

# THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

P. O. Box 50833 • Nashville, TN 37205 • 615 356-4TCF(4823) • Nashville Website: [www.tcfnashville.org](http://www.tcfnashville.org)  
Lamar and Joy Bradley, Chapter Leaders, 615 889-1387, email: [lbradley1@mindspring.com](mailto:lbradley1@mindspring.com)  
Kris Thompson, Newsletter Editor, 615 480-5038, email: [carsonsmom207@yahoo.com](mailto:carsonsmom207@yahoo.com)  
Jayne Head, Outreach Coordinator, 615 859-2256, email: [alanandgraysonsmom@comcast.net](mailto:alanandgraysonsmom@comcast.net)  
David Gibson, Regional Coordinator, 615 356-1351, email: [davidg14@prodigy.net](mailto:davidg14@prodigy.net)

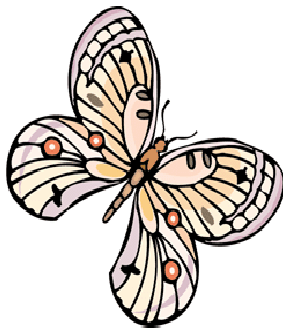


**The mission of The Compassionate Friends is to assist families toward the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child of any age and to provide information to help others be supportive.**

*Welcome: The Nashville chapter meets at 3:00 P.M. on the second Sunday of each month in the HCA building on Park Plaza just north of Centennial Park off of 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue, North. Inside, you will see our sign and someone will greet you. We truly regret that we have no accommodations for young children, but teenagers and older siblings are welcome to attend*

## Dr. Frank Lewis to speak November 11

**We are pleased to announce Dr. Fank Lewis, Pastor of First Baptist Church in downtown Nashville will be our guest speaker this month. Dr Lewis is a bereaved sibling who has previously been associated with The Compassionate Friends in Alabama and in Nevada. Those of us who have heard him in the past have been struck by his warmth and vitality. We have found his understanding of the grief of parents as well as siblings to be right on target. Join us and help welcome him to our meeting.**



## Phone Friends

We have all experienced the pain of losing a child. We understand and would like to listen. If you can't reach one of us, feel free to call another person on this list.

- Accidental Death** .....Mike and Paula Childers  
646-1333
- AIDS**.....Joyce Soward  
754-5210
- Illness**.....David and Peggy Gibson  
356-1351
- Infant**.....Patti Drexler  
834-8892
- SIDS**.....Kris Thompson  
931 486-9088
- Murder/ Suicide**.....Joe Ladd  
361-7996
- Small Child**.....Kenneth and Kathy Hensley  
237-9972

**Attending your first TCF meeting can be difficult. Feelings can be overwhelming. We have all experienced them and know how important it is to take that first step. Please attend two or three meetings before deciding if TCF is right for you. There are no dues or fees. If you choose, you need not speak a word at a meeting. We are an international, non-denominational group, offering support and information to bereaved parents, siblings, and grandparents. We Need Not Walk Alone.**

## BEREAVEMENT RESOURCES

### Survivors of Suicide

There is a caring SOS group in Nashville. For information about meetings and receiving their helpful newsletter, you may call the Crisis Center at 615 244-7444.

### Sharing

Sharing is a community organization interested in helping parents who have experienced a miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn infant. The parent support group meets the second Thursday evening of each month at 7 p.m. in the Administrative Board Room at The Women's Hospital at Centennial Medical Center located at 2221 Murphy Avenue (between 22nd and 23rd Ave).

### Alive Hospice Support Group for Bereaved Parents

The first Thursday of each month, an ongoing support group for bereaved parents meets at Alive Hospice. For details, please call John Baker at 615 963-4674. For general grief (loss of parents, adult siblings, etc.) call 615 963-4732, leave a message and a counselor will return your call.

### Times for TCF Videos

Do you have a question about what you're feeling? This informative thirty-minute program about grief and The Compassionate Friends can be seen on Channel 19 (Community Access Channel) in the Nashville area. Two videos are shown, with a break between them giving information about the Nashville chapter. The program may be seen on Mondays at 2:00 P.M., Tuesdays at 8:30 A.M., Wednesdays at 10:00 A.M., Thursdays at 7:30 A.M. and Fridays at 11:30 A.M. and 5:00 PM



## CHAPTER INFORMATION

### December Candlelight Memorial – An event that you don't want to miss !!

For December's monthly meeting, we invite you to send a photo of your child to be digitally displayed on the big screen in the auditorium of our usual meeting place. This year it will be Sunday, December 9. **See page 7 for important deadline information. PLEASE NOTE THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS FIRM DEADLINE.** Much work goes into the power point presentation, so late entries cannot be accepted. Please submit your photos now!

