



The Compassionate Friends of Northeast Louisiana Supporting Family After a Child Dies

Oct / Nov / Dec 2020

GIVING THANKS

I cannot hold your hands today,
I cannot see your smile.
I cannot hear your voices now,
my children, who are gone.
But I recall your faces still,
the songs, the talks, the sighs.
And story times and winter walks,
and sharing secret things.
I know you helped my mind to live
beyond your time with me.
You gave me clearer eyes to see,
you gave me finer ears to hear,
What living means, what dying means,
my children, who are gone.
So here it is Thanksgiving Day,
and you are not with me.
And while I weep a mother's tears,
I thank you for the gifts you were,
and all the gifts you gave to me,
my children, who are gone.

Sascha Wagner



IF TEARS COULD

If tears could build a stairway
And memories were a lane,
I would walk right up to heaven
To bring you home again.

No farewell words were spoken.
No time to say good-bye.
You were gone before we knew it,
And only God knows why.

My heart still aches in sadness
And secret tears still flow.
What it meant to lose you,
No one will ever know

Author Unknown

AUTUMN

In the fall
When amber leaves are shed,
Softly—silently
Like tears that wait to flow,
I watch and grieve.
My heart beats sadly in the fall;
'Tis then I miss you most of all.

Lily de Lauder
TCF Van Nuys, CA

Monthly Meetings

Thursday, October 1

Thursday, November 5

Due to the Candle Lighting Ceremony to be held Sunday, December 13, we will not have our regular monthly meeting in December.

6:30 PM

St. Paul's United Methodist Church
1901 Lexington Ave.

Enter through the back parking lot off Milton St.

I WILL LOVE YOU

As long as I can dream,
As long as I can think,
As long as I have a memory...
I will love you.

As long as I have eyes to see
and ears to hear
and lips to speak...
I will love you.

As long as I have a heart
to feel,
A soul stirring within me,
An imagination to hold
you...
I will love you.

As long as there is time,
As long as there is love,
As long as I have a breath
to speak your name...
I will love you.

Because I love you more than anything
in all the world.

Daniel Haughian
TCF Massillon, OH

MEMORIES

Memories are heartbeats
Sounding through the years,
Echoes never fading
Of our smiles and tears.

Moments that are captured,
Sometimes unaware,
Pictured in an album,
Or a lock of hair.

Images that linger
Deep within the mind,
Bits of verse we cherished
Once upon a time.

Through the musty hallways
Of the days we knew,
Ever comes the vision
Beautiful and true.

Memories are roses
Blooming evermore,
Full of fragrant sweetness
never known before.

Life must have a meaning,
Goals for which to strive,
Memories are lights that burn
To keep the heart alive.

TCF Roselle, NJ

BUTTERFLIES ARE FREE

They say butterflies are free...

I once knew a butterfly.

She was a beautiful caterpillar when she was born.
So small, delicate and vulnerable, amazing everyone
around her.
So agile, so coordinated, so entrancing.

As she aged, a cocoon grew around her.
While in the self-induced protective shell, parts of her
regressed.
But her physical self-emerged forever beautiful,
Forever radiant and yearning to fly.

Unable to detect or acknowledge danger, the
beautiful young butterfly was kept safely in a gilded
cage.
Unable to be free but yearning so desperately to be
so.

One cold winter morning the beautiful young
butterfly drifted into a deep sleep.
A sleep so deep and peaceful that she was never to
awake.
Beautiful butterfly forever sleeping.
At last free to fly.

They say butterflies are free...

Jan Davis
TCF Alameda County Chapter, CA



THANKSGIVING

Our time together was too brief,
Your life on earth numbered in but days.
Yet, how could I have loved you more if
I had
Held you through the seasons of your life?
When does love begin?
For me the day you first moved within me
Wrapped me in such warmth that it can
still keep
Out the cold as here I stand missing you and all
That we could have shared.
Death has robbed me of your softness and of all
The dreams I had for you,
But not of my love.
Not even death can take that from me – from us.
And for that, I am thankful.

Karen Nelson
TCF Box Elder County; Brigham City, UT

EMPTY PLACES

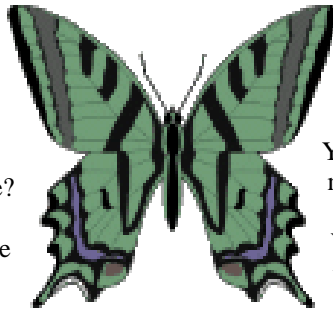
I drove the old way yesterday. It'd been a while, you
see. And there, without a warning, the pain washed
over me.

