



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

Winter 2009

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."

Atlanta Area Web Site

www.tcfatlanta.org

TCF Atlanta Newsletter

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

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

Upcoming Chapter Meetings:
January 13, February 10 and March 10

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**

Registration Info Coming Soon

32nd TCF National Conference to be Held Aug. 7-9 in Portland, Ore.

The 32nd National Conference sponsored by The Compassionate Friends will be held Aug. 7-9 at the Double Tree-Lloyd Center in Portland, Ore.

TCF members are encouraged to watch the national Web site for program, hotel and registration details, which should be posted soon. You also are encouraged to make your hotel reservations as early as possible. Space in the hotel always sells out quickly.

National conferences typically are attended by 1,100 to 1,400 bereaved parents, siblings and grandparents. The national office reports that nearly 40 percent of the attendees at any national conference are often participating for the first time.

Conferences include more than 100 workshops to choose from, a hospitality room, a reflection room, the Butterfly Boutique and a complete bookstore. You will hear from outstanding speakers and take part in a special candle lighting ceremony at the conclusion of the Saturday

evening banquet. Evening sharing sessions are held after dinner each night. Then, on Sunday morning, the program concludes with a very special Walk to Remember.

The Atlanta Chapter of TCF always prepares a large banner to be carried in the walk – filled with the names of children and siblings from our chapter.

To add your child or sibling's name to the banner, simply return the form on the next page no later than July 15.

Regional Conference in Kentucky

If Portland is too far for you to consider, you might think about taking part in a regional conference set for March 20-21 in Frankfort, Ky. The topic for the conference is "Coping When Good Bye is Forever."

For more information about these conferences, go to the TCF National Web site (link below), then click on News & Events:

<http://www.thecompassionatefriends.org>

Some Things to Think About and Wrestle With as a New Year Begins

At last month's Candlelight Service, our guest speaker, Elaine Grier, offered some things for chapter members to think about and wrestle with so we could each make decisions that are best for us individually during the holidays. If you missed the Candlelight Service, her comments are still timely – as we move into a New Year.

Here are four of the suggestions Elaine offered:

1. Do what feels right to YOU, not what feels right to someone else. This is true every day, but it has special importance during this tender time of year.
2. Remember that experts who study us say that when a parent loses a child, 85 percent of your total body's energy is consumed with grief work! That leaves only 15 percent of your energy ... total. If we evenly divide that up, we find we have only about 5 percent of our normal energy to do physical things, 5 percent to do emotional things, and 5 percent to do spiritual things. Use what little bit of left-over energy you have to do what feels right to you. Make choices for yourself. Don't let others make choices for you. Choices. Be sure they are your choices.
3. Talk about your child as much (or as little) as you want to this season. Remember that family and friends who haven't walked this journey of grief

may be afraid to recall memories of special holiday times, or they may be hesitant to even speak the name of your child for fear of making you "remember" him or her. Well, duh. Don't hesitate to say, "I need to talk about _____ (Philip) tonight." Or, "Do you remember that time when _____?"

4. Remember that the craziest, most unnatural thing in the world has happened to you: You have lived longer than your child. If we agree that the craziest thing possible has happened, how can anything we think or do during this holiday season be "crazy?" If anyone dares to say to you, "I can't believe you hung her stocking up this year," just remember they are ignorant people. You can say nothing ... or, you can kindly say, "This is what I need to do." And leave it at that.

Elaine is an assistant professor of adult nursing at Georgia Baptist College of Nursing of Mercer University. She teaches nursing students about the experience of grief throughout their baccalaureate curriculum. She also previously served as co-chapter leader of our Atlanta Chapter of TCF.



Atlanta Walks

For Our Children and Siblings Gone Too Soon

The Compassionate Friends National Walk to Remember will be held at 8 a.m. Sunday morning, Aug. 9, in Portland, Oregon, the National Conference host city, prior to the closing ceremony.

First held in conjunction with the national conference in 2000, this Remembrance Walk has quickly become a highlight for conference-goers with more than 1,000 people joining together hand-in-hand, arm-in-arm to cover the two-mile course arranged for the event.

