



**The  
Compassionate  
Friends**  
Supporting Family After a Child Dies

**LAWRENCEVILLE, GEORGIA  
GWINNETT CHAPTER NEWSLETTER**

Meg Avery, Editor Winter 2013/2014  
December, January & February

**A non-denominational self-help support group offering friendship, understanding and hope to bereaved families who have experienced the death of a child at any age, from any cause.**

“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 daughter, brother or sister, or grandchild, and helps others better assist the grieving family.”

**CHAPTER MEETING AND CONTACT INFO:**

Gwinnett Chapter- 7:30 PM on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month. **next meetings: Dec. 19, Jan. 16 & Feb. 20.**

**Trinity Christian Fellowship, 1985 Old Fountain Road, Lawrenceville, 30043.**

We meet in the 100 Building, the first building on your left.

For TCF Gwinnett: contact June Cooper by phone 770-757-4927, or email [jc30044@flash.net](mailto:jc30044@flash.net) or [tcfwinnett@yahoo.com](mailto:tcfwinnett@yahoo.com)

TCF Atlanta website: [www.tcfatlanta.org](http://www.tcfatlanta.org)

GA Regional Coordinator Sandra Stinson, [sandrastinsontcf@yahoo.com](mailto:sandrastinsontcf@yahoo.com)

The Compassionate Friends National Office:  
1-877-969-0010

[www.thecompassionatefriends.org](http://www.thecompassionatefriends.org)

Dear Friends,

The Gwinnett Newsletter is available both in print and by e-mail. If you have received this issue in print and would prefer to receive e-mail instead, please notify us at [tcfwinnett@yahoo.com](mailto:tcfwinnett@yahoo.com). This will help keep our postage and printing costs down. We welcome your suggestions to improve our chapter newsletter.

We would love your input for the newsletter, Poetry, articles and comments submitted by parents, siblings and grandparents are an import part of each issue. Our next issue, Winter 2013/14 will cover the months of Dec. Jan. & Feb.

We will also continue to recognize birthday and anniversary dates as times of special remembrance within our TCF family. Please communicate these important dates to us if you have not already done so.

The Compassionate Friends 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 walk the grief journey. 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.

*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 become 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 other 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.*

*Copyright 2007*

## WE REMEMBER BIRTHDAYS

*The light of life never goes out, and so we remember their birthdays*



### December

Christina VauTrot	Dec. 1
Xavier Williams	Dec. 2
Connor Devine	Dec. 3
Tim Walton	Dec. 6
Mark William Evans, Jr.	Dec. 6
Shylah Crown	Dec. 6
Lindsey Marie Townsend	Dec. 13
Amanda Mills	Dec. 15
Jimmy West	Dec. 15
Jessica Norwood	Dec. 16
Donelle Blackwell	Dec. 17
Cristina Jane Vargas Howerton	Dec. 18
Kyle Copija	Dec. 20
Patrick Kelley	Dec. 20
Robert West	Dec. 21
Michael Faulkner	Dec. 24

### January

Ryan Pilgrim	Jan. 1
Terry O'Donnell	Jan. 2
Linda Strauss	Jan. 4
Michael Dale	Jan. 6
Brandon Harper	Jan. 7
Tiffany Maxwell	Jan. 18
Jessica Bryl	Jan. 19
Tyler Ivey Rice	Jan. 28
Christopher Boyd	Jan. 29
Christian Pach	Jan. 30
Justin Ellington	Jan. 31

## February

Clayton Thomas Sechrist	Feb. 1
Kimberly Lange	Feb. 5
Matthew Turner	Feb. 5
Clayton Shadinger	Feb. 8
Ronald "Scott" Long	Feb. 9
John Andrew Sims	Feb. 12
Dee Cooper	Feb. 14
Christopher Patterson	Feb. 15
Cameron McClure	Feb. 16
Brenden Elbaz	Feb. 16
Xavier PierreLouis	Feb. 17
Drew Adams	Feb. 20
Stephanie Fortner	Feb. 21
Bryant Lawrence	Feb. 24
David Whitley	Feb. 26
Max Fiandt	Feb. 27
Gerard Robertson	Feb. 28

### Birthday Invitation

Every month we have a Birthday Table and you are warmly invited to please come share your child's birthday with us when his/her birthday is that month. This is your chance to tell us a favorite story, or share a poem or thoughts that either you or your child wrote or whatever remembrance you choose in memory of your child. Our child's or grandchild's or sibling's birthday will forever be a very special day and we at TCF know how important that day is and how helpful and healing it can be to share with others.



