



Serving Upper Bucks and Montgomery Counties

# The Compassionate Friends

Quakertown Chapter April 2022

*'til we meet again on June 11*

## The annual Memorial Walk and Butterfly Release will be on Saturday, June 11, 2022, at James Memorial Park (rain or shine).

It has been 3 years since we had this event, and we are elated to see everyone again.

To guarantee your family has butterflies, t-shirts, and/or sweatshirts, return the Pre-Order form with your check or money order by April 30. The pre-order form is included in this newsletter, but it was also mailed and/or emailed to you, plus it is available on social media and our website. Feel free to share it out to anyone! The event is open to everyone. **The pre-order form is really important because you may not have a butterfly to release at the event without pre-ordering it.** You may bring the form to the meeting on April 12 (check only). If you have questions about the order form or making the deadline, please email [contact@tcfquakertownpa.org](mailto:contact@tcfquakertownpa.org) prior to April 25.

### Timeline for June 11

- 9am to 11:30am: Drop off complete raffle baskets (we will have plastic bags to contain them if you do not)
- Morning: Drop off individually wrapped baked goods (transport them in throwaway containers or

be sure to pick it up later)

- Noon: Begin arriving to pick up your orders, purchase hot dog/water (\$1 each) or baked goods (donation)
- Noon-2pm: purchase 50/50 raffle tickets and tickets for the various raffle baskets
- 2pm: all sales stop as we begin the program
- 2pm: at the Derstine Pavilion the program will begin with a speaker and short walk
- Approx. 2:30: at the Markley Pavilion (at our garden) reading names and releasing butterflies
- Approx. 3pm: winners of the raffles will be announced

### Additional Details

- You may bring a small picture for the memory board; however, you must take it home with you as we cannot guarantee we will get it back to you.
- Be sure to bring your blankets and lawn chairs as there are limited picnic tables at the pavilions.
- At the event, there will also be special items like garden flags, garden mugs, previous years' apparel, and a limited amount of this year's t-shirts and painted lady butterflies. At the event, only cash or check will be accepted.
- Bring your cameras. Afterwards, you can share the best pictures to our social media pages or email them to [newsletter@tcfquakertownpa.org](mailto:newsletter@tcfquakertownpa.org) to be included in the July newsletter.

If there are other questions you have, please email [contact@tcfquakertownpa.org](mailto:contact@tcfquakertownpa.org) and we will get back to you within a timely manner. Hope to see you on June 11!

If you are reading this newsletter and do not receive emails from the chapter, and would like to, please email [contact@tcfquakertownpa.org](mailto:contact@tcfquakertownpa.org) to be included on the email list. Be sure to include your name!



As our membership grows costs are rising to mail paper copies of the newsletter each month. Please consider receiving the newsletter by email, or Facebook, or our website. Please contact us with your email address!!! Thank you for helping us SAVE funds!!! email or scan -----> [contact@tcfquakertownpa.org](mailto:contact@tcfquakertownpa.org)



Quakertown Chapter  
PO Box 1013  
Quakertown, PA 18951  
Chapter Info Line: 215-703-8431  
[contact@TCFQuakertownpa.org](mailto:contact@TCFQuakertownpa.org)  
website: [www.tcfquakertownpa.org](http://www.tcfquakertownpa.org)

NEW

Please give some thought to volunteering with The Compassionate Friends. Our Chapter is growing and we need helping hands to continue to help others that are new to this path of grief. We need not walk alone.



# The Compassionate Friends

## Quakertown Chapter

### Supporting Family After a Child Dies

### Serving Bucks and Montgomery Counties



#### About Our Chapter

Chapter Leader – Crystal Hunter

Chapter Treasurer – Lisa Dechant

Chapter Secretary – Gail Blase

Assistant Secretary –

Mary Anne Macko

Newsletter Editor/Webmaster –

Linda Stauffer

Membership Outreach-

Ginny Leigh Manuel

Social Media Coordinator & Sibling

Coordinator – Crystal Hunter

Memorial Garden Chairperson –

Theresa Sitko

Committee members – Bob Albro,

Dianna Cox, Diane Gurecki, and

Lynette Lampman, Sherri Albro,

Barbara Reboratti

**TCF National Office:**

877-969-0010

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

The Compassionate Friends is a nationally renowned 501 C (3) non-profit organization with 700 chapters in the US. All donations are tax deductible.



