



**THE
COMPASSIONATE
FRIENDS**

Linked Together

Newsletter of the Atlanta Chapter

Fall 2007

"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."

Atlanta Area Web Site

www.tcfatlanta.org

TCF Atlanta Newsletter

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The Atlanta Chapter of The Compassionate Friends meets the second Tuesday of each month from 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. at the:

First Christian Church of Atlanta
4532 LaVista Road, Tucker, GA 30084

Fall Chapter Meetings:

October 9
November 13
December 11

The Atlanta Chapter also offers a Sibling Group at the same time as our regular monthly meeting.

The Compassionate Friends, Inc. 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 go through the grieving process. 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.

To Our New Members

Coming to the first meeting is the hardest, but you have nothing to lose and everything to gain! Try not to judge your first meeting as to whether or not The Compassionate Friends will work for you. At the next meeting you may find just the right person or just the right words said that will help you in your grief work.

To Our Members Who are Further Down the 'Grief Road'

We need your encouragement and your support. Each meeting we have new parents. THINK BACK – what would it have been like for you at your first meeting if there had not been any TCF "veterans" to welcome you, share your grief, encourage you and tell you, "your pain will not always be this bad, it really does get better!"



Atlanta (Tucker) Chapter
27th Annual
Candlelight Remembrance Service
Saturday, December 1, 2007
Centerpieces and Poinsettias for Sale

Sponsor a Centerpiece or Poinsettia
"In Memory of Your Child/Sibling/Grandchild"

Please consider sponsoring a centerpiece or poinsettia for our December candlelight service. We will display a sign "In Memory of Your Child/Sibling/Grandchild" next to each sponsored centerpiece or poinsettia. We also will include a photo of your child, if a photo is provided. After the reception, you can take the centerpiece or poinsettia home with you as a special remembrance. If you cannot attend the candlelight service, your centerpiece/poinsettia will be donated to a newly-bereaved family to take home after the reception.

The cost of a centerpiece or poinsettia is \$30.

The net proceeds from this fundraiser will help support our annual candlelight remembrance service.

Your Name (Full Name as you would like it to read on the Memory Card)

Card will read: Sponsored "In Memory of _____"

I want to sponsor a: _____centerpiece _____poinsettia

Please check: _____ \$30 (centerpiece or poinsettia) \$_____ Additional contribution to go toward the candlelight service

If you want to include a picture of your child to be displayed with the centerpiece and Memory Card, please do. The picture will be returned after the service.

Please make your check payable to: "The Compassionate Friends" and mail, along with completed form, to:

The Compassionate Friends
c/o Jayne Newton
808 Brentway Court
Lilburn, GA 30047

The deadline for ordering centerpieces/poinsettias is November 15. If you are ordering more than one centerpiece/poinsettia, please complete a separate form for each Memory Card.

All centerpieces/poinsettias need to be picked up at the end of the reception. If you cannot attend the candlelight service, it will be donated to a newly-bereaved family to take home after the reception.

If you have questions, please call Cindy Durham at 770-938-6511 or e-mail cindy_durham@bellsouth.net

Candlelight Service Set for Dec. 1 at First Christian Church of Atlanta

The 27th Annual Candlelight Service honoring the memories of our children and siblings will be held on Saturday, Dec. 1, at 7 p.m. at the First Christian Church of Atlanta. The church is located at 4532 LaVista Road in Tucker.

Mary Wellman of our Atlanta Chapter, mother of Charlie Wellman, will be the Mistress of Ceremonies for the evening.

Guest speakers will include:

- Parent speaker – Mitch Carmody, a bereaved parent, artist, speaker and author. His 9-year-old son, Kelly, died of cancer in 1987.
- Sibling speaker – Scott Mastley, author of “Surviving a Sibling: Discovering Life After Loss.” His brother, Chris, died on Dec. 5, 1994, in an automobile accident.

Our guest speakers will be invited to have copies of their books for sale at the reception following the service, for anyone who would like to purchase a signed copy.

