



**THE
COMPASSIONATE
FRIENDS**
Supporting Family After a Child Dies



Newsletter of the Atlanta Chapter

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

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

Directions: From I-285/Perimeter Freeway, take the LaVista Road exit and proceed east on LaVista Road (left turn from the inner loop, right turn from the outer loop). We're about a mile ahead on the left.

Upcoming Chapter Meetings: Oct. 9, Nov.13 and Dec. 11
Simultaneous meetings for parents and siblings are held.

Abigail Arthur-Chillman passes the torch

By: Meredith Mann

On behalf of the Atlanta Chapter of the Compassionate Friends, we want to thank Abigail for her work with the newsletter over the last two years. It has been an amazing two years of good publications that offered support and encouragement for members to a degree that Abigail may never understand, but they will always appreciate.

One of the things I'm learning about being a member of TCF is that everyone focuses on how much he or she has gained from the experience and the companionship, without realizing that they've helped someone too, through comforting words, volunteering or simply being at a meeting. Thank you, Abigail – we wish you all the best in your pursuit of a legal career.

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Candlelight Service to be Held Saturday, Dec. 1

*By Cindy Durham
Candlelight Service Chair*

The Rev. James M. Donald, who is associated with All Saints Episcopal Church in Midtown, will be the parent speaker at this year's Candlelight Service. Rev. Donald, pictured to the left with his wife, Kathryn, came highly recommended by a TCF member who said the Rev. Donald, who is a bereaved father himself, "has helped me through my grief in the loss of my son."

The 2012 Candlelight Service, an annual tradition of the Atlanta/Tucker Chapter of The Compassionate Friends, will be held on Saturday, Dec. 1. The program begins at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary of the First Christian Church of Atlanta, and will be followed by a reception in the Fellowship Hall.

Rev. Donald will be addressing the TCF Chapter in memory of his son, Jonathan Charles Donald (1972-1992).

Jonathan was the younger of the Donald's two sons by two and a half years. At age 10 he was diagnosed with Juvenile Diabetes and began the transition to insulin dependency. A remarkably disciplined young man, he mastered the dynamics of blood glucose monitoring and administering self-injected insulin several times a day. As a part of the journey into independence, Jonathan had the opportunity to enter the Virginia Episcopal School in Lynchburg for the last two years of high school, transitioning from home to being on his own. All of the anxieties of letting go and self-sufficiency were worked through both by Jonathan and his parents.

Jonathan then went off to the University of the South where he began the challenge of a pre-med major with a life goal of discovering a cure for diabetes. Home for Christmas in 1991, he connected with some of his buddies for a few days skiing at Snowshoe in West Virginia. There he came down with the flu, tried to take care of himself appropriately, but finally agreed to call for an ambulance at 3 a.m. on New Year's Day. On the way to the nearest hospital – 46 miles away – the extreme condition of keto-acidosis developed, which led to cardiac arrest. While medical personnel were able to stabilize him, he needed air transportation to the hospital at West Virginia University in Morgantown. There he arrested three more times before his parents could arrive. The medical team was not able to revive him.

Rev. Donald says, "The loss of a child is almost universally ranked as the worst human experience. So much comes to an abrupt halt and the strength to even undertake the simplest tasks can be overpowering. The journey forward can include so much of the journey back. The pace and the strength come in so many varieties."

He says, "The simple power of what mental health wisdom tells us is real; the journey is never *around* or *away*, the journey forward is *through*. Compassionate friends can make all the difference. We can try the journey on our own or we can try it together. Which will you choose?"

With a BA in history from St. Michael's College and an MAT from Notre Dame, Rev. Donald's first career was as a secondary school history teacher in Vermont. At age 31, he and his wife Kathryn took their family, including two sons, to New York City where he entered the General Theological Seminary in preparation for ordained ministry in the Episcopal Church. The next 30 years took him to positions in Washington, D.C., Charleston, S.C., Charleston, W.Va., and then back to Washington. In 2005 he retired as Rector of St. Columba's Church in Washington, choosing to move to Atlanta to be near their son Matt and his family in Decatur. At All Saints Church in Midtown, Rev. Donald is principally doing some teaching and liturgical functioning.

Our Sibling Speaker

One of the teen members of Kate's Club will be our sibling speaker this year. Kate's Club is open to all children and teens, ages 5-18, living in the Metro Atlanta area who have experienced the death of a parent, sibling, or primary caregiver at some point in their lifetime. Kate's Club strives to create an environment where grieving children and their families can re-engage in life.



Kate's Club programs for children and teens include: club outings, support services, an annual overnight camp that offers high-energy camp experiences paired with grief-support activities, and a series of collaborative partnerships with local schools and child-serving organizations. It also serves the families of Kate's Club members through grief education and extra support during the holidays.

