Volunteers needed for our Annual Butterfly Release ceremony held in May!



www.TylerTCF.org

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

Skillern's Business Systems 1604 Grande Blvd., Tyler, TX 75703 903-561-5591 • www.skillerns.com

Please join us at 17555 Hwy. 155 S. (off Loop 49), Flint, TX 75762. We hope to see you at our next meeting!









May 2019

Volume 20, Issue 5 Tyler, Texas

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Tyler Area Meeting
17555 Hwy. 155 S.
(off Loop 49) Flint, TX 75762
3rd Monday of the month, 6:30 p.m.
Find us on Facebook @TylerTCF

Contact

Phone: (903) 422-0358 www.TylerTCF.org • info@TylerTCF.org P.O. Box 9714 • Tyler, TX 75711

Co-Chapter Leaders:
Cheri Zucca & Trish Mann Taylor
Secretary: Trish Mann Taylor
Newsletter/Website: Mary Lingle
Tyler Meeting Facilitator:
Heather Ogg

Steering Committee: Cheri Zucca, Don & Leslie Dixon, Janet Majors, Trisha Mann Taylor, Barbara Barton, Heather Ogg, Kim Cathey, Mary Lingle

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 2019 Compassionate Friends Butterfly Release set for Saturday, May 18 at 11 a.m.

The setting for this uplifting and peaceful event will be at The Children's Park, corner of Dobbs and Broadway in Tyler. (We are asking for donations to cover the cost of the Children's Park.) Check can be mailed to our P.O. box. Volunteers are needed for setup on Friday starting at 4:30 p.m. and early Saturday morning at 6 a.m. We will also need some help after the program for take down. We hope you'll join us for refreshments after the ceremony.

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. Please let us know as soon as possible, if you are attending, the name of your child(ren) and how many butterflies and wooden butterflies you'd like to purchase. (See order form on page 5.)

If you have a butterfly sign please put it out around the first of May. We will be sending an email closer to time so you can pick up your sign if we are storing it.

We are doing a silent auction this year. If you'd like to donate an item, please let us know. We look forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones at the Butterfly Release. Your presence means everything to this very special event!

Photos from a Previous Butterfly Release







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.



"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members, a heart of grace and a soul generated by love."

—Coretta Scott King

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."

The Compassionate Friends

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 (International Website) compassionatefriends.org Also offers grief support for **siblings** & **grandparents**

The Childrens Park: www.childrensparktyler.org **Glory Babies** meets the third Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at Alison house next to The Children's Park of Tyler: www.glorybabies.com

GriefShare: www.griefshare.org

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. 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

WINGS was established through Hospice of East Texas in 1993 to help children navigate the grieving process. WINGS, "a comprehensive bereavement program that provides both emotional support and grief education," offers a camp (Camp G – grieve, grow and go forward) twice a year. For more information or to register for a grief support program, contact the Hospice of East Texas Bereavement Department at 903-266-3400 (Extension 127) or call 1-800-777-9860.

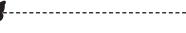
Group Meetings for Survivors of Trauma and Survivors of Suicide Loss, sponsored by Michael's House of Hope at the New Life Worship Center, 18535 Hwy. 69 S., Tyler, room 620. Call Dr. Timothy M. Roddam at 903-681-3161 for more information. Survivors of Trauma meets the the second Thursday of each month from 6-7 p.m.



We're on Facebook! Search for The Compassionate Friends of Tyler and Like our page.



(Signature)



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.

return the form to the addr	ess at the bottom of this page.			
Your Name:				
		Relationship:		
Birth Date:	Death Date:	Cause of Death:		
Address:				
		State: Zip:		
Home Telephone:				
E-mail:				
Please check any of follow				
☐ Due to the rising cost of	of postage, please send newsletters	via email. My email address is	<u></u> .	
☐ I prefer not to receive address you have on file		uld like to continue having a hard copy sent to the ma	ailin	
☐ Please update my mail	ing address:			
☐ No thank you, I'd pref	fer to stop receiving the newsletter.	. (Newsletters are posted monthly on our website.)		
☐ Please include my child	's name and picture in the slide pres	entation at the Candle Lighting Ceremony.		
☐ Please include my child	's picture and information on the TC	CF Tyler Web site. (www.TylerTCF.org)		
☐ I am enclosing a memor	rial to support The Compassionate F	riends in the amount of		
☐ In memory of		Please make check payable to TO	CF	
		ase Candle Lighting TCF Events		
		If you have not taken the opportunity to give a donation in that will help reach out to other newly bereaved parents.	mem	
Lighting Ceremony or any	other TCF event. Permission may b	hild's name and/or picture in the newsletter, Web site, Cope withdrawn at any time by written request. This informates only utilized for Chapter activities such as the newsletter	tion i	