**New Chapter  
phone number  
215-703-8431**

#### Self-help Program

The Compassionate Friends, Inc. is a mutual assistance, self-help organization offering friendship, understanding, and hope to bereaved families. Anyone who has experienced the death of a child of any age, from any cause is welcome. Our meetings give parents an opportunity to talk about their child and about their feelings as they go through the grieving process. There is no religious affiliation. There are no membership dues. The purpose of this support group is not to focus on the cause of death or the age of the child, as it is to focus on being a bereaved parent, along with the feelings and issues that evolve around the death experience of a child.

#### To Our New Members

Coming to the first meeting is the hardest, but you have nothing to lose and everything to gain!. Try not to judge your first meeting as to whether or not The Compassionate Friends will work for you. At the next meeting you may find just the right person or just the right words said that will help you in your grief work.

#### To our Members who are further down the "GRIEF ROAD"

We need your encouragement and your support. Each meeting we have new parents. THINK BACK - what would it have been like for you at your first meeting if there had not been any TCF "veterans" to welcome you, share your grief, encourage you and tell you, "your pain will not always be this bad, it really does get better!"

#### Information Regarding Our Meetings

PLEASE don't stay away from a meeting because the topic scheduled does not interest you. We are here to discuss whatever is on your mind, we don't stay on the topic only. This is YOUR group and we are here for each other. You do not have to talk at meetings. We welcome your participation in our group but it is not a requirement. Coming to listen to the others is Okay too. Re-member also that our meeting is open to adult siblings, grandparents, or adult family members such as aunts or uncles.

#### Support Group Meetings

We are so sorry for the cause that brings us together. It takes courage to attend a Compassionate Friends support group meeting. We understand how it feels to walk into a room of strangers and share personal feelings, especially when you are in so much pain. At your first meeting, we hope you find care, support, understanding and a group of friends to share with. Truly, there are no strangers among compassionate friends.

As a reminder to families that would like to attend a support meeting. Please allow yourself at least 3 or 4 meetings of attendance to determine if they are for you. It may take a few meetings before you're able to talk about your loved one and that is understandable. What you say at our meetings is kept in the meeting, you can cry, hug, talk about how you are feeling freely. Our meetings are for parents, grandparents and siblings in grade 9 or above and adult siblings.

#### Your Friends at TCF Quakertown Chapter

##### Library Books

We have a nice library of books for our members to check out and read and return them back to our library. A problem we currently have is that some books have not made their way back to our library and our library is shrinking. If you have checked out a book or magazine from our library and are done reading it won't you PLEASE return it to us at our monthly meetings. If you are not able to make the meeting you may mail it back to us or have someone else return it to us. Also, if you have any books that would help other grieving families through their journey and would like to donate them to our library please give them to our librarians.

##### Newsletter Errors and Omissions

For any errors or omissions please contact Linda via email at [kt4ever@mac.com](mailto:kt4ever@mac.com) with the error and the correction for the next month newsletter. Please remember we are all volunteers and grieving

##### About This Newsletter

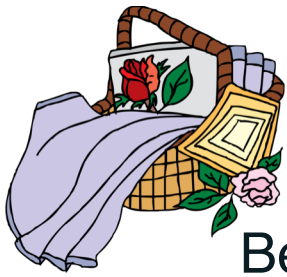
This newsletter comes to you courtesy of The Compassionate Friends, Quakertown Chapter with the hope that it will be a helpful resource for you on your grief journey.

If you no longer wish to receive the newsletter please contact the newsletter editor by email: [newsletter@tcfquakertownpa.org](mailto:newsletter@tcfquakertownpa.org)

PLEASE NOTE: If you are moving or your email has changed please notify the newsletter editor so that we can update your information and you continue to receive the newsletter. If the newsletter is returned to us either via mail or your email bounces back and you have not notified us you will be removed from the mailing list.