This is our way to honor the memories of children and siblings who we will never forget.

Families who have had a child die, but are unable to attend the conference or walk, are invited to include their child's name on our "**Atlanta Walks**" banner carried by members of our local Atlanta TCF Chapter attending the Portland conference.

If you would like to have your child, sibling or grandchild's name included, please complete the following form and return it to us as soon as possible. The deadline is July 15.

Atlanta Walks – 2009 in Memory of our Children and Siblings

Yes, I would like to have my child/sibling/grandchild included on the Atlanta Walks banner.

Child's Name _____
(Please print clearly)

Yes, I would like to help with the Walk to Remember expenses and support the work of The Compassionate Friends Atlanta Chapter by making a donation in the amount of:

\$ _____ (\$10, \$25, \$50.....)

Please mail your check payable to "The Compassionate Friends" to:

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

Thank you for your support. (Deadline July 15)



*Sample Banner from 2008 Walk at the Nashville Conference
"Atlanta Walks...
In Memory of Our Children and Siblings"*

January, February and March Birthdays

(On the advice of the TCF national office, we are only including the month and date
– not year – of birthdays and angel dates.)

<u>Child's Name</u>	<u>Birthday</u>	<u>Angel Date</u>	<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Family</u>
Christopher James Downs	Jan. 9	June 3	son	Jim and Joan Downs
Sharon Elizabeth Zick	Jan. 12	Sept. 25	daughter	Paul and Rebecca Zick
Nick Posey	Jan. 14	Nov. 20	son	Diana and William Posey
Jessica Lyn Bryl	Jan. 19	April 3	daughter	Betty and Daniel Bryl
Charlie Wellman	Jan. 20	April 27	son	Mary Wellman
Jamarr Jordan	Jan. 27	Feb. 14	brother	Nina Florence
Jamarr Jordan	Jan. 27	Feb. 14	son	Janet Mitchell
Clinton Ron Walker	Jan. 31	Feb. 7	son	Candace and Clint Walker
Clayton Thomas Sechrist	Feb. 1	Feb. 20	son	Ann and Nelson Sechrist
Jeremy William Frank	Feb. 5	May 25	son	Sheila M. Frank
Arthur Burt Jordan	Feb. 16	May 6	son	Ann Asbell
Arthur Burt Jordan	Feb. 16	May 6	brother	Emily Jordan
Harry Luthi	Feb. 19	Feb. 19	son	Katherine Luthi
Melvin Shannon	Feb. 23	June 30	son	Lillian Smith
Melvin Shannon	Feb. 23	June 30	brother	Juanita White
Kathleen Dirr	Feb. 24	Oct. 28	daughter	Jim Dirr
Dijon Plummer, Jr.	Feb. 24	Dec. 22	son	Dijon Plummer
Todd Kirk Stien	Feb. 25	April 1	son	Lorann Stien
Matthew Meehan	Feb. 26	Sept. 30	son	Michael Meehan
Matthew Meehan	Feb. 26	Sept. 30	son	Vicki Webb
Allen Palmer Shugart	March 4	July 23	son	Kelli and Henry Shugart
Shana Rosenwald	March 7	Feb. 23	daughter	Ellie Rosenwald
Christian Nicole Ricketts	March 11	March 11	daughter	Nicole Ricketts
Billy Hawley	March 15	Sept. 27	son	Bill and Carol Hawley
Billy Hawley	March 15	Sept. 27	brother	Alan Hawley
Annie Hope Shlevin	March 15	Aug. 21	daughter	Barbara Shlevin
Reezin N. 'Chip' Swilley, Jr.	March 18	Aug. 9	son	Reezin and Elsie Swilley
Corey Adam Price	March 24	Jan. 31	grandson	Angie Williams
Jamie Dalziel	March 25	Dec. 24	son	Martin and Donna Dalziel
Shemariah Tafari Downer	March 26	July 25	son	Barbara H. Forbes
Hallbrook 'Trey' Polite, III	March 28	April 9	son	Linda and Hallbrook Polite Jr.
Winn Jordan	March 31	March 23	son	Bill and Jan Jordan



Valentine Message

I send this message to my child
Who no longer walks this plane,
A message filled with love

Yet also filled with pain.

