



Monthly Group Meeting

Tyler Area Meeting

Monday, June 17, 6:30 p.m.

New Location! 1901 Rickety Ln., Tyler

Jacksonville Meeting

Tuesday, June 4, 6:30 p.m.

Sam Smith's office, 1401 E. Rusk

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
Jacksonville Meeting Facilitators:
Sam Smith, Carol Thompson and
Pat Settle

Steering Committee: Pat Settle,
Mary Lingle, Sam Smith, Trisha
Taylor, Carol Thompson, Carol
Johnson, Cheri Zucca, Bill & Linda
Hawkins, Don & Leslie Dixon, David
& Teresa Terrell, Janet Majors, Lisa
Schoonover, Margie Newman, Mary
Ann Girard, Stewart Gilpin

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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A Father Returns to Work

After Kathy died, I, of course, went back to work. Some of my co-workers made the stop at my desk to express their sympathy. I know I turned them off, as my pain and my denial were so great. I could not talk about what had happened and how I felt. I thanked them. Although nobody ever talked to me about it, that was okay as my pain was such, I thought, I could not bear to talk. I threw myself into my work and on occasion was confused because I could not make the kind of decisions I had been making for years. I never made the connection that this inability to concentrate was part of my grief and was normal.

Lunch was the worst time. My habit was to eat with my associates, but often in the middle of the meal I would just have to get up and walk away. Although nobody ever said anything to me about this odd behavior, I do thank them at least for their tolerance. Slowly I readjusted (I thought) and in time (a long time) I was able to perform well again. But I never really grieved until I found THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS and it was here that people helped me to talk. It was almost twelve years before I found TCF as there was no such organization in 1967. My friends, let TCF help you...don't wait twelve years to talk!

*Bill Ermatinger, TCF Baltimore, MD
In Memory of my daughter Kathy Ermatinger*

Shuddering

In Roger Rosenblatt's *Kayak Morning: Reflections on Love, Grief and Small Boats*, he writes, "Ginny tells me that I sigh a lot. I was not aware of it. I don't know what it means." Dennis Apple noticed the sighs of his wife. His book *Life after the Death of My Son* describes it this way: "from the other side of the bed, I would hear a sad sigh, like a weary mountain climber picking up her heavy backpack and preparing to climb Mount Everest after a sleepless night."

I don't sigh. I shudder. I looked it up. It means "to tremble with a sudden convulsive movement, as from horror, fear, or cold." Yes, that's it. I glimpse a photograph out of the corner of my eye, or notice the circle of tall holly trees in the front yard that my son used to call his "fort," or I'm attacked by an intrusive thought of the circumstances of his death. And I shudder. It's as though my body is trying to shake off the reality. It just can't be; it just can't be. My body is railing against this awful truth, this unspeakable still somehow new truth. My son is gone. I shudder to think of it.

Peggi Johnson, TCF Arlington, VA

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.

“Happiness is a butterfly, which once pursued is always beyond your grasp, but which, if you will sit down quietly, may alight upon you.” —Nathaniel Hawthorne

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 (national home page)

Also offers grief support for **siblings** and **grandparents**
<http://www.compassionatefriends.org>

Children Are A Gift Foundation

<http://www.childrenareagift.com>

GriefShare

<http://www.griefshare.org>

MADD East Texas (Mothers Against Drunk Driving)

<http://www.madd.org/local-offices/tx/east-texas>

Smith County Victim Services Division

<http://www.tdcj.state.tx.us/divisions/vs/counties/smith.html>

The Hospice of East Texas

<http://www.hospiceofeasttexas.org>

The University of Texas at Tyler Psychology and Counseling Training Clinic

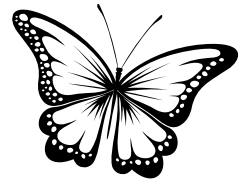
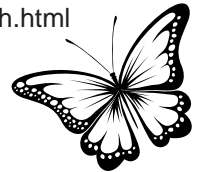
Located at the Bethesda Health Clinic
409 W. Ferguson
Tyler, Texas 75702
903-592-2348

Touched by Suicide (local)

<http://www.touchedbysuicideeasttexas.org>

Victim Services Division - Texas Department of Criminal Justice - Online Resource Directory

<http://www.tdcj.state.tx.us/divisions/vs>



“...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





We need not walk alone.

