



**The  
Compassionate  
Friends**  
Supporting Family After a Child Dies

**LAWRENCEVILLE, GEORGIA  
GWINNETT CHAPTER NEWSLETTER**

Meg Avery, Editor      Autumn 2014  
September, October & November

**A non-denominational self-help support group offering friendship, understanding and hope to bereaved families who have experienced the death of a child at any age, from any cause.**

*"When a child dies at any age, the family suffers intense pain and may feel hopeless and isolated. The Compassionate Friends provides highly personal comfort, hope and support to every family experiencing the death of a son or daughter, brother or sister, or grandchild, and helps others better assist the grieving family."*

**CHAPTER MEETING AND CONTACT INFO:**

Gwinnett Chapter- 7:30 PM on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month. **next meetings: Sept. 18, Oct. 16 & Nov. 20**

**Trinity Christian Fellowship, 1985 Old Fountain Road, Lawrenceville, 30043.**

We meet in the 100 Building, the first building on your left.

For TCF Gwinnett: contact June Cooper by phone 770-757-4927, or email [jc30044@flash.net](mailto:jc30044@flash.net) or [tcfgwinnett@yahoo.com](mailto:tcfgwinnett@yahoo.com)

TCF Atlanta website: [www.tcfatlanta.org](http://www.tcfatlanta.org)  
GA Regional Coordinator Sandra Stinson, [sandrastinsontcf@yahoo.com](mailto:sandrastinsontcf@yahoo.com)

The Compassionate Friends National Office:  
1-877-969-0010

[www.thecompassionatefriends.org](http://www.thecompassionatefriends.org)

Dear Friends,

The Gwinnett Newsletter is available both in print and by e-mail. If you have received this issue in print and would prefer to receive e-mail instead, please notify us at [tcfgwinnett@yahoo.com](mailto:tcfgwinnett@yahoo.com). This will help keep our postage and printing costs down. We welcome your suggestions to improve our chapter newsletter.

We would love your input for the newsletter, Poetry, articles and comments submitted by parents, siblings and grandparents are an import part of each issue. Our next issue, Winter 2014/15 will cover the months of December, January & February.

We will also continue to recognize birthday and anniversary dates as times of special remembrance within our TCF family. Please communicate these important dates to us if you have not already done so.



The Compassionate Friends is a mutual assistance, self-help organization offering friendship, understanding and hope to bereaved families. Anyone who has experienced the death of a child of any age, from any cause, is welcome. Our meetings give parents an opportunity to talk about their child and about their feelings as they walk the grief journey. There is no religious affiliation. There are no membership dues. The purpose of this support group is not to focus on the cause of death or the age of the child, as it is to focus on being a bereaved parent, along with the feelings and issues that evolve around the death experience of a child.

*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.*

*The children we mourn have died at all ages and from many  
different causes, but our love for them unites us.*

*Your pain become 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,  
creeds and relationships. We are young, and we are old.*

*Some of us are far along in our grief, but other still feel a grief  
so fresh and so intensely painful that they feel helpless and see  
no hope. Some of us have found our faith to be a source of  
strength while some of us are struggling to find answers. Some  
of us are angry, filled with guilt or in deep depression,  
while 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 the children who have died.*

*We are all seeking and struggling to build a future for  
ourselves, but we are committed to building a future together.  
We reach out to each other in love to 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.*

*Copyright 2007*

## Fall of Memories

Jason died in the summer. Six years have come and gone and still the waves roll in, knocking me to my knees.

This morning, autumn has returned. I can see my breath as it slowly leaves my body. Leaves crackle under my feet and the smell of burning wood fills the air. I don't know why this happens year after year, but as the season shift and the environment changes, so do I. Instead of that which I have grown accustomed to, I am unexpectedly assaulted by memories that have not surfaced for twelve long months. Suddenly, his first successful antelope hunt greets me in the morning. I relive his soccer games and hot chocolate and the feel of his flannel shirts, still warm from the dryer. I see him grabbing fish from the now dry irrigation canal, jumping in the leaves he had painstakingly raked, and roasting marshmallows by the fire that he always got to close to. Fall has crept into my universe again and camouflaged in its shadow...Jason smiles. And I am sad.