We will have more information soon about the teen who will be addressing our Candlelight Service. Watch www.tcfatlanta.org for details.

For more information about Kate's Club, go to www.katesclub.org or contact (404) 347-7619 or info@katesclub.org.

Candles Will Be Provided

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.

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. If you have not previously sent a picture of your child or sibling for inclusion in the slideshow, please send a picture as soon as possible to Dan Bryl. Even if you are unsure you are attending the service, please send a picture, so we will have it for future candlelight services. (The deadline to submit a picture is Nov. 15.) ***If you sent a picture in previous years, you do not need to send another photo.***

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

Photos should be scanned and sent to Dan by e-mail at danbetty23@tampabay.rr.com. Or, mail your photo to:

Dan Bryl
7428 Vista Way, # 106
Bradenton, FL 34202

Your photo will be returned to you unharmed.

Reception and Centerpieces

We also want to ask everyone who attends the Candlelight Service to bring something 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/plant 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.

Funding the Candlelight Service

While these Candlelight programs are very special, they also are expensive. We rely on contributions from our chapter members to help us with speaker expenses and other costs associated with this program. If you can send even a small contribution toward Candlelight Service expenses, it would be greatly appreciated.

Your contribution can be added to your centerpiece order (see enclosed form) or simply mailed to our Atlanta Chapter treasurer. Checks should be made payable to *The Compassionate Friends* and mailed to:



Atlanta Chapter, TCF
Attn: Jayne Newton
808 Brentway Court
Lilburn, GA 30047

We hope you will join us Dec. 1 for this year's Candlelight Service.

Questions about the Candlelight Service can be addressed to Cindy Durham at (770) 938-6511 or cindy_durham@bellsouth.net.

Chapter Remembrance Card Outreach

By Jayne Newton

The Atlanta Chapter has supported the "remembrance card" outreach for many years. We feel it is very important that our children and siblings are remembered on birthdays and angel dates. Receiving a card on those especially difficult days sometimes makes those days a little softer to bear.

The outreach is done by chapter volunteers. I took over creating the cards about a year ago. Carol Hawley created the cards before that for many years. It has meant a lot to me to be able to give back to other bereaved parents in this way.

I am planning to step down at the end of the year. Our chapter needs one of you to become our next "remembrance card" volunteer. If you don't feel comfortable actually designing and creating the cards, other chapters purchase "blank" cards and include an insert. I am sure all of you have received a remembrance card from our chapter in the past and if not, you may have elected not to receive them or you are very new to our chapter or we do not have a current address.

This can be done by a bereaved parent who may have stopped coming to the meetings ... as it's not necessary for this particular job. It could be a way to give back for people farther down the line, who don't feel the need to come to meetings but still want to help.

We mail between 30 and 40 cards per month. The cost of this program is funded by chapter donations.

If you would be interested in taking over this special program beginning January 2013, please contact:

Jayne Newton at (770) 923-5356 or jayne@tcfatlanta.org



Atlanta (Tucker) Chapter 32nd Annual Candlelight Remembrance Service

**Saturday, December 1, 2012
Centerpieces and Poinsettias
for Sale**

**Sponsor a Centerpiece or Poinsettia
“In Memory of Your Child/Sibling/Grandchild”**

We will display a sign “*In Memory of Your
Child/Sibling/Grandchild*” next to each sponsored item.

Measuring 5" tall by 5" wide, this
beautiful candle will be displayed along with
holiday greenery and a special butterfly card.

www.tcfatlanta.org/Candlelighting2012.html
www.tcfatlanta.org/Candlelighting2012Centerpieces.html

This year’s centerpiece will be a beautiful candle
featuring one of three messages. Choose from:

- Believe
- Faith – Hope – Love
- Memory is the treasury and guardian of all things

After the reception, you can take the centerpiece or flowers home with you as a special remembrance. If you cannot attend the candlelight service, your centerpiece or poinsettia will be donated to a newly-bereaved family to take home after the reception.

The cost of a Centerpiece or Poinsettia is \$30. Please consider adding an additional contribution to this fee, to help cover speaker and other Candlelight Service costs. 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 _____”

Child or Sibling’s: Birth Date: _____ Angel Date: _____

I want to sponsor a: _____ Poinsettia _____ Candle Centerpiece (select wording below):

_____ Believe

_____ Faith – Hope – Love

_____ Memory is the treasury and guardian of all things

Please check: _____ \$30 (Centerpiece/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

Supplies are limited; all orders are first-come, first-served and must be ordered no later than Nov. 15. If you are ordering more than one centerpiece/poinsettia, please complete a separate form for each Memory Card. Questions? Call Cindy Durham at 770-938-6511 or email cindy_durham@bellsouth.net.

