



Monthly Group Meeting

Tyler Area Meeting

Monday, April 16, 6:30 p.m.
3600 Old Bullard Rd., Bldg. 1,
Ste. 101B, Tyler

Jacksonville Meeting

Tuesday, April 3, 6:30 p.m.
Sam Smith's office, 1401 E. Rusk

Lufkin Meeting

Call for details.

Contact

Phone: (903) 258-2547

www.TylerTCF.org • info@TylerTCF.org

P.O. Box 9714 • Tyler, TX 75711

Chapter LeaderTina Loper

Meeting Facilitators Tyler
Don & Leslie Dixon, Cheri Zucca

Meeting Facilitators Lufkin
Sherri Tutt, Lauri Maner

Newsletter/Web SiteMary Lingle

Steering Committee: Sam Smith,
Carol Johnson, Carol Thompson,
Mary Ann Girard, Cheri Zucca, Mary
Lingle, David & Teresa Terrell, Janet
Majors, Don & Leslie Dixon, Kathy
McKinney, Margie Newman,
Pat Settle, Lisa Schoonover

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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Butterfly Release

Butterflies will be released in memory of all our children at the 2012 Compassionate Friends Butterfly Release set for Saturday, May 19, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. The setting for this uplifting and peaceful event will be the First Baptist Church South Campus, 17002 Highway 69 South in Tyler.

(Read more on page 6 and see our flier on page 7.)



One Foot in Yesterday

Yesterday my child was here, on this planet, alive. Yesterday life looked promising. Yesterday morning I woke up looking forward to the day. Today I awake peacefully and then I remember my child is dead, and I cannot breathe. I am jolted from head to toe. My child has been dead for a day. I wonder what my child was thinking in the last moments. I remember all the wonderful times. I remember the joy. I think of my child's life and how his life changed me forever. I remember the last time I saw my child. I remember the last goodbye. I sob and breathe.

I am lost for days. Final arrangements are made. The platitudes float past me—these words have no meaning. A memorial service for my child. People with sad faces. Hugs, words, tears, head shaking. I can see it in their eyes—they are thankful it isn't their child. They are uncomfortable. Time heals, they say. There's a plan, there's a reason. I cannot respond. They understand. No, they don't. My child is dead. This is not my parent, my husband, my sibling. This is my child. My child was supposed to outlive me. I thank them for their good intentions. I have no interest in their words. A few friends say nothing. This is the better choice, the wiser action. Be there, be there for me. Understand my unspoken words. See my broken heart. Understand. Listen to my story, a story of my child. Remember his life, remember his death.

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

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

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.

“Know that I am right behind you, in whatever fate decides to put you through. For I may be gone, but I am around; so when you see a butterfly, know I’m always there.” —*Brytani Russell*

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.”

Remembering Our Kids

No matter the age, they’ll always be our ‘kids!’ And to remember them in a special, whimsical way, we are offering to include your child’s photo with a symbol of something that represents them—something they loved—for a donation to TCF of Tyler in the amount of \$25. Just send a check to P.O. Box 9714, Tyler, TX 75711, or visit us online at tylertcf.org. Please designate where you’d like the donation to be used and tell us what kind of art would represent your child, eg: football, guitar, hunting, computers, animals, etc.



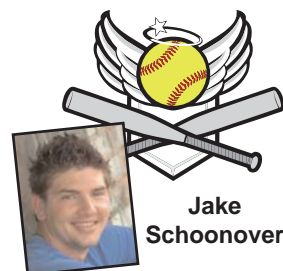
Austin Dixon



Stacey Smith



Candice Lingle



Jake Schoonover

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

This month’s printing of our newsletter sponsored by **Mary Ann Girard**.

In honor & loving memory of

Joe Maland

4-2-83 ~ 8-17-05

Son of

Mary Ann Girard



Call (903) 258-2547 to sponsor a monthly newsletter.



We need not walk alone.

