



# THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

Supporting Family After a Child Dies

April | May | June  
2012

## Newsletter of the Atlanta Chapter

“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.”

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

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

**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:  
April 10, May 8 and June 12

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

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

#### To Our New Members

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

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

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

*You Need Not Walk Alone.  
We Are The Compassionate Friends.*

## 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.

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## Announcements

### TCF 2012 National/International Conference



35<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL CONFERENCE,  
5<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL GATHERING  
July 20-22, 2012 | Costa Mesa, California

Save the date: **July 20-22, 2012**, for 35th TCF/USA National Conference; 5th International Gathering in Costa Mesa, California.

#### Please Make Your Hotel Reservations Early

You can now make reservations for the conference host hotel. Although The Compassionate Friends has arranged a room block for the conference that includes every room within the Hilton Orange County/Costa Mesa Hotel, we recommend that you reserve your room early if you wish to stay at the host hotel. Because our national conference includes the International Gathering, there is little doubt that all rooms will be filled. Room charge is \$129 per night plus tax of approximately 11%. The room block is available July 17-24. You can also receive the special room rate July 14-16 and July 25-27, but subject to more limited availability. Rooms are King Size (holds 2, roll-away bed available for \$10 per night) or double queen (maximum 4 per room).

To reserve your room online, please go to [Online Reservations](http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/S/SNAC_MHH-FRIEND-20120717/index.jhtml) ([http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/S/SNAC\\_MHH-FRIEND-20120717/index.jhtml](http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/S/SNAC_MHH-FRIEND-20120717/index.jhtml)). Please note that the first night's deposit is required at the time you reserve your room. Should your plans change, this deposit will be refunded as long as the room is cancelled at least one day prior to the start of your reservation. You can also call your reservation directly to the hotel at 714-540-7000. Room block reservations will be taken until June 26 or until the room block is sold out, whichever comes first. If the room block sells out, as we anticipate, we will advise you regarding overflow hotels. There will be complimentary

shuttles every 20 minutes between the hotel and John Wayne Airport (SNA). On-site parking for conference guests is \$7 per night or valet \$25 per night.

To learn more about the conference, please visit the TCF national website:

[http://www.compassionatefriends.org/News\\_Events/Conferences/TCF\\_2012\\_Nat\\_Conference\\_and\\_5th\\_Intern\\_Gathering.aspx](http://www.compassionatefriends.org/News_Events/Conferences/TCF_2012_Nat_Conference_and_5th_Intern_Gathering.aspx).

### New TCF Mission Statement Adopted

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of February, The Compassionate Friends Board of Directors approved a new mission statement for the organization. It is: "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."



### Chapter Steering Committee Meeting

The Atlanta Chapter of The Compassionate Friends will hold its next steering committee meeting on Sunday, April 22, 2012 at 1:00 pm. This brunch meeting will be held at Maureen Beamer's home. Anyone who is interested in joining the steering committee is welcomed. For more information and directions, please contact Maureen by email ([maureen.beamer@gmail.com](mailto:maureen.beamer@gmail.com)) or telephone (770.698.9828).

### Monthly Meeting Room Update

Our monthly meetings, currently held in the Fellowship Room at the First Christian Church of Atlanta, may be moving in the months ahead to a new room at the church. Please watch for details in the monthly meeting email reminder.

### Compassionate Friends Offers Grief-Related Webinar Series

The Compassionate Friends is expanding its outreach to bereaved families by offering a series of free online grief-related seminars. The webinars, to be held once per month, are on various grief topics and guests are well-known experts in the field.

Webinars so far have included the topics "Handling Grief Through the Holidays," "Getting 'Stuck' and 'Unstuck,'" and "Caring for Your Health While Grieving." These webinars were recorded and are available to view on demand on TCF's national website.

To reserve a seat for the next webinar (or to view the previous month's webinar), go to [www.compassionatefriends.org](http://www.compassionatefriends.org)>News & Events>Special Events>Webinars. Webinars are being archived in TCF's Webinar Library, accessible from the webinar page.

Upcoming April webinar (Thursday, April 12<sup>th</sup>): "Grief & Religion...How Religious Symbols and Rituals Can Assist in our Grieving."

**Webinar Description:** As bereaved parents, we know that there are times when there are no words to describe the depths of our pain and devastation. In this webinar we will discuss some of the ways in which religious symbols and rituals can assist us as we mourn the death of our child. As someone has wisely said, "When There Are No Words, Have A Ritual!"

