

The Compassionate Friends

August 2017

Serving Upper Bucks and Montgomery Counties



Life Can Be Good Again

For nearly sixteen years, his voice has been silent. It is a span now nearly equal to the time it was heard. Never did I anticipate life without the sounds that marked his presence. Learning to survive that silence once seemed an impossible task, one so overwhelming I could find no hope or expectation of finding life once more.

He was our son, our only child. The tempo of his growing measured the cadence, the beat, for our own living. His passing left an existence without any value that I could immediately perceive. Ultimately, I came to recognize that I was wrong.

Life still had meaning, but it had fallen to me to find it, just as it had been in the years before his coming. Indeed, even as it had been throughout the time of his living, life still demanded my active participation, my own commitment to give it purpose and resolve.

Hindsight affords an ease in stating this realization that did not exist while struggling in the depths of bereavement. The steps taken to finally seize life again seem logical and ordered while intellectualizing the process but I know that this is much easier to write than it is to experience.

I confess, with both sorrow and gladness, that I can no longer summon the full measure of those savage feelings and the unremitting pain that engulfed me in those early years. Working through them was the most demanding challenge of my life, enacting tolls in physical health perhaps even greater than the long term effects on mind and emotion. (continued on page 6)

> The mission of The Compassionate Friends: When a child dies, at any age, the family suffers intense pain and may feel hopeless and isolated. The Compassionate Friends provides highly personal comfort, hope, and support to every family experiencing the death of a son or a daughter, a brother or a sister, or a grandchild, and helps others better assist the grieving family.

Next meeting August 8

Quakertown Chapter PO Box 1013 Quakertown, PA 18951

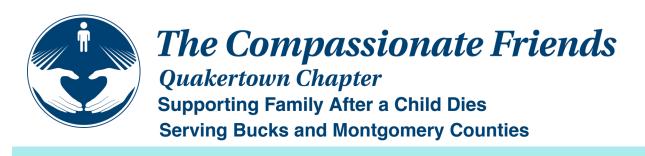
Chapter Info Line: (267)380-0130

contact@TCFQuakertownpa.org

website: www.tcfquakertownpa.org

We talk. We listen. We share. We care. Our Support Group Meetings are the 2 Tuesday of every month at St. Luke's Quakertown

Hospital, 1021 Park Ave., Quakertown, in the Taylor Conference rooms A & B on the ground floor of the professional wing. Meetings are 7:30 - 9 PM. No need to register. No fees or dues. Just come as you are.



About Our Chapter

Chapter Leader:

Ginny Leigh-Manuell **Treasurer:** Crystal Hunter **Secretary:** Gail Blase

Chapter Librarian: Theresa Sitko Newsletter: Linda Stauffer

Steering Committee:

Mary Anne Macko Linda Stauffer Theresa Sitko Kathleen Hargrove Carol Graham Lynette Lampmann Barbara Reboratti Gail Blase

Remembrance & Thank You Cards:

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Eastern PA Regional Coordinators

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TCF National Office:

877-969-0010

www.compassionatefriends.org

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

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



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 is 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 meet¬ing. We please contact the newsletter editor by email: 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 your 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

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

via email at 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 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

