



**THE
COMPASSIONATE
FRIENDS**

Linked Together

Newsletter of the Atlanta Area Chapters

May – June 2002

"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."

VoiceLink Atlanta Area

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Memories

When you need to....
Reach deep inside and take one of your
precious memories.
Wipe away the cobwebs, lay it out in
front of you
And let the sunshine
and the sounds engulf you.

Revel in the experience of it...
Re-live each precious moment,
be overwhelmed by them
And taste the wonderful sweet tears
that are their gift.

When your needs have been almost satisfied
Pause for one more second
Then gently fold it back up, give it a big
hug and a tender kiss
And return the treasure
to where you found it.

Then to make the experience complete,
Find someone special and share the
feelings with them...
For surely something as wonderful as this
is meant to be shared.

Don't be afraid of using them - that's
what memories are for
You will never lose them....
for as certain as the sun
will rise tomorrow,
Love once attained is never lost.

~by Steve Channing

Here Comes The Dawn

Another Mother's Day without me,
I know that you were sad,
Having lost your baby boy,
how can anyone be glad?

Then comes my birthday,
just a short time after,
A day that our family had,
to celebrate with laughter!

These days are remembered fondly,
by three women in my life,
You my darling mother, a dear sister,
and a forever loving wife!

Thank God I can be many places,
all through a busy day,
For I try to visit all of you,
in a very special way!

My thoughts are with you always,
although it's just not the same,
To think of how I'd like to be there,
when you call my name.

Following the Atlanta Braves is easier,
with truly the best view,
But nothing compares to the times,
I sat watching them with you.

I miss that furry friend of mine
and all the fun we had,
I try to make him happy,
but sometimes he looks so sad.

Another night has passed
and here comes the dawn I see,
A day filled with good wishes and with love sent
by me.

Created In Memory of Chad Gordon
May 21, 1972 - Sept 3, 1996
Son of Wayne and Jayne Newton
Brother of Lisa Gordon
-written by Dan Bryl, Atlanta TCF

Be prepared, be patient, and enjoy the
moment.

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Memorial Day Then and Now

Isn't it strange that in all the decades of my life, that I didn't really think much about Memorial Day until my sweet Nina died? That first Memorial Day was about 2 1/2 weeks

after her death. She is buried in a very old cemetery with much history. I drove into that cemetery that Memorial Day and saw all the flags (about 170 of them I think) at each veteran's grave and I paused for the first time in at least three decades and really thought about the meaning of that day.

Last year, while at the TCF National Conference in Chicago, I spoke with one of the bereaved couples that also were attending the conference. The man was telling me about his duty in World War II, and how he survived for days in the ocean after their ship had been bombed, watched as many of his shipmates died, yet somehow he survived. I thought about how that must feel to have survived against all odds, but then decades later lose your own precious child. Who can understand? A lovely lady I met while in Chicago, Jackie, walked in our on conversation. With tears in her eyes, she said to this man, "Thank you so much for our freedom." That really struck me. How I, and I am sure many others, have just taken the freedom we enjoy every day for granted.

I watched "Saving Private Ryan" and that first half hour depicted the horror of the invasion of Normandy during WWII and all the lives lost. In that movie, a mother has been told that all three of her son's have perished in the War. I wonder if I hadn't lost a child if I would have felt the same gut-wrenching pain and sorrow as I did when watching that fictitious mother sink to her knees when told of her son's deaths. It affected me for days afterward.

Classmates of mine were killed in the Vietnam War. I remember being very sad about it, but I don't remember I thought much about it beyond that, about what they had sacrificed their lives for. It was all so far away from home...But now when Memorial Day comes along each year, I remember the mothers and fathers of the soldiers who died for our country, and my heart aches for them. I would like to say to anyone who might be reading this today, who served our country in 'Vietnam, Korea, Desert Storm, World War II, or anywhere else in this troubled world, just as Jackie did last summer, "Thank you so much for our freedom."

God bless every one of you.
Cathy Seehuetter, Nina's mom forever
St. Paul, MN

Mother's Day, Before and After



While sorting through boxes and bags, it is not unusual for me to find something unexpected. It happened just the other day. Sifting through a box, I came across a wrinkled, somewhat yellowed piece of lined school paper. I carefully unfolded it only to find a drawing of a stick-Mom and stick-daughter standing alongside a mammoth daisy. The mom and little girl were holding hands with huge lop-sided grins on their faces. In her little girl just-learning-to-print handwriting were the words, "Happy Mother's Day, Mommy. I love you, Kristina."

Even six years later, little "gifts" such as these can bring fresh tears. It is times like these that I am glad that I was an incredible pack rat, especially when it came to saving things that my children have made. I can picture my then-blond, petite little Nina (her nickname), with the wispy hair, bent over the kitchen table, crayon in hand, creating that hand-made card filled with love. Memories of breakfasts in bed, only to return to the kitchen after finishing the "gourmet" meal served with tender care, to find it in such disarray that it took hours to clean up! Even through the tears, these are the sweetest memories.

As I type this, I look at another gift from a Mother's Day past; a little statue of a harried mom, surrounded by mop, broom and bucket, that says, "World's Greatest Mom", chosen for me at a neighborhood garage sale. I came across it accidentally shortly after Nina's death, unearthing it from its hiding place. I wondered to myself, why had I packed it away. Did Nina know that I did and did she think that, by doing so, I hadn't appreciated her gift? Did I ever thank her for it along with the other garage sale items that she proudly brought home to me, or did it show on my face that I really didn't need anymore "junk" around the house? Sometimes resurrecting these treasures can bring unpleasant feelings of guilt as we wonder if our children knew how much their little gestures of love meant to us. When our child dies, it becomes easy to second-guess ourselves, trapped in our fixations and exaggerations of the negative things that may have occurred during our child's life.

The first Mother's Days after Nina died was so grief-numbing I could not imagine ever celebrating another Mother's Day again. I am sure the dads have these same feelings on Father's Day. My heart goes out to

them, because I think we forget that they, just like us, grieve and hurt, too.

For those mothers and fathers who have lost their only child, I have been saddened by stories they told me about attending church on Mother's Day Sunday. When the pastor asked the mothers in the church to please stand, they were undecided on whether they should stand or not. I hope that they will always remember, and the fathers as well, "Once a mother, always a mother; once a father, always a father." We are forever their parents.

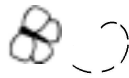
If we are fortunate to have surviving children, they are often forgotten as well. In the early days, we become obsessed with the one who is missing. My own children showed quiet patience with this. I often wonder if they thought "What about us? We're still here!" Now with almost seven Mother's Days behind me, I try to accentuate what I do have. This does not happen overnight. I found that in celebrating my surviving children, I could still honor Nina's memory and find ways to include her as well. I have developed a ritual where I get up early on that morning and bring flowers out to the cemetery. I bring a flower and a note to some of the mothers that I know who have buried children there to tell them I am thinking of them and their child. There is something very healing when reaching out to others.

I then sit by my daughter's grave-site on the spring-green grass listening to the sweet call of a robin. I bring her a flower and write in her journal telling her how thankful I am to be her mother, how much I love and miss her. That is our private time together; the rest of the day is spent honoring my other children.

Mother's Day and Father's Day are holidays especially created for us. Try to get through them the best that you can, in whatever way feels right for you. Truly, only you know what that is. Whether it is alone those first few years or with people that you love and who understand, do something that you find comforting. It is your day, for you were the giver of a precious life - you held a miracle in your arms. Even as powerfully destructive as death is, even that cannot take those memories away from you - they are your child's gift to you.

With gentle thoughts and peace on your special day,
Cathy L. Seehuetter, TCF/St. Paul, MN

MY JOURNEY WITH COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS



~Freddie Saye, Jonesboro TCF

October 9, 1982, was a Saturday afternoon like any other Saturday afternoon. But around 5:30 that afternoon as we were preparing to return home from our trip to Gainesville, GA our normal world was turned upside down. We received a call from our associate pastor that our son who had stayed home that weekend to work had been involved in an automobile accident. He didn't know how bad Kevin was injured. After a few frantic phone calls to the hospital we decided to head home. When we got to the Suwanee exit, I stopped and called the hospital again. They put our associate pastor Hinton Harris on and without telling me, we knew Kevin had died. What a long and heart breaking drive it was to get to the hospital knowing our only son was dead. What do we do? How do we continue to function and live?

My wife Charlotte and I and our twin daughters, Joy and Jamie, were beginning the journey no one ever wants to begin. What words could I say that would ease the pain we were going through? I certainly didn't find them that night or ever.

We made it through the funeral and as the days turned into months, we begin to wonder if this pain would ever get better. We begin to receive the Compassionate Friend's newsletter and found that there were many more out there who were hurting and looking for answers just as we were. Sadly it took us nearly 15 months before we got up the courage to attend a Compassionate Friends meeting. We attended a meeting of the old South Atlanta chapter that met on Old National Highway. The one thing we learned that first night was that we weren't really crazy after all, because we certainly thought we were with all the strange feelings and emotions we were having. We soon found the help that we needed as we heard other grieving parents talk about the depth of their hurt and what they were doing to ease their pain. But after about a year the lady who was the leader of the chapter finally gave it up because no one else would help and the chapter closed. Once again we were left on our own to fight this battle with sadness and pain, trying to survive our loss of Kevin for nearly three years. We struggled alone, looking with great expectation for the newsletter to come each month. About three years later we were in a new church and I was in charge of leading our church into a lay renewal weekend. As I was setting up the different rooms for our groups to meet in I went into our chapel building and at once knew that this was a

great location for a chapter of Compassionate Friends to meet in. I fully believe that God had laid a great ministry on my heart.

As soon as our lay renewal weekend was over I contacted Mary Cleckley who headed up the Atlanta Chapter and wrote the newsletter. Even though she didn't give me great encouragement about restarting the chapter she did give me advise on what I needed to do to start and run it and even came down and spoke to our group.