**Our Presenter:** Dennis Apple is a bereaved parent having lost an 18-year-old son, Denny, suddenly to mononucleosis in 1991. Dennis is on the pastoral staff at College Church of The Nazarene in Olathe, Kan., where he has started numerous support groups and counsels couples and individuals who are grieving the death of a child. He oversees the Stephen Ministry of the congregation and spends the majority of his time giving pastoral care. Dennis and his wife, Buelah, work together conducting grief groups in their church. Their story was recently aired on Storycorp over NPR (National Public Radio). Dennis is the author of the book, *Life After the Death of My Son...What I'm Learning*, published by Beacon Hill Press.



### Grief & Religion...How Religious Symbols and Rituals Can Assist in our Grieving!



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

#### Webinar Registration

As bereaved parents, we know that there are times when there are no words to describe the depths of our pain and devastation. In this webinar we will discuss some of the ways in which religious symbols and rituals can assist us as we mourn the death of our child. As someone has wisely said, "When There Are No Words, Have A Ritual!"



#### Register for Our Webinar

**When:**  
Thursday, April 12, 2012  
8:00 PM - 9:00 PM EDT

Use the form on the right to reserve your Webinar seat.

\* Indicates a required field

Thu, Apr 12, 2012 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM EDT

[Show time in my time zone](#)

* First Name:	* Last Name:
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
* Email Address:	* Address:
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
* City:	* State/Province:
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
* Zip/Postal Code:	* Country:
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

To register, please visit:

<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/883960578>

*"One often calms one's grief by recounting it"*  
~ Pierre Corneille

### What I Need

By Beth Pinion  
TCF Andalusia, AL

A lot of time!  
A little space,  
A kind of quiet  
Resting place,  
Are what I need  
At times like these  
A special spot  
Where I can grieve.

# Walking the Lonesome Valley

*By Annette Mennen Baldwin*

*TCF Katy, TX*

*In Memory of my son, Todd Mennen*

One of my favorite gospel songs is “You’ve Got to Walk That Lonesome Valley” which is attributed to various composers in the early 20th Century. Many adaptations have been made to the words, yet all seem to fit.

This gospel song is particularly poignant for bereaved parents. We must take our grief journey alone. We must take our grief journey on our own terms and in our own way. I found myself humming and then singing this gospel song after my son died over nine years ago.

I was never really alone in this lonesome valley, however; many are taking this same walk, in their own ways and on their own terms. In TCF, we learn from other parents who walk the lonesome valley. We receive hope from those who take this journey with us. Some bereaved parents choose to return to the darkest places in the lonesome valley and help our newly bereaved parents as they define their own personal journey. Gradually, after thousands of steps, the bereaved parent comes to the place of resolution and emerges from the valley into the gauzy sunlight of hope and peace.

Reach out for assuring words and thoughts and ideas and hope. Take comfort in knowing that each of us is walking the lonesome valley.

You’ve got to walk that lonesome valley  
You’ve got to walk it by yourself  
There’s no one here can walk it for you  
You’ve got to walk it by yourself

I must walk this lonesome valley,  
I have to walk it by myself,  
Oh, nobody else can walk it for me,  
I have to walk it by myself.

I must go and stand my trial,  
I have to stand it by myself,  
O, nobody else can stand it for me,  
I have to stand it by myself.



# A Mother’s Touch

*By Patricia Dyson*

*TCF, Beaumont, TX*

*In memory of Blake*

My husband Jeff grew up in a family of hugging, kissing, foot-rubbing, back scratchers.

Affectionate folks! In my family, on the other hand, we only scratched mosquito bites, and certainly not each other’s. Although we loved one another fiercely, we weren’t very demonstrative. A wink, a squeeze, a peck on the cheek, a poke in the ribs – that was mushy stuff for us. Touching another person was not something that came easily to me; that is, until my first child was born.

When the nurse placed that chubby cherub in my arms, the floodgates of my heart opened, and a torrent of overwhelming love poured out. I couldn’t keep my hands off the little dumpling! I learned first-hand what it means to “smother with kisses.” Caressing my precious baby came as naturally as breathing.

Other children came along, and I was reborn a certified, card-carrying cuddler. I learned how many of a mother’s day-to-day interactions with her children require her touch. Touching became a way of life for me as I fed, bathed, dressed, tamed cowlicks, and kissed ouchies.