Please plan on attending the meeting of your child's birthday and filling our Birthday Table with pictures and/or mementos. You are also more than welcome to bring his/her favorite snacks.



## National Children's Memorial Day

**Sunday, December 8, 2013**

For the past 2 years we have had a small informal gathering on National Children's Memorial Day, which is always the second Sunday in December. The Compassionate Friends has a World Wide Candle Lighting Ceremony on this day at 7 pm in every time zone for one hour, creating a continuous wave of light around the world in memory of our loved ones. TCF Gwinnett has met at the Lawrenceville Historic Courthouse Gazebo at 7 pm. Depending on the weather, we will try to have a "Gathering at the Gazebo" at 7 pm on Dec. 8 for one hour. There is electricity in the gazebo so we are able to have music. Hopefully the weather will cooperate so we may gather together and light candles in memory of the love & spirit of our child, children, siblings and/or grandchildren whom we love, miss and remember, especially during the holiday season.

Information will be shared via email as it gets closer to Dec. 8. If you have not ever received an email from TCF Gwinnett, then you are not on that mailing list. Please send an email to [tcfwinnett@yahoo.com](mailto:tcfwinnett@yahoo.com) to be included on chapter email monthly reminders and announcements.

### *Heartfrost*

Does it not seem  
As if in wintertime  
Your mind remembers  
All those sunny things  
That warmed you once?  
And does it seem  
As if you have not smiled forever?  
Now take your hands,  
One in the other hand,  
And do remember  
All those sunny things again.  
Again.  
And let them warm you now.  
~~ The smile will find you.

By Sascha Wagner  
From "The Poems of Sascha Wagner"

### **First Holiday**

We lit a candle today,  
To fill the he empty place  
Where you should be  
But aren't.  
I stood with my hands cupping the  
flame...  
And felt the heat...  
The energy...  
Empty space between fire and  
flesh  
Nothing visible  
Nothing to see...  
And yet I knew it was there -  
The energy touched my skin,  
And so it was with you today,  
Nothing visible-  
Nothing to see.  
And yet I knew you were here.  
Your energy touched my heart.



By Sandy Goodman copyright 2006

## *December, January & February Anniversaries*

So that their lives may always shine, our children are remembered. As long as we live, they too shall live for they are part of us in our memories

### December

Jonathan Hesfeld	Dec. 2
Arnessa Royster	Dec. 3
Jessica Rose Riley	Dec. 3
Bryant Lawrence	Dec. 5
Rachael Fouquet	Dec. 7
Frankie Ortiz	Dec. 13
Connor Devine	Dec. 16
Patrick Kelley	Dec. 20
Terry O'Donnell	Dec. 21
Christopher Patterson	Dec. 22
Julie Lyn Donaldson	Dec. 23
Adyson Claire Smith	Dec. 23
Norma Mucha	Dec. 25
Samantha Mucha	Dec. 25
Matthew Turner	Dec. 26
Michael LeVierge	Dec. 27
Larry Tilley	Dec. 27
Brannon Springer	Dec. 28
Michael Rivero	Dec. 28
Jason Pettus	Dec. 30



### January

Gary Pruitt	Jan. 1
Gabrielle, Malachi & Xavier PierreLouis	Jan. 1
Clayton Shadinger	Jan. 2
Jeff Bradley	Jan. 4
Karissa Palmer	Jan. 7
Hope McKenzie	Jan. 7
Kimberly Lange	Jan. 11
Justin Todd Stephens	Jan. 11
Jayla Cook	Jan. 11
Clayton Olvey	Jan. 12
Brandon Harper	Jan. 16
David Whitley	Jan. 17
Michael Dale	Jan. 19
Christina VauTrot	Jan. 20
Amanda & Logan Mills	Jan. 20
Natalie Sparks	Jan. 22
Ansley Powell	Jan. 22
Ryan Gilbride	Jan. 28
Shylah Crown	Jan. 29
Kimberly Dawn Marshall	Jan. 30
Amy Hannigan	Jan. 30

