



Volume 15, Issue 9

Tyler, Texas

September 2014

Monthly Group Meeting

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

Contact

Phone: (903) 258-2547 www.TylerTCF.org • info@TylerTCF.org 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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A Bit Richer

I've heard it said that what you get out of a book depends not on what the book brings to you, but on what you bring to the book.

It's hard to fathom—much less accept—that we can gain anything by losing a child. Once the black hole has been created, we can't imagine that any light will ever enter it. But, in time, tender mercies start to trickle in. If we keep our eyes and hearts open, we do gain a more insightful view of life. We see and feel things at a deeper level than others can even imagine.

I find as a speaker and writer, when I quote books and use examples from movies to help illustrate or clarify my feelings about bereaved parenthood—or more often, life in general—people will say, "I don't remember reading that" "I didn't get that out of it." "I never made that connection."

Little Women, Pay It Forward, Gladiator, Lost in Yonkers, and yes, the classic Gone with the Wind are just a few of the books and movies that portray the depths of life as WE know it while others merely read words or watch actors on a screen.

I don't like being where I am. I certainly would never choose to be here. But as I go back to favorite books and movies, I find comfort not only in the familiar, but also in the farther-reaching themes that I didn't see before.

Revisiting books and movies will never make up for the loss of my son, but it can make my life a bit richer. And long as I'm still alive, I'm going to grab whatever I can get.

Susan Larson (Loren's Mom), TCF, Atlanta, GA

To sponsor a Butterfly Release Sign with your child's name on it there will be a one-time fee of \$60 per sign. If you want the sign with your child's name placed at a particular business or location, written permission must be obtained by you from that business and sent to the TCF office to keep on file. The sign will be placed at that location about a month prior to the release and taken down the week after by a representative of TCF and remain the property of TCF Tyler to reuse yearly.

Make checks payable to Tyler TCF and in the memo location please note who the sign(s) is for.



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.



"A discerning look, a listening ear, or a gentle touch can be balm the other person needs to give them a moment's solace. We are companion sojourners, wounded healers and compassionate friends." —Janet 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

Notice About Our Annual Butterfly Release, May, 2015!

After holding our Annual Release at the same location for the last 11 years, we are looking at a new location. The Shriner's have offered to let us hold our Release starting next year, located at 10027 St., Hwy. 31 in Tyler. We'll provide more details in future newsletters.



"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

Love Gifts

See more love gifts on page 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.)

Victor & Margie Newman in memory of Jeremy - rent
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 email 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: 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 Rickety 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.



"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

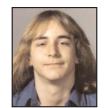
September Birthdays



Justin Dover



Chad Cavazos



Jon Lee Hardwick



Theresa Kay Talley



Tommy Gresham



Melinda Ann Soape Orr



Robert Attaway



Shantrice Willingham



Autumn Dale Romine



Michael R. Peymon



Austin Cheek



Chase Cyrus Naquin



Gary Dean Arnold



Stacey Smith



Michael Toby Tobias



Ava Faith Knight



Betsi Marie Wyatt



Bill Bouslog



Joshua Jolley



Douglas Johnson, Jr. Amanda Claire Miller





Leah Zucca



Aaron Willman



Chance Aaron Chandler



Samantha Johnson



Adam Thomas Pritchard



Joshua Washburn



Jake Schoonover



Lee Sammons



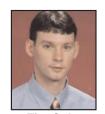
Kyle James Horn

"I still interact with you nightly in my dreams, only to awake and accept the reality of your physical absence daily. May you R.I.P. Marc. May your spirit soar gloriously above the heavens, gracefully free like a butterfly chasing a rainbow."

—Lisa Pearlman

.....

September Anniversaries



Tim Cole



Cindy Dingler



Stephen Townsend



Cason Gimble



Jonathan Lee Daniel Sanders



Nathaniel Blake Dark



Stephanie Harris Reed



Amanda Stone



Mahlon Acres



Joshua Brandon "Josh" Wilcox



Michael Angelo Perez



Jennifer Booth Musick



Mary Jennifer Stone



Toni Wood



Joshua Malone



Ashlee Ann Davis



Cameron Weatherly



Robby Cano



Shantrice Willingham



Robert Attaway Jr.



Seth Henry Porter



A.J. Frazier



Cobin Frazier



Alec Heath Thigpen



Sarah Thompson



Jared Sheets



Ava Faith Knight



John Shade



D. Anriloten Bennett



Sarah Wheeler



Doug Norton



Randall Thorton, Jr.



Colton James Bain



Amber Drake

"Give yourself something to hold on to and look forward to. We all know that the death of our child is something that we will never 'get over' but we can try to find ways to make it through the really bad days. We are here to help."

—Janet Reyes

September Anniversaries Cont.