It’s funny, but one of the things I missed most after my son Blake died was tying his shoes. When he was alive, that chore was the bane of my existence. Blake’s shoes were perpetually untied or hopelessly tangled in knots that would have defied Houdini himself. I rejoiced when the shoe designers came up with Velcro closures, seeing an end to my nemesis. But would Blake wear those simple, convenient shoes? No way! Big boys wore shoes with laces, and most of all, he wanted to be like the big boys. So I armed my teeth, and kept tying and bending every fork in the house de-knotting. After Blake died, how my fingers ached to tie those little shoes one more time!

For most bereaved mothers I know, not being able to touch, to hold, to embrace our child is the most painful reality we have to face. The emptiness of our arms, the indescribable longing to have those arms filled again with our precious child, are almost more than we can bear.

At first, when our grief is fresh, it may be hard, for us to touch anyone. We may close ourselves off emotionally, willing to touch or be touched, or to run the risk of being hurt so badly again. But mothers are touchers. With time, when the pain isn’t so intense, we may want to reach out once more.

None of us ever outgrows the need to be touched, no matter how old we are. And what can be so comforting as a mother’s touch! Today, if you can, touch someone. Do it in the memory of your beloved child.



## A Father Returns to Work

By Bill Ermatinger

TCF Baltimore, MD

*In Memory of my daughter Kathy Ermatinger*

After Kathy died, I, of course, went back to work. Some of my co-workers made the stop at my desk to express their sympathy. I know I turned them off, as my pain and my denial were so great. I could not talk about what had happened and how I felt. I thanked them. Although nobody ever talked to me about it, that was okay as my pain was such, I thought, I could not bear to talk. I threw myself into my work and on occasion was confused because I could not make the kind of decisions I had been making for years. I never made the connection that this inability to concentrate was part of my grief and was normal.

Lunch was the worst time. My habit was to eat with my associates, but often in the middle of the meal I would just have to get up and walk away. Although nobody ever said anything to me about this odd behavior, I do thank them at least for their tolerance. Slowly I readjusted (I thought) and in time (a long time) I was able to perform well again. But I never really grieved until I found THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS and it was here that people helped me to talk. It was almost twelve years before I found TCF as there was no such organization in 1967. My friends let TCF help you ... don't wait twelve years to talk!



## Graduation Time

By Peggy Gibson,

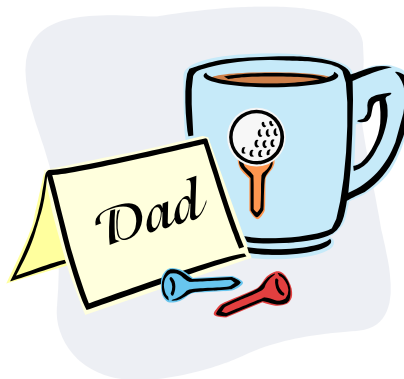
TCF Nashville, TN

It's June and graduation time again. Your child would have been among those wearing the cap and gown, walking down the aisle to the ever stirring "Pomp and Circumstance." Now there is a vacant spot in the line. Should you attend? Can you stand the pain? Will people think you are strange?

As always you must follow your heart. So, go if you'd like to and don't hide your tears. It's quite all right to miss your own child while celebrating the achievements of others.

Just remember: That your instincts are the most important ones; that no one else can make this decision for you, and that it doesn't really matter what other people think.

It was your child who died. This is your pain and you have the right to feel it and deal with it in your own way – and may a bit more healing take place in the doing.



## Father's Love

By Dee L. McCollum

TCF Atlanta, GA

*1st Prize Light Verse Award North Carolina Poetry Society*

Father weighed us once a month  
And totaled up the pounds  
Then he weighed the dog and cat  
(As silly as that sounds)

He then included their weight, too,  
And with pride and joy he'd say,  
"Hmm. Yes. I do believe  
Here's what we have today"

There's thirty-five and forty-eight  
And Jim weighs eighty-nine,  
Spot and Puss weigh twenty-four  
And all these pounds are mine!"

Father loved us not by age  
Nor virtues that he found  
He gathered all his children in  
And loved us by the pound.