In addition to guest speakers and special music, a memorial candlelight ceremony will be held. Candles will be provided for all adults at the service. A reception and slideshow featuring our children/siblings will follow the service.

Everyone who attends the candlelight service is asked to bring a plate of appetizers, dessert or other reception-style food to share that evening.

Our Parent Speaker – Mitch Carmody



The date of our Candlelight Service, Dec. 1, will be the 20th anniversary of his son’s death.

After suffering many familial losses from a young age and ultimately with the death of his 9-year-old son of cancer in 1987, Carmody struggled with the grief journey and how grief is processed and perceived

in this country.

He published a book in 2002 called “Letters To My Son, a journey through grief.” The book has now reached the bereaved in every state and seven other countries.

From the book’s success, he now travels around the country lecturing on the grief process and/or conducting

workshops with The Compassionate Friends and Bereaved Parents USA. He is a sought-after speaker for many keynote presentations.

As a trained hospice volunteer, he also has helped many loved ones and their families through the dying process. He has published several articles in national bereavement periodicals, is a frequent contributor to TCF Atlanta Online and currently is a staff writer for Living with Loss magazine. Through e-mail correspondence on his Web site – www.heartlightstudios.net – he counsels the bereaved on a daily basis.

Carmody lives in rural Minnesota with his wife of 30 years and is a proud first-time grandfather to the daughter of their surviving daughter, Meagan.

He says, “In grief we stand on the edge of darkness, at times afraid to take that next step...Having faith is knowing that we shall find something firm to stand onto, or we will be taught how to fly...We live in one sphere of existence; our loved ones who have died in another. But with faith, the desire and undying love we can connect at the seam where our worlds meet. Dreams may die, but their spirit does not, nor does their memory...*We substantiate our loved one’s life, by the way we live ours.*”

Our Sibling Speaker – Scott Mastley

After losing his brother in a car accident, our sibling speaker found TCF and became a regular at the monthly sibling group meetings. He helped Jim Dirr run the sibling group and eventually was asked to be the Sibling Representative for metro Atlanta. This led to opportunities to raise awareness by appearing on Peachtree Mornings television show and Fox 5 News. He searched for resources focused on sibling grief, and after finding none, wrote “Surviving a Sibling,” a book for surviving siblings and those who love them.



Scott lives in Suwanee, Ga., with his wife, Doreen, and two daughters, Molly and Margo. He is a writer, speaker and consultant.

For more information about “Surviving a Sibling: Discovering Life After Loss,” go to: <http://www.survivingasibling.com/>

Reception and Memorial Video

After the service, we will have refreshments and a

memorial video presentation of our children and siblings in the Fellowship Hall.

We need your help to ensure your child or sibling is included. Please send your child's picture as soon as possible to Dan Bryl. Even if you are unsure you are attending the service, please send your child's picture, so we will have it for future candlelight services. (The deadline to submit your child's picture is Nov. 17.)

Photo Tips:

The photo displayed on the slide will only be as good as the photo you send. If the photo is a quality color copy or a quality reproduction, there should be no problem.

Please include with the photo:

- Your child's name (how you want the name written under the picture on the slide). *Please print carefully.*
- Birthday and Angel date
- Your name and phone number

If you sent a picture in previous years, you do not have to send another. Photos should be scanned and sent to Dan by email at jessicalyn@adelphia.net. Or, mail your photo to:

Dan Bryl
 112 Union Cemetery Rd., # 411
 Hilton Head Island, SC 29926
 Your photo will be returned to you unharmed.

Reception and Centerpieces

We also want to ask everyone who attends the candlelight service to bring a finger food to share at the reception after the service. We look forward to seeing everyone and sharing this special evening with you and your child.

Chapter members also have the option of sponsoring a centerpiece or poinsettia to be used in the decorating for the candlelight service.

