



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

THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS logo, P.O. Box 9714 Tyler, Texas 75711, and the motto 'We need not walk alone.' with a butterfly icon.



THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS



We need not walk alone.

Volume 16, Issue 8

Tyler, Texas

August 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 LeaderTina Loper SecretaryPat Settle Newsletter/Web SiteMary Lingle Tyler Meeting Facilitators: Leslie & Don Dixon

Steering Committee: Pat Settle, 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

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.

In This Issue...

Table listing contents: Welcome (2), Grief Resources (2), Announcements (3), Birthdays (4), Anniversaries (5-6), ...a bear wedged in great tightness (9), Love Gifts (9), Rebuilding Your Life One Piece at a Time (7), Vacations (7), Tears on Their Shoulders (8), A Bit Richer (8), The Red Dress (9), Poems (10)

School Starts

Strange things happen to you when your child dies. You'll fail if you try to make sense of most of it.

Both my children had finished high school when my son died, yet I found the beginning of school—especially that first year—to be difficult. The bus stops in front of my home for the neighborhood children. Suddenly, as they all gathered to wait for the bus, I found myself reliving those simpler, happier days of old; longing for them actually. It was a painful time.

Now, if I, whose children are grown and gone, had a problem with school starting, those of you who do have school age children must know that your pain is normal. It's another reminder that life goes on—with or without our children—and acknowledging that it hurts! I came to the conclusion that it was all right to pine for happier times and it was nothing to get upset about. As with many remnants of grief, I recognize it, allow it and then get on with my life.

Maybe you're like me, you'll always be a little nostalgic about school starting. That would probably have been true even if my son had lived. Maybe you, too?

Mary Cleckley ~ TCF, Stone Mountain, Georgia

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

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
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.



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

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

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.

"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

August Birthdays



Brennen Applegate



Gena Forest



Marcos Lopez



Rowdy Cunningham



Ashley Allison



Connie Allred



Crystal Greene



Tosha Nichole Minatrea



Montie Norvell



Shanette Bland



Joey Green



Jonathan Eubank



Ron Mitchum



Christal Murphy



Haven Grace Davis



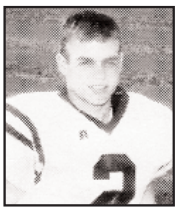
Cory Wayne Channon



Ashlee Ann Davis



Pharaoh Lydia



Scottie Baker



Quinn Martin Muirhead



Jonathan Russell Eubank



Hannah Collie



Dawson Nathaniel Harned



Dwayne Russell



Lori Campbell



Calan Cameron Decker McKeethan



Kristi Otteson



Justin Bynum



Alyssa Kathryn Crim



Alyssa Howerton



Phoebe Fair



Addison Rost



Nathaniel "Blake" Dark

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!



We need not walk alone.

"Each of us has the same opportunities now as we had before. We can permit time to simply pass, or we can work to mold its passage into constructive growth." —Don Hackett

The Red Dress

My daughter, Keisha, was a special person. She was 15 in physical years when she died, but four years old in her heart. It was so awesome having a four year old for over 10 years. They are at such a tender stage of life. So full of love and acceptance and affection. Four year olds hold no grudges and live each day for what it is. She liked it when I painted each nail a different color, and when she put on makeup it was crazy all over her face like an insane clown coming out of the rain. She liked to wear matching shirts with me still and hold my hand when we crossed the street and was so excited when she saw Santa Clause-"He's real, mom" and "Barney loves me cause he said so in the video." She loved her big daddy and wanted to go through each day stating who all the boys she knows were and who all the girls were, i.e., Mom's a girl, Cooper's a boy, Mr. Yu (our cat) is a boy, Barbie Wedding (our other cat) is a girl.



Keisha loved Jackie Chan movies from when she was still in diapers. When Spencer, our older son, would baby sit her, he would put her in her playpen, put on a Jackie Chan movie, and she would sit quietly and watch that movie until we got home. She didn't have much of an attention span except when she watched Jackie Chan movies.

When she was about seven she started saying, "When I meet Jackie Chan, I am going to wear a red Chinese Wedding dress, okay?" What else does a parent say to an absurd statement from a seven-year-old child? Her dad took a trip to China and she told people at school that he went there to learn Chinese and had taught her so she could talk to her future husband, Jackie Chan. She would give Chinese language lessons to the kids in her class. She would not do this in front of me so the teachers had her give lessons while I hid and watched from around the corner. So cute and hysterical! I never discouraged the future husband idea because I guess I thought it would keep the other boys away and would keep her virginity if she was saving herself for Jackie Chan. Seemed like a good birth control plan to me.

