Meeting Location: First Christian Church, 4202 S. Broadway • Tyler 75703

Please park behind the sanctuary in front of the Christian Life Center. Every 3rd Monday at 6:30 p.m.

We need volunteers to keep your Compassionate Friends chapter afloat. Please contact us to help in any capacity—once or for a few months or more. Any help will be greatly appreciated!



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 900 S. Broadway Ave. Tyler, TX 75701. We hope to see you at our next meeting!











Volume 22, Issue 10

Tyler, Texas

October 2021

Monthly Group Meeting

Tyler Area Meeting
First Christian Church
4202 S. Broadway
Tyler, TX 75701
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

Chapter Leader: Heather Ogg; Secretary: Trish Mann Taylor; Newsletter/Website: Mary Lingle; Tyler Meeting Facilitator: Heather Ogg

Steering Committee: Cheri Zucca, Janet Majors, Trisha Mann Taylor, Barbara Barton, Carol Johnson, 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 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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As the Holidays Approach

When the holidays are fast approaching, we who are bereaved always have mixed emotions about having a nice holiday when our child or loved one is no longer with us. We wonder if we will ever be as happy and if we can ever again celebrate the holidays or any meaningful family occasion, especially the first birthday, first thanksgiving, or first Christmas since our loss. We try to look ahead to how we are going to feel when the time arrives, but it is usually not as hard as we had anticipated. Still, the occasion may not be as enjoyable as we'd like it to be or as we remember it from the past.

I would like to offer a few ideas for what we can do to make our holidays a little better. Consider buying gifts for less fortunate children, adopting a child/family at Christmas time, or inviting a lonely person to share your holiday meal. Make your child's favorite foods and discuss your loved one as you share the meal. Some people like to volunteer to serve holiday dinners for the homeless. Some bereaved parents want to visit familiar places their child loved to go, while others want to travel where their child had never been.

Several of our Compassionate Friends members put a small Christmas tree at the cemetery and decorate the graves with Christmas flowers and/or a grave blanket. Making a grave blanket is very fulfilling; we did that for 10 years after our daughter Teresa died. Attending a Candlelight program is a wonderful way to honor your child or loved one.

These suggestions are things we feel we can still do for our child, but they are not reserved for bereaved parents only. All of them can be done for any member of a family or a friend who hasdied. After someone dies we must keep going and doing things that lift us up. We can't always try to please any people who feel we should act in a certain manner.

The Compassionate Friends is for Sharing

Many people may think that meetings of The Compassionate Friends consist of bereaved people who sit and cry most of the evening, but that is certainly a misconception. It is normal to shed tears as we talk about our child's death, and we would expect a newly bereaved person to cry. We understand that completely. But we don't just sit and cry. Would you believe that most of the time we spend in our sharing group circle we may enjoy hearing others' stories about their children, or even sharing our own? Our meetings are usually about our memories, our questions and also telling what has helped us to cope with it all. We all have ideas that we share with others in the hope that they may reach a point of "good memories" instead of bad memories of the child's death.

A support group should be very comforting and welcoming to those who attend and should always have non-judgmental members. We are less concerned at how the child died (even though we do care) and we are more concerned that we be there for the parents, siblings or grandparents who need us. They have a desire to talk and share about their loved one. We want to let them lean on us in their time of pain, just as we had others before us who let us lean on them. It does come full circle.

Jackie Wesley ~ TCF, East Central Indiana & Miami-Whitewater Chapters

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.

"Share your knowledge. It is a way to achieve immortality." —Dalai Lama XIV

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 (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.







"You will miss your child; no magic potion can wipe the pain away. Enjoy what you can-you deserve some pleasure. And may some measure of peace overtake you before this year ends." —*Elizabeth B. Estes*

Mourning Is My Mode

Today I realized that I have become a shell of the person I once was. What would my child think of this? I am alone, my only child is gone, yet I know he would not be pleased with the way I have isolated myself, wrapped in invisible crepe, sheltered by a mental wall. This is not the mom he knew. I am someone different now.

What am I to do with this? I feel like a lonely, mourning swan, swimming endlessly from shore to shore. I have no direction, I want no direction, I just keep moving with no purpose. I must get a grip on myself.

I know my motions must take on some meaning. I look to others for help. Yet I realize that if I do not reach out and help myself, I will crash on the rocks with the raging tide.

I decide I will add one new thing, one new event, one new person or one new writing to each day. I will reach out to others. I will force myself to move slowly back into life.

I will spend some time with my family. I will enjoy their children. I will mentor a child. I will start putting my thoughts into a written form.

I begin to do these things. I feel better. I attend another meeting of the parents who have lost their children. I feel as if I do belong here. It has been four months since my son died. I am overwhelmed.

