



The Compassionate Friends

Supporting Family After a Child Dies

Serving Upper Bucks and Montgomery Counties

Quakertown Chapter
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Quakertown, PA 18951

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GINNY LEIGH-MANUELL

Treasurer: Mary Ann Kulp

Secretary: Barbara J. Reboratti

Steering Committee:

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MaryAnne Macko

Linda Stauffer

Theresa Sitko

Nancy Eisenhart

Carol Graham

Lynette Lampmann

Remembrance & Thank You

Cards:

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Mary Ann Kulp

Nancy Eisenhart

GINNY LEIGH-MANUELL

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

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.

We talk. We listen. We share. We care.

Our Support Group Meetings are the 2nd 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.



Darlene Kramer Dusza
Jan. 1956 ~ May 2016

Our chapter is deeply saddened and at a profound loss with the death of TCF Quakertown Chapter Leader Darlene Dusza on May 5.

Darlene helped to re-build the Quakertown Chapter after the death of her daughter, Michelle Dusza, in 2001. She was the heart and soul of our chapter. She was our rock. She was our light. She was our sister.

Please be patient as our Steering Committee navigates through the leadership change at the same time we deeply grieve Darlene's death.

Next Meeting June 14th

1 of 8



"Sometimes when one person is missing, the whole world feels depopulated."

~ Alphonse de Lamartine

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 are 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 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 phone 215-536-0173; or email: tcfquakertown@gmail.com

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 notified us you will be removed from the mailing list.

Newsletter submissions:

Submit articles and poetry to the editor by the 15th of the proceeding 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: kt4ever@mac.com





Tony Kulp



Eric Smith

She walks in beauty, like the night
Of cloudless climes and starry skies;
And all that's best of dark and bright
Meet in her aspect and her eyes;
Thus mellowed to that tender light
Which heaven to gaudy day denies.

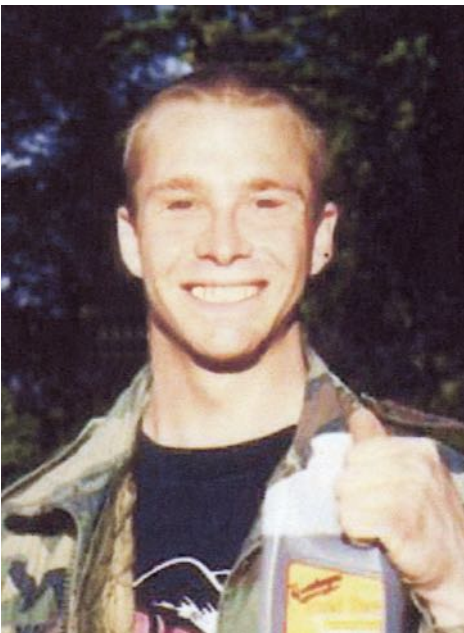
One shade the more, one ray the less,
Had half impaired the nameless grace
Which waves in every raven tress,
Or softly lightens o'er her face;
Where thoughts serenely sweet
express,
How pure, how dear their dwelling-
place.

And on that cheek, and o'er
that brow,
So soft, so calm, yet eloquent,
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!

by Lord Byron
In memory of Katie



Katie Stauffer

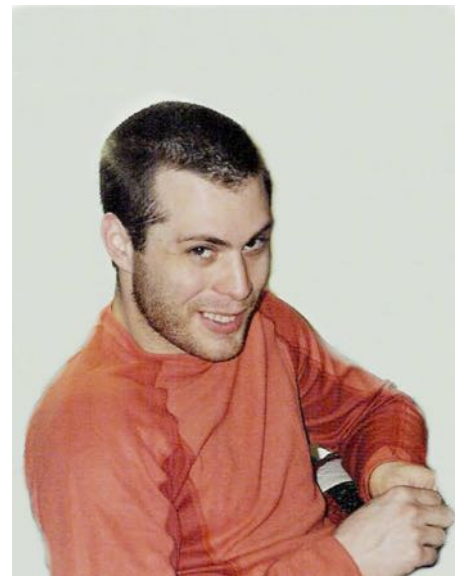


Chris Trauger

Shared in loving memory of my sons
in Spirit, Chris and Matt.

