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**IMPORTANT NOTICE: Our printed newsletter will be moving online soon. We will need your email address. Please review our form on page 11 regarding your options. We will continue to send a printed version to anyone who doesn't have access to the Internet.**

*We need not walk alone.*



Tyler, Texas 75711  
P.O. Box 9714

**THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS**



**The Compassionate Friends**

Supporting Family After a Child Dies



*We need not walk alone.*

**Volume 17, Issue 9**

**Tyler, Texas**

**September 2016**

**Monthly Group Meeting**

**Tyler Area Meeting**  
3rd Monday of Each Month  
1901 Rickety Ln., Tyler

**Contact**

Phone: (903) 258-2547  
www.TylerTCF.org • info@TylerTCF.org  
P.O. Box 9714 • Tyler, TX 75711

Co-Chapter Leaders.....  
Cheri Zucca & Trish Mann Taylor  
Secretary .....Trish Mann Taylor  
Newsletter/Website .....Mary Lingle  
Tyler Meeting Facilitators: Leslie & Don Dixon

Steering Committee: Sam Smith, David & Teresa Terrell, Mary Lingle, Lisa Schoonover, Cheri Zucca, Ellen Jenkins, Pam Pickett, Don & Leslie Dixon, Janet Majors, MaryAnn Girard, Trisha Mann Taylor, Barbara Barton, Heather Ogg

Joan & Bill Campbell, Regional Coordinators: (972) 935-0673  
TCF National: (877) 969-0010  
www.compassionatefriends.org

**The Meeting Agenda**

6:30 p.m. - Meeting will begin with refreshments followed by announcement of birthdays and anniversaries and reading of the Credo. We will then have open discussion.  
8:00 p.m. - Meeting will close by recognizing our childrens' names. Feel free to visit after the meeting or check out books from our library.

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**Annual Candle Lighting Memorial**

Our Annual Candle Lighting Ceremony will be Sunday, Dec. 11, 2016 at Crossroads Community Church, 13730 Hwy 155 South, Tyler. The service begins at 6:30 p.m. This year, canned food for the food pantry at our host church. as well as new toys will be collected at the Candle Lighting.

This is a great way to meet and get to know the members of The Compassionate Friends. Getting involved will likely help you as well as the other members! Everyone is needed and welcomed! Please consider bringing a finger food of your choice. We need everything from sandwiches and chips to sweets and drinks. Your contribution will be appreciated and enjoyed on this special evening. If you would like to help with the Candle Lighting set up, Saturday, the day before the event, take down and anything in between, please call the TCF line at 903-258-2547. Thank you!

**Fall**

It is so hard to believe that summer is over! Even though summer is technically still here until September, the cool evenings we have been having, school starting, and football games being played are all signs that fall is here. And I love it!

To me, fall is the most invigorating time of the year. The crispness of the air, the beautiful coloration of the trees, the smell of leaf and wood smoke, the sky full of birds traveling south "talking" with one another as they go, are all part of this wonderful world we live in. I hope all of you will be able to feel and see the wonders of fall.

Sometimes we are so "down" and preoccupied with our child's death, and we are working so hard to just get through each day, that we are unable to appreciate what is going on in the world around us. Try to take a few minutes each day and look around. If you can focus on a beautiful tree or leaf, smell the chrysanthemums blooming in the garden or bite into a fresh apple just picked and enjoy doing this for just a few minutes, it will make your day seem brighter. And, if you are up to it, go to a high school football game or a band competition. The enthusiasm of the young people participating in these events is contagious.

Yes, it sometimes hurts. We want our children to be there also, enjoying these activities. But it also gives us renewed faith that life does go on, and there is happiness and excitement in the world. I hope you all can find some beauty and peace in the fall months ahead.

*Peggy Hartzell, TCF Ambler, PA*

**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.



We need not walk alone.

"Grief is not an illness that needs to be cured. It's not a task with definable, sequential steps. It's not a bridge to cross, a burden to bear or an experience to 'recover' from. It is a normal, healthy and predictable response to loss."
—Donna L. Schuurman

Welcome

We extend a warm welcome to those who attended their first TCF meeting last month.

