



Serving Upper Bucks and Montgomery Counties

# The Compassionate Friends

Quakertown Chapter March 2022

We are back! March 8 we will have an in-person meeting at the Gathering Place. Come as you are. The meeting starts promptly at 7pm and wraps up around 8:30pm. No food allowed but you may bring your own beverage. Masks are optional. Reminder: the address is 351 W. Broad Street, Quakertown, next to the Rite Aid. For pictures, visit <http://www.tcfquakertownpa.org/meetings.html>. If you have questions, please contact us at 484-408-7314 or [contact@tcfquakertownpa.org](mailto:contact@tcfquakertownpa.org). We are excited to welcome you back and we look forward to supporting you in person. Regards,  
Steering Committee



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: 484-408-7314  
[contact@TCFQuakertownpa.org](mailto:contact@TCFQuakertownpa.org)  
website: [www.tcfquakertownpa.org](http://www.tcfquakertownpa.org)

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

#### 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)

We were put on this earth to love them

for as long as WE live... ○

not for as long as THEY lived.

- Alan Pederson



# Save the Date

The Steering Committee of the Quakertown chapter is pleased to announce that our Memorial Walk & Butterfly Release will be back in 2022. After a 2 year hiatus, we look forward to seeing you. Pre-orders for t-shirts and sweatshirts will open in April. The information will be in the newsletter, on our website, and social media. Questions can be directed to 484-408-7314 or [contact@tcfquakertownpa.org](mailto:contact@tcfquakertownpa.org). We hope to see you in June!



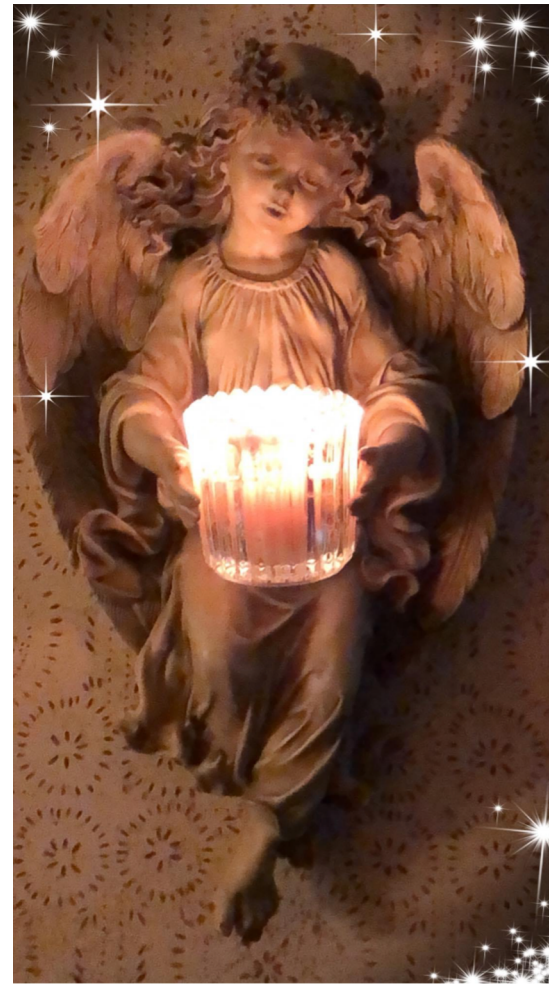
## Memorial Walk & Butterfly Release

**June 11, 2022**

*James Memorial Park  
1079 Ridge Rd, Sellersville, PA*



My name is Michelle Larrabee/Argue. I am organizing the 5th annual Hunter's Birthday Auction online. I am looking to raise money for Quakertown Midget Football Association and Quakertown Youth Baseball Association. Even though we were only apart of these organizations for a short time we immediately felt like it was our home. When Hunter passed they did not skip a beat to help me in the most tragic time.