.....even after all this time, the
memory of you & your spirit &
your smile still flood my heart
with light.....the darkness of
the pain is nothing compared to
the colors of you

Lexi Behrndt



Matt Trauger

Love Gifts

Linda & Rich Ervin In Loving Memory of their Son Eric S. Ervin 4/1-----4/8 We will never stop missing & loving you, Mom & Dad

Jim & Helen Geib In Loving Memory of their Son James Gabriel Geib 6/15-----6/22 Remembering & Loving you always

Toby & Louis Minner In Loving Memory of their son Douglas Matthew Minner 7/30-----4/22 We will never forget you, you are always with us.

Rev.D.Craig & Anne Landis In Loving Memory of their son Marc D. Landis 1/4-----11/19

Charles & Betty Hottenstein In Loving Memory of their daughter Tracy Elizabeth Hottenstein 2/18----2/15 Greatly missed & always loved, forever in our hearts ! Mom & Dad

Phil & Arlene Peters In Loving Memory of their daughter Sundai Marie Peters 12/3-----4/24 You are always on our minds & in our prayers.

Susan J. Gilbert In Loving Memory of their son Brandon S. Gilbert 6/24----6/22 You are forever in our hearts. Love, Mom & Skye (sister)

Wayne & Linda Hollabaugh In Loving Memory of their son Richard (Rich) Lee Hollabaugh 12/20-----4/10

Marty & Art Discher In Loving Memory of their son Joe 7/25----5/18

Carol & Al Graham In Loving Memory of their sons Adam 11/19--7/5 Peter 1/10----1/19

May Refreshments List for June Newsletter
Joyce Mann - In Memory of Adrian Pfitzer
Mary Ann Kulp - In Memory of Tony Kulp
Patti Dille - In Memory of Matt Dille.

THANK YOU THANK YOU

Thank you to, Linda Ervin, Nancy Eisenhardt, and Beth Horwin for providing our April refreshments. They do this in *remembrance of their children, Eric (Linda), Kelly (Nancy), Tyler (Beth).* *If you would like to provide refreshments in remembrance of your loved one at a meeting please contact Carol Graham at 215-538-3651.* You may also sponsor refreshments for a meeting for a fee of \$40 or more depending on what you would like and the hospital's catering service will set up and provide the drinks and refreshments for the evening. This can be split between more than one family each month.

A special thank you to Mary Ann Kulp, Nancy Eisenhart, Lynette Lampmann, Ginny Leigh-Manuel I, Kelly Logan and Jennifer Pini for the Remembrance and Thank you cards that you receive. They do this in remembrance of their children/siblings, son, Tony (MaryAnn), daughter, Kelly (Nancy), son, Shawn (Lynette), son, Brian (Ginny), 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, Betty and Charlie Hottenstein, for taking on the monthly task of assembling our monthly newsletters for mailing, they do this in remembrance of their daughter. Tracy Hottenstein.

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.

A Father's Attitude

My son began learning how to be a father when I married my husband. Once it was just the two of us....Todd and me. Then it was the three of us. Todd, John and me. The dynamics shifted, yet they strengthened for each of us. My husband took Todd on special trips...skiing in Colorado, fishing in Canada, deep sea fishing in the Gulf. But he also gave him time. Together they worked on building our new home. Todd learned how to use a hammer, a saw and a screwdriver at the age of 10. John and Todd spent thousands of hours working on cars together and going to car shows.

But most importantly, John taught Todd what a father is. Once, when Todd's son was complaining about how unfair life was, Todd sat back and talked with him. "Some people's glasses are half full, some are half empty, but Buddy, your glass is always bone dry. Why is that?" No answer was forthcoming. So Todd explained to him that it was all in attitude. "Look at your Papa John. Each day he wakes up happy. He doesn't complain. He does what he has to do, and he always has something positive to say to everyone. Life isn't always easy for him. He just makes it look that way. It's an attitude, Bud. You need to learn that life will be tough sometimes. Other times it will be good. Life is how you perceive it. That's one of the most important lessons your Papa John taught me. Think about it."