Keisha Knauss

Daryn Keith Selman

Thanks to these families for supporting TCF of Tyler.

In loving memory of Kristy Diaz by Julie Diaz



In loving memory of Sarah Thompson by Doris Paar



In loving memory of Kyle James Horn by Julie Diaz



In loving memory of Erika Reyes by Sheila Steel



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.

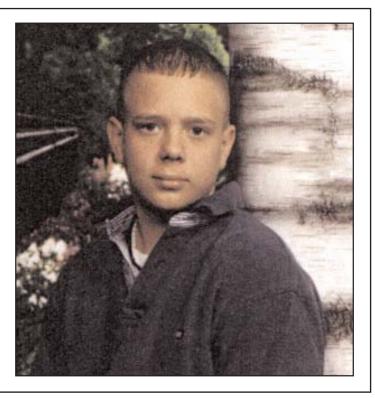
David, I know you are in a beautiful place with many that have gone before and after you. I see you helping others, laughing, loving, and saving a place for us. I am thankful for your life and the many blessings you still give us. I am thankful to God that you are no longer suffering and in pain, and 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 "We are still actively parenting our children. We continue to bring life to our children by loving them now and forever. There is not and should never be a word to signify the endless love of a parent." —Janet G. Reyes

Chad Cavazos

In loving memory of Chad.

Dale & Phyllis Cavazos



This month's printing of our newsletter sponsored by Dale & Phyllis Cavazos. Call (903) 258-2547 to sponsor a monthly newsletter.

Jake Schoonover

In loving memory of Jake by Carol Thompson

The first time his laughter unfurled its wings in the wind, we knew that the world would never be the same.

Happy 26th birthday, Jake Love, Mom



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

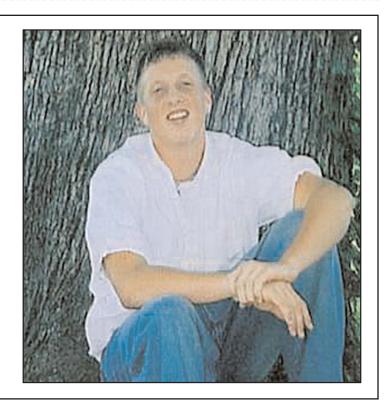
Call (903) 258-2547 to sponsor a monthly newsletter.

"If you have not been to a Compassionate Friends meeting, please muster all of the strength and courage you have and walk in the door for that first meeting. We'll help you from there. We care. We understand. We too have the same wounds as you. We need not walk alone." —Janet G. Reyes

Jared Sheets

In loving memory of Jared.

Carol Johnson



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

Sarah Thompson

In loving memory of Sarah.

Your presence in my dream is rare and precious, looking up at the precise moment to see a falling star. Every night is a hopeful chance.

Carol Thompson



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

"A wounded heart, not allowed to mend from the depth of its agony, will be as an abscess to swell and undermine, erupting at a distant time. Or, suppressed, will slowly choke the spirit of its host. Only the bearer will know when his heart has healed." —Nancy Green

Differences Between A Man's Grief and A Woman's Grief

I have attended many support groups since my daughter, Kristina's death May 26th, 2008. I have observed differences in how grief is experienced in men and how grief is experienced in women. I have also heard it said by many leaders and in many articles how unique grief is to each individual. So even though I feel I can make some generalizations based on what I have personally seen and heard, there will invariably be many exceptions.

My opinion is that the difference in how grief is experienced is at its peak in the earliest days, weeks, and months of the grief journey. There may still be differences after six months and to a lesser extent after a year, but over time as grief is processed men and women seem to become more similar in handling grief. I have noticed how men differ from women when they speak at support group meetings. Many men will choke up and become unable to speak. Women may become very emotional, but most women still can speak even if it is with difficulty. Also, the men seem to be more of one extreme or the other, either they become too choked up to speak, or they can speak about their loss with apparent ease. Many women need to have a number of friends to repeat their story over and over. Men, on the other hand, have very few friends they choose to share with, and many times no one at all. Another difference I have experienced more myself than observed at meetings is called "compartmentalizing." I assume I am not the only one to experience this because I ran into a description of this is in a book also.

It seems like men in general have difficulty with verbalizing about their loss. Many times it seems to bring on an intense emotional experience which has happened to me at times. I think it is for that reason many men do not attend support group meetings. Many times men will attend one meeting and never return. A number of those tried to speak at a meeting and found themselves unable to speak because of being too choked up. Women seem to be able to speak even at times they become emotional. This has varied widely in the groups I have attended, sometimes women can speak fairly freely and other times have a great deal of difficulty.

