire life to live. I decided to live this life for her. For the both of us. —Amanda Geisinger

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.”

Blessings Inside Sorrow

There are blessings inside sorrow, or so I have been told. I am not sure I always agree. At times I can see the gifts I have been given. Love...without measure...fills my heart when I think of you. But I loved you then too, when you were in my arms, not in my heart. And I miss you now. The emptiness you left can never be filled, not by any blessings I might receive from sorrow.

And yet, still, I wonder. Are there blessings? Would I have known how much I cared for you...for your brothers, for your Dad, were it not for your coming, and so suddenly, softly, leaving, without a good-bye? Would I treasure life I have remaining if it weren't for your loss? Certainly I loved and treasured before you left, but hasn't my sorrow caused me to express that love and to treasure more highly those around me? I KNOW I can't take for granted they will always be.

In the aftermath of losing you, when life lay crumbled around me... still was there not a glimmer of hope? That life would go on, somehow, we would survive and build on the ashes of our broken hearts. Building somehow in spite of our pain. Mixing the cement of our love with tears, we bound ourselves together even more tightly than ever before. And our love grows stronger. And we have not forgotten.

What a bitter lesson! And still, the emptiness will never be filled. There yet remains a hole in my heart...and in all our hearts. Dear son, we will never forget you. The blessings inside our sorrow will never fill the hole you left in our fabric of our lives. It remains open, a testament that you mattered, and that your coming and soft going made a difference. And in that difference lies the blessing inside our sorrow.

We were blessed to have held you for a time, even though you could not stay. And even through our tears, we smile at the memories. And we know that you are not completely alone. You shadow our lives, affecting them in big ways and small. And though I would trade blessings in a minute just to have you back in my arms, I am indeed grateful for the blessings inside sorrow.

Lisa Sculley ~ TCF, Jacksonville, Orange Park Chapter

This month's printing of our newsletter sponsored by Lisa Schoonover.

**In loving memory of
Jake Schoonover
9-15 ~ 10-29
Son of
Lisa Schoonover**



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





We need not walk alone.

“Recall the unforgettable memories of the past as you search for a meaningful future. Even in your overwhelming despair, you will realize that part of that child’s life will live with you forever.” —*Rabbi Earl A. Grollman*

Love Gifts



- Mona Anderson in memory of T.J.
- Joice Bass in memory of Gina Forest
- Janet Majors in memory of Melissa
- Lisa Schoonover in memory of Jake -
sponsoring the newsletter
- Claudette Brown in memory of Terry Wayne
- Phyllis & Dale Cavazos in memory of Chad



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

- Jim & Cheri Zucca in memory of Leah
- Don & Leslie Dixon in memory of Austin
- Tina Loper in memory of Christopher
- Danny, Pat & Stephen Settle in memory of Stephanie

Special Thanks!

Thanks to Carol & Shane Johnson for the bonfire in memory of Jared Sheets, and to Carol's family for the meat provided for the bonfire.

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

Thanks to all who helped with the assembly of last month’s newsletter. We really appreciate all our volunteers!

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.

Announcements

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 or 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 our new meeting location. (See page 2 for directions.) 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. The dates of the remaining meetings are as follows: October 4th and November 8th.

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](mailto:melissa.granberry@madd.org) at melissa.granberry@madd.org.

Holiday Food Donations for Lack’s: We have a box at our new meeting location for non-perishable items.

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Out of the Darkness walk will be held on Saturday, November 6th. This is a remembrance walk for anyone who would like to participate. More details to come.

Annual Candle Lighting Ceremony: Our Annual Candle Lighting Ceremony will be December 12, 2010, at Crossroads Community Church, 13730 Hwy 155 South, Tyler. The service begins at 6:30 p.m. Family and friends are welcome.

New TCF Chapter: #2361 TCF of Burnet County, TX, located at 802 N. Vanderveer St., Burnet, TX 78611. Call Susan at 512-756-8212 for more information. Susan Clark and Roberta Werner are co-leaders.





We need not walk alone.

