



www.TylerTCF.org

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IMPORTANT NOTICE: We have a NEW meeting location!
Please join us at 17555 Hwy. 155 S. (off Loop 49), Flint, TX 75762.
We hope to see you at our next meeting!

We need not walk alone.



Tyler, Texas 75711
P.O. Box 9714



**The
Compassionate
Friends**

Supporting Family After a Child Dies



We need not walk alone.

Volume 18, Issue 9

Tyler, Texas

September 2017

**Monthly Group Meeting
Tyler Area Meeting**
17555 Hwy. 155 S.
(off Loop 49) Flint, TX 75762

Contact
Phone: (903) 422-0358
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: Lisa Schoonover,
Cheri Zucca, Don & Leslie Dixon, Janet
Majors, Trisha Mann Taylor, Barbara
Barton, Heather Ogg, Mary Lingle,

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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Sorting

By Paula Moore Hurtt

For most of five years she sorted.

One must sort through the papers—medical bills in this stack, condolence notes in another, bank statements, retirement benefits, death benefits, life insurance—so much paper.

Hours and days she sat at the kitchen table crying and sorting.

“Still sorting?” we would ask.

“Yes,” she would say through her tears, “there is just so much.”

On and on through the first year she sorted—court papers, sympathy cards, letters from friends, tax forms, her kitchen table still piled high with papers.

“Still sorting?” we’d ask.

“Yes, she’d sigh, “There is just so much.”

And on through the second year she sorted—suits to Goodwill, sweaters and shirts to her grandsons, tee shirts to the granddaughters to wear in the dorm.

“Still sorting?” we’d ask, noticing the house in disarray as it never was when he was alive.

“Yes,” she’d answer wistfully. “There is just so much.”

And through the third and fourth years she sorted—guns and tools, cuff links and tie tacks, golf clubs and fishing poles. Nothing was thrown out or left to chance as the house remained cluttered with his things.

“Is she okay?” we began to ask. “Why does she take so long? Will she ever finish? Can’t she get on with her life? Why this endless sifting and sorting of the things he left behind?”

“Still sorting?” we’d ask impatiently.

“You don’t understand. There’s just so much.”

But, now we do understand—as we sort. Comforted by her things around us we laugh and cry as we consider each item. And sometimes we find the treasures—a scarf that still smells of her, a letter she forgot to mail, a diary we won’t read, pictures of her as a girl, a young wife, a new mother.

It’s been more than a year now, but we are in no hurry to finish the job, because there is just so much—and then no more.

Reprinted with permission from *Bereavement Magazine*, May/June, 2003

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.

“With the passing of years, I have learned that if I can hang on for just a little longer, these emotions—strong as they are—will pass and I can live again with the longing hidden deep inside my breast.” —Shirley Muller

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. You are cordially invited to attend our monthly meeting (held the third Monday of the month). The meeting is open to everyone and free of charge. You are free to talk, cry or to sit in silence; we respect the individuality of mourning. Comments shared in the meetings remain confidential.

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). Donations, along with the name of the person being honored, may be sent to:

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. The second, third or fourth meeting might be the time you will find the right person—or just the right words spoken that will help you in your grief work.

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? It was from them you heard, “Your pain will not always be this bad; it really does get softer.”

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

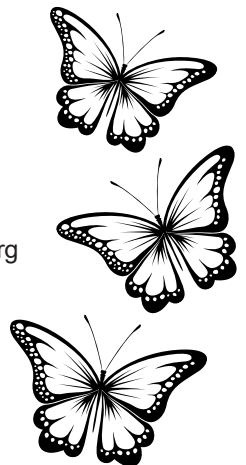
University of Texas at Tyler Psychology and Counseling and Training Clinic: 903-593-2348

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: _____

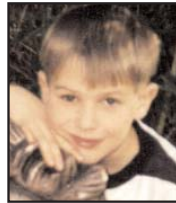
Please return completed form to: The Compassionate Friends of Tyler, P.O. Box 9714, Tyler, TX 75711



We need not walk alone.

"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

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.

"Sharing connects us and makes us realize how much people need one another in this world." —Flavia Weedn

Jake Schoonover

**In Loving Memory
of Jake**

Lisa Schoonover



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

Knox Knight

**In Loving Memory
of Knox**

Chris & Andrea Knight



Thanks to Chris and Andrea Knight who donated our beautiful window and door signs at the TCFmeeting place, in memory of their son, Knox.





