



The Compassionate Friends Brevard Chapter

A self-help organization offering friendship and understanding to bereaved parents

TCF Brevard Chapter Web Site

www.tcfobrevardnc.org/tcf/home.htm

TCF Brevard Newsletter

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While compiling the list of sunrises and sunsets for this month, I was taken back by so many names on the list. Ten of our children were born in May and five experienced the sunset of their lives. Facing a holiday the same month of our child's birth or death, just makes it harder to cope. It is these times that our chapter members need compassion and understanding from one another. There is no one that understands this journey like another bereaved parent and there is no one that feels the pain of facing Mother's Day, like another mother that has lost a child. Call a chapter member if you need to talk. It is hard to get around the pain, but you know the path that took you down the road with your child from the beginning, was worth the walk.

Monthly Meeting

*Always the 2nd Monday of
the month*
May 9, 2010

7:00 PM at the

**The Lutheran Church of
the Good Shepherd**

22 Fisher Rd. Brevard

**This Month's Topic
Mother's Day**

Poems

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Shining Star

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TCF 34th National Conference

July 15-17

St. Paul/Minneapolis, Minnesota

TCF national conferences are something hard to explain for parents that have attended. It is two days of healing, tears, love, compassion and yes; smiles and laughter. If you can not attend but would like your child's name carried during the massive Walk To Remember, or you want to order a picture of your child as a Shining Star, visit the National website. Caroline and Stephanie Anne Smith plan to attend the conference and will bring any Shining Star pictures back with them to avoid postage. Contact Caroline at: caroline.smith@mtnwaves.net See page 3 for more details.

National TCF Office PO Box 3696 Oakbrook, IL 60522-0246

Toll Free: (877) 969-0010 Fax: (630)-990-0246 nationaloffice@compassionatefriends.org

www.compassionatefriends.org

Norman Rockwell Never Painted Me

At this time of year it always seems that I see families of others' dreams. Everywhere I look and every ad I see, shows the joyful reunions of a family.

With the table laden, good times abound. While families reunited, gather round- But Rockwell never painted an empty chair and a family mourning the one who's not there.

A season that once was celebrated now makes us feel more isolated. I need TCF so I can see that there are others just like me— whose feelings about holidays are mixed at best- whose strengths of will are put to the test. We're loving those that we still hold near- but thoughts of one out of reach bring a tear.

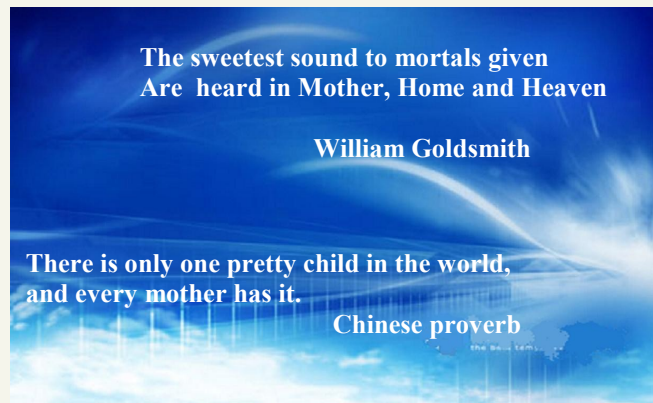
Even now, amidst the love and gladness this time of year brings a certain sadness. I no longer have the 'average' family- So that is why Rockwell never painted me.

Kathy Hahn, TCF Lower Bucks County, PA



To Our TCF Moms

Have a blessed and peaceful day this coming Mother's Day.



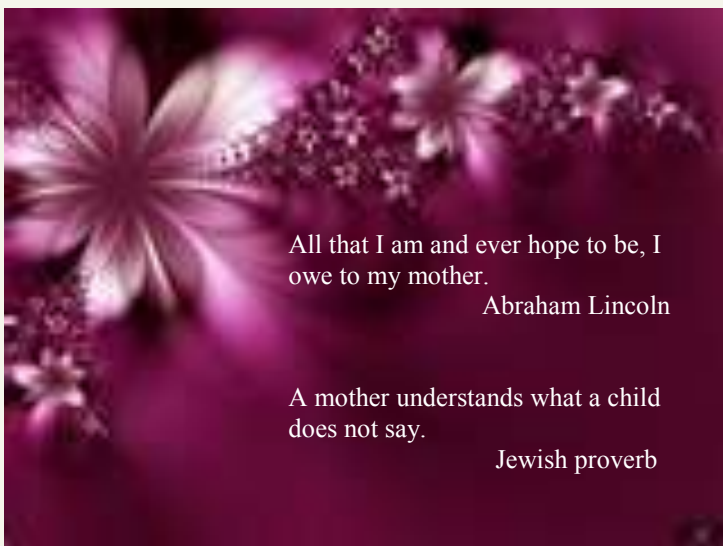
The sweetest sound to mortals given
Are heard in Mother, Home and Heaven

William Goldsmith

There is only one pretty child in the world,
and every mother has it.