##### Newsletter submissions:

Submit articles and poetry to the editor by the 15th of the preceding month. Include the author's name & your contact information. You may mail to our PO Box 1013, Quakertown PA 18951 or email as a pdf file or word document to: [newsletter@tcfquakertownpa.org](mailto:newsletter@tcfquakertownpa.org)



## Be a Part of the 'their' favorite thing basket

A few years ago, we had a raffle basket filled with "favorite things" that our children/siblings loved. We want to bring this back! For me, my brother loved Twizzlers, so in memory of Justin, I am going to put a pack of Twizzlers in the basket. This does not take a lot of planning but there are some guidelines.

- No chocolate (gift card for chocolate works!)
- Keep it on the smaller side (we will have a basket to hold it all)
- Bring the item to the April or May support meeting OR simply bring it by noon at the walk
- One item per child/sibling
- No alcohol

If you are far away, and can't mail the item, contact@tcfquakertownpa.org and I am sure we can figure it out

Fill out the Favorite Thing card (seen below) to include with the item. (Any paper is fine- no bigger than 3x5 notecards).

"their" favorite Thing Basket  
 Name  
 In Memory of  
 Added by  
 Explanation

I look forward to putting all my tickets in this basket! I love learning about your children and siblings. Let us know if you have any questions!

With love,  
Crystal

## What is better than in person support meetings?

Having snacks at the meeting!  
Next meeting April 12 @ the Gathering Place 7-8:30pm

Before Covid, we had a signup where people brought snacks to meetings in memory of their child/sibling for birthdays/anniversaries. We had to stop but it is BAACCCCKKK!!

**For the April 12 meeting, we won't have a sign up so only bring a small amount to share as we do not know who will bring what.**

The Guidelines:

- Finger food (no forks or plates available)
  - Individually wrapped/proportions
- The chapter will provide napkins and you will bring your own drinks. Elsa, the owner of our meeting place, has been so kind to allow us to have the space that we want to make sure everyone knows to tidy up after the meeting. We will have wipes and trash bags as well. We look forward to seeing you April 12!



New Chapter Phone Number



**215-703-8431**





## Garden Planting Time

Spring has sprung , the winter snows that protected our garden have melted. We need to add some beautiful bright flowers!

As we haven't been able to have fundraisers , we would appreciate anyone who could donate .

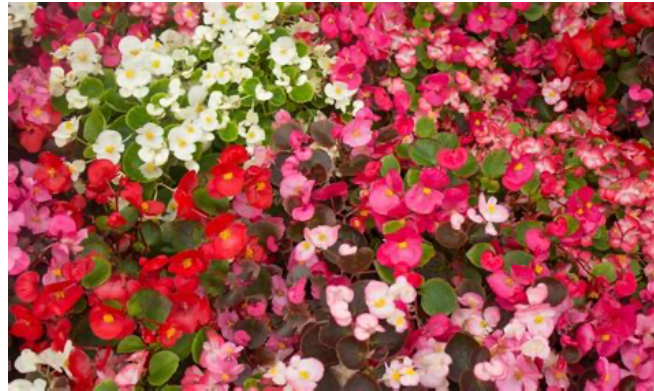
The flowers will be planted in memory of our children and siblings.

10 plants for \$25

25 plants for \$50

Please fill out the love donation form on page eight, check-for Memorial Garden. We will add your donation in our next newsletter.

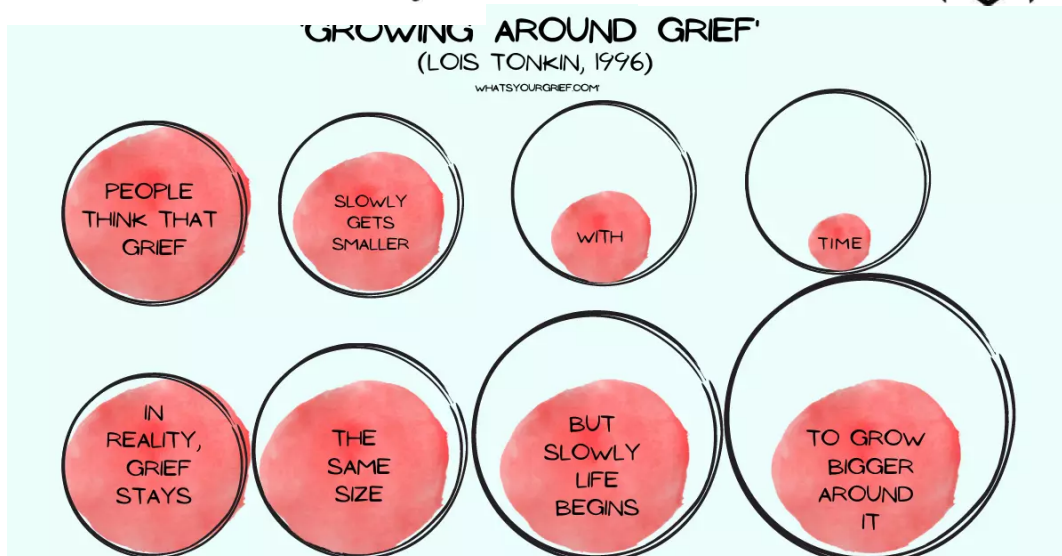
Any donations will be greatly appreciated.