OUR CHILDREN REMEMBERED FOR AUGUST

Loved...Missed...Remembered on their Birthdays and Always

- 8/1 David Bentz III, son of Kimberly Geonnotti
- 8/1 Tommy Snyder, brother of Tara Snyder
- **8/2 Jennifer Wenhold**, daughter of Jeff & Wendy Wenhold
- 8/4 Eric Gotwals, son of Gary & Anne Gotwals
- 8/4 James Monahan II. son of Kim Kliensmith
- 8/7 Daniel Murphy, son of Merry Murphy
- 8/7 Jeremy Nase, son of Carol Nase
- **8/8 Jamie Stewart**, son of Jim & Beverly Stewart; sibling of Sherrie
- **8/9 Joshua Woods**, sibling of Eliot Woods, Tricia Woods & Jenn Kroll
- **8/10 James Bowen III**, son of Catherine & James Bowen, Jr.
- 8/10 Barton Carroll, son of Liz & Mike Carroll
- **8/10 Brenda Meehl**, daughter of Patricia & Harold Hunsicker
- **8/10 Tom O'Donnell**, son of Thomas & Susan O'Donnell
- **8/10 Ronald "Petie" Shultz**, son of Maria Shultz; sibling of Maria
- **8/12 Christopher Thomas**, son in law of Barbara & Eduardo Reboratti
- 8/12 Tara Sciss, daughter of Todd Sciss
- 8/13 Trevor Baelz, son of Marsha Leary
- **8/13 Derick Schubert**, son of Anne & John Schubert; sibling of Marie
- **8/14 Austin Jacob Fenstermacher**, son of Lori Ann Kramer & David Fenstermacher
- **8/15 Jana Lee Snedeker**, daughter of Dave Snedeker
- **8/16 Christopher Ulmer**, son of James & Patricia Ulmer
- 8/17 Michael Morgan, son of Deb & Ray Vrtis

- **8/18 Zachery Roessler**, son of Chuck Rossler & Pam Howell
- **8/18 Amy Cyan-Spier**, sibling of Thomas & Susan O'Donnell
- 8/21 Eric Smith, son of Mary & Ross Smith
- **8/22 Erika Thomas**, daughter of Thomas & Peggy Delpopolo
- 8/24 Alison Gilmore, daughter of Susan Slawek
- 8/25 Jim Roberts III, son of Sue & Jim Roberts
- 8/26 Mike Hicks, brother of Kathy Hicks
- **8/27 Douglas Hofmackel**, son of Marie & Ken Hofmackel
- **8/29 Kimberlee Godshall**, daughter of Terry & Fairlie Godshall
- 8/29 Eric S. Moyer, son of Ray & Linda Moyer
- 8/29 Corbin Christopher Snider, son of Chris Snider
- **8/31 Peter Plant**, son of Steven & LouAnn Wilkinson; brother of Rachael

I Will Love You

Daniel Haughian, TCF, Memphis, TN
As long as I can dream
As long as I can think
As long as I have memory
I will love you.
As long as I have a heart to feel,
A soul stirring within me
An imagination to hold you,
I will love you.
As long as there is time,
As long as there is love
As long as I have breath to speak your name
I will love you.
Because I love you more than anything
In all the world.

Our Children Remembered on the Anniversary of their Death

- 8/2 Joseph Cooper, son of Edith Cooper
- **8/2 James D. Layton,** son of James & Barbara Layton, Sr.
- 8/2 Ryan McGuinness, son of Tim McGuinness
- **8/4 Bobby McCans**, son of Dorothy & Charles McCans
- **8/4 John Roeder,** son of Don & Joan Roeder, sibling of Kerrie Garges
- 8/8 Jim Roberts III, son of Sue & Jim Roberts
- 8/8 Dustin Stauffer, son of Glenn & Sandra Stauffer
- 8/9 Kevin Kuestner, son of Keith & Tammy Kuestner
- 8/9 Wayne Stokes, son of Scott & Ellen Stokes
- **8/12 Cynthia Benge**, daughter of Robert & Cheryl Benge
- 8/12 Sean Buehrle, son of Kathy Buehrle
- **8/12 Bradford Krenitsky**, son of Deborah & Donald Krenitsky
- 8/12 Jason Pini, sibling of Jennifer Pini
- 8/12 Robert Tarr, son of Robert & Susan Tarr
- **8/13 Alexndria Gasior**, daughter of, Linda & Dan Brophy; Ellen & Duke Misnik
- **8/13 Todd latarola,** son of Ronda latarola, nephew of Sandy Bittenbender
- **8/13 Brian Wensel, Jr.,** son of Brian Wensel, Sr., grandson of Leroy & Dawn Wensel
- **8/14 Austin Jacob Fenstermacher**, son of Lori Kramer & David Fenstermacher
- 8/15 William Scott III, son of Ruth Scott
- **8/17 Lynn Gross**, daughter of Jean Werst, sibling of David Werst
- **8/17 James McKale**, grandson of John & Winifred McKale
- **8/17 Thomas Richards**, grandson of Jean Hellerman
- 8/18 Jonathan Jason Orlick, son of Teri Orlick
- 8/18 David Trump, son of Laura Trump