“Don't mourn my loss at a pile of dirt; feel my joy and mend your hurt. I don't rest beneath the ground; I'm in the beauty all around. So in the end, my final dream; in happiness, remember me.” —Kiley Glass McGrew

Love Gifts



Sam Smith in memory of Stacey

Diana Stewart in memory of Jeremy Kersh

Thanks to the following members who have made a rent donation for our meeting place this month:

Merri Walsh in memory of Chris O'Leary

Jim & Cheri Zucca in memory of Leah

Martha Lewis in memory of Burke

Tina, Johnathan & Heather Loper

in memory of Christopher

Carol & Shane Johnson & Touched By Suicide

in memory of Jared Sheets



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

Claudette Brown in memory of Terry Wayne

Dale & Phyllis Cavazos in memory of Chad

Sam Smith in memory of Stacey -

use of his office for the Jacksonville meeting

David & Teresa Terrell in memory of Andy -

use of a storage building

Newsletter Submissions

TCF Tyler welcomes all submissions to our newsletter. Send articles, poetry, love messages and scanned photos to: TCF Tyler, 5401 Hollytree Drive, 1204, Tyler, Texas 75703. 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: Please notify us if any of your information is incorrect.

Email Addresses: If we do not have your email address or it has changed, please email it to Tina or Pat so that we may email you announcements and updates about TCF of Tyler. Tina's email: lilbluebutterfly6@gmail.com ~ Pat's email: beachbum2201@gmail.com

Thank you for your generous donations to TCF of Tyler. These 'love gifts' allow us to provide our local chapter with special events, the TCF Newsletter, our Web site and more!

Visit us online at 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 3600 Old Bullard Rd., Bldg. 1, Ste. 101B in Tyler. For more information, please call 903-258-2547 or email beachbum2201@gmail.com or lilbluebutterfly6@gmail.com.

Jacksonville TCF Meeting: The meeting in Jacksonville is held on the first Tuesday of the month, 6:30 p.m., at Sam Smith's office, 1401 E. Rusk, Jacksonville. For more information, please email beachbum2201@gmail.com or lilbluebutterfly6@gmail.com, or call 903-258-2547.

Lufkin TCF Meeting: Call 903-258-2547 for information.

The Touched by Suicide meeting is held the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the same, new location as TCF, 3600 Old Bullard Rd., Bldg. 1, Ste. 101B in Tyler. Anyone who has lost someone they love to suicide is welcome to attend this peer support group. For more info please call 903-330-0678 or visit www.touchedbysuicideeasttexas.org.

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! For more information about our next meeting, call 903-258-2547.

General Assembly: Join us each month to assemble the newsletter and mail out cards. We hope to get some new volunteers to help with this monthly project. Call 903-258-2547 for details.

MADD Heart meets 2nd Tuesday of the month at the MADD office, 215 Winchester Dr. Ste., 100, Tyler, TX 75701. For more info call 888-665-6233 or email Melissa at melissa.granberry@madd.org.

TCF of Tyler Memorial Quilt

If you would like to have your child's photo included on a TCF memorial quilt, please mail a \$25 donation to P.O. Box 9714, Tyler, TX 75711. For more information contact us at (903) 258-2547, or email us at info@TylerTCF.org.

Thanks to Teresa and David Terrell for donating their talent and time on these beautiful quilts which are displayed in our meeting room and special events.





We need not walk alone.

"Don't wait for a light to appear at the end of the tunnel; march down there and turn the darn thing on yourself." —Sara Henderson

April Birthdays



Matthew Thomas Crooks
4-17-78 ~ 12-24-03
Son of Sylvia Crooks



Jarren Moser
4-28-00 ~ 5-31-05
Son of Robert & Misty
Hendrickson



Kyle Monroe Foster
4-1-93 ~ 11-1-03
Son of Barbara Foster
& Greg Foster



Jeremy Newman
4-15-80 ~ 1-10-02
Son of Victor &
Margie Newman



Timothy Treadwell
4-1-80 ~ 11-23-04
Son of Tammy
Treadwell



Christopher Loper
4-28-94 ~ 12-21-00
Son of Tina Loper



John Patrick Carnahan
4-17-65 ~ 10-13-03
Son of Rod &
Shirley Carnahan



Leon Wayne Lasiter
4-16-71 ~ 10-27-91
Son of Jim & Pat Lasiter



Brady Bryant
4-30-01 ~ 5-2-01
Son of Windy &
Bradley Bryant



Brian St. Clair
4-24-60 ~ 7-26-97
Son of Janet St. Clair



Tim Cole
4-15-69 ~ 9-15-97
Son of Mary Miller



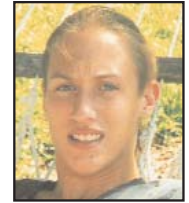
Kaila McKinsey Payne
4-6-03 ~ 5-28-03
Daughter of Keith Payne