"When you have resolved your grief by reinvesting in life, you will be able to realize that nothing is ever "the same." Life is change. We would not have it be otherwise, for that is the valley of the shadow. Change has the promise of beginning and the excitement of discovery." —*Marcia F. Alig*

Love Gifts



Margaret Hall in memory of Maryn McIntire
Dale & Lisa Green in memory of Callie Graul
Phil & Ann Brown in memory of
Joyce Stewart and Stephanie Settle
Lisa Schoonover in memory of Jake
Betty Fielderlein in memory of Jeremiah Barker
Neysa Roberts in memory of Patrick Bowman



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
Martha Lewis in memory of Burke
Tina, Johnathan & Heather Loper
in memory of Christopher
Carol & Shane Johnson 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: 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: lil-bluebutterfly6@gmail.com

Announcements

NOTICE: WE HAVE A NEW MEETING LOCATION for TCF of Tyler:

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

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.

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, 1901 Rickety Lane 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.

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.

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.

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.

You don't have to be a Steering Committee Member to meet with us on occasion to help assemble the newsletter or mail out thank you notes! Please join us!

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

Visit us online at www.tylertcf.org





We need not walk alone.

"Todd's postcards are treasures of another time when the horizon held such promise, each moment was so sweet and death was not at our doorstep. There is a bittersweet joy in reliving that time. Life is bittersweet. Sometimes death gives us that insight." —Annette Mennen Baldwin

June Birthdays



Brian Harris
6-8-72 ~ 7-29-99
Son of Jolyn &
Richard Harris



Thomas "Chuck" Carroll, II
6-2-73 ~ 11-13-93
Son of Linda &
Thomas Carroll



D. Anriloten Bennett
6-29-99 ~ 9-28-08
Son of
Deric Bennett



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



Bryce Ramirez Cooksey
6-4-04 ~ 6-4-04
Son of Shalina
Ramirez



Alfred Donnell Guthrie, III
6-7-66 ~ 12-9-11
Son of Rosa
Howard



Matt Mears
6-7-83 ~ 7-16-06
Son of Norma & Kerry Mears
Husband of Ashley Mears



Seth Henry Porter
6-24-81 ~ 9-22-10
Son of Linda
Porter



Jonathan Shipman
6-11-79 ~ 10-25-09
Son of
Pat Moore



Erika Reyes
6-8-77 ~ 7-27-05
Daughter of
Sheila Steel



Trey LePelley
6-10-82 ~ 3-13-05
Son of Jack &
Julie LePelley



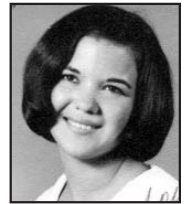
Michael Holdway
6-18-52 ~ 8-3-93
Husband of
Kathy Holdway



**ShiAnn Renee
Robinson**
6-26-98 ~ 5-24-00
Daughter of Amie
Jo Gibson-Robinson



Leslie Eugene Robb
6-11-71 ~ 5-16-08
Son of
Rena L. Surratt



Jackie Marie Heerd
6-30-46 ~ 2-22-81
Daughter of
Larry Batte



Joshua Andrews
6-21-88 ~ 3-14-04
Son of
Tawna Sherrod



Michael Ritchie
6-9-74 ~ 11-6-94
Son of
Debra Ritchie



Jake Higgins
6-29-77 ~ 12-4-03
Son of
Donna Griffin



Kelly Ann Campbell
6-27-75 ~ 12-4-97
Daughter of King &
Angie Campbell



Justin McCullough
6-25-86 ~ 6-15-09
Son of Jan Schmitt



Timothy Allen Hawkins
6-30-78 ~ 7-7-78
Son of
Bill & Linda Hawkins



Jeremy England
6-7-87 ~ 12-25-05
Son of Sandra &
Roger Perry



Ryan Glasco
6-22-89 ~ 1-27-08
Son of Jeff Glasco
& Charlotte Pena



Chris O'Leary
6-25-88 ~ 10-26-08
Son of
Merri & Fred Walsh
Son of Tom O'Leary



Joshua Malone
6-19-87 ~ 9-1-07
Son of Rhonda
Malone



Ronald Gary Smith
6-1-78 ~ 11-4-08
Son of Gloria
& Ronald Smith



**Chandler James
"Jimmy" Brazell**
6-4-92 ~ 7-31-11
Son of Chuck &
Rhonda Brazell



We need not walk alone.

"Know that you will never be the same again, but you can survive and go beyond just surviving." —*Iris Bolton*

June Anniversaries



Roozbeh Arianpour
3-25-80 ~ 6-6-03
Son of Farideh Arianpour



Christopher John Fisher
12-18-82 ~ 6-22-03
Grandson of Grace & Tom Fisher



Gary R. Gribble
3-3-85 ~ 6-29-11
Son of Carol J. & Harold R. Gribble, Jr.