As tears fight their way out into the light of day and I swallow the lump in my throat, I hear Jason asking me "why?" I question why anyone, alive or dead, would ask such a ridiculous question as the obvious answer runs through my mind. I am sad because he is no longer doing these things. He is no longer creating memories. Jason is gone...but he's not. And so I explore the logic and I am once again manipulated into wisdom by my son.

Isn't a memory of my son playing soccer a gift? Do I not cherish the photos of him in his first tuxedo? What memory would I choose to let go of? Which ones have

become too oppressive for me to welcome into my life today? Are these memories that bring tears to my eyes full of sadness and depression, or are these memories exactly the same as the day they were forever etched in my heart? Unchanged, created in and surrounded by love.

And so the question waits. Why do I encounter sorrow when Jason's favorite departure line "buh-buuuuy..." echoes in my mind? If my memories are cherished gifts, filled with joy when they came to be and remaining as such now, what is causing my distress?

The answer is fast, and its simplicity embarrasses me. Memories are miraculous gifts. We receive them without asking, we do absolutely nothing to earn them, and they are accessible to us without limit. We should honor their creating and invincibility. The cause of my distress is me. It is what I am choosing to feel. I am disregarding the delight that was in his voice. I am overlooking the love that was sent with the words. I am choosing instead to focus on a fear that he is no longer a part of my life. Fear or love, which will it be?

Next week, I will undoubtedly see a young man driving a new truck down Main Street. He will have a set of antlers peeking over the tailgate, and I will remember Jason. I will remember him with every ounce of my being. At that moment, I will choose to feel sadness or joy. Fear or love, which will it be? In all that we do, this question begs to be acknowledge, and in all that we do, the answer is clear and persistent. Love is the answer...always...and all ways.

By Sandy Goodman, author of "Love Never Dies: A Mother's Journey from Loss to Love"

## WE REMEMBER BIRTHDAYS

*The light of life never goes out, and so  
we remember their birthdays*



### September

Franklin Lewis "Shane" Martin	Sept. 1
Andrea Nicole King	Sept. 2
Karen Hendler	Sept. 7
Drake Michaud	Sept. 7
Joshua Stulick	Sept. 10
Daniel Monk	Sept. 11
Kimberly Dawn Marshall	Sept. 11
Tom Waters	Sept. 16
Melissa Hermanns	Sept. 16
Jayla Cook	Sept. 16
Darryl Reed	Sept. 19
Shawn Lippman	Sept. 19
Johnathon David Solar	Sept. 23
Quavonte Combs	Sept. 24
Julie Lyn Donaldson	Sept. 26
Catherine Amiss	Sept. 26
Blake Hinson	Sept. 29
Charlie Whittington	Sept. 30



### October

Kapri Bradley	Oct. 1
Jarid Smith	Oct. 4
Scott Tarbell	Oct. 6
Adrian Ortiz	Oct. 7
Larry Tilley	Oct. 8
Richard Parrish Mayberry	Oct. 10
Joseph Oliver	Oct. 10
Alan Parish	Oct. 11
Jennifer Hardy	Oct. 13
Sloan Taylor	Oct. 14
Olivia Rodriguez	Oct. 17
Jeffrey Lopilato	Oct. 17
Christopher Gordon	Oct. 19
Hayden Navarrete	Oct. 24
Evelyn Marie Kunkel	Oct. 29



### November

Tyler Durden	Nov. 1
Danny Gilbride	Nov. 1
Virginia Leigh Phillips	Nov. 3
Heather Helms	Nov. 3
Misty Autumn Dubose	Nov. 5
Robert David Parsons	Nov. 7
Matthew Dwyer	Nov. 7
True Hewitt IV	Nov. 7
Jayvon Hammond	Nov. 9
Brannon Springer	Nov. 10
Jeffrey Wolcott	Nov. 12
Amanda Christine Warnock	Nov. 13
Pamela Leigh Thompson	Nov. 15
Frankie Ortiz	Nov. 26
Daniel Hager	Nov. 29
Clayton Olvey	Nov. 30



### Birthday Invitation

Every month we have a Birthday Table and you are warmly invited to please come share your child's birthday with us when his/her birthday is that month. This is your chance to tell us a favorite story, or share a poem or thoughts that either you or your child wrote or whatever remembrance you choose in memory of your child. Our child's or grandchild's or sibling's birthday will forever be a very special day and we at TCF know how important that day is and how helpful and healing it can be to share with others.