Our first meeting was small. Wayne and Libby Gentry came down to give us support and we probably had a total of 5 people there. But it was a start and soon we were having 8-10 at each meeting. I don't think we ever had less than 5 at any meeting and have had 25 plus several times and as many as 60 at our Christmas candle light service. We now average close to 20 each month, so we know we are reaching out and helping many families.

As I look back, I still see the sad faces and broken hearts of parents who have attended our chapter. We had parents come who lost their child only weeks before and others who came after many years of trying to cope on their own. Through the years I've been fortunate to see parents that we have helped who were able to stop coming. But I am so thankful for those who we helped who stayed around to help with our chapter as we ministered to other grieving parents.

I still have great memories of Nancy and Paul Jordon, two of our charter members, who came after losing their son Steve. Nancy was willing to share so many things she did after Steve's death, like leaving her car at Walmart and walking home, putting the iron in the refrigerator, starting to go some were and ending up in Columbus, GA and not knowing how she got there. We nick named her the crazy lady, but the truth was we had all done the similar things and it made us feel better about ourselves as we realized others were doing those things too. Thanks Nancy for helping us to be able to laugh again and laugh at our selves.

I think the many things that have meant the most to Charlotte and I being in this chapter for the past 15 years are the following: The love that we have felt from others. The knowledge that no one there judged us, but that they accepted us where we were in our journey. That they were there to pick us up when we were down. That they really did understand the depth of hurt that we were going through. That when we said our heart was breaking they understood. When we cried they cried with us. When we needed someone to talk to they were

there to listen. Has it not been easy, by no means, but has it been rewarding you bet it has. We made friends and met people who have had a positive impact on our life, people who have helped us deal with our loss of Kevin, people who have given us hope that things can and will get better. That help is as near as the phone.

What have I learned.....

- That men and women grieve differently.
- That I'm not really crazy after all.
- That I'm as normal as normal can be for a parent who has lost a child.
- That's its ok for a man to cry.
- That I won't get over this in weeks or months. That even though it took years before I really felt like I was getting better, I did get better.
- That there are people who really understand what I'm feeling.
- That I don't have all the answers and don't have to.
- That as we share we find that we are able to help one another.
- That it's ok to go to the cemetery everyday or not at all.
- That just because it helped me doesn't mean it will help you.
- That it's ok to be mad.
- That it is ok to laugh again.
- To be more tolerant of others.
- To be more sensitive of others.

After 15 years of leading the South Atlanta chapter, of watching it grow and then five years ago to see it become chartered, I have made a difficult decision to step down. I know that Diana Green will do a super job as the new leader and that those in our chapter will join in helping her take it to a new level of helping other grieving parents as they come into our chapter.

I would like to thank all the parents who have ever come to our chapter and especially to those who stayed around through the years to help me. Thanks to Paul and Nancy, Geraldine, Carl and Lauren, Robin, Carol, Bill and Diana, Beckie, Dray and Judy, Robin, Lynda and Tom, John and Susan, David and Julie, Joy and Jerry, Bucky and Cheryl, Valarie, Mary Jane, Dick and Rosemary and to many I know I forgot to mention.

I'd like to give a big thank you to all Compassionate Friends everywhere for being there when we were at our lowest and darkest moment and showing us that there would be sunshine again in our lives. Thanks!!!



OTHER SIDE OF TOMORROW

Since the astonishment of your leaving,
I've spent so many days and hours
dodging reality while looking back and hoping
to catch a sudden glimpse of your face
shining in a forgotten corner of memory's maze.

I've wept early and late over photographs,
yellowing mementos packed away in boxes
and so many remembered points of happiness.
I've even sat and held your clothing close,
trying to recapture your living scent.

With a glimmer of wisdom born of distance,
I recognize the futility of the mystical expectation
to find you hidden in yesterday's embers.
Emerging truth tells me you are running on ahead
already out there on the other side of tomorrow.

I see you afar, bemused at the spectacle
of my searches through all the wrong places,
the welling tears as if you didn't exist anymore;
the unending game of celestial hide-and-seek
while you watched serenely from a place of peace.

The fabric of my grief must have seemed strange to
you, spun as it was from
the compelling pull of yesterday.

Your transformation blessed you with a wondrous
knowing that eternity can only be found in the sparkle of
a moment and yesterday and tomorrow do not exist.

I now understand that remaining mired in grief
neither honors my life nor enhances your memory.
Honor of either estate comes
only in the act of living fully,
calling forth from within the energy
and joy of simply being,
willfully scattering seeds of love across every field.

Time now to look ahead,
down the path you marked so clearly;
time to follow your crumbs of sizzling joy,
and hear them erupting into the helpless laughter of
innocence,
feel them emerging in the warm smiles of strangers, see
them gilding the wings of hawks and eagles along the
way.

In remembrance of Lance Porter Hopkins,
© Harold G. Hopkins, October 2001
Atlanta TCF

TCF Atlanta Online Sharing Thoughts After the Graduation Party

It has been a long time since I have written and I feel out of touch with all you wonderful people. I have been so busy that I haven't even read the line for the last two to three weeks and I miss you. I get so much strength from your strength, and so much outpouring of genuine caring from you whom I have never met, yet feel like I know you so well.

The baby of my family, my son Dan, graduated from high school at the end of May and we had his graduation open house yesterday. It was a bittersweet day of mixed emotions. On the one hand, I am so thankful and so blessed to have him here with me so that I was able to have the party for him. He was in the back seat, sitting right next to his sister Nina, when she was killed six years ago, and he could have been killed as well. She was his mentor and his best friend. His life was changed immeasurably by her absence these past years during the difficult years of junior high school and high school. He missed the counselor and adviser in his sister.

Making the picture board for the party was a very emotional experience. I have had boxes of pictures untouched for so many years and this forced me to go through them. Looking for pictures of the two of them together; well, it just broke my heart. She was always at his side or looking over his shoulder making sure he was okay. I have to trust that she still is looking over his shoulder, from a distance. We missed her physical presence so much yesterday. I know she was here in spirit, but, of course, it is not the same. She loved big gatherings like this and she would have been so pleased to see her brother looking so happy and watching her nephews, that unfortunately she never got to meet, as they played together. Oh, sweet Nina, we missed you!

My heart hurts for those of you experiencing the first summer without your child. Their absence is even more apparent during the summertime, especially for the school age children, because they would have been on summer vacation and home with you. You are all in my prayers every day and night. Thinking of you and wishing you as much peace as you can grab hold of,

Cathy, Nina's mom forever

Letter to Clergy

Dear Reverend _____,

I'm sending you a letter from the TCF Online Sharing letter that I get in my e-mail. It really gets to the point of what a grieving parent can expect. Unless a person has lost a child, people have no idea what grieving parents really go through. Of course grief is different for everyone, and there IS NO "Right or Wrong" way to grieve. I haven't lost a child, but to me it feels as though I have. A grand parent goes through it two-fold, because you grieve for your child who lost their child, and you grieve for the precious grandchild whom you lost also. I don't know if you've ever lost a child or grandchild, I sure pray that you haven't and never have to go through that.

Until I got on this sharing line, I always assumed that preachers, priest, rabbi's and the other men of God would know all about these things, since you all do funerals, help the families and in your case, deal with the insurance's of these people who have lost a child. But on this sharing line, I've discovered that a lot of them know nothing about it because they have never experienced it themselves. However, with this sharing group we learn many things and the best thing we learn is that what we, as grieving parents/grandparents feel is very normal and that NONE of us need walk alone. Some of us walk with our Savior, some of us blame Him. Some of us don't know what, where or who to turn to, so we close ourselves off from the living and suffer in silence. We wear many faces in public, even when deep inside we're a total wreck and we sometimes can not see any light at the end of the darkness we have been thrust into.

Now Reverend, I would never try to tell you that you know nothing about how we feel, because I could not possibly know what you have been through yourself. All I am saying is that, "If more men of God, would read some of these letters, they too would learn a great deal about how to help grieving parents." So, I'm sending this to you in hopes that you will read it and find out what "We at TCF Atlanta" are all about, and will know more about what you can tell those parents you meet that ask you where to go or who to talk to, that really need some support from those of us who have been there and know what they will be going through. As you know, I am only three years down this road of grief, and I have so much further to go before my end of time. But "I know that I do not have to walk this road alone."



Letter to Clergy (continued)

I'm also sending a copy of this letter to TCF Atlanta, so they can post it in their next sharing letter. Maybe some of the parents/grandparents will share TCF with their pastors or what ever religion they happen to be... or not to be.

Will you please say a prayer for Kami and me, as Vickie's birthday and death day are coming in the next two weeks and we could sure use prayers at this time.

Thank you, and may God continue blessing us all.

Your Friend

Wanda Bryant, Tarrytown, GA
In Memory of My Granddaughter
Victoria King
04/17/1998 ~ 04/11/1999



IN THE BEGINNING....

Your child has died. As a newly bereaved parent you have experienced the most devastating life-changing event. Your whole world has been shattered and you are in a new world now. You will be relearning how to survive when at times you won't even want to survive. The only hope I can give you is that we in The Compassionate Friends have survived and we are here to help you. It won't be easy but keep in mind, if you hadn't love so much you wouldn't hurt so much now.

"How long will it last?" is probably the first question we hear from ones like you new to grief. It is a very important question to us at the beginning. Professionals have managed to place timetables based on their studies and you will hear "two years" quoted, but those of us who have been the road a number of years will tell you that you will not "get over" the death of your children in two years. You probably never will "get over" his or her death, but you will learn to live with the fact of it and rejoin life and lead a normal life again; it will just be different from before.

There is no timetable on grief. Some work through the process sooner than others. We operate on our individual timetable; we cannot judge our progress or lack of it by anyone else.

Grief is a process, a moving through. Sometimes we go forward, but sometimes backward, and sometimes we get "stuck" for a while, but keep in mind it is a process and eventually you will move through it. Within this

process there are "stages". We're told those stages are shock, denial, anger, bargaining, and acceptance. They don't necessarily come in that order.

