



THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS Of Brevard Chapter Newsletter

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

Volume 5 Issue 2

February, 2010

Brevard Chapter Web Site

www.tcfobrevardnc.org/tcf/home.htm

TCF Brevard Newsletter

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Monthly Meeting

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

February 8, 2010

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. WHERE IS SUMMER? I don't know about you, but I am ready for some warm days.

I pray everyone has managed to stay safe from the snow and ice. Unlike myself who fell in the storm before Christmas and fractured my left wrist. I will be going this Friday the 8th, to see if I will get this cast finally off.

February is the month of hearts, and we would like to celebrate our love to our children. 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 at the meeting. 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



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.)



Greetings! From TCF National

"Reflections of Love, Visions of Hope" is the theme of The Compassionate Friends 33rd National Conference

The holiday season is over and that means it's time to make plans to attend The Compassionate Friends 33rd National Conference coming up July 2-4 in Arlington, Virginia.

As with all TCF national conferences, the local conference committee and the National Office are working together to make this a place where "friendship, understanding, and hope" are more than just words. Details are being arranged with top flight keynoters and entertainers. There will be more than 100 workshops covering many areas of grief for bereaved parents, siblings, and grandparents. You'll find a hospitality room, reflection room, butterfly boutique, and a completely stocked bookstore, as well as memory boards. Saturday evening's banquet will end with a candle lighting and the final day of the conference will feature TCF's eleventh annual Walk to Remember.

If you are newly bereaved, you will not be alone as close to a third of those attending each conference became bereaved during the previous two years. Hotel reservations are now being accepted. Please visit the link below for further information:

http://www.compassionatefriends.org/News_Events/TCF_National_Conferences.aspx

Please note: 1/2 day deposit required for each room reserved. Deposit will be refunded if reservation cancelled before 24 hours of arrival.

The Legend of the Valentine ~

The legend says St. Valentine
was in a prison cell
thinking of his flock
he had always loved so well
And, wanting to assure them
of his friendship and his love
he picked a bunch of violets
and sent them by a dove
And on the violet's velvet leaves
he pierced these lines divine
That simply said, "I love you"
And I'm your Valentine'....

So through the years that followed, from that day unto this, folks still send messages of love and seal them with a kiss...Because of a saint in prison.

IT IS A TIME FOR LOVE

By Margaret Gerner
BP/USA St. Louis, MO



February has fewer days than most months and that is may be of special significance to us, as our children had fewer days than most. When we think of this month, the most outstanding day, perhaps, is St. Valentine's Day. It is a time for love. When we were school aged, we had a special chance to give and receive cards in those decorated boxes in our primary classrooms. Perhaps it is the one holiday that children can really do something for everyone. Addressing a card to each and every classmate made you think of how you felt about each one and wonder about how they felt about you.

Love is found in every day of every year, but February and Valentine's Day is very special. I wish I could remember just how it felt to get a "nicer" Valentine from someone I had sent a "nicer" one to. It is so long ago, and there have been so many much more significant happenings in my life. But sometimes I'd like to remember just how it felt. I am sending along this Valentine Love Note to each of you right now and hope that you know it is one of the "nicer" ones. Because each of you is very special to me. Somehow I don't wonder how you feel; somehow I know.

As we grieve the loss of our children and one another's, we begin to find a different kind of love that we never expected to experience.

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 to: Carol and Suzanne Skogen
Stephen Joseph Macleod	02/10		Son	Mary Ellen Macleod
Melanie Brooke Thompson		02/15	Daughter	Kathy Thompson
Erika N. Mitchell		02/21	Daughter	Gabrielle Mitchell
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.

*We can't know why something's
happen...But we can know
that love and memories
outlast the pain of grief.
And we can know
that there's a place
inside the heart
where love lives always...
And where nothing beautiful
can ever be forgotten.*

*Our hearts still ache in sadness,
and secret tears still flow,
what it meant to lose you,
no one will ever know.*

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



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.

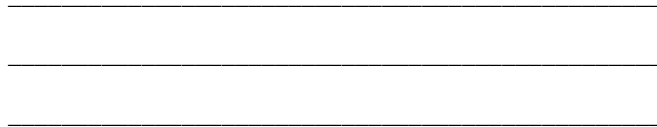
By ~ Sascha Wagner



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

February 2010 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.

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