Please plan on attending the meeting of your child's birthday and filling our Birthday Table with pictures and/or mementos. You are also more than welcome to bring his/her favorite snacks.

## September, October & November Anniversaries

So that their lives may always shine, our children are  
remembered. As long as we live, they too shall live for  
they are part of us in our memories

Christopher Gabriel Patton	Sept. 1
Chad Gordon	Sept. 3
Kyle Copija	Sept. 4
Shane Miller	Sept. 4
Charlie Smallen	Sept. 8
Daniel Monk	Sept. 10
G.W. Fox	Sept. 11
Ryan Pilgrim	Sept. 11
Jeffrey Wolcott	Sept. 13
Quintin Jones	Sept. 13
Brandon Hawhee	Sept. 18
Drake Michaud	Sept. 19
Justin Evans	Sept. 20
Natascha Roebuck	Sept. 20
Matthew Dwyer	Sept. 21
Adam Lee Jones	Sept. 21
Karen Hendler	Sept. 21
Monique Marlowe	Sept. 21
James R. Avery, III	Sept. 22
Amanda Sullivan	Sept. 22
Scott Tarbell	Sept. 26
Brittany Hopkins	Sept. 27
Johnathon David Solar	Sept. 27
True Hewitt IV	Oct. 3
Richard Parrish Mayberry	Oct. 4
Sloan Taylor	Oct. 4
Wyatt Fons	Oct. 9
Johnathan England	Oct. 10
Franklin Lewis "Shane" Martin	Oct. 14
Rileigh-Jacqueline Clebert	Oct. 14
Elizabeth "Beth" Wood	Oct. 15
Drew Adams	Oct. 15
Jacob Meadows	Oct. 19
Cristina Jane Vargas Howerton	Oct. 19
Christopher Reed	Oct. 20
Bo Tuggle	Oct. 22
Monta Hunt	Oct. 23
Ashley Lauren Hull	Oct. 27
Jarod Robert Wills	Oct. 28
Jared Chambers	Oct. 28
Evelyn Marie Kunkel	Oct. 29
Jack Fons	Oct. 31

Iza Morris	Nov. 10
Kevin Hamilton	Nov. 12
Lindsey Marie Townsend	Nov. 14
Daniel Hager	Nov. 14
Robert David Parsons	Nov. 24
Ronald "Bruce" West	Nov. 24
Robert Coltman	Nov. 28
Mark William Evans, Jr.	Nov. 29

### Wake me up When September Ends

*Summer has come and passed  
The innocent can never last  
Wake me up when September ends.*

Even without looking at the calendar, my body and soul takes note. I know the time of year by heart. It is the beginning of the school year. For nearly my whole life this time of year has signaled a fresh start, anticipation of things to come. A time for new shoes, fresh notebooks, sharp, un-chewed pencils. All these things beckon of hopes and dreams, plans and goals for success and achievement.

Our son, Jake, died two months short of his high school graduation. We received his college acceptance letter the day of his funeral. Last fall, we watched his friends and classmates head off to college. Many of them came to say good bye to us; after all, we had "adopted" them as our sons and daughters now. Of course, we wished them well with a smile and a hug. Our hearts were aching to be lugging things into a dorm room, too.

So, September is here once more and I think about what Jake would be doing now. I think about all the parents for whom this time of year is difficult, also. I think of those parents who would be putting crayons into a cute little back pack, those who would be watching that first ball game of the season, and those who would maybe be encouraging a college grad to find that first job and begin paying off student loans. Our sons and daughters have gone straight to the "Head of the Class" but we wish we were able to give them a hug as they achieve glorious dreams beyond our imagination!

*As my memory rests  
But never forgets what I lost...  
Wake me up when September ends.*

Written by Laurie Dreier  
From the TCF St. Paul Aug/Sept/Oct Newsletter



## THANKS!

Thanks to the friend who did know the right words to say, “There is a group in town who might help you.”