*When a child dies, siblings are often referred to as “the forgotten mourners.” The Compassionate Friends of Atlanta Siblings Group provides support to teens and adults after the death of a sibling.*

### Question: How, After Experiencing Loss, Tragedy, or a Broken Heart Does One Ever Trust Again?

*By Kate Randall Benner*

*TCF Atlanta, GA*

*Reprinted with permission from her daily blog.*

Two months after my beloved brother very suddenly and shockingly died, I had to take a trip for work that required taking an airplane. I’ve never liked to fly. The idea of a metal object soaring two miles above the ground never made a whole lot of practical sense to me. I respect gravity.

Despite my dislike for flying I’d always been able to muster the courage to do it. But after losing Jim, I wasn’t sure I’d be able.

Friends, family and colleagues tried to encourage me by sending me facts and figures about the safety of air travel. They quoted stats and data about airplanes being safer than beltways. They used words like “miniscule” and “microscopic” when describing the likelihood of my airplane having any kind of accident or incident at all.

“Planes don’t fall out of the sky very often,” they said.

“Thirty-six-year-old men in tip-top shape don’t die at their desks in the middle of the day either.” That was usually the end of the conversation.

See, nobody told me that heartbreak and grief have tentacles that wrap around our most deeply held conviction ... in my case, that the world was generally a safe place. Nobody told me that grief spreads like an infection from our hearts to our minds and then to our bodies; affecting what we think, feel, and how we move.

Nobody told me that grief fundamentally rearranges the internal compass in such a way that direction has little bearing (up is down, right is left, forward is backward). Nobody told me that grief feels so much like fear.

About this same time, and certainly as a result, I started to have terrible nightmares. Each night, the same terrifying entity chased me and I’d wake up breathless, sweating and often crying. I became afraid to sleep.

Grieving and heartbreak requires sleep, so I took the concern to my spiritual director and pleaded with her to help me figure out what I was so clearly running from.

She looked at me gently and said, “Kate, the next time you have that dream, stop running. Turn around and ask

the entity chasing you, what it wants.” I squirmed in my chair and told her I would try.

The next night, the entity returned. I began to run, but remembered her advice. With every bit of fear and trembling I turned around with my eyes shut yelled, “WHAT DO YOU WANT???” I woke my entire house.

The entity said nothing. It turned and walked away from me. My acknowledgment of the entity, my sheer admission of its presence had made it disappear. Perhaps, I thought, the same is true of fear.

It’s been almost ten years since my brother died and I’m still working toward building a new model of trust. After almost ten years, I’m aware that grief has been quiet for a while, but fear is the remnant that still takes me by surprise.

I don’t lie about my increased spirit of fear nor do I consider it a weakness. I would be foolish not to acknowledge that the loss of my brother changed me into a wildly tender-footed sojourner.

I’ve learned that fear either makes us hard, bitter and angry, or it smacks us awake to the fact that every human being on the face of the earth will, in their lifetime, experience the breathless moment of heartbreak.

I’ve learned that although heartbreak feels lonely, it is actually a universal human experience and that in it – we walk alongside every human being who has ever lived, or ever will.

Somehow, in realizing that, the sting of heartbreak slightly, ever so slightly warms.

My advice: Don’t ignore fear when you feel it, because it is both a childish and selfish dinner guest. The more you fawn over it, the longer it will stay. The more you ignore it, the longer it will fight for your attention. But, by greeting it calmly and accepting it, the power it holds shrinks and doesn’t stick around too long.

Instead, treat it as a clue – a signal to the heart that something or someone deeply loved is unhappy or at risk. Hear it as a battle cry to the soul to plant your feet in courage, wrap your mind in love, gather some trusted people, slow the pace of your thinking and walk forward gently ... together.

The question was ... How, after experiencing loss do we learn to trust again?

- By acknowledging that loss changes the way in which we move through the world, and being

proud of that gentle shift because of the way it enlivens our compassionate hearts.

- By giving ourselves grace to take as much time as we need to do what we need. Racing to heal ourselves is usually a way to sabotage the healing.
- By choosing tenderness and compassion over judgment and anger, and remembering the company of people who walk with us.
- By knowing that we've survived heartbreak once and that we would survive it again.

And finally, by remembering that every human being on the planet and through history knows the sting of loss, of grief, of heartbreak. We know what it feels to be heartbroken and lose, and we know we will feel it again ... and yet, we still have the courage ... to plan.

And THAT makes us remarkably, hopeful, beautifully, loving ... creatures.