### February

Christian Pach	Feb. 3
Olivia Rodriguez	Feb. 4
Jamie Ann Quillen	Feb. 9
Jimmy West	Feb. 11
Dee Cooper	Feb. 11
Michael Faulkner	Feb. 11
Fara "Nicole" Choate	Feb. 13
Daniel Green	Feb. 14
Clayton Sechrist	Feb. 20
Chris Moise	Feb. 24
Kathryn Collier	Feb. 24
Matthew Jones	Feb. 26
Kapri Bradley	Feb. 27



### *Wintersong*

*Season of lights, season of love and peace  
Season of shadow, season of memories  
Season of warmth & joy, season of secret tears;  
Give us the courage to laugh again  
Give us the vision to hope again  
Give us the power to love again  
For all our new seasons  
And all our new years*

By Sascha Wagner, from her book "Wintersun"



## Bereavement and Holiday Traditions

The first big celebration without my son, Christopher, was his 23rd birthday. He was killed March 21st (1996) and born in May 15th (1974)—I still get the dates mixed up because they are both so significant to me (both months starting with M doesn't help).

We were all so unsure what to do to celebrate his birthday without him present. In the end, we did what we always had done when he was with us—a large group of us went to his favorite restaurant, Benihana. We made sure we had enough people to have our own table and chef. We did not know how our grief would act.

We all felt better doing something Christopher loved and which was a family tradition. It is so much easier for me to acknowledge the “elephant in the room” than to pretend it is not there, so we toasted to his special day and felt he would be happy we were all together. I can't remember for how many consecutive years we followed this particular tradition. It originated before Christopher's death...but then became a bereavement ritual. Now it has evolved to include other restaurants where we went together as a family, and sometimes we just cook Christopher's favorite foods at home.

The first Thanksgiving we set a place for Christopher at the table. My three sisters came from the Seattle area, along with my niece. We had more family present than usual, helping us to feel surrounded by love. The cooking and family guests were welcome distractions from painful grief. You may be surprised that I still looked forward—no matter how sad I was—to the cooking and the family gathering. The house seemed to swirl with the entire “getting ready” for the meal and setting the tables for the celebration. At dinner we told funny stories about Christopher. He had an unusual talent of being able to balance a spoon on his nose. Family members would try to do it and couldn't—mostly because everyone was laughing so hard. At restaurants when Christina and Christopher were small and would get wiggly, I would order them Roy Rogers and Shirley Temples and then challenge them to tie the cherry stem in a knot (it can be done—I am the champ of this).

Telling these stories worked! They brought Christopher into the room with us and showed us that bereavement isn't always solemn!

I always gather people in the kitchen right before we eat and do a blessing, with words of wisdom from the year. This is what I said in 1996 (I am not sure where I stole the words from):

Strength

May the longtime sun shine upon you,  
all the love surround you,  
and the pure light within you, guide your way on.

May the longtime sun shine upon us,  
all the love here surround us,  
and the pure light within us, guide us on our way.

May the sunshine reach those not with us,  
all our love surround them,  
and the pure light within them, guide us along our way.

Over the years, our place setting for Christopher has evolved to a candle dedicated to him and more recently a candle for “all those who are not with us.” Bereavement changes your traditions—and as the bereavement evolves, the traditions keep changing, too.

As for Christmas and Chanukah, they have always evoked confusion in my life. When I was twelve I went to visit my father for a year in New York, after living with my mother before this. Things were very different in New York; I was used to California. I also discovered I was Jewish; something my mother, who felt we should discover “our own God,” never bothered to mention. This “Jewish” revelation is when “holiday confusion” set in.

Christmas was lovely and simple growing up—a beautiful tree decorated with glass ornaments and beads which had been treasured by our mother. We all decorated the tree together, with a lot of practiced method. And we all received one present. That is just how it was.