We need not walk alone.

"The most beautiful people we have known are those who have known defeat, know suffering, know struggle, know loss, and have found their way out of the depths. These persons have an appreciation, a sensitivity and an understanding of life that fills them with compassion, gentleness, and a deep loving concern. Beautiful people do not just happen." —Elizabeth Kubler-Ross

September Anniversaries Cont.



Daryn Keith Selman



Wayne Davis



Doug Bennett



Amanda Anderson



Derek Russell



James Rawls



Richard Allen Wilgus



Alec Heath Thigpen

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

Yellow Camaro

In the August, 2006 TCF newsletter, there was a story titled "The Old Yellow Truck." It was written by a bereaved father who told of the pain he experienced when selling his son's 1978 Toyota pick-up—the truck his son drove before his death. I couldn't help but shed some tears as I read it, for I know—we all know—how difficult it is to part with anything that belonged to our children.

Maybe it was the fact that he wrote about a yellow truck. Some of you may have heard the song on my CD, "Forever 16." The first line says, "A yellow Camaro, a little old but clean; pretty as a Porsche to a girl of 16." Stacey turned 16 on September 8, 1988. For her birthday, I bought her a 1985 yellow Camaro. I will never forget the day I gave her the keys. I wrapped them in a big box so she wouldn't know what they were. I can still see how happy she was when she realized that they were the keys to her car. I can feel her hugs and kisses. You would have thought I had just given her a new Porsche.

Her first car: a symbol of freedom, of growing up. One day I am watching her wash and polish it. A few days later I am going to pick it up in the school parking lot, which was one of the hardest moments after her death. I remember trying to get the key in the door lock—my hand shaking so hard that I could hardly do it. I remember sitting in the drivers seat. I could smell her. I could feel her all around me; her books in the seat along with countless other things that she considered important enough to keep with her—typical things that a 16-year-old girl would have.

I sat there for the longest time before starting the car and driving it home. That may have been the longest drive of my life. I parked it in its usual place in the driveway. I wondered what I would do with it. Like the man said in his story, "this is a problem with which we are all faced. What to keep? What to let go?" For me, I could not bear to look at it every day, so I sold it. Funny—I kept one set of keys.

I still have so many of Stacey's things: things that were worthless to anyone else but are priceless to me. I always will. Someone else will have to deal with them after I'm gone.

A few things I keep close to me: one of her favorite unicorns, her last school picture, a "pet rock" she made for me. There are days I feel like gathering all her things and just covering myself up with them—anything to feel closer to her. Every now and then I will see a yellow 1985 Camaro on the road and wonder if it hers, and the memories will flood my heart. Lord, I miss her.

Just like every one else who misses their child, I will just keep holding on to her memory and live with the hope of seeing her again someday. Thank God for the memories. Thank our Lord for the hope.

Dr. Sam Smith, Butterfly Ministry, TCF Tyler, TX



We need not walk alone.

"Of course I still have times of sadness. I know I always will. But I have decided that in the process of grieving, we close so many doors that the only way to recovery is to reopen them gradually at our own pace." —Libby Gonzales

Grief Work is Hard Work

When I first began my journey of grief following the death my only child, Todd, I didn't comprehend that I would have to take an active role in what would come to be defined as "grief work." All I knew was the pain, the shock, the sorrow, the desire to go to sleep and never awaken. My child was dead, and I had no desire to live.

As the months and then the years passed, I began to realize that I was, albeit unconsciously, doing grief work. Once I realized I could not walk this road alone, I became involved in our Compassionate Friends Chapter. That was the beginning of my "grief work." A few months later, I enrolled in a six week program for bereaved mothers. More grief work. I have since attended seminars, retreats and workshops. From each effort I gained something new, something insightful, something that eased my burden just a bit, something that helped me to cope with this, the worst, of all losses.

I consumed books. Some were about grief; others were about life. I watched movies, some about grief and some about life. I talked with friends—sometimes about grief and sometimes about life.

Along the way I found that if I reached out to others, I was, once again, doing grief work. You see, I discovered that grief work is healing work. It doesn't dry my tears, nor does it mend my broken heart. Instead, it allows me to accept that I am in this place and living in this moment. That doesn't sound like much—unless one has lost a child to death. Lost a child to death. What a horrifying thought. Yet now I can say it to others, talk with others who are raw and new in their grief and know that I have come to accept that my son is gone from this plane. My grief work will continue until I die.