Most of us do experience shock and denial or disbelief first. We can't believe it has happened! There must be a mistake! This happens to other people...not us! That shock is so tremendous that it affects us physically as well as psychologically. It is marked by a lowering of blood pressure, coldness of the skin, rapid heartbeat and an acute sense of terror. That shock insulates us and allows us to go through our duties and do things at this time that we never could have done otherwise. I praise that shock because it keeps us from dying too. That shock allows some of us to carry on with grace and skill during the days surrounding the death and the funeral. That same shock knocks some of us into merciful oblivion and we don't remember a thing during that time. We are all individuals and we react differently during grief, but there are common reactions we all share. This is why you will find very quickly that the only one who really understands what you are going through is another bereaved parent.

Anger, another stage, may come at any time. It is a very natural, normal reaction; don't be afraid or ashamed of it. Know it is okay, you won't always feel this way, there is nothing wrong with you for feeling this way - most of us feel some anger toward something, someone, even at God, even the child in some instances. You have been hurt beyond your wildest imaginings. I have described my own anger as rage. Society frowns on anger so don't expect always to be treated kindly when you display it, but remember you have a right to be angry. Anger is often unfocused and we sometimes take it out on innocent people. Medical personnel are often the first to receive this anger and funeral directors are next in line. Later, that anger can attack anyone who crosses our paths. It is good to recognize anger and try to focus it, learn to use it as a tool. Take up social issues, find healthy outlets for it. It is important to do something physical about anger. Hard work and sports are ways, and we've heard many stories of chopping wood, breaking dishes bought at garage sales and breaking them when we need an outlet. Scream in the shower, in your speed boat or closed up in your car, but get it out. Anger turned inwards becomes depression.

With the death of our child everything we ever believed in is shattered. In my own case I had to struggle for a long time to even figure out what I did believed in; I was so confused. Our egos, our beliefs in ourselves, were badly shaken because, as parents, we

In the Beginning (continued)

truly believed we could protect our child from anything. We were careful, good parents, and now our child is dead. WE HAVE FAILED TO KEEP OUR CHILD ALIVE and our ego tells us we are a failure! This devastates us; we can no longer believe in ourselves; we feel that obviously we are incapable of doing anything right We have no self-confidence, no longer any self-esteem: These are all natural, normal responses to the horror of your child's death. Given time and care these feelings will pass. We will achieve a balance in our personal life again

Remind yourself to be patient, to be kind to yourself. You are not a failure, you did the very best you could, and you would surely have given your own life to save your child's. You did not fail; life just isn't always fair. These feelings, and others as bizarre, may cause you to think you are going crazy. Ask any bereaved parent of some years and they will all tell you they thought the same thing at some time. You are a changed person now, you will never again be the same as you were before your child died. Someday you will accept that fact: Out of the ashes of grief you can grow, if and when you choose to do so. Look around you to the other bereaved parents; you will find role models and hope in them. There will be many tears, allow them, they are healing and necessary to survival and recovery.

Many of us suffer from the lack of ability to concentrate. It is a common complaint. We can't think, we can't remember from one minute till the next and we have no idea what we've read when we finish a page. Be patient...given time and some effort you will return to normal.

Hang on to any shred of your sense of humor that you can, even a small chuckle now and then can break your tension and give some relief. It may be a while in coming but one day you will laugh again. I know you can't believe it now but you will.

You will have a strong need to talk. You will find that you can talk more than one person can listen, so seek out several good friends who will let you talk to them. You will find some at the Compassionate Friends meetings. You will need to tell your child's story over and over again. You will need to talk about the whole life and death and what you are going through now. Talking is therapeutic. Talk and talk, and talk, until your story is told.

At night you may go over the events again and again and again, night after night. This is called obsessional review. Sleep disturbances are not unusual. We either can't sleep or sleep too much.

We suffer guilt real and imagined. We recall punishments and in turn punish ourselves with them when at the time the punishment was probably fair. We go through the "if onlys." If only we had or hadn't....

Beware of isolation. We need to be with people, not alone. When we isolate ourselves with no one to talk to about our feelings, we become depressed: and isolation plus depression equals suicidal feelings and that spells real trouble.

We are fatigued, lack motivation, we suffer numerous physical complaints, headaches, stomach disorders, we are either nervous or feel dead inside... many and sundry are our complaints, most of which are normal and to be expected in this time of enormous stress and always we ask ourselves and others, ""Why?" "Why me?" "Why my child? Simply because life isn't always fair, my friend....

Your world is topsy-turvy now, nothing makes sense, nothing fits....family balance is upset, the numbers are all wrong, there is one empty chair at the table now, so you choke on your food and think of the empty chair. Grocery shopping is a nightmare because your child's favorite food greets you from the shelves of every aisle; you don't dare think of holidays because you know you'll never survive them without your child. Your child's birthday and the memory of all the joy of that day looms like a mountain far too high to climb. ...some days all you want is for the pain to stop. Some days you just can't get out of bed. Some days you work hard and fast like something has possessed you. Every day you cry. You find you are very lonely even in the midst of a crowded shopping mall. You want to scream at the busy, happy people, "Don't you know my child is dead?" How can they go on as if nothing has happened?" No matter how many people you are with, you are lonely.

Compassionate Friends understand: each one of us has had a least one child die. We know what you are going through. We don't pretend to have all the answers, but we want to share this time of your life with you. We want you to know you are not alone.

Fay Harden TCF Tuscaloosa, AL



A Mother's Day Wish From Heaven

By Jody Seilheimer

Dear Mr. Hallmark,

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

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

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

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

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

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

This is the first time I have written anything since the loss my beautiful son, Josh on January 21,2002. I read what all of you write everyday. It a source of great comfort for me to know that I am not alone in the thoughts I have and in the way I feel. Every agonizing day that goes by the already unbearable pain gets worse and worse. Josh left this world in my arms in the driveway of our home. He had some friends over riding bikes that day and he had an accident on his bike. I replay this over and over in my head. I don't understand why or even how it happened. I never will. I would like to share with you a poem I wrote to my angel Josh.

With love and thanks, Wendy Phillips, Winder, GA

Twelve weeks

Twelve weeks since I've held you
And seen your sweet grin
Twelve weeks since we've talked
Oh, how long it has been!
Twelve weeks since I've touched you
Or seen your beautiful face
Twelve weeks since we've laughed
Or been to your favorite place.
Twelve weeks since I've smelled you
Or picked you up from school
Twelve weeks since I've heard you
How could life be so cruel!
Twelve weeks since I've watched you
Riding your bike
Twelve weeks since I've tucked you in
And kissed you goodnight.
Twelve weeks since you left
On that horrible day
Twelve weeks since I begged God not to take you away.
Twelve weeks since my heart
Was ripped from my chest
Twelve weeks since I had to lay
You, my beautiful son, to rest.
I know you're alive
I n Heaven above
Surrounded by angels
And Gods precious love.
Josh, when I get there
We will never part
Until that day comes
I 'll forever keep you in my broken heart!

In Loving Memory of Joshua Stephen Phillips
May 16, 1989-January 21, 2002





What is Normal Now?

I was jokingly asked recently what normal meant by a friend and I thought about it and jotted these things down. It is amazing what can become "normal" to us. I'm sure you could all change the names and a few circumstances and your normal is very close to mine.

Normal for me is trying to decide what to take to the cemetery for Christmas, birthday, Valentine's day, and Easter.

Normal is discussing with a friend in the Netherlands how different funeral customs are there than here. Discussing how much both our sons loved trains and how the train sets now collect dust.

Normal is talking to a fellow musician at Sandhills symphony practice and the conversation going toward how you felt after your child died.

Normal is sitting at the computer crying, sharing how you feel with chat buddies who have also lost a child.

Normal is feeling like you know how to act and are more comfortable with a funeral than a wedding or a birthday party. Yet, feeling a stab of pain in your heart when you smell the flowers, see that casket, and all the crying people.

Normal is feeling like you can't sit another minute without getting up and screaming cause you just don't like to sit through church anymore. And yet feeling like you have more faith and belief in God than you ever have had before.

Normal is going to bed feeling like your kids who are alive got cheated out of happy cheerful parents and instead they are stuck with sober, cautious people.

Normal is having tears waiting behind every smile when you realize someone important is missing from all the important events in your families' life.

Normal is not sleeping very well because a thousand what if's and why didn't I's go through your head constantly.



Normal is having the TV on the minute I walk into the house to have noise because the silence is deafening.

Normal is staring at every blonde little boy who looks about Kindergarten age. And then thinking of the age I saiah would be now and not being able to imagine it. Then wondering why it is even important to imagine it because it will never happen.

Normal is every happy event in my life always being backed up with sadness lurking close behind because of the hole in my heart.

Normal is seeing Ian in his long black coat and hat at the cemetery visiting his brother's grave and thinking, how could this be normal? He shouldn't have to be going through this.

Normal is seeing other kids that are Ian and Isaac's age teasing and playing with their brothers and sisters that are I saiah's age and feeling so envious of them.

Normal is seeing I saiah's classmates from church and Sunday school and wondering why he can't be with them. Why him?

Normal is playing my flute for a performance and feeling really great about doing well, followed by an immediate down after thinking how I saiah would have said, "That was beautiful Momma (whether it really was or not).

Normal is telling the story of I saiah's death as if it were an everyday common place activity and then gasping in horror at how awful it sounds. And yet realizing it has become part of our normal.

Normal is each year coming up with the difficult task of how to honor your child's memory and their birthday and survive those days. And trying to find the balloon or flag that fits the occasion. Happy Birthday? Not really.

Normal is my heart warming and yet sinking at the sight of a penguin. Thinking how I saiah would love it, but how he is not here to enjoy it.

What is Normal Now? (continued)

Normal is getting up early to exercise (when I really hate exercise) because I know my mental health depends on it.

Normal is disliking jokes about death, funerals. Bodies being referred to as cadavers when you know they were once someone's loved one.

Normal is being impatient with everything but someone stricken with grief over the loss of their child.

Normal is feeling a common bond with friends in England, Australia, Netherlands, Canada, and all over the USA, but yet never having met any of them face to face.

Normal is a new friendship with another grieving mother and meeting for coffee and talking and crying together over our children and our new lives. And worrying together over our living children.