### The Birthday Table

In the month of your child's birthday, a table will be provided at our meeting where you can share photographs, mementos, your child's favorite snack or a birthday cake, a bouquet of flowers—anything you'd like to bring. We want to know your child better, so please take advantage of this opportunity to celebrate the wonderful day of your child's birth and for us to become better acquainted.

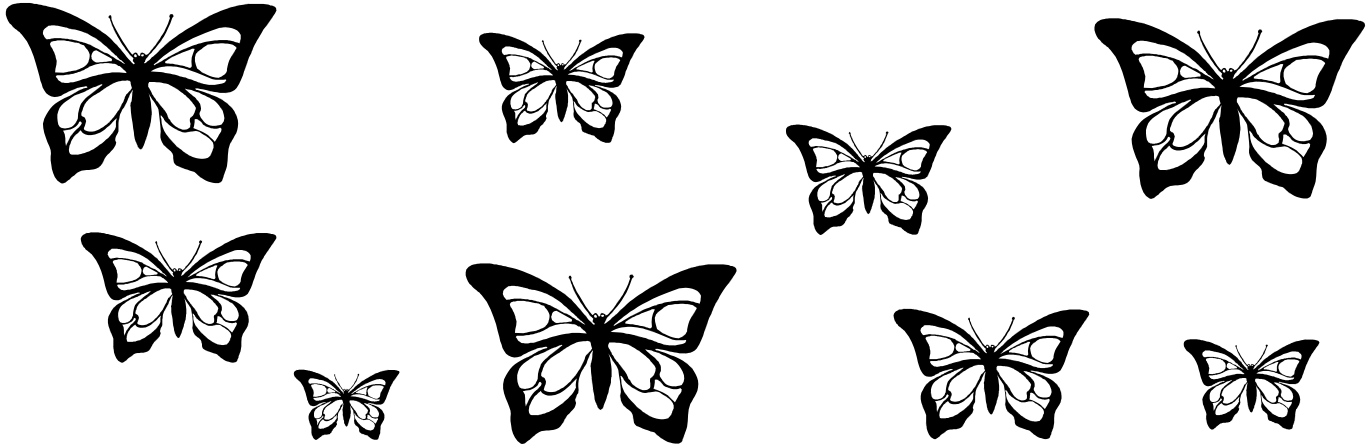
### The "Let Us Remember Them" Listings

At your first TCF meeting you are asked to sign a registration card that gives us permission to add your child to the "Let Us Remember Them" list on page 3 in the monthly newsletter. If you have not been able to attend TCF meetings and would like for your child to be listed, please let us know, printing the exact way you'd like your child's name to appear, the child's birth and death dates, and the parents' names as they should be listed. You may drop us a note at TCF, P.O. Box 50833, Nashville, TN 37205, or email us at [tcf@tcfnashville.org](mailto:tcf@tcfnashville.org). We'll be glad to include your child's name. You need notify us only one time.

### Newsletter and Donations Deadlines

Remember that all newsletter submissions and monetary donations need to be received no later than the day AFTER the monthly meeting. Any suggestions for improving the newsletter are always welcome.

**NOTE:** TCF Nashville Newsletters are now available on our chapter website. <http://www.tcfnashville.org>



## Gifts of Love and Remembrance

The following voluntary donations will help The Compassionate Friends to be here for the families who do not know today that they will need us tomorrow. Thank you.

*Ray and Linda Black  
In loving memory of their son  
Christopher William Black*

*John and Georgia Warren  
In loving memory of their son  
James Donald Warren (Donnie)*

*Mickey and WinFred Morie  
In loving memory of their daughter  
Tina Morie Roberts*

*Jim and Wilma Crosby  
In loving memory of their son  
Michael Douglas Crosby*

*Brian and Teresa Knoop  
In loving memory of their son  
Christopher William Knoop*

*Oddie Bryant Jones  
In loving memory of her son  
James (Jay) Jones, Jr.*

*Randall and Susanna Vaughn  
In loving memory of their daughter  
Michele Vaughn Olson*

*Joyce Soward  
In loving memory of her son  
Andy Ross*

*Bob and Jane Austin  
In loving memory of their daughter  
Kathy Austin*

*Noah and Alicia Daniel  
In loving memory of their daughter  
Maria Rose Daniel*