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

Find us on Facebook at: Facebook.com/TylerTCF

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

In loving memory of Sarah Thompson by Carol Thompson



In loving memory of Melissa Majors by Janet Majors



In loving memory of Alex by Robert & Trisha Taylor



In loving memory of Chris O'Leary by Mary O'Leary Walsh



In loving memory of Leah Zucca by Jim & Cheri Zucca



In loving memory of Chad Cavazos by Dale Cavazos



In loving memory of Tanner Douglas by Heather Ogg & Zach Reed



In loving memory of Christopher Loper by Tina Loper



In loving memory of Andy Terrell by David & Teresa Terrell



The Compassionate Friends

Tyler, Texas

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The Compassionate Friends

Tyler, Texas

"Our healing will eventually cause our pain to move out and make room for our loved ones memories. We learn to make a new life for ourselves. Holidays get better and we learn how to live again." - Marie Hofmockel

We need not walk alone.

"I am learning that 'Helping is Healing' and the more I give the more I seem to get back. More gifts arrive as I become able to speak and write about my journey." -Rick Mirabile

October Birthdays



Marshall Charles



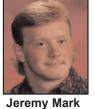
Donahue



Joey Moore



George Washington Shaw, III



Lawler



Christopher **Andrews**





Haggerty



Farris



October Birthdays Cont.



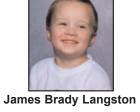


Amanda Anderson



Cindy Dingler

Brittany Butler





Kendrick Clark









Kara Belanger



Chevenne Stevenson



Linton Daniel Wilgus



Tanner Michael Douglas



Richard Heerdt





Kenneth Melvin



Trey Dobbs



Suzie Gorman



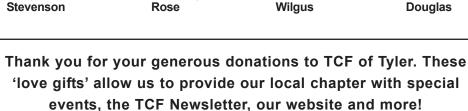
Rosa Linda Serrano



Maxwell **Edward-Ray Glass**



Wyatt Lee Hibdon





Neil Defenbaugh







Jessica Maureen Nix Bonnie Lee Benson



A.J. Huggins

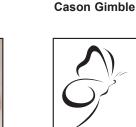
Shellae Vicknair



Jesse Lee Irby



Allison Carson



Patti Ann Gage

Gauge Austin Thomas

J.D. Adams





Michael Knight Stephanie Mata



Todd Dean

Continued on next page.

jake

there's a creaking on the swing that we used to play on when we were kids it's old and rusted they'll tear it down soon and part of you will be gone with it it's a part we never realized would be needed to this day

there are no sticks in the yard that we used to play with when we were kids the sticks were strong those were our swords you always took your weapons with you it's something you did that i can never forget to this day

there is no laughter in the house that we were raised in when we were kids it's cold and new they tore away our memories but they added you to the new walls it's so we can always remember you to this day

there is no warmth in october in the month that i was born and you died in it's distant and reserved october is not my favorite month you were taken away from me and it's something that still haunts me to this day

> In memory of our beloved Jake, Mallory Roberts (Jake's cousin)

Find us on Facebook at: Facebook.com/TylerTCF

The Compassionate Friends The Compassionate Friends "I do not believe that sheer suffering teaches. If suffering alone taught, all the world would be wise, since everyone suffers. To suffering must be added mourning, understanding, patience, love, openness, and the willingness to remain vulnerable." —Anne Morrow Lindbergh

🕏 We need not walk alone.

"Memory is a way of holding onto the things you love, the things you are, the things you never want to lose." —The Wonder Years

October Anniversaries







Bill Bouslog



Janet Florey



Mikel Conway





J.L. Adams



Jake Schoonover





Alexander Johnson Cory Wayne Channon





J.D. Adams

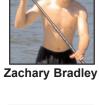


Erica Smith

Candace Beggs

Madeline Joy

Kearney







James Lee Lary





Stacev Smith

Alyssa Kathryn Crim



John Patrick Carnahan

Jonathan Shipman



Aaron Sullender

Amanda Claire



Chris O'Leary



Jackson Thomas

Feliciano



Todd Andrew

The Compassionate Friends

Thompson



Kathy Robertson



Trenton Cole

Bailey

Christopher Bullock

Randy Thomas

Meyers

Rosa Linda Serrano

Stacy Hunter



Cheyenne Stevenson

Continued on next page.

October Anniversaries Cont.



Terry Brendon Reed Pettit





Phoebe Fair

Jeff Maurer



Maxwell

Edward-Ray Glass

Matthew Lehew



Robert Ryan White



Leon Wayne Lasiter



Catherine McCarty Lucas Skyler

A First Love for Eternity

Most mome remember their child's first love as a sweet child, maybe in kindergarten, who stole their heart for just a little while. I remember my son's first love: the Pontiac GTO. The first GTO was a model. Todd carefully assembled that model over a period of a few days one summer. Then, after an extensive search, he found the perfect teal color for the model. I still have that model on a special shelf. Each time I look at it, I marvel at the amount of time he dedicated to that one tiny car model.