Compassionate Friends Unveils "Create a Memorial Website" Program

When you ask bereaved parents their greatest fear, you're likely to hear that they're afraid their child will be forgotten.

That fear can now be put to rest through The Compassionate Friends new "Create a Memorial Website" program. In partnership with online memorial leader Legacy.com, the new Compassionate Friends program allows you to easily create an online memorial website so that your child, sibling or grandchild will always be remembered. A portion of the proceeds from the memorial website you create also will go to support The Compassionate Friends and its many national programs designed to aid families going through the natural grieving process following the death of a child.

With these unique, easy-to-create memorial tributes, you can customize the design, yet create a site in five minutes using Legacy.com's four-step process. You can include photos, videos, stories and music; invite family and friends to contribute; and join in celebrating the life of the child you're remembering.

There is a 14-day free trial period and 25 percent discount off the first year's sponsorship.

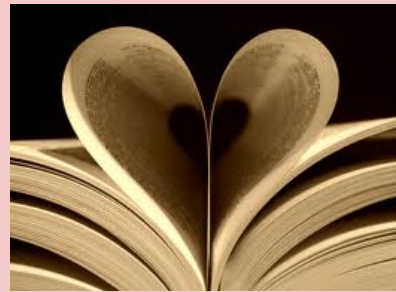
Learn more at <http://www.compassionatefriends.org>. Under "Resources," click on "Create a Memorial Website."

Did you know?

The Compassionate Friends is connected with a great resource for grief books.

If you are interested in finding grief books, check out Centering Corporation, the official recommended grief resource center of The Compassionate Friends. With the largest selection of grief-related resources in the United States, Centering Corporation will probably have just about anything you're looking for – or they'll be able to tell you where to find it.

Call Centering Corporation for a catalog at (402) 553-1200 or visit their website at <http://www.centering.org>. When ordering, be sure to mention you are with The Compassionate Friends and all shipping charges will be waived.



Have You Found TCF on Facebook?

Please visit and help promote The Compassionate Friends National Organization's Facebook page by becoming a fan. You can get there by clicking on the Facebook icon from TCF's national website home page at <http://www.compassionatefriends.org>. Or, you can find it by going to: <http://www.facebook.com/TCFUSA>.

"We want this to be both an informative and supportive place for those of us who are mourning the death of a child, sibling, or grandchild," says TCF's Executive Director Patricia Loder. "All are welcome to leave messages and talk about the child and their grief. As in our meetings, we especially appreciate shared insights about anything that has brought you comfort, hope, or some measure of peace."

In addition to the social support aspect, The Compassionate Friends/USA Facebook page has posts about upcoming events such as conferences, the Walk to Remember, and the Worldwide Candle Lighting. Please visit often and contribute to the conversation.

Comfort comes from all kinds of places, reading posts of stories, thoughts and insights from others may bring you comfort in the days between meetings. This page is an outlet for thoughts and experiences, and also a reminder that there are others who feel the same hole in their heart that you do, and that you are never alone.

Mercer Students Exploring New Group for Family and Friends of Bereaved Parents, Grandparents and Siblings

A group of Mercer University students working on their Masters degrees in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and School Counseling are taking the initiative to explore the creation of a new group to help family members and friends of those who have experienced the death of a child.

In the formation stage, the students want to communicate to friends and family how best to help those who grieve. Often times, others do not know what to do or say.

Group members welcome feedback. We invite you to email julie.berger@live.mercer.edu about the most meaningful actions that someone has done for you – or words spoken to you – during the grieving process. Thanks so much for your contributions!

Julie Berger

I'm Beginning

*I'm beginning to know your children
From the things I heard you tell.
From the pictures that you've
brought here
I think I know them well
Our hurt and sorrow are immense
I'm not sure where to start.
Compassion after all is
Your pain in my heart.
My thanks to you for listening
To words wrung from my soul.
We are The Compassionate Friends
That's all I need to know.*

Jack Brown
TCF Louisville

Love Gifts



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 chapter. The following donations are in support of the Atlanta Chapter newsletter, candlelight service, website 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 is 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 Christopher Lee Simpson, from his grandmother, Elizabeth Luke, Auburn, GA
In Loving Memory of Todd Kirk Stien, from his mother Lorann Stien, Eau Claire, WI
In Loving Memory of John Wayne Cunningham, from his mother June Spier, Atlanta, GA

In Loving Memory of Michael Moskowitz, from his brother Arnie Moskowitz, Atlanta, GA
In Loving Memory of Jennifer Gryzinski, from her mother Lisa Katz, Atlanta, GA
In Loving Memory of Nichelle Twyman, from her mother Carol A. McNeal, Stone Mountain, GA
In Loving Memory of Mervyn Twyman, from his mother Carol A. McNeal, Stone Mountain, GA



