



# THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS INC.

International Organization Offering Friendship and Understanding to Bereaved Parents

## MIAMI COUNTY CHAPTER NO.1870

December 2022/January 2023 NEWSLETTER Vol. 31 No. 11

Facebook page "The Compassionate Friends of Miami County Ohio Chapter 1870".  
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## A Christmas Wish

I'll miss you at Christmas  
When laughter's everywhere,  
When church bells chime  
In merry rhyme  
And warmth is in the air.  
I'll think of you at Christmas  
Of when you were with me,  
Of simple joys and silly toys  
And days that used to be.  
I'll miss you at Christmas  
When children's faces glow  
And gaze in childish wonderment  
At Santa and presents in a row.  
I wish a Christmas miracle  
Could bring you back this way  
And we could be together  
For one more Christmas day.



**Meetings are being held at:**  
**Zion Lutheran Church**  
**14 W Walnut St**  
**Tipp City, OH 45371**

(entrance by parking lot on W. Walnut St., handicap accessible)

### **No Regular Dec Meeting**

**Candlelight Memorial Service**  
**Sunday December 11, 2022, 3:00pm**

**\*See page 2**

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**Next Meeting: Jan 26, 2023**

**7:00 pm**

**Topic: How did the holidays go?**

**What did you change?**

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### ***To Start a New Year***

*If I can concentrate on the  
moral and spiritual side  
of the holidays  
I can make it through.  
If I can absorb the  
love and warmth that  
was the beginning  
I can give love back.  
If I can share the grief and  
love that is in me  
through these holidays  
I can start a new year.*

Tom Spray TCF Ventura, CA

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**Candlelight Memorial Service**  
**Sunday December 11, 2022**  
**3:00 PM**  
**Zion Lutheran Church**  
**Main and Third St.**  
**Tipp City, Ohio**

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Every year anyone that has lost a child, sibling, or grandchild is invited to join in a service of remembrance. We celebrate our loved ones' lives through the lighting of candles in their names. After the candle lighting service in the church, we will have a reception dinner downstairs. Meats will be provided. Those attending are asked to bring something to share -a salad, vegetable dish, or a dessert of your choice.

Again this year!!! We will have a slide show of our children's photos playing during the dinner. Please email your child's photo to Mica Glaser at [MicaGlaser@gmail.com](mailto:MicaGlaser@gmail.com) with the photo in jpeg or png format please. Please include the child's name, your name, address, and phone with the photo.

If you already have a photo in the sideshow from years past you do not need to resubmit your photo unless you want to use a different one. We also welcome you to bring a photograph of your child for the display area set aside in the reception room at the dinner. Feel free to include other memorabilia, if you wish.

If you plan to attend the Memorial Service and didn't sign up at the meeting we will be trying something new using eventbrite. To sign up, go to the link below to reserve a spot. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/childrens-candlelight-memorial-service-tickets-451974837907> Sign up and photo's need to be submitted by December 8<sup>th</sup>.

Volunteers are needed to help set up for the Memorial Service. Set up will be held at 3:00PM on Saturday, December 10th . If you can help, please contact Debbie Turner (937-667-4761). Volunteers are invited to join up at Hinders for something to eat and drink after set up. We appreciate all that are able to assist us. Thank you, Chapter Steering Committee

We also are collecting new children's books to be taken to Children's Medical Center. These books will be distributed to children while they are treated at the center. You may donate the book in memory of your child with a written note inside the book. What a great way to do something in your child's memory to help other children!

## WORLDWIDE CANDLE LIGHTING

The Compassionate Friends Worldwide Candle Lighting on the 2nd Sunday in December unites family and friends around the globe in lighting candles for one hour to honor the memories of the sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, and grandchildren who left too soon. As candles are lit on December 11th, 2022 at 7:00 pm local time, hundreds of thousands of people commemorate and honor the memory of all children gone too soon.

NEED TO TALK TO SOMEONE?

A listening ear is sometimes the best medicine.

- Kim Bundy (suicide) 573-9877
- Pam Fortener (cancer) 238-4075
- Donnie Fortener (cancer) 760-2238
- Pam Fortener (siblings) 238-4075
- Cathy Duff (auto accident) 473-5533
- Jackie Glawe (auto accident) 478-3318

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May I Grieve

In the daytime, I walk and work and all;  
 But at home, in the evening, I stumble and fall.  
 The office says, "Function, smile, get control."  
 But at home I can grieve to cleanse my soul.  
 Must I be two people for the rest of my life?  
 Can I make it through pain and struggle and strife?  
 If I could be just one person for more than one day.  
 My freedom to grieve would help light the way.

Adapted From Suzanne Demars,  
 The Compassionate Friends  
 Hingham, MA



In the Morning

From wherever you are  
 you smile at me,  
 "Find life for both of us" you say,  
 "Find peace for both of us"  
 you say.  
 "Find strength, love, and hope  
 for both of us,  
 because you are  
 My mother."

