



THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS



We need not walk alone.

Volume 15, Issue 10

Tyler, Texas

October 2014

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, Carol Thompson, 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.

In This Issue...

Welcome	2
Grief Resources	2
Notice About 2015 Butterfly Release	2
Love Gifts/Announcements	3
Birthdays	4-5
Anniversaries	5
SELF DEFENSE FOR WOMEN!.....	6
Newsletter Sponsors	7 & 8
Shards of Grief Linger After Murder	9
A Season of Many Feelings.....	9
Poems	10

October

The month of October brings with it a smorgasbord for the senses. We can hear the crunching and crackling of the leaves under our feet. We can see the brilliant reds; oranges and yellows splash the earth. We can feel the magical approach of winter in the air.

October is also the month for Halloween, a date synonymous with masks. As bereaved parents we have, at various times, worn many and varied masks. We have masked our feelings of despair, sorrow and anguish for the sake of our loved ones, friends and co-workers. We have masked our feelings of anger and bitterness for the traditional belief that a kind God would not do this to innocence. Most importantly, we have masked the person we are becoming, the person living through the death of our child.

Let us celebrate the month of October by beginning to take off some of our masks. A very positive and helpful way to begin this process is to attend the next Compassionate Friends meeting. Share your sorrow, your fears, your bitterness and disappointment. Above all, share your progress and triumphs through the journey of grief. When you enter a room full of caring and supportive people who have shared your grief, there is no reason to wear your mask.

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 for.

The Compassionate Friend's of Tyler
Butterfly Release



Release a butterfly for all children who have died.

3rd Saturday in May

www.TylerTCF.org • 903-258-2547

In Loving Memory of

STEPHANIE SETTLE

Thanks to all who have sponsored a Butterfly Release sign!

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

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.

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

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**
www.compassionatefriends.org

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

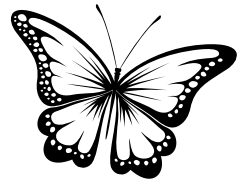
Tyler Counseling & Assessment, LLP: www.tyler-counseling.com

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.
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

Grief Camps for Kids: www.moyerfoundation.org/programs



Notice About Our Annual Butterfly Release, May, 2015!

After holding our Annual Release at the same location for the last 11 years, we are looking at a new location. The Shriner's have offered to let us hold our Release starting next year, located at 10027 St., Hwy. 31 in Tyler. We'll provide more details in future newsletters.





We need not walk alone.

"My tears are not a sign of weakness or a lack of hope or faith. They are symbols of the depth of my loss and, I am told, a sign that I am recovering." —*Marcia Davis*

Love Gifts

See more love gifts on page 6.



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: lil-bluebutterfly6@gmail.com ~ Pat's email: beachbum2201@gmail.com

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 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.

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 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 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.



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



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

October Birthdays



Cindy Dingler



Marshall Charles Donahue



Joey Moore



George Washington Shaw, III



Jeremy Mark Lawler



Christopher Andrews



Brittany Butler



James Brady Langston



Kendrick Clark



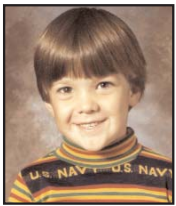
Patton Ross



Sandi McLain



Austin Dixon



Richard Heerdt



Mark Turner



Kenneth Melvin



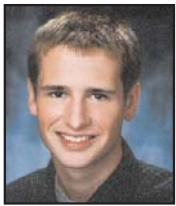
Trey Dobbs



Suzie Gorman



Rosa Linda Serrano



Neil Defenbaugh



Emily Elizabeth Ellis



Jessica Maureen Nix



Bonnie Lee Benson



A.J. Huggins



Clayton Norton



Allison Carson



Cason Gimble



J.D. Adams



Loren Saunders



Shellae Vicknair



Jesse Lee Irby



Patti Ann Gage



Gauge Austin Thomas



Ricardo Gonzalez



Michael Knight



Stephanie Mata



Todd Dean

Continued on next page.





We need not walk alone.

"Suppressed grief suffocates, it rages within the breast, and is forced to multiply its strength." —Ovid

October Birthdays Cont.