When God-Talk is Not the Answer

By Jane Caruso, Conyers, GA

Grieving could be an Olympic sport. It takes more stamina, effort and endurance than anything I have ever gone through. It is grueling and exhausting. I think it could be compared to long distance running while listening to an iPod. You use the music as a distraction because the sheer magnitude of the hills up ahead is overwhelming. You put on the best running shoes you have to cushion the terrain but still find yourself limping all along the way. You try several different courses, looking for the one that will yield the best results. At the end of the day, you hope that tomorrow will be better.

All of the Olympic athletes have outstanding coaches who have experience in their fields. They know what it takes to succeed. They know what it is like to build from the ground up. They understand fear, defeat, confusion, anger and the desire to give up. "Been there / done that" breeds trust. They assure you that you are not alone, that your feelings and reactions are normal and that they will be there to support you every step of the way.

I am on the lookout for some coaches to help us. I have talked to Rick about the idea of attending a meeting of The Compassionate Friends, a group composed of parents who have experienced the death of a child. The founder of the organization sums it up like this: "The Compassionate Friends is about transforming the pain of grief into the elixir of hope. It takes people out of the isolation society imposes on the bereaved and lets them express their grief naturally. With the shedding of tears, healing comes. And the newly bereaved get to see people who have survived and are learning to live and love again."

I called a longstanding member of the Atlanta chapter a few weeks ago to ask about the group. One of the first questions I asked was if it was a "faith-based" group, since I was not interested in that. (Funny question from someone who spent the four years before Kate's diagnosis studying, training and working as a hospital/hospice chaplain.) She explained that, for some members, their faith was instrumental in helping them cope and a large part of their story. Everyone is allowed to share but no one is allowed to "preach." That was exactly the answer I was seeking. It is not that I do not have faith, but I feel that many of the wonderful faith-filled people I know, while trying to encourage me (and ease their own discomfort) have sugarcoated our loss. Talk of eternal life, God wiping away all of the tears, no more death or suffering, God's will, God's plan, everything happens for a reason, this is not our home, Kate's in a better place, and such silences my voice while my head screams "That's not enough for **me** right now. I need something to get me through the next hour, not talk of eternity." While I am grateful for the promise of seeing Kate again, it is necessary for me to find a concrete way to survive the here and now.

I have read devotionals and several books on death and grieving from a Christian perspective. I am a seeker and I want to have a faith that sustains. I long for that peace that surpasses understanding. I read a book by Brian Jones called "Second Guessing God, Hanging On When You Can't See His Plan," when a friend of mine said it really helped him. I eagerly poured through the pages, looking for just the right words that would bring me comfort. (I found the title especially encouraging since I had been asked by a minister who I was to question God's will. I said I believed any mother who watched her child die after enduring such immense suffering could question anything she wanted and that I could not believe this was God's will.)

In this book, the author speaks of God's ability to see the big picture and not be as concerned as we are with the short-term fix. He says we just need to accept that and be patient, trusting that there is a reason for this, and one day, maybe tomorrow, or 25 years from now, or maybe not until after we die, it will all make sense. Until then, we should just relax and give the problem to God. He goes on to say, *"I don't know what you are going through right now, but may I remind you of something? If you are a follower of Jesus, one day your life will end, and God will welcome you into his presence forever. When that happens, I think God will take each of us to the side and say, 'Let me show you something. Do you see the back side of this carpet? That was your life on earth. Do you remember when you lost your child? Do you remember when your parents divorced? Do you remember the feelings of depression? Do you remember how awful it was to have your leg amputated?' Then I think he'll look at you, smile as wide as the sunrise, flip that carpet over, and say: 'This is what I was doing through you. Look at the big picture. Look at all of the people who were changed because of you.'"*

Say what??? Are those words meant to comfort? Kate suffered and died so we could somehow be the catalyst so others could be changed? I actually googled the author, hoping to find a phone number so I could call him and tell him exactly how his words made me feel. Regarding Kate's death, or any untimely death for that matter, I can't imagine God pulling anyone aside with a "smile as wide as the sunrise" to show how he was working upstream in our lives. I imagine God weeping, feeling my pain, and telling me that he was with me and for me on every step of the journey and that he is so sorry that this happened. This allows me to confront God, without expecting answers to the difficult questions, and ask for strength and guidance since I do not view him as the perpetrator. Some may say this is poor theology. I call it moving into survival mode. My spiritual foundation has sustained a blow of 9.5 on the Richter scale and I have to rethink, redefine and rebuild the structure.