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

May Birthdays



Tami Kay

Brown Roberts

Brian David

Stewart





Morales



Boston Kade



Caleb Herrera



Joshua Carl Tucker



Sara Ann **Plocheck**



Colton Denney







Mahlon Acres



Stephanie Harris

Shanna Marie Redmond



Justin Bloxom

Randall Scott

McDaniel



Blythe Madison

Harper

Austin Arvizo



Dustin Dewayne Bruce





Blake Alexander King



Shane Odening



Stephanie Carol Hester

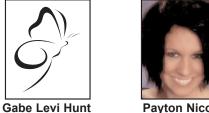


Kody Dale Hughes



Aaron Sullender







Jackson



Michael Angelo

Perez

Herrington



Lance Alan

Massev

Joshua Wilson Jerry Owen

Derek Brown

Edwards, Jr.







Thompson



Terry Brendon

Reed Pettit

Continued on next page.

Motherland

As three of us from the Tyler TCF chapter drove to Austin to attend a March premier screening of the documentary *Motherland*. we did not know what to expect of the film-we just knew we were intrigued by the firm's material and had a real desire to attend the premier:

"On December 1, 2006, six diverse women came together to take an unusual trip: an intensive pilgrimage to work as volunteers with children in rural South Africa. Strangers to each other before the journey, these women shared one life-changing experience in common: each had suffered the death of a child. The film Motherland tells the story of this inspiring journey, and how, for 17 days on the other side of the world, the lives of these remarkable women were forever transformed-again."

The filmmaker, Jennifer Steinman, created the independent film to honor a dear friend whose child died in an auto accident. The film promoters reached out to groups such as TCF with complimentary tickets and the opportunity to personally meet Jennifer, the firm's producer as well as several of the mothers who appeared in the movie. These mothers tell their individual stories about the children they have lost and why they made the journey to South Africa as part of "Project Grace." Project Grace (Grace is the name of one of the children we learned about in the screening) provides grieving parents unique service opportunities and a way to heal in a most special way-by reaching out to help others in the setting of a foreign country-a true adventure like no other.

Pat Settle loved the film. "There is something about being with other moms who have buried children, and it's a bond you have immediately," she said. "And as hard as it is to get up out of bed, when you meet someone who has buried a child, you have the natural desire to reach out to them; that, in my opinion, is when true healing begins."

Carol Johnson's husband, Shane, through the generosity of his business contacts, provided for our lovely hotel accommodations in Austin. Shane was humbled by these women who bared their souls on film. "That took a lot of courage, but what a benefit it will be to so many," he said. Carol J. also recognized "the immediate bond we all feel to each other who have gone through this nightmare." She noted another important point from the film: "What was really eye-opening for me was the fact that as horrible as conditions are in Africa, the people have an advantage in their grieving process because they do it together. As a country, America is not a good place to grieve, I don't think-but maybe we're learning."

Carol Thompson says the movie is a "must see"—a film you don't want to miss. All three who viewed the movie were stirred and inspired by Project Grace and plan to be a part of a future Project Grace journey. "We are sure that others in our TCF chapter will want to make the trip with us after they see Motherland," said Carol T. "It's no exaggeration to say the film is life-changing," she said. "It's the film for grieving and growing."

I Never Believed

I never believed I would see another season change with gladness. I never believed I would see the world again without the haze of tears. I never expected to actually laugh again. I never felt my smile would return and feel natural on my face. I never hoped for another day when I would not want to die. I never envisioned a world that would again be bright and full of promise. I believed that all that had passed from me the day he died and went away, never to return. But I was wrong, and I know that in the fullness of your grieving, you too will come to understand that life goes on—that it can still have meaning—that even joy can touch your life once more.

Don H., TCF

The Compassionate Friends The Compassionate Friends

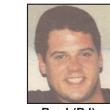


May Anniversaries





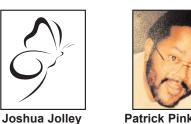
Samantha Johnson

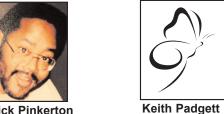


Brad (BJ) Huggins



Justin Clakley



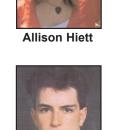


Patrick Pinkerton

ShiAnn Renee Robinson



Haile Rae Beasley



Brandon Weatherly

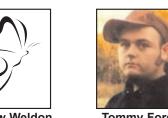


Kaila McKinsey Payne



Tyler Steven Galpin

Ryan Goff

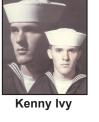


Andrew Weldon

Colleen Herriage



Stephen Cudd, II





Stephanie Settle **Marshall Charles**



Donahue



Kendrick Clark

Leslie Eugene Robb



Jarren Moser

Jon Lee Hardwick



Alexander Fleming

Kimberly Pryor



Colton Denney









Terry Wayne Brown

Marcos Lopez

Ana Danniel

Franklin



Derek Miller

Crystal Cudd



Melissa Elaine Majors

Jerry Owen

Edwards, Jr.