Thanks to the parent who somehow found the courage to call that phone number and find out about “that group”.

Thanks to the mother who went to that first meeting knowing that it would really hurt to talk – and talked.

Thanks for the dad who said, after that first meeting, he could never come back – but did.

Thanks to the parent who, at the fifth meeting, put her arms around a “new one” and said, “They can really help.”

Thanks to the mom who, for the first time, was able to bake cookies for her “compassionate friends”.

Thanks to the parent who could never talk in front of people – who became a facilitator.

Thanks to the six foot father who cried in front of the other men – and didn’t say I’m sorry.

Because of you, we will be able to help someone we don’t ever know – next month!

Thank you!

By John DeBoer, TCF Greater Omaha Chapter

## Thanksgiving Prayer

Today, we give thanks for our friends,  
Those that time has taken far from us,  
Those we cherish now and those we have yet  
to meet.

We give thanks for our family,  
Those members who are with us in spirit  
And those who are a distance away.

We give thanks for our expanding family,  
For relatives need not always be family  
And family need not always be relatives,  
Love creates families.

We give thanks for our children,  
For the ones who are here,  
And the ones that live on only in our  
memory.

We thank you.  
Amen

TCF Madison Chapter

## Grief Support For Siblings

When a child has died, siblings are often referred to as “the forgotten mourners.” While parents usually receive much support, siblings usually receive little—often being asked “How are your parents doing?” The Compassionate Friends is an organization that is not just for bereaved parents. It’s also for bereaved siblings (and grandparents).

All TCF National Conferences & many regional conferences offer workshops and other activities specifically geared for bereaved siblings. Online Support Community (live chats) allows you to talk with other bereaved siblings from across the country during the Online Support Community sessions held every week. These sessions are limited in number of participants and have trained monitors who are also siblings. Check out [www.compassionatefriends.org](http://www.compassionatefriends.org) and go to Resources/Siblings.

### Siblings Walking Together (Formerly the Sibling Credo)

We are the surviving siblings of  
The Compassionate Friends.  
We are brought together  
by the deaths of our brothers and sisters.  
Open your hearts to us, but have patience with us.  
Sometimes we will need the support of our friends.  
At other times we need our families to be there.  
Sometimes we must walk alone,  
taking our memories with us,  
continuing to become the individuals we want to be.  
We cannot be our dead brother or sister;  
however, a special part of them lives on with us.  
When our brothers and sisters died, our lives changed.  
We are living a life very different  
from what we envisioned,  
and we feel the responsibility  
to be strong even when we feel weak.  
Yet we can go on because  
we understand better than many others  
the value of family and the precious gift of life.  
Our goal is not to be  
the forgotten mourners that we sometimes are,  
but to walk together to face our tomorrows  
as surviving siblings of  
The Compassionate Friends.

©The Compassionate Friends



## *The Mask of Grief*

By Kerry Marston

As the beautiful colors of fall surround us and the air is sweetened and chilled, we, the broken-hearted parents and families of those children who left us too soon begin to find the strength and perseverance to face another season, another anniversary, another rush of memories. Perhaps Halloween brings with it visions of little candy-grabbing goblins and gossamer-clad fair children. Perhaps those memories aren't available to some of us. All of us pick up our masks right around this time of year and we put them on. Our masks are different, though. When our children died, we discovered that the raw and horrible pain we were in probably showed up on our faces, in the way we stood, in the way we walked and talked. We soon discovered that, even though we had many close and loving friends and family, they were not very comfortable with watching us bleed to death from the inside out...So we constructed a mask.

Masquerade Balls and Pagan ceremonies are ancient rituals. The idea of "masking" one's identity for a short time and celebrating with wild abandon is as appealing in our society as it was in those ancient times. Unfortunately, the bereaved have a different reason for donning the mask. We force our mask to smile when the lump in our throat and the heaviness in our chest threaten to choke us. Our eyes leak profusely, despite the waterproof mascara and pancake makeup we women keep applying...Men put on a stoic and strong façade, sometimes failing miserably and breaking down with terrible beauty.