James Permenter
4-2-79 ~ 7-12-09
Son of Shirley Hall



Ricky Edmiston
4-26-90 ~ 6-29-06
Son of Woody &
Barbara Edmiston



James Lee Lary, II
4-20-83 ~ 10-30-05
Son of Elgin L. Lary, Sr.
& Ann Lary



Cheryl Cook
4-25-73 ~ 12-10-02
Daughter of
Connie Graebner



Kathy Robertson
4-23-57 ~ 10-23-01
Daughter of
Carolyn Love



Margie Starkey
4-30-57 ~ 12-3-07
Daughter of
Betty Abbie



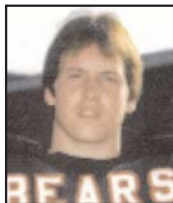
Russell McGilvray
4-15-59 ~ 4-29-07
Son of
Fran McGilvray



Herby Parr
4-19-61 ~ 7-30-09
Son of Sandy &
Herbert Parr



Allen Price
4-11-77 ~ 3-29-04
Son of Deborah &
Floyd Holcomb



Christopher Baggett
4-23-69 ~ 1-8-89
Son of Anita Demby



Joe Maland
4-2-83 ~ 8-17-05
Son of MaryAnn Girard
Son of Dave &
Jeanelle Maland



Karrie Voyles
4-15-96 ~ 2-20-11
Daughter of Anthony
& Delayne Voyles



Jeremy Kersh
4-30-86 ~ 3-25-07
Son of Brad &
Debbie Kersh



Joshua Walker
4-29-83 ~ 6-25-06
Son of
Crystal Walker





We need not walk alone.

"As you travel your own and personal journey of grief, let in the love and support of others. Believe that tomorrow will be a kinder day." —Richard A. Berman

April Anniversaries



Sarah Harvey
12-12-89 ~ 4-26-04
Daughter of Brian
Harvey & Lisa Kirley



Jill Tompkins
11-3-77 ~ 4-24-99
Daughter of
Karen Tompkins



Stephanie Carol Hester
5-9-88 ~ 4-2-04
Daughter of
Troy & Glenna Nicolls



Bobby Knott
11-6-68 ~ 4-24-83
Son of Bobby
& Virginia Knott



Shane McDade
2-17-85 ~ 4-12-03
Son of Lajeania
Culligan



Jeremy Mark Lawler
10-25-73 ~ 4-19-97
Son of Mark &
Sue Lawler



Sally Snodgrass Ryan
3-5-79 ~ 4-15-00
Daughter of
Amy Ryan



Chad Cavazos
9-24-86 ~ 4-20-01
Son of Phyllis &
Dale Cavazos



Kody Maner
02-10-87 ~ 04-16-06
Son of Lauri Maner



Quinn Martin Muirhead
8-12-82 ~ 4-30-05
Son of Alice Fiedler



Christal Murphy
8-14-72 ~ 4-22-03
Daughter of
Debbie Johnson



Tripp Barton
1-18-08 ~ 4-6-11
Son of Jenifer
Barton



Lindsey LeMon
12-20-93 ~ 4-27-10
Daughter of
Lisa LeMon



Deanna Holcomb
3-31-73 ~ 4-19-05
Daughter of
Pat Smith



Joshua Carl Tucker
5-17-76 ~ 4-15-92
Son of Judy
C. Googins



Lindsey Stewart
11-6-87 ~ 4-2-04
Daughter of
Stephanie Stewart



Ron Mitchum
8-3-70 ~ 4-15-00
Son of Glenda
Mitchum



Jessica Maureen Nix
10-23-76 ~ 4-19-11
Daughter of
Meredithe Nix



Charlie Clakley
6-27-77 ~ 4-15-10
Son of Teri Clakley



Russell McGilvray
4-15-59 ~ 4-29-07
Son of Fran
McGilvray



Jamye Marie Crawford
3-10-90 ~ 4-12-05
Daughter of Judy
& Robbie Crawford



Zackery Browne
12-14-89 ~ 4-13-02
Son of Tim &
Kay Browne



Heath Hopson
12-8-87 ~ 4-23-01
Son of
Karen Hopson



Alexandria Conway
2-29-92 ~ 4-28-10
Daughter of Robert
& Trisha Taylor



Kristi Diaz
11-7-72 ~ 4-7-99
Daughter of
Julie Diaz



Ashley Allison
8-3-82 ~ 4-12-08
Daughter of Roger
& Robin Allison



Shanette Bland
8-9-72 ~ 4-26-94
Daughter of
Clarence Thomas





We need not walk alone.