We deeply regret the circumstances that brought you to our TCF Chapter. The Compassionate Friends is a mutual assistance, not-for-profit, self-help organization that offers support and understanding to families who have experienced the death of a child.

Our chapter is operated entirely by volunteers dedicated to furthering the work of TCF. Your voluntary, tax deductible donations honor your loved one(s) in a meaningful way by enabling us to print and mail this newsletter and meet other expenses involved in reaching out to other grieving families (100% of funds are used for this outreach).

The Compassionate Friends of Tyler
P.O. Box 9714
Tyler, Texas 75711

To Our New Members

Coming to your first meeting is the hardest thing to do. But, you have nothing to lose and much to gain. Try not to judge your first meeting as to whether or not TCF will work for you.

To Our Old Members

We need your encouragement and support. You are the string that ties our group together and the glue that makes it stick. Each meeting we have new parents. Think back—what would it have been like for you if there had not been any "oldies" to welcome you, share your grief and encourage you?

Grief Resources

Note: Some resources are based on individual opinion and experience and are not officially endorsed by the organization. The hope is that you may find a grief resource helpful to you and your family. We will continue to build on our resources column. Please let us know of any of your personal recommendations. Thank you.

Compassionate Friends (International Website) compassionatefriends.org
Also offers grief support for siblings & grandparents

Children Are A Gift Foundation: www.childrenareagift.com

GriefShare: www.griefshare.org

MADD East Texas (Mothers Against Drunk Driving)
www.madd.org/local-offices/tx/east-texas

Smith County Victim Services Division
www.tdcj.state.tx.us/divisions/vs/counties/smith.html

The Hospice of East Texas: www.hospiceofeasttexas.org

Victim Services Division - Texas Department of Criminal Justice - Online Resource Directory
www.tdcj.state.tx.us/divisions/vs

Survivors of Suicide: www.allianceofhope.org

Samaritan Counseling of Tyler: www.scctyler.org

Tyler Counseling & Assessment, LLP: www.tyler-counseling.com

Angel Layettes brings comfort to families grieving over the loss of an infant from miscarriage, stillbirth or death shortly after birth, and honor and dignity to the memory of the precious baby. Angel Layettes provides without charge custom designed burial layettes and keepsakes.angellayettes.org • 903-534-5212

University of Texas at Tyler Psychology and Counseling and Training Clinic: 903-593-2348

The Cope Foundation: www.copefoundation.org

Grief Camps for Kids: www.moyerfoundation.org/programs

WINGS was established through Hospice of East Texas in 1993 to help children navigate the grieving process. WINGS, "a comprehensive bereavement program that provides both emotional support and grief education," offers a camp (Camp G – grieve, grow and go forward) twice a year. For more information or to register for a grief support program, contact the Hospice of East Texas Bereavement Department at 903-266-3400 (Extension 127) or call 1-800-777-9860.

Group Meetings for Survivors of Trauma and Survivors of Suicide Loss, sponsored by Michael's House of Hope at the New Life Worship Center, 18535 Hwy. 69 S., Tyler, room 620. Call Dr. Timothy M. Roddam at 903-681-3161 for more information. Survivors of Trauma meets the second Thursday of each month from 6-7 p.m.



We're on Facebook! Search for The Compassionate Friends of Tyler and Like our page.



The Compassionate Friends of Tyler

P.O. Box 9714
Tyler, TX 75711

We are happy to send our newsletter to you. We hope that it is helpful to you to be kept informed of chapter resources and activities and that you still wish to receive our newsletters that contain excellent material relating to grief issues.

To keep our mailing list current, we do ask to hear from you each year making sure that our information is correct and that you still wish to receive our mailings. If we did not hear from you in the last year please indicate any appropriate choices below and return the form to the address at the bottom of this page.

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

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Death Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Cause of Death: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check any of following that apply:

Due to the rising cost of postage, please send newsletters via email. My email address is \_\_\_\_\_.

I prefer not to receive the newsletter via email and would like to continue having a hard copy sent to the mailing address you have on file for me.

Please update my mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

No thank you, I'd prefer to stop receiving the newsletter. (Newsletters are posted monthly on our website.)

Please include my child's name and picture in the slide presentation at the Candle Lighting Ceremony.