## Ask Dr. Paulson

Mary A. Paulson, Ph.D., is a bereaved sibling as well as a child and adolescent psychologist at Harding Hospital in Worthington, Ohio. Her question and answer column, aimed at bereaved siblings and the family that loves them, appeared in TCF's national magazine, *We Need Not Walk Alone* (and previously TCF's National Newsletter) for 15 years. She has now retired from writing this column and Dr. Heidi Horsley, licensed psychologist, social worker, and bereaved sibling will continue answering sibling related questions in *We Need Not Walk Alone*. Copyright 2004-2012. These excerpts were reprinted from the February and March 2012 editions of the *E-Newsletter of The Compassionate Friends*.

***Q. I miss my sister very much. I often get emotional because she won't be here anymore. But I also think I'm getting upset because of how all this is affecting me. Then I feel guilty because I know I should feel bad that she is no longer here. Why do I have so many different feelings?***

**A.** It is not unusual for you to think about how this is affecting you, as well as missing your sister. You are being confronted with a lot of uncomfortable situations as a result of your sister's death. You are watching the rest of your family grieve; you are watching your friends going on relatively unaffected, you are mourning the loss of your ability to believe that nothing like death could ever touch someone close to you. Your feelings are only natural given the situation. What you will find is that over time it is not so uncomfortable. You will always miss your sister; and particularly at big life events you will feel her absence acutely, but it will get easier to create a life that both allows you to go on and includes her through your memories and your love for her.

***Q. How can I explain to my friends that going out – the prom, what we are going to wear, and other issues like that, are not important to me right now? All I can think about is my brother and everything that he is missing out on.***

**A.** There is a long as well as a short answer to this question. The short answer is that you will have about as much luck explaining this to your peers as you would have explaining issues related to international policy, currency exchange, and the International Monetary Fund. The fact is that you just matured about 12 years. The death of your brother stripped away all of the pleasantries of being able to be concerned with the "unessential." You see the big picture, and know how suddenly things can change. You know what is important in life and may have some of the perspective of a 60-year-old in a teenager's body. You have to remember, most people experience the death of a sibling in middle age or well into old age. Even then, this is one of the most traumatic events that can happen. If you were 65, your friends would understand.

At your age, though, you will have to go on the assumption that you are more mature than most of your peer group because you've had a lot more to face and overcome than most of your age mates. You will quickly learn that your friends are the ones who stick with you during this time, and it's not unusual for your group of friends to change dramatically. The same thing would happen if you suddenly could only speak Italian or French. Your friendships would eventually shift to being with those who also knew Italian or French. The best thing to do is talk openly with your friends. Your true, lifelong friends will be able to understand and will still be your friends years from now!