- **8/19 Daniel Lavery,** son of Karen Kovac, son of Daniel Lavery, sibling of Meghan Lavery
- 8/21 Kinsey Duvall, son of Craig Duvall
- **8/21 Kisha Hesse**, daughter of Donna Hesse; sister of Brienne Fretz
- 8/21 Ryan Mitman, son of Victoria & James Weisbrod
- 8/22 Justin Hawkes, son of Norm & Dorrie Hawkes
- 8/25 Kevin McFadden, son of Phillip & Kathleen McFadden
- 8/25 Kevin Villante, son of Joseph & Cecilia Villante
- 8/26 Cpl. Barton Humilhanz, son of Michele & Don Carey
- 8/26 Crystal Cordero, daughter of Linda & Rich Ervin
- 8/27 Austin Jacobs, son of Penny Jacobs
- 8/27 Paul Swope, son of Marge Swope
- 8/28 Peter Hallinan, son of Carol & Tom Hallinan
- 8/28 Rachel Whiteley, daughter of Kristine Fallows
- **8/28 Robert Kalbfleisch**, son of Deb & Kurt Kalbfleisch, sibling of Rebecca, grandson of Joan & Donald Kalbfleisch
- 8/29 Rourke O'Donnell, son of Cindy O'Donnell

IS IT EASING?

Phoebe C. Redman, TCF, Bradenton, FL I heard your name today and my heart did not skip a beat, nor was my mind flooded with the emotion of losing you. I heard your name today and it did not bring back the terrible hurt feelings of when you first left me.

I heard your name today with a calmness that surprised me. Many another child carries your name, and it had been torture hearing it and seeing the smiling faces on those little girls. But today I knew–I found out–what others in my footsteps found out and tried to tell me. The hurt will ease; but the memories, the love, the good times will never go away.

Life Can Be Good Again (continued from page 1)

Today, however, I can reflect with gratitude upon a decade of mastery over the sadness. Control of my thoughts returned to me and I know freedom from the utter devastation of those early years.

Looking back reveals essential turning points on the road to healing. Some would seem to generalize easily for anyone. Others seem to respond to personal strengths and weaknesses more particular to an individual. These points included:

- * Self forgiveness for the many deficiencies found within on the endless soul journey that is our lot in the wake of our child's death.
- * Forgiveness of others, relatives, friends and associates, who are less affected than are we, who seem unable to help us in our time of deep trouble and need.
- * The accepting, at last, the finality of our loss, and that we must gradually unleash ourselves from our former lives and structure anew.
- * Learn to communicate value to spouses, friends, and surviving siblings, our love for whom seems shrouded behind the totality of our grief.
- * Find ways to give expression to our need to somehow memorialize our child, be it through writing a book, planning trees, sustaining scholarships, or any number of ways. Our need to preserve and safeguard our child's memory is real and deserving of our attention.

- * A time comes for many to find new homes, jobs, and purpose. These are often part and parcel of any significant change in our lives.
- * Surrender to time, giving ourselves space within it to do our work. Use time to foster healing within, to enable us

to grasp today and tomorrow with hope.

No recovery will return us to life as we knew it while our child lived. That life is forever gone and, to a certain extent, we may well have to accept that, as we perceive life today. The finest days or our lives may well be a part of our past. Somehow, we must recognize that this is not unique to surviving our child's death, but is often a portion of the human condition. Olin is dead. As much as I would wish it otherwise, it will never be. He is not forgotten. His voice, his laughter, his joy, and his shortcomings live on in me. No day passes without thinking about him. I am grateful for his touch upon my life. Yet, joy is again mine. Pleasure is no longer a forbidden or guilt producing element in daily living. I live, gladly and with purpose, with Olin both behind me in time, but with me internally, is this not our goal, to heal, to find strength to love both yesterday and today? Our children have been the richest part of our lives and today should reflect the grace of that love in all that we are today.

