



# THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS



*We need not walk alone.*

**Volume 16, Issue 4**

**Tyler, Texas**

**April 2015**

## 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

Chapter Leader .....Tina Loper  
Secretary .....Pat Settle  
Newsletter/Web Site .....Mary Lingle  
Tyler Meeting Facilitators: Leslie & Don Dixon

Steering Committee: Pat Settle, Sam Smith, David & Teresa Terrell, Carol Johnson, Mary Lingle, Lisa Schoonover, Cheri Zucca, Ellen Jenkins, Pam Pickett, Don & Leslie Dixon, Janet Majors, Margaret Hall, Robin Mitchell, Jancy Lovelace, Stuart Gilpin, MaryAnn Girard, Trisha Mann Taylor

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 2015 Compassionate Friends Butterfly Release set for Saturday, May 16 at 1:00 p.m. The setting for this uplifting and peaceful event will be the Sharon Shrine Temple located on Highway 31 East.**

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 email us at info@tylertcf.org.

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!

**See page 6 for information about sponsoring a sign with your child's name on it.**

## Photos from a Previous Butterfly Release



**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.*

“To spare oneself from grief at all cost can be achieved only at the price of total detachment, which excludes the ability to experience happiness.”  
—Erich Fromm

## 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](http://compassionatefriends.org)  
Also offers grief support for **siblings & grandparents**

**Children Are A Gift Foundation:** [www.childrenareagift.com](http://www.childrenareagift.com)

**GriefShare:** [www.griefshare.org](http://www.griefshare.org)

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

**Smith County Victim Services Division**  
[www.tdcj.state.tx.us/divisions/vs/counties/smith.html](http://www.tdcj.state.tx.us/divisions/vs/counties/smith.html)

**The Hospice of East Texas:** [www.hospiceofeasttexas.org](http://www.hospiceofeasttexas.org)

**Victim Services Division - Texas Department of Criminal Justice - Online Resource Directory**  
[www.tdcj.state.tx.us/divisions/vs](http://www.tdcj.state.tx.us/divisions/vs)

**Survivors of Suicide:** [www.allianceofhope.org](http://www.allianceofhope.org)

**Samaritan Counseling of Tyler:** [www.scctyler.org](http://www.scctyler.org)

**Tyler Counseling & Assessment, LLP:** [www.tyler-counseling.com](http://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.  
[www.angellayettes.org](http://www.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](http://www.copefoundation.org)

**Grief Camps for Kids:** [www.moyerfoundation.org/programs](http://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.



Join us for dinner at the  
Jalapeño Tree on the Loop in Tyler.

We will meet every 4th Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m.



*We need not walk alone.*

“Those who weep recover more quickly than those who smile.” —Jean Giraudoux

## 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 on their Birthday and Anniversary dates.)**

Victor & Margie Newman in memory of Jeremy - rent

Merri Walsh in memory of Chris O'Leary - rent

Martha Lewis in memory of Burke - rent

Carol Thompson in memory of Sarah - rent

Carol & Shane Johnson in memory of Jared Sheets - rent

Danny & Pat Settle in memory of Stephanie - rent

Claudette Brown in memory of Terry Wayne - rent

Sue Roberts in memory of Jake Schoonover - 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 6.**



## 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: 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 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

**Save the date! The 38th National  
Compassionate Friends Conference will be  
July 10-12, 2015 in Dallas.**

## Announcements

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

**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.

**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 Carol King at carol.king@madd.org.

**Looking forward:** Dallas will host the Compassionate Friends National Conference in 2015. Our regional coordinators, Joan and Bill Campbell, are looking for volunteers who would like to help with this event. You can contact Joan and Bill at 972-935-0673 to let them know of your interest in participating. They are planning a great two-day conference and welcome help from all Texas chapters. This is a great opportunity to help others who are grieving and grow through your own grief as well! You can check the national Compassionate Friends website [www.compassionatefriends.org](http://www.compassionatefriends.org) for conference event planning details.