There is a video/book called "Tear Soup" that deals with the subject of loss from many causes. The premise is that grief can be from many things, not only from a death. The video portrays the man keeping off to himself while the woman is talking to many others. This seems to me like a realistic portrayal based on what I have heard in support groups. In my opinion this is most relevant in the first few weeks after a loss, as the shock starts to wear off the men will socialize more, but not necessarily talk about their loss. Women will look for people to talk to from the beginning. My experience was similar to men in general, I had one special person that I talked to about my feelings of grief, rather than many. It seems that women are better than men at listening, especially when it comes to feelings, and the person I talked to was a woman. She was willing to take a call about anytime, although for me the early morning hours were the most common time for intense sadness. I will never know what would have happened if I there had not been that special person to listen to me.

The concept of "compartmentalizing" I have found varies so much between people that some people seem to understand the concept immediately when it is introduced into a conversation and others seem to have no idea what it is. In my opinion this compartmentalizing is more common to men than women, but by no means exclusive. A leader in one of my support groups feels a more logically minded person is more prone to this compartmentalizing than a person who is not as logical in their thinking. In my reading I don't find this to be supported. In any case the way this is manifested is the rational side of the mind "knows" the truth, understands the death, but the emotional side does not. For me it was the strangest feeling when this was more intense, how can you know that something has happened and "feel" like it has not? I have had this sense of "unreality" become more intense and less intense at various times. Even after two or three years these feelings resurface at holidays, these feelings of "unreality." The explanation given for this in books I have read is that it is the mind's way of protecting itself. From that perspective the grief journey is more difficult for those that do not have so much of a gap between rational understanding and emotional understanding.

While the grief journey for men and woman starts out very different they become more similar over time. Men tend to stay off to themselves in the early months of grief, then gradually resume being more social. The people that have strong compartmentalizing in the early months of grief, more men than woman, find that this lessens over time.

Lance Beigh TCF of the Greater Kankakee Area, IL "The hurt never goes away. We never forget. We never get over it. We don't want to. We hurt so much because we loved so much. But the focus on death and the event fades and the warmth of good memories replaces it."

—Richard Edler

Happy Birthday in Heaven

Today we remember the day we were blessed with your birth.

How wonderful to have your life to share upon this earth.

Too few birthdays you spent with us, now another in heaven.

We wonder what our lives would be if you were still here in them.

But sadly it is not our fate to spend our days with you.

So we will cherish our memories to help see us through.

Our memories of your smile, compassionate, generous ways,

The joy you brought to all you saw each and every day.

Oh Son how we wish so bad we could be together,

But always know we love you today, tomorrow and forever.

Happy Birthday precious angel, may your spirit soar above,

Mom, Dad, Sister, family and friends sending all our love.

Cindy McClain TCF of the Wabash Valley, IN In Memory of my son Dylan

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

A Crayola Day

The trees with leaves so lushly green
Creating a beautiful sight to be seen
Bright skies of blue and clouds fluffy white
All combined for this glorious sight
Of a perfect Crayola day

The earth warm and brown
As we dig in the ground
Produces flowers of most every hue
Red, green, and yellow, and violet blue
Make a splendid Crayola day

All different colors of birds on the wing
The bluebird, the robin and redbirds that sing
Flashing their beauty while taking their flight
Providing us again with great delight
And a wonderful Crayola day

From the day you saw light 'Til you took your last flight You colored our world in every way Bringing such joy, we can only say, Thanks for each Crayola day.

In loving memory of Jake Schoonover By his Nana, Sue Roberts

The Comfort My Heat Holds

My heart is so very grateful For the pictures in my mind. The precious thoughts and memories My grandson left behind. The pain that grips my heart Is quieted by the joy Of things he said and did While just a growing boy. I long to have him here once more And watch him as he grows. Yet, the joyful life he has now Is the comfort my heart holds. Not one single day goes by Without a thought of him. In time and with God's loving grace This pain will grow more dim.

In memory of Chad Cavazos by his grandmother, Patsy Murray, 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: | Relationship: | | |
| Birth Date: | Death Date: | Cause | Cause of Death: | | |
| Address: | | | | | |
| City: | | State: | Zip: | | |
| Home Telephone: | | | | | |
| E-mail: | | | | | |
| Please check any of follow | ring that apply. | | | | |
| ☐ Please continue sending | the newsletter. | | | | |
| ☐ No thank you, I'd prefer | r to stop receiving the newsletter. (N | Newsletters are posted mo | onthly on our Web site.) | | |
| ☐ Please include my child | 's name and picture in the slide pres | sentation at the Candle L | ighting Ceremony. | | |
| ☐ Please include my child | 's picture and information on the To | CF Tyler Web site. (www | T.TylerTCF.org) | | |
| ☐ I am enclosing a memor | rial to support The Compassionate F | Friends in the amount of | | | |
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| (Signature) | | | | | |

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







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