



# *The Compassionate Friends* of Northeast Louisiana

## Supporting Family After a Child Dies

Oct / Nov / Dec 2014

### **AUTUMN LEAVES**

Autumn leaves encircle the still pond,  
like Narcissus engrossed in their own reflections.

Autumn wind cuts like a knife,  
opening wounds we thought had healed.

Autumn geese fly south in loud  
formation,  
leaving behind their summer  
memories.

We stand in the silence of fallen leaves,  
awaiting the storm of the coming winter.

You are in our thoughts during the changing seasons,  
in the daily reminders of the past and what is to  
come.

Mariann Lindquist  
TCF North Shore, Boston Chapter

### **A CRAYOLA DAY**

The trees with leaves so lushly green  
Creating a beautiful sight to be seen

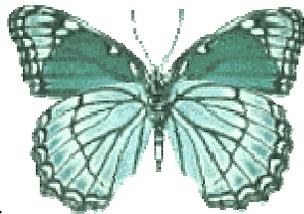
Bright skies of blue and clouds fluffy white  
All combined for this glorious sight  
Of a perfect Crayola day

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

### **This is my wish for you:**

Comfort on difficult days,  
Smiles when sadness intrudes,  
Rainbows to follow the clouds,  
Laughter to kiss your lips,  
Sunsets to warm your heart,  
Hugs when spirits sag,  
Beauty for your eyes to see,  
Friendships to brighten your being,  
Faith so that you can believe,  
Confidence for when you doubt,  
Courage to know yourself,  
Patience to accept the truth,  
Love to complete your life.

Anonymous

### Monthly Meetings

**Thursday, October 2**

**Thursday, November 6**

**Due to the Candle Lighting Ceremony to be held  
Sunday, December 14, 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.

# 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.

---

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

## A THOUSAND FACES

I walked in wearing your jacket, my arms linked  
between Mom and Dad.

My hand trembled around the folded pages of my  
speech.

I could barely breathe as we sat down  
in front of your coffin.

I had asked to speak first. One thousand  
sets of eyes watched every step of my  
careful pace to the podium.

My heart pounded, my hands shook the unfolded  
pages, and tears began to stream down my cheeks.

I stood beside your silence. And listened to the echo  
of my grief into the sobbing crowd.

I wanted to fall to my knees, pound the wooden floor  
and scream for answers. I wanted to lay down into  
the madness that your death brought me too. But you  
had always taught me to be strong.

I took a deep breath and continued as if you were  
standing beside me—

I spoke of your sarcasm, your love for chicks, our  
childhood fights, and our developed friendship. And  
my memories were joined by a laughter that  
reminded me to remember your smile and not this  
day.

I wiped my eyes and folded the pages that said  
goodbye to the sixteen years that I spent looking up  
to you.

Your favorite song began and echoed from the walls  
of the same gymnasium that used to chant your name  
on game day.

I watched your best friends file around you and  
looked into eyes that I had never seen shed tears until  
today.

A thousand hearts broke for the shaken spirits of the  
boys that led your procession.

My hand trembled around the folded  
pages of my speech.

And I followed your lead for the last time.

By Alexandra  
TCF Portland, OR



## I'M MISSING YOU

I'm missing you – all day, every day.

On a bright summer morning, or when the moon is  
full.

In the golden days of fall, as the storm clouds build  
and it's snowing.

When the willows begin to turn green – you are  
always with me, in my mind and in my heart.

My brother, my good friend, I'm missing you.

Kris Cunningham  
TCF Moro, IL

*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.*

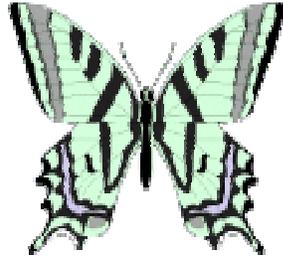
*Albert Schweitzer*

## REMEMBER

Remember the children, we ask tonight,  
As we continue this wave of light.

Remember the babies, never given a  
chance,  
To grow, to play, to love, or dance.

Remember the toddlers, just starting to  
live,  
Teddy Bears and blankies and big hugs  
to give.



All that remains are the chrysanthemums planted in a special memorial garden for you. They are ready to burst into beautiful shades of yellow and orange. They symbolize one more year without you. But our love has not diminished.

Pat Dodge  
TCF Sacramento, CA

## MEMORIES

Remember the children, who grew strong and true,  
Maybe struck by an illness that devastated you

Remember the teen-agers and the promise in each,  
Taken suddenly or slowly, beyond our reach.

Don't forget the adult child, fully grown,  
Whether 18 or 80, we still called them our own

Our grandchildren, sisters and brothers have died,  
For nieces and nephews and cousins, we've cried.

