



THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS Of Brevard Chapter Newsletter



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

Volume 4 Issue 2

February, 2009

Brevard Chapter Web Site

www.tcfobrevardnc.org/tcf/home.htm

TCF Brevard Newsletter

PO Box 304

Brevard, NC 28712

Editor: Marisol Gollnick 828-890-8227

mgollnic@gte.net

Chapter Leaders

Caroline and Steve Smith

Caroline.smith@mtnwaves.net

770-924-3389 (Home in Atlanta)

828-862-3389 (Home in Brevard)

770-335-4343 (Cell)

Co-Chapter Leaders

Marisol and Bill Gollnick

828-890-8227 (Home)

828-329-9783 (Cell)

mgollnic@gte.net

Steering Committee

Vickie Van Antwerp

828-877-5172 (Home)

emprop2001@yahoo.com

Sharon Palan

828-877-4008 (Home)

riversek@aol.com

Joan O'Hara

828-883-8399 (Home)

merlinsterling@yahoo.com

National TCF Office (Oakbrook, IL)

Toll Free (877) 969-0010

www.compassionatefriends.org

Monthly Meeting

*Always the **second Monday** of the month.*

February 9, 2009

Program: Tribute of Love to Our Children

Meeting Time & Location:

7:00 PM

The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

22 Fisher Road, Brevard, NC

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!"

TCF of Brevard Chapter News

Hello Everyone!

Hope everyone is doing well. February is the month of hearts and Vickie – Greg's mom has put together a great way of celebrating our love to our children. Below is a description of what she has put together.

There are several parents that have music tapes, poems or have written the same for their children and are willing to share them with the rest of us. We will get to hear the beautiful music of Belinda Bach and Michael O'Hara. Joan will share a poem she wrote for Michael and hopefully, JD Bolt will join us with a song he wrote for his daughter. This is a chance for anyone to share something from their children that will lift us up from the dark places we have been and remember them as they were.

If you have a poem, a song, a drawing or anything that your child made or wrote, or maybe something that you did for them, please bring it to the next meeting and share your child with us. We would like to get to know them because each and everyone of our children are special.

Hope to see you there. If there happens to be any kind of inclement weather, we will postpone the meeting, and try to notify everyone as soon as possible by e-mail or phone call. We want everyone to be safe.

Have a great weekend. God Bless you all.

Hugs and Blessings,
Marisol-always Jose's mom

TCF Information Package

If you would like to send an information package explaining TCF to someone you think would benefit, (either for themselves or others), please let me know. I have a package of information put together, which I can send. I will need their name, phone number and the full address of the person you would like for me to send a TCF Information Package.

2009 National Conference Information Announced

Two speakers have been announced for the 2009 TCF National Conference in Portland August 7-9, 2009. Plus, early reservation for those wishing to stay at the Doubletree Hotel Portland, site of the 32nd national TCF conference, is now open.

Speaking at the conference will be Reg and Maggie Green and Michele Longo Eder. Reg and Maggie are the parents of Nicholas Green, the seven-year-old American boy who was shot by highway bandits in Italy in 1994. Their decision to donate his organs to seven Italians became a major news story around the world, spawning thousands of organ donations in Italy (a country where organ donations were virtually unheard of before Nicholas' death) and around the world. This remarkable story was made into a CBS movie of the week called *The Nicholas Effect*.

Michele Longo Eder is author of *Salt in our Blood—The memoir of a Fisherman's Wife*. Michele, an accomplished lawyer, started journaling what daily life was like for her while her husband and sons were commercial fishing off the coasts of Oregon, Washington, and northern California. Never did she dream that her journaling would include the account of a personal tragedy that struck just before Christmas 2001.

Reservations for those attending TCF's national conference are now being accepted by the Doubletree Hotel Portland where the conference will be held. TCF has negotiated for a large block of rooms at a special price for those attending the conference. Rate is \$129 per room per night in several different configurations.