When we attend workshops, seminars, special presentations, Compassionate Friends meetings and privately contemplate the depth of our loss and changes in our lives, we are doing grief work. Each of us travels this road differently, but we owe it to ourselves to do our grief work. Not easy work, not fun work, not immediately rewarding work, but this is work, just the same.

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

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

In loving memory of Terry Wayne Brown by Melton Brown



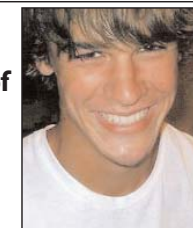
In loving memory of Alex Conway by Robert & Trisha Taylor



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





We need not walk alone.

"We grieve as individuals, and there is no standard plan for it. Do what you need to do to survive, but don't deny the presence of your grief. It's a part of you now. Ignoring it will not help." —*Scott Mastley*

Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night

On July 18, 1992, two police officers came to our door with news that no parent expects or wants to hear. "We are sorry to inform you that your son was killed by a suspected drunk driver tonight."

SHOCK ~ My first reaction was disbelief. How could Marc be dead? He has his whole life ahead of him. He was driving a friend home and I was waiting up for him. No, this can't be! But it was the harsh reality that I could not fathom at that moment that caused me to slip into the nice protective overcoat named "SHOCK." Thank goodness for the "shock" factor because that is what allowed me to make the necessary arrangements for the days that were to follow.

ANGER ~ From the minute I was told that Marc had died I was angry with God. I talked, screamed and wrote in my journal about being so mad that God did not protect us under His umbrella that I thought was in place for our family. No, I do not believe that God planned for Marc to die at age 19 or even that it was God's will. It has taken me years to understand that we, all of us, have "free will" and one 42-year-old man used his "free will" to drink and drive that fateful night that killed our son within one mile of our home.

BARGAINING ~ The funeral was held here and a week later we drove home to Topeka, Kan., where we had a Memorial Service for friends and family. We drove back to Georgia arriving late one night after the 14-hour drive. I unpacked a few things in the kitchen while my husband was upstairs taking a shower. When I had finished I tried to climb the stairs, but I froze and then fell grasping at the carpet on the stairs sobbing loudly in the entryway. I cried out to God asking, "why didn't He take me instead?" I told him he could make the change right here, right now and no one would ever know the difference.

PAIN ~ As the shock began to wear off, I felt the intense excruciating pain. It was so deep and cut like a knife. I thought that the pain was going to kill me it hurt so bad. It felt like someone had ripped my heart out. I felt gutted and empty inside. I was surprised to learn that grief is not just about feeling sad. When you experience grief, there is a real physical pain and mine was in my chest that hurt for many months every waking moment. I remember I wanted to die. More importantly I wanted to be with Marc.

TEARS ~ I did not know there were so many different ways to cry or different sounds one could make while crying. I would be sitting in my chair and begin to cry and invariably I would end up on the floor, face down in the carpet crying my eyes out. At other times, I rocked back and forth sobbing so hard and speaking gibberish that even I could not understand what I was saying. Our older son told me that I even cried in my sleep because he had heard me one night.

DEPRESSION ~ I kept the drapes drawn that first year and withdrew from the world. I was like a frightened animal huddled in a corner. My first thought upon waking each morning was that Marc was dead. I would curl up in a fetal position and cry. I had trouble concentrating, remembering things and making decisions. My mind would wander constantly. I had no energy—none—zip! I remember being so proud of myself the time that I completed mopping my kitchen floor that had taken me three days to do.

RECONCILIATION ~ For me, it has been about "leaning into my pain" and stumbling around in the dark searching and trying different ways to cope since the death of our son, Marc. I read grief books, I journal, I attend bereavement seminars, I visit the cemetery and most importantly, I cry.

"DO NOT GO GENTLE INTO THAT GOOD NIGHT"—but stand toe to toe with the beast called grief! Do not be afraid of your thoughts, feelings, and pain. They are ALL normal reactions to the death of your dear child. Instead I ask you to wrestle grief down to the ground, screaming, kicking and crying until you have made grief your equal—and more manageable.