**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.

### 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.

“When your mind cannot find an answer,  
open your heart and ask for peace.” —sascha

*Our condolences to the family of TCF  
parents Barbara and Lee Barton of Troup  
on the death of Barbara's mother, Bonnie  
Jean Garrett of Whitehouse. Mrs. Garrett  
died February 23, 2015, in Whitehouse.*







*We need not walk alone.*

“Eventually we can relive our memories with real joy, grateful for them and even more appreciative of the time we had together. If you are in the midst of painful memories at the moment, take heart that it will not always be so.”

—Shirley Ottman

### April Birthdays



**Matthew Thomas Crooks**



**Jarren Moser**



**Kyle Monroe Foster**



**Jeremy Newman**



**Timothy Treadwell**



**Pablo Salinas**



**Christopher Loper**



**John Patrick Carnahan**



**Leon Wayne Lasiter**



**Brady Bryant**



**Brian St. Clair**



**Wayne Clinton Davis**



**Tim Cole**



**Kaila McKinsey Payne**



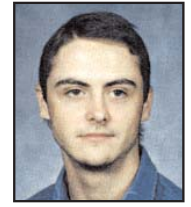
**James Permenter**



**Collin Ray Sheffield**



**James Lee Lary, II**



**Joel Tucker**



**Cheryl Cook**



**Kathy Robertson**



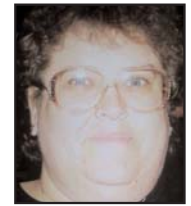
**Eric Branch**



**Margie Starkey**



**Herby Parr**



**Maryn McIntire**



**Daniel Wayne Thornton**



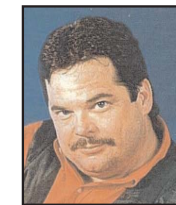
**Cheyenne Ramirez**



**Cameron Lee Robinson**



**Derek Nolan Simoneaux**



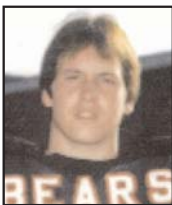
**Russell McGilvray**



**Isaih Eli Moa**



**Allen Price**



**Christopher Baggett**



**Joe Maland**



**Karrie Voyles**



**Jeremy Kersh**



**Joshua Walker**





*We need not walk alone.*

"Give sorrow words. The grief that does not speak whispers the o'er-fraught heart, and bids it break." —William Shakespeare

### April Birthdays Cont.



Jason Bollard



Patrick Bowman



Samuel Cade Castleberry



Ana Danniell Franklin



Jordan Deon Mims



Noah Bass



Jennifer Musick

In time, we may see goodness that seeped out of badness, but we should leave it to God to show us that, when our eyes are not so full of tears and we can see more clearly. —Elizabeth A. Price

### April Anniversaries



Shane McDade



Jeremy Mark Lawler



Andy Hall



Sally Snodgrass Ryan



Chad Cavazos



Kody Maner



Quinn Martin Muirhead



Christal Murphy



Lindsey LeMon



Tripp Barton



Deanna Holcomb



Joshua Carl Tucker



Lindsey Stewart



Ron Mitchum



Jessica Maureen Nix



Charlie Clakley



Russell McGilvray



Jamye Marie Crawford



Zackery Browne



Heath Hopson



Alexandria Conway



Ashley Allison



Shanette Bland



Kristi Diaz







*We need not walk alone.*

"The heart of grief, its most difficult challenge, is not "letting go" of those who have died, but instead making the transition from loving in presence to loving in separation." —Thomas Attig

### April Anniversaries Cont.



Sarah Harvey



Jill Tompkins



Stephanie Carol Hester



Bobby Knott



James Rowland Allen



Brandon Whitfield



Patrick Bowman



Sydney Jane Farris



Caleb Herrera



Zain Hussain



Tommy Gresham



Melinda Orr



Rachel Wilder



Melissa Helsel



Colin Ray Sheffield



Trisha Thomas



Vanessa Wilcox

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

In loving memory of  
**Joe Maland**  
by **Dave & Jeanelle Maland**



In loving memory of  
**Samantha Johnson**  
by **Dennis & Vicki Johnson**



In loving memory of  
**Cory Blackmon**  
by **Charles & Billie Bridges**



**3rd Annual  
For The Love of Alex...  
Stop Texting and Driving**  
race will be held at Lonestar  
Speedway on Sunday May 10, 2015.  
Races begin at 5 p.m.