I drove the old way yesterday and sadness came on
strong, taken back by so much feeling, since you've
been gone so long.

Places seem to lie in wait to summon up the tears, to
say remember yesterday, those days when you were
here. Places where you laughed and played are places
where I cry.

These places hold the memories that will live as long
as I.

Genesse Gentry
TCF Marin County, CA
In Memory of Lori Gentry.



YOU WERE ON MY MIND . . .

When I woke up this morning...
You were on my mind. You were on my
mind.

You with that genuine enthusiasm, like a kid
with his first bicycle.

You with the curiosity and excitement that dads love
to be there for.

There's so much of you still with me. Still with us!

It's not fair that we feel cheated or that we won't
share your ways anymore.

But in reality, after all the tears and inner feelings of
pain and sadness pass,

We will have joy and great happiness because we
shared your days. Your laughter. You.

And when I wake up each morning It will be OK that
you were on my mind... You are on my mind.

That's a special place for you to be, because it will be
forever.

Michael Tyler
TCF Lighthouse Chapter, Lewes, DE

Chapter co-leaders

Marilyn & French Smith
Luann & James Butler

Steering Committee

Henry Cole, Facilitator
Johnny James, Treasurer
Dianne & Frank Bruscato, Library
Maggy & John Dobbs, Outreach
Ann Cole, Outreach
Julie & Danny Petty, Newsletter

CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS

Beyond the twinkling lights, the red and green candles, the poignant aroma of evergreen...Beyond the Christmas trees, the angels, and stars and beloved carols...Beyond the presents, the shopping, the baking and cooking...Beyond all of these sights and sounds of Christmas...Beyond all of these...there is hope.

Hope...It is hope that sustains us though the days of grief and anger and frustration and loneliness.

The hope that someday the pain of the deaths of our children will be eased. The hope is that someday our smiles will be real. The hope is that once again we will laugh and love and cry completely without fear and hollowness.

It is the hope that someday we can remember our children with a tenderness merely tinged with sorrow and not overwhelmed with it.

So it is that for each of you I would wish hope, peace, compassion, love, sympathy, understanding, sharing, and listening.

In the sharing of our grief with one another and in the emotional support we give to one another, we receive and learn of all of these gifts.

TCF Wabash Valley Chapter

THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS Northeast Louisiana Chapter

CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY

*Join with us as we honor the memories of our
children.*

In loving memory of our children who are no longer with us, The Compassionate Friends of Northeast Louisiana extends an invitation for you, your family, and friends to join us for our annual Candle Lighting Ceremony.



**When: Sunday, December 13, 2020
at 6:30 pm**

**Location: Grace Episcopal Church
1400 North 4th St. at the corner of
Glenmore Ave.**

We do this . . . that their light may always shine!

The Compassionate Friends Worldwide Candle Lighting® is held every year on the second Sunday in December at 7pm for one hour local time in each time zone around the globe – a 24-hour wave of light in memory of all children who have died.

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 OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

<u>Child</u>		<u>Parent(s)</u>
Jeffrey H. Crawley	10/01/68	Ruby Crawley
Melissa Perkins	10/02/84	Sherry Lucas
Martha Mikel	10/05/53	Ruth Mikel
Jennifer Hale	10/05/84	Sheila Hale
Danny Morgan	10/09/67	Jeanie Morgan
Alyssa Neitz	10/11/00	Jennifer & Joey Neitz
Brandi Pearson	10/11/72	Layne Pearson
Trent Weaver	10/11/12	Donna VanVeckhoven
Lance Thomas	10/13/87	Connie & Danny Thomas
Jeremy Barnhill	10/15/84	Kathi & Terry Barnhill
Deborah Smith	10/22/58	Mary & Buddy Smith
John Dobbs	10/23/89	Maggy & John Dobbs
Kenneth Wall	10/26/59	Beverly & Charles Wall
Stephen Dupuy	10/30/68	Polly & Butch Dupuy, Jr.
Raymond Scott	10/30/80	Pam Lavender