"The spiritual meaning of love is measured by what it can do. Love is meant to heal. Love is meant to renew." —Deepak Chopra

October Birthdays



Cindy Dingler
10-18 ~ 9-6
Daughter of
Lynda Hanna



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



Joey Moore
10-30 ~ 10-4
Son of Sarah Dolan



Sandi McLain
10-20 ~ 8-9
Granddaughter of
Sandy White



Jeremy Mark Lawler
10-25 ~ 4-19
Son of Mark & Sue Lawler



Brittany Butler
10-4 ~ 1-21
Daughter of Shelly Butler



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



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



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



Richard Heerd
10-31 ~ 2-22
Grandson of
Lawrence Batte



Mark Turner
10-3 ~ 6-19
Son of Clayton
& Pat Turner



Kenneth Melvin
10-6 ~ 6-28
Son of Fredia Melvin



Suzie Gorman
10-9 ~ 1-14
Spouse of Onie Gorman



Rosa Linda Serrano
10-7 ~ 10-07
Daughter of
Suneel Savage



Randy Rounsavall
10-14 ~ 6-19
Son of Margaret
Rounsavall



Neil Defenbaugh
10-20 ~ 3-27
Son of James &
Dina Defenbaugh



Emily Elizabeth Ellis
10-25 ~ 6-16
Daughter of Lori Kern



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



Clayton Norton
10-17 ~ 1-1
Son of Ronnie &
Dottie Norton



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



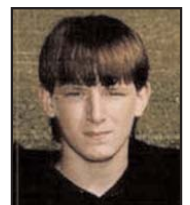
Cason Gimble
10-21 ~ 9-9
Son of Lynn &
Kalisa Gimble



J.D. Adams
10-29 ~ 10-31
Son-in-Law of
Regina Davis



Shellae Vicknair
10-13 ~ 1-18
Daughter of
Vera Vicknair



Jesse Lee Irby
10-16 ~ 6-19
Son of Teri Irby





We need not walk alone.

"The death of someone we know always reminds us that we are still alive—perhaps for some purpose which we ought to re-examine." —*Mignon McLaughlin*

October Anniversaries



Stacey Smith
9-8 ~ 10-4
Daughter of Sam Smith



John Patrick Carnahan
4-17 ~ 10-13
Son of Rod & Shirley Carnahan



Rosa Linda Serrano
10-7 ~ 10-07
Daughter of Sunee Savage



Chris O'Leary
6-25 ~ 10-26
Son of Merri & Fred Walsh
Son of Tom O'Leary



Joey Moore
10-30 ~ 10-4
Son of Sarah Dolan



Kathy Robertson
4-23 ~ 10-23
Daughter of Carolyn Love



Jake Schoonover
9-15 ~ 10-29
Son of Lisa Schoonover



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



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



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



Cory Wayne Channon
8-17 ~ 10-19
Fiancée of Lauri Dillman



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



Erica Smith
12-21 ~ 10-25
Daughter of
Todd & Sabrina Thoene



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



Amanda Claire Miller
9-11 ~ 10-17
Daughter of
Joanne Williams



J.D. Adams
10-29 ~ 10-31
Son-in-Law of
Regina Davis



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



James Lee Lary
4-20 ~ 10-30
Son of Elgin & Ann Lary



Leon Wayne Lasiter
04-16 ~ 10-27
Son of Jim & Pat Lasiter



Hanna Olivia Collie
8-30 ~ 10-25
Daughter of
Jason & Amanda Collie





We need not walk alone.

"We understand death for the first time when he puts his hand upon one whom we love." —Madame de Stael

One Year Has Passed

Dear Friends,

One year has about passed of the death of my son, T.J. Anderson. His one year anniversary death, Oct. 5, 2010, has passed by so fast. I have to say, my journey has been a long hard road and a tremendous amount of healing and work. A person has to go through it and can't go around it. This is a key factor to healing.

In group meetings we hear the mother's and father's pain. It helps us know that we are not alone. The death of a child is a different kind of death than any other. You never get over it-you get through it-and there's hope of finding ways to cope. All of our hearts are so broken, but we must continue on.

I understand a lot more now because of sharing experiences with my Compassionate Friends. When you feel the love, the understanding and the pain that they also feel, you know are not alone. Each one of us shares our own personal loss and grief. We have shared and earned the love of our precious children. We also feel almost as if we know our Compassionate Friend's children.

By sharing we have gained a deeper and stronger connection about life's journey. We also know that God the great Creator's greatest gift was the life of His own son, Jesus Christ. What powerful love for God to submit His own son's life for us. The death of precious children is the most powerful mind source, next to God, there is. The emotional pain seems more unbearable than physical pain.