*“Our Children Remembered on their April Birthdays  
Always Loved, Missed and Forever in Our Hearts.”*

- 4/1 - Eric Ervin, son of Linda & Rich Ervin
- 4/5 - Benjamin Martin, son of Kristine Fallows
- 4/7 - Joneric “EJ” Perullo, grandson of Suzanne & Tom Kwan
- 4/7 – Giacomo Maurizio, son of Bonnie Maurizio
- 4/8 - Cole Ferdock, son of Kelly Ferdock
- 4/12 - Steven Ketterer, son of Steven & Gail Ketterer
- 4/13 - Kelly Eisenhart-Schmittinger, daughter of Nancy Eisenhardt, sister of Dana Hutchinson
- 4/15 - Ben Smith, son of Nick Wyllie
- 4/19 - Benjamin Culton, son of Mark & Barb Culton
- 4/19 – Dalton Hunsberger, son of Charis Hunsberger
- 4/25 - Tony Kulp, son of Mary Ann Kulp
- 4/29 - Christopher Court, son of Caroline & Tim Court



*Our Children Remembered on the Anniversary  
of Their Death Loved, missed and always in our hearts*

4/5 - **Kelly Eisenhart-Schmittinger**, daughter of Nancy Eisenhart; sister of Dana

4/5 - **Sherry Reiss**, daughter of Ray & Janet Popowitz; sister of Lisa Springer

4/6 - **Alexis Falcone**, daughter of Dominic & Carolyn Falcone

4/7 - **Kyle Smith**, son of David & Maria Smith

4/8 - **Eric Ervin**, son of Linda & Rich Ervin

4/11 - **Jordan Campbell**, son of Marci Borits

4/12 - **Thomas Water**, brother of Pamela Buda

4/12 - **Skye A. Gilbert**, daughter of Susan Gilbert

4/13 - **Keith Heckler**, son of Emma & Lamar Heckler

4/13 - **Ryan Strauch**, son of Dave & June Strauch

4/14 - **Liz Ann Whipple**, daughter of Liz Sullivan

4/19 - **Kaia DeCesare**, daughter of Kristina Robinson

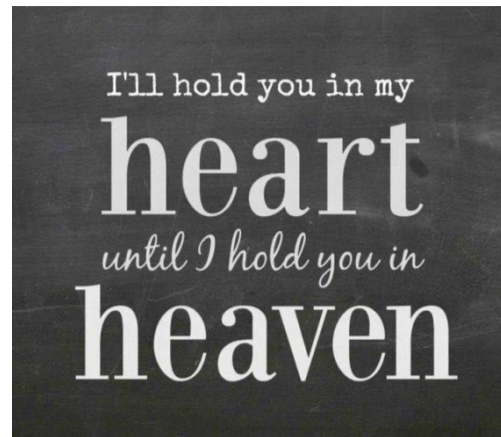
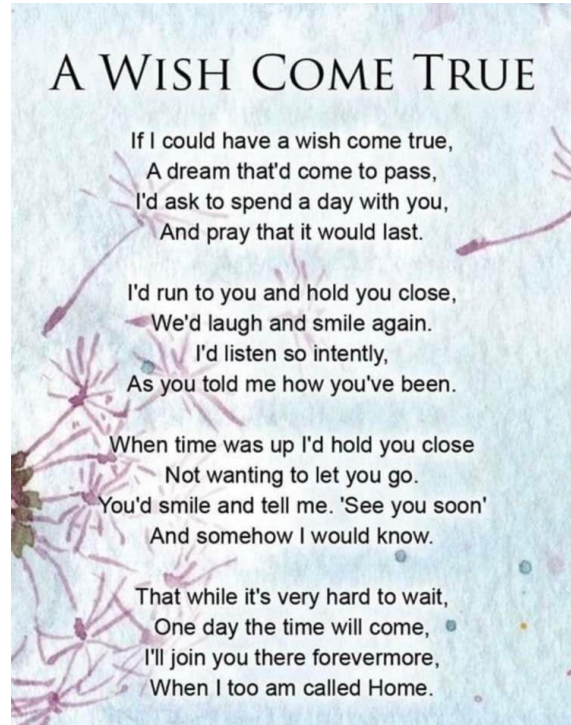
4/20 - **Craig Zakeosian**, son of Mike Zakeosian