Chinese proverb

The heart of a mother is a deep abyss at the bottom of which you will always find forgiveness. Honore' de Balzac



All that I am and ever hope to be, I owe to my mother.

Abraham Lincoln

A mother understands what a child does not say.

Jewish proverb

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.

A true friend is someone who sees the pain in your eyes while everyone else believes the smile on your face ~

Tyrese Gibson

Compassionate Friends: A Safe Place to Talk



There is a need to talk, without trying to give reasons. No reason is going to be acceptable when you hurt so much. A hug, the touch of a hand, expressions of concern, a willing listener was and still is the things that helped the most. The people who were the greatest help were not judgmental. It's most helpful when people understand that what is needed is to talk about it and that this is part of the grief process.

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!"



Smile



NEWS CORNER



The minimum donation for each picture submitted remains \$10 again this year. If you cannot attend the conference and would like the picture frame sent to you, then an additional \$5 donation. The conference logo, reflecting the theme "**Shining Stars, Guiding Hope**" is a depiction of one of Minnesota's "10,000 lakes" outlined by a serenely beautiful north woods scene. A flock of butterflies seems to vanish into the horizon where they meld into glistening stars shining in the heavens. We look at our children as shining stars who remain for us beacons of light and hope in the darkness. A rectangular version of the logo is the basis for the Star of Hope and includes silhouetted pine trees, gleaming stars, and a single butterfly where the child's picture will be inserted with his or her name. That logo insert with picture will be artistically framed by a 4"X6" silver, vertical wire star-frame ornament with an attached ribbon for hanging. These will be displayed at the conference in a special area is requested to cover postage and handling

National TCF Conference July 15-17th
 Minneapolis/St Paul Minnesota

To order your picture go to the National website at:
<http://www.compassionatefriends.org>
 Click Events at the top of the page.

Taken from the National TCF website



OUR CHILDREN

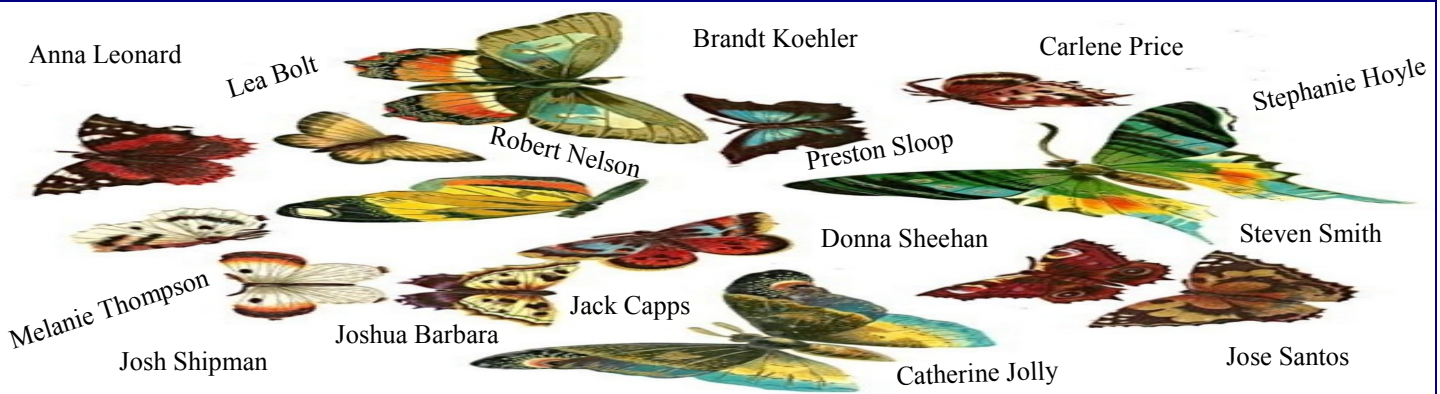
Sunrise and Sunset Dates

May



*Love that can not be quenched
Our beautiful children forever remembered*

Children	Sunrise	Sunset
Anna Marie Leonard	May 13	
Brandt Michael Koehler	May 10	
Carlene Price	May 31	
Catherine Good Jolley	May 10	
Donna Sheehan	May 4	
Jack Lloyd Capps	May 5	
Jose Luis Santos	May 15	
Josh Glen Shipman		May 19
Joshua Augustino Barbara		May 5
Lea Lisa Bolt		May 15
Melanie Brooke Thompson	May 1	
Preston Thomas Sloop	May 6	May 10
Robert Eric Nelson		May 11
Stephanie Dawn Hoyle	May 24	
Steven Gerard Smith	May 14	