October Anniversaries



Irish Faye Haggerty



Sydney Jane Farris



Stacey Smith



John Patrick Carnahan



Aaron Sullender



Joey Moore



Kathy Robertson



Christopher Bullock



Rosa Linda Serrano



Chris O'Leary



Hanna Olivia Collie



Wade Goetze



Sean Smith



Bill Bouslog



Janet Florey



Mikel Conway



T.J. Anderson



Erica Smith



Jake Schoonover



Jacob Mikal Burrell



Alexander Johnson



Cory Wayne Channon



J.L. Adams



Madeline Joy
Kearney



James Lee Lary



Alyssa Kathryn Crim



Jonathan Shipman



Amanda Claire Miller



J.D. Adams



Terry Brendon
Reed Pettit



Phoebe Fair



Matthew Lehew



Robert Ryan White



Leon Wayne Lasiter



Cheyenne Ramirez





We need not walk alone.

"Grief is not an illness that needs to be cured. It's not a task with definable, sequential steps. It's not a bridge to cross, a burden to bear or an experience to 'recover' from. It is a normal, healthy and predictable response to loss."
—Donna L. Schuurman

October Anniversaries Cont.



Todd Andrew Thompson



Jennifer Massey



Trenton Cole Bailey

**"In the art of losing we can choose who we will be. We break, but we break open so that we can include more of life, more of love. We get bigger in order to carry with us what we choose to continue loving."
—Deborah Morris Coryell**

DON'T BE A DAMSEL IN DISTRESS!

You are invited to attend our Tyler TCF DAMSELS IN DEFENSE party/fundraiser.

Please join us for a women's Safety Workshop to benefit The Compassionate Friends of Tyler. Allow us to introduce you to Shari, who will teach us some self-defense moves and show us her adorable and affordable self-defense and safety products that are oh-so-necessary in today's world. Bring a friend! Bring your teenage daughter! You never know—you just might save a life (and it may even be your own)! But you will certainly be supporting a worthwhile cause.

All proceeds will benefit The Compassionate Friends of Tyler.

Date: Thursday, Oct. 16, 2014

Time: 6 pm-8 pm

Location: Tyler TCF office, 1901 Rickety Lane Tyler TX 75703

Light refreshments will be provided.

Contact Lisa Schoonover, 903 316 4525, for more information.



©Rosie Piter Graphics * illustrationsOf.com/75292

Thanks to these families for supporting TCF of Tyler.

In loving memory of Leah Zucca by Jim & Cheri Zucca



In loving memory of Austin Dixon by Don & Leslie Dixon



In loving memory of Payton Herrington by Melissa Love



In loving memory of Candice Lingle by Mary Lingle



In loving memory of Alec Thigpen by Nannette Ray





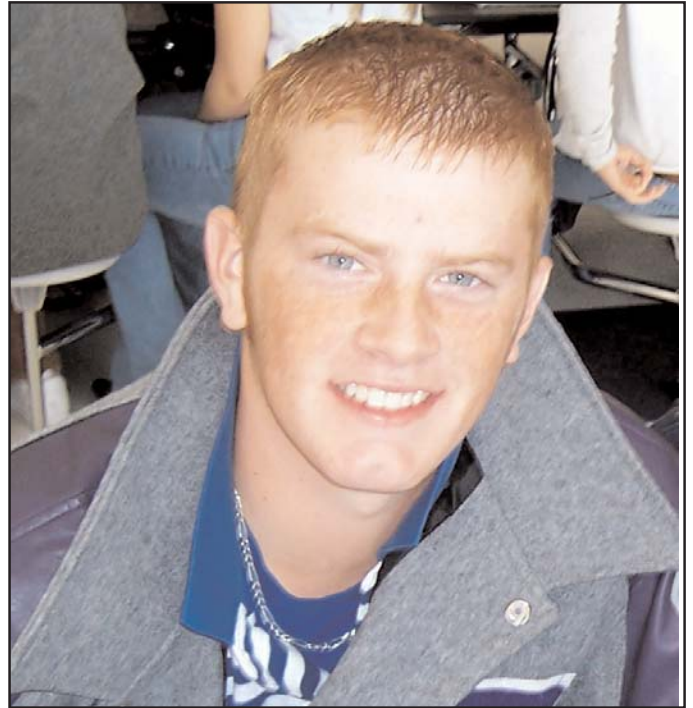
We need not walk alone.