Years passed and I settled on the “do both” method (still very limited presents). We celebrated Christmas at home and Chanukah with dear friends

Early Christmas morning, the family would gather at my house. Christopher loved to dress up as Santa Claus. He would put a pillow in his tummy, grab a Santa hat, don a white beard and pass out all the presents. My sister Kristin traditionally made blintzes, served with strawberry jam and sour cream. When she moved away, I took over the cooking tradition.

The first Christmas, I wrote my first holiday letter—ever! I felt people had been so kind to support and love us through such tragedy that I needed to let them know what was going on in our lives.

“Dearest friends and family,

My first wish is to thank you all for being there for us in what has been a very difficult year. The loss of Christopher has changed our lives forever. I also feel that the love of my friends and family during this hard time has changed my life forever in a very wonderful way. It is a difficult way to find out what a loved person you are. I have never written a holiday letter before. I wanted to write each one of you to catch up on what has been happening in our lives....”

That first year, I didn’t think I could face Christopher’s not being “Santa.” I asked my brother if we could go away as a family, and we did. We all flew from our different home locations and met in Arizona. We left on Christmas morning, which is a wonderful time to fly. We had Christmas dinner at our hotel. I brought a small decorated Christmas tree and a candle to light for Christopher. And of course the “Santa” hat.

We agreed ahead of time to exchange names and buy one present, with a spending limit (\$75). We also inaugurated a “White Elephant” present exchange, which can get very loud and silly. It has become a favorite part of our celebration. Many of the “white elephants” get left at the restaurant. And every year one “elephant” is voted the funniest of all. One year the honor went to a tall white cat-toilet-brush-holder, which our waiter said his “girlfriend would love!”

This Christmas getaway is one tradition that changed—and began—with Christopher’s death. The only difference over the years is that we now leave on December 26th, so everyone can spend time with other family too. This family Christmas vacation has become a new tradition. It is a gift that came with Christopher’s death. In our bereavement, Christopher has brought our family closer than we were before.

By Radha Stern, from [www.opentohope.com](http://www.opentohope.com)

Since the murder of her son, Christopher, in 1996, Radha Stern has devoted herself to helping others who have lost a loved one due to a violent crime. She created and maintains her website, Griefprints.com, to share her experiences throughout her journey from the darkness of grief into the light of gratitude.

## Grief Support For Siblings

When a child has died, siblings are often referred to as “the forgotten mourners.” While parents usually receive much support, siblings usually receive little—often being asked “How are your parents doing?” The Compassionate Friends is an organization that is not just for bereaved parents. It’s also for bereaved siblings (and grandparents).

All TCF National Conferences & many regional conferences offer workshops and other activities specifically geared for bereaved siblings. [Online Support Community](#) (live chats) allows you to talk with other bereaved siblings from across the country during the Online Support Community sessions held every week. These sessions are limited in number of participants and have trained monitors who are also siblings. Check out [www.compassionatefriends.org](http://www.compassionatefriends.org) and go to Resources/Siblings.

### **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

## Justin's Heart Grief Group

A place for the bereaved to gather to support each other in times of loss. Meets the third Tuesday of each month from 6:30 – 8:30 at the Loganville First Baptist Church. Contact Steve Williams at 678-670-3549. This support group was organized by Kayleigh Ellington, in memory of her brother Justin. Their mom, Kathy Ellington, belongs to TCF Gwinnett.

## GAINESVILLE SUPPORT GROUP

The Northeast Georgia Medical Center has a grief support group for parents. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month from 5:15 – 6:45 pm. The meeting is held at Lanier Park, Gainesville. Contact Jennifer Sorrells at 770-219- 0271 or [Jennifer.sorrells@nghs.com](mailto:Jennifer.sorrells@nghs.com) for more information.

## Kate's Club

Kate's Club is a non-profit organization that empowers children and teens facing life after the death of a parent or sibling. By creating friendships with kids and young adults that share the experience, Kate's Club guides children through their grief journey in a comfortable, safe & uplifting setting. For information, contact Debra Brook, Program Manager, at [debra@katesclub.org](mailto:debra@katesclub.org) or phone 404-347-7619.