Please include my child's picture and information on the TCF Tyler Web site. (www.TylerTCF.org)

I am enclosing a memorial to support The Compassionate Friends in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ Please make check payable to TCF

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Please use this gift for: TCF Newsletter Butterfly Release Candle Lighting TCF Events

The continuation of this chapter's work depends on donations. If you have not taken the opportunity to give a donation in memory of your child please consider taking this time to give a gift that will help reach out to other newly bereaved parents.

We must have your written permission on file to use your child's name and/or picture in the newsletter, Web site, Candle Lighting Ceremony or any other TCF event. Permission may be withdrawn at any time by written request. This information is used to maintain our Chapter Database. It is confidential and is only utilized for Chapter activities such as the newsletter.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature) Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return completed form to: The Compassionate Friends of Tyler, P.O. Box 9714, Tyler, TX 75711





*We need not walk alone.*

"The people we meet in Compassionate Friends understand us. They are us. They listen and speak with their hearts. They have each experienced the loss of a child. They hurt with us, and their pain is as real as ours. We learn from each other."  
—Annette Mennen Baldwin

### September Birthdays



Justin Dover



Chad Cavazos



Jon Lee Hardwick



Theresa Kay Talley



Tommy Gresham



Bobby Jack Stanley



Robert Attaway



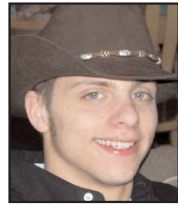
Shantrice Willingham



Autumn Dale Romine



Michael R. Peymon



Austin Cheek



Chase Cyrus Naquin



Gary Dean Arnold



Stacey Smith



Michael Toby Tobias



Ava Faith Knight



Betsi Marie Wyatt



Bill Bouslog



Joshua Jolley



Douglas Johnson, Jr.



Amanda Claire Miller



Leah Zucca



Aaron Willman



Chance Aaron Chandler



Samantha Johnson



Adam Thomas Pritchard



Joshua Washburn



Jake Schoonover



Lee Sammons



Kyle James Horn



Lillian Oldham



Jiree Mobley



Melinda Orr



Tommy Gresham



Brooklynn Woods



Brian McDaniel



Christopher Molnari



*We need not walk alone.*

"Are we dwelling on our loss? Absolutely. But we are learning to dwell on it constructively, to dwell on it without guilt and without the isolation we have all felt. We learn how to reach out (in time) to others with a compassion that brings healing to others as well as to ourselves." —Philip Barker

### Living Life Is Still An Effort

My husband's family held a reunion in July. We planned to attend and told the family to count on us. But when it came time to buy the tickets and make a commitment, I found I couldn't do it. I simply did not want to deal with the hassles of traveling, leaving home, getting out of my daily rhythm.

I am a different person since my child died. I am a different person than I was six months after my child died. And, I will be a different person in another year. I find that I am evolving; my basic personality is still intact, most of my mind works well enough, my perception of life, love, people and events is probably heightened but fairly unchanged. Still I am a different person.

Now I work at living my life. I make myself do the things that I once took for granted—such as getting dressed each day, going to work, handling a number of responsibilities I have chosen to accept. I make myself laugh at silly jokes. Sometimes I even have to force myself to really listen to others. I am surprised when I laugh spontaneously, smile for no particular reason or say something "prophetic." What is going on here? Who am I? Why has the joy of life disappeared?

I believe I have found the answer to these questions and even to questions I haven't yet asked. It lies in the nature of losing one's child to death. Initially we work very hard to maintain sanity. Gradually we expand the boundaries of our lives. Carefully we add events, people, responsibilities and simple enjoyment. But our progress is measured in months and years, not days and weeks.

My awakening to this new reality came at a meeting of The Compassionate Friends. It has been rekindled at each meeting since then. I learn about myself by observing others. I note the change in their voice, their body language, their perspective. I see the sorrow in each parent. I see parents whose children have been gone for many years still weep openly and later talk about a special event they are planning. Then I see parents whose loss was recent yet they appear to be normal, controlled and sociable on many levels and they suddenly and mysteriously crumble before my eyes.