Lindsey Barton
7-12-83 ~ 6-1-12
Daughter of Barbara Barton



Michael A. Rucker
1-18-93 ~ 6-1-02
Son of Brandy Rucker Pearson & Grandson of Shelba Putnam



Gabe Levi Hunt
5-2-79 ~ 6-25-06
Son of Deborah Hunt



Tami Kay Brown Roberts
5-17-72 ~ 6-10-00
Daughter of Kenn & Ann Sommerville



Kyle Beck
7-21-89 ~ 6-23-05
Son of Angela Yates



Justin Corey Modisette
7-24-84 ~ 6-10-10
Son of Linda Modisette



Timothy Andrew Lever
3-23-69 ~ 6-3-04
Son of Elsie Ford



Bryce Ramirez Cooksey
6-4-04 ~ 6-4-04
Son of Shalina Ramirez



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



Mark Turner
10-3-66 ~ 6-19-97
Son of Clayton & Pat Turner



Joshua Renaud
1-18-86 ~ 6-9-06
Son of Christi McMillan



Christina Boyd
11-20-81 ~ 6-6-07
Daughter of Sherri Haltom



Autumn Dale Romine
9-7-94 ~ 6-6-11
Daughter of Amy Romine



Jeremiah Barker
2-11-78 ~ 6-17-91
Son of Betty Fiederlein



Emily Elizabeth Ellis
10-25-90 ~ 6-16-09
Daughter of Lori Symes & Mike Ellis



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



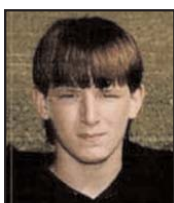
Jodi Lynne Attaway
3-8-72 ~ 6-5-94
Daughter of Cindi Attaway-Gill



Justin McCullough
6-25-86 ~ 6-15-09
Son of Jan Schmitt



Justin Bynum
8-22-89 ~ 6-13-09
Son of Steve & Linda Bynum



Jesse Lee Irby
10-16-91 ~ 6-19-07
Son of Teri Irby



Nathan Spataro
7-6-87 ~ 6-19-09
Son of Becky Hicks



Christopher Pope
11-10-90 ~ 6-16-03
Son of Brenda Pope



Amber Glasco
1-30-91 ~ 6-16-05
Daughter of Chris & Julie Glasco



Kelynn Pinson
1-23-06 ~ 6-1-08
Son of Kelvin Arterberry



William Jeffrey Stack
7-6-65 ~ 6-22-11
Son of Robyn Stack



Lester "Bubba" Chase
7-20-70 ~ 6-27-95
Son of Debbie Chase



Kenneth Melvin
10-6-60 ~ 6-28-00
Son of Fredia Melvin



Todd Dean
10-28-82 ~ 6-13-07
Son of Cassandra Dean-Taylor





We need not walk alone.

"All of the 'stages' of grief that we go through are hard. There is nothing easy about it. As Darcie Sims said, 'grief hurts.' That almost seems like too mild a statement. The feeling is impossible to put in words. It's devastating!"
—Mary Ehmann

What My Daughter Taught Me in Two Days

Anyone who knows me knows I believe that everything happens for a reason.

I do not know the reason for what happened to Bailey. So far the doctors don't know either. They say it could have been a virus that attacked and destroyed a perfect pregnancy. They say that we might never know what happened to her medically. I have spent countless hours trying to sort things out lately. But I don't think we will ever truly know why she was taken.

I do know, however that Bailey touched many lives in the short time she was here. And I'd like to share how she transformed my life in just two days; forever changing the way I look at things.

She made me realize that I need to slow down and cherish the "little things" in life that people talk about and I could not even see.

She makes me want to be a better father, a better husband, a better son, a better friend, and a better person.

She brought me new meanings to the words compassion, caring, family, friendship, forgiving, unconditional love, selflessness, and thankfulness.

Some of the things she taught me have to do with the way I look and "see" things. For example . . .

When I first heard we were pregnant, I was excited, of course. But I was also scared silly. I remember selfishly thinking in the first couple of months of the pregnancy about our life. I even asked my wife ". . . Why do we want a baby now?" We have three other kids; 16, 13, and 9. My God, I am 43 years old! We have the perfect life; we come and go as we want, we do what we want, we vacation when and where we want. Our other children are older and can pretty much take care of themselves. All I could think about was myself and how a baby would get in the way . . . **Now all I think about is her and how I would give anything to have her in my life.**

Recently, I was having lunch with a friend and there was a crying baby close by. I remember thinking how annoying it was and how I wished it would be quiet. I hate to admit it, but I was even questioning if I was ready for that noise again in my life . . . I never got to hear Bailey cry. **Now, I would give anything to hear my baby cry.**

I remember "teasing" Kim about changing the baby's diapers and that she would have to be in charge of that department. I would have helped her of course, but not really enjoyed it, and probably complained about it . . . **Now, I would give anything to change Bailey's diapers.**

We talked about daycare and complained about the high cost of daycare . . . Now, I would give anything to write that check.