~From the POEMS of Sascha Wagner

CHAPTER NEWS

Upcoming meetings:

- Dec - *Children's Candlelight Memorial*
- Jan - *How did the holidays go?  
What did you change?*

*Thank You  
 for your love gifts!*

- ★ *Bob & Frances Karl for the Love Gift in memory of their son, Matthew Karl.*
- ★ *Kern & Pam Carpenter for the Love Gift in memory of their daughter Tasha Longyear.*
- ★ *David & Jonnie Shoemaker for the Love Gift in memory of their son, Justin Shoemaker.*
- ★ *Daniel & Amber Hinkle for the Love Gift in memory of their son, Darin Hinkle.*
- ★ *Love Gifts should be made out to: The Compassionate Friends and mailed to **Cindy Glaser, 5255 Rudy Road Tipp City, Ohio 45371.** Please send your donation by the 15th of the month prior to the month you want your child remembered in the newsletter.*

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**MAY PEACE, HOPE AND LOVE BE YOURS  
 NOW, AND THROUGHOUT THE NEW  
 YEAR**

THE MIAMI COUNTY STEERING COMMITTEE

## Our Children Lovingly Remembered

### December Birthdays

Child—Parent, Grandparent, Sibling

Andy Glaser - Steve & Cindy Glaser  
 Bob Risko - Joe & Maggie Risko  
 Camella "Cami" Kelly - Elizabeth Kelley  
 Grady Lyons - Jason & Kristi Lyons  
 Jeff Binkley - Jane Binkley  
 Jonathan Lillard - Kellie & Ralph Lillard  
 Josh Eversole - Steve & Valerie Thorn  
 Kyle Alexander Quinn - Ken & Betty Quinn  
 Michael Daniel Mitchell - James & Marilyn Mitchell  
 Michael Milton Earl Cattell II - Michael & Patricia  
 Cattell  
 Nan Marie Hendrix - Jo Hendrix  
 Roy "Rusty" Phillips - Carol Weddington  
 Samuel James Barga - Linda Barga  
 Sara Krum - Faith Krum



### January Birthdays

Child—Parent, Grandparent, Sibling

David Alan Vollette - Dave & Cheri Vollette  
 Denise R. Brown - Darlene N. Brown  
 Justice Meade - Sue Brown  
 Justice Meade - Jenni Warner  
 Melissa Fortener McLaughlin - Don & Pam Fortener  
 Nicholoas Drake Duff - Jonathon & Regina Duff  
 Robert M. Walters III - Robert Jr. & Penelope  
 Walters

### November Birthday

Noah Derick Trader

(inadvertantly omitted from Nov newsletter)

Every effort is made to publish accurate information regarding the birth and remembrance dates. Please let me know if there is an error in the listing, in order to correct our records. If you receive this newsletter and you have not given us the name and dates for your child, but want them listed here, please contact me. - Jackie Glawe/Editor

### December Angel-versaries

Child—Parent, Grandparent, Sibling

Brian Keith Willis - Keith & Linda Willis  
 Christian Michael Copits - Richard & Beverly Copits  
 Claire Landis - Chelsea Landis  
 Danny Gene Winchell - Sally Entingh  
 Jonathan Lillard - Kellie & Ralph Lillard  
 Kevin Michael Harshbarger - Kenneth & Carolyn  
 Harshbarger  
 Matthew "Matt" Schaaf - Marlene Schaaf  
 Randy Lee Hess - Kimberly A. Bundy  
 Rebecca M. "Becky" Bole - Ken & Sue Bole



### January Angel-versaries

Child—Parent, Grandparent, Sibling

Adam Douglas Cheadle - Gary & Elaine Meyers  
 Bob Risko - Joe & Maggie Risko  
 Camella "Cami" Kelly - Elizabeth Kelley  
 Christopher "Chris" Heiss - Tony and Nancy Royer  
 Douglas "Jacob" Willoughby - Angela Willoughby  
 Elizabeth Flory Duff - Ann Flory  
 Emillie Joyce Stapleton - Julie Martin  
 Harley Ludwig - Warren & April Hawkins  
 Jeffrey Scott Bernard - Don Bernard  
 Jeremy Fogle - Amy Payton  
 Justin David Shoemaker - Dave & Jonnie  
 Shoemaker  
 Kevin Frinfrock - Terry Frinfrock  
 Kyle L. Bryan - Jeanette Bryan  
 Matthew J. "Matt" Karl - Bob & Fran Karl  
 Melissa Fortener McLaughlin - Don & Pam Fortener  
 Nicholoas Drake Duff - Jonathon & Regina Duff  
 Nicole Barker - Rod & Kathy Barker  
 Shaun Bradley Duff - Michael & Catherine Duff  
 Stephanie Roselle - Cindy Berry  
 Will Mohr - Valerie Mohr  
 Noah Derick Trader - David & Amy Trader

## Why Can't I Remember .....

I am a surviving sibling. Fifteen months ago I was not even familiar with the term ... now I am one! How am I doing? What are the guidelines to measure my progress? Why can't I remember when I was told of my brother's death ... or the days following the accident for that matter? Did I laugh just today when I never thought I would laugh again? What is this peaceful feeling that I feel from time to time? Is it healing?