Now, John and I are facing the fifth Father's Day since Todd died. I always get him a card and let him know that he was a great father whose contribution enriched my son's life very deeply. John gave of himself. He brightened Todd's days, broadened his horizons and tempered his attitude. Todd learned that men do cry, that women need to be told that they are loved and that children are a wonderful gift. So, once again this year, I will thank John for bringing so much dimension and pure love into my beautiful son's life and remind him that little boys become good fathers because of their role models and that life is truly about attitude.

Annette Mennen Baldwin
In memory of my son, Todd Mennen
TCF, Katy, TX



GRADUATION—A TIME TO REMEMBER

I was driving down the road the other day, thinking of how the retail market makes any event an opportunity for revenue. Graduation seems to fall into that category, with cards and gifts for every Graduate. This time of year reminds me that my graduation from high school was a bittersweet time.

Really, it was the first time I had "surpassed" my older brother, David, in anything significant. I turned the age that he was when he died, 18, in the beginning of my senior year of high school. That year was difficult for me, as I felt that I was getting to move past where he had been cut short. Graduation day was no exception. I was happy to be getting out of high school, and looking forward to that coming August when I would go to college. But why was I getting to do these things, and not David? What made me so special that I got to stay here and experience these things? I still am not quite sure of the answer to those questions.

Graduation from high school was really just the first of many events which I have gotten to experience that David never will. College graduation, my wedding, and the birth of my two children are examples. And for me, each event has been a bit bittersweet.

The good news is this: that while time does make it easier to bear day-to-day activities without your sibling, each major event in your life presents itself as a new opportunity to remember your brother or sister, as well. For me, figuring that out was a huge relief, as it meant that my fear of forgetting David was not something I needed to worry about any more. His memory is just as alive for me today, 15-1/2 years later, as it was when I took that walk across the stage to accept my high school diploma.

Amy Baker Ferry
TCF Heart of Florida Chapter
In loving memory of my brother, David

**OUR CHILDREN REMEMBERED FOR MAY Birthdays
and Always**

Ardyth Cope, daughter of Carol Cope, 5/4
Hector Valle, son of Hector Valle, 5/4
Justin Powis, son of Jennifer and William Powis, 5/8
Rebecca Cloud, daughter of Rich & Diane Cloud, 5/11
James Ogden, son of Linda and Patrick Ogden, 5/16
Brian Wensel Jr., son of Brian Wensel Sr, grandson of Leroy and Dawn Wensel, 5/16
Craig Zakeosian, son of Mike and Beth Zakeosian, 5/17
David Trump, son of Laura Trump, 5/18
Mia Rose Monteviodoni, daughter of Kelly and Matt Monteviodoni, grand-daughter of Katherine Monteviodoni, 5/20
Kevin O'Donnell, son of Doris & Steve Yurchak, 5/20
Matt Dille, son of Joe & Patti Dille, 5/22
Adian Bacchus, Grandson of MaryLou Miller, 5/24
Kristy McCoy, daughter of Arlin and Donna Moyer, 5/25
Ryan Kintzly, son of Tammy Devine, 5/26
Rob Tarr, son of Rob & Susan Tarr, 5/27
Eric Santayana, son of Debi and Walt Schimpf, 5/29
Joseph Oglialoro, son of Mike and Betsy Oglialoro, grandson of Rose and Joseph Oglialoro, Gary and Vickie Shoudt, 5/29
Brittani James, daughter of Christine James, Jack & Polly James, 5/31

Our Beloved Children...In our Hearts always... Remembered on the Remembrance Day of their death

Jennifer Wenhold, daughter of Jeff & Wendy Wenhold, 5/4
Nancy Hall, daughter of Charles & Patricia Hall, 5/5
Calvin Gross, son of Karen Gross, 5/8
Colleen O'Connell, daughter of Barbara Keeley, 5/7
Tony Kulp, son of MaryAnn Kulp, 5/7
Brandon Crosby, son of Barry Crosby and Tracy & Mark Ehleben, 5/7
Derick Lawley, brother of Tara Lawley-Bergey, 5/7
Brian Leigh -Manuell, son of Virginia Leigh-Manuell, 5/8

Allison Reboratti, daughter of Barbara and Eduardo Reboratti, sister of Ashley and Elliot, 5/9