When Todd was 16, he bought a 1967 blue GTO. He worked on it, touched up the paint, kept it in pristine condition. He loved that car. But this wasn't his true love. His true love was always a 1965 GTO.

He and I talked about how he would find a GTO to restore. I suggested buying the mailing list of GTO owners in southeast Texas and sending out a postcard which is exactly what Todd did. For a week he heard nothing. Then one afternoon, a gentleman from rural east Texas called him and asked if he was interested in his 1965 GTO. Todd and my husband were on the way to the man's home within an hour. Todd came home with a 1965 GTO that evening. And the restoration began.

For 12 years Todd invested any extra money he had in his GTO. The ground up restoration started the fall that he entered college. It ended three years after he finished graduate school. Piece by piece, part by part, Todd restored that beautiful car to its original glory. He was so very proud of the finished product. His dream had always been to show his 1965 GTO at Autorama which he did at Thanksgiving. He joined the Gulf Coast GTO Club, and participated in their events and always tried to show his car with them. He won second place in the National GTO show one year in Dallas. He won first place at Autorama in his class. He had so many trophies.....he would line them up for the car show displays in an ever growing row.

Life had moved on: a wife, four children, a new home, another new home and finally the home of his dreams which he built in a lovely neighborhood west of Austin, took a great deal of time. But he always made time for his GTO. He kept his GTO spotless and drove it occasionally. He died five years after he completed his GTO restoration.

Last weekend we changed the oil in Todd's GTO, and I turned the key to make sure all was right. When I heard the sound of the engine, I could sense Todd sitting right next to me, smiling that big, happy GTO smile. If Todd is ever with me, it is when I sit in his GTO and listen to those three deuces purr as I glide through the four speeds. Unbidden tears ran down my cheek as I gradually increased the RPGs and reached over to touch the seat where I could feel Todd's presence. I whispered, "I miss you so much, Todd." I could hear him say, "I miss you, too, Mom." Peace comes to us in our beautiful memories.

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

The Compassionate Friends



I 9th Annual Day of Remembrance Children's Park of Tyler



Date:

Saturday, October 23, 2021

Purpose:

To remember and celebrate the lives of children no longer with us.

Location:

The Children's Park of Tyler 110 E. Dobbs St Tyler, TX 75701 Time:

10 AM for Children's Last Names Beginning with A - I Registration at 9 AM

2 PM for Children's Last Names Beginning with J-Z Registration at 1 PM

Visit childrensparktyler.org for more information.

Thank you for your generous donations to TCF of Tyler. These 'love gifts' allow us to provide our local chapter with special events, the TCF Newsletter, our Web site and more!

Meeting Location: First Christian Church 4202 S. Broadway • Tyler 75703

Please park behind the sanctuary in front of the Christian Life Center. Every 3rd Monday at 6:30 p.m.



Trial by Fire - 9 Tips for Grieving Couples

by Lisa Church

You will often hear that grief and loss bring couples together, but it can actually do just the opposite. It is possible to emerge on the other side of grief with a closer marriage, but it does take work.

- 1. Give each other the freedom to grieve in an individual way. Resist the temptation to feel that your way is the only way to handle loss. Do not be fooled if it seems that your spouse has not been affected by the loss.
- 2. Remember the good times. Think about activities you enjoy as a couple and make time to do them- even if you do not feel up to it yet.
- **3. Expect tough times.** Be tolerant with your mate and understand that you are both going to fail each other during this turbulent time.
- **4. Do not lash out at one another.** In a weakened state of grief, this will only push you apart. Find constructive ways to release the stress and anger of grief.
- **5. Prepare for change.** Loss and grief change people and it will change the face of your marriage. Decide together that this trial will bring you closer and commit to your relationship.
- 6. Reach out. Resist the urge to spend time away from your mate or reach out to others who better understand your grief.
- **7. Avoid placing blame.** Tossing accusations at your spouse will only place a wedge in your relationship. Understand that feelings of guilt, anger, and confusion are normal during this time.
- **8. Love each other.** Be sure to offer the hugs, cuddling, and love that each partner needs to feel secure and supported. Be sure to resume your physical relationship as soon as possible.
- **9. Seek information and support.** Educate yourselves on grief and try to understand one another. If you are having difficulties resolving your grief as a couple and you feel your marriage is in trouble, get help immediately! Do not wait until it is too late to seek help.

There are no easy answers for couples dealing with pregnancy loss. It is crucial that you make the decision to put your marriage first and then do it!