I urge you to be gentle with your mask. Put it on thoughtfully and take it off with great care. There are safe places to leave it and one of those places is with those of us who travel this path with you.

Lovingly lifted from the TCF Atlanta Chapter  
Fall Newsletter

## Justin's Heart Grief Group

A place for the bereaved to gather to support each other in times of loss. Meets the third Tuesday of each month from 6:30 – 8:30 at the Loganville First Baptist Church. Contact Steve Williams at 678-670-3549. This support group was organized by Kayleigh Ellington, in memory of her brother Justin. Their mom, Kathy Ellington, belongs to TCF Gwinnett.

## GAINESVILLE SUPPORT GROUP

The Northeast Georgia Medical Center has a grief support group for parents. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month from 5:15 – 6:45 pm. The meeting is held at Lanier Park, Gainesville. Contact Jennifer Sorrells at 770-219- 0271 or [Jennifer.sorrells@nghs.com](mailto:Jennifer.sorrells@nghs.com) for more information.

**Teen Victim Impact Program and It Won't Happen To Me** will be having their 8th Annual Memory Walk **Saturday, October 11th** at Tribble Mill Park in Lawrenceville.



This is an event where we provide an opportunity for families and friends to walk on behalf of their sons, daughters or friends that have died in a teen driven related car crash. Anyone that has lost a teen in a tragic car crash and would like to participate and or have their teen represented along the Walk please contact Bill Richardson at [Bill@tvip.org](mailto:Bill@tvip.org) The Walk registration and check-in starts at 8:30 AM at the Holly Pavilion and the Walk starts at about 10:00. T-Shirts and a lanyard displaying a picture of the teen one would be walking for will be handed out at registration. After the Walk a meal will be served and the event ends by 12:30 PM. Also during the Walk we have a reading of the names as well as a balloon release. If you have any questions please feel free to call Bill at 770-289-8598. For more information about our organization you can go to [www.itwonthappentome.org](http://www.itwonthappentome.org)

## Kate's Club

Kate's Club is a non-profit organization that empowers children and teens facing life after the death of a parent or sibling. By creating friendships with kids and young adults that share the experience, Kate's Club guides children through their grief journey in a comfortable, safe & uplifting setting. For information, contact Debra Brook, Program Manager, at [debra@katesclub.org](mailto:debra@katesclub.org) or phone 404-347-7619.

### **SURVIVORS OF SUICIDE SUPPORT GROUP**

Meets the first Thursday of every month at 6:30 pm at The Warehouse at Family Festival, 5095 Post Rd, Cumming, 30040. The Meeting Room is located past The Land of 1000 Hills Coffee Bar, down the hall, first door on the right. For info contact Sherry 404-660-0907, [sherryunwala@yahoo.com](mailto:sherryunwala@yahoo.com)

### **GOOD GRIEF" Support Group in Jefferson**

Meets the first Saturday of every month at 10 am at the Integrity Counseling & Personal Development Center, phone 706-387-0573, [www.integrityofjefferson.com](http://www.integrityofjefferson.com) Deana Martin, TCF member and mom to angels Amanda & Logan helps coordinate and organize this group. You may also contact Deana at [deana.martin@merial.com](mailto:deana.martin@merial.com)

My name is Deana and I am the Co-Founder of **Cry For Me...No More**, a non-profit to help bereaved parents. We offer a 2 1/2 day intensive workshop to help parents and adult siblings move forward in their grief journey after the loss of a child.

We are having our first fundraiser Sept 27th on the Gainesville Historic Square It's going to be a fun day of Karaoke and other activities from 2-6.

We would love for you to join us. Several grief organizations will be in attendance. Please see our website for more about us and the event page for the fundraiser and our upcoming workshop in Toccoa.

We are holding our first workshop in GA Oct 17-19 at the GA Baptist Conference Center in



Toccoa GA. We have about 18 spots left for families to sign up who would benefit from our program. We also are in need of parents who understand the grief journey who are farther out from the death of their child to help staff our weekend. This would give the TCF members a chance to see first-hand what we do in hopes we can work together to help parents in the future. We need male and female staff members. All lodging and meals are covered by our organization and it's a very transformation program. Again please see our website for more details.