## SURVIVORS OF SUICIDE SUPPORT GROUP

Meets the first Thursday of every month at 6:30 pm at The Warehouse at Family Festival, 5095 Post Rd, Cumming, 30040. The Meeting Room is located past The Land of 1000 Hills Coffee Bar, down the hall, first door on the right. For info contact Sherry 404-660-0907, [sherryunwala@yahoo.com](mailto:sherryunwala@yahoo.com) or Karen, 770-355-1024, [Karen\\_copija@att.net](mailto:Karen_copija@att.net)

## GOOD GRIEF" Support Group in Jefferson

Meets the first Saturday of every month at 10 am at the Integrity Counseling & Personal Development Center, phone 706-387-0573, [www.integrityofjefferson.com](http://www.integrityofjefferson.com) Deana Martin, TCF member and mom to angels Amanda & Logan helps coordinate and organize this group. You may also contact Deana at [deana.martin@merial.com](mailto:deana.martin@merial.com)

## Another Year

Another year has come,  
And you, so far away from me now;  
But in my heart still.  
Forever, I will hold you close.  
Each smile, laugh and tear I've cried  
A testament to your presence.  
I will always love you,  
No matter what happens.  
Your death cannot separate us.  
I'm right here, loving you as always.  
My heart is true and strong,  
I will never forget your spirit.  
I am no longer afraid.  
To live or die is the same for me.  
You are with me on this journey.  
I raise your light to the heavens, and  
Smile.

By Brenda Penepent, LPN, from the St. Paul TCF Newsletter

## Winter Memories

The days are getting colder  
and the first snow's not too far off.  
It used to be so pretty,  
gently falling from aloft.  
But the snow won't be as pretty,  
as it gathers on the ground,  
'cause there'll be a snowman missing,  
my son is not around.  
The playing children's laughter  
used to be a special song,  
but this year will be  
different,  
without my son along.  
The song has lost its music  
and it'll be just another  
day,  
as I gaze down from my  
window  
and watch the children  
play.  
But the snow will again be pretty  
in a far off distant time,  
and we'll build snowmen together  
and we'll never look behind.  
For now, I'll remain with memories  
but the melting show will fade.  
And he builds snowmen to his heart's  
content,  
'cause he lives where it's made.



~Jeremiah Sundown  
TCF, Nashville, TN

## Some Quiet Valentines

While watching an evening sunset  
Fade in the western skies,  
We know that when tomorrow dawns,  
From the east the sun will rise.

Although it may be hidden  
By veils hanging low,  
We're sure it will appear again  
And we'll feel its warming glow.

And so it is with life,  
When seen through misty eyes,  
When our world is suddenly dimmed  
And we plead and ask those whys.

It is then we learn, 'no man is an island,'  
As someone wisely said,  
As we travel life's uncharted course  
And by an unknown hand seem led.

To walk that path of sorrow,  
Enduring life's great loss,  
But by chance or fate that someone's  
Path we are guided to cross.

That someone through kindness  
In his or her way does impart,  
A warmth and a tenderness  
That so lifts a sad heart.

For it's the depth of their smile  
That lifts this sorrow of mine,  
And by far they are best suited  
To be our Valentine.

We may be someone's Valentine  
And never be aware,  
In these caring, still-grieving hearts,  
Our children's love is there.

We've no choice but to continue  
On life's uncharted way,  
And be thankful for those quiet friends  
Who brighten up each day.

-From TCF Newsletter , Cleveland, OH

## TCF Gwinnett Small Sharing Groups

Monthly support group meetings are the heart of The Compassionate Friends. These gatherings provide a safe and caring environment in which bereaved parents and siblings can talk freely about the emotions and experiences they are enduring. Parents receive the understanding and support of others who have "been there".

We are here to provide hope and encouragement, understanding & friendship as we all travel the grief journey. Our lives have been turned inside out & upside down and we are the walking wounded who must now figure out where to go from here, how to put our lives back together to some degree, and share coping skills and survival techniques. Together we can share our ideas and emotions, the questions and trials and tribulations that we have found ourselves in the very unwelcome world of bereaved parents.