"The people we meet in Compassionate Friends understand us. They *are* us. They listen and speak with their hearts. They have each experienced the loss of a child. They hurt with us, and their pain is as real as ours. We learn from each other."
—Annette Mennen Baldwin

Austin Dixon

**In loving memory
of Austin.**

Leslie & Don Dixon



**This month's printing of our newsletter sponsored by Don & Leslie Dixon.
Call (903) 258-2547 to sponsor a monthly newsletter.**

Jake Schoonover

**Jake, King of Arp, you live
joyfully and vividly in our
hearts and minds.**

EVOLO

**Best son, best grandson, best
nephew, best friend, best
cousin, best kid in the world.**

Love, Mom & Nana



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





We need not walk alone.

"The closest analogy I can think of to explain this whole experience is that I am like a child whose nose is pressed up against the window pane of life when all of a sudden, the window shatters. I am so busy trying to pick up the pieces to protect the others and insure that no one else gets hurt that I do not realize until much later that my arms and hands are bleeding heavily." —*Kim Bernal*

Payton Herrington

**In loving memory
of Payton.**

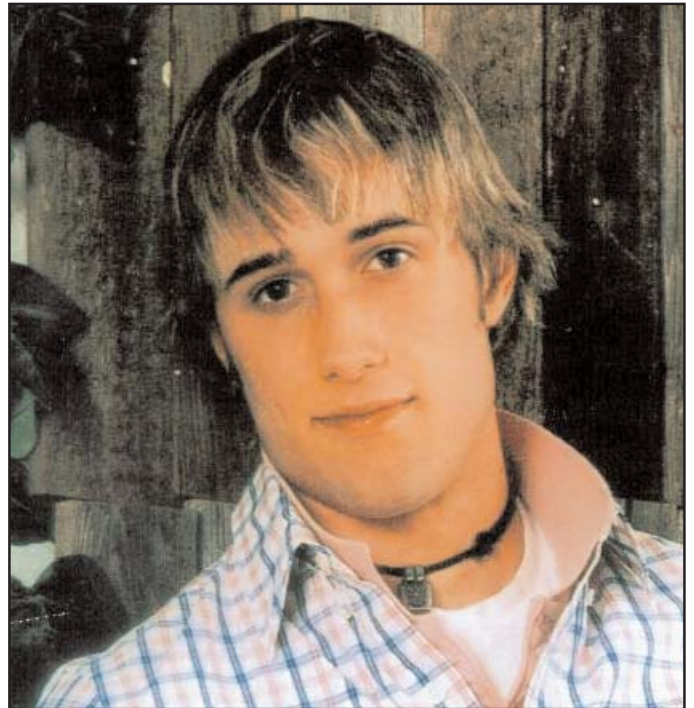
Dorothy Hammock



Thanks to Dorothy Hammock for her generous gift towards TCF of Tyler office rent.

In loving memory of Cason Gimble

**In loving memory of Cason
Precious son, Loyal brother,
Dearest grandson
Special nephew,
fun-loving cousin,
Kind friend,
Child of God, your
sweetest name of all!
Happy 28th Birthday
Mom & Dad
Daddy Bob & Mama Jean**



This month's printing of our newsletter sponsored by Lynn & Kalisa Gimble and Bobby & Jean Gimble.
Call (903) 258-2547 to sponsor a monthly newsletter.





We need not walk alone.

“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*

Shards of Grief Linger After Murder

On a dreary night in December, a knock came at our door with news that would forever alter our lives. The news was that Anne, our only daughter, had been kidnapped and brutally murdered by persons or a person unknown. The shock, disbelief, anguish and anxieties over the next several months, a small piece of the grieving process, were extraordinary, and I have often wondered how we survived?

There was the extreme rage at the person who was responsible for taking Anne's life for no reason except for the pure pleasure of destroying good. But we survived.

There was the awful anger against the legal system for being so callous and insensitive to the needs of the family and friends. The wounds from Anne's death were already deep and unhealing, but listening to and reading about the insinuations and innuendoes by the lawyers made the wounds grow deeper and deeper. The impression was given the family must endure punishment for allowing our daughter to be in the wrong place. This caused a feeling of guilt. But we survived.