### TCF Walking Group

Come join us for a walk, a stroll, a jog!  
Walking and talking is great therapy!

**When:** Second Sat. of the Month, 9 a.m.

**Where:** Rose Rudman Trail—meet at the  
park pavilion off Shiloh Rd.

**Who:** Everyone is invited to join—there  
will be someone walking at your pace!





*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*

## My First Five Years as an Only Child

I've been without my brother for five years. I guess the hard part is over now. Sometimes I think I have aged 30 years in the past five. In a strange way, these past five years have been the best and worst years of my life. I have accomplished the many things of a typical young adult learning to drive, graduating from high school, going to college, and starting a career. Every one of my accomplishments has been clouded by the fact that my brother George is not here to share each milestone, and is not achieving any more milestones for himself. He was cheated of so many things. He will never graduate, get married, have children or travel. He will never grow old, and I will never have a brother to grow old with. I'll never have nieces and nephews. The sibling relationship, usually the longest relationship of one's life, has been cut short for us. In these five years, although I have learned to accept that he is not coming back, the difficult part is dealing with it day by day.

My relationship with George ended just when we started to become friends. The childish fights and other annoyances of having a big brother were changing to real conversations and to having an occasional ally. I am angry about all the things that we have missed and all the things that will never be, and I guess I always will be. Five years heals a lot of wounds, but the hurt will always be there, no matter how many years pass. In these past five years, I have been forced to grow up too fast. I have been forced into a new outlook on life. I have felt lonely and alone. I now realize that I will never be the same person as before. Maybe I am a better person because of what I have been through. Five years ago I never thought I would survive, but I am still here dealing with it every day. I don't know what the next five years will bring, but at least I have made it this far.

*Kristin Steiner ~ TCF, Staten Island, NY*

## Butterfly Release Sign Sponsors

*Deadline to order Butterfly Release sign is May 1.*

Don & Leslie Dixon for Austin  
Jim & Cheri Zucca for Leah  
Tina Loper for Christopher  
Danny & Pat Settle for Steph  
Sam Smith for Stacey  
Margie & Victor Newman for Jeremy  
Charlotte Nelson for Wade  
Melissa Love for Payton  
Carol Thompson for Sarah  
Greg & MaryAnn Girard for Joe Maland  
Lana Kaye Taylor for Reneé Seale  
Marlena Howerton for Alyssa

Lee & Barbara Barton for Lindsey  
Carol Johnson for Jared  
Mary Delaney for Ryan  
Linda Porter for Seth  
Lisa Schoonover for Jake  
Trish Taylor for Alex Conway  
Janet Majors for Melissa  
Mary Lingle for Candice  
Dennis & Vicki Johnson for Samantha  
Lori Symes Anderson for Emily Ellis  
Stephanie McLean for Dex  
Kim Yates for Ashton

To sponsor a Butterfly Release Sign with your child's name on it there will be a one-time fee of \$60 per sign. If you want the sign with your child's name placed at a particular business or location, written permission must be obtained by you from that business and sent to the TCF office to keep on file. The sign will be placed at that location about a month prior to the release and taken down the week after by a representative of TCF and remain the property of TCF Tyler to reuse yearly.

Make checks payable to Tyler TCF and in the memo location please note who the sign(s) is/are for.

The Compassionate Friends of Tyler  
**Butterfly Release**  
 Release a butterfly for all children who have died.  
**3rd Saturday in May**  
[www.TylerTCF.org](http://www.TylerTCF.org) • 903-258-2547  
*In Loving Memory of*  
**STEPHANIE SETTLE**





*We need not walk alone.*

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

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## Tears on Their Shoulders

Thank God for friends. Can you imagine your life without your close friends? I have never been one to have a great many friends. I know many people who I care for and love, but there are only a few people that I consider close friends. A true friendship goes far beyond just knowing and caring for someone. A true friend is a person you feel comfortable sharing your deepest feelings with. A true friend is one who does not mind a few of your tears on their shoulder.