Reprinted with permission from We Need Not Walk Alone, the national magazine of The Compassionate Friends.

Death of a Sibling: Issues for the Grieving Child

By Robin Fiorelli

When a sibling dies, the surviving child reacts both to the loss of his or her sibling and to the change in behavior and grief process of his or her parents. A sibling's grief response may be longer or shorter than the parents', and the sibling may have a different understanding of the death. Siblings often are asked numerous questions about their brother or sister's death by their peers and other adults. This can feel overwhelming to a child. An ill child often receives more attention

from parents than a well sibling. The surviving child often believes he or she will get more attention from the parents after the death of the sibling, and then he or she is disappointed when those expectations are not met. The surviving child also may grapple with identity and role issues after the loss. "Am I still a little brother?" "Who's going to take out the garbage now?"

Grieving parents sometimes are overprotective of the remaining siblings, concerned that they may die or become ill as well. Other parents place expectations or unreasonable demands on the remaining siblings to take on the responsibilities and roles or to have the



attributes of the deceased sibling. It is important that parents avoid being either over-protective or over permissive with a grieving sibling— despite the temptation. Care should be taken not to make comparisons between the deceased child and the siblings, as it may lead to the surviving children feeling inadequate. Care also should be taken not to assign inappropriate responsibilities to a child that the deceased sibling used to haveespecially responsibilities that are not develop-mentally appropriate. For all these reasons, grieving siblings need a lot of reassurance from their parents that they are loved for who they are and that they will be cared for and supported. They need to be reminded that they did not cause their brother's or sister's death. They also should be encouraged to share memories and hold keepsakes of their deceased sibling and to participate in family rituals related to the deceased child.

Grief and Loss: What to Say to Those Who Are Grieving

from UC San Diego website: http://blink.ucsd.edu/HR/services/support/grief/say.html Here are some suggestions on what to say to people who are experiencing a loss.

Helpful phrases

The following is a partial list of helpful phrases:

- * I'm sorry.
- * I'm sad for you.
- * How are you doing with all of this?
- * I don't know why it happened.
- * What can I do for you?
- * What's the hardest part for you?
- * I'll call you tomorrow.

When words won't come — listen!

How to listen

- * Before you call a person who is experiencing a loss make sure you have enough time to listen.
- * The person you are talking with should do almost all of the talking.
- * Don't interrupt.
- * Allow silence to be part of your conversation. Sometimes the person may cry or have no words. Either be quiet or assure the person that he or she can take the time needed before continuing. A person who is hurting is often isolated because we are afraid of doing or saying the wrong thing. If your intentions are from the heart and you say the "wrong thing," more likely than not, the person will only remember that you cared and you were there.

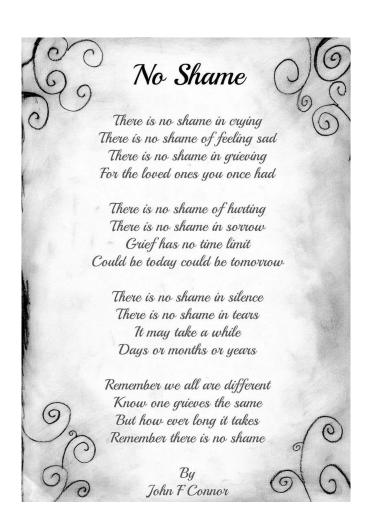
Why A Butterfly?

Marge Tomlinson, TCF, Seattle-King County, WA A few weeks ago I was asked why the butterfly was used

so much in TCF. I didn't hesitate to give her MY answer. I had heard that the butterfly represents our children, but I have my own interpretation. The butterfly's metamorphosis is a symbol of who I was, what I went through and who I've

become because of Greg's death.