"Because of him, I am choosing to let the anger go. I have read many times in The Compassionate Friends newsletter to be gentle with myself. Now, as times goes by, I'm learning to be gentle with others, too. Jonathon would be pleased with the progress I'm making." —Margaret Baird

Butterfly Release

Butterflies will be released in memory of all our children at the 2012 Compassionate Friends Butterfly Release set for Saturday, May 19, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. The setting for this uplifting and peaceful event will be the First Baptist Church South Campus, 17002 Highway 69 South in Tyler.

Live butterflies are for sale for \$10 each and must be reserved in plenty of time for ordering. Please send your check and reservation information to TCF at P.O. Box 9714, Tyler, Texas 75711. Reserved butterflies will be picked up for release the day of the event.

Colorful solid-painted wooden butterflies will be sold for \$20 each at the Butterfly Release; we are not taking special orders for personalized butterflies this year.

Silent auction items are being collected. If something catches your eye that you think those attending would enjoy bidding on, please consider donating. For donation information, please contact Cheri Zucca at cheriz708@yahoo.com.

Proceeds from the Butterfly Release will again be used for outreach efforts and materials.

The Butterfly Release begins at 1 p.m. that Saturday but volunteers are needed and welcomed for either set-up work the Friday evening before, or beginning at 8 a.m. Saturday the day of the release. Please contact us at 903-258-2547 if you want to volunteer.

Enjoying refreshments and visiting with TCF friends and family after the butterflies are released is a special part of the day. If you would like to donate any finger food—cookies, chips/dips, small sandwiches, pickles, olives, cheese cubes, fruit chunks or veggies—any of your special favorites—please contact Carol Thompson at 903-539-0458! Cake will be served and bottled iced water will be available.

We look forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones at the Butterfly Release! Your presence means everything to this very special event!

Remember When

Remember when:

- you cried at the mention of her name
- you could not bear to look at her picture
- watching home movies of too heart-wrenching to even consider
- everything you saw reminded you of her....and it hurt so bad
- you dreaded going to sleep for fear of dreaming of her
- you dreaded waking up
- you dreaded-----life
- you wanted to go where she was

How about now?

- you can talk about her without crying
- you love to meet anyone who remembers her
- you love to hear them say her name
- you can laugh at the funny things she said
- you have picture albums of her, and you love to share them
- you love watching those movies [they are tears of joy]
- you love to dream of her
- you pray to dream of her
- you even went through her hope chest—and lived to tell about it

There is no time limit on grief. You have your way, and I have mine. I can truly say after all these years, I am better. And I feel confident in telling you, "You will get better, too." My best advice as a "seasoned griever": don't try to do it alone. Let other bereaved parents help you. It helps you, and it helps them. You will find unbelievable compassion among those who have been through what you are going through. They can help, and in time, so can you.

Cherish the days between "remember when" and "how about now." Make a list similar to mine. You have come much further than you think.

God bless you.

Sam Smith, TCF, Tyler, Texas

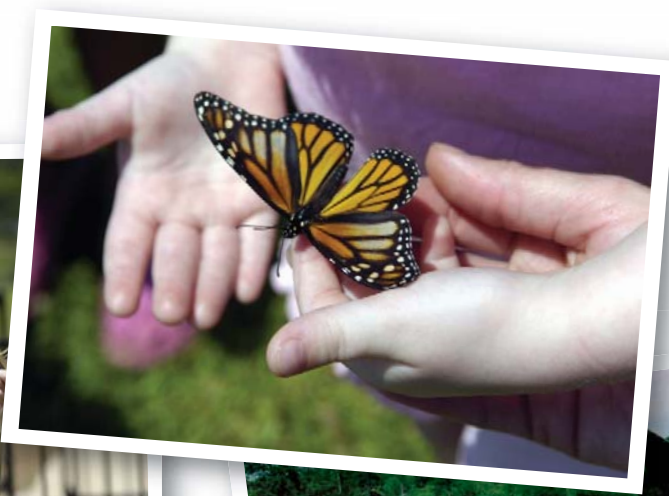


The Compassionate Friends of Tyler Butterfly Release

Release a butterfly for all
children who have died.

