

# THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

PO Box 304, Brevard, NC 28712

828-890-8227 or 770-924-3389 – [www.tcfobrevardnc.org/tcf/home.htm](http://www.tcfobrevardnc.org/tcf/home.htm)  
TCF – National Office – Toll Free (877) 969-0010 – [www.compassionatefriends.org](http://www.compassionatefriends.org)



Volume 3, Issue 5

May, 2008

## Monthly Meeting

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

**May 12, 2008**

**Program:**

### **“Handling Mother’s Day”**

We will read a short poem/story about Mother’s Day and the many challenges that come with this holiday.

### **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!

I can’t believe it was just last month that we heard Alan Pedersen perform the **Celebrate the Children** concert for our Chapter. It was a wonderful evening for all who attended. I can still hear his wonderful and inspirational songs

Alan Pedersen’s Web site notes that he and his wife Brenda left Feb. 2 in their 1995 conversion van now affectionately known as **Ashley’s Butterfly Bus** to begin a two-year concert tour.

He says, “Brenda and I want to play music for as many bereaved parents as we can the next two years. We are calling this the ‘Celebrate The Children Tour.’ It has all been inspired by the countless children whose faces, stories, and lives have been brought to life for us by their grieving parents, grandparents and siblings who have hugged us, cried with us, and shared their loss with us.

This is not our journey alone, it is for all the families who walk in our shoes...we truly do share each other’s pain as well as each other’s healing and triumph. We are honored to do this work.”

To read Alan’s stories from the road, go to: <http://www.everashleymusic.com/news.html>

Alan donated three of his CD’s to our chapter, so if you weren’t able to attend the concert, make sure you check out a CD so you can listen to it.

I want to thank all the parents and friends who donated and made goodies for the refreshment hour after the concert. Everything was delicious!

I received a card from a special friend last week, while I was having a very difficult time and I would like to share these wishes with all the mother’s as well. I pray that we all have a very peaceful and memorable day of our children. It reads as follows:

This is my **wish** for you:

**Happy Mother’s Day  
May 11, 2008**

**Comfort** on difficult days,  
**Smiles** when sadness intrudes,  
**Rainbows** to follow the clouds,  
**Laughter** to kiss your lips,  
**Sunsets** to warm your heart,  
**Hugs** when spirits sag,  
**Beauty** for your eyes to see,  
**Friendships** to brighten you being,  
**Faith** so that you can believe,  
**Confidence** for when you doubt,  
**Courage** to know yourself,  
**Patience** to accept the truth,  
**Love** to complete your life.

(anonymous)

### **Remembrance**

Remembrance is a golden chain  
Death tries to break  
But all in vain.  
To Have, to love, the then to part  
Is the greatest sorrow of ones heart.  
The years may wipe out many things  
But some they wipe out never.  
Like memories of those happy times  
When we were all together.

Author Unknown

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## ***We Need Not Walk Alone***

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The **May** Newsletter is dedicated to the memory of all our children...gone too soon...but never forgotten.

We Remember their **Birth**day and their **Angel** Dates.



### **Our Children Remembered:**

Brandt Michael Koehler – **Birth**day  
Jack Lloyd Capps - **Birth**day  
Jose Luis Santos – **Birth**day  
Josh Glen Shipman – **Angel Date** - 05/19/06  
Joshua Augustino Barbara – **Angel Date** -  
05/05/2007  
Melanie Brooke Thompson – **Birth**day  
Robert Eric Nelson – **Angel Date** - 05-11-05  
Stephanie Dawn Hoyle - **Birth**day  
Steven Gerard Smith – **Birth**day

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.

**\*\*\*\*\* A recent memo from our National headquarters has urged the local TCF Chapters NOT to publish the birthdates of our children. This is because birthdates are often used to commit identity theft. TCF Brevard will comply with this recommendation as identity theft would lead to further grief for our bereaved families. We hope that all will understand this concern. \*\*\*\*\***

### **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:

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From:

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TCF of Brevard  
PO Box 304  
Brevard, NC 28712





### **31<sup>st</sup> TCF National Conference**

**July 18 – 20, 2008  
Nashville, TN**

Check [www.compassionatefriends.org](http://www.compassionatefriends.org) for recent updates. You can register on line for the conference as well as signing up for a vinyl record with your child's photo on it as a remembrance of your child.

You do NOT have to attend the conference to obtain a vinyl record.

We have several members from our Chapter who will be attending the conference.

### **TCF National Memory Book**

If you would like to have your child's name put in the **TCF National Memory Book**, please send the following information to our National Office.

**Child's Full Name, Date of Birth, Date of death, Relationship to child, Your name, Address, and Zip Code. Also include Your Phone Number and E-mail Address.**

The National Office address is

TCF National Office  
PO Box 3696  
Oak Brook, IL 60522

### **Watch for New Look to National TCF Web Site**

In order to serve the public and TCF leadership better, the national TCF Web site – [www.compassionatefriends.org](http://www.compassionatefriends.org) – is undergoing a major redesign. The new look is expected to be completed this summer.

The redesigned site will offer a number of expanded services. For visitors, it will include a Spanish language page, an area for friends, relatives and co-workers to learn about the impact on a family when a child dies, and they'll also list more in-depth information about local chapters.

Chapter leaders will find forums and specific areas for newsletter editors, fundraising, treasurers and outreach.

It's a work in progress and they have invited our feedback. If you have suggestions you'd like to pass along, e-mail Pat Loder: [Pat@compassionatefriends.org](mailto:Pat@compassionatefriends.org).



### **Memorial Day**

For each grave where a soldier lies at his rest  
For each prayer that is said today out of love  
For each sign of remembering someone who has died  
Let us also give thought to the mothers and fathers  
The Brothers and sister the friends and lovers  
Whom death left behind.

Sascha Wagner



Since Mother's Day is approaching there is a lot of talk about Mother's Day. This is a hard time for bereaved parents. So many ask the question if your only child dies, are you still a mother? **YES!** You are a mother and a very special one. You will always be the mother of your child. You may no longer enjoy their laughter or the dirty finger prints on the walls, but that mother's love is still there and will always be deep in your heart and soul. Because we loved our children the pain we have now is the price we pay. As bereaved parents we can share our children's love with others. The love our children gave us will live in our hearts forever. So, yes indeed you are a mother.

Linda Delk – TCF Tampa, FL



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](mailto:mgollnic@gte.net) by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the next newsletter's release.

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

For those of you who have not sent in the Membership Information form please return it to me ASAP. I would like to get the newsletter posted on our site instead of through the regular mail, for those who wish to receive it via e-mail. This can help us save money.

Also we need to plan a **Steering Committee Meeting**, as well as planning the **2008 Butterfly Release and Picnic**.