Since the death of my daughter, I have had the opportunity to meet and talk with many other bereaved parents. There are far more of us than most people realize—far more than I ever realized until I became one. The grief of losing any loved one is hard to overcome. The grief of losing a child is the hardest to overcome. In fact, I dare say that we never overcome it. We simply learn to deal with it. If we are blessed to know the truths of Jesus, we deal with our grief by leaning on Him, and by trusting that we will see our children again. (For those who do not know Jesus, I have no idea how they ever deal with their grief.)

One of our greatest gifts as bereaved parents is close, understanding friends. Most of us find that developing friendships with other bereaved parents gives us more comfort than any other relationship. Hopefully, our friendship with our spouse will deepen and give us that comfort; but I have found that does not always happen. I am sure there are psychological reasons why bereaved husbands and wives cannot always be as comforting to each other as we wish we could, but I know it is true in many cases. Perhaps it is because we are trying so hard to be strong for each other that we hold back some of our emotions. I suppose every couple is different, depending on their personalities and situations. The point is, very often we are not as comfortable sharing or expressing our grief with our spouse as we are with a special friend. I would really like to hear other bereaved parents' points of view and opinions about this subject.

The point of this writing is the importance of loving friendships. I have talked to so many bereaved parents who state that they just do not have anyone that they feel comfortable talking to about their grief. It is not that they do not have friends and relatives, they just don't have any that they can or will share their feelings with. They feel isolated and alone in their grief, and to me that would be unbearable. That is one of the many reasons that I am so happy to have found The Compassionate Friend's. Through T.C.F., I have met people that I consider true friends—friends that never mind a few tears on their shoulders—friends that I never mind feeling their tears on my shoulder. In my opinion, a good cry with a friend that has gone through the loss of a child—a friend who knows how it feels—is more healing than anything else I can imagine. Thank God for counselors and therapists, but without understanding friends with loving shoulders to cry on, I believe we miss out on deep, healing grief relief.

We miss our children. Our lives are forever changed without them. There is a void in our souls that nothing can fill, and in many ways we don't want it filled. But we do want relief, and true friends that don't mind our tears on their shoulders are one of our greatest sources of that relief. May the Lord lead you to that special friend, a compassionate friend, with whom you can share your deepest thoughts and feelings, one who will always offer you a shoulder to cry on when you need it. May you offer your shoulder to someone in need as well. There is blessed healing to be found with loving friends who are happy to allow tears on their shoulders.

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

## Grief is Not Quicksand

Often, a survivor fears that if he shows his sadness, there will be no end to it. If you are among those who feel that you do not know how intense, lengthy or deep your expression of grief may be, you may find yourself thinking that it would be impossible—or at least very difficult—for you to pull out of grief's deep pit to do all the things you need to do before or after the death. Being afraid of getting sucked down into a hollow of "no return" is not realistic. Grief is not quicksand. Rather, it is a walk on rocky terrain that eventually smoothes out and provides less challenge—both emotionally and physically. For example, you may think: I will fall apart and won't be able to function if I start to show how I feel. Replace such thoughts with the more realistic: I will let go for a time, release what I feel, and will be able to function better as a result of having vented the feelings that are an ever-present burden.

