



THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS Of Brevard Chapter Newsletter

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

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Brevard Chapter Web Site

www.tcfofbrevardnc.org/tcf/home.htm

TCF Brevard Newsletter

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Monthly Meeting

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

November 10, 2008

Program: "What are your Plans for the Holidays?"

Please bring your questions as well as your suggestions so we can help each other. Tell us what works and what doesn't for you.

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.

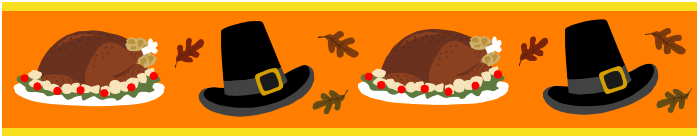
TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

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 pray that everyone is doing well. It's that time of year again, the time for holiday family gatherings. A time of year that, for bereaved parents, can be especially hard. We want to remember the past -- all the good times we had with our deceased child(ren). We want our child(ren) somehow included in all the activities. But it's hard. We get emotional when other people, friends and family want to be celebrating. We just want our child(ren) remembered. We will never forget. Again, the most important thing is to be good to yourself and let the people who love you support you, not just through the holidays, but always. Whatever you may celebrate these months, Bill and I wish you peace, wisdom and comfort as well as a blessed and safe Thanksgiving holiday.

At this meeting we will go over regarding our local Worldwide Candle Lighting event that will take place on December 14TH at 7:00 p.m. It has proven to be a great way to remember our children. Whether you light a candle in the privacy of your own home, or you join us for our Candle Lighting program, we hope you will participate. We want to remember our child by lighting a candle...We will never forget.

If you miss this meeting, we will e-mail a summary of the event to you for your information.

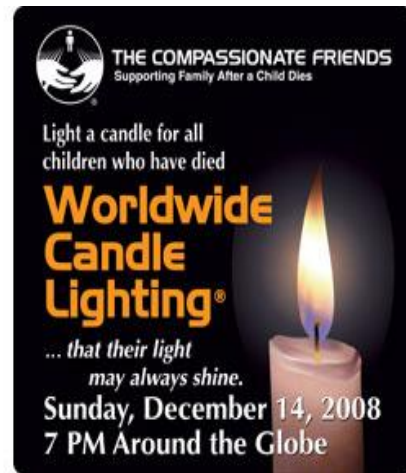
We invite and encourage everyone to post a memorial message on December 14th to the message board on the national website.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the next meeting.

Hugs and God Bless you,
Marisol-always Jose's mom

PLEASE NOTE: In lieu of the Worldwide Candle Lighting on December 14, 2008, there will not be a scheduled TCF meeting on December 8, 2008. I will however; put out a newsletter.

**The Worldwide Candle Lighting
Save the date – December 14, 2008**



Please invite your family, and friends to join you for this remembrance. Please feel free to print the flyer on page 3 of this newsletter so you can post at your church, or place of work.

***In remembering our children,
In sharing with each other,
In supporting each other,
We ease our pain,
We share each step,
We help smooth the road,
And we serve as witnesses to
The fact that we can make it
Beyond grief...***

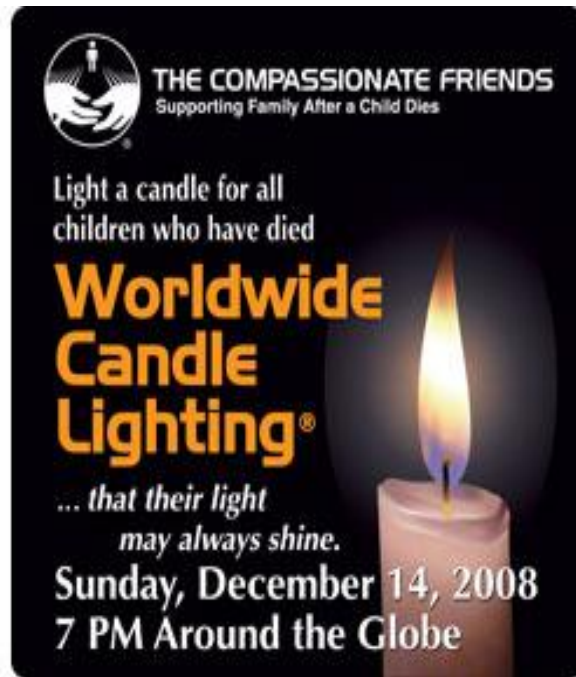
Roy F. Peterson
TCF/Lexington, KY



I need articles, poem, etc to print in our newsletter, please mail to TCF-Brevard, PO Box 304, Brevard, NC 28712 OR e-mail me at:

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.)



PLEASE COME AND SUPPORT
YOUR FAMILY AND OTHER
FAMILIES
WHO HAVE LOST A CHILD,
GRANDCHILD, OR SIBLING FOR
THIS REMEMBRANCE.

Where: The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
22 Fisher Road, Brevard, NC

Date: Sunday, December 14, 2008
Time: 7:00 PM



Thanksgiving Isn't What It Once Was

We realize it is so hard for some of us to be thankful for anything when our child has died. But we hope we can all say a prayer of thanks for the very precious time we were allotted to spend with our child. Because it was the most important time of our lives. Their lives here, gave our lives meaning. If we had not had them at all, we would not have known the true joy of living. They were a precious gift from Heaven, and they had so much to give and blessed our lives. The love between parents and children just goes on and on. **THEY TAUGHT US THAT!** So let us lift up our eyes and our hearts and say, .**THANK YOU.** this Thanksgiving!

*Lee and Verna Smith
TCF, Fort Worth, TX*



Detour of the Month Thanksgiving

Well, here it is – detour time again – just when you were about headed 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're 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 I received a letter from a member of the Atlanta Chapter where she told me, among other things, that she and her husband and their 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's not observing that day in a traditional way. Do whatever it is that you need to do this year, if Thanksgiving is a problem. Explain to those who really care about you that this year will, by necessity, be different. Hope they will understand, but if they don't, let it be their problem, for your needs are paramount right now. I'm happy to report that I look forward to our traditional day now. (Let me tell you, there was a time I didn't!) I hope you will soon reach that place, if you haven't already. I just want to assure you that nowhere is it carved in stone that you must sit around a turkey pretending.

*Mary Cleckley
TCF – Atlanta, GA*

The **November** 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>
Belinda Kathleen Bach		11/12		Sharon Bach
Matthew Mendoza Gower	11/17		Son	Maria & Scott Gower
Stephen Lee Puckett	11/19		Son	Pam & Ron Puckett
Terry Lee Dempsey	11/20		Son	Joyce Dempsey
Jillian Brooke Folsom	11/24		Daughter	Jennifer & David Folsom
Troy Keith Drye, Jr.	11/27		Son	Kathy & Lewis Curlee
Rodney H. Skogen	11/27		Son	Barbara Skogen
Rodney H. Skogen	11/27		Sibling	Carol Skogen and Suzanne Skogen Keogh
Denise L. Skogen		November	Daughter	Barbara Skogen
Denise L. Skogen		November	Sibling	Carol Skogen and Suzanne Skogen Keogh

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 Memories are all you have, Then let them be Vivid and Bright"

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**



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 sights.
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.

"May Love Be What You Remember Most"

Darcie D. Sims

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

November 2008 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