Normal is not being able to rest until you get the phone call that your 15 year old with a school permit has arrived at school just fine. And having the courage to let your 17 year old not call after driving to school because he is insulted that you need to check on him.

Normal is being too tired to care if you paid the bills, cleaned house or did laundry or if there is any food in the house.

Normal is wondering this time whether you are going to say you have 2 or 3 children because you will never see this person again and it is not worth explaining that one of them is in heaven. And yet when you say only 2 to avoid that problem you feel horrible as if you have betrayed that child.

Normal is feeling terrible hurt when you see your child's power point presentation at parent/teacher's conference and that child has listed only one brother. Then you realize the way the information is set up there really is no logical place to list the brother who has died and went to heaven. And how awkward that must of been for him to think about the problem.

Normal is avoiding McDonald's and Burger King playgrounds because of small happy children that break your heart when you see them.

And last of all **normal** is hiding all the things that have become normal for you to feel, so that everyone around you will think that you are "normal".

-shared by Vicki Windham, North Platte NE Chapter

Vicki's son, Isaiah, died July 2, 1999. They were on a camping trip for the 4th of July weekend. Isaiah was playing with his older brothers on a sandy river bank. He wasn't tunneling or anything just sitting halfway up the bank, when the bank behind him caved in and knocked him down and buried him under three feet of sand. Isaiah suffocated. He was 6 ½ years old.

In Memory of Michael Pattillo May 14, 1973 – March 11, 1998



My Dearest Son,

This is the fifth birthday without you. I think back to all the birthdays when you were alive. You loved your birthday so and your mother and I always enjoyed the celebration of your birth. They were wonderful days and years and our minds take us back to those days. Now on May 14 we are always sad that we can no longer celebrate with you.

This would be birthday number 29 and all we remember is how you were. We don't have the fortune of knowing how you would have changed in the past five birthdays. We know the changes would have been for the good because as you matured you were such a fine son, man and brother.

We think of all the things that could have been and we miss you with all our hearts. You were our first born and so special. Love Mom and Daddy

Janice and Wayne Pattillo, Lawrenceville TCF

In reality we never lose the people we love, they become immortal through us. They continue to live in our hearts and minds. They participate in our every act, idea, and decision. No one will ever replace them in spite of the pain. We are richer for all the years invested in them. Because of them, we have so much more to bring to our present relationship and all those to come. -Leo Buscaglia, author of "Survivor"

Making Mother's and Father Day Special

by Elaine Stillwell, Rockville Centre, NY

Here are a few hints to help you through these days after the loss of a child.

1) Pamper yourself-this is a special day in your life. You are a parent forever and your child is your child forever.

2) Do what you need to do-what helps you. Grieve your way.

3) Be with those who surround you with love, not demands or advice.

4) Plan ahead-do things that make you feel good or give you a moment's peace.

5) Start new rituals to make new memories.

6) Share your thoughts with family members; decide together what the day should include. (If you are alone, find a good friend.)

7) Include deceased children in the day-through prayer, lighting a candle, telling stories about them, looking through pictures, planting flowers or a garden, doing a good deed, writing about them, making their favorite recipe.

8) Join with another bereaved family to honor this day and have mutual support.

9) Start a garden or add to a special garden in memory of your child. Special

10) Use this day to plant spring flowers so you can always see your child in each bloom and each bouquet that you cut.

11) Visit the cemetery if that helps your heart on this day.

12) Plant a flower or shrub that will come to bloom this time of year.

13) Do something special for someone else or something special in your child's name (helping Cancer Care, MADD, Scouting, a nursing home, etc.)

14) Listen to music that makes your heart feel good.

15) Cook some favorite recipes that your child enjoyed or cooked for you.

16) Buy a present for yourself from your child and enjoy the comfort it brings you.

17) Write a poem or article in memory of your child, sharing memories or whatever has helped you.

18) Attend a family gathering of relatives - their love and support can give you a lift on this day

19) Make a booklet of favorite poems that help your heart, and give copies to dear relatives and friends in memory of your child.

20) Take part in a special church ceremony honoring Mother's Day and Father's Day.

21) Pray to your child-talking is the best medicine and prayer is simply talking.

22) Set aside some special time to grieve, unloading all the frustration and sadness that can envelop you on such a day giving you time to meditate alone.

23) Write a letter to your child, telling what's in your heart (perhaps some unfinished business or some new blessing that has enriched your life).

24) Allow the tears to flow- crying is healing and allows a release for your feelings.

25) Think of a way to "share your child with the world"-making sure his or her memory lives on through scholarships, writing, good deeds.

26) Give and get plenty of hugs.

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www.bereavementmag.com



Chapter News

Jonesboro Chapter

Freddie Saye resigned as chapter leader after 15 years of devoted service to TCF. Diana Green was appointed the new chapter leader with Susan Carithers as co-leader.

Diana Green, as the new leader of the South Atlanta Chapter (Jonesboro), would like to invite all the chapter members to a balloon launch at the June 3rd meeting. The chapter will provide the balloons, and we will have sharing groups after the release of the balloons.

For more information, please contact Diana Green 770-477-9425.

Tucker (Atlanta) Chapter

Robert Bowers, Betty Mear, Juanita White, Janet Mitchell, Nina Florence, and Tricia Garrett attended the Chapter Leadership Training Program in Atlanta in April.

We are also looking for people who are interested in volunteering to help with the chapter. If you are interested, please contact:

Robert Bowers 770-326-9409 or Robert_Bowers_2000@yahoo.com or Susan Carithers 770-474-6243 or wescar20@yahoo.com

Our next steering committee will be August 17th. New members are welcome.

Gwinnett Chapter

The Annual Picnic will be held on Saturday, September 28, 2002 at Rhodes Jordan Park. Please mark your calendar and look for more details in forthcoming newsletters.

Meg Avery and Judy Quillen recently attended the Chapter Leadership Training Program in Atlanta. This program was sponsored by the national organization and was a wealth of information and ideas for them. They will be sharing suggestions and ideas with the Steering Committee.

Please contact Meg Avery at 770-932-5862 or MemoriesR4Ever@juno.com if you have any questions, comments or concerns to help and improve the chapter. New members to the Steering Committee are welcome!

Marietta Chapter

The Marietta Chapter has recently undergone changes in chapter leadership. Mary Sue Zercher stepped down in January as co-leader and Marilyn Barton resigned in April as co-leader. Mary Sue and Marilyn have given their time and love to The Marietta Chapter in memory of their children, Tim Zercher and Scott and Sarah Barton.

As the new chapter leader, Susan Van Vleck promises to build on their solid foundation by continuing to reach out to bereaved parents offering hope and love. Susan 'gives back' in loving memory of her son, Marc Van Vleck who was killed by a drunk driver in July 1992.

The Third Annual Butterfly Banquet will be held Tuesday, May 7, 2002. Occasions Catering will provide the evening's dinner and an exciting program is planned to honor our dear children this year. The guest speaker will be Marcia Carter author of Stephen's Moon. Kelly Shaw, soloist will be accompanied by pianist, Gail Holman. Dean Hunter has made a special 'Memories' video of our children and the highlight of the evening will be "Flowering the Butterfly" with each bereaved parent adding flowers in honor of his or her child.

The Marietta Chapter offers a Pregnancy and Infant Loss Sharing Group led by Renee' Cain in honor of her daughter, Dana Cain with co-leader, Debbie Keel in honor of her son, Tyler Keel. HOPE - 'Helping Other Parents Endure' began at the First Baptist Church of Marietta founded by Larry James. For more information about HOPE and the Pregnancy and Infant Loss Sharing Group you may call the church at 770-424-8326.

At the June 4th meeting, the Marietta chapter will begin offering a Sibling Sharing Group led by Melissa Massey and Heather Chappell in honor of their siblings, Michelle Massey and Trey James.



"It is a terrible thing to see and have no vision."

- Helen Keller

News - Upcoming Conferences

25th Annual National TCF Conference

Salt Lake City, Utah /July 5 - 7, 2002

Thinking about attending the 2002 TCF National Conference in Salt Lake City?

To learn more about the conference visit our Website at: <http://www.tcfslcut.com/htm/Conference.htm>

National Gathering of the Bereaved Parents of the USA

New Orleans, LA June 28-30, 2002

To request a registration form, please contact:

Lauri Myers, 504 Perrin Drive, Arabi, LA 70032 (504) 271-9532 or email BP2002Gathering@aol.com

Or visit their website <http://www.bereavedparentsusa.org/>

TCF National Conference 2003

Plans are moving right along for the 2003 Atlanta TCF National Conference. Just a reminder - we still need volunteers! There is another interesting need in Public Relations. As the time gets closer to the conference, our advertising will intensify. We will try to get as many press releases in newspapers and other periodicals as possible. Newspapers prefer doing articles if there is some local interest. For instance, a town in Florida may not want to carry something about a conference in Atlanta. However, if there is someone in his or her own town affiliated with TCF, it could make a difference.

We need to hear from noteworthy TCF members all over the Southeast. Tell us how you have used your time and talent after the death of your child to make a difference. Maybe you've published a book of poems, perhaps you've been instrumental in installing a memorial garden in a children's hospital, or perhaps you started the very first TCF chapter in your town. You TCF parents (and siblings) have done so many wonderful things. Let us hear from you! Contact Faye Martin, Publicity Chairperson, at LisaLamb3@aol.com or 770-732-9906.

Telephone Friends

Sometimes we just need someone to talk to...someone to listen...someone to understand

Carole Babush - 404-231-1965 Auto Accident
Judy Blumsack - 770-410-9819 Auto Accident
Lynn McCurdy - 770-498-8211 AIDS
Faye Martin - 770-732-9906 Suicide
Janice Pattillo - 770-963-8306 Vehicular Homicide
Fortune Forrester - 770-937-5789 Homicide
Tricia Simpson - 770-277-1626 Substance Abuse
Allison Glover - 404-534-0386 SI DS
Paul Fredickson - (770) 992-6391 Infant Death
Dana Stupka - (770)-674-3409 Infant Death

Linked Together

To Subscribe to Linked Together, please complete the attached database form and return it to TCF Atlanta, P.O. Box 656, Tucker, Ga 30085. There is no charge for Linked Together, but a donation In Memory of Your Child would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you once again to Brett Coltman and Direct Technologies, Inc. for printing our newsletter - and so much more! Currently our newsletter mailing list is 1300+.