Kara Belanger



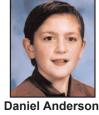
Tiffeny Sue Hightower

Natalie Whitehead

Dwayne Russell



Brady Bryant

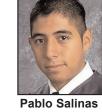












Acceptance

May Anniversaries Cont.

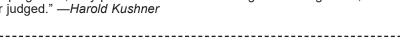
by Gwen Flowers

It isn't letting go. It's going on. It isn't only shadows, and it isn't only dawn. It isn't getting through it, it's letting it come through me. Not living in the darkness, though the darkness I can see. It's living with the sorrow but finding memories sweet. It's knowing that it takes both sides to make it all complete. It's soaking up the sunshine along with the rain. It's learning to let laughter live side by side with pain. It's knowing that the years won't change a love that's real. Or take away the joy you brought, or the sorrow that I feel. It's knowing tears and laughter can live on the same face. And your impression in my heart can never be erased.

Continued on next page.



"God inspires people to help other people who have been hurt by life, and by helping them, they protect them from the danger of feeling alone, abandoned, or judged." —Harold Kushner





TCF Quilt Announcement!

We are compiling names and photos for our 7th quilt! Please mail your \$30 donation for a square, child's name, and make sure we have a quality picture of your child that will show up well.Let us know quickly as we anticipate the list of 30 will fill up fast. You can mail your donation to TCF Tyler PO Box 9714 Tyler Texas 75711, please note on your check what it is for. Photos or questions can be emailed to info@TylerTCF.org.

Butterfly Release 2019

Please consider volunteering for our Annual Butterfly Release in May. If you would like to help this year, please call the TCF line at 903-422-0358.

Thanks for your donations and continued support of TCF of Tyler.

In loving memory of **Christopher Molnari** Love you... "Aunt Cathey"



In loving memory of Melissa Majors by **Janet Majors**



In loving memory of **Lindsey Barton by Barbara Barton**



In loving memory of **Alex Conway by** Robert & Trisha **Taylor**



In loving memory of **Candice Lingle by Mary Lingle**



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



In loving memory of Chris O'Leary by Merri Walsh



In loving memory of Leah Zucca by Jim & Cheri Zucca



In loving memory of **Chad Cavazos by Dale Cavazos**



In loving memory of **Christopher Loper** by Tina Loper



In loving memory of Jared Sheets by Carol & Shane Johnson



In loving memory of **Stephanie Settle by Danny & Pat Settle**





"Sometimes we need to be still. We need to quiet our minds of their never-ending chatter. Though we may need this, especially in the early stages of grief recovery, it may be one of the most difficult things to do. Our minds tend to be anything but quiet and trying to force thoughts out simply does not work." —Pat Akery

May Birthdays Cont.















Keith Padgett

Lincoln Garyt Allen

Galpin





Robbie Kempker



Terry Haley







Order Form for Butterflies and Wooden Butterflies/Stakes



Please fill and cut out the form below and mail your check to P.O. Box 9714, Tyler, TX 75711 to purchase items for the May Butterfly Release.

Yes, I would like to have my child included in the b	outterfly garden
Child's/Children's name(s):	
	(required)
Number of Live Butterflies:(\$10 each)	
Number of Wooden Butterflies:(\$20 each)	
Your name:	(required)

The Compassionate Friends The Compassionate Friends



"From this tangle of emotions, one truth emerged: As long as I choose to embrace the miracles around me, my heart will dance. Whether in the slow dance of grief or skipping to the beat as I cuddle and coo with grandbabies yet to come, hope and joy will emerge in the rhythms of the dance." — JoAnne Rademacher

Choices

By Fran, Mom of Don

God could have stopped you as you picked up the gun, By gently whispering, "It's not your time son." Just willing you to put the gun away And face the challenge of another day. But He knew that your spirit was sadly broken Although the words had never been spoken. He also knew that you were seeking His face And the promise of life in a better place. So as a tear rolled from His eye, He whispered. "I'll just be standing by. I will not encourage nor interfere, Just feel my presence standing near. For with all the miracles I can do, I must leave this choice up to you. If you feel that you just cannot go on, I'll welcome you to your Heavenly home. Though I would prefer that you could stay To follow my life's plan for another day. But I cannot promise all joy and wealth, Or great happiness or robust health. If you do not have the strength to carry on, Maybe it is time to come to Heaven's home." The young man breathed a heavy sigh And said, "I can no longer try." As the trigger was pulled he heard a soft voice "It's not my will son-but I accept your choice."