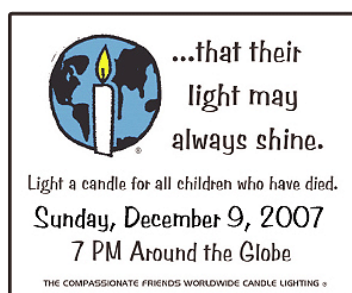
If you would like to order a centerpiece/poinsettia to be displayed at the candlelight service in memory of your child, sibling or grandchild, please return the order form included with this newsletter by Nov. 15.

October Birthdays

Child's Name	Birthday	Angel Date	Relationship	Family
Azariah Suvari Anderson	10/2/2005	11/17/2005	daughter	Michelle Stewart Anderson
Richard Alan Cartin	10/2/1963	1/16/2005	son	Nancy Murphy
Kaxon Harris	10/3/2001	6/10/2003	son	Karen Harris
Stephen Ledford	10/4/1975	2/8/1997	son	Luella and Mike Ledford
John Thomas Arnold	10/6/1988	1/22/2006	son	Donna Arnold
Connor Brown	10/6/1997	5/4/2003	grandson	Kaye Hyde
Lane Veteto	10/7/1982	6/11/2001	son	Margaret Bear
Jamaal Addison	10/7/1980	3/23/2003	son	Patricia Roberts
Meleia Warren Willis-Starbuck	10/10/1985	7/7/2005	daughter	John and Kimberly Starbuck
Evan Walker	10/12/2002	6/22/2004	son	Kim and Eric Walker
Mark Curtis Smith	10/13/1967	5/1/1989	son	Jane Smith
Philip E. Walsh	10/15/1980	4/21/2001	son	Ruth Simmons
Candi Gaye Marshall	10/16/1965	3/16/1984	daughter	Gena and John Ivester
Scott Wiseman	10/19/1977	2/3/2002	son	Lynn Wiseman
Sallie Scanlon	10/20/1961	5/31/1993	daughter	Jane R. Scanlon
Dilia Plummer	10/25/1996	12/22/2005	daughter	Dijon Plummer
Jacob Miller	10/26/1985	3/7/2003	son	Sandra and Richard Miller
Michelle Reeves	10/28/1983	9/26/2004	daughter	Jim and BJ Reeves
Marcellus Montez Richardson	10/29/1973	9/26/2004	son	Paulette Perry
Amelia Sutterthwaite Ward	10/29/2005	1/29/2006	daughter	Lisa and Greg Ward
Ronnie Keith Batchelor	10/30/1977	8/14/1994	son	Ron and Judy Batchelor