TCF Atlanta Online Sharing

TCF Atlanta Online Sharing is an online sharing group available to anyone with internet access. The Online Sharing began in September 1999. I had currently subscribed to "Chicken Soup for the Soul - Online Daily" and this gave me the idea to put together something for bereaved parents and siblings. Thus it began. Currently we have 1035 active members and are growing at a rate of 2 per day.

We have recently added several new features to our Online Sharing...Cyberfriends Database for those new parents and siblings who want to have a cyberfriend to talk with and Birthday/Angel Date Web sites for our Children. For More Information and all the new additions, please visit our new web site: <http://www.tcfatlanta.org/TCFOnline.html>

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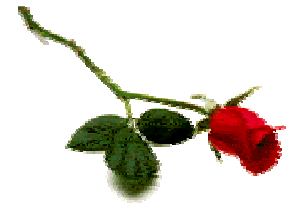


May Birthdays

May 1	Gwendolyn M. Jones, daughter of Dorothy Jones, Stone Mountain
May 1	Misty Stockton, daughter of Grant and Sandra Stinson, Rome
May 2	John Bucsela, son of Jeanne Bucsela, Atlanta
May 2	Kimberly Kay Warren, daughter of Genell Ertzburger, Asheville, NC
May 3	Michele Reno, daughter of Charles and Janice Reno, Powder Springs
May 4	Leslie Miller, Jr., son of Leslie and Nancy Miller, Smyrna
May 4	Tracy Lyn Rawls, daughter of Brenda and James Rawls, Port Vincent, LA
May 4	Melissa Hague, daughter of Laree and Roger Hague, Marietta
May 4	Karen Landau, sister of Beverly Landau Giacalone, Thompsons Station, TN
May 5	Daniel Coad, brother of Tracy Coad, Stanford, NC
May 5	Brooke Ann Capogreca, daughter of Rowen Capogreca, Peachtree City
May 6	Aaron Olitsky, son of Harvey and Judy Olitsky, Marietta
May 6	Jennifer Lea Evans, daughter of Al and Delores P. Evans, Tucker
May 7	Brian Schuster, son of Elaine and Gary Schuster, Snellville
May 8	Alan Scott, son of Judy Scott, Stockbridge
May 8	Terrence Brown, son of Gail T. Brown, Marietta
May 9	Amanda Diane Jones, daughter of Maureen Jones, Dahlonega
May 9	Gloria Anne Farmer, daughter of Terry and Kim Farmer, Rome
May 9	Bryan Dickinson Farmer, son of Linda and Ben Farmer, Marietta
May 10	Jeremy Michael Hitt, son of Randy Hitt, Marietta
May 10	Sher Ybanez Johnson, daughter of Isidro and Agnes Ybanez, Fayetteville
May 11	Melanie Brooke Thompson, daughter of Kathy and Hugh Thompson, Tuckasegee, NC
May 11	Natalie Sparks, daughter of Evelyn and Terry Sparks, Lawrenceville
May 12	Cynthia Buchanan, daughter of Diane Buchanan, Decatur
May 12	Eddie Friday, son of Trish and Pete Friday, Riverdale
May 12	Mark Manus, son of Gwen Manus, Fayetteville
May 12	Cari Ann Olejnik, daughter of Harry and Janice Olejnik, Covington
May 12	Jared Webb, son of Debby Webb, Kennesaw and son of Mike Webb, Sugar Hill
May 13	Steven Dyar, son of Susan and Howard Dyar, Dacula
May 13	Richard Russ, son of Richard and Emily Russ, Stone Mountain
May 14	Thomas Michael Pattillo, son of Janice and Wayne Pattillo, Lawrenceville
May 14	Luke Blackburn, grandson of Cassandra Boone-Blackburn, Marietta
May 14	Nathan Delaplane, son of Gary and Elvira Delaplane, Roswell
May 15	Kyle Greenfield, son of Bill and Karen Greenfield, Alpharetta
May 16	Mark Jason Hunt, son of Reginald and DeeDee Hunt, McDonough
May 16	Josh Stephen Phillips, son of Steve and Wendy Phillips, Winder
May 17	Marion Curtis Waldrep III, son of Pete and Charlotte Waldrep, Marietta
May 19	Billy Wagner, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Wagner, Lawrenceville
May 19	Marc William Waidner, son of Mary Alice Wood, Lilburn
May 19	Brian Whitworth, son of Michele Wright, Lawrenceville

Life is short and we have not much time for gladdening the hearts of those who are traveling the dark way with us
Be swift to love. Make haste to be kind. ~Henri- Frederic Amiel-1885

We Remember You With Love



May Birthdays

May 20	Jaime Coyier, daughter of Lendell and Mike Vogt, Fairburn
May 20	Alison Marie Finch, daughter of Susan and Leonard Finch, Fayetteville
May 20	Laurie Marshall, daughter of Suzanne Marshall, Tucker
May 20	Gavin Smith, son of Barry and Cheryl Smith, Suwanee
May 20	Zackary Kennerson, son of Linda Whittick, College Park
May 21	Jeremiah Wallace Duncan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wally Duncan, Marietta
May 21	Chad Gordon, son of Jayne and Wayne Newton, Lilburn and brother of Lisa Gordon, Snellville
May 21	Rodd Norton, son of Pat W. Barber, Marietta
May 21	Marc Van Vleck, son of Susan and Frank Van Vleck, Marietta
May 22	Sean Richard Christman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Christman, Alpharetta
May 22	Erin Flowers, daughter of Phyllis Jean Flowers, Nashville, TN
May 22	Drew Pogue, son of Susan and Tom Pogue, Atlanta
May 22	Antoinette Redpath, daughter Sammie Hammer Redpath, Hacienda Heights, CA
May 23	Bobby Craig, son of Marge Craig, Winder
May 23	Cory Jerrod Holliman, son of Sherron and Vernon Holliman, Powder Springs
May 23	Kenneth Amos Slaughter, son of Edith Deese, Cedartown
May 23	Andrea Nicole Scotton, daughter of Roma Scotton, Austell
May 24	Eric Mitchel Smith, son of John Smith, Atlanta
May 25	Chris Madrigal, brother of Keith Madrigal, Norcross
May 25	Ben Hailey, son of Loretta Passmore, Griffin
May 26	Joey Capron, son of Carmen Capron, Chamblee
May 26	Ben Chambers, son of Ron and Kay Chambers, Cedartown and brother of Amanda Ingram, Rome
May 27	Randy Keith Jones, son of Helen Jones, Duluth
May 27	Josh Brown, son of David and Julie Brown, Fayetteville
May 27	Jason Edward Palmer, son of Sandra Palmer, Lilburn
May 27	I mani Michelle Rowe, daughter of Dylana Rowe, Camp Hill, AL
May 28	David Q. Brown, son of Priscilla Brown, Ellenwood
May 28	Joe Parmer, son of Tim and Marie Parmer, Lawrenceville
May 28	Joely Ann Castang, neice of Wendy Steed, Statham
May 29	Rusty Kohler, son of Terry and Dan Kohler, Kennesaw
May 29	Jeff Mobley, son of Carol Mobley, Atlanta
May 29	Chet Planchard, son of Robyn and Charles Planchard, Kennesaw
May 30	Becky Brackin, daughter of Sandy and Richard Brackin, Stockbridge
May 30	Christopher L. Dixon, son of Chuck and Barbara Dixon, Dunwoody
May 30	Jarod Morel Ruff, son of Herman and Joan Ruff, Atlanta
May 30	Jarrold Norman, son of Vicki and Bill Norman, Marietta
May 30	Jason Marsh, son of Gerri and Joe Marsh, Acworth

When we feel we have nothing left to give and we are sure that the "song has ended"--
When our day seems over and the shadows fall and the darkness of night has descended.

Where can we go to find the strength to valiantly keep on trying,
Where can we find the hand that will dry the tears that the heart is crying—

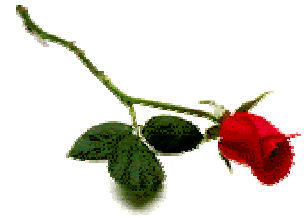
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May Angel Dates