## Our Children, Grandchildren and Siblings' Birthdates



### April, May and June

<b>Michael Btembke</b> 4/11 Son of Ghakarhi Btembke	<b>Victoria Fields</b> 4/22 Daughter of Tricia and Kevin Hiatt	<b>Marc William Waidner</b> 5/19 Son of Mary Alice Wood	<b>Donald Wesley Carithers</b> 6/10 Son of Susan and John Carithers Brother of Brooke Carithers and Jennifer Sanders
<b>Christian Noah Sanford</b> 4/1 Son of Susanna Sanford	<b>Mark Joseph Gore</b> 4/22 Son of Luis and Barbara Rodriguez	<b>Chad Gordon</b> 5/21 Son of Jayne and Wayne Newton	<b>Spencer McCrea Oedel</b> 6/10 Son of Amy Lighthill
<b>Matthew McMichael Taylor</b> 4/1 Son of Jim and Elaine Taylor	<b>Micki Henderson</b> 4/25 Daughter of Judy Jones	<b>Mathew Scott Marshall</b> 5/22 Son of Gena and John Ivester	<b>Evan Sheffield</b> 6/12 Son of Cathy Spraetz
<b>April Leshay Nesmith</b> 4/5 Daughter of Carla Adamar	<b>William Fielding Foulke, Jr.</b> 4/28 Son of Holly Foulke	<b>David Arnold Barrett</b> 5/25 Son of Jacqueline Barrett	<b>Jennifer Hower</b> 6/23 Sister of Julie Fischer
<b>Jennifer Gryzinski</b> 4/7 Daughter of Lisa Mary Katz	<b>Jason Maham</b> 4/28 Son of Trish Maham	<b>Joey Capron</b> 5/26 Son of Carmen Capron	<b>Billy Snapp</b> 6/23 Son of Teal Snapp
<b>Charisma Tyar Inez Sanders</b> 4/7 Daughter of Marva J. Peters	<b>Maria-Victoria Boucugnani</b> 4/30 Daughter of Lynda and Tom Whitehead	<b>Henry Robinson Cart</b> 5/27 Son of Roberta and Rob Cart	<b>John Allen Askins</b> 6/24 Son of Elaine Askins
<b>Dr. Thomas Brown, IV</b> 4/8 Son of Lillie Brown	<b>Christopher Douglas Andrew Durr</b> 5/5 Son of Jim Durr	<b>Richmond Matthew Petzel</b> 5/27 Son of Cindy Garner	<b>Christopher Allen Williams</b> 6/25 Son of Cynthia Williams
<b>Rodney 'Booney' Love Jr.</b> 4/8 Son of Rodney Love Sr. and Teri Love	<b>Jennifer Lea Evans</b> 5/6 Daughter of Delores Evans	<b>Ronald Taus</b> 5/28 Son of Dena Hubbard	<b>Brian Patrick Devine</b> 6/26 Son of Eileen and Patrick Devine Brother of Colleen Devine
<b>Kennon Lamar Jernigan</b> 4/9 Son of Pam and Ken Jernigan	<b>Max Etchison</b> 5/15 Son of Jennifer Etchison	<b>Derek L. Brown</b> 5/29 Son of Denice and Gerald Brown	<b>Vanishia Shantee Jinks</b> 6/26 Daughter of Yvonne Jinks
<b>Bo Tuggle</b> 4/12 Son of Connie and Johnny Tuggle	<b>Damien White</b> 5/17 Son of Robin White	<b>Jonathan Aaron Blumenfeld</b> 5/30 Son of Harriet Blumenfeld	<b>Cameron Ringer</b> 6/26 Son of Richard and Kathryn Ringer
<b>Bradford Gordan Lamkie</b> 4/16 Son of Laura Lea Lamkie	<b>Aaron Marion</b> 5/18 Son of Denise Marion	<b>Kameron Michael Dunmore</b> 5/31 Son of Karen A. Dunmore	<b>Anika Alford</b> 6/29 Daughter of Selma Calaman
<b>Padraic Durr</b> 4/20 Son of Jim Durr	<b>Thomas Michael Runfola</b> 5/19 Son of Pat Runfola Brother of Karen Davis	<b>Michael Moskowitz</b> 6/2 Brother of Ernie Moskowitz	<b>Mandi Lynn Mast</b> 6/29 Daughter of Diane and Daniel Mast
<b>David Ferguson</b> 4/20 Son of Christina and David Ferguson	<b>Thandiwe Hunt</b> 5/19 Daughter of Mucha Hunt	<b>Katherine Jane Wentz Williams</b> 6/3 Daughter of Jane and Clyde Wentz	<b>Aaron Woodruff</b> 6/30 Brother of Rachel Woodruff
		<b>Derrick M. Kelly</b> 6/7 Son of Deborah Kelly	

## Our Children, Grandchildren and Siblings' Remembrance Dates



### April, May and June

**Todd Kirk Stien**

4/1

Son of Lorann Stien

**Derek L. Brown**

4/2

Son of Denice and Gerald Brown

**Jessica Lyn Bryl**

4/3

Daughter of Betty and Daniel Bryl

**Brooklyn Jean McGrath**

4/8

Daughter of Tim McGrath

**Hallbrook 'Trey' Polite, III**

4/9

Son of Linda and Hallbrook Polite Jr.