**THANK YOU!** Many parents give back to TCF through volunteer opportunities as a means of honoring their child. Without volunteers our group would not exist. We are grateful to these volunteers: **Candace Jordan**, Chapter Leader, in memory of her son **Marcus Reid**; **June Cooper**, Parent Phone Contact, in memory of her daughter, **Wendy McMMain** & in memory of her sister, **Noreen Keenan**; **Meg Avery**, Newsletter Editor in memory of her son **James Avery**; **Barbara Dwyer**, Chapter Treasurer and **Leo Dwyer**, group facilitator in memory of their son **Matthew Dwyer**; **Terry Sparks**, provides newly bereaved packet info & as group facilitator, in memory of his daughter, **Natalie Sparks**; **Diane Wolcott**, Memorial Garden Committee Chair in memory of her son, **Jeffrey**; **Gary Fox**, facilitator, in memory of his son, **G.W. Fox**; **Joy Crowe**, Steering Committee Member in memory of her son **Brenden Elbaz**; **Claudine Nickens**, Steering Committee Member & facilitator in memory of her son **David Whitley**; and **Sandy Lavender**, Database Maintenance in memory of her daughter **Ashley Lauren Hull**.



## HELP WANTED!

As we all know, the death of our child, no matter what age or circumstance, is a shattering experience for a family. When a child dies, to whom does a family turn for the emotional support they will need during the grief journey that lies ahead? If you are reading this newsletter, you have already learned that The Compassionate Friends understands that grief for a child lasts longer & is more intense than society commonly recognizes. Together as grieving parents we can offer empathy and understanding of this loss, while also recognizing that each person's grief is unique.

However, there are many families who have not found TCF and may need the support & friendship our chapter can offer. We all read about accidents, crimes, illnesses and our hearts ache because we, better than others, realize what the parents of that child are now going to have to cope with.

We are in need of a **Community Outreach Volunteer**, who will reach out to funeral homes, social services, hospices, etc. to create awareness of our TCF Chapter. We have a Special Edition Newsletter available for new parents that can be mailed or given to organizations. It may be as simple as sending emails, or making phone calls, and/or mailing the special newsletter. The internet is a great resource and aid for creating education & awareness of TCF Gwinnett for families and organizations. If you would be interested in filling this volunteer role, or if there could be a team of 2 or 3 people to work together in this effort, please contact Candace Jordan by email, [tcfgwinnett@yahoo.com](mailto:tcfgwinnett@yahoo.com)

### Gifts of Love

A love gift is a financial donation to The Compassionate Friends Gwinnett Chapter. 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, or simply a gift from someone who wants to help in the work of our chapter. Love gifts are acknowledged in each quarterly issue.

Stamps for Remembrance Cards donated by  
Marvin Choate  
in memory of his daughter, *Fara Nicole*

If you make a monetary donation to TCF Gwinnett, (which is tax-deductible) you may specify whether you would like your contribution to go toward the memorial garden account or general account. You may also choose to donate a book to our Lending Library, or cards to be used for our Remembrance Cards. If you would like to donate cards, please bring them to a meeting and labels will be added to the back of the card "card donated in memory of \_\_\_\_\_ (your child's name).

### \$\$\$ Where does the money go? \$\$\$

Our chapter is self-supporting and donations fund our chapter activities. We pay \$300 annually to Trinity Christian Fellowship Church for the use of our meeting space and \$100 annually to TCF National Office for yearly dues. Funds from the general account pay for: remembrance cards, postage, labels, printing, postage & labels for our newsletter, picnic pavilion rental, supplies for monthly meetings and for information packets for newly bereaved parents. **We do not receive funds from The Compassionate Friends National Office** and we are always extremely appreciative for any contributions. Please be assured, however, that there are no financial dues to be a member of TCF or to receive this newsletter.

*Please fill out the information below, clip and mail with your tax deductible donation to:*

**Barbara Dwyer**  
**TCF Gwinnett Treasurer**  
**4905 Pond Ridge Lane,**  
**Cumming, GA 30041.**

(Please make checks payable to **TCF Gwinnett.**)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

In Memory  
of: \_\_\_\_\_