That's the journey. We set our own limits as to what is acceptable for us. Over time we shift from minimalist boundaries to a good representation of the person we once were. We have major setbacks: birthdays, holidays, death anniversaries. We have minor setbacks: a picture, a forgotten scent, a baby shoe, a poignant memory. We sob, we scream, we withdraw. But we do go on. With the help of our Compassionate Friends, we move forward and are supported when we suffer a setback. We each deal with the many facets of our grief. We learn from others. We teach others. We grow from the dialogue. Our kindred spirits bring questions, answers and peace.

Who am I today? A fairly well-balanced mother of one beautiful child who no longer is alive. I am where I should be. When will I stop evolving? Probably never.

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







*We need not walk alone.*

"The closest analogy I can think of to explain this whole experience is that I am like a child whose nose is pressed up against the window pane of life when all of a sudden, the window shatters. I am so busy trying to pick up the pieces to protect the others and insure that no one else gets hurt that I do not realize until much later that my arms and hands are bleeding heavily." —*Kim Bernal*

### September Anniversaries Cont.



**Daryn Keith Selman**



**Wayne Davis**



**Doug Bennett**



**Amanda Anderson**



**Derek Russell**



**James Rawls**



**Richard Allen Wilgus**

**Please share your stories, poems or love messages for inclusion in our newsletter.**

### Shards of Grief Linger After Murder

On a dreary night in December, a knock came at our door with news that would forever alter our lives. The news was that Anne, our only daughter, had been kidnapped and brutally murdered by persons or a person unknown. The shock, disbelief, anguish and anxieties over the next several months, a small piece of the grieving process, were extraordinary, and I have often wondered how we survived?

There was the extreme rage at the person who was responsible for taking Anne's life for no reason except for the pure pleasure of destroying good. But we survived.

There was the awful anger against the legal system for being so callous and insensitive to the needs of the family and friends. The wounds from Anne's death were already deep and unhealing, but listening to and reading about the insinuations and innuendoes by the lawyers made the wounds grow deeper and deeper. The impression was given the family must endure punishment for allowing our daughter to be in the wrong place. This caused a feeling of guilt. But we survived.

There was the fear that Anne would become just another statistic, and the person responsible would go unpunished. Now the fear exists that the person will be released from prison to repeat his acts of violence. I am afraid that fears are addictive and one replaces another. Perhaps the worst fear is, when your faith in God is at its lowest ebb, that you will never be able to respond to normal stimuli again and regain all that faith. All the fears are real; but so far we have survived.

These, I suppose, are normal reactions as the result of a violent act. I believe these anxieties delay a normal (so-called) grieving period until after the culprit has been found, tried and sentenced. After these three things happened, I do know a terrible burden was lifted from our shoulders, and we could restart living our lives. Somehow we survived.

How did we survive? After much reflecting, I firmly believe we survived by recalling the positive aspects of Anne's life and character. Each individual is endowed with certain instruments, and we hear the music of their lives long after they are gone.

Anne's instrument of love of life was a blessing, and we still can hear the melodies of her song in the night. These melodies cannot be taken away, and they are more valuable than diamonds to us.

Anne's instrument of hope for a future in which to achieve her goals and have some effect on society was the backbone of her dream. The songs of hope in work, in life and the goodness of heart cannot be destroyed by evil or circumstances. Today is gone, but we still hear the songs of hope for tomorrow. These songs of hope, heard in the night, sustain us.

Anne's instrument of faith that she would lead a productive life and achieve both her spiritual and material goals was music in her heart. The faith she had in herself, her family and her friends transmits to us, urging us to proceed with our lives. The music of her faith is still a beacon in the night.

We will not believe Anne's dreams have ended, but we believe they will find their place in the world to come. The music that was set in motion by her love, hope and faith will move, everlasting, in sweet memories forever. The wounds from the loss of a loved one cannot be healed by words or deeds. These terrible burdens are borne by each of us in our own way and, hopefully, we survive.

*Bill Boggs, TCF Atlanta, GA*



*We need not walk alone.*

"When it seems that our sorrow is too great to be borne, let us think of the great family of the heavy-hearted into which our grief has given us entrance, and inevitably, we will feel about us, their arms and their understanding." —*Helen Keller*

### An Empty Chair

The first wedding was two years after Alan, my twin-brother, passed away. My second oldest brother was getting married. I was waiting for the question, "When was I going to get married?" I was never asked so I couldn't use my prepared response, "When Alan could be my best man."