Saturday, May 19 at 1:00 p.m.

www.TylerTCF.org • 903-258-2547



**THE
COMPASSIONATE
FRIENDS**

Please join us for our 9th Annual Butterfly Release on May 19 at 1:00 p.m. at the First Baptist Church south campus, 17002 Hwy. 69 S., Tyler. Live Monarch butterflies are available for \$10 each. Please contact us at (903) 258-2547 for more information.

Offering Support and Understanding to Families Who Have Experienced the Death of a Child



We need not walk alone.

"Most of the important things in the world have been accomplished by people who have kept on trying when there seemed to be no hope at all."

—Dale Carnegie

Acceptance

by Gwen Flowers

It isn't letting go. It's going on.
 It isn't only shadows, and it isn't only dawn.
 It isn't getting through it, it's letting it come through me.
 Not living in the darkness, though the darkness I can see.
 It's living with the sorrow but finding memories sweet.
 It's knowing that it takes both sides to make it all complete.
 It's soaking up the sunshine along with the rain.
 It's learning to let laughter live side by side with pain.
 It's knowing that the years won't change a love that's real.
 Or take away the joy you brought, or the sorrow that I feel.
 It's knowing tears and laughter can live on the same face.
 And your impression in my heart can never be erased.

You Think

You think it won't happen to you, but it does.
 You think your life could never be this way, but it is.
 You think you should have recognized
 that he was dying, but you didn't.
 You think your grief is so huge
 that you'll forget to breathe, but you don't.
 You think the sun will forget to come up, but it doesn't.
 You think the tears will stop coming, but they don't.
 You think you can't handle the pain, but you do.
 You think you'll lose hope, but you don't.
 You think you'll never be happy again, but you will.
 You think you'll be alone forever, but you won't.
 You think that you'll never laugh again, but you do.
 You think you can't live without them, but you learn how.

Angelia K., TCF Chapter, Seattle, King County

To My Sister

You touched us all, you loved us all,
 Forever giving, forever caring,
 Forever forgiving.
 Never wanting in return.
 Blessed are those who shared your life.
 Rich are those who carry your memories.
 Please rest now; your chores we will finish.
 'Til we meet again...

Cindy Keltz ~ Arlington Heights, IL

Spring Thaws The Wounded Heart

Alice J. Wisler

Inspired by the life of Daniel Paul Wisler

8-25-92 ~ 2-2-97

That first spring
 came too soon
 why did daffodils
 show sunny faces
 around the grave stone
 why did warm breezes blow
 clouds away
 my world, a gray dismal
 had no room
 for this season.
 Now years later
 the blossoms of love,
 hope and healing
 have broken through
 grounds of utter despair
 warmed by memories of you
 I join the daffodils
 bringing my own smile.

When I Must Leave You

by Helen Steiner Rice

When I must leave you
 For a little while—
 Please do not grieve
 And shed wild tears
 And hug your sorrow to you
 Through the years,

But start out bravely
 With a gallant smile;
 And for my sake
 And for my name
 Live on and do
 All things the same,

Feed not your loneliness
 On empty days,
 But fill each waking hour
 In useful ways,

Reach out your hand
 In comfort and in cheer
 And I in turn will comfort you
 And hold you near;

And never, never
 Be afraid to die
 For I am waiting for you in the sky!

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.

Please continue sending the newsletter.

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

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 Other _____

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



"I don't think you ever stop giving. I really don't. I think it's an on-going process. And it's not just about being able to write a check. It's being able to touch somebody's life." —Oprah Winfrey



THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS®

P.O. Box 9714
Tyler, Texas 75711



We need not walk alone.



www.TylerTCF.org

**Thanks to Skillern's Business
Systems for printing our newsletter!**

Skillern's Business Systems
1604 Grande Blvd., Tyler, TX 75703
(903) 561-5591 • www.skillerns.com