My heart continues to skip a beat

When I ponder your early death

As I think of times we'll never share

I must stop to catch my breath.

Valentine's Day is for those who love

And for those who receive love, too
For a parent the perfect love in life
Is the love I've given you.
I'm thinking of you this day, my child,
With a sadness that is unspoken
As I mark another Valentine's Day
With a heart that is forever broken.

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

January, February and March Angel Dates

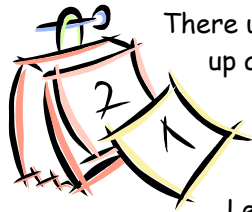
(On the advice of the TCF national office, we are only including the month and date – not year – of birthdays and angel dates.)

<u>Child's Name</u>	<u>Angel Date</u>	<u>Birthday</u>	<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Family</u>
Latoya Peart	Jan. 1	Nov. 1	daughter	Alvin and Patsy Dorman
Damien White	Jan. 6	May 17	son	Robin White
Nicholas Ryan Gardner	Jan. 9	July 25	son	Michelle and Dewey Gardner
Nicholas Ryan Gardner	Jan. 9	July 25	grandson	Pilar Turk
Sherry Engel	Jan. 12	Sept. 25	sister	Andrea Huskey
Sherry Engel	Jan. 12	Sept. 25	daughter	Lou Ellen Huskey
Clayton Olvey	Jan. 12	Nov. 30	son	June Smith
Jessica Dodge	Jan. 14	Sept. 25	daughter	Dan and Tamie Dodge
Richard Alan Cartin	Jan. 16	Oct. 2	son	Nancy Murphy
John Thomas Arnold	Jan. 22	Oct. 6	son	Donna Arnold
Mark East	Jan. 25	Sept. 22	son	Jeff East
Katherine Arthur-Chillman	Jan. 26	Dec. 17	daughter	Abigail Arthur-Chillman
Amelia Sutterthwaite Ward	Jan. 29	Oct. 29	daughter	Lisa and Greg Ward
Corey Adam Price	Jan. 31	March 24	grandson	Angie Williams
Scott Wiseman	Feb. 3	Oct. 19	son	Lynn Wiseman
Clinton Ron Walker	Feb. 7	Jan. 31	son	Candace and Clint Walker
Stephen Ledford	Feb. 8	Oct. 4	son	Luella and Mike Ledford
Jamarr Jordan	Feb. 14	Jan. 27	brother	Nina Florence
Jamarr Jordan	Feb. 14	Jan. 27	son	Janet Mitchell
Harry Luthi	Feb. 19	Feb. 19	son	Katherine Luthi
Clayton Thomas Sechrist	Feb. 20	Feb. 1	son	Ann and Nelson Sechrist
Shana Rosenwald	Feb. 23	March 7	daughter	Ellie Rosenwald
Billy Snapp	Feb. 25	June 23	son	Teal Snapp
John Allen Askins	March 3	June 24	son	Elaine Askins
Brandon Marquis Williams	March 5	Aug. 28	son	Selena Randolph
Jacob Miller	March 7	Oct. 26	son	Sandra and Richard Miller
Mathew Scott Marshall	March 10	May 22	son	Gena and John Ivester
Christian Nicole Ricketts	March 11	March 11	daughter	Nicole Ricketts
Jennifer Marie Dailey	March 12	Nov. 9	daughter	Joanne and Bob Dailey
Candi Gaye Marshall	March 16	Oct. 16	daughter	Gena and John Ivester
Joey Capron	March 17	May 26	son	Carmen Capron
Ronald Taus	March 20	May 28	son	Dena Hubbard
David James Teddlie	March 22	Dec. 5	son	Anne and Don Teddlie
Winn Jordan	March 23	March 31	son	Bill and Jan Jordan
Jamaal Addison	March 23	Oct. 7	son	Patricia Roberts
Demetrius O'Neal Span, Jr.	March 24	Sept. 2	son	Calvin and Tammie Washington
Dianne Martha Shlevin	March 26	Dec. 27	daughter	Barbara Shlevin
Daniel Prescott	March 31	May 19	brother	Pam Gnanamani



Seasoned Grief

By Eva Lager ~ TCF, Perth, Western Australia
From *We Need Not Walk Alone*, Spring 1999 Issue



There used to be a point to summing
up a year just past
not as a personal
accomplishment but as a
reflection.