I don't like that my son, Greg, died. But I do like the person I've become because of it. The 'Marge' before Greg's death was the caterpillar. I had a purpose in life and lived life as I felt I needed to. Then Greg died and I was inside a dark confinement that I desperately wanted to be released from. I wanted to go back to the familiar. But just as the butterfly has to bide its time in its chrysalis, I had to work through the dark time of grieving and sorting through the broken pieces of my life. As I slowly emerged from that darkness of mourning I knew there was no going back to what once was and there was still more grief work ahead. The new 'Marge' didn't happen rapidly, just as a butterfly isn't released instantly from its confinement. It takes time for the butterfly to release itself from the chrysalis, to stretch its legs, to spread out its wings and gain the strength to fly. Because of my grief journey. I relate to the butterfly and its life cycle. I like who I am now and because of the painful journey, I feel I am more vibrant and more alive because of it. I learned that happiness did return to my shattered life and I want others to know that their life, too, can once again be meaningful and happy.



What About Vacations?

Flaine Stillwell

When your heart is hurting after the loss of a loved one, you wonder if you will ever be able to "take a vacation" from grief. There are many answers to this question. The secret is to find the right one for you.

Vacations for my family were spent mostly at home. Our work schedules rarely permitted us time to go away and with three children we found traveling to be expensive. I have always lived on Long Island (NY), and my parents brainwashed us to think that living on Long Island was a permanent vacation. Do you think they worked for the tourist board?

After my 19 year old daughter, Peggy, and my 21 year old son, Denis, died in the same automobile accident, I never planned a vacation to "get away" from my surroundings. My home was my "nest" and the source of great comfort to me. Not everybody feels this way. Staying with the familiar made me feel comfortable. Having my support circle nearby was important to me. Enjoying the pleasures that I had shared with Peggy and Denis kept them close to my heart. Even though tears could accompany these pleasures, the tears were healing. Whether it was simply walking along the beach where we had many family outings, or sitting by the pool where we had spent so many hours with swim team, or watching a soccer game which took so much of our time with three teams in the family, or noticing their favorite colors, flowers, TV programs, or foods. These things helped reinforce their presence forever in my mind, never to be erased.

Some families agonize whether to go away for a vacation after losing a loved one and some families can't get away fast enough! So you see how different we all are. It's tough for husbands and wives who disagree about vacation plans to find a reasonable "compromise" to give relief to their individual styles of grieving. The rule of thumb is: Do what helps you. If taking a cruise, or flying to a distant sunny haven, or visiting a mountain or seaside retreat, or just relaxing at a nearby resort helps you gain a moment of peace, do it. But one thing I must caution you about, don't go alone. There is time to reflect or quietly meditate wherever you are, but when you are hurting so terribly, it is not wise to be alone for long periods of time. However, it is good to have someone to share your thoughts with, releasing some of those feelings that are haunting you. Having a good listener with you is wonderful medicine for you. It's also good to have someone to hug. Remember, you need 4 hugs a day for survival, 8 hugs a day for maintenance, and 12 hugs a day for growth. Therefore,

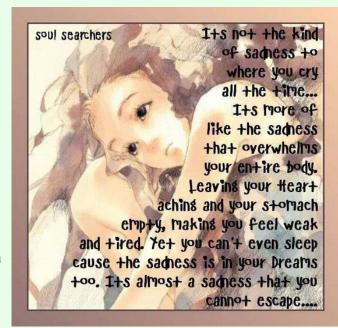
make sure you vacation with the right person!

