



# THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

NORTHEAST LOUISIANA CHAPTER

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APRIL / MAY / JUNE 2013

## SHINING SO BRIGHT

When the warmth of the sun touches my face,  
I see your smile and feel your embrace.

I hear your whisper in the wind  
And I know that you are close to me  
again.

The rain speaks of tears and the thunder  
of pain,  
But soon the sun comes the earth to  
reclaim.

As the days come and go and the world moves on,  
I know you're still here, you'll never be gone.

On the morning the Angel came and took your hand,  
We cried as you left for an unknown land.

But Heaven rejoiced as you came into sight,  
For your soul was a diamond, shining so bright!

Cheri Zucca  
TCF Tyler, TX  
*In loving memory of my beautiful daughter, Leah*

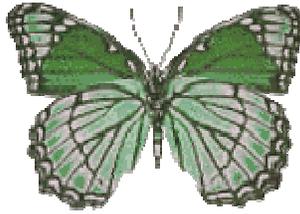
## FATHER'S DAY

Warm and sunny day in June  
Father's Day  
Children, small and grown  
Give gifts to father  
Say thanks to father  
Say I Love You.

But there are fathers  
Whose children are not here  
To give gifts and say thanks  
And say I Love You.

Remember the fathers  
Whose children are gone,  
Because they will always be  
Fathers at heart.

Sascha



## THE GIFT OF SOMEONE WHO LISTENS

Those of us who have traveled a while  
Along this path called grief

Need to stop and remember that mile,  
That first mile of no relief.

It wasn't the person with answers  
Who told us of ways to deal.

It wasn't the one who talked and talked  
That helped us start to heal.

Think of the friends who quietly sat  
And held our hands in theirs.

The ones who let us talk and talk  
And hugged away our tears.

We need to always remember  
That more than the words we speak,

It's the gift of someone who listens  
That most of us desperately seek.

Nancy Myerholtz  
TCF Waterville/Toledo, OH

### Monthly Meetings

**Thursday, April 4**

**Thursday, May 2**

**Thursday, June 6**

6:30 PM

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

1901 Lexington Ave.

Enter through the back parking lot off Milton St.

# For Siblings

An outlet for siblings is the TCF Sibling Forum. It is available online and is a place where siblings from all over can share and help each other cope with the unique grief of losing a brother or sister. Siblings are able to ask questions, make a comment or leave a thought for others to respond.

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Visit the Sibling Resources Page at [www.compassionatefriends.org](http://www.compassionatefriends.org)  
Email [tcsiblingrep@compassionatefriends.org](mailto:tcsiblingrep@compassionatefriends.org) for the password

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## TO AARON IN MEMORIAM

Fixed stars there are, familiar sights  
And guiding lights through all our nights.

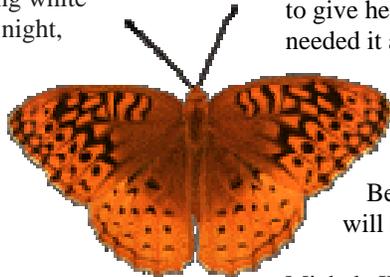
Planets, too, who come in view  
To kindle friendships new.

But once upon a time I have in mind,  
A lovely streak so new and briefly bright  
As dazzles with delight,

For one lingering moment, blazing white  
And then goes softly, silent back to night,  
Beyond our sight.

And, lovingly, my heart cries  
"Thank you, Lord"  
For memories of that lone, brief,  
splendid,  
Precious light.

Aaron's Grandfather, Ned Haubecker  
TCF Springfield



person, always ready to shelter lost animals and lost souls. When she was in a good mood, her smiles

warmed my heart. Yet I spent most of my life wishing that things were different: wishing that she thought more of herself, wishing that she would take my advice, wishing that she were happier, wishing that we could accept each other.

Now, for two years, I've done nothing but wish she were here so we could have another chance to work at our relationship. Now, I wish that I had been able to give her my unconditional love & support. (She needed it and deserved it.) Now, I wish that I could have been with her that night so she would not have been alone. Now, I wish that I would have held her in my arms and told her how very much I loved her. Because, Susie, I am your sister and always will be.

Michele Walters  
TCF Baltimore, MD

## I AM YOUR SISTER AND ALWAYS WILL BE

"I am your sister and always will be." That's how Susie signed her cards to me. After a while, she shortened it to, "I am..." And of course I knew the rest of it Susie was two and one-half years younger than I. She was alive one evening talking on the phone to Mom about the Oscars and to Dad about moving. The next day she was found. Whatever it was--it ended her life and changed mine forever.

There was a wonderful side of my sister that I didn't pay enough attention to. She was a kind and loving

## A PART OF ME

YOU were not just my brother, but YOU were my friend.

YOU were supposed to be here always, or till the world came to an end.