Leaving previous hurts behind was
welcomed and the sensible thing to do.
I thought I was getting wiser as I was getting
older.

With new years clean and full of possibilities,
becoming another person seemed simple,
another chance at getting it right,
like a redemption, being forgiven for
having blundered or been found wanting.
But death changed everything, without permission.
Resolutions, made sincerely and broken quickly,
offended my need to hold on to the past,
to rewind life, fast backwards,
so I could capture what I had lost.
Still, time went on, regardless of my pleas.
And when exhaustion set in, as eventually it must,
I understood there would be another future,
not the one I thought I had the right to expect
but one where I dared carry hope in my heart
again.

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Five Years Later

What I Have Learned

By Tamie Dodge, Atlanta Chapter, TCF

January 14 will be my daughter, Jessica's, fifth angel date. She passed away on Jan. 14, 2004, only 16 years old. I remember shortly after her death wondering if I would feel the same depth of sadness after five years. I am not sure why I focused on five years. I suppose that – back then – it seemed impossible that she was gone five seconds and could not imagine life still moving forward into years.

I remember my sister asking me shortly after her death, "What have you learned from this?" I remember thinking that that was a very odd question. At that time, all I had learned was what the horrible depth of true grief was like and how little control I really had over the most important things in my life, the well being of my children.

In a way her question upset me, even though I did not tell her that. It upset me as I felt she was trying to analyze my grief the same way she analyzed her divorce. She has a Masters Degree in Psychology and she has a tendency to over analyze many things to the point that I feel she loses touch with people's true emotions.

I now look back and ask myself that same question. What have I learned from the experience of losing a child?

- I will still say that I learned that we can try to control the things that are most important to us, but only to a point.
- I learned that we have little control over the things that we cannot predict.
- I have learned how to be much more compassionate toward all people as we just don't know what their experiences have been.
- I have learned how not to take anything for granted.
- I have learned to tell the people I love how I feel on a regular basis as you just never know what the future will hold.
- I have learned what is truly precious in life and it is not summed up in things, but people.
- I have also learned that I have much more to learn and my search for all of the answers will last a lifetime.

Jessica has taught me so many things, both in life and in her death. I miss her with all of my heart, mind and soul. I can still see her so clearly in my mind. In my mind I can still hear her belly laughs and smell her fragrance. For this I am eternally grateful. I just pray that if I am still here on this earth 20 years from now I can say the same thing.

Jessica, I love you, miss you, want you back more then I can say. I hope you are dancing with the angels.

Your Purchases Through iGive.com Can Benefit TCF's National Office

Purchases made through TCF's online shopping mall partner, iGive.com, allow up to 26 percent of the price of your purchase to be donated back to the national TCF office to help it fund its many programs.

To sign up, go to:
www.iGive.com/TheCompassionateFriends and designate The Compassionate Friends as your charity of choice. If you then make a purchase within 45 days from any of the participating iGive.com stores, TCF will receive a \$5 donation from iGive.com, in addition to the normal percentage from the purchase from that store.

Dancing in the Rain

The following article was written by Julie Short, a member of the Southeastern Illinois chapter of TCF. She wrote it "in loving memory of Kyra." The article is reprinted from the Summer 2008 issue of "We Need Not Walk Alone."



The words "it is what it is" continually run through my mind. Our worlds don't often turn out as we imagined. My handsome prince didn't come and rescue me as a teen. He didn't whisk me off to a beautiful castle where he treated me like a queen. We didn't have four beautiful, healthy children or live happily ever after.

In fact, my life journey hasn't been at all like I had imagined, with the exception of one beautiful daughter, Kyra.