Keeping T.J.'s memory alive seems to be key for me and I visualize him with me when I need his heart. This gives me some relief and then he goes back with God.

May I say, God bless all the Compassionate Friends of our group and worldwide. Thank you for this organization and for the love and honor we have for our children while finding ways to cope.

Thank you Compassionate Friends for the healing. The group does work, and if there's anyone out there who is discouraged, please call a Compassionate Friend's leader.

In memory of our dear son, T.J. Anderson. You're forever in our hearts.

Your 'Moms' and Dad
Mona & Ron Anderson ~ TCF, Tyler, TX



T.J. Anderson



Rose Rudman Park, Tyler, TX

TCF members joined in on the local Walk for Cystic Fibrosis recently, in honor of Jake Washburn and in memory of Joshua Washburn. Kimberly Boswell is the boy's mother.

Join Us for Our Second-Annual TCF of Tyler Concert & Dinner

When: October 2, 6:00 PM

Where: Joe's Italian Grill on 5th St.

Musical Performers: Sam & Scotty

The evening meal will cost about \$10 per person. Your drink and salad are included in the meal and we will have about 4-5 items from which to choose.

We are selling centerpieces for the concert for a donation of \$20. They are three-sided with your child's picture and a candle in the middle.

All donations will be used for community outreach.



The decorative lanterns combine the beauty of candlelight with the memories associated with cherished photographs.

Call (903) 258-2547 for more information. Sponsored by The Compassionate Friends of Tyler, Texas, a support group for bereaved parents. Visit www.tylertcf.org for more information on our meetings, newsletters and special events.

Please print and post at your church or business.



We need not walk alone.

“Remember, joy and pain exist separately during our lifelong journeys; there may be days when the pain that we experience teaches us something more about our grief. It is better to grieve by remembering rather than grieve to forget.”
—David J. Roberts

A Year in the Life

How can we ever understand the loss of a life so dear?
It's still so hard to believe it's almost been a year.

We miss your love. We miss your smile. We pray that you
are near. We pray that you will help us through
restless sadness and endless tears.

You're in a better place now, by God you were received.
You'll never feel life's pain again, in that we do believe.

We make our weekly journey to the place you now call
home, across hillsides full of monuments to touch your
name carved in stone.

We stand alone, we cry, we pray, your brother, mom and
dad. A full year gone and counting our lives forever sad...

*For Brennan, By: Tom Murphy, September 2006
TCF ~ Cincinnati-East and West Chapters*

I had a Dream

I had a dream the other night
it was a miracle, you see.
I rocked you in my favorite chair
and held you close to me.

I sang to you a lullaby
so sweet and clear and fair;
but then awoke, I called your name,
And knew you were not there.

As darkness then engulfed me,
I started to softly cry,
I love you so, my baby,
why did you have to die?

I pray for sleep to come again,
and hope that I will see
another dream just like before,
with my son held next to me.

Author unknown

This day is remembered and quietly kept,
No words are needed, we shall never forget.
For those we love don't go away,
They walk beside us everyday.
Unseen and unheard, but always near,
So loved,
So missed,
And so very dear.

TCF ~ Potomac, MD - Reading

The Passage of Grief

Pain in my heart,
Longing in my soul,
Shattered in pieces
And it's taken its toll.

In the palm of your hand,
You took my life,
Ripped out my heart
And drove in the knife.

You chose to take him;
Though you could take anyone
Taking our sweet precious boy,
My Aunt's only son.

I wouldn't have fought back,
So why not take me?
I would have gone quietly
And fully paid his fee.

The longings that I have,
I try my best to hide.
To hear him, touch him,
And have him by my side.

I miss him every day,
And it hurts so bad.
My Boy being gone,
Makes my heart so sad.

I know it's all up to you, God
I know it's all in your will,
But why couldn't you warn us
And prepare our hearts to feel.

Love, Longing,
Anger, and Regret;
So many emotions swirling
And some not even explored yet.

Time heals all wounds,
At least that's what they say,
But when a loved one dies,
Your life seems to lose its way.

I don't know what's up;
I don't know what's down;
Nobody knows where I am
And who knows where I'm bound.

God, I need you to take the helm;
Remove the clouds from my eyes;
Calm the waters with one touch
And show me where forever lies.

*By Holly Howell, In loving memory of her
cousin, Jake Schoonover.*

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 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