4/22 - **Douglas Minner**, son of Louise & Toby Minner

4/24 - **Sundai Marie Peters**, daughter of Arlene & Phil Peters

4/24 - **Michael Cogossi**, son of Cheryl Cogossi

4/27 - **Kristy Bender**, daughter of Kathy & Frank Bender



## Special Thanks

A special thank you to Diane Guerecki, Lisa Dechant, Jenifer Pini, Michelle Argue Larrabee, Rosemary Stewart for the Remembrance cards that you receive. They do this in memory of their children/ siblings: An appreciated Thank You to our members for helping to set up and tear down for chapter meetings. Thank you to Linda Stauffer for supplying the ink and paper and printing our newsletter and creating and maintaining our website. She does this in memory of her daughter Katie. Thank you to Dianna Cox for addressing our monthly newsletters for mailing. She does this in remembrance of her son Michael. Thanks to Barb and Bob Heimerdinger for applying the memorial Plaques to the wall in the memorial garden. They do this in remembrance of their son Ryan.



**\*IMPORTANT\***

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

At the event, limited amount of painted lady butterflies for purchase for \$5.

At the event, limited amount of t-shirts for purchase for \$25.

No Sweatshirts sold at the event – All Shirts/Sweatshirts are Gray.

Item	Quantity		Pre-Reg Price	Total Cost
Painted Lady			Total ____ x \$5 =	
<b>SINGLE SWEATSHIRT (indicate quantity by size)</b>				
<b>Crew Neck Sweatshirt</b> Sizes: Adult S to 3XL	AS AL A2X	AM AXL A3X	Total ____ x \$25 =	
<b>Hoodie Sweatshirt</b> Sizes: Adult S to 3XL	AS AL A2X	AM AXL A3X	Total ____ x \$30 =	
<b>All Pre-Order T-Shirts <i>come with a Painted Lady Butterfly</i> (indicate quantity by size)</b>				
<b>T-Shirt</b> Sizes: Youth S to Youth XL Adult S to 3XL	YS YL AS AL A2X	YM YXL AM AXL A3X	Total ____ x \$20 =	
<p><b>*Shipping Cost IF NOT ATTENDING</b>                      \$10 for one item, \$20 for 2 items, \$30 for 3-4 items  <b>Will Ship After June 14</b>                      Address:                       City:                      State:                      Zip:</p>			Pre-Reg Total	
			*Shipping (apparel only)	
			Donation	
			<b>Total Enclosed</b>	



The Compassionate Friends  
Quakertown PA Chapter

Design on left side of pocket  
on gray apparel

★ **POSTMARKED BY April 30** ★

Mail Form & Check to Address on Page 1

Questions: (215) 703-8431 or  
contact@tcfquakertownpa.org

**Make Checks Payable to:**

The Compassionate Friends  
Quakertown Chapter  
Memo: Walk

**While the chapter supports bereaved  
parents & siblings, this event is open to all.**

Additional event information at  
tcfquakertownpa.org



**The Compassionate Friends Quakertown Chapter**  
**Memorial Walk & Butterfly Release**  
**Pre-Order & Registration Form**

**June 11, 2022 ~ Rain or Shine**

**★ Postmark By April 30, 2022 ★**

James Memorial Park, 1028 Ridge Rd, Sellersville PA – Noon to 3pm

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (person picking up order at walk)

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Please write neatly.** If you cannot attend, you may purchase items and your loved one's name(s) will be read with the mass butterfly release. Shipping for apparel detailed on page 2.