[www.cryformenomore.com](http://www.cryformenomore.com)

### **TCF Gwinnett Small Sharing Groups**

Monthly support group meetings are the heart of The Compassionate Friends. These gatherings provide a safe and caring environment in which bereaved parents and siblings can talk freely about the emotions and experiences they are enduring. Parents receive the understanding and support of others who have "been there".

We are here to provide hope and encouragement, understanding & friendship as we all travel the grief journey. Our lives have been turned inside out & upside down and we are the walking wounded who must now figure out where to go from here, how to put our lives back together to some degree, and share coping skills and survival techniques. Together we can share our ideas and

## **HELP WANTED!**

As we all know, the death of our child, no matter what age or circumstance, is a shattering experience for a family. When a child dies, to whom does a family turn for the emotional support they will need during the grief journey that lies ahead? If you are reading this newsletter, you have already learned that The Compassionate Friends understands that grief for a child lasts longer & is more intense than society commonly recognizes. Together as grieving parents we can

offer empathy and understanding of this loss, while also recognizing that each person's grief is unique.

However, there are many families who have not found TCF and may need the support & friendship our chapter can offer. We all read about accidents, crimes, illnesses and our hearts ache because we, better than others, realize what the parents of that child are now going to have to cope with.

We are in need of a **Community Outreach Volunteer**, who will reach out to funeral homes, social services, hospices, etc. to create awareness of our TCF Chapter. We have a Special Edition Newsletter available for new parents that can be mailed or given to organizations. It may be as simple as sending emails, or making phone calls, and/or mailing the special newsletter. The internet is a great resource and aid for creating education & awareness of TCF Gwinnett for families and organizations. If you would be interested in filling this volunteer role, or if there could be a team of 2 or 3 people to work together in this effort, please contact Candace Jordan by email, [tcfgwinnett@yahoo.com](mailto:tcfgwinnett@yahoo.com)

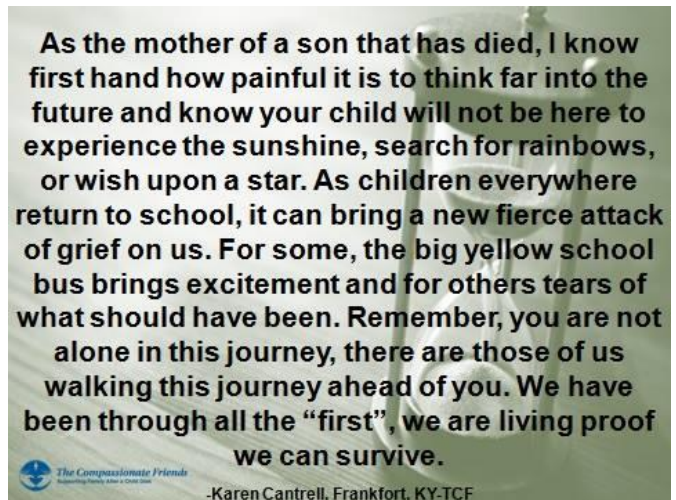
**Thank you** to Clare Norwood, who has volunteered to help create & mail Remembrance Cards in memory of her daughter, Jessica.

## **TCF GWINNETT NEW LEADER (S) NEEDED!**

As was announced in the summer newsletter, Chapter Leader Candace Jordan accepted a new job as Assistant Manager of the Marietta Metro Extended Stay, which requires her to live on site, starting June 9<sup>th</sup>. We were very sorry that Candace resigned as Chapter Leader of TCF Gwinnett. The steering committee has stepped in to help at the monthly meetings, **but it is essential that the leadership be turned over very soon to either a chapter leader or a team of two co-leaders.** According to the bylaws of the national organization, each chapter must have a leader who can offer organization, guidance and support to the steering committee and new members.