May 1	Mark Curtis Smith, son of Jane Smith, Tucker
May 1	Aaron Dewayne Sellers, son of Claire Sellers-Sneed, Stone Mountain
May 3	Yolandra Erin Dixon, daughter of Georgia Dixon, Decatur
May 3	Doug Noah, brother of Joe Noah, Atlanta
May 3	Barak Kareen Martin, son of Gwyneth Dixon-Anderson, Smyrna
May 3	Sierra Beth Soto, granddaughter of Joanne Thomas, Atlanta
May 4	Craig Blumsack, son of Judy and Joel Blumsack, Alpharetta
May 4	Nathan Delaplane, son of Gary and Elvira Delaplane, Roswell
May 5	Christopher Clark, son of Maggie Clark, Suwanee
May 5	Laura J. Vines, daughter of Jean Jenkins, Pelham, AL
May 6	Stephen Davis, son of Peggy Roll, Rome
May 6	Amanda Christine Warnock, daughter of Amy Osier, Winder and Randy Warnock, Hiram
May 6	Ginger Kirby, daughter of Sherry and Jeff Kirby, Stockbridge
May 6	Aaron Wood, son of Cathy and Harold Wood, Powder Springs
May 6	Nichole Phillips, daughter of Christopher and Heather Phillips, Riverdale
May 7	Bill Chaber, son of Caryl Ann Chaber, Atlanta
May 7	Michael Scottland Haug, son of JoAnn Galster, Decatur
May 7	Eric Herrington, son of Steven and Song Herrington, Lawrenceville
May 8	Nichole East, daughter of Lisa and Tim Chase, Jenkinsburg and sister of Stacy East, Locust Grove
May 8	Frances Frazier, daughter of Bob and Betty Frazier, Rome
May 9	Nathan Roberts, son of Penny Smith, Ranburne, AL
May 9	Christopher Lee Simpson, son of Tricia and Kenny Simpson and brother of Luke Simpson, Auburn, and grandson of Elizabeth Luke, Auburn
May 10	Carol Lamb Vanover, daughter of Elizabeth D. Lamb, Austell
May 10	Kahree Ann Michael, daughter of Barbara and Chris Michael, Auburn
May 11	Alan Frew, son of Jane Frew, Cedartown
May 11	Laurin Mear, son of Deb Loyd and Betty Mear, Decatur
May 11	Rolando D. Pumphrey, son of Doris Pumphrey and brother of Ruthie Pumphrey, Decatur
May 11	Tracy McKenna, daughter of Jeff McKenna, Marietta
May 12	Tyreek Seivwright, son of Donna Attried, Lawrenceville
May 12	Christina M. Edwards, daughter of Kimberly and James Cole, Canton
May 12	Terri Clarkin, daughter of Shirley Davis, Covington
May 12	Tatiana Burgess, daughter of Dawn Burgess, Stone Mountain
May 12	Michael Moriarty, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Moriarty, Rome
May 12	Jonathan Respass, son of Mike and Beth Respass, Fayetteville and brother of Laura Respass, Atlanta
May 14	Erin Leigh Moody, daughter of Pat and Wayne Moody, Holly Springs
May 14	David Clark, son of Gloria and Vince Anderson, Roswell
May 15	Jenny Collver, daughter of Meredith and Michael Collver, Atlanta
May 15	I an Sharpe, son of Becky and Bob Sharpe, Lawrenceville
May 15	Joshua Randall Harmon, son of Cherie Honour, Suwanee
May 16	Crawford Masters, son of Melinda and Kevin Masters, Acworth
May 17	Kevin Eugene Manders, son of Donna Sullivan, Cumming

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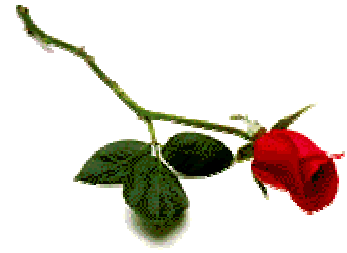


May Angel Dates

May 18	Chad Edward Eller, son of Jill and Don Eller, Cleveland
May 18	Cliff Roland, son of Jean Roland, Cartersville
May 19	Robert Cantrell, son of Juanita Cantrell, Marietta
May 19	Tom Waters, son of Richard and Faye Waters, Loganville
May 19	Chris Floyd, son of Nancy and Jim Floyd, Atlanta
May 19	Glenda McDade, sister of Yolanda Tapia, Atlanta
May 20	Jim Taylor II, son of Dinah and Jim Taylor, Williamsburg, KY
May 20	John Baggett, son of Linda Baggett, Buford
May 22	Dr. David S. Barker, son of Jeanne and Bob Barker, Newnan
May 22	Jamie J. Adams, son of Julie Adams, Hull
May 22	Joshua Gene Hawley, son of Rob and Linda Hawley, Fayetteville
May 23	Cory Jerrod Holliman, son of Sherron and Vernon Holliman, Powder Springs
May 23	Shea Broadaway, son of Sandra Broadaway, Lindale
May 23	Richard Murphy, son of Margaret and Robert Murphy, Marietta
May 24	Marcus Eugene Hill, son of Ethel Hill, Atlanta
May 24	Ryan Champney, son of Lisa P. Diehl, Cleveland
May 24	Matthew Thomas Crowell, son of Barry and Doris Crowell, Lilburn and brother of Michael Crowell, Sherwood AR
May 24	Tracy Lee Elrod, son of Janice and Gary Pribble, Gainesville
May 25	Jeremiah Wallace Duncan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wally Duncan, Marietta
May 25	Brian Lee Morris, son of Beckie Morris, Griffin
May 25	Jason Jarrell, son of Charlotte Jarrell, Covington
May 26	Brooke Ann Capogreca, daughter of Rowen Capogreca, Peachtree City
May 26	Curtis Delozier, son of Barbara Delozier, Snellville
May 26	Shannon Devereux, daughter of Gail and Jerry Devereux, Marietta
May 26	Lauren Stanfill, daughter of Tim and Linda Stanfill, Woodstock
May 26	Josh Simmons, son of Melanie and Van Simmons, White
May 27	Bruce Harvard, son of Shawn Harvard, Marietta
May 27	Preston Roberts, son of Agnes Roberts, Atlanta
May 28	Regina "Gina" Garmon, daughter of Millie and Ray Garmon, Maysville
May 28	Amy Marie Dudley, daughter of Brenda and Dan Dudley, Fayetteville
May 29	Stephanie Hayes, daughter of Lynn Hayes, Alpharetta
May 29	David Josselson, son of Harriet and Jerry Josselson, Alpharetta
May 29	Stephen Hoyle Keeble, son of Joan Keeble, Powder Springs
May 29	Lance Malone, son of Kathy and Pat Malone, Snellville
May 29	Richie Frank Williams, son of Floria Williams, Asheville, NC
May 30	Benjamin Thomas Harvey, son of Penny and Bob Harvey, Lilburn
May 30	Ben Hailey, son of Loretta Passmore, Griffin
May 31	Blanca Rosa M. Anson II, daughter of Blanca Rosa Anson, Atlanta
May 31	Kenneth David Kemp, son of Ronald and Kimberly McCain, Norcross
May 31	Sallie Scanlon, daughter of Jane R. Scanlon, Lilburn
May 31	Kenneth Lanard Wright, son of Kathy Dale Wright, Lithonia

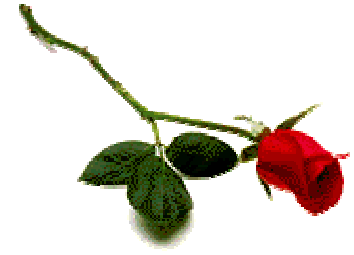
We Remember You With Love

June Birthdays



- June 1 Amy Nycole Darland, daughter of Malisa Pitts, Grain Valley, MO
- June 3 David Bakay, son of Nita Bakay and brother of Michelle, Conyers
- June 4 Don Walton, son of Kay and Charlie Walton, Lilburn
- June 4 James Adam Jenkins, son of June and Glinda Jenkins, Canton
- June 4 Matthew William Jordan, son of Carol Jordan, Decatur
- June 6 Jonathan Louis Kaplan, brother of Theresa Levine, Atlanta
- June 6 Pamela Barnett Buck, daughter of Jane Barnett, Marietta
- June 6 Daniel Sterling, son of Joe and Carol Sterling, Marietta
- June 6 Frankie Stricklin, son of Sharon Stricklin, Dallas
- June 7 Jamie Ann Quillen, daughter of Judy Quillen, Lawrenceville
- June 7 Terri Clarkin, daughter of Shirley Davis, Covington
- June 7 Ashleigh Micheala Hodge, daughter of Robert and Melissa Hodge, McDonough
- June 7 Patrick Ray Kelly, son of Maggie Kelly, Gainesville
- June 7 Tanya Suchanek, daughter of Kathy and Karl Suchanek, Cumming
- June 7 Tiffany Vaughn, daughter of Sue Vaughn, Roswell
- June 8 Justin Brooks, son of Sandra Brooks, Lawrenceville
- June 9 Todd Hooper, son of Carole Hooper, Atlanta
- June 9 Taylor Renee Nelson, daughter of Karen and Hal Nelson, Marietta
- June 10 Donald Wesley Carithers, son of Susan and John Carithers and brother of Brooke and Jennifer Carithers, Ellenwood
- June 10 Jeremy Cable, son of Steve and Beckie Cable, Cumming
- June 10 Kristi Ziegler, daughter of Suzanne Ziegler, Marietta
- June 11 De'Cembre Hope Wynn Meadows, daughter of Yvonne and Matthew Tinsley, Silver Creek
- June 12 Frank Griffin, son of Katherine and Harold Griffin, Fayetteville
- June 12 Matthew Abad, son of Tess Abad, Stone Mountain
- June 12 Shelley Harmon, daughter of Patty and Sammy Harmon and sister of Gray Harmon, Chamblee
- June 12 Scott Charles Harvard, son of Lisa and Charles Harvard, Smyrna
- June 12 Rodney Spence Singleton, son of Mary Ann and Roger Singleton and brother of Stephanie Singleton, Oxford
- June 12 Roderick Eugene Taylor, son of Martha Taylor, Norcross
- June 13 Jeff Walton, son of Dianne Walton, Kennesaw
- June 13 Joshua Anavitarte, son of Jean Marie Anavitarte, Doraville
- June 13 Kweste Bell, son of Anika Bell, Atlanta
- June 14 Steven Wood Phelan, son of Terry and Connie Phelan, Marietta
- June 14 Jonathan Laine Randall Husfeld, son of Marvin and Judy Husfeld, Lawrenceville
- June 15 George Maxwell "Mac" McGrew, son of Georjeann and Mac McGrew, Atlanta
- June 16 Timmy Boda, son of Darlene Boda, Newnan
- June 16 D'Keesiyah Hardaway, granddaughter of Albert and Florence Daniel, Decatur
- June 17 Glenn Ewing, son of Jan and Cliff Ewing, Atlanta
- June 17 Scott Malone, son of Kathy and Pat Malone, Snellville
- June 17 Corrie Jill Dean, daughter of Mr. And Mrs. Gary Dean, Jasper
- June 18 Laura J. Vines, daughter of Jean Jenkins, Pelham, AL
- June 19 Mitchell Dean Orr, son of Robin and Bill Orr, Lawrenceville