In the meantime, I will seek out others who have lived through this unnatural order of life. Parents are not supposed to outlive their children. Hopefully this will provide a sense of security, knowing that I will be following in their footsteps and not forging ahead alone. Their stories will not be my story, but we will all share a common bond. In their company, talk of grieving will not be taboo. They will understand when I say there are still days when, for a fleeting second, I expect Kate to walk through the door. They will understand when I say the first year is not the hardest since it is during the second year that the shock wears off and reality settles in. They will understand that losing a child is something that changes you forever. The subject will not make them uncomfortable and when words fail, a tear will speak volumes. In this group, I will not feel like a stranger in a strange land. I have a very dear friend who is also a member of this exclusive club that no one wants to join, whose 8-year-old daughter died almost six years ago. When I talk with her and she says, "I know," I know she does. Those two words are so powerful.

I am hoping the members of this support group can serve as coaches for this grief marathon. The seasoned members know the pitfalls and the water stops. Who knows, perhaps I can serve as a coach to one whose loss is more recent than mine. There will be no podiums with gold, silver and bronze medals awarded for the one who suffered the most, cried the least or grieved the best. In this non-faith-based group, I am hoping to find my faith, since I believe, ultimately, that can be the most powerful, transformative, meaningful path to healing.

*Friends in your life are like pillars on your porch.
Sometimes they hold you up, and sometimes
they lean on you.
Sometimes it's just enough to know
they're standing by.
~ Anonymous ~*



The Measure of a Mann

By Meredith Mann

Have you ever seen a movie where one of the main characters dies in the middle? Right as you are getting into the best part, after the introductions, when you feel like you know the characters and you've started, often subconsciously, to develop possible endings in your head for how things will go? It isn't common. If my life were a movie, it is just reaching its climax. The majority of main characters are already in the picture, and there is some idea of what path I am headed on and where life will take me. There are things to look forward to in my predicted ending, grad school, a wedding, a career and a family. All things I would do with my brother as he enjoyed the same successes. Well, that was the plan. My brother, Michael Waite Mann, was 25 when he passed away unexpectedly at the end of last February. Who wouldn't turn off that movie, who wants to watch something with such an abrupt transition from a comedic drama to a tragedy? This isn't a film I can turn off. It is my life and I have no choice other than to continue, so I will do the best I can and take comfort in knowing that he is always watching.

Michael was my co-star. Him being my big brother was a given, but him being my best friend and my confidant, that was an added bonus. I know that all of you know the feeling of trying with all of your being to describe your lost loved child, sibling or grandchild, and you will understand what I mean when I say that words simply fail. I cannot fit Michael onto this page. I cannot tell you what he means to me, or share all of the stories that I think can shine a bit of light onto how wonderful he was. But, maybe that's not such a bad thing. Maybe the fact that I can't describe him, that I can't put it into words, is a testament to how truly amazing he was and how special our relationship was. So as for Michael, I will leave it at that. He was an amazing individual, someone I looked up to so greatly, someone who's every word and opinion I cherished, someone with whom I shared an indescribable bond, and someone who I am incredibly blessed to call my big brother.

Since Michael passed, so many people have told me that they've never known siblings as close as Michael and I, and some have asked me how we got so close. I've spent some time thinking about that question. It wasn't because we were so similar, because we have always been very different. It wasn't because we always got along, and it didn't mean we didn't fight growing up. It is a direct reflection of what phenomenal parents we have.

As different as Michael and I were, one common thread is that we have always known how fortunate we are to have the parents that we do. Michael and I wouldn't have known the value of such support and consideration if they had not led by example – at every meet, every game, calling just to say hi and see how things were going. My parents continue to lead by example. They are steadfast in their ways of honoring Michael, pushing through, carrying each other and me.

To my parents: when you look at me and wish I didn't hurt like I do – don't. That would mean that Michael and I wouldn't have had the relationship that we did. That relationship was the most amazing gift in the world. The depth of my grief is one measure of the man Michael was. The strength that I have comes from you. Thank you for all that you do and for keeping me going in the worst days of my life. I am so grateful to have the two of you and know that Michael would be proud of us for sticking together, though he would expect nothing less.

People say I am early in my grief to be taking on the task of newsletter editor, and I am, but Michael encouraged me in all that I did, and I know that his heart would break at the thought of me not challenging myself to accomplish more. So on the hardest days I keep pushing, for him. Knowing I'm living with two hearts means I will live this life with twice the passion, twice the courage and twice the love. Twice the drive, twice the motivation and twice the compassion will allow me to accomplish twice the dreams, his and mine, and I will do it all in his honor. I hope he enjoys the show.