I know that we argued and seemed to disagree, but I could always count on you to be there for me.

YOU may be gone from this world I see, but you will always be a part of me.

Donna Montville  
TCF Siblings Group  
Gardner, MA

## DEAR MR. HALLMARK®

I am writing to you from heaven, and though it must appear, a rather strange idea, I see everything from here. I just popped in to visit your stores to find a card. A card of love for my mother, as this day for her is hard.

There must be some mistake I thought, every card you could imagine, except that I could not find a card, from a child who lives in heaven. She is still a mother too, no matter where I reside. I had to leave, she understands, but oh the tears she's cried.

I thought that if I wrote you, that you would come to know, that though I live in heaven now, I still love my mother so. She talks with me and dreams with me; we still share laughter too. Memories – our way of speaking now, would you see what you could do?

My mother carries me in her heart, her tears she hides from sight. She writes poems to honor me, sometimes far into the night. She plants flowers in my garden, there my living memory dwells. She writes to other grieving parents, trying to ease their pain as well.

So you see, Mr. Hallmark®, though I no longer live on earth, I must find a way to remind her of her wondrous worth. She needs to be honored, and remembered too, just as the children of earth will do.

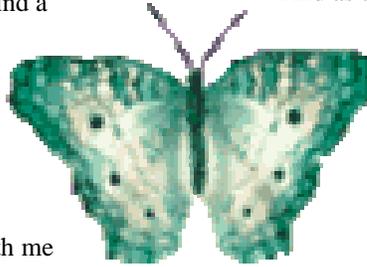
Thank you Mr. Hallmark®, I know you'll do your best. I have done all I can do; to you I'll leave the rest. Find a way to tell her, how much she means to me, until I can do it myself, when she joins me in eternity.

Happy Mother's Day to All the Mothers  
Anne-Marie

## THE MENDER HEART

The heart is oh so fragile; although the muscle's strong.  
It goes on beating even though continued life seems wrong.  
When devastation makes its mark and chisels in the pain,  
It seems as though the heart will not ever know joy again.

Good news! The heart will mend itself, but not just like before,  
Remember, like a broken bone, the original is no more.  
There is a tender spot in both where once the gap was wide.  
The beating heart that gives us life has courage on its side.



And as the broken bone may ache because of rain and cold,  
The heart may ache with longing for the one whose bell has tolled.  
There is no guarantee that life will ever be the same,  
But when you do find joy in life, the heart should feel no shame.

Karen Longbrake  
TCF Ada, OH

## BEAUTIFUL DREAM

Eyes open wide  
I awake from a beautiful dream  
Within seconds the painful reality of my life sets in  
I find myself wanting to scream  
Grief so strong  
Impossible to explain  
Living with a broken heart  
Struggling with the pain  
Eyes closed tight  
I pray for that beautiful dream  
A short escape from the painful reality  
That makes me want to scream

Robert Willis  
TCF Frederick, MD

### Chapter co-leaders

Marilyn & French Smith

### Steering Committee

Henry Cole, Facilitator

Johnny James, Treasurer

Dianne & Frank Bruscatto, Library

Frances & Jim Gregory, Outreach

Maggy & John Dobbs, Outreach

Luann & James Butler, Outreach

Ann Cole, Outreach

Betty Jean James, Outreach & Hospitality

Julie & Danny Petty, Newsletter

Betty Jean & Johnny James, Memorial Park

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

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

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

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

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

**TCF Brevard Newsletter**  
Brevard, NC



*The most beautiful people we have known are those who have known defeat, known suffering, known struggle, known loss, and have found their way out of the depths. These persons have an appreciation, a sensitivity and an understanding of life that fills them with compassions, gentleness, and a deep loving concern. Beautiful people do not just happen.*

*Elisabeth Kubler-Ross*



Everyone is encouraged to contribute to the newsletter to keep our chapter going strong. Please contact Julie Petty with your ideas.



Also, remember you can bring your child's favorite snack for refreshments to our monthly meeting or do a flower arrangement for the table. Please contact Marilyn Smith one month prior to the meeting.

# Our Children Always Loved and Remembered



A special table is set up at our meetings to honor children whose special days are in that month. We invite you to bring a picture or memento of your child to share during that significant month.