I was only six months into my grief when I attended The Compassionate Friends national conference in Boston. I remember grudgingly agreeing to attend a workshop titled "Another Day, Another Opportunity." I thought, *I don't want to go to that one*, because at the time, another day was just another opportunity to feel great pain and anguish. But something was pulling me to attend the session, so I went and was so grateful that I did, because it has helped me to find a new goal. One of the most memorable things the workshop presenter said was that until we are able to let go of our child's physical death, we cannot embrace their spiritual essence. It has been four years since Kyra's death, and I can now say that the farther I walk from her death, the closer I feel to her. The pain is still evident, but to feel her presence again is wonderful. I first felt it on the beach at Cape Elizabeth in Maine. I felt her spirit cry out, "I am free! Come and dance with me."

Kyra loved to dance. The country music song, "I Hope You Dance," was released before she died. I told Kyra that I dedicated it to her and gave her a plaque with the words inscribed on wood. The words in the song speak of not giving up when life becomes hard. I thought then that I had gotten it for her, when actually I think it was meant for me and other bereaved parents.

The word *dance* seems to be etched into my mind. Recently, a friend shared a quote she had come across: "Life isn't

about waiting for the storm to pass ... It's about learning to dance in the rain."

Wow – what awesome words! The image of a storm is a good analogy in understanding our grief. Storms can come from nowhere, like a tornado, seemingly destroying everything in their path and leaving our lives in complete and utter shambles. The darkness and dreariness stay while lightning continues to flash, stabbing our hearts with pain. Thunder clamors constantly, reminding us that our children are gone. We can walk in fog for what seems like years as the sleet and frigid cold freeze us in our tracks. The wind howls, imitating our screams and wailing. The rain seems to be endless.

Others, who haven't lost their children, who are living in sunshine, cry out to us, "Come in out of the rain." They don't understand that often we're just not able to move. The storm has become our world, for however long we need or choose to live there. My own experience of grief tells me that our lives will always be stormier than they were before the hurricanes came and took what was most precious to us. But, we do have a choice. We can stay hunkered down under the false protection of denial. We can lock ourselves up in a protective shell and never come out. Or, we can learn to dance in the rain. However, each bereaved parent must decide what feels best to them.

I find myself thinking, *"It's hard to crawl, walk or breathe without her and she wants me to dance?!* She must have forgotten all those times I tried and she said, *"Mom you can't dance!"* Then I realize that she's not referring to my ability when I hear, *Dance, mom, dance! Dance in the rain. Dance because you can't change what has already been done. You have the choice to sit it out or dance. Listen for the music, keep your eyes wide open, go forward, follow the music and dance. Follow me. I am not behind you. I am in front of you. I'm free and I am dancing.*

She taught me to hear the music and her song continues on. Without it, I couldn't dance.

I believe if we allow our children to lead us to dance in the rain that they will eventually dance us out of the severe storms of pain and into the sunshine of peace.

*And when the skies are gray
because I went away
Put on your dancing shoes,
grab your umbrella,
and
dance*

In Memory of Clinton

A happy baby boy quick to smile
A lovely child who would hold your neck for a while
Told your foot was deformed and you may not walk
Not only did you walk and run but boy did you learn
how to talk
Oh the questions you would ask during your
elementary years
Can still make me laugh even through all the tears
Momma why do kids tease Santa because he so
fat?

Why does daddy who has no hair still need to wear
a hat?
Oh the memories of your touch, your smile and kiss
The memories of the beautiful 17-year-old man are
the ones I really miss
A life full of ups, downs but mainly joy fill my head
And help me to deal with the many empty years
ahead
What gives me the most comfort in each and every
way
Is knowing that I will hold you again one great day.