Loved Ones to Remember	Remembered By

You may bring one photo of your loved one (5x7 or smaller) to post on our memory board display. You will take the photo home when you leave. **NO guarantee that photos left behind will be returned.**

**Checks made payable to:**  
 The Compassionate Friends  
 Quakertown Chapter  
 Memo: Walk

**Questions:**  
 (215) 703-8431 or  
 contact@tcfquakertownpa.org

**Mail Form & Check to:**  
 Dianna Cox  
 c/o TCF  
 5465 Susan Rd.  
 Coopersburg PA 18036

**Timeline for the Day**

- Noon to 2pm:** Pick up T-shirts, Sign Waivers / Purchase Raffles, Hot Dogs & 50/50 at Main Pavilion
- 2pm:** All Sales Stop
- 2pm:** Speaker & Memorial Walk on paved path
- After walk move to Garden:** Butterfly Release / winners announced at the end of the program [Bring chairs/blankets for your family]



# Love Gifts

**Sending a very special thank you to those who sent in love gifts this month:**

Please feel free to use the Love Gift Form in the newsletter to include your special message.

**Sending a very special thank you to those who sent in love gifts this month:**

To Arlene Peters and family, in loving memory of their daughter Sundai Marie Peters: We miss you every day. Our love and kisses to you ~ Dad-Mom & Adam

*"There is a sacredness in tears. They are not the mark of weakness, but of power. They speak more eloquently than ten thousand tongues. They are messengers of overwhelming grief...and unspeakable love."*  
Washington Irving

Donations made in memory of your child, grandchild or sibling are always welcome, but more so this year. Due to COVID restrictions we had to cancel our biggest fundraiser, the annual Memorial Walk and Butterfly Release. Please help us help others. We Need Not Walk Alone.



## LOVE GIFTS

A Love Gift is a donation of money in support of our Quakertown Chapter of The Compassionate Friends. Donations can be in memory of a child, sibling, or grandchild on their birthday, angel day or anytime. Your Love Gift will be acknowledged in our newsletter. Love Gifts are our Chapter's main monetary support. Anyone can donate and we thank you for your support of our chapter.

***We are a 501(c) 3 nonprofit, chapter #2053. Donations are tax deductible.***



**In Memory of:** \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_ Death Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Check One:** Please use my gift for:

General Operating Expenses  Memorial Garden

**Your Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Love Gift Message** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Please make check payable to:**

The Compassionate Friends, Quakertown Chapter

**Mail to:**

PO Box 1013

Quakertown, PA 18951

**Yes or No - include my name / love note in the newsletter.**



The Compassionate Friends  
Quakertown Chapter  
PO Box 1013  
Quakertown, PA 18951

## Support Group Meeting is April 12



### *The Compassionate Friends Credo*

We need not walk alone. We are The Compassionate Friends. We reach out to each other with love, with understanding, and with hope. The children we mourn have died at all ages and from many different causes, but our love for them unites us. Your pain becomes my pain, just as your hope becomes my hope. We come together from all walks of life, from many different circumstances. We are a unique family because we represent many races, creeds, and relationships. We are young, and we are old. Some of us are far along in our grief, but others still feel a grief so fresh and so intensely painful that they feel helpless and see no hope. Some of us have found our faith to be a source of strength, while some of us are struggling to find answers. Some of us are angry, filled with guilt or in deep depression, while others radiate an inner peace. But whatever pain we bring to this gathering of The Compassionate Friends, it is pain we will share, just as we share with each other our love for the children who have died. We are all seeking and struggling to build a future for ourselves, but we are committed to building a future together. We reach out to each other in love to share the pain as well as the joy, share the anger as well as the peace, share the faith as well as the doubts, and help each other to grieve as well as to grow.

We Need Not Walk Alone.

We Are The Compassionate Friends.