She became enamored with everything Asian. She dressed as a Geisha girl for Halloween and had her hair cut "Chinese" style. Then she informed me that when she grew up she was going to be Chinese. Try explaining that impossibility to a four year old. All the while Keisha was telling me, "When I meet Jackie Chan, I am going to wear a red Chinese wedding dress!"

In 2009 we continued to watch Keisha's health decline and were not getting any answers locally so we finally took her to the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota where she was diagnosed with two very rare genetic metabolic disorders: D2HGA and San Fillipo C. There was nothing for either disease. It would affect the brain and she would not live long.

When we got home and over the shock we called Make-A-Wish. What was her wish? To meet the love of her life, Jackie Chan. I think about eight months passed and one day, on a Monday, we got a call from Make-A-Wish and they said we had to get our passports tomorrow because we were leaving on Friday to meet Jackie Chan! We flew to Hong Kong (or Honk Honk, as Keisha called it) and stayed in a very nice hotel. We got to eat at a buffet which was her favorite thing in the world to do. The day before we were to meet Jackie Chan, we went walking around and looking in little shops. We found this little store that was jam-packed with souvenirs. Suddenly, Keisha found these hidden stairs, which I didn't even know were there, and half way up there was a red, silk, Chinese dress hanging on the wall. She yanked it off the wall yelling, "There's my dress!" The sales people were hysterical trying to stop her. I said that it was okay because I knew it had to be her dress and that we would buy it, which we did. She had been talking about it for eight years. It had to be her dress! She put it on and it fit her perfectly. Of course. "When I grow up I'm gonna' be Chinese, Mom!"

The next day when she saw Jackie Chan, toured his studio, had dinner with him and spent six glorious hours visiting, she wore a red Chinese wedding dress. There is something to be said for knowing what you want, holding on to your dreams and the power of positive thinking.

There is also something to be said about God's timing. After that trip, Keisha's health began to steadily decline. We took our trip on May 1 and Keisha passed on September 29. If they had called us one week later, Keisha would not have been strong enough to make the 24-hour flight to Hong Kong and I would not be writing this story. It would have just been some absurd thing my daughter started saying when she was seven that never happened. Do I believe that she would have met Jackie Chan while wearing a red Chinese wedding dress if she had not been sick and made a wish? Yes! With every piece of my heart! But sometimes I wonder if I'll recognize her in Heaven because I think she might be Chinese now. Hmmm...





We need not walk alone.

"The bottom line is that we are not invincible or perfect; we are only human. We did the best that we could with what we had to deal with at the time. Our children know this; they love and forgive us for our own humanness and associated imperfections, and I believe would want us to forgive ourselves as well."
—Cathy L. Seehuetter

Anniversaries (cont.)



Addison Rost



Brevon McCarty



Isaih Moa

"...a bear wedged in great tightness."

"In a tape called, 'To Touch a Grieving Heart' there is a wonderful little reminder of the Winnie the Pooh story by A.A. Milne. You may recall that Winnie goes to visit Rabbit and eats too much honey. Coming out of Rabbit's hole, he gets stuck tight—so tight he can't even sigh. He asks his friends to stay with him, read him a story, and offer words of comfort...and thus to help 'a bear wedged in great tightness.'

Notice that Pooh does not ask to be pulled out of the hole, he asks only for company so he is not alone. I think Grief is like being 'a bear wedged in great tightness.' And, while we cannot make the grief go away for each other, The Compassionate Friends starts and stops with the core idea that we will be there for each other; that 'we need not walk alone.'"

Opening remarks of the late Richard Edler's keynote speech at the 1996 TCF National Conference

In loving memory of
Erika Reyes by
Mike & Sheila Steel



In loving memory of
Missy Rogers by
Cece & Dan Brotten



In loving memory of
Terry Wayne Brown
by **Melton Brown**



In loving memory of
Ron Mitchum by
Glenda Mitchum



Thanks to these families for their continued support of TCF of Tyler.

Hope Shines Bright Deep In The Heart

Dallas will host the Compassionate Friends National Conference in July, 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.

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.