## OUR CHILDREN'S APRIL BIRTHDAYS

<u>Child</u>		<u>Parent(s)</u>
Jason Garrett	04/02/67	Sandra Garrett
Chris Culpepper	04/04/69	Noel Culpepper
Shannon Scharf	04/06/62	Robert S. Green
Thomas Stephens	04/12/95	Susan & Gray Stephens
Chris Travis	04/13/72	Gloria & Kenneth Travis
Rod Taliaferro	04/17/64	Shirley Taliaferro
Wendi Janway-Jones	04/23/78	Rosalyn & Tom Janway
Ashley Loflin	04/23/73	Katy Loflin

## OUR CHILDREN'S APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

<u>Child</u>		<u>Parent(s)</u>
Michael Stephens	04/05/68	Maggie & John Stephens
Krista Corrent	04/08/00	Anna Ruth Hill
Pamela Ford	04/10/04	Leona Upton
Martha Mickel	04/13/84	Ruth Mickel
Michael Johns	04/19/06	Nell Book
Courtney Cole	04/22/12	Ann & Henry Cole
Mickey Loflin	04/23/73	Katy Loflin
Anne Barham	04/25/91	Pat Barham

## OUR CHILDREN'S MAY BIRTHDAYS

<u>Child</u>		<u>Parent(s)</u>
Bo Best	05/02/84	Charlene Best & Charles West
Justin Petty	05/07/82	Julie & Danny Petty
Tonya Bell	05/05/69	Ann Smith
Melissa Blankenship	05/08/65	Peaches Cathey
Jason Hutts	05/12/81	Carol & Greg Hutts
Mickey Chambers	05/13/62	Merrell & Mike Chambers
McKenzie Hudson	05/13/88	Dayna Hudson
Will Lensing	05/13/83	Cindy & Bill Lensing
Bobby Starnes, Jr.	05/13/86	Edwina Starnes
Hunter Carr	05/21/91	Juanita Carr
Derrick Sadberry	05/15/65	Belinda Sadberry
Jill Whitaker	05/21/82	Cynthia Machen
Timothy Smith	05/26/61	Mary & Buddy Smith
Brian Gregory	05/28/73	Frances & Jim Gregory
Kelly O'Neal	05/28/70	Nancy Oliver
Scott Thompson	05/29/78	Tammy Thompson

## OUR CHILDREN'S MAY ANNIVERSARIES

<u>Child</u>		<u>Parent(s)</u>
Mickey Loflin	05/10/05	Katie Loflin
Ashley Loflin	05/10/06	Katy Loflin
Will Lensing	05/11/11	Cindy & Bill Lensing
Leigh Ann White	05/15/05	Janet & Ken White
Lance Thomas	05/18/08	Connie & Danny Thomas
Bobby Starnes, Jr.	05/18/12	Edwina Starnes
John Dobbs	05/21/08	Maggie & John Dobbs
David Webb	05/22/05	Paula Webb
Justin Petty	05/26/01	Julie & Danny Petty

## OUR CHILDREN'S JUNE BIRTHDAYS

<u>Child</u>		<u>Parent(s)</u>
Caroline Cole	06/11/70	Ann & Henry Cole
Debbie Pope	06/14/52	Jean Hamilton
Andrew Rinicker	06/16/72	Dale Rinicker
Alice Rains	06/18/70	Marie Rains
Jackson Kennedy	06/18/00	Jonann Layton
Mike Hayes	06/20/63	Margaret & George Hayes
Kelly Chapman	06/23/78	Judy & Bennie Chapman
Walker Dayton	06/23/81	Vickie & Ed Dayton

## OUR CHILDREN'S JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

<u>Child</u>		<u>Parent(s)</u>
Melissa Blankenship	06/13/04	Peaches Cathey
Kody Spann	06/14/07	Cindy Spann
Wesley Canterberry	06/15/07	Dewanna Canterberry

### **TO OUR LONG TIME 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 when new parents arrive with a fresh hurt and frightened eyes, I remember how we felt at our first meeting. 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." They were the ones who wanted to really listen when you talked about your child. Can you be an "oldie" for someone else? By helping someone else, you help yourself and share your child with someone who never got to know them. Come out and share with newly bereaved parents to help them heal. Our own healing happens when we are reaching out to others.

**WE NEED NOT WALK ALONE;  
WE ARE THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS**

## OUR CREDO

We need not walk alone.  
We are The Compassionate Friends.  
We reach out to each other with love, with understanding and with hope.  
Our children have died at all ages and from many different causes,  
but our love for our children unites us.  
Your pain becomes my pain just as your hope becomes my hope.  
We come together from all walks of life, from many different circumstances.  
We are a unique family because we represent many races and creeds.  
We are young, and we are old.  
Some of us are far along in our grief, but others still feel a grief so fresh  
and so intensely painful that we feel helpless and see no hope.  
Some of us have found our faith to be a source of strength;  
some of us are struggling to find answers.  
Some of us are angry, filled with guilt or in deep depression;  
others radiate an inner peace.  
But whatever pain we bring to this gathering of The Compassionate Friends,  
it is pain we will share just as we share with each other our love for our children.  
We are all seeking and struggling to build a future for ourselves,  
but we are committed to building a future together  
as we reach out to each other in love  
and share the pain as well as the joy,  
share the anger as well as the peace,  
share the faith as well as the doubts  
and help each other to grieve as well as to grow.

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WE ARE THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

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THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS  
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Return Service Requested