November and December Birthdays

Child's Name	Birthday	Angel Date	Relationship	Family
Tyreek Seivwright	11/1/1982	5/12/2000	son	Donna Attride
Latoya Peart	11/1/1978	1/1/2005	daughter	Alvin Dorman, Patsy & Morrinette
Al Bath Wilson	11/2/1978	5/8/2002	son	Susan Wilson
Jameka Deshon Holmes	11/4/1980	4/14/2004	daughter	Charlotte Hamm
Autumn DuBose	11/5/1972	7/19/1990	daughter	John and Faye DuBose
Mark Cozine	11/6/1961	9/14/2002	son	Anne Franzen
Daniel Smith	11/6/1981	8/26/1991	son	Judith Smith
Matthew Duke Davis	11/7/1985	11/2/2005	son	Lena L. Price
Jennifer Marie Dailey	11/9/1982	3/12/1997	daughter	Joanne and Bob Dailey
George E. Williams III	11/11/1971	7/2/2002	son	Deborah Denise Williams
Carlos Ramone Weaver	11/12/1984	10/27/2003	son	Carlos Weaver
Amanda Christine Warnock	11/13/1987	5/6/2001	daughter	Amy Osier
Keith Perry	11/14/1966	6/11/2004	son	Oveta Perry
Carter Martin	11/20/1996	9/12/2004	son	Scott and Leigh Ann Martin
Kameron Rutherford	11/21/2003	5/11/2004	son	Judy and Khristopher Rutherford
Frankie Ortiz	11/26/1995	12/13/2000	son	Cyndi Ortiz
Juanito Vasquez	11/28/1986	4/17/2005	son	Luly Alborno
Robert A. Lind, Jr.	11/29/1961	6/10/1979	son	Bette and Bob Lind
Brandon Burke	12/2/1985	5/10/2003	son	Charlene and Johnny Burke
Brandon Burke	12/2/1985	5/10/2003	grandson	Shirley A. Kendrick
James Anthony Durham	12/3/1986	7/22/2004	son	Cynthia W. Durham
James Anthony Durham	12/3/1986	7/22/2004	brother	Katie Durham
Joshua Polain	12/3/2002	6/1/2003	son	Kimberly Polain
David James Teddlie	12/5/1979	3/22/1999	son	Anne and Don Teddlie
Averil Brown	12/7/1980	6/15/2004	son	Carolyn Brown
Clarissa Cuningham	12/8/1976	8/20/2002	daughter	Winston and Judy Cunningham
Lauren Zauche	12/10/1982	1/10/2001	daughter	David and Claudette Zauche
Amanda Kay Rose	12/17/1981	8/15/2004	daughter	Barbara and Jim Sinke Rose
Meseret Gebru	12/18/1980	11/23/2002	son	Kila Gebru
Victor Alfonso Cruz	12/19/1984	9/16/2005	son	Ana Maria Godinez
Chamica Hardaway	12/21/1972	3/3/2000	daughter	Albert and Florence Daniels
Steve Inman Jr.	12/22/1984	12/26/2003	son	Steve and Linda Inman
Tim Allmon	12/23/1973	12/8/2000	son	Ann and Jackie Allmon
Dianne Martha Shlevin	12/27/1978	3/26/1979	daughter	Barbara Shlevin
J'Muar Taylor	12/30/1982	8/4/2003	son	Cheryl A. Taylor
Christopher Hobbs	12/31/1981	12/27/2002	son	Joseph and Gwendolyn Hobbs
Christopher Hobbs	12/31/1981	12/27/2002	brother	James Ryan Hobbs



Worldwide Candle Lighting

In addition to our chapter's Candlelight Service on Dec. 1, the National TCF office will sponsor a Worldwide Candle Lighting on Sunday, Dec. 9. Everyone is invited to submit a message that day to be posted to TCF's online Remembrance Book at www.compassionatefriends.org. Last year, more than 2,100 messages were received, representing every state, Washington D.C. and Puerto Rico, as well as two dozen countries around the globe. Messages can only be placed in the Remembrance Book on Dec. 9.