As always, we suggest that you make reservations early to avoid disappointment. They may be reserved online at the national conference page at www.compassionatefriends.org. You may also call the Doubletree Hotel at 1-503-281-6111 and receive the negotiated price, but you must identify yourself as attending The Compassionate Friends National Conference. The rooms are available at this special rate for those staying the nights of August 5-August 9. Last day for reservations, if rooms are still available, will be July 4.



If you would like to have an article, poem, etc printed in our newsletter, please mail to TCF-Brevard, PO Box 304, Brevard, NC 28712 OR e-mail to:

mgollnic@gte.net by the 25th of the month prior to the next newsletter's release.

(Please be sure to put "newsletter" or "TCF" in the subject line.)

Valentine Message

I send this message to my child
Who no longer walks this plane,
A message filled with love
Yet also filled with pain.
My heart continues to skip a beat
When I ponder your early death
As I think of times we'll never share
I must stop to catch my breath.
Valentine's Day is for those who love
And for those who receive love, too
For a parent the perfect love in life
Is the love I've given you.
I'm thinking of you this day, my child,
With a sadness that is unspoken
As I mark another Valentine's Day
With a heart that is forever broken.

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



A Valentine to My Child

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 eyes to see,
And ears to hear,
And lips to speak...
I will love you.
As long as I have a heart to feel,
As 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 a breath,
To speak your name...
I will love you.
Because I love you more than
anything in all the world.

- Daniel Houghton

The **February** Newsletter is dedicated to the memory of all our children...

Gone too soon...But never forgotten.



We Remember their **Birthday** and their **Angel** Dates.



On the advice of the TCF national office, we are only including the month and date – not year – of birthdays and angel dates.

| <u>Child's Name</u> | <u>Birthday</u> | <u>Angel Date</u> | <u>Relationship</u> | <u>Family</u> |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|--|
| Keith James Nelson | | 02/01 | Son | Francine Manion |
| Rodney Harold Skogen | | 02/05 | Son | Barbara Skogen |
| | | | | Sibling of: Carol and Suzanne Skogen |
| Stephen Joseph Macleod | 02/10 | | Son | Mary Ellen Macleod |
| Melanie Brooke Thompson | | 02/15 | Daughter | Kathy Thompson |
| Amy Beth Nye Harris | | 02/22 | Daughter | Helen Nye |

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.



*Love is the greatest
Light of all.*

Darcie Sims



THE SEASON OF THE HEART

This is the Season of the Heart!

Yet, many of us will be asking how to live during this Season with a heart that is broken.

Just what is it that our hearts know during these days?

What are the feelings that pulsate and ebb and flow?

Is it—

...the Heart that catches its breath on a memory and is overwhelmed?

...the Heart where hope seems absent?

...the Heart that feels it absolutely cannot hold one more ounce of pain?

...the Heart that knows the fleeting smile of a loved one?

...the Heart that catches a fragment of joy and is warmed?

...the Heart that knows pain, and keeps on loving?

...the Heart that is tempted to lie still and lonely?

...the Heart that searches for the acceptance of a friend?

Questions arise!

Why is a heart red and why does it have two lobes?

A response might be—

... a Heart is so vulnerable; so easily bloodied.

... a Heart consists of opposites; changed by sorrow and by joy.

... a Heart, when whole, includes all emotions.

... a Heart can lie cold and sad and broken.

... a Heart can grow and heal and love...

We EACH have our choices to make!

- Mary Andrews, TCF/So. Maryland



February

Let this cool and gentle month of the

heart

Remind you not of lost treasure

but also of riches

Past and present in your life.

Sascha

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



We acknowledge the following Love Gifts with sincere gratitude and deep appreciation:



A donation has been made by Vickie and Larry Van Antwerp
In Memory of Craig Lawrence Van Antwerp

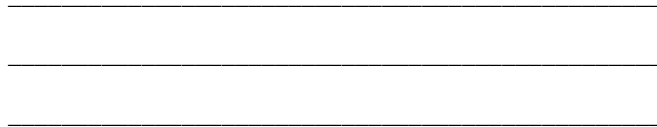




The Compassionate Friends of Brevard
PO Box 304
Brevard, NC 28712

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

February 2009 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