I heard a speaker say, "We did not expect to outlive our child, but we can make a choice as to whether we will become bitter or better with the time we have left." Let's begin to take control of our life, picking up the pieces and make the choice to be a better person. If not for ourselves, let's do it for our children.

*In Loving Memory of Our Children
Susan Van Vleck, TCF Marietta Chapter*



We need not walk alone.

"We traveled together for awhile and our journey was fulfilling, but now our paths have diverged and we had to say goodbye. To my years with you, I bid farewell. Ahead of me lies a life without you, a new definition of myself. For all that I may someday become, you will always be a part of me." —*Lisa Meredith*

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.

"Some say it gets better WHEN? That is what I want to know. When in this life am I going to feel better? Oh what I would give for the bliss of ignorance once more." —Jean Stewart

Nothing Lasts Forever

Our days on earth we try
to find a bit of joy,
To hold within our arms,
what time cannot destroy.
Like petals in the wind,
we drift from here to there,
Because nothing lasts forever,
except for what we share.
And even though we hold
a dream within each heart,
It's in human nature's way
to tear it all apart.
And so it is we strive
in faith to carry on,
after all is said and done,
when what we've loved is gone.
But if we can contain
some peace within our mind,
Our heart will surely follow,
and happiness we'll find.

Written by Mark Lee and submitted by Pam Gnanamani in memory of her brother, Dan Prescott

In Our Hearts



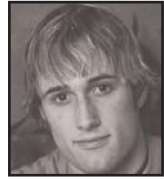
In memory of Jonathan Sanders

We thought of you with love today,
But that is nothing new.
We thought about you yesterday.
And days before that too.
We think of you in silence.
We often speak your name.
Now all we have are memories.
And your picture in a frame.
Your memory is our keepsake.
With which we'll never part.
God has you in his keeping.
We have you in our heart.

You will be in our hearts forever...

Grandparents, Wilber & Dorothy Rawlinson

Cason



Precious Son, Loyal Brother

These will forever be your names.
The room would light up when you would enter
Loving, happy, to our family the "Center."

Dearest Grandson

This will forever be your name.
Always finding time for a kiss and a hug,
Memories of these truly give our hearts a tug.
Memories we now hold close and dear
Oh, how we long for one more chance to have you near.

Special Nephew, Fun-loving Cousin

These will forever be your names.
Family gatherings and "cousin games"
"Please sit by me", the one all wanted to be around,
What wonderful memories for us can be found.

Kind Friend

This will forever be your name.
What a magnet...fun, tenderhearted and always forgiving,
Genuinely happy, for you life was for living.
Still we wonder how many more you could have touched
Had your days not been so brief,
But the number may be greater than we'll ever know
Because you went before us and left such a
bright light here below.

Child of GOD

Your sweetest name of all!
It's the one that brings us strength and joy
For we know GOD needed the sweet spirit of an extra
special boy.

Every day glimpses of your beautiful face
pass through our thoughts
You are grinning ear to ear
Oh, how these memories are especially dear.
Your warm hugs can still be felt
Your happy presence is all around
So many signs of you looking over us are easily found.
Though we miss the sound of your sweet laughter
GOD assures us we will hear it again in the here after.

We look forward to the day we are engulfed in the wonderful
warmth we call Cason, welcoming us to our Heavenly Home
and telling us it is
"AWESOME!"

Your Loving Family
Written by your Aunt Gail



We need not walk alone.

"The purest wonder in life is found in the sharing of love. And the real gift is to have known love at all. Blessed are we who have held the gift in our hands." —Flavia Weedn

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
- Barbara Barton in memory of Lindsey - 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; 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 903-422-0358. 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 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

Announcements

NEW MEETING PLACE! The new meeting location is 17555 Hwy. 155 S. (off Loop 49), Flint, TX 75762. Our meeting is held on the third Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. For more information, please call 903-422-0358.

Steering Committee Meeting: 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! Email us at info@tylertcf.org to get involved!

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 for dates and times.

Annual Candle Lighting Ceremony in December

Our Annual Candle Lighting Ceremony will be Sunday, Dec. 10, 2017, 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.

We are selling 12" poinsettia's in memory of our children and pre-order is required. At the end of the ceremony, you will be able to take your poinsettia home. Please mail a check along with child's name to P.O. Box 9714, Tyler, Texas 75711.

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 903-422-0358. Thank you!