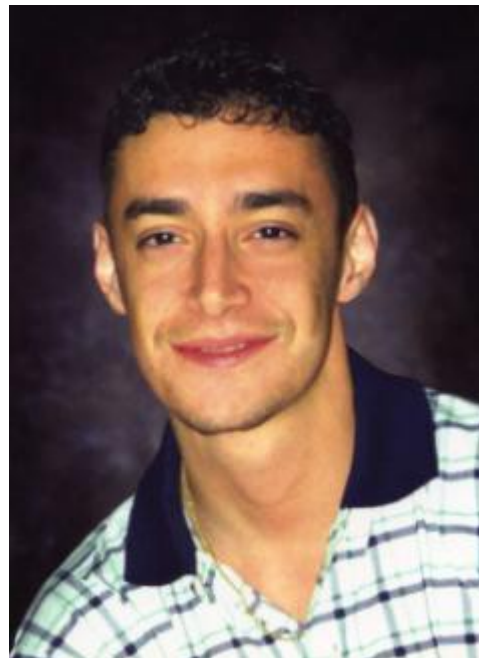


Birthday Table

Every month at our chapter meeting, we provide a Birthday Table. In the month of your child's birthday, if you are ready to do so, please bring pictures and small mementos of your child to place on the table. You may also bring a favorite cake, cookies, or other snacks, flowers, candles or balloons for the table in memory of your child. We do this to celebrate our children's lives and to share their special day with others who understand.

If you would like your child's picture to appear on this remembrance page or if you have a memorial you want printed, please send me an email at emprop2001@yahoo.com with their picture as an attachment in a jpeg or bmp. format.

Happy Birthday in Heaven Jose



Birthdays come and birthdays go,
I'm sure that something you all know.
But today's a special day for me, Bill and
everyone in our family.
On May 15th Jose would have been 39 years old.
Nine birthdays have come and gone,
No celebrations, no birthday song.
In our hearts you will always live,
All our love to you we give.
So to you my precious and loving son, in Heaven above,
Happy Birthday, filled with all our love.
Wishing you were here.
Hugs and kisses
Marisol – forever your Mom and Bill

Tributes to Our Children

A Mother's Day Message by Rice Hoyle RN
Mother of Stephanie Dawn Hoyle and Matthew Hawkins, forever

Motherhood A Gift

We all have mothers day ahead, but not for the moments of sorrow, but for the moments of joy we had with our children and loved ones that passed on. God, will always be there, send us Angels, give us hope , and a promise of having our children forever one day. For Mother's Day. I pray for sunshine , rainbows, butterflies and happiness for all of us as well as other mothers who have lost their children. God gave us all something special (Motherhood), Who would we be otherwise? May God Bless everyone.



Brandt Koehler

Sunrise May 10

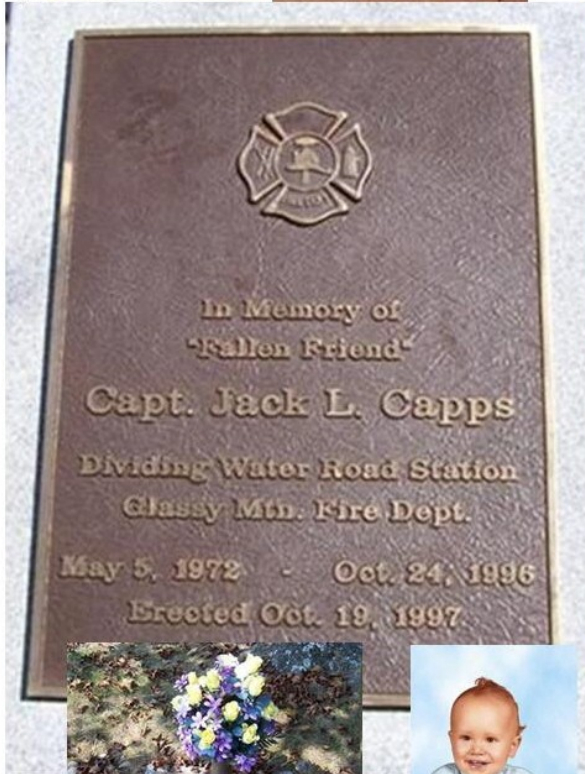
Son of Sharon Palan

Tributes to Our Children

Jackson Lloyd Capps ;

May 5, 1972-Oct 24, 1996

Died while answering a fire call at the age of 24, on Oct 24th



Love Gifts – A Way to Remember

There are no dues to belong to the Compassionate Friends, because we have already paid the ultimate price; the loss of our loved one(s). A **Love Gift** is a gift of money given in Honor of a child who has died from their family members or as a Memorial from friends. Your gifts are tax deductible and are used to reach out to other bereaved parents, grandparents, and siblings. Your gifts support this newsletter, our TCF Library, Brochures and other Chapter Expenses.

In Memory of:

From:

**TCF of Brevard
PO Box 304
Brevard, NC 28712**



*You are not forgotten my child.
I see you in the creases of my mind and I
feel you in the chambers of my heart.*

VVA



The Compassionate Friends of Brevard
PO Box 304
Brevard, NC 28712

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

May 2011 Newsletter



Our 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. ©2007