*Ann G Harris  
In loving memory of  
Paige Gibson  
Daughter of  
David and Peggy Gibson*



### *Searching*

*Once again my list has vanished.  
It was here but now it's missing.*

*Keys and glasses disappearing,  
Books and letters overdue.  
I'm forever searching, searching.  
They must be here, I need them!*

*Could it be that what is missing,  
What I want this very minute,  
Could it be that what I'm really searching for,  
my child, is you?*

Joyce Andrews  
TCF Sugarland, TX

*Bryan Houstrup and Joe Philpott at Allegra Printing & Imaging, 601 Grassmere Park, donate the printing, collating and stapling of this newsletter each month as a gift to the families of TCF. We are very grateful. Also, a special thank you to Deanna Brown and her family who label, sort and mail the newsletter in loving memory of their son, Marcus Dean Brown. We appreciate all of your generosity.*

Remember, the deadline for participation in the Candlelight Memorial Service is Saturday, November 24. Everyone wishing to take part must return the form. Send a photo only if you want to change it or if we do not already have one. See page 7 for further details. Siblings, family, and friends are invited to this event.

## Working in My Son's Yard

Can't call you on your cell phone,  
Although I would really love to.  
You see, my sons have moved out of the area,  
And it wouldn't get through.

Can't make you boys a cheeseburger,  
Taco or red velvet cake,  
Because you aren't hungry anymore.

Can't hear you say I love you, Mom  
Even though I know you do.

I can go work in your yard today,  
And make it pretty for fall.  
And while I work, I'll think of  
All the memories that you and I have made.

And I will think of the better place  
That you talked about before you had to go.  
And for now, I will keep working  
In the graveyard where you lie  
Until I can go and be with you.

All my love to my boys today,  
Donnie Fleet and Robby Dotson  
Always your "Mom."

Ruby M Dotson  
TCF Nashville, TN

Dedicated to Gerald and Vicky Donegan in loving memory of their  
son, Clinton W Donegan

## A Season of Many Feelings

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

Cindy Schake  
TCF Butler, PA

## Giving Thanks

I cannot hold your hands today,  
I cannot see your smile.  
I cannot hear your voices now,  
My children, who are gone.

But I recall your faces still,  
The songs, the talks, the sighs.  
And story times and winter walks,  
And sharing secret things.

I know you helped my mind to live  
Beyond your time with me.  
You gave me clearer eyes to see,  
You gave me finer ears to hear,  
What living means, what dying means,  
My children who are gone.

So here it is, Thanksgiving Day,  
And you are not with me.  
And while I weep a mother's tears,  
I thank you for the gifts you were,  
And all the gifts you gave to me,  
My children who are gone.

Sascha Wagner  
TCF MO-KAN Region

## Butterfly, Butterfly

Butterfly, butterfly  
Set my child's soul free.  
Float, flutter and fly,  
Cast down some hope to me.

Butterfly, butterfly  
Don't fly far, come back to me.  
Float around me always,  
I need you, can't you see.

Butterfly, butterfly  
Soon we'll be together again.  
We'll float, flutter and fly  
Together forever in the wind.

Barbara Embry  
TCF Louisville, KY

## Holiday Gifts For Children Needed

Each year, our chapter donates holiday gifts to children at a worthy establishment that works with the needs of children who are not living at home and are under care for the holidays. Since things went so well with Youth Villages last year, it has been decided to provide gifts to them again this year. The children range in age from 6 to 18. For many of these children, these will be the only gifts they receive this holiday season.

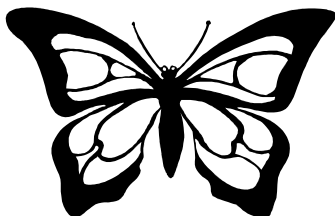
If you would like to donate this year, you may participate by bringing **UNWRAPPED gifts** to the TCF Memorial Service on Sunday, December 9. Below is a list of most requested items.