We Remember You With Love



June Birthdays

June 20	Melvin Veal, son of Billy Veal, Covington
June 20	Jermaine Nelson Webley, son of Marilyn Webley, Decatur
June 21	Laurie King, daughter of Jane King, Kennesaw
June 21	Matthew Corley, grandson of Nancy Wellborn, Kennesaw
June 23	Billy Snapp, son of Teal and Bill Snapp, Conyers
June 24	Dr. Edward Keith Earls, son of Irene and Frank Earls, Marietta
June 24	Christian Noel Moise, son of Maggie Dumbaveanu, Lawrenceville
June 24	John Allen Askins, son of Elaine Askins, Duluth
June 24	Marnie Bragg, daughter of Kathy and Richard Wolownik, Roswell
June 25	Clint Chandler, son of Lillian and Wesley Chandler, I la
June 26	Bill Chaber, son of Caryl Ann Chaber, Atlanta
June 26	Taylor Myers duCasse, son of Robbie Bowman, Snellville
June 26	Christopher Lynch, son of Susan and Jerry Johnson, Kennesaw
June 26	Holli Ledford, daughter of Cathy and Calvin Ledford, Conyers
June 27	Taylor Randahl, son of Kelly and Doug Randahl, Woodstock
June 27	Logan Timothy Reynolds, son of Tonia Reynolds, Summerville
June 27	Chris Floyd, son of Nancy and Jim Floyd, Atlanta
June 28	Paula Wandell, daughter of Elfrieda and George Wandell, Marietta
June 28	Jeffery Armstrong Patterson, son of Ann Armstrong Patterson, Marietta
June 28	Cathy Hayes, daughter of Helen Christian, Loganville
June 29	Jeremy Chaplin, son of DaNita and Mitchell Chaplin, Powder Springs
June 29	David Anthony Smith, son of Michael and Joan Burke, Dacula
June 29	Ryan David Bowers, son of Robert and Pam Bowers, Jr., Snellville
June 29	Ashley Romer, daughter of Teri Romer, Lake Havasu City, AZ
June 29	Mandy Lynn Mast, daughter of Diane and Danny Mast, Newborn
June 30	Renee Elise McGinnis, daughter of Modree M. Smith, Marietta

With each passing year my grief is absorbed deeper inside of me. It's not something strangers can readily see anymore. It's not an excuse for friends to avoid the topic. It doesn't bring sympathy. It's in me, but it's part of me, unrecognizable. If I didn't tell you, you would never know. My body has adjusted to the extra weight, and my mind has learned to acknowledge it but not to give in to it.

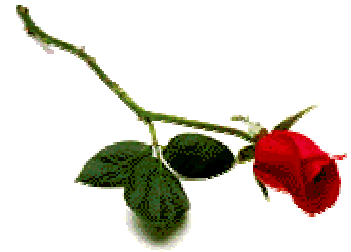
Seven years. Ten years. Thirty years. We know we're functioning and smiling and making new memories. We may feel guilty when we catch ourselves lingering a little less in front of our lost loved one's photograph. We make commitments to renew our attention to the memory. We remember our siblings while we talk to people over lunch, but we pretend like we're listening. The feelings go through us like a rush, but it doesn't happen as often as it used to happen. And no one knows. Has anyone made sense of it yet?

I never knew my mind could be dominated by a single thought every day for years and still not get in the way of the progress of my life. The hands on the clock continue to turn, and the sun rises every morning. I'm thinking, "I wish Chris were here," and I'm thinking it constantly. Even though the grief is not on the surface, the missing is as strong as it ever was. We can't explain it, but we want to share it. We might not break down, but the strength of the grief never fades. We just keep on living with it and do the best we are able to do. I miss my brother.

Scott Mastley, Atlanta TCF - In memory of my brother, Chris Mastley -September 2, 1967 - December 5, 1994

We Remember You With Love

June Angel Dates

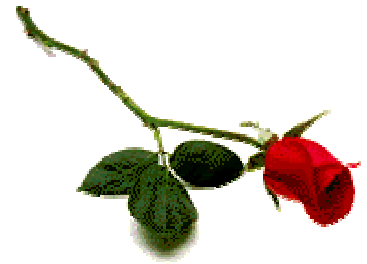


June 1	Jeff Barnes, son of Ron and Linda Barnes, Talking Rock
June 2	Steven Wood Phelan, son of Terry & Connie Phelan, Marietta
June 2	David Q. Brown, son of Priscilla Brown, Ellenwood
June 2	John William Allen, son of Marian and Doug Allen, Marietta
June 2	Donald F. Miller, Jr., son of Don Miller, Lilburn
June 2	Carleton Demareo Copeland, son of Louise Copeland, Atlanta
June 3	Gloria Anne Farmer, daughter of Terry and Kim Farmer, Rome
June 5	Earnest Elton Moran, son of Peggy Moran, Gainesville
June 6	Madeline Dabney Adams, daughter of Madeline R. Adams, Atlanta
June 6	Laurie King, daughter of Jane King, Kennesaw
June 7	Meghan Elizabeth Collins, daughter of Mary T. Collins, Villa Park, IL
June 7	Summer D. Holyfield, daughter of Dina and Donald Holyfield, Roswell
June 7	Chad Steven Martin, son of Joanie Martin, Smyrna
June 9	Jenny Smith, daughter of Bob Smith, Atlanta
June 9	Michele Reno, daughter of Charles and Janice Reno, Powder Springs
June 10	Margie Ann Lind, daughter of Betty and Bob Lind, Lilburn
June 10	Robert A. Lind, Jr., son of Betty and Bob Lind, Lilburn
June 10	James Adam Jenkins, son of June and Glinda Jenkins, Canton
June 11	Chad Alessio, son of Carol and Mike Alessio, Peachtree City
June 11	Natasha Jeboo, daughter of Emil and Geoffrey Jeboo, Fayetteville
June 12	Damian Hebert, son of Julie and Bill Hebert, Marietta and brother of Angela Bloebaum, Fortson
June 12	Jonathan Tripp, son of Judy Tripp, Kennesaw
June 13	Jemaine Nelson Webley, son of Marilyn Webley, Decatur
June 14	Shawn Dew, son of Diane Dew, Rome
June 15	Rusty Kohler, son of Terri and Dan Kohler, Kennesaw
June 16	Joey Green, son of Terresa Green, Summerville
June 17	Jenna Bonet Parker, daughter of Fred and Renee Parker, Lawrenceville
June 18	Jason Gibson, son of Tricia Garrett, Stone Mountain
June 18	Scott Malone, son of Kathy and Pat Malone, Snellville
June 18	Phillip W. Cunnagin, Jr., son of Lenora and Phillip Cunnagin, Palm Harbor, FL and brother to Mary Cunnagin, Crystal Beach, FL
June 18	Melissa Hermanns, daughter of MaryAnn Hermanns, Lawrenceville
June 18	Ray Smathers, brother of Melissa Robertson, Rome
June 19	Mu Paranhos, son of Terrence and Lucia Roy, Marietta
June 19	Kristi Ziegler, daughter of Suzanne Ziegler, Marietta
June 19	Jennifer Lea Evans, daughter of Al and Delores Evans, Tucker
June 19	Debra Joy Littman, daughter of Muriel Littman, Atlanta
June 19	Christy Sutton, daughter of Linda Sutton, Woodstock
June 20	Jarod Morel Ruff, son of Herman and Joan Ruff, Atlanta
June 20	Taylor Davis, son of Sherry Davis, Hiram
June 20	Richard Russ, son of Richard and Emily Russ, Stone Mountain

What is immutable is love and its sheer power. Not even death can diminish its possibilities. ~by Molly Fumia

We Remember You With Love

June Angel Dates



June 21	Chanda Collett, daughter of Kathy Collett, Stockbridge
June 21	Leslie Amanda Gee, daughter of Charles and Betsy Gee, Dunwoody
June 21	Matthew Corley, grandson of Nancy Wellborn, Kennesaw
June 22	Yardley Coffey, son of Patricia Coffey, Lithonia
June 22	Ron Cole II, son of Peggy and Ron Cole, Lawrenceville
June 22	Amy Nycole Darland, daughter of Malisa Pitts, Grain Valley, MO
June 24	Jeremy Francis, son of Ellen and Ed Francis, Atlanta
June 25	Christopher Earl duCasse, son of Robbie Bowman, Snellville
June 25	Taylor Myers duCasse, son of Robbie Bowman, Snellville
June 25	Richard Timothy Ware, son of Teresa and Richard Ware, Rome
June 26	Rodney Lester, son of Linda and Robert Lester, Marietta
June 27	Donald Cox, son of Jeannette Avritt, Waleska
June 27	Jacob Daniel Whitley, son of Pam and Danny Whitley, Ellerslie
June 28	Jason Edward Palmer, son of Sandra Palmer, Lilburn
June 28	Reuben Alicea, son of Georgina Perez-Davila, Atlanta
June 28	Barbara Jean Mixon, daughter of Mifi and Louis Mixon, Lawrenceville
June 28	Eric Mitchel Smith, son of John Smith, Atlanta
June 29	Frank Griffin, son of Katherine and Harold Griffin, Fayetteville
June 29	Theresa Jenkins, daughter of Sharon and Lester Jenkins, Tucker
June 30	Jeffrey K. Meredith, brother of Scott Meredith, Snellville
June 30	Melissa Fleming, sister of Heidi Hunter Fleming, Fayetteville
June 30	Melvin Shannon, son of Lillian Smith, Decatur, and brother of Juanita White, Atlanta
June 30	Robert Andrew Schmeelk, son of John Schmeelk, Lawrenceville and Sally Schmeelk, Lawrenceville
June 30	Brian Whitworth, son of Michele Wright, Lawrenceville

Reflections of a Mother's Day Denied

by Michelle Parrish, Columbia TCF Chapter, Baltimore, MD

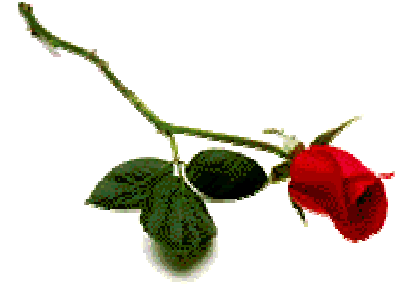
On this, my first Mother's Day, I asked myself, Do I have the right to celebrate Mother's Day? Have I truly been a mother this past year? The answer is yes.