"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

Rebuilding Your Life One Piece at a Time

Written by Stephanie Elson, lifted from the Tears to Hope August/September 2007 newsletter of The Amelia Center, Birmingham, AL, providing a place of hope for grieving children, parents and families, www.ameliacenter.org

Death, especially unexpected death, changes one's life in ways that cannot be expected. With the death of someone close, one's world is forever changed.

One analogy I have found myself using with clients is the following: If you were to imagine the day before your loved one died, there was an intact picture of your life. The picture may not have been perfect, but it was there and it made sense. There was a beginning, a middle and an expected end. With death comes the destruction of that picture. It is as if the picture is taken out of your hands, smashed to the ground in a thousand pieces and then some of the most treasured pieces are forever taken away.

The challenge with grief is to then take all of those pieces which are left and attempt to make a new picture. The picture of the life you once had is impossible to recreate, as much as one may try, it cannot be recreated with pieces missing. A new picture must be assembled with the pieces that are left and with new pieces that are picked up along the way.

The process of "putting the pieces back together" is one that often feels chaotic and confusing. It may sometimes be surprising to find out how much thinking is involved in the grief process. Thoughts bounce around trying to connect "what was" with "what is" and struggle to make sense out of what seems to be incomprehensible.

With each piece, the bereaved, through trial and error, find where each piece belongs or even if it belongs at all. This process is different for every person and does not adhere to any kind of timeline. This (what feels like endless) thinking is the work that grief demands—it is the creation of a new picture of your life—created one piece at a time.

Vacations

Vacation time can be painful for bereaved parents. Caught up with normal demands of making a living or keeping a household going, we have less time to think than we do on vacations, especially the "take it easy" kind-at a hideaway, tucked away somewhere.

In the summers following Tricia's death, I found vacations could bring a special kind of pain. We avoided going to places where we had vacationed with her. At one time, I thought Williamsburg might be off my list forever since we had a very happy time together there. I tried it one summer three years later and found that she walked the cobbled streets with me. Now that nine years have passed and the pain has eased, maybe the happy memories we shared in Williamsburg can heighten the pleasure of another visit there.

For the first few years after Tricia's death, we found fast-paced vacations at places we had never been before, to be the best. The stimulation of new experiences in new places with new people refreshed us and sent us home more ready to pick up our grief work. That is not to say when we did something or saw something that Tricia would have enjoyed, we didn't mention her. We did, but it seemed less painful than at home. One caution: Do allow enough time for sleep; otherwise, an exhausted body can depress you.

We've said it many times: YOU HAVE TO FIND YOUR OWN WAY, YOUR OWN PEACE. Let vacation time be another try at that; but do give yourself a break in choosing the time and locale where that can best be accomplished. Don't be afraid of change-it can help with your re-evaluation of life.

Elizabeth Estes ~ TCF, Augusta, GA

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





We need not walk alone.

“So what do we do? Give ourselves TIME—to hurt, to grieve, to cry. TIME to choke, to scream. TIME to be “crazy” and TIME to remember. Be nice to yourself! Don’t measure your progress through grief against anyone else’s. Be your own time-keeper.” —*Darcie D. Sims*

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

A Bit Richer

I’ve heard it said that what you get out of a book depends not on what the book brings to you, but on what you bring to the book.

It’s hard to fathom—much less accept—that we can gain anything by losing child. Once the black hole has been created, we can’t imagine that any light will ever enter it. But, in time, tender mercies start to trickle in. If we keep our eyes and hearts open, we do gain a more insightful view of life. We see and feel things at a deeper level than others can even imagine.

I find as a speaker and writer, when I quote books and use examples from movies to help illustrate or clarify my feelings about bereaved parent-hood—or more often, life in general—people will say, “I don’t remember reading that” “I didn’t get that out of it.” “I never made that connection.”

Little Women, Pay It Forward, Gladiator, Lost in Yonkers, and yes, the classic *Gone with the Wind* are just a few of the books and movies that portray the depths of life as WE know it while others merely read words or watch actors on a screen.

I don’t like being where I am. I certainly would never choose to be here. But as I go back to favorite books and movies, I find comfort not only in the familiar, but also in the farther-reaching themes that I didn’t see before.

Revisiting books and movies will never make up for the loss of my son, but it can make my life a bit richer. And long as I’m still alive, I’m going to grab whatever I can get.