Hunter passed away in July 2017 at the age of 10 due to a tragic UTV accident during a vacation in Texas. He was flown to the closest Children's Pediatric Unit which was in Shreveport, Louisiana where he became an Organ Donor. Hunter's Birthday Auction was started in March of 2018 to celebrate his 11th Birthday. The first year, 2018, we raised \$2,100. Of that, \$1,600 went to 32 "Honor a Donor Family" packages and \$500 went directly to the Louisiana Organ Procurement Agency's (LOPA). The Second year, 2019, we raised \$3,262 of which \$2,500 of that went to a memorial bench, in Hunter's honor, in LOPA's new memorial park and \$762 was donated directly to LOPA. The Third year, 2020, we raised \$4,239 which went to The Compassionate Friends Quakertown Chapter. Last year, 2021, we raised \$4,365 which went to Home At Last Dog Rescue.

If you would like to join along in the auction please feel free to join Hunter's Birthday Auction on Facebook.



# The Season Of Spring And Grief

For those of us who are grieving, the season of Spring can bring about a lot of deep emotions. Spring is a sign of new things and growth. The flowers are emerging from the ground and the people around you are excited about the upcoming warm weather and enjoying fun with their families. The combination of these things can give the bereaved a strong sense of loss and loneliness.

In our hearts, we are wishing we could share the bright new days ahead with our loved ones. We know that we will miss them when those days finally arrive. It is the dread of what feelings will arise, compounded by the excitement of others, that can throw a person who is grieving into a reclusive state. Easter and Mother's Day can be especially difficult. If these holidays are weighing heavy on your mind, think of a new tradition you can include on those days to honor and remember your loved one, such as planting flowers in their memory.



If you find yourself feeling like you want to be alone and you are not leaving your house, you may be showing signs of depression. Many of us choose to be alone during grief, especially for ones who are in the beginning stages. When the sun is shining, at least take yourself outside for a nice walk. You can even go to a park and walk on a trail or just sit on a bench and read or write in your journal. The sun will be good for you, as well as the fresh air.

We all need the time to process what he have lost and gone through. Be gentle on yourself during this season. Don't hesitate to reach out to others in local or online support groups that can relate to the feelings you are having. Grief counseling can also be of great help during these rough times when we are prone to feeling a stronger sense of loss.

## Special Announcement about Garden Plaques

***Have you been considering a plaque to remember your child, sibling, or grandchild? Now is the time.***

Our chapter broke ground for our memorial garden in April 2017. As we approach the 5 year mark, we continue to accept plaque orders which are then added to the garden wall by summer.

HOWEVER, due to a huge price increase starting March 12th, this is your final chance to order a plaque for \$135. **This is a hard deadline of March 11, 2022 - order and money must be received by that date.**

The order form is [found here](#). On the form, you will have 2 options to pay: send a picture of the check and mail it to be received by March 11 OR bring the check to the meeting on March 8 (meeting at 7-8:30pm at the Gathering Place).

Once you submit the plaque, you will receive emails to confirm/verify the proof. If we do not have your money by March 11th, the plaque will not be ordered.