Skyler Kauffman, daughter of Heather Gebhard; Eric Kauffman, grand daughter of Pam Gebhard, Carol & Spencer Kauffman, 5/9

Bill Chapman, son of John and Carol Scheetz Sr., 5/10

Anthony Bonino, son of Robert and Susan Bonino, 5/11

James Donnelly Jr., son of James and Alice Donnelly, 5/11

Dawn Meshon, sister of Vicki Moffett & Verdie Winters, 5/11

Bobby Cloud, son of Rich & Diane Cloud, 5/12

Adrian Paul, son of Joyce Mann & Kurt Pfitzer, 5/15

Donna Lee Stichter, daughter of Don and Carol Collis, 5/15

Joseph Jenkins, son of Allison & Dennis Jenkins, 5/15

Jeremy Nase, son of Carol Nase, 5/17

Joe Discher, son of Martha & Art Discher, brother of Wendy Park, 5/18

Kaitlyn Murphy, daughter of Pat Murphy, 5/18

Dan Slaughter, son of Lori Slaughter, 5/20

Michael Rabadl, son of Essam & Anne Rabadl, grandson of Winifred Cristofalo, 5/20

Joseph Cifone III, brother of Dorothy and Garry Neibert, 5/21

Joe Bello Jr., son of Gloria Bello, brother of Sharon Kronmiller & Lisa Devenney, 5/21

Blake Sharp, son of LuAnn and Harry Hebrank, 5/21

Katie Leck, daughter of John and Anita Bardsley, 5/22

Ross Van Houten, son of Brenda Van Houten, 5/22

Matthew Trauger, son of Mary Anne Macko & Mike Hamilton & Jim Trauger, grandson of Dolly Bibic 5/23

Dayna Irwin, daughter of Ken and Patricia Irwin, 5/23

Ryan McMullen, son of Kathleen & John McMullen, 5/24

Trevor Baelz, son of Marsha Leary, 5/25

Andrew Delp, son of Sheryl & Robert Delp, 5/26

Patricia Loughrey, daughter of Desiree Loughrey, 5/27

1st Lt Matthew Gaffney, son of Phillip & Kathleen Gaffney, 5/28

Jonathan Krist, son of Robert and Peggy Krist, grandson of Harold and Joyce Krist, 5/31



Our Children Remembered on their June birthdays and on the Anniversary of their deaths

Birthdays

Destani Osborne, daughter of Sabrina Snyder, granddaughter of Mary Miller, 6/2
Matt Trauger, son of Mary Anne Mack & Mike Hamilton, son of Jim Trauger, grandson of Dolly Bibic, 6/2
Jessica Gallagher, daughter of Ron & Robyn Gallagher, 6/3
Yvonne Basler, daughter of Maria Spires, 6/6
Ashley Nemec, granddaughter of Margo Staats, 6/6
Michelle Dusza, daughter of Steve Dusza & Angel Darlene Dusza, sister of Jenn Geib, 6/7
Christopher Harrison, son of Betty Harrison, 6/7
Adrian Paul Mann, son of Joyce Mann & Kurt Pfitzer, 6/9
Crystal Cordero, daughter of Linda & Rich Ervin, 6/10
James Donnelly, Jr., son of James & Alice Donnelly, 6/10
Christine McGhee, daughter of Dawn McGhee, 6/10
Bobby McCans, son of Dorothy & Charles McCans, 6/11
Wyatt Gansz, infant son of Marc & Melissa Gansz, 6/13
Joey Acker, son of Anne Marie Acker, brother of Jamie Russo, 6/14
Skylar Kauffman, daughter of Heather Gebhard & Eric Kauffman, granddaughter of Pam Gebhard, Carol & Spencer Kauffman, 6/14
James Gabriel Geib, son of Jim & Helen Geib, 6/15 – 6/22
Keith Heckler, son of Emma & Lamar Heckler, 6/15
Courtney Isabella, daughter of Anthony & Michelle Isabella, 6/15
Colleen O'Connell, daughter of Jay & Barbara Keeley, mother of Ashlee, 6/15
Anna Nicole Fowler, daughter of Rita Armstrong, sister of Nick Penecale, granddaughter of Matilda Hamilton, 6/16
Eric Stillings, son of Kirt & Joyce Stillings, grandson of Jon & Miriam Myers, 6/16
Kevin Marc Bannon, son of Jan & Kevin Bannon, brother of Aimee, 6/19
Kathleen Ryan, daughter of Jane Pontes, 6/22
Joseph & Donald Vincente, sons of Christine & Donald Vincente, 6/23
Randy Angstadt, son of Paul & Barbara Angstadt, 6/24
Katie Stauffer, daughter of Carl & Linda Stauffer, sister of Chrissy, 6/24
Brett Stebulis, son of Barbara & Leonard Stebulis, 6/26
CallieMae Derstine, daughter of Lucy & Mike Derstine, 6/27
Peter Angstadt III, son of Peter & Lynette Angstadt, 6/29
Kareem Mitchell, son of Jacquie Mitchell, 6/29
Christian Carrion, son of Ahmed & Maybeth Carrion, 6/30
Gabriel Krotzer, infant son of Steven & Heather Krotzer, 6/30-6/30