October, November and December Angel Dates

Child's Name	Angel Date	Birthday	Relationship	Family
James A. Bunch Jr.	10/3/2006	3/21/1960	son	Margie Shippey
David Brown	10/7/2000	5/13/1970	son	Keith and Ann Brown
Donald R. Hudson, Jr.	10/12/2005	9/5/1974	son	Carol Hudson
Vernon Philipe Battle	10/18/2006	7/17/1984	son	Barbara Knox
Vernon Philipe Battle	10/18/2006	7/17/1984	brother	Glorqua Tarantine
Bo Tuggle	10/22/1992	4/12/1975	son	Connie and Johnny Tuggle
Derric Burgess	10/25/1999	7/21/1984	son	Angel and Robert Burgess
Carlos Ramone Weaver	10/27/2003	11/12/1984	son	Carlos Weaver
Kathleen Dirr	10/28/1984	2/24/1965	daughter	Jim Dirr
David Ferguson	10/30/2004	4/20/1985	son	Christina and David Ferguson
Marc William Waidner	10/30/1988	5/19/1970	son	Mary Alice Wood
Matthew Duke Davis	11/2/2005	11/7/1985	son	Lena L. Price
Brayden Eanes	11/3/2006	9/28/2006	grandson	Al and Jan Pittman
Amber Gilstrap	11/7/2003	7/3/1979	daughter	Kathleen Cornog
Leanna Piver	11/7/1998	1/16/1978	daughter	David and Janet Piver
Timothy E. Dixon	11/9/1999	1/7/1980	son	Georgia Ware-Dixon
Michael Hill	11/10/1996	9/10/1972	son	Linda Hill
Serenity Emani Watson	11/10/2006	7/31/2005	daughter	Keri Watson
Azariah Suvari Anderson	11/17/2005	10/2/2005	daughter	Michelle Stewart Anderson
Meseret Gebru	11/23/2002	12/18/1980	son	Kila Gebru
Christopher Robinson	12/4/2002	9/15/1984	son	Freddie Green
Mashanda Taylor	12/7/2002	8/13/1984	daughter	Michelle Taylor-Scott
Tim Allmon	12/8/2000	12/23/1973	son	Ann and Jackie Allmon
Frankie Ortiz	12/13/2000	11/26/1995	son	Cyndi Ortiz
Carlo R. Williams	12/21/2003	2/11/1979	son	Deborah Denise Williams
Dijon Plummer, Jr.	12/22/2005	2/24/1998	son	Dijon Plummer
Dilia Plummer	12/22/2005	10/25/1996	daughter	Dijon Plummer
Jamie Dalziel	12/24/2003	3/25/1985	son	Martin and Donna Dalziel
Steve Inman Jr.	12/26/2003	12/22/1984	son	Steve and Linda Inman
Jennifer Hower	12/27/2004	6/23/1975	sister	Julie Fischer
Christopher Hobbs	12/27/2002	12/31/1981	son	Joseph and Gwendolyn Hobbs
Christopher Hobbs	12/27/2002	12/31/1981	brother	James Ryan Hobbs

7th Annual Memory Tree



The 7th Annual Memory Tree – "In Memory of our Children and Siblings" – for the 31st Annual Festival of Trees is underway. The tree will be displayed at the Atlanta History Center Dec. 1-19.

Proceeds from this year's Festival of Trees will benefit the Aflac Cancer Center and Blood Disorders Service of Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.

The theme for the Memory Tree is "*Star Lit Night*." The tree will be decorated in blues, purples, silver and white. Our children and sibling's names will be inscribed in a book next to the tree. A sign displayed next to the tree will read: *Star Lit Night*, The Compassionate Friends, "In Memory of Our Children and Siblings." See next page for a form to include your child's name in the book.

The Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Festival of Trees



The Compassionate Friends of Atlanta 7th Annual Memory Tree

Our 7th Annual Memory Tree "In Memory of our Children and Siblings" for the 31st Annual Festival of Trees is underway. Our tree will be displayed at the Atlanta History Center in Atlanta, Georgia from December 1-19, 2007.

Proceeds from this year's holiday event, Festival of Trees, will benefit the Aflac Cancer Center and Blood Disorders Service of Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.

The theme for the Memory Tree is "*Star Lit Night*". The tree will be decorated in blues, purples, silver and white. Our children and sibling's names will be inscribed in a book next to the tree.

A sign will be displayed by our tree :

Star Lit Night
The Compassionate Friends
"In Memory of Our Children and Siblings"

If you wish to participate in the 2007 Memory Tree Project and include your child/sibling/grandchild with the Memory Tree, please complete the following information: **(Deadline Nov. 17th)**

Name(s): _____ Relationship to Child: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone # _____ E-mail _____

Child's Full Name (Both "First" Name and "Last" Name) _____

Child's Date of Birth: _____ Child's Date of Death: _____

Mail Form and check payable to "The Compassionate Friends" to:

The Compassionate Friends,
c/o Jayne Newton
808 Brentway Court
Lilburn, GA 30047

**If you have questions, please feel
free to call, Jayne Newton (H) 770-
923-5356 (C) 678-520-2442**

Thank you for your support!