Many grieving families that I have met have found solace in a trip "away" from their home base. Sometimes, just the change is what they need. Other times, it's leaving work or that "empty chair" behind. A little sunshine can warm our souls, so the warmer climates appeal to us and seem to bring an inner cheer. I know I am a "sunshine" person and

can accomplish ten times as much on a sunny day, so I'm sure a sunny vacation would be productive for me. In my early days of bereavement, I found that taking a little photo album like a "grandma's brag book" with me, filled with my favorite pictures of my Peggy and Denis, made it feel as if they were with me. Packing that album in every pocketbook I used, whether the large everyday variety or the tiny evening bag, it was like a pacifier to me. When a friend of mine told me that she dreaded going on vacation "without her daughter along," I suggested she take a little picture album, crammed full of her daughter's snapshots, with her on the trip and she did. When she returned, she called me and happily announced that it had made a difference to her, releasing some of that emptiness she had felt. So take a chance and try something different to help your heart. You might surprise vourself!

Other bereaved friends could not bear to stay home for major holidays and off they flew to far-away vacation spots. That worked for them, getting away from the hoopla of the holidays and the family gatherings that they did not feel strong enough yet to attend. Some of these bereaved families said they found a respite from their grief while "on vacation" but that coming home was the hardest, causing feelings of depression when they returned. So, we all have to find the balance that fits our lives.

It doesn't happen overnight. It's something that requires "trial and error" by us to find the blend that lifts our spirits. Vacations can be a time of "renewal" for us. We all know that we need a vacation "from grief." We just have to figure out what kind of vacation our own heart needs. Good luck!







July refreshments:

Refreshments from July:

Louise & Toby Minner in memory of Douglas Minner Ginny Leigh-Manuel in loving memory of Brian Leigh-Manuell Sharon Basciano in memory of Morgan Basciano Mary Catherine Nederosteck in memory of her son Joshua If you would like to sponsor refreshments or bring some in remembrance of your loved one at a meeting please call Carol Graham at 215-538-3651.

A special thank you to Nancy Eisenhart, Lynette Lampmann, Kelly Logan, Jennifer Pini and Mary Catherine Neiderstock for the Remembrance that you receive. They do this in remembrance of their children/ siblings, daughter, Kelly (Nancy), son, Shawn (Lynette), and brother, Jason (Jennifer), Kelly does it in remembrance of all those who have gone too

soon. An appreciated Thank You to our members for helping to set up and tear down for our meetings, they do this in remembrance of their children and siblings. A special thank you to St. Luke's Hospital for providing us with our meeting rooms each month.

Thank you to Linda Stauffer for doing our newsletter and website. She does this in memory of her daughter Katie. Thank you to, Betty and Charlie Hottenstein, for taking on the monthly task of addressing our monthly newsletters for mailing, they do this in remembrance of their daughter, Tracy..

Thank you for your Love Gifts and Support We the parents and families of the Quakertown Chapter of Compassionate Friends would like to send a special Thank You to the following donors. Without their generosity in giving to a good cause we would not be able to continue reaching out to newly bereaved parents and families with our Outreach packet and newsletters.

Love Gifts:

In memory of Pete Michael Hallinan: 15 years of loneliness without you, but our love is eternal! Love, Mom & Dad

In Memory of Christopher S Ulmer 8-16-89 to 2-27-06

You are near, even if I don't see you. You are with me. Even if far away, you are in my heart, in my thoughts, and in my life always. May you be at peace in the arms of the angels and al of our loved ones.

Happy 28th Birthday Sweetheart, Love Always, Mom, Dad, Jim, Megan, and Sloane

LOVE GIFTS

A Love Gift is a gift of money to The Compassionate Friends. Love Gifts can be in memory of a child or sibling on their birthday or angel day, can honor a friend or relative, or can show support for the work of TCF. Love Gifts are the Chapter's main monetary support. Thank you for your Love Gift.

Love Gifts are tax deductible – Chapter Non-Profit #2053

Circle One: In Memo	ry or In Honor of (name of person)		
Birth Date Death Date (Angel Day) Check One: Please use my gift for Memorial Garden Special Events (i.e. speakers, community outreach) Candle Lighting Program Memorial Walk & Butterfly Release General operating expenses Your Name: Email or Telephone: Address:		Checks payable to: TCF Quakertown Chapter Mail to: PO Box 1013, Quakertown, PA 18951 Love Gift Message:	



Next Meeting August 8



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.