There was the fear that Anne would become just another statistic, and the person responsible would go unpunished. Now the fear exists that the person will be released from prison to repeat his acts of violence. I am afraid that fears are addictive and one replaces another. Perhaps the worst fear is, when your faith in God is at its lowest ebb, that you will never be able to respond to normal stimuli again and regain all that faith. All the fears are real; but so far we have survived.

These, I suppose, are normal reactions as the result of a violent act. I believe these anxieties delay a normal (so-called) grieving period until after the culprit has been found, tried and sentenced. After these three things happened, I do know a terrible burden was lifted from our shoulders, and we could restart living our lives. Somehow we survived.

How did we survive? After much reflecting, I firmly believe we survived by recalling the positive aspects of Anne's life and character. Each individual is endowed with certain instruments, and we hear the music of their lives long after they are gone.

Anne's instrument of love of life was a blessing, and we still can hear the melodies of her song in the night. These melodies cannot be taken away, and they are more valuable than diamonds to us.

Anne's instrument of hope for a future in which to achieve her goals and have some effect on society was the backbone of her dream. The songs of hope in work, in life and the goodness of heart cannot be destroyed by evil or circumstances. Today is gone, but we still hear the songs of hope for tomorrow. These songs of hope, heard in the night, sustain us.

Anne's instrument of faith that she would lead a productive life and achieve both her spiritual and material goals was music in her heart. The faith she had in herself, her family and her friends transmits to us, urging us to proceed with our lives. The music of her faith is still a beacon in the night.

We will not believe Anne's dreams have ended, but we believe they will find their place in the world to come. The music that was set in motion by her love, hope and faith will move, everlasting, in sweet memories forever. The wounds from the loss of a loved one cannot be healed by words or deeds. These terrible burdens are borne by each of us in our own way and, hopefully, we survive.

Bill Boggs, TCF Atlanta, GA

A Season of Many Feelings

Fall is a season of many feelings; autumn is here once again as it comes every year, and with the leaves, my falling tears. This time of year is the hardest of all. My heart is still breaking, once again it is fall. Memories once so vivid are seeming to fade. My time spent with you seems of another age. This season reminds me of grief and of pain. But yet teaches hope and joy once again. For the trees are still living beneath their gray bark, and you my sweet child, are alive in my heart.

Cinda S., TCF Butler, PA





We need not walk alone.

"I choose joy over sadness. If there is one overriding thought in these years, including 10 TCF conferences in a row, it is simply this: Grief is inevitable; misery is optional. It does no good to sit in a hole. It does no good for the loss of one life to lead to the loss of two." —Richard Edler

Cason

Precious Son, Loyal Brother

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

Dearest Grandson,

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

Special Nephew, Fun-loving Cousin

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

Kind Friend

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

Child of GOD

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

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

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

*Your Loving Family
Written by your Aunt Gail*

Autumn

I always loved the autumn. Of all
The seasons it was my favorite.
I loved the beautiful colored leaves
And the cool crisp air and the
Sweet smell of wood
Burning someplace far away.

I loved the sound of the blue jays
With their raucous cries bidding goodbye to
The long hot summer and welcoming
The cooler days of fall.

I've always thought of it as a resting time
A respite between the hot summer days
And the cold winter nights yet to come.
As time to sit on the porch and read my book, enjoy life,
Counting my blessings and watching the hummingbirds
Flitting and hovering around their feeder.

Then one beautiful bright autumn day
Sorrow came unexpectedly and undesired
My grandson, our beautiful boy
Passed from this life to immortality.

He had been home only two weeks earlier
I hugged and kissed him as he left
Not knowing it was his last autumn here
Now I do not love this seasons so much
Now it brings not only the things I loved
But great sorrow.

How many autumns until I see him again?
Our beautiful boy, who gave us so much joy
For all the seasons of his life. but left us
In the autumn, the soft secret season of fall.

*Written in loving memory of our beautiful boy,
Jake Schoonover
By his adoring Nana, Sue Roberts*

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

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



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

We need not walk alone.



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