(Donations are not required to participate)

Donation Amount \$ _____



Save the Date for Next Year's TCF Conference in Nashville!

Now is the time to mark July 18-20, 2008, on your calendar so you can attend the 31st national conference of The Compassionate Friends in Nashville, Tenn.

With Nashville just a four-hour drive from Atlanta, it would be wonderful to have a large contingent of Atlanta Chapter members attend together.

Having selected the theme *Volunteers for Healing...Friends for the Future*, the conference committee is hard at work to bring you the best healing experience possible, including special guest speakers, more than 100 workshops covering most aspects of grief following the death of a child, and many additional activities including the ninth annual two-mile Walk to Remember at 8 a.m. Sunday, July 20.

To allow everyone to be a part of this year's conference experience, the conference committee plans to decorate the conference area with real 7" vinyl records that have pictures of our children in the center. The "sponsor a record" program is similar to programs available for previous conferences. For a nominal charge (which helps to defray the cost of the conference), pictures sent in of TCF children, will decorate the registration area, reflection and hospitality rooms. Templates and directions are available for download from The Compassionate Friends Web site at www.compassionatefriends.org. Whether or not you are able to attend the conference, a child, sibling, grandchild, or loved one can still be remembered.

Those who attend the conference and have a record made with their child's picture will be able to carry them home. After the conference concludes, those unable to attend who would like their child's record can have it mailed to them for a slight additional charge.

The conference will be held at the Sheraton Music City Hotel and special room rates will be available for guests

attending the conference. Watch TCF's national Web site at www.compassionatefriends.org for the latest information. More than 1,200 people are expected to attend.

Dear Atlanta Chapter TCF:

For over 10 years, our Atlanta Area Web site has been active in Atlanta...the metro area...and around the world offering understanding and hope to families following the death of a child. The Web site began in April 1997. The TCF Atlanta Web site reaches thousands of bereaved parents daily. It also serves as an outreach resource for all the Atlanta Area along with chapters throughout the U.S. and world. We have 2,000 subscribers to our online sharing: www.tcfatlanta.org.

If you would like to support our chapter activities and Web site, please make donations payable to "The Compassionate Friends" and mail check and completed dataform to Jayne Newton, 808 Brentway Court, Lilburn, GA 30047.

Wayne and Jayne Newton
Webmasters for the Atlanta Area Web site

Grief Work is Hard Work

When I first began my journey of grief following the death of my only child, Todd, I didn't comprehend that I would have to take an active role in what would come to be defined as "grief work." All I knew was the pain, the shock, the sorrow, the desire to go to sleep and never awaken. My child was dead, and I had no desire to live.

As the months and then the years passed, I began to realize that I was, albeit unconsciously, doing grief work. Once I realized I could not walk this road alone, I became involved in our Compassionate Friends Chapter. That was the beginning of my "grief work." A few months later, I enrolled in a six week program for bereaved mothers. More grief work. I have since attended seminars, retreats and workshops. From each effort I gained something new, something insightful, something that eased my burden just a bit, something that helped me to cope with this, the worst, of all losses.

I consumed books. Some were about grief; others were about life. I watched movies, some about grief and some about life. I talked with friends.....sometimes about grief and sometimes about life.

Along the way I found that if I reached out to others, I was, once again, doing grief work. You see, I discovered that grief work is healing work. It doesn't dry my tears, nor does it mend my broken heart. Instead, it allows me to accept that I am in this place and living in this moment. That doesn't sound like much.....unless one has lost a child

to death. Lost a child to death. What a horrifying thought. Yet now I can say it to others, talk with others who are raw and new in their grief and know that I have come to accept that my son is gone from this plane. My grief work will continue until I die.

When we attend workshops, seminars, special presentations, Compassionate Friends meetings and privately contemplate the depth of our loss and changes in our lives, we are doing grief work. Each of us travels this road differently, but we owe it to ourselves to do our grief work. Not easy work, not fun work, not immediately rewarding work, but this is work, just the same.