Submitted by Carol Johnson in memory of Jared Sheets

Leah

I am remembering my sister Leah. I wonder if she is looking down on me. I hear her voice as if she was still here. I see her smiling face as I walk down the hallway. I want her to be here with me and my family. I am missing her all the time. I pretend she is still alive. I feel the pain inside my heart. I touch all her belongings and remember her. I worry about the rest of my family. I cried when this tragedy happened so suddenly. I am lonely at night when I think of her. I understand I will never see her again. I say that I miss her and I mean it too. I dream at night that she is still around. I try not to think of the accident, but of the good memories I have of us together. I hope never to forget the things she did for me. I am remembering my sister and the love she gave to all.

Alexis Contreras (Leah's sister), TCF Medford, OR

The Music of You

My mind begins to wander
To another place and time
Where and when I perceived the world
Through someone else's eyes.

Those eyes were bright and inquisitive, Rarely missing a beat Of the rhythms of life that pass us by If we but fail to see. Through sparkling blue transcending eyes I allowed the rhythms of life To enter in and reside awhile As I felt their beat in my soul. My soul encompasses the music I surely would never have known Had I not learned to perceive the world Through someone else's eyes. My mind begins to wander A bit too close to the past Where tender melodies I've learned Begin to change their beat, Consistently thumping and rising Blending with the pulse of my heart. When the music of you beats too intensely, I know I must open my eyes To the rhythms of life you taught me To never let pass me by.

My mind begins to wander
To another place and time
Where and when I perceived the world
Through someone else's eyes.

Marcia Overstreet, TCF Medford, OR

Awkward Silence

I wish that someone would say his name.
I know my feelings they're trying to spare,
And so we go through the charade, the game,
Of dancing around the ghost that is there,
Trying to avoid evoking a tear,
Or stirring emotions too painful to bear.
That he be forgotten is what I fear,
That no one will even his presence miss,
As if there were no trace that he was here.
Be referring to him, my purpose is
Not to stir pity or keep things the same,
But my heart will simply break if his
Memory will die like a flickering flame.
I just wish someone would say his name.

Richard Dew. M.D., TCF Knoxville, TN



"As we walk through this grief of losing our children, we owe no explanations. Our love for our dead children lingers, and in that love is a goodness and purity that allows us to gently be ourselves." —Annette Mennen Baldwin

Love Gifts



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.)

Merri Walsh in memory of Chris O'Leary - rent Carol & Shane Johnson in memory of Jared Sheets - rent

Danny & Pat Settle in memory of Stephanie - rent

Jim & Cheri Zucca in memory of Leah - rent

Robert & Trisha Taylor in memory of Alex Conway - rent Barbara Barton in memory of Lindsey - 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 - rental 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: The Compassionate Friends of Tyler, P.O. Box 9714, Tyler, Texas 75711. Or e-mail text and photos to: info@TylerTCF.org; We reserve the right to edit for space and/or content.

Deadline for submissions is the 5th of each month. TCF Chapters may copy articles from this publication provided credit is given to the author and the original source.

Errors and Omissions: We try very hard to be sure that all of the names and dates of our children are correct. If you see an error in the newsletter, please contact TCF at 903-422-0358. 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 info@tylertcf.org so that we may email you announcements and updates about TCF of Tyler.

Sign up for email notifications of events and to be notified when the newsletter is posted online at: www.tylertcf.org

Announcements

Meeting Info: The meeting location is 17555 Hwy. 155 S. (off Loop 49), Flint, TX 75762. Our meeting is held on the third Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. For more information, please call 903-422-0358.

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! Email us at info@tylertcf.org to get involved!

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.

Event reminders for parents:

- If you have a butterfly release sign, please put it out the end of April or first of May.
- If we are storing your butterlfy sign, please contact us to pick it up the end of April or first of May so you can put it out at place of your choice.
- Pre-Registration is required every year to have your child's picture in the butterfly garden. (We are very sorry, but due to growth we need to know who will be attending.)
- If anyone is interested in singing at the Candle Lighting in December or if you know of anyone who is blessed with musical talent, and would like to participate, please contact us.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!

Dear TCF Members,

As always, we welcome volunteers to serve in any capacity within our group, including sending out birthday and anniversary cards each month.

We are already planning our Annual Butterfly Release for May and would love to have your help!

If you'd like to get involved as a voluteer or steering committee member, please reach out to us. We'd love to have you aboard!

Sincerely, Cheri & Trisha