Each day I have cared for my child as every mother does, except differently. In every way possible I have mothered him.

I have mothered him with every tear shed; through the agony of longing to hold him. I have rocked him in my heart if not in my arms. I have kissed his little cheeks in my mind if not with my lips. Smelled his sweetness with my hopes if not my nose. Felt his skin with my memory, if not my hands. Tickled him with my wishes, if not with my fingers.

Am I a mother? I truly am. My physical mothering has been limited to lovingly tending his grave. But I am a mother all the same.

Gifts of Love



A love gift is a gift of money to The Compassionate Friends local chapters. 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. Love gifts are acknowledged each month in the newsletter.

In Loving Memory of Drew Holder, from his parents Mike and Paula Holder, Powder Springs, GA
In Loving Memory of Tim Ware, from his parents Richard and Teresa Ware, Rome, GA
In Loving Memory of Kenneth David Kemp, from his parents Kimberly and Ronald McCain, Norcross, GA
In Loving Memory of Sheila H. Yamada, from her mother Maureen Hammond, Rome, GA

In Loving Memory of Charles Pilgreen, from his mother Brenda Shiplet, Birmingham, AL
In Loving Memory of Tony Hong, from his parents Peter and Soo Hong, Suwanee, GA
In Loving Memory of Jennifer Dailey, from her parents Robert and Joanne Dailey, Lilburn, GA
In Loving Memory of Shelley Harmon, from her parents Sammy and Patty Harmon, Atlanta, GA

In Loving Memory of Christopher Simpson, from his parents Kenny and Tricia Simpson and brother Luke Simpson, Auburn, GA

In Loving Memory of Christopher Simpson, from his grandmother Elizabeth Luke, Auburn, GA
In Loving Memory of Alvin W. Stevens III, from his parents Sally and John Harper, Birmingham, AL
In Loving Memory of Bailee Elizabeth McClellan, from her parents Brian and Jennifer McClellan, Armuchee, GA

In Loving Memory of Catherine Amiss, from her parents Don and Martha Copeland, Lawrenceville, GA
In Loving Memory of Josh Phillips, from his parents Wendy and Steve Phillips, Winder, GA
In Loving Memory of Stephanie Weber, from her parents John and Cecilia Weber, Roswell, GA
In Loving Memory of Micki Henderson, from her mother Judy McElreath, Union City, GA

In Loving Memory of Ken McCurdy, from his parents Lynn and Mac McCurdy, Lilburn, GA
In Loving Memory of Kathy Jones Reid, from her mother Helen B. Jones, Duluth, GA
In Loving Memory of Randy K. Jones, from his mother Helen B. Jones, Duluth, GA
In Loving Memory of Dr. David Scott Barker, from his parents Jeanne and Bob Barker, Newnan, GA

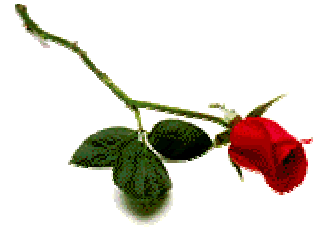
In Loving Memory of Blanca Rosa M. Anson II, from her friend, Bruno Gaultier, Paris FRANCE
In Loving Memory of Kristin Huguely, from her parents Suzanne and Bob Huguely, Atlanta, GA
In Loving Memory of Blanca Rosa Anson II, from her mother Blanca Rosa M. Anson, Atlanta, GA
In Loving Memory of Melvin Shannon, from his sister Juanita White, Atlanta, GA

In Loving Memory of Maria-Victoria Boucugnani's birthday (April 30th), from her mother Lynda Boucugnani-Whitehead, Fayetteville, GA

In Loving Memory of Kevin Saye's birthday (April 3rd), from Lynda Boucugnani-Whitehead, Fayetteville, GA
In Loving Memory of Yvonne Bowers, from her father Robert Bowers, Duluth, GA
In Loving Memory of Alan, Chris and Richard Henderson, from their brother-in-law Robert Bowers, Duluth, GA

In Loving Memory of Robert Parsons, from his mother Barbara Parsons, Sugar Hill, GA
In Loving Memory of Tiffany Vaughn, from her mother Susan Vaughn, Roswell, GA
In Memory of Kathleen and Toby Edwards, from their parents Kris & Herbert Edwards, Macomb, IL
In Loving Memory of Jessica Bryl, from Kris and Herbert Edwards, Macomb, IL

Gifts of Love (continued)



In Loving Memory of Michele Reno, from her parents Janice and Charles Reno,
Powder Springs, GA

In Loving Memory of Trey James, from his father Brady James, Kennesaw, GA

In Loving Memory of Sadie Barrett, from her parents Scott and Lynn Barrett, Carrollton, GA

In Loving Memory of Elizabeth O'Keefe, from her parents Charles and Diane Brissey, Kennesaw, GA

In Loving Memory of Chad Gordon's birthday (May 21st), from his parents Wayne and Jayne Newton, Lilburn, GA

"Gifts of Love" in remembering our children and siblings help to pay for our Atlanta Area Newsletter, Postage, Books for our Lending Libraries and Resources, Memorial Services, Candle Lightings, Telephone and Outreach, Website, Meeting Facilities and Dues to the National TCF Office. The monies donated here are used to directly support our local area chapters, Tucker, Lawrenceville, Sandy Springs, Marietta, Ben Hill and Jonesboro.

You can also make donations directly to your individual chapter at your local chapter meeting.

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 to TCF Atlanta Area Chapters in Memory of Other 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. It is important that all these volunteers be recognized and thanked....

The True Gift is in the Giving.

A Special Note: Because of your local donations we are able to expand our newsletter outreach free of charge to other chapters in Georgia and bereaved parents throughout the U.S. Our bi-monthly newsletter circulation is 1400. We are also able to reach 1030 families daily with our TCF Atlanta Online Sharing and our web site has over 650 visitors per day. Our six local chapters' attendance per month totals an average of 100 families. All of this is possible because of your local support and our local volunteers.

A Special "Thank you" to our Volunteers.....Our local TCF Atlanta organization is run solely by loving volunteers. We have people who give generously of their time and talent to make our TCF Atlanta Organization work. I realize in the beginning most people think TCF just runs itself or has a National Office that runs the local chapters...but in reality each chapter or group of chapters are run solely by the loving volunteers in their own community. I think it is important to remember all these volunteers.....

The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart.

Face your deficiencies and acknowledge them; but do not let them master you.

Let them teach you patience, sweetness, insight. When we do the best we can, we never know what miracle is wrought in our life, or in the life of another. -- Helen Keller

The Compassionate Friends Atlanta Area Chapters Meeting Schedule

TCF VoiceLink: (770) 491-8784 Leave word for a prompt return call
Web Site: www.tcfatlanta.org Webmaster Email: webmaster@tcfatlanta.org

Meet Monthly at the following locations:

Atlanta (Tucker) Chapter - 7:30 p.m., Second Tuesdays: First Christian Church of Atlanta, 4532 LaVista Rd., Tucker
Contacts: Susan Carithers (770) 474-6243 or wescar20@yahoo.com
Robert Bowers 770-326-9409 or Robert_Bowers_2000@yahoo.com
Ann Sechrist (770) 760-0756 or nsechris@bellsouth.net
Jayne Newton (770) 923-5356 or jayne@tcfatlanta.org

Sibling Group (Tucker) - ages 12 and over. Contact: Julie Johnston at (770) 690-4295 dogwood1@mindspring.com
Jim Dirr (770) 813-9831

North Atlanta (Sandy Springs) Chapter - 7:30 p.m., Fourth Wednesdays: The Link Counseling Center, 348 Mt. Vernon Highway, Sandy Springs, GA. Contact: Judy Blumsack at (770) 410-9819 or by email: jeblumsack@aol.com
Or Muriel Littman at (404) 603-9942 or by email: murlit@webtv.net

Marietta Chapter - 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.; First Tuesdays: The Fellowship Hall of The First Baptist Church of Marietta, 148 Church Street, Marietta, Ga Contact: Susan Van Vleck at (770) 499-9770 or email yelowbrick@mindspring.com

(New) Mid Day Meeting: 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. Third Tuesday: DaNita Chaplin's House. Call DaNita at 770-439-5703 for information and directions.

Jonesboro Chapter - 7:30 p.m., First Mondays: Poston Road Baptist Church, 9701 Poston Rd., Jonesboro, GA. Contact: Contact: Diana Green 770-477-9425 or Susan Carithers 770-474-6243 or email wescar20@yahoo.com

Southwest Atlanta (Ben Hill) Group - 7:30 p.m., First Thursdays: . Ben Hill United Methodist Church, 2099 Fairburn Road, SW, Atlanta, Ga., 30331, Room 301 Contact: Sharon Williams at (404) 768 5440 or email saw913@aol.com

Lawrenceville Chapter - 7:30 p.m., Third Thursdays: First Baptist Church of Lawrenceville, 165 Clayton Lawrenceville, Contact: Meg Avery (770) 932-5862 or email memoriesr4ever@juno.com

North Georgia Chapter (Gainesville) - 7:30 p.m., Second Thursday each month Gainesville Care Center, 435 Green Street Place, Gainesville, GA. Contact: Judy Miller at (770) 287-1239 or email bobjudym@charter.net
Peggy Moran 770-536-0501 or PMor3159@aol.com

Rome Chapter - 7:00 p.m., Second Thursday of each month at Redmond Regional Hospital, in one of their classrooms Rome, GA Contact Sandra Stinson (706) 235-6108 or Donley41@aol.com or Ginger Miles 706-291-0355 cangmiles@aol.com

Athens Chapter (Northeast Georgia) - 7:30 p.m. - Second Mondays: Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 800 West Lake Drive, (ext. off Alps Rd.) Athens, GA Contact Johnnie Sue Moore (706) 769-6256 or John2moore@worldnet.att.net

Rockdale Parents Bereavement Group (Conyers) - 7:30 PM on the 1st Tuesday of every month. First Baptist Church of Conyers, 2100 Hwy 138 N.E. Conyers Contact: Bill and Teal Snapp (770) 483-1267 or Thesnapps@email.msn.com