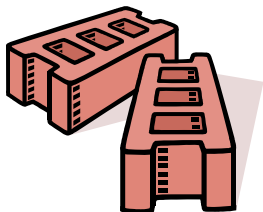
Annette Mennen Baldwin
In memory of my son, Todd Mennen
TCF, Katy, TX

News Briefs.....

If your employer gave you special support following the death of your child, sibling, or grandchild, and you would like this to be honored, you are invited to nominate your company for the 2008 "Compassionate Employer Recognition" award.

This program was established by The Compassionate Friends in 2000 to recognize companies, both small and large, in the public and private sector that have gone above and beyond the norm in supporting employees – parents, siblings, or grandparents – who suffered the tragic death of a child.

Nomination criteria and forms for the CER program are available by visiting the national TCF Web site at www.compassionatefriends.org and clicking on "Compassionate Employer Recognition" on the home page. Nominations must be submitted online or postmarked by midnight EST Nov. 30. You can also call the national office toll-free at (877) 969-0010 for a nomination form.



The Rome Chapter of TCF is building a Children's Memorial Wall and is selling bricks for \$25 per brick per child to go in the wall. The wall will be 7 feet high and approximately 40 feet long, with a center sculpture of children chasing butterflies,

dragon flies, a boxer dog running with the children, an adult holding an infant.

This wall is in the process of being built at State Mutual Stadium, a minor league baseball team stadium. The dedication is tentatively set for Nov. 3.

If anyone would like to purchase a brick, they may e-mail Sandra Stinson of the Rome Chapter at donley41@aol.com or remembermychild@aol.com.

The Scream

The smile you see is not all of me,
For I'm not what I seem.
I laugh and smile but all the while,
My smile holds in a scream.
For when I see a little girl,
So innocent and free,
I think about my little girl,
Who died at seventeen.
And then the scream comes welling up,
From in my soul so black,
And so my smile must block it in,
And laughter hold it back.
I saw her born and watched her grow,
from child to blooming lass,
But through the years I couldn't know,
I'd have to see her pass.
The suffering within my heart,
I hide from all the world.
I do my job, I play the part,
And miss my little girl.
A song about a father's love,
So sweet with tenderness,
Awakes in me the horror of,
My loss and loneliness.
So, if they say "He takes it well,
He'll be OK we all can tell.
How well his life continues on,
It's almost if she wasn't gone."
Remember that I'm not so sane,
Playacting, keeping up the game,
My nightmare life trapped in a dream,
You see, my smile holds in a scream.

Steve Tutt ~ TCF, Tyler, Texas
Remembering our daughter, Lisa
1987-2004

"You are So Strong"

Empty words
That don't touch the reality
That my life has become.
Walking through fog
Incredible pain
Searching for the beloved face
I crave to see
The voice that I strain to hear over the noises
Of people who have no idea
Of what the world has lost

Charisse Smith, TCF ~ Tyler, TX

Special Birthday Table

Our chapter has a monthly Birthday Table. This is a special table set up for those who have a child, grandchild or sibling's birthday in that month. Please bring a photo/memento and share a special memory of your child.

You are also welcome to bring your child's favorite food or birthday cake to share with the group. We hope you will take this opportunity to share your child with us.

For more information, please call Tamie Dodge at 770-982-2251 or Dodgecat2001@yahoo.com

Gifts of Love

A love gift is a gift of money to The Compassionate Friends of Atlanta. 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, a gift of thanksgiving that their own children are alive and well, or simply a gift from someone who wants to help in the work of our chapters. The following donations are in support of the Atlanta Chapter newsletter, candlelight service, Web site and other outreach.

All chapters within TCF are totally dependent on funds from our families. We DO NOT receive funds from our National Office. Everything we need to operate our local chapters are paid directly from our local resources and our local family contributions. Thank you to all who contribute and support your local chapters. Some people contribute in memory of other's children.....this is a wonderful way for others to say "I am remembering your child." Other "Gifts of Love" are evident by all the compassionate and giving volunteers we have within our TCF Atlanta organization.