*Carol Staudacher*







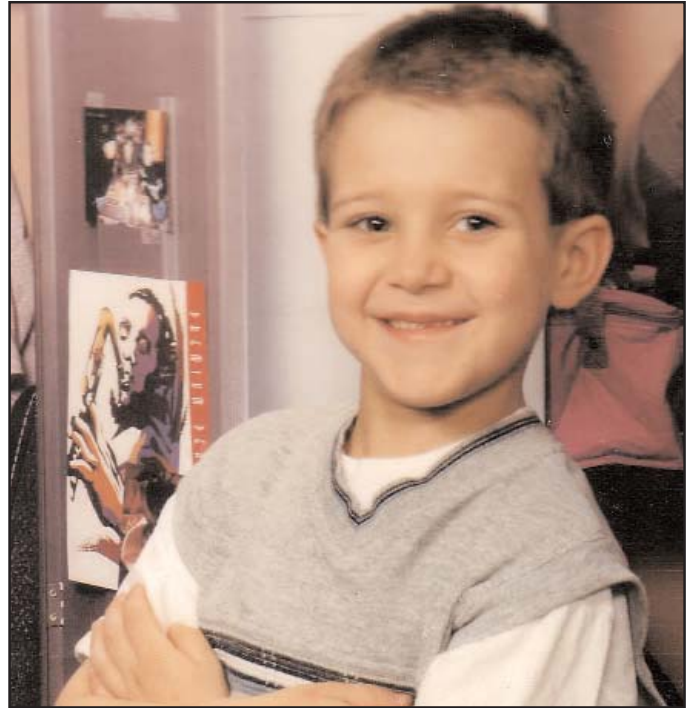
*We need not walk alone.*

“But there was no need to be ashamed of tears, for tears bore witness that a man had the greatest of courage, the courage to suffer.” —Viktor E. Frankl

## **Christopher Loper**

**In loving memory  
of Christopher**

**Son & Brother of  
Tina, Johnathan &  
Heather Loper**



**This month's printing of our newsletter sponsored by Tina Loper.  
Call (903) 258-2547 to sponsor a monthly newsletter.**

## **Joe Maland**

**In loving memory  
of Joe.**

**Mary Ann Girard**



**This month's printing of our newsletter sponsored by Mary Ann Girard.  
Call (903) 258-2547 to sponsor a monthly newsletter.**



*We need not walk alone.*

“The most beautiful things in this world cannot be seen or touched—they are felt by the human heart.” —*Helen Keller*

## Light's Absence

Grief is a dark place  
It is like being wrapped in  
A black fog and tossed into  
A deep pit. It's not only  
Dark, there is an absence  
Of light.

The light of life, of love  
Even the soul seems to  
Be shrouded in a darkness  
That is the absence of  
Goodness.

It is a cold place that  
Warmth seems to have  
Forsaken.

The soul screams out to  
God, where are you, where is  
The light. It echoes through  
The darkness. Where? Where?  
Where?

And God said “here, look up”  
And the soul observes the tiny  
Pinhole of light, and its name  
Is hope.

*Written by Sue Roberts in memory of Jake Schoonover*

## The Long Forever

You left us so quickly;  
there were no goodbyes.  
How long this forever,  
your death and our lives.  
The sadness, the anger,  
the loneliness of three,  
preferring four always,  
how small, this new we.

*Genesse Bourdeau Gentry  
From Stars in the Deepest Night  
—After the Death of a Child*

## I Don't Know Why

I don't know why.  
I'll never know why.  
I don't have to know why.  
I don't like it.  
I don't have to like it.  
What I have to do is make a choice about my living.  
What I do want to do is accept it and go on living.  
The choice is mine.  
I can go on living, valuing every moment  
in a way I never did before,  
or I can be destroyed by it and,  
in turn, destroy others.  
I thought I was immortal.  
That my family and my children were also.  
That tragedy happened only to others.  
But I know now that life is tenuous  
and valuable.  
So I am choosing to go on living,  
making the most of the time I have,  
valuing my family and friends  
in a way never possible before.

*From the book, My Son, My Son, by Iris Bolton, whose son  
Mitch died by suicide*

## I Can See You

I can see you when a friend visits your grave,  
I can see you when I hear your favorite music,  
I can see you when your dog howls as you taught him,  
I can see you when the stars shine brightly,  
I see you in my mind's image when the  
summer rain cools the desert brush,  
When spring buds emerge with new growth,  
When winter chills the air,  
When I see young lovers look into each other's eyes  
and make promises, have goals and dreams.  
In my intense pain, I hear you whisper, "I'm O.K."

I cannot see you when others are uncomfortable with me,  
When I can't even mention the anniversary of your death,  
When someone unwittingly said I have two children  
and I wanted to scream that I have three, now and always.

Please be kind and allow me to see him in my own way  
because he exists in my world and I see him  
when you let me.

*Cindy Nevins, TCF Tucson, AZ*



# 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](http://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





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

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*We need not walk alone.*



**THE  
COMPASSIONATE  
FRIENDS**  
P.O. Box 9714  
Tyler, Texas 75711