*“I carry your heart with me
(I carry it in my heart)
I am never without it
(anywhere I go, you go, my dear)
~ E.E. Cummings ~*

*I hope that he felt it when I looked at him like he was my world,
because he truly was.*

Just One More Day With You, Drew ~ 02/20/1987 – 10/15/2006

By Carole Adams

It is a most fervent wish I hold now, close to my heart and it is a secret wish that permeates my very soul. It is simply the one dream that I have not lost, just to have one more day with you, son. It is what keeps me going when things get rough and I grow weary without you here. I think of you and can only imagine how special, how amazing and just how incredible having just one more day with you might be.

Oh, of all of the things I would have to say, and how I would love to look into those sparkling blue eyes and see you smiling back. I would do anything for one more chance to hear your voice and your laughter. How I yearn to see your sweet face and that head of shiny black hair that was all yours. That walk was certainly your own and how unbelievably do I miss it. Son, I miss just to be in your presence and I think I could be happy forever just to hear you say the word “Mom” one more day, Oh just once!

Sometimes, I look up to the stars at night and wonder if you know just how much I miss you. I day dream and often try to picture how we might spend one more day. I truly can't help myself. We could go fishing, to the mountains, or any place at all. Wherever it might be, without a doubt, it would be the happiest day of my life.

The love I have for you still carries on and carries me through, while our Father is taking care of you. You see, I can't fathom anything, here on earth that I could ever or would ever want more now than to have just one more day with you, Drew. You rained sunshine on my world and made the colors stand out ever so bright. So, I am going to keep holding on to my dream very tight. It does not matter son, wherever we would go, or whatever we might do, as long as I could be with you ... Just One More Day.

*Remembering you, Son this day and always,
Your Mother Forever*



"It has been said, 'time heals all wounds.' I do not agree. The wounds remain. In time, the mind, protecting its sanity, covers them with scar tissue and the pain lessens. But it is never gone."

~ Rose Kennedy ~



*Let your tears come. Let them water your soul.
~ Eileen Mayhew ~*

**Birthdates of Our Children, Siblings and Grandchildren
October, November and December**

Azariah Suvari Anderson

10/2

Daughter of Michelle Stewart Anderson

Richard Alan Cartin

10/2

Son of Nancy Murphy

Ali Ramiz Okayay

10/2

Son of Jullie Okayay

Kaxon Harris

10/3

Son of Karen Harris

Stephen Ledford

10/4

Son of Luella and Mike Ledford

Tyler Tarbutton

10/4

Son of Renee Tarbutton

Maeve Elizabeth Fintak

10/5

Daughter of Steve and Brigid Fintak

John Thomas Arnold

10/6

Son of Donna Arnold

Dorienne Lindsay Smith

10/8

Daughter of Pamela Earle Smith

Meleia Warren Willis-Starbuck

10/10

Daughter of John and Kimberly Starbuck

Laura Kressen

10/12

Daughter of Joanne Darko

Grant Goodwin Gonyeau

10/12

Son of Lacey Goodwin & Thom Gonyeau

Marquis Sekou Overstreet

10/13

Son of Keisha Langhome

Ian Gabriel Keller

10/13

Brother of Dru Miller

Marquis Overstreet

10/13

Son of Nathaniel Overstreet

Jonathan-Diondre' Holloway

10/15

Son of Cynthia Edwards-Holloway

Candi Gaye Marshall

10/16

Daughter of Gena and John Ivester

Scott Wiseman

10/19

Son of Lynn Wiseman

Sallie Scanlon

10/20

Daughter of Jane R. Scanlon

Herbert Shaw Jr.