**This is not a demanding, full-time volunteer position! We need a leader or 2 co-leaders who currently are, or have been, TCF members and are willing to lead TCF Gwinnett to insure the continued growth & progress of this chapter. It is not required for the TCF leader (s) to attend every monthly meeting. Our chapter leader (s) need to offer guidance & direction to steering committee members and support to all TCF members.**

Without leadership, the chapter will not be able to offer the resources and support that newly bereaved parents need. We hope that as you are reading this, you will give serious consideration to giving back to TCF. Newly bereaved parents receive help from TCF and parents who have walked many seasons on this grief journey are a valuable inspiration & assistance to all parents. Please contact Meg Avery at 404-660-9826 or send an email to [tcfnewsletter@outlook.com](mailto:tcfnewsletter@outlook.com)





**THANK YOU!** Many parents give back to TCF through volunteer opportunities as a means of honoring their child. Without volunteers our group would not exist. We are grateful to these volunteers: **June Cooper**, Parent Phone Contact, in memory of her daughter, **Wendy McMMain** & in memory of her sister, **Noreen Keenan**; **Meg Avery**, Newsletter Editor in memory of her son **James Avery**; **Barbara Dwyer**, Chapter Treasurer in memory of her son **Matthew Dwyer**; **Terry Sparks**, provides newly bereaved packet info & as group facilitator, in memory of his daughter, **Natalie Sparks**; **Diane Wolcott**, Memorial Garden Committee Chair in memory of her son, **Jeffrey Wolcott**; **Gary Fox**, facilitator, in memory of his son, **G.W. Fox**; **Joy Crowe**, Steering Committee Member in memory of her son **Brenden Elbaz**; **Claudine Nickens**, Steering Committee Member & facilitator in memory of her son **David Whitley** and **Clare Norwood**, creating Remembrance Cards in memory of her daughter **Jessica**.

### TCF Email Account

We have experienced problems with our email account, [tcfgwinnett@yahoo.com](mailto:tcfgwinnett@yahoo.com) and have had to recreate our contacts. Hopefully you are still receiving news & announcements via email. News & announcements from the yahoo account will start up again once we have a new chapter leader. We also now have [tcfnewsletter@outlook.com](mailto:tcfnewsletter@outlook.com) expressly for the quarterly newsletter distribution. Please contact Meg Avery, Newsletter Editor, at that email, if you ever have any submissions for the newsletter. If any of your contact information has changed, please be sure to send an email to one of those accounts, or a handwritten note to Meg Avery at 4575 Forest Green Drive, Sugar Hill, GA 30518.

### Gifts of Love

A love gift is a financial donation to The Compassionate Friends Gwinnett Chapter. It is usually in honor of a child who has died, but it can also be from individuals who want to honor a relative or friend who has died, or simply a gift from someone who wants to help in the work of our chapter. Love gifts are acknowledged in each quarterly issue.

Stamps for Remembrance Cards donated by Marvin Choate in memory of his daughter, *Fara Nicole*

Anonymous cash donations during June, July & August received \$51.00 – thank you!

If you make a monetary donation to TCF Gwinnett, (which is tax-deductible) you may specify whether you would like your contribution to go toward the memorial garden account or general account. You may also choose to donate a book to our Lending Library, or cards to be used for our Remembrance Cards. If you would like to donate cards, please bring them to a meeting and labels will be added to the back of the card “card donated in memory of \_\_\_\_\_ (your child’s name).

### \$\$\$ Where does the money go? \$\$\$

Our chapter is self-supporting and donations fund our chapter activities. We pay \$300 annually to Trinity Christian Fellowship Church for the use of our meeting space and \$100 annually to TCF National Office for yearly dues. Funds from the general account pay for: remembrance cards, postage, labels, printing, postage & labels for our newsletter, picnic pavilion rental, supplies for monthly meetings and for information packets for newly bereaved parents. **We do not receive funds from The Compassionate Friends National Office** and we are always extremely appreciative for any contributions. Please be assured, however, that there are no financial dues to be a member of TCF or to receive this newsletter.

*Please fill out the information below, clip and mail with your tax deductible donation to:*

**Barbara Dwyer**  
**TCF Gwinnett Treasurer**  
**4905 Pond Ridge Lane,**  
**Cumming, GA 30041.**  
 (Please make checks payable to **TCF Gwinnett.**)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory  
 of: \_\_\_\_\_