Lee, at 29, was still my little brother. I remember trying to alternately protect or tease him, make him laugh or make him cry. He was like having a real live baby doll to play with since I was 10 years older than he (our mother said he was the cleanest little boy in the neighborhood. I guess having 3 older sisters is the reason for that!!!)

How can I explain the pain I felt on learning of his accident? I wanted to go to him right away to see that he was okay, but our cousin Judy said that wasn't possible. I guess that was when I was told that he was dead ... but I don't remember that. I only remember screaming.

When was it that I began to heal? Probably at the same time that I thought I was going totally, certifiably crazy! Then someone told me about The Compassionate Friends and what they did. I wondered if they could help me, but doubted that they could. After all, how could they understand how much I hurt at having lost my precious baby brother or how close we had always been and how he always helped me? But you know .... they did help. With the help and support of this group of wonderful caring people, I am alive today and working toward a fruitful life. I will never be the same as I was before my brother died, but I truly believe I am a better person.

While Lee's life taught me so much, his death taught me some invaluable lessons. I have learned to become more aware of life and my own mortality and I am more attuned to the needs of others. I no longer take anything for granted. I miss him terribly,

but take solace in the belief that he is happy in his new world and that one day we will be reunited.

Sibling grief takes a tremendous amount of time and work. Sometimes just thinking of my brother, looking at his picture, or hearing his favorite song, "God Bless America," reduces me to a teary mess. Sometimes these same things make me smile. But perspective on life. I am closer to and cherish my family more than ever and realize how very important they are. I am dedicated to helping other surviving siblings work through their grief and pray daily for peace, not only for myself and my family, but for everyone making this journey through grief. One thing that I have found to be most helpful during the past fifteen months of grief work has been to talk about and be honest about my feelings. I encourage siblings to try to hook up with a support group such as The Compassionate Friends.

~Sunday Lee Stanton, TCF, Wyoming Valley Chapter, PA. (STAGES Summer, 1997)

## FOR THE NEW YEAR

(for Siblings & Parents)

1. Try not to imagine the future; take one day at a time.
2. Allow yourself time to cry; both alone and with your loved ones.
3. Don't shut out other family members from your thought and feelings.
4. Try to be realistic about your expectations of yourself and other family members.
5. When a good day comes, relish it. Don't feel guilty and don't be discouraged because it doesn't last. They will come again and multiply.
6. Take care of your health. Even though the mind might not care, a sick body will only compound your troubles. Drink lots of water, take stress type vitamins, rest (even if you don't sleep), and get moderate exercise.
7. Share your feelings with other Compassionate Friends and let them share with you. You will find that as you begin caring about the pain of others, you will begin to come out of your shell – a very good sign.
8. Resolve to do something to help someone else, in memory of your child or sibling.

I know that following these resolutions won't be easy, but what has been? It is worth a try. There is nothing to lose and perhaps much to gain. ~Mary Ehman, TCF, Valley Forge, PA



**The  
Compassionate  
Friends**

*Miami County Chapter*

Supporting Family After a Child Dies

2445 N Montgomery County Line Rd  
Tipp City OH 45371

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*The Compassionate Friends is a self-help organization which offers support to families who have experienced the death of a child. Only a person who has experienced the trauma of losing a child can fully understand the pain and suffering involved.*

*We gather to listen) to share) and to support each other in the resolution of our grief. We need not walk alone. we are *The Compassionate Friends.**

**MISSION STATEMENT** ... The mission of The Compassionate Friends is to assist families toward the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child of any age and to provide information to help others be supportive.

***If you are receiving our newsletter for the 1st time,***

it is because someone told us that you might find it helpful. To find out more about The Compassionate Friends, please call our Chapter Leader, Kim Bundy (937) 573-9877. We cordially invite you to our monthly meetings held on the fourth Thursday of each month. Nothing is ever expected of you. You don't have to speak a single word. Parents who do attend, find comfort, support, friendship and understanding from others who have also lost a child. You do not have to come alone - bring a family member or friend with you.

**You need not walk alone!**



IF YOU ARE RECEIVING THIS NEWSLETTER, AND WISH TO HAVE YOUR NAME REMOVED FROM OUR MAILING LIST, PLEASE CALL OR TEXT (937) 478-3318 AND LEAVE A MESSAGE.

Thank you.