OUR CHILDREN'S NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

<u>Child</u>		<u>Parent(s)</u>
Joe Block Barham	11/06/78	Janie & Andy Barham
Ben Brubaker	11/09/75	Jena & Ron Brubaker
David Moore	11/12/58	Barbara Moore
Brady Hairston	11/16/96	Cindy & Lee Hairston
Tonya Bell	11/21/97	Ann Smith
Justin Walker	11/22/85	Beverly Walker
Dustin Allbritton	11/22/78	Linda & Ronnie Allbritton
Corey Hayman	11/23/77	Linda & William Hayman
Autumn Henderson	11/27/82	Janet & Daniel Wyatt

OUR CHILDREN'S DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

<u>Child</u>		<u>Parent(s)</u>
Trey Watson	12/09/70	Henrietta/Paul Watson
Michael Hollier	12/12/66	Lyn Hollier
Wendy Williams	12/12/53	Nell Williams
Janey Knight	12/16/59	Sandy Casteel
Brandon McGehee	12/16/77	Teddi & James McGehee
Carl Alexander	12/18/63	Valerie & Billy Matejowsky
Brittany Braxton	12/21/85	Ursula Braxton
Brian Perry	12/25/72	Clara & Don Perry
Kerry Alex	12/28/61	Joseph Alex
Krista Corrent	12/28/64	Anna Ruth Hill
Cedrick Hotard	12/31/74	Sharon & Steven Hotard

OUR CHILDREN'S OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

<u>Child</u>		<u>Parent(s)</u>
Shannon Scharf	10/01/98	Robert S. Green
John Bruscato	10/05/96	Dianne & Frank Bruscato
Emerson Johnson	10/05/14	Sandy Johnson
Jenna Johnson	10/05/14	Sandy Johnson
Michael Woods	10/06/12	China Woods
Jon Bowman	10/09/06	Jill Puckett
Melissa Perkins	10/09/16	Sherry Lucas
Cole Brooks Hamilton	10/08/14	Laurie & Britt Hamilton
Wendi Janway-Jones	10/09/09	Rosalyn & Tom Janway
Wendy Williams	10/15/99	Nell Williams
Hope Bruscato	10/16/98	Gene Bruscato
Brady Hairston	10/16/11	Cindy & Lee Hairston
Corey Washington	10/18/07	Gracie Washington
Wendy Williams	10/19/99	Nell Williams
Stephen Dupuy	10/22/05	Polly & Butch Dupuy
Fred Page	10/24/03	Gloria Roye
Aimee McIlveene	10/26/01	Rhea & Danny McIlveene
April Mizell	10/27/15	Pam Spillers

OUR CHILDREN'S NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

<u>Child</u>		<u>Parent(s)</u>
Stephen Smith	11/07/99	Marilyn & French Smith
Jeffrey H. Crawley	11/08/16	Ruby Crawley
Jason Farrell	11/09/02	Sandra Garrett
Bo Best	11/09/07	Charlene & Steve Best
Michael Moreau	11/12/13	Bonnie & Ron Nay
Austin Thames	11/12/17	Kim Thames
Tytianna Jenkins	11/16/11	Beverly Jenkins
Joe Block Barham	11/19/03	Janie & Andy Barham
Justice Farrar	11/21/16	Martha Anderson
Kerry Alex	11/24/14	Regina Kenney
Matt Mouser	11/25/79	Kathryn Hutchinson

OUR CHILDREN'S DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

<u>Child</u>		<u>Parent(s)</u>
Rodney Hubbard	12/08/15	Claudine Vega
Katie Joyce	12/08/15	Kathryn & Jeff Joyce
Justin Walker	12/12/03	Beverly Walker
Kelly Chapman	12/19/10	Judy & Bennie Chapman
Autumn Henderson	12/20/10	Janet & Daniel Wyatt
McKenzie Hudson	12/23/14	Danya Hudson
Jennifer Hale	12/23/12	Sheila Hale
Michelle Putman	12/24/10	Gaye Laing
Randy Foote	12/27/16	Linda Foote
Robby Jenkins	12/27/16	Beverly Jenkins
Norman Craig	12/28/02	Pat Craig
Ben Brubaker	12/30/13	Jena & Ron Brubaker

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.

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

www.tcfnortheastla.org

THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS
Northeast Louisiana Chapter
P.O. Box 6114
Monroe, Louisiana 71211

Return Service Requested