CD Players  
 Gameboy games (teen rated)  
 Playstation games (teen rated)  
 Costume Jewelry (like that found in the malls at Claire's)  
 Remote control cars and planes  
 Girly things like journals, gel pens and scrapbooking items  
 Model cars or trucks  
 Gift cards for the malls (like Hickory Hollow or Rivergate)  
 Board Games  
 Baby and Barbie dolls and accessories  
 Lego sets  
 Disney movies (DVD and VHS)  
 Watches (girls and boys)  
 Gift cards for Best Buy and Circuit City

Stocking stuffers requested:

Matchbox cars  
 Small notepads  
 Pens and pencils  
 Candy  
 Jewelry  
 Hygeine products  
 Billfolds/wallets  
 Cute little change purses for girls  
 Makeup items  
 Socks  
 Gift cards to McDonalds or Burger King

**Once Again, please note these items may be brought in gift bags with tissue paper, but DO NOT WRAP the gifts. Youth Villages staff does the wrapping as it helps them to more evenly distribute the donated items.**



## Candles In The Night

*Candles flame in darkness,  
 Flicker, steadily glow,  
 Bringing light from shadows  
 And help to soothe me so.*

*Mydaughter, like the candles,  
 Gave my life true light,  
 I use the candle's beacon  
 To connect us in the night.*

*As I light the candles,  
 My wish and my request  
 Is that she'll see my signal  
 And know my love's expressed.*

*As her light joins my lights,  
 Our worlds touch and flame.  
 As I snuff out the candles,  
 I softly say her name.*

Anonymous

Anonymously submitted in the November 2006 issue of  
 The Guild for Infant Survival Orange County Newsletter

## Our Act Of Love

*Grief over the death of a child is the hardest work that Most of us will ever do. While we all wish for the pain to stop, we need to remember that we grieve intensely because we loved so intensely. It is unrealistic to expect the grief to ever totally go away because the love we have for our child will never go away. Our grief is an act of love and it is nothing for which we should be ashamed.*

Elaine Grier  
 TCF Atlanta, GA

## Detour of the month—Thanksgiving

Well, here it is, detour time again! And just when you were about to head back to the main road after Halloween. Some out there think of the four months of October, November, December and January as the holiday season. But we know better, don't we? We know they are really the detour season, and I don't have to tell you why, do I?

About this time last year, I had a really good laugh when a member of the Atlanta Chapter sent me a letter telling me, among other things, that she, her husband and two young boys were heading for Florida over Thanksgiving. "We are not," she said, "going to sit around a turkey and pretend to be thankful!"

Now that "ain't" no bad idea if you can't stand the thought of observing the day in a traditional manner. Do whatever it is you need to do this year if Thanksgiving is a problem, for your needs are paramount right now. I am happy to report that I look forward to our traditional day now. There was a time when I did not. I hope you will soon reach that place. I want to assure you that nowhere is it carved in stone that you must sit around a turkey pretending. (Be kind to yourself, you need it!)

Mary Cleckley  
TCF Atlanta,GA

## CANDLELIGHT MEMORIAL SERVICE—December 9, 2007

**R**egardless of past participation, every family wishing to take part in the memorial service MUST return this form. We need to receive it no later than Saturday, November 24, 2007. Do not send photos to the TCF P.O. box—they might get bent or damaged.

**Mail to:**

**Steve & Paige Czirr  
1623 Fair House Road  
Spring Hill, TN 37174**

**Instructions:** A new computerized process (Power Point) is being used to display our children's pictures on the big screen. Either a slide, or an original 5"x7" photo (no copies, please) may be used. (If a 5"x7" is not available, any size will do; however, the 5"x7" or larger is easier to process.) The original photo will be returned to you at the memorial service while the image will be stored for use next year. **Place a sticky note on the back of the photo with the child's name clearly printed. Do not write on the photo itself.**

**Child's name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please print the name as you wish it to be read at the service along with phonetic pronunciation, if needed.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will attend and am enclosing a slide or original photo of my child. (First time in the memorial service.)

\_\_\_\_\_ I will attend and am enclosing a photo or different slide of my child to be used in place of the slide you have from last year's service.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will attend and would like for you to use the slide you have from last year.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will attend and would like for my child's name to be called and I'll light a candle, but I will not have a picture shown.

Your name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## A Compassionate Friends Promise

**Y**ou will not read a lot of “Happy Thanksgiving,” or “Merry Christmas,” or “Happy New Year,” in these pages. We understand, all too well, how these phrases can be as hurtful as they are common. You will read in every line (we hope) an affirmation of hope and struggle toward a tomorrow in which each of us can cope, where we can learn to feel the touch of joy our departed children gave to us all.

Most of all, we hope that this newsletter says to you: “Take heart and have courage. Though the days be long and full of trial, **you are not alone.**” We are here, to be your friend, for just a while or for as long as you need us. We have walked your road and fear the shadows too. And, like you, we strive not to be alone. Through The Compassionate Friends, we all can be helped by a friend. We can know that in spite of all the pain and hurt, companionship and love still exist in the world.

Don Hackett  
TCF Hingham, MA