I thought if I did get married I would have an empty chair next to me. If Alan couldn't be my best man, I didn't want anyone. My brother's name would appear in the program (that he would have designed) as honorary best man.

This year I turned thirty-six, it was my sixth birthday without Alan. At the restaurant we had made a mistake, the reservation had been made for one too many. I had ended up sitting next to an empty chair.

I thought I was doing better, no longer crying at family events. I now realize that I will not have an empty chair at my wedding, if I can ever bring myself to get married without Alan being there. The loss I feel will always be there, but it's much worse seeing an empty chair.

*Daniel Yoffee*

### Thanks for your donations and continued support of TCF of Tyler.

**In loving memory of  
Brandon & Cameron  
by Ike Weatherly**



**In loving memory of  
Herbert "Herby"  
C. Parr by Herb &  
Sandy Parr**



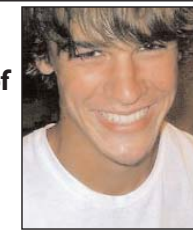
**In loving memory of  
Alex Conway by  
Robert & Trisha  
Taylor**



**In loving memory of  
Andy Terrell by  
David & Teresa  
Terrell**



**In loving memory of  
Chris O'Leary by  
Merri Walsh**



**In loving memory of  
Leah Zucca by  
Jim & Cheri Zucca**



**In loving memory of  
Chad Cavazos by  
Dale Cavazos**



**In loving memory of  
Christopher Loper  
by Tina Loper**



**In loving memory of  
Jared Sheets by  
Carol & Shane  
Johnson**



**In loving memory of  
Stephanie Settle by  
Danny & Pat Settle**



**Please share your stories, poems or love messages for inclusion in our newsletter.**







*We need not walk alone.*

"I will open my heart in trust, that in ways I do not now understand, my loved one will continue to be present in my life."  
—Martha Whitmore Hickman



*We need not walk alone.*

"Adversity often activates a strength we did not know we had."  
—Joan Walsh Anglund

**Carly Smith**

**In Loving Memory  
of Carly**

**Beth Page and  
Classic Toyota**



This month's newsletter sponsored by Beth Page and Classic Toyota.

**The Depths of Grief**

We are all bereaved parents or bereaved family members. We live with the pain of loss each day, every day. We are veterans of a most unholy pain, rising each day to begin again the struggle to survive, the fight to make sense of a world that—for us—has become senseless.

Now our ranks have sadly swelled.

On the eleventh day of September many thousands of innocent people perished. The killing was as indiscriminate as it was impersonal; husbands, wives, daughters, sons, brothers and sisters died. Each life lost on that day represents, as we know all too well, a forthcoming struggle of the survivors to go on in a newly painful world that will make little sense.

As the relentless news poured in on that black day, my sorrow grew exponentially. Grief and horror mushroomed—demanding to be expressed. Tears fell as they had not in a number of years. Inside of me, the raw pain of grief blossomed anew. "What's going on?" I asked myself. "Why this overwhelming reaction? This isn't the first tragedy you've been witness to since the death of your little girl!" My pain seemed disproportionate, yet I continued to feel raw and weepy. I was unable to hinder the tides of emotion that swept over me that day, and all the days that have followed. Eventually I began to realize I was closely relating on two levels to the thousands who—without warning—had lost those most precious to them. The devastation that occurred in New York had happened in the place my heart called home, so on that level this was a personal tragedy. And as a grieving parent, I cringed at the unimaginable agony of those left behind—the weeks, months and years of anguished days and sleepless nights that lay in store for those frantic with fear on this horrendous day. I suspected that each of them was convinced that this was the most devastating day of their lives, and while I would not dispute that, I knew they were innocently unaware of the battles to come—the nightmares that lay in wait in the days and weeks ahead.

The tears I could not control were also for the innumerable acts of selflessness seen so many times throughout this horror. People put themselves at risk to help others; the injured lent a willing hand of support to those whose need seemed greater. As I watched this on television I was again so deeply moved. It seems our strongest bonds can be forged during the worst times in our lives. This lesson is one I learned first-hand when my own tragedy struck, and my anguish led me to The Compassionate Friends. There, other grieving parents held out their hands to me, and it was there I found the unwavering support that helped me survive my pain.