10/21

Son of Arlena M. Shaw

Carrie Ann Plumley

10/22

Daughter of Deborah Plumley

Rachaeli Fier

10/25

Daughter of Eric Fier

Dilia Plummer

10/25

Daughter of Dijon Plummer

Jacob Miller

10/26

Son of Sandra and Richard Miller

Michelle Reeves

10/28

Daughter of Jim and BJ Reeves

Quin-Chay Johnson

10/29

Daughter and Sister of
Tara and Amber Johnson

Marcellus Montex Richardson

10/29

Son of Paulette Perry

Amelia Sutterthwaite Ward

10/29

Daughter of Lisa and Greg Ward

Ronnie Keith Batchelor

10/30

Son of Ron Batchelor

Tyreek Seivwright

11/1

Son of Donna Derricho

Latoya Peart

11/1

Daughter of Alvin and Patsy
Dorman

Brandon Jack Phillips

11/1

Son of Susan and Jack Phillips

Jameka Deshon Holmes

11/4

Daughter of Charlotte Hamm

Autumn DuBose

11/5

Daughter of John DuBose

Thomas Watson

11/6

Son of Linda Watson

Mark Cozine

11/6

Son of Anne Franzen

James Daniel Smith

11/6

Son of Judith Smith

Matthew Luke Davis

11/7

Son of Lena L. Price

Jennifer Marie Dailey

11/9

Daughter of Joanne and Bob
Dailey

Rose Ann Thompson

11/12

Daughter of Kevin Thompson

Carlos Ramone Weaver

11/12

Son of Carlos Weaver

Amanda Christine Warnock
11/13
Daughter of Amy Osier

Keith Perry
11/14
Son of Oveta Perry

Zekia M Rhodes
11/15
Granddaughter of Beverly Ricks

Kathleen Beamer
11/17
Daughter of Maureen Beamer

Carter Martin
11/20
Son of Scott and Leigh Ann
Martin

Najah Maryaam Greenwood
11/20
Daughter of Fadeela Rasheed

Joshua Keith
11/22
Son of Demetria Gholston

Matthew Marcus Long
11/27
Son of Timothy Long

Robert A. Lind, Jr.
11/29
Son of Bette and Bob Lind

Clayton Olvey
11/30
Son of June Smith

Ashley Craig
12/2
Daughter of La Tangie Craig

Xavier Excel Williams
12/2
Son of Dorothy Jackson

Connor Dunn Devine
12/3
Son of Kathleen Devine

James Anthony Durham
12/3
Son and Brother of
Cindy Durham and
Katie Jarvis

Joshua Polain
12/3
Son of Kimberly Polain

David James Teddlie
12/5
Son and Brother of Anne and Don
Teddlie and Lynn Teddlie

Averil Brown
12/7
Son of Carolyn Brown

LCpl John R. Cagle
12/8
Son of Carolyn Cagle

Clarissa Cunningham
12/8
Daughter of Winston and Judy
Cunningham

Tony Edge
12/12
Son of Victoria Schutter

Sean Thomas Reeder
12/13
Son of Alison Reeder

Katherine A. Chillman
12/17
Daughter of Abigail Arthur-Chillman
and Michael Chillman

Amanda Kay Rose
12/17
Daughter of Barbara and
Jim Sinke Rose

Meseret Debru
12/18
Son of Kila Gebru

David Hoegler
12/18
Son of Doreen and James Hoegler
Brother of Denise Hoegler

Steve Inman Jr.
12/22
Son of Steve and Linda Inman

Michael B. Faulkner
12/24
Son of Wayne and Lise Faulkner

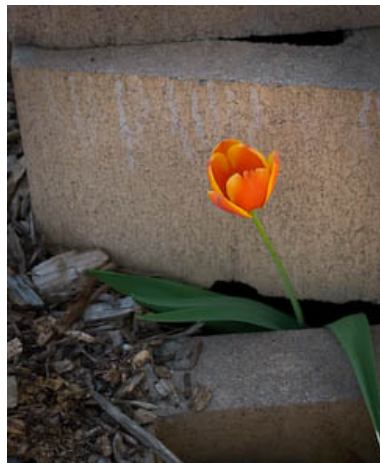
Dianne Martha Shlevin
12/27
Daughter of Barbara Shlevin

Jacob Martin Drollinger
12/28
Son of John and Virginia Drollinger

Debra Joy Littman
12/28
Daughter of Muriel Littman

J'Muar Taylor
12/30
Son of Cheryl A. Taylor

Christopher Hobbs
12/31
Son of Joseph and Gwendolyn
Hobbs



*“Even from the deepest,
darkest places something
beautiful can grow”
~ Anonymous ~*

**Angel Dates of Our Children, Siblings and Grandchildren
October, November and December**

Michael 'Kyle' Davis

10/2

Son of Mary Ann Davis

Desha Beamer

10/3

Daughter of Maureen Beamer

Mark Joseph Gore

10/7

Son of Luis and Barbara Rodriguez

Jacob Allen Butler

10/8

Son of Sally J. Dixon

Jerry Watson

10/10

Son and Brother of Linda Watson and Phyllis Watson

Audrey Davis Urda

10/12

Daughter of Missy and Matt Urda

Vernon Philipe Battle

10/18

Son and Brother of Barbara Knox and Glorqua Tarantine

Bo Tuggle

10/22

Son of Connie and Johnny Tuggle

Carlos Ramone Weaver

10/27

Son of Carlos Weaver

Kathleen Dirr

10/28

Daughter of Jim Dirr

David Ferguson

10/30

Son of Christina and David Ferguson

Marc William Waidner

10/30

Son of Mary Alice Wood

Matthew Luke Davis

11/2

Son of Lena L. Price

Brayden Michael Eanes

11/3

Son and Grandson of Kelly Eanes and Al and Jan Pittman

Katherine Jane Wentz Williams

11/6

Daughter of Jane and Clyde Wentz

Ismaiah 'Izzy' Williams

11/6

Daughter of Tara Williams

Amber Gilstrap

11/7

Daughter of Kathleen Cornog

Laura Kressen

11/9

Daughter of Joanne Darko

Robert M. Sullins, Jr.