I would not let Kim buy any diapers until just recently at Sam's Club, even though she wanted to buy the first diapers 6 months ago . . . Then, in those last hours, I hoped and prayed for Bailey to wet as it would have been a positive sign of recovery. **Now, I would give anything to get to pay for diapers.**

I had not been tucking in our other children at night as faithfully as I once did, thinking, they're old enough now . . . **Now, I will tuck them in until THEY tell me not to. I forgot how much that meant to them.**

I used to see children throwing temper tantrums when we were out and sometimes think, Thank God my kids are older so I do not have to deal with that . . . Now, I would give anything to see Bailey throw a temper tantrum.

We have brand-new white carpet in our house and I remember thinking and hoping that it would not get soiled with the new baby . . . **Now, I'd love to have that problem.**

I recently had a discussion with my wife about how we would deal with the night feedings. I thought to myself, she is going to be a stay-at-home mom. That's her job. I need to be rested. And she even agreed that she would be doing most of that 'chore' . . . Oh, how blind I was. **Now, I would be so thankful to be exhausted when I went in to work because I was up half the night with the baby.**

My friends at work have been teasing me and saying how my world was going to change soon with the baby coming. They were right, but for a different reason. Thanks to my daughter Bailey, my world and life have changed forever. I am so thankful I knew her and I am grateful for what she taught me in just two days.

I love you, Bailey. I thank you, and I will miss you forever.

Steven wrote and delivered this at Bailey's funeral. He and his wife, Kimberly, have three other children, Whitney, Taylor, and Jessica.

Steve Bryant, TCF Des Moines, IA ~ In Memory of my daughter, Bailey





We need not walk alone.

"We do heal. We do learn to live again. We are not the same person as we were before but in time each will find a new normal. Patience to let time and grief work to help us heal is the path to knowing we will survive." —Gerry Hall

But Your Son WANTED to Die—Mine Didn't

I cringed as once again I heard this remark, repeated so often since Warren took his life 3½ years ago. Even now, when I thought I had steeled myself to the harsh meaning of the words, they still left me hurt and demolished. Is it all that simple? Could anyone 'feeling good' just choose to die like that—if they knew the pain and suffering that then engulfs their surviving family?

How can I explain why he died when I do not really know myself? How can I make anyone understand his emotional pain, increasingly obvious to us, so skillfully masked from others? Our son was so handsome, intelligent and sensitive. It is still incredible that he shot himself one morning after returning from the hospital 'cured' of his terrible depression. Our beautiful first-born baby grew into a perfect son, but somewhere, somehow, our masterpiece had a flaw as cruel and as tenacious as any disease that strikes any other young person.

So, until research proves otherwise, we have to go along with the words of Professor Erwin Ringel that "SUICIDE CANNOT REALLY BE CHOSEN—since an intense and overwhelming inner compulsion renders any free choice null and void."

Our loss is as great as any other parent. We grieve just as deeply. Remember this and do not judge, we beg. We, and all the Survivors of Suicide suffer too much already from a horrendous tragedy that can, and does, happen to anyone.

Our Kids Loved Us—And We Love Them!

*Maureen Hargreaves, TCF Melbourne, Australia
In Memory of my son, Warren*

Gambling

I am not a gambler. I am far from viceless, but that particular vice has never beckoned me. I like Las Vegas, but I like it for spa treatments, poolside beverages, and Cirque du Soleil, not for the casinos. I don't bet on card games, playoffs, or the lottery.

So why didn't I realize that becoming a parent was such a huge gamble?

For many people, parenting brings the greatest joy, greatest pleasure, greatest sense of pride, greatest satisfaction.

When Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis was asked about her greatest accomplishment, her answer was, "my children."

To me, it has brought the greatest pain and the greatest suffering. I didn't even guess I was risking that.

In Stephanie Benbenek's searingly honest book *Keeping Clarke*, she writes, "Of all my truthful admissions, this is the hardest: the only unconditional love that exists in this world is from a parent to a child. To this day and for eternity, the loss of being able to love unconditionally will be my greatest and deepest hollow space."