Anniversaries

Christopher Bennetsen, son of Catherine & Steven Bennetsen, grandson of Hilda Bennetsen, 6/2
Jake Guzewicz, son of Bill & Rhonda Guzewicz, 6/2
Peter Plant, son of Steven & LouAnn Wilkinson, brother of Rachael, 6/2
Aaron Young, son of Perry & Susan Young, 6/4
Joani Johnson, David & Donna Freeman, 6/9
Scott Naber, son of Anje Naber, 6/10
Anthony Perno, son of Cathy Perno, 6/10
Kevin Cannon, son of Barb Cannon, 6/11
Eric Smith, son of Ross & Mary Smith, brother of Ashley, 6/12
Katey Blasé, daughter of Gail Blasé, sister of Hillary Blase, 6/13
Wyatt Gansz, infant son of Marc & Melissa Gansz, 6/14
Roger Jones, brother of Sara & Bert Jones, 6/14
Scott Smakula, brother Shawn Smakula; grandson of Naomi Shaw, 6/16
Donald Hockenberry, son of Richard & Sharon Hockenberry, brother of Richard & Jill Hockenberry, Susan & Tim Buehrle, 6/17
Benjamin Martin, Kristine Fallows, brother of Rachel Whitely, 6/18
Steven Schrader, son of Michele & Gary Schrader, 6/18
David Bentz III, son of Kimberly Geonnotti, 6/20
Jason Roeder, son of Shirley Roeder, brother of Jessica Youtz 6/21
Joshua Adair, grandson of Lois Harner, 6/22
Paul Fowler, son of Matilda Hamilton, 6/22
James Gabriel Geib, son of Jim & Helen Geib, 6/22
Brandon Gilbert, son of Susan Gilbert, 6/22
Michael Patzuk Jr., son of Mike & Joesphine Patzuk, 6/22
Mario Pontecorro, son of Ellen Pontecorro, 6/22
William R. Wilson, Jr., son of William & Genevieve Wilson, 6/22
Kevin Moran, son of James Moran, 6/23
Ashley Nemec, granddaughter of Margo Staats, 6/23
James Friendly, Jr., son of Petra & James Friendly, Sr., 6/24
Jamie Place, son of Kathleen Place, 6/24
Anthony Lounolo, son of Anthony Lounolo, 6/25
Danielle Mesaros, daughter of Sheila Haub, 6/25
Christopher Parker, son of John Parker, Jr., 6/25
Donald Simpson, son of Judy Kostenbauder, grandson of Harold & Joyce Miller, 6/26
Adian Bacchus, grandson of MaryLou Miller, 6/27
Christopher Trauger, son of Mary Anne Macko & Mike Hamilton, son of Jim Trauger, grandson of Dolly Bibic, 6/27
Glen German, son of Albert & Betty German, 6/28
Victoria Lieb, daughter of MaryJo & Tim Lieb, 6/28
Ashley Doyle, daughter of Brian Doyle, 6/29
Thomas Onraet, son of Ruth & Maurice Onraet, 6/29
Kareem Mitchell, son of Jacquie Mitchell, 6/30
Bradley Rapp, son of Robert Rapp Jr., 6/30



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

Next Meeting June 14



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.