11/11

Son of Robert and Karol Sullens

Mervyn Lanier 'Corky' Twyman

11/14

Son of Carol McNeal

Azariah Suvari Anderson

11/17

Daughter of Michelle Stewart Anderson

Elliott Vahid Brown

11/18

Son of Edward and Maria Brown

Nick Posey

11/20

Son of Diana and William Posey

Najah Maryaam Greenwood

11/20

Daughter of Fadeela Rasheed

Kathleen Beamer

11/21

Daughter of Maureen Beamer

Meseret Debru

11/23

Son of Kila Gebru

Grant Goodwin Gonyeau

11/24

Son of Lacey Goodwin & Thom Gonyeau

Stephanie Christele Simon

11/25

Daughter of Sandra Simon

Christine Elizabeth Tate

11/26

Sister of Leah Davis

Janet Ford Lambert

11/27

Daughter of Troy and Natalie Ford

Kay Cee Herring

12/1

Daughter of David and Ginny Herring

Arnessa Darlene Royster

12/3

Daughter of Carolyn Gordon

Victoria Fields

12/4

Daughter of Tricia and Kevin Hiatt

Mashanda Nicole Taylor

12/7

Daughter of Michelle Taylor-Scott

Madison Minor Lewis

12/8

Granddaughter of Ester and Kim Lewis

Lynn H. Paschall

12/9

Daughter of Carolyn R. Richardson

Cameron Ringer

12/9

Son of Richard and Kathryn Ringer

Sam Peek

12/10

Son of Bobby and Carol Peek

Anthony Harold Staiano

12/10

Son of Joseph Staiano



Joshua Keith

12/12

Son of Demetria Gholston

Kristina Danelle Beard

12/20

Daughter of Eric Beard

Apollo Holmes

12/25

Son of Dorothea Eastman

Vanishia Shantee Jinks

12/13

Daughter of Yvonne Jinks

Dijon Plummer, Jr.

12/22

Son of Dijon Plummer

Steve Inman Jr.

12/26

Son of Steve and Linda Inman

Rachaeli Fier

12/14

Daughter of Eric Fier

Dilia Plummer

12/22

Daughter of Dijon Plummer

George Tabetando

12/26

Son of Stephen and Hannah Tebatando

Connor Dunn Devine

12/16

Son of Kathleen Devine

John Brendon Hope

12/23

Son of Terri and John Hope

Jennifer Hower

12/27

Sister of Julie Fischer

David Hoegler

12/16

Son of Doreen and James Hoegler

Micki Henderson

12/23

Daughter of Judy Jones

Christopher Hobbs

12/27

Son of Joseph and Gwendolyn Hobbs

Brian Trunnel Rounds

12/18

Son and Brother of Floyd and Janis Rounds and Floyd T. Rounds

Jamie Dalziel

12/24

Son of Martin and Donna Dalziel



THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS
Supporting Family After a Child Dies

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.

TCF Credo: We need not walk alone. We are The Compassionate Friends. We reach out to each other with love, with understanding, and with hope. The children we mourn have died at all ages and from many different causes, but our love for them unites us. Your pain 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, creeds, and relationships. 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 they feel helpless and see no hope. Some of us have found our faith to be a source of strength, while some of us are struggling to find answers. Some of us are angry, filled with guilt or in deep depression, while others radiate an inner peace. But whatever pain we bring to this gathering of The Compassionate Friends, it is pain we will share, just as we share with each other our love for the children who have died. We are all seeking and struggling to build a future for ourselves, but we are committed to building a future together. We reach out to each other in love to share the pain as well as the joy, share the anger as well as the peace, share the faith as well as the doubts, and help each other to grieve as well as to grow. We Need Not Walk Alone. We Are The Compassionate Friends. ©2007 The Compassionate Friends.

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

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: _____

Our chapter publishes a quarterly newsletter that is available electronically – at no cost. Please clearly print your e-mail address so we can send it to you:

E-Mail: _____

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? Enter # here _____ (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

3. Do you wish to have your child's name included on the Wall of Memory on our TCF Atlanta Web Site? Yes____ No _____
4. 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) _____ Library (6) _____ 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, return by e-mail to: jayne@tcfatlanta.org

Or Make Donations Online by Pay Pal at <http://www.tcfatlanta.org/donationdataform.html>