Sample plaque



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

**3/5 - Jacquelyn Dahms**, daughter of Don & Lorraine Croisette

**3/5 - Genine Leary**, daughter of Jon & Sylvia Holznagel

**3/5 - Leslie Ann Kobzina**, daughter of Randy & Lori Ann Kobzina

**3/11 - George Davish**, son of Sheryle & George Davish

**3/15 - Kristy Bender**, daughter of Kathy & Frank Bender

**3/15 - Donnie Daniels, Jr.**, son of Don & Kelly Daniels

**3/16 - Pat Cornell**, sister of Kathy & Frank Bender

**3/18 - Joseph Cooper**, son of Edith Cooper

**3/18 - Ryan Heimerdinger**, son of Robert & Barbara Heimerdinger

**3/19 - Billy Klinedinst**, son of Michelle Klinedinst

**3/20 - Amber Eisenstein**, daughter of Ben Eisenstein

**3/21 - Chris Trauger**, son of Mary Anne Macko & Mike Hamilton; Jim Trauger; grandson of Dolly Bibic

**3/22 - Ryan McGuinness**, son of Tim McGuinness

**3/26 - Joshua Adair**, grandson of Lois Harner

**3/26 - Hunter Larrabee**, son of Michelle Larrabee & Steve Argue

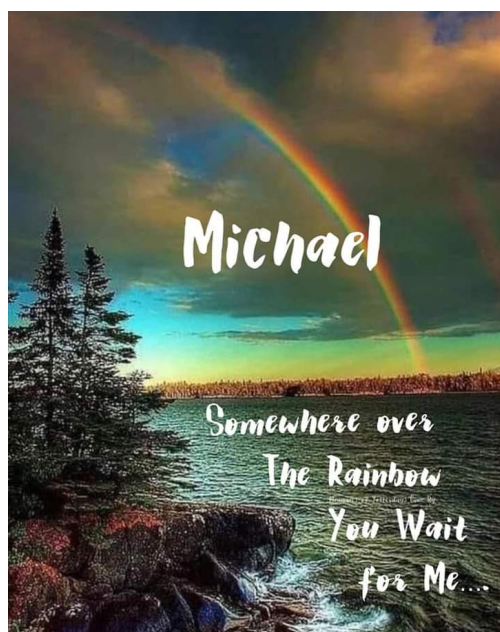
**3/26 - Karisa Kade**, daughter of Kathy & Mike Fluck

**3/28 - Alexis Falcone**, daughter of Dominic & Carolyn Falcone

**3/28 - Jason Heuckeroth**, son of Debbie & Mark Heuckeroth

**3/28 - Eric Hill**, son of David & Susan Hill

**3/31 - Justin Hunter**, brother of Crystal Hunter; son of Pat & Annette Hunter



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

- 3/2 - Jamie Frick Standish**, daughter of Terry Frick  
**3/2 - Patrick Pettie**, son of Doreene Pettie  
**3/4 - Ardyth Cope**, daughter of Carol Cope  
**3/5 - Genine Leary**, daughter of Jon & Sylvia Holznel  
**3/7 - Jamie Stewart**, son of Jim & Beverly Stewart, brother of Sherrie  
**3/8 - Katie Stauffer**, daughter of Carl & Linda Stauffer; sister of Chrissy  
**3/11 - Richard "Drew" Panettieri**, son of Richard & Suzanne Panettieri  
**3/12 - Walter Pettie, Jr.**, son of Doreene Pettie  
**3/12 - Erick McBeth**, son of Marie Fedorowicz  
**3/14 - Marc Falcone**, son Dominic & Carolyn Falcone  
**3/17 - Demetrios "Jimmy" Asprakis**, son of Joan Asprakis  
**3/18 - Christine McGhee**, daughter of Dawn McGhee  
**3/19 - David Curran**, son of Barbara Santaniello  
**3/21 - Tammy Moore**, daughter of Tom & Sandra Moore  
**3/22 - Justin Landis**, son of Amy & David Landis  
**3/23 - Giacomo Maurizio**, son of Bonnie Maurizio  
**3/24 - Jesse Swindell**, son of Ronald & Tina Jackson  
**3/29 - Matt Barber**, son of Noel & Tim Barber  
**3/29 - Rennis Reitz II**, son of Barbara Reitz  
**3/29 - Michael Yothers**, son of Brenda Yothers

## A WISH COME TRUE

If I could have a wish come true,  
A dream that'd come to pass,  
I'd ask to spend a day with you,  
And pray that it would last.

I'd run to you and hold you close,  
We'd laugh and smile again.  
I'd listen so intently,  
As you told me how you've been.

When time was up I'd hold you close  
Not wanting to let you go.  
You'd smile and tell me. 'See you soon'  
And somehow I would know.

That while it's very hard to wait,  
One day the time will come,  
I'll join you there forevermore,  
When I too am called Home.



The smiles that win, the tints that glow, But tell of days in goodness spent, A mind at peace with all below, A heart whose love is innocent!

## 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.

# 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 Patricia & Jim Ulmer, in loving memory of their beloved son, Christopher Ulmer: "You are near, even if I don't see you. You are with me, even if you are far away. You are in my heart, in my thoughts, in my life always...." May you be at peace in the arms of the angels and all of our loved ones.

To Don and Lorraine Croisette, In loving memory of their daughter, Jacquelyn Dahms

To Lisa Dechant, memory of her son, Eddie Ulanowski:

In loving memory on your 10 year angelversary. We will always remember you and keep You in our hearts forever.

Love, Mom, Keith, Heather, Anthony, Ava, Autumn and Gianna

To Jeanne Hofman, Memory of her Son, Scott Silver "Honoring the life of Scott Silver a life so beautifully lived."

*"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 March 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.