Now I could only hope each of these survivors would find a safe place to voice their grief. So many have been so cruelly thrust into our world. We are here, hands outstretched, for those who need us.

Sally Migliaccio, Editor, TCF Babylon, NY



**September Anniversaries**



Tim Cole



Cindy Dingler



Stephen Townsend



Cason Gimble



Jonathan Lee  
Daniel Sanders



Nathaniel  
Blake Dark



Stephanie Harris  
Reed



Amanda Stone



Mahlon Acres



Joshua Brandon  
"Josh" Wilcox



Michael Angelo Perez



Jennifer Booth  
Musick



Mary Jennifer  
Stone



Toni Wood



Joshua Malone



Ashlee Ann Davis



Cameron Weatherly



Robby Cano



Shantrice  
Willingham



Robert Attaway Jr.



Seth Henry Porter



A.J. Frazier



Cobin Frazier



Alec Heath Thigpen



Sarah Thompson



Jared Sheets



Ava Faith Knight



John Shade



D. Anriloten  
Bennett



Sarah Wheeler



Doug Norton



Daniel Wayne Thornton



Randall Thornton, Jr.



Colton James Bain



Amber Drake



Keisha Knauss







*We need not walk alone.*

The experience of grieving cannot be ordered or categorized, hurried or controlled, pushed aside or ignored indefinitely. It is as inevitable as breathing, as change, as love. It may be postponed, but it will not be denied.  
—Molly Fumia

## September 14, 1999

How much I have learned since that horrendous day.  
I've learned that I'm not alone in my grief,  
That others have suffered, are suffering and will suffer  
The tremendous loss of losing someone they love to suicide.  
Two years later I also learned how grief can destroy  
When your father, who couldn't deal with his grief,  
Decided to end his pain and suffering too.  
I've learned I wasn't as guilty as I had thought at first,  
That your decisions was yours alone,  
That once made nobody could change it.  
And I've learned to stop asking the "Why?" question—  
That question to which only you have the answer.  
Some people said that I'd get over losing you in a year.  
After that first round of holidays, birthdays—I'd be fine.  
Guess what—I've learned just how wrong they were.  
It's now the 10th year—the 10th year of holidays, birthdays—  
Certainly it's not as heart-wrenching as the 1st year or even the 5th.  
But I'm still not over losing you and I'm still not "fine."  
And I doubt that I'll ever get over losing you, that I'll ever be "fine."  
I'm certainly not the same person I was before this all began.  
I guess I've reached a "new normal" though and I'm going on with life.  
Even though it's been the most difficult thing I've ever had to endure,  
At least now I'm strong enough to help those who follow on this path.  
But, oh, how I'd give up all I've learned for just another hour with you.

*Karen C. Kimball, TCF Hingham, MA*

## Where Do I Go?

Now that you're gone, where do I go  
to see your fair smile  
to hear your tingling giggle  
to smell your dank hair after a swim  
to listen to your questions  
to touch your gentle cheek  
to feel your bear hug?  
Where do I go  
to share all my years of wisdom  
to find someone who'll tell me truth  
to answer the phone that won't ring  
to tell you I'm sorry  
to know that I am loved and  
to pour out my love and my tears?  
I shall go  
to the pictures that hold you forever  
to the books we shared  
to the music you taught me to love  
to the woods we explored as one  
to the memories that never fail  
to the innermost reaches of my heart  
to where we are always together.

*Marcia Alig, TCF Mercer Area Chapter, NJ*

## What Might Have Been...What Is

I want what might have been...  
And I want what is.  
I want the child I do not have,  
And I want the child that has come after.  
I cannot choose  
One or the other,  
My heart wants both.  
What might have been,  
A sturdy lad,  
Baseball bats,  
Football helmets,  
Squiggly worms on hooks  
Dirt and mud and  
Burps and booms.  
What is now,  
A charming girl,  
Raggedy Anne,  
Stuffed bears,  
Curls and ribbons on hair  
Tea and cookies and  
Squeals and giggles.  
How can I choose  
From two blessings,  
One gone too soon,  
One here by a miracle?  
I cannot...  
But if I could...  
I would want both...  
What might have been...  
And what is.