Susan Larson (Loren’s Mom), TCF Atlanta, GA



We need not walk alone.

“Eventually the sky would clear and I was able to find a path to those that cared and could offer me hugs and a shoulder to cry on. The storm was still there, but there was also shelter and I wasn’t alone.” —*Barb Seth*

August Anniversaries



Boston Kade Porter



Justin Dover



Alex King



Austin Cheek



Dawson Nathaniel Harned



John Kluepple



Jill Marie Rozell



Shannon Scheffler



Paul Ragsdale



Lorie McLain



Sandi McLain



Bobby Jack Stanley



Michael Holdway



Evan Blake Alexander



Michael Toby Tobias



James Jenkins



Dustin Dewayne Bruce



LaDerrius Darden



Jaime Arellano, Jr.



Tiffany LeAnn Tanner



Cathy Key



Cameron Robinson



Aaron Willman



Montie Norvell



Joe Maland



Erik Scott McKinney



Dawn Marie Wilson



Tommy Jack Burchfield



Patton Ross



Matthew Skinner



Stephen "Chadwick" Williford



Darrell Lynn Sallas, II



Sheila Nolen



Dustyn Sandifer



Steve Short





We need not walk alone.

"The Compassionate Friends starts and stops with the core idea that we will be there for each other; that 'we need not walk alone.'" —Richard Elder

To My Sister

Today was one of those days, a day without you.
When you're gone the clouds turn the sky gray.

I cried and cried until dawn, because you weren't there to
catch them, my tears ran dry.
It's just not fair i need you here, why did you have to die?

I am just a teenage girl in a teenage world, just a girl who
needs you in her world.
But instead of finding you when i needed you i found you on
the floor, gone forevermore.

After 3 years without a sister, I had a nightmare.
You told me not to be sad, but its not fair it makes me mad.
Make-up, lies, boys, all the way to the drama, been there
done that is what you would say.

So I wait, and i try, but i confess like a child,
I need you here, i need you now.

So have fun with your wings, just
remember after three years it still stings.

*Stormie Thoene, in memory of Erica Smith
TCF Tyler, TX*

Gone Too Soon

Like a comet blazing across the evening sky,
Gone too soon.

Like a rainbow fading in the twinkling of an eye,
Gone too soon.

Shiny and sparkly and splendidly bright...
Here one day, Gone one night.

Like the loss of sunshine on a cloudy afternoon,
Gone too soon.

Like a castle built on a sandy beach,
Gone too soon.

Like a perfect flower that is just beyond your reach,
Gone too soon.

Born to amuse, to inspire, to delight...
Here one day, Gone one night.

Like a sunset dying with the rising of the moon,
Gone too soon...Gone too soon.

*From Suicide Bereavement Support,
SW Washington & NW Oregon, July 1998*

Love's Lasting Touch

Don't weep for me when I'm gone,
Because I'll always be there.
My spirit will exist in all the earth,
In the water, trees, and air.

You'll hear me say, "I love you,"
In the whisper of a breeze.
You'll know that I'm beside you,
With the rustling of the leaves.

You'll feel my arms caress you,
In the warmth of each sunrise.
The moon will be my goodnight kiss,
The stars my watchful eyes.

Your life will be my legacy,
Your memories my epitaph.
These ties will bind us together,
Till we meet on heaven's path.

I'll not ever desert you,
We'll never be far apart.
I'll live within you always,
Nestled deep inside your heart.

*Jacquelyn M. Comeaux
©1994 Reprinted by permission of author
In Loving Memory of My Angels...
Michelle, Jerry & Danny*

Eight Tsunamis

Imagine
eight tsunamis,
crossing the same place
overlapping
overwhelming
obliterating
force and power
unleashed in destruction
aftermath:
decimation
the experience
of my daughter's death.

Katrina Son, TCF Medford, OR



We need not walk alone.

"You will know that after you have expressed the painful sorrow you once kept hidden, and you find yourself, finally, smiling at the memories and the blessings of past summertimes." —Sascha Wagner

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.)**

Merri Walsh in memory of Chris O'Leary - rent

Martha Lewis in memory of Burke - 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

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

**"Hope is the feeling that the feeling you
have isn't permanent." —Jean Kerr**

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: If you are interested in partic-
ipating in our chapter by serving on the steering commit-
tee, 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.

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.

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.



**Thanks to all our families who Support
TCF of Tyler with their love gifts.**

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