**Anthony Chad Willis**

4/11

Son of Mark and Ginger Willis

**Matthew McMichael Taylor**

4/13

Son of Jim and Elaine Taylor

**Jameka Deshon Holmes**

4/14

Daughter of Charlotte Hamm

**John Sistrunk**

4/16

Son of Sarah Smith Sistrunk

**Bradford Gordan Lamkie**

4/19

Son of Laura Lea Lamkie

**Anita Marepally**

4/20

Sister of Archana Vemulapalli-Marepally

**Joshua Benjamin Goforth**

4/21

Son of John and Sue Goforth

**Christopher Kuzela**

4/24

Son of Ed and Pat Kuzela

**Xavier Khamani Ray**

4/24

Son of Stephanie Ray

**Rose Ann Thompson**

4/25

Daughter of Kevin Thompson

**Charlie Wellman**

4/27

Son of Mary Wellman

**Charisma Tyar Inez Sanders**

4/29

Daughter of Marva J. Peters

**Zachary Mark Elliott**

5/1

Son of Robin Elliott

**Arthur Burt Jordan**

5/6

Son of Ann Asbell  
Brother of Emily Jordan

**Amanda Christine Warnock**

5/6

Daughter of Amy Osier

**Julian Oliver Carter**

5/7

Son of Bryan and Julie Carter

**Christopher Lee Simpson**

5/9

Son of Tricia and Kenny Simpson  
Grandson of Elizabeth Luke

**Elijah Samuel Marcus**

5/9

Son of Eric and LaPrecious Marcus

**Brandon Burke**

5/10

Grandson of Shirley A. Kendrick

**Taylor Arianna Mills**

5/11

Daughter of Zeporice Mills

**Tyreek Seivwright**

5/12

Son of Donna Derricho

**Maeve Elizabeth Fintak**

5/13

Daughter of Steve and Brigid Fintak

**Cherida Kinlaw**

5/14

Daughter of Cherie Kinlaw

**Bradley James Peerson**

5/15

Son of Pam Jon  
Brother of Blake Peerson  
Grandson of Jackie Fuller

**Michael Rice Lee**

5/17

Son of Anthony and Amber Lee

**John Wayne Cunningham**

5/18

Son of Jack and June Speir

**Max Etchison**

5/23

Son of Jennifer Etchison

**Matthew Thomas Crowell**

5/24

Son of Barry and Doris Crowell

**Derrick M. Kelly**

5/24

Son of Deborah Kelly

**Kim Gelly**

5/24

Sister of Laurie Rogers

**Matthew Marcus Long**

5/28

Son of Timothy Long

**Amanda Irene Smith**

5/29

Daughter of Earl and Paulette Cagle

**Bayonne Phyleese Wilson**

5/31

Daughter of Phyllis A. Grier

**Sallie Scanlon**

5/31

Daughter of Jane R. Scanlon

**Christopher Shim**

5/31

Son of Deon and Jean Shim

**Richmond Matthew Petzel**

6/1

Son of Cindy Garner

**Joshua Polain**

6/1

Son of Kimberly Polain

**Christopher James Downs**

6/3

Son of Jim and Joan Downs

**April Leshay Nesmith**

6/5

Daughter of Carla Adamar

**William Fielding Foulke, Jr.**

6/8

Son of Holly Foulke

**Kaxon Harris**

6/10

Son of Karen Harris

**Margie Ann Lind**

6/10

Daughter of Bette and Bob Lind

**Robert A. Lind, Jr.**

6/10

Son of Bette and Bob Lind

**Keith Perry**

6/11

Son of Oveta Perry

**Rodney 'Booney' Love Jr.**

6/13

Son of Rodney Love Sr. and Teri Love

**Averil Brown**

6/15

Son of Carolyn Brown

**Michael D. Hamilton**

6/15

Son of Helena Hamilton

**Kevin W. McFarlin**

6/15

Brother of Kelly McKellar

**Jenny Moriarty**

6/16

Daughter of Larry Moriarty

**Brandon Jack Phillips**

6/16

Son of Susan and Jack Phillips

**Jason Gibson**

6/18

Son of Tricia Garrett

**Jennifer Lea Evans**

6/19

Daughter of Delores Evans

**Debra Joy Littman**

6/19

Daughter of Muriel Littman

**Kawasiki S. Ricks**

6/19

Son of Beverly Ricks

**Kennon Lamar Jernigan**

6/20

Son of Pam and Ken Jernigan

**Thomas Michael Runfola**

6/21

Brother of Karen Davis

**Hadiyah Rasheedah Evans**

6/21

Daughter of Patricia Evans

**Imani Thompson Twine**

6/21

Daughter of Stephanie Thompson Harris and Dirk Twine

**Thomas Michael Runfola**

6/21

Son of Pat Runfola

**Aaron Woodruff**

6/22

Brother of Rachel Woodruff

**Evan Sheffield**

6/23

Son of Cathy Spraezt

**Shawn Christopher Rogers**

6/25

Son of Karen Brady

**Thomas Watson**

6/26

Son of Linda Watson

**Jacob Martin Drollinger**

6/29

Son of John and Virginia Drollinger

**Georgia Wimberly Pierce**

6/30

Daughter of Michael and Anna Pierce

**Christian Noah Sanford**

6/30

Son of Susanna Sanford

**Melvin Shannon**

6/30

Son of Lillian Smith  
Brother of Juanita White



### TCF National Organization is on Facebook and Twitter



Please visit and help promote The Compassionate Friends National Organization's Facebook page by becoming a fan. You can get there by:

- Clicking the link from TCF's national website home page at [www.compassionatefriends.org](http://www.compassionatefriends.org).
- Log into Facebook and search for *The Compassionate Friends/USA*.
- Visiting [www.facebook.com/TCFUSA](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."