Some of us say, "I've lost my dreams,"  
While others say, "my memories."

So tonight we remember with this candlelight,  
So like our love that shines so bright.

Marilyn Rollins  
TCF Lake-Porter County, IN

The certain special memories  
That follow me each day,  
Cast your shadow in my life  
In a certain way.

Sometimes the blowing wind  
Or the lyrics of a song  
Make me stop and think of you  
Sometimes all day long

Memories are good to have  
To share and keep in my heart,  
Just knowing that you're still inside  
Makes sure we'll never part.

Collette Covington  
TCF, Lake Charles, LA

## NOVEMBER AGAIN

Leaves are turning the shades of autumn, then falling,  
one by one, to the misted ground below. Summer  
flowers have faded and died. The sun hides behind  
dark and dreary clouds. It is November again.

Was it so long ago that this month brought warm  
thoughts of Thanksgiving together? The smell of  
wood burning, walks in the nippy air? This is the  
month you left us. And all the warm glow of  
November went with you.

### Chapter co-leaders

Marilyn & French Smith

### Steering Committee

Henry Cole, Facilitator

Johnny James, Treasurer

Dianne & Frank Bruscato, 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

## DETOUR OF THE MONTH – THANKSGIVING

Well, here it is - detour time again! And just when you were about headed back to the main road after Halloween. Some out there think of the four months of October, November, December and January as the holiday season, but we know better, don't we? We know they're really the detour season, and I don't have to tell you why, do I?

About this time last year I had a really good laugh when I received a letter from a member of the Atlanta Chapter where she told me, among other things, that she and her husband and their two young boys were heading for Florida over Thanksgiving. "We are not," she said "going to sit around a turkey and pretend to be thankful." Now, that "ain't" observing that day in a traditional way. Do whatever it is that you need to do this year, if Thanksgiving is a problem. Explain to those who really care about you that this year will, by necessity, be different. Hope they will understand, but if they don't, let it be their problem, for your needs are paramount right now.

I'm happy to report that I look forward to our traditional day now. (Let me tell you, there was a time I didn't!) I hope you will soon reach that place, if you haven't already. I just want to assure you that nowhere is it carved in stone that you must sit around a turkey pretending.

Mary Cleckley  
TCF Atlanta, GA

---

### 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 14, 2014  
at 6:30 pm**

**Location: Grace Episcopal Church  
1400 North 4<sup>th</sup> 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>
Martha Mikel	10/05/53	Ruth Mikel
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
Lance Ulibarri	10/29/79	Connie & Richard Ulibarri
Stephen Dupuy	10/30/68	Polly & Butch Dupuy, Jr.
Raymond Scott	10/30/80	Pam Lavender

## OUR CHILDREN'S OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

<u>Child</u>		<u>Parent(s)</u>
Shannon Scharf	10/01/98	Robert S. Green
Lance Ulibarri	10/02/10	Connie & Richard Ulibarri
John Bruscato	10/05/96	Dianne & Frank Bruscato
Michael Woods	10/06/12	China Woods
Jon Bowman	10/09/06	Jill Puckett
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

## 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
Teresa Gentry	11/18/55	Lynn Walters
Amanda Moulle	11/18/77	Fae & Nolan Moulle'
Steven Wisdom	11/20/48	Dee Wisdom
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 NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

<u>Child</u>		<u>Parent(s)</u>
Stephen Smith	11/07/99	Marilyn & French Smith
Jason Farrell	11/09/02	Sandra Garrett
Bo Best	11/09/07	Charlene & Steve Best
Tytianna Jenkins	11/16/11	Beverly Jenkins
Joe Block Barham	11/19/03	Janie & Andy Barham
Amanda Moulle'	11/20/77	Fae & Nolan Moulle'
Matt Mouser	11/25/79	Kathryn Hutchinson

## OUR CHILDREN'S DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

<u>Child</u>		<u>Parent(s)</u>
Mica Lightsey	12/02/84	Karen McAdams
Terry 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
Krista Corrent	12/28/64	Anna Ruth Hill
Cedrick Hotard	12/31/74	Sharon & Steven Hotard

## OUR CHILDREN'S DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

<u>Child</u>		<u>Parent(s)</u>
Rodney Hubbard	12/09/01	Claudine Vega
Mica Lightsey	12/09/06	Karen McAdams
Justin Walker	12/09/08	Beverly Walker
Kelly Chapman	12/12/03	Judy & Bennie Chapman
Autumn Henderson	12/19/10	Janet & Daniel Wyatt
McKenzie Hudson	12/20/10	Dayne Hudson
Robby Jenkins	12/24/10	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](http://www.tcfnortheastla.org)

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

Return Service Requested