Love gifts to the Atlanta Chapter of TCF should be made payable to The Compassionate Friends and mailed to our treasurer: Jayne Newton, 808 Brentway Court, Lilburn, GA 30047.

In Loving Memory of Thomas Michael Runfola, from his mother Pat Runfola, Atlanta, GA

In Loving Memory of Michael Btembke, from his father Ghakarhi Btembke, Norcross, GA

In Loving Memory of Chris Simpson, from his grandmother, Elizabeth Luke, Auburn, GA

In Loving Memory of Todd Kirk Stien, from his mother Lorann M. Stien, Eau Claire, WI

In Loving Memory of April Leshay Nesmith, from her mother Carla Adamar, Bonaire, GA

In Loving Memory of Brayden Michael Eanes, from his grandparents, Jan and Al Pittman, Atlanta, GA

In Loving Memory of Meleia Warren Willis-Starbuck, from her parents John and Kimberly Starbuck, Stone Mountain, GA



NEW SUBSCRIPTION - RENEWAL - CHANGE FORM - DONATIONS

If you are receiving our newsletter for the first time...everyone within The Compassionate Friends Organization wants to say We are sorry you have the need for this publication but we are glad you found us and we hope our newsletter will be helpful on your journey. Someone may have lovingly sent you the newsletter...and if so and you find it helpful, please complete the data sheet enclosed and return it so that we may add you to our newsletter database for future mailings. This is to insure that all the information we have is correct and complete. *This is for internal use only.*

Please print, filling in all applicable blanks/boxes:

Your Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Phone (including area code) _____ Email: _____

Do you prefer to receive the newsletter by (check one): _____ Mail _____ Email (provide email address above)

Child's Full Name: _____ Male _____ Female _____

Child's Birth Date: _____ Child's Death Date: _____

Cause of Child's Death (optional): _____

Child's relationship to you (e.g. son, daughter, brother, sister, grandchild) _____

Names and ages of all surviving siblings living with you:

- How did you find out about The Compassionate Friends? Please circle one: (1) Friends (2) Family (3) Hospital (4) Church (5) School (6) Funeral Homes (7) Internet (8) Newspaper (9) Employers (Human Resources) (10) Other _____

Note: **The information you have given above will be confidential (used for internal purposes only) unless you answer "yes" to one or more of the following questions:**

1. Do you want your child's name to appear in the newsletter's "**We Remember You**" section of birth and death dates? Yes___ No___
2. Do you want to receive the daily e-newsletter from TCF Atlanta? If so, please include your email _____
2. Do you wish to have your child's name included on the Wall of Memory on our TCF Atlanta Web Site? Yes___ No ___
3. May we include the above information in the TCF Atlanta Chapter directory? Yes _____ No _____

Voluntary donations are TCF Atlanta's only source of income. The Compassionate Friends needs to be here for the families who do not know today that they will need us tomorrow.

Yes, I want to help with TCF outreach...a donation is enclosed in Memory of _____

- I would like to apply my donation toward the following outreach: (1) _____ newsletter (2) _____ birthday/angel date cards
(3) _____ newly-bereaved packets (4) _____ annual candlelight remembrance service (5) _____ TCF Atlanta Web site
(6) _____ library (7) _____ general expenses

Make Checks Payable to: The Compassionate Friends
Please return to: The Compassionate Friends, c/o Jayne Newton (treasurer), 808 Brentway Court, Lilburn, GA 30047
Or Make Donations Online by Pay Pal <http://www.tcfatlanta.org/donationdataform.html>



®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 that 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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The Compassionate Friends Atlanta Chapter
1364 Sanden Ferry Drive
Decatur, GA 30033

Honoring 27 Years of Support and Friendship for
Bereaved Families

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