Lisa Church is author of Hope is Like the Sun: Finding Hope and Healing After Miscarriage, Stillbirth or Infant Death.

PAIN

I am not a young man, and I thought I knew the meaning of pain. I have experienced pain from a toothache, arthritis, and even the loss of relatives and friends. But nothing in my fifty-four years had prepared me for the pain I experienced when we lost our son. I had no clue to real pain.

I think only a bereaved parent knows the true meaning. Not to belittle the loss of a parent or spouse, but those who have lost both tell me that it is not the same. My mother said to me at my brother's funeral, "Now I know how you feel." Even though she had lost a grandson, it was not the same.

It has been almost five years now, and there hasn't been a day go by that I don't see his picture or think of him and feel that pain. Pain for what we lost—and for what he lost. That pain is not as intense now. I have learned to tolerate it and still lead a normal life. The Compassionate Friends helped me to realize that I was not alone and that there were many others who felt that same pain. They helped me learn how to deal with it. Now it is my turn to try to help someone else.

Harold F. Underwood, TCF, Southern Maryland

The Compassionate Friends

Tyler, Texas

The Compassionate Friends

Tyler, Texas

The Compassionate Friends



"In spite of the bleak picture, our hearts do have the capability of healing, in due time. They may never work as they did before the tragedy, but they should be able to attain a level of functioning that we can be comfortable with. The key words are in due time." —Karyl Chastain Beal

Farewell to Dreams

Once upon a time we lived a fairy tale Where all lived happily ever after God's sun was bright and the stars at night Joined in the joy and laughter

We met each day in a composed way And met also each tribulation We survived each blow and resultant woe And loved without ration

Then one day the dreams went astray We bid goodbye to "ever after" Eves filled with tears dissolved the cheers And goodbye to joy and laughter

Unhappily tossed, our dreams were lost In clouded skies there are no beams Ours to remember a glowing ember But goodbye to tales and farewell to dreams

> Harvey Hockstein TCF Morris Area, NJ In Memory of my daughter, Marilyn

Peace, my heart. let the time for the parting be sweet.

Let it not be a death but completeness.

Let love melt into memory and pain into songs.

Let the flight through the sky end in the folding of the wings over the nest.

Let the last touch of your hands be gentle like the flower of the night.

Stand still. O Beautiful End. for a moment. and say your last words in silence.

I bow to you and hold up my lamp to light you on your way.

Rabindranath Tagore

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



I Sure Miss You

If life could only bring again. the days I took for granted when, To hear your voice was just a call away. Oh what I'd give for just some time to say, the things that slipped my mind. There's so much now I'd really like to say.

But I can never go back when, we did those things we did back then, I'll store those precious memories in my mind.

I'll take what vou've instilled in me. I'll try to be all I can be. and walk the path that you have left behind.

I sure miss you.

Life will never be the same with you not here. Each passing day has brought much pain. But with God's grace my strength remains.

I sure miss you; but heaven's sweeter with you there.

The little things that seemed so small are now gold in a memory vault. I cherish every one I have of you, now I can see and recognize the part you played to shape my life. I often see you in the things I do.

In God's design and master plan, He saw the hurting hearts of man. As we would say good-bye to those so dear. So with our family and friends we'll be together once again. We'll view all heaven's splendor hand in hand.

I sure miss you.

My life will never be the same with you not here.

Love. Mom

Lisa Moody in memory of my son, Jonathan Lee Daniel Sanders TCF Tyler, TX



"Even though we no longer have a physical connection with our daughter, our eternal connection will forever be with us. I reached a point in my grief that I had to say a final 'good-bye' to an earthly life with my child, but I NEVER had to say 'good-bye' to Kristen!" — Deb Lee Gould

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

We need volunteers to keep your East Texas **Compassionate Friends** chapter afloat. Please contact us to help in any capacity—once or for a few months or more. Any help will be greatly appreciated!

Announcements

Meeting Info: Our meeting is held at the First Christian Church, 4202 S. Broadway, Tyler 75703. Please park behind the sanctuary in front of Christian Life Center. 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.

Donations Appreciated!

Please consider making a donation to your local TCF group, which serves East Texas. Donations help pay for meeting extras, electric, mailing and paper cost of our newsletter, bank fees, P.O. Box fee, office supplies, storage fee and more.

We are thankful that Skillern's Business Systems has printed our newsletter at no cost for years. If you need office automation solutions, please contact them and tell them TCF sent you. Visit them online at www.skillerns.com, or call 903-561-5591.

Remember to visit our website for a long list of TCF newsletters: www.tylertcf.org Also, TCF's National website has lots of great resources: www.compassionatefriends.org



The Compassionate Friends The Compassionate Friends