*Lisa Sculley, In memory of Joey Sculley  
7/16/92 to 10/7/92 - SIDS*

## Don't Steal My Grief

Don't try to make me feel better,  
By quipping your cute jokes.  
Don't try to rob me of my pain,  
When I need it as my cloak.  
I know you probably think,  
You're doing me a favor,  
But what you don't understand,  
Is that my sadness is my savior.  
Don't try to steal my right,  
To express my grief in my own way.  
You see, I lost my child,  
And grief is the price that I must pay.  
I need to feel the hurt and pain,  
As it beats inside my chest.  
Don't try to steal my grief,  
When it's the only feeling I have left.

*Faye McCord, TCF Jackson, MS  
In loving memory of my son, Lane McCord  
(1/26/65-9/13/98)*



*We need not walk alone.*

"Hope is faith holding out its hand in the dark."  
—George Iles

## Love Gifts



Thanks to the following people who make a MONTHLY LOVE GIFT to TCF of Tyler:

(For monthly donors we will post photos of your children.)

- Merri Walsh in memory of Chris O'Leary - rent
- Carol & Shane Johnson in memory of Jared Sheets - rent
- Danny & Pat Settle in memory of Stephanie - rent
- Jim & Cheri Zucca in memory of Leah - rent
- Robert & Trisha Taylor in memory of Alex Conway - rent
- Dale & Phyllis Cavazos in memory of Chad - newsletter
- Tina, Johnathan & Heather Loper in memory of Christopher - TCF Phone
- David & Teresa Terrell in memory of Andy - use of a storage building

See more love gifts on page 7.



## Newsletter Submissions

TCF Tyler welcomes all submissions to our newsletter. Send articles, poetry, love messages and scanned photos to: The Compassionate Friends of Tyler, P.O. Box 9714, Tyler, Texas 75711. Or e-mail text and photos to: [info@TylerTCF.org](mailto:info@TylerTCF.org); We reserve the right to edit for space and/or content.

Deadline for submissions is the 5th of each month. TCF Chapters may copy articles from this publication provided credit is given to the author and the original source.

Errors and Omissions: We try very hard to be sure that all of the names and dates of our children are correct. If you see an error in the newsletter, please contact TCF at 903-258-2547. We want to get it right and will correct the information for future use. Thanks very much.

Email Addresses: If we do not have your email address or it has changed, please email it to [info@tylertcf.org](mailto:info@tylertcf.org) so that we may email you announcements and updates about TCF of Tyler.

**Sign up for email notifications of events and to be notified when the newsletter is posted online at: [www.tylertcf.org](http://www.tylertcf.org)**

## Announcements

**Tyler TCF Meeting:** The meeting in Tyler is held on the third Monday of the month, 6:30 p.m., at 1901 Ricketty Lane in Tyler. For more information, please call 903-258-2547.

**Steering Committee Meeting: Tues, Sept. 6 at 6 p.m. at normal meeting place on Ricketty Lane for Candle Light planning.** If you are interested in participating in our chapter by serving on the steering committee, please plan to attend a steering committee meeting. Anyone who would like to become more involved in TCF and serve on the steering committee is welcome to come! For more information about our next meeting, call 903-258-2547.

**News from National:** Compassionate Friends National offers webinars for the public on grief related topics. Upcoming public webinars will include Death of a Child By Suicide, Pregnancy and Infant Loss, The Death of a Special Needs Child and How Can I Help When A Child Dies? Check out [www.compassionatefriends.org](http://www.compassionatefriends.org) for dates and times.

## Sixth and Final Quilt

We are compiling names and photos for the 6th and final quilt. Please mail your \$25 donation for a square, child's name, and make sure we have a quality picture of your child that will show up well. This will be the last quilt for our chapter so please let us know quickly as we anticipate the list of 30 will fill up fast. David and Teresa Terrell have generously donated their time and talent for the completed quilts and are no longer able to physically continue. You can mail your donation to TCF Tyler PO Box 9714 Tyler Texas 75711, please note on your check what it is for. Photos or questions can be emailed to [info@TylerTCF.org](mailto:info@TylerTCF.org).



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