Our Facebook page provides a forum for free and open conversation. While messages are reviewed, they will not be screened before they are posted. So we are asking members to be gentle and respectful of one another and to use common sense in their posts – no offensive language, no overt selling of products or services and no religious proselytizing. TCF is now also on Twitter (<http://twitter.com/#!/tcfofusa>). Please keep in mind that all opinions expressed are those of the individual poster and do not necessarily reflect those of The Compassionate Friends, Inc. or its sponsors.

In addition to the social support aspect, The Compassionate Friends/USA Facebook and Twitter pages will have information about upcoming events such as conferences, the Walk to Remember, and the Worldwide Candle Lighting. Please visit often and contribute to the conversations.

These social media initiatives are important to TCF because they will help increase public awareness about our organization and better enable us to fulfill our mission to help bereaved parents, siblings, and grandparents.

For more information, you may call TCF's National Office toll-free at 877-969-0010 or write [Wayne@compassionatefriends.org](mailto:Wayne@compassionatefriends.org).

### TCF Atlanta: The Compassionate Friends of Atlanta is also on Facebook.

We invite you to join. For more information, visit the following links:

- [www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=43057397614](http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=43057397614)
- [www.facebook.com/TCFAtlantaSiblings](http://www.facebook.com/TCFAtlantaSiblings)

You will need to log into Facebook to join the group. You will also need a Facebook account (it's free).

Our hope is that you will be able to connect to someone to help you in your grief journey. Remember "*We Need Not Walk Alone*."

### Sign Up for The Compassionate Friends E-Newsletter

The Compassionate Friends National Office publishes a monthly e-newsletter designed to keep you up-to-date on what's going on with the organization and its 630 chapters.

Published once a month (as well as occasional special editions), the e-newsletter includes information on such things as TCF National Conferences, the Walk to Remember, the Worldwide Candle Lighting, regional conferences, and other events of importance.

Each e-newsletter also includes a story specially selected from a past edition of "*We Need Not Walk Alone*," the national magazine of The Compassionate Friends. For the siblings, the e-newsletter features a past question and answer column by Dr. Mary Paulson.

All you have to do to receive The Compassionate Friends e-newsletter is sign up for it online by visiting The Compassionate Friends national website at [www.compassionatefriends.org](http://www.compassionatefriends.org) and clicking on e-newsletter at the top of the Home page.



*"The passage of time alone does not cause our grief to end,  
but its softening touch helps us to survive."*

~ Wayne Loder

### Gifts of Love

A love gift is a gift of money to The Compassionate Friends of Atlanta. It is usually in honor of a child who has died, but it can also be from individuals who want to honor a relative or friend who has died, a gift of thanksgiving that their own children are alive and well, or simply a gift from someone who wants to help in the work of our 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

#### Love Gifts

In Loving Memory of Rita Eleanor Ticcioni, from Doug and Caren Ralston, Greenwich, CT  
In Loving Memory of Robert Malkin, from his mother, Elaine Malkin, Clermont, FL  
In Loving Memory of Bill and Billy Snapp, from Margaret Knutson, Loves Park, IL  
In Loving Memory of Charles Pilgreen, from his mother Brenda Shiplet, Birmingham, AL  
In Loving Memory of Matthew Meehan, from his father Michael Meehan, Stone Mountain, GA  
In Loving Memory of Christopher Simpson, from his brother Luke Simpson, Grovetown, GA  
In Loving Memory of Kevin McFarlin, from his sister Kelly McKellar, Bethlehem, GA



## NEW SUBSCRIPTION - RENEWAL - CHANGE FORM - DONATIONS

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

Please print, filling in all applicable blanks/boxes:

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (including area code) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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:

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- 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](mailto:jayne@tcfatlanta.org)