In our land of plenty, parenting can reasonably be anticipated to yield pleasurable results. Parents who are attentive, invested, capable of providing shelter, security, nutrition, education, encouragement—those parents have a reasonable expectation of a "good outcome."

So, when the outcome is tragic, it's as though the "house" cheated. No wonder I feel like I'm in some sort of exile. All around me, people are reaping the rewards of their investment, celebrating their proceeds. I made a similar investment—or rolled similar dice. I bet on a similar hand of cards—and here I am—with empty pockets. I gather that somehow I owe the house.

Peggi Johnson, TCF Arlington, VA





We need not walk alone.

"Reaching out to help others caught in the quagmire of grief-from mental illness, from suicide, from the death of a child, through support groups and writings, in turn has been a healing process for me too. I know that Laurie's 25 years on this earth have made a difference." —Carol Katz

The Old Days

One day these days will be the old days.

Days that someday will seem a lifetime ago.

A silent play from another time in another world.

A world that on the worst days I cannot be sure was real.

If the people in my memory pictures existed how is it they can no longer be seen or heard or touched?

They leave us in the blink of an ordinary day, their passing recorded in next day's print, cruel proof that it is indeed true.

Are you one who looks back through the quiet unsympathetic separation to the old days, the days that can never be regained or revisited, even briefly?

A time marked by the loss of someone who sparked the bright morning into action, And ended the day with the calm cool thankfulness of the night?

I know the old days.

They live with me now, the encouraged part of me, newly curious to imagine the future.

The old days that give me the faith to believe that the next day can again be a good one.

Those old days so much more than a memory, promise that my loved ones continue along with me as I wonder and wander.

"Still part of everything I do."

I wait to accept comfort in fleeting dreams, in magical moments of the spirit that some might label coincidence and in a sudden uplift of peace felt in the warmest and deepest part of my heart.

The part that remains alive to receive the gift.

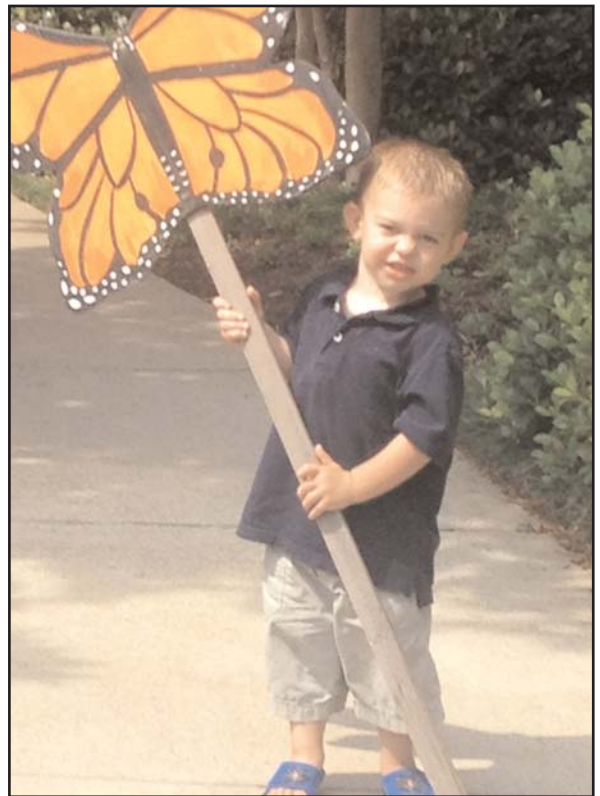
*Carol Thompson, TCF Tyler, TX
Always Remembering Sarah
5/26/2013*

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

Special Thanks

Special thanks to all who helped with the Butterfly Release!

Patty McLeroy, Champions for Children - Laminated butterflies
Brookshire's - Bottled water
James Avery - Jewelry for auction
In the Wind - Pretty cross for auction
Danny Mogle - Newspaper coverage
KETK - "Live on Five" interview with Sam Smith
Group M7 - Printing of photos
Bob Caves AC Inc. - Butterfly Release sign on property
Davis-Green Paint & Body - Butterfly Release sign on property
Stainless Steel Fabricators - Butterfly Release sign on property
Apex Appraisals of Tyler - Butterfly Release sign on property



Alec Jay Branch, age three, helping with clean up at the Butterfly Release in memory of his uncle, Eric Branch. A.J. is Eric Branch's nephew and Tammi Branch's grandson.

Thanks to First Baptist Church South Campus for allowing us to use their beautiful facilities for this year's Butterfly Release. We really appreciate their generosity over the years.

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



"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

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