Written by Candace Walker
In memory of her son, Clinton Walker
Birthday: January 31

Gifts of Love

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

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



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

Love Gifts

- In Loving Memory of Bill and Billy Snapp, from Jack Rosenberg, Marietta, GA
- In Loving Memory of Jennifer Lea Evans, from her parents Al and Delores Evans, Lawrenceville, GA
- In Loving Memory of Michael Btembke, from his father Ghakarhi Btembke, Norcross, GA
- In Loving Memory of Robert Jr. and Margie Ann Lind, from their parents Bette and Bob Lind, Lilburn, GA
- In Loving Memory of Matthew Meehan, from his father Michael Meehan, Stone Mountain, GA

- In Loving Memory of Christopher Hobbs, from his parents Joe and Gwendolyn Hobbs, Stone Mountain, GA
- In Loving Memory of Ronnie K. Batchelor, Jr., from his father Ronnie K. Batchelor, Snellville, GA
- In Loving Memory of Bo Tuggle, from his parents Johnny and Connie Tuggle, Snellville, GA
- In Loving Memory of Allen Palmer Shugart, from his parents Henry and Kelli Shugart, Suwanee, GA
- In Loving Memory of Meseret Debru, from his mother Kila Gebru, Decatur, GA

- In Loving Memory of Marc Waidner, from Danielle Dunbar, Denise Todd and Jeff Wood, Lilburn, GA
- In Loving Memory of Reezin N "Chip" Swilley, Jr., from his parents Elsie and Reezin Swilley, Atlanta, GA
- In Loving Memory of Jessica Dodge, from her parents Dan and Tamie Dodge, Lilburn, GA
- In Loving Memory of Ashley Craig, from her mother La Tangie Craig, Hampton, GA

In Loving Memory of Anita Marepally, from her sister Archana Marepally, Chapel Hill, NC
In Loving Memory of Chad Gordon, from his parents Wayne and Jayne Newton, Lilburn, GA
In Loving Memory of Ryan Jones, from his parents Stephen and Rachel Jones, Cumming, GA

Centerpiece Sponsors

In Loving Memory of Kay Cee Herring, from her parents David and Ginny Herring, Buford, GA
In Loving Memory of Christopher Hobbs, from his parents Joe and Gwendolyn Hobbs, Stone Mountain, GA
In Loving Memory of Arthur Jordan, from his mother Ann Asbell, Atlanta, GA
In Loving Memory of Arthur Jordan, from his sister Emily Jordan, Atlanta, GA
In Loving Memory of Allen Palmer Shugart, from his parents Henry and Kelli Shugart, Suwanee, GA

In Loving Memory of Meleia Willis-Starbuck, from her parents John and Kimberly Starbuck,
and brother Zachary Starbuck, Stone Mountain, GA
In Loving Memory of Jason Maham, from his mother Patricia Maham, Buford, GA
In Loving Memory of Connor Dunn Devine, from his parents Owen and Kathleen Devine, Winder, GA
In Loving Memory of Nick Posey, from his parents Diana and William Posey, Lilburn, GA
In Loving Memory of James Anthony Durham, from his mother Cindy Durham and sister Katie, Decatur, GA

In Loving Memory of Demetrius O'Neal Span, Jr., from his parents Tammie and Calvin Washington,
and siblings Ashley and Toni, Stone Mountain, GA
In Loving Memory of Julian Oliver Carter, from his parents Bryan and Julette Carter, Stone Mountain, GA
In Loving Memory of Meseret Debru, from his mother Kila Gebru, Decatur, GA
In Loving Memory of Mashanda Nicole Taylor, from her mother Michelle Taylor-Scott, Conyers, GA
In Loving Memory of Jessica Dodge, from her parents Dan and Tamie Dodge, Lilburn, GA
In Loving Memory of Norma Ann Mucha, from her sister Karen Riggie, Covington, GA



®Our Credo...

We need not walk alone. We are The Compassionate Friends.

We reach out to each other with love, with understanding, and with hope.

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

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) _____ E-mail: _____

Do you prefer to receive the newsletter by (check one): _____ Mail _____ E-mail (provide e-mail address above)

Child's Full Name: _____ Male _____ Female _____

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

Cause of Child's Death (optional): _____

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

Names and ages of all surviving siblings living with you:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Make Checks Payable to: The Compassionate Friends

Please return to: The Compassionate Friends, c/o Jayne Newton (treasurer), 808 Brentway Court, Lilburn, GA 30047

Or Make Donations Online by Pay Pal

<http://www.tcfatlanta.org/donationdataform.html>