



THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS INC.

International Organization Offering Friendship and Understanding to Bereaved Parents

MIAMI COUNTY CHAPTER NO. 1870

July 2021 NEWSLETTER Vol. 30 No. 6

Facebook page "The Compassionate Friends of Miami County Ohio Chapter 1870".
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**Mark Your Calendars & Reserve a Butterfly
 For Your Child!
 Annual Picnic & Butterfly Release
 July 22, 2021
 6:00pm
 Nashville UCC Picnic Grounds**



Come join us for a peaceful evening picnic and butterfly release. Everyone is welcome including Family and friends. Look for the balloons marking the gravel drive that will take you back to the picnic area located a short distance west of the church, on the north side of St. Rt. 571. We'll be using the covered shelter which has plenty of picnic tables and benches. For comfort, you may want to bring along folding chairs so you can sit under the trees where it might be cooler. We provide plates, napkins, dinnerware, condiments, cups, drinks, ice and a variety of meat selections. Please bring a salad, vegetable, fruit dish, or a dessert to share with the group and include a serving utensil.-- You are invited to bring your child's picture for the photo table.

Please RSVP by July 8th if you will be attending the picnic to Kim Bundy (937) 573-9877 or email kbundy.tcf@gmail.com, so enough meat & dinnerware can be provided.

(Please provide your child's name, your name, phone number, and the number attending for this child.)

For those that would like to continue with our traditional balloon release, you are most welcome to bring your own balloon and send it up to heaven with your messages after the butterflies are released.

No Regular July Meeting

**Children's Memorial Picnic & Butterfly
 Release
 July 22, 2021 – 6:00 pm**

August meeting
 Aug 26th, 2021
 7:00 pm

at
 Nashville United Church of Christ
 4540 W. St. Rt. 571, West Milton, Ohio

Please park
 in the lot on the west side of the building.
 Currently we are meeting in the parking lot,
 please bring a lawn chair

Topic: Question cards

Perhaps....

Your tears of sorrow today
 Will water the seeds
 Of tomorrow's garden
 Of spiritual growth,
 Of worthy priorities,
 Of loving relationships,
 And genuine understanding
 And compassion.
 My sad friend,
 Your weeping is not fruitless.

44TH TCF NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The Compassionate Friends 44th National Conference is just two weeks away!

It will be presented virtually this July 16, 2021 - July 18, 2021.

We invite you to join us for an informative and supportive weekend from your own home.

There are 100 Workshops available to choose from. The fee is \$95.00.

(If you are registered but are not able to attend all of the sessions live, keynote presentations and many conference sessions will be recorded and accessible for 90 days after the conference.)

There are currently 14 Sibling Grief Workshops.

For more information or to register go to: compassionatefriends.org

CEMETERY VISITS

Are you one of those people who have a need to go to the cemetery often? The non-bereaved frown on that, as a rule. Many people feel there is something morbid about those visits; that you're obsessing. Unless you know the pain of losing someone you love better than yourself, you can't understand that need.

Some people need to visit every day; others go now and then; and still some never go back once the funeral is over. There are no rules. If it makes people uncomfortable when you make your cemetery visits, go alone. Don't feel you need to get anybody's permission or approval. Call a friend who won't judge you by the number of miles you travel to and fro.

It is important for you to know that how often you go to the cemetery has absolutely nothing to do with the length and depth of your expression of grief. It is important to know that you have the right to do whatever comforts you. I may not seem right to your sister, your brother-in-law or your friends, but that's their problem. If you try to please everybody by the things you say and do, you'll find you are not taking care of your needs—and there are no more important ones right now. You won't always require visits this often, and when you longer feel this urge to go so often, don't feel guilty. It just means you are getting better. Accept it as that and move forward with your life when you are able. For right now, do what makes you feel better.

~Mary Cleckley, TCF, Atlanta, GA

To Parents who've Lost Infants

*We consider babies born at 5-6 months as premature births, not miscarriages.

*We are not expected to grieve as long, because "It was just a baby."

*There are some family members who never see the baby. This prevents them from feeling that the baby was "real".

*We have so few memories. We will never have memories to cherish as other bereaved parents do. That is a loss itself.

*We are angered when other bereaved parents compare the ages of their children with ours, as if grief intensity correlates with the child's age.

Compiled by the Infant Group, TCF, St.Louis, MO

As Long As Forever

I shall remember you for as long
As there are fields of snow,
And there are flowers in the ground
With strength to grow,
As long as there are stars above
And moonbeams on the sea,
And just as long as there are songs
Of love and memory.

I shall remember you today
And dream of you tonight,
And look for you tomorrow when
The sun begins to light.
Whatever season, month or year,
This much will be the same,
The only sound of joy will be
The mention of your name.

I shall remember you for as long
As there are earth and sky,
And all eternity
May take to say goodbye.

By James J. Metcalfe
Queensland Australia, TCF

CHAPTER NEWS

Upcoming meetings:

Jul - No regular meeting/Children's Memorial Picnic and Butterfly Release

Aug - Question cards

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

*Thank You
for your love gifts!*



Love Gifts should be made out to: The Compassionate Friends and mailed to Barb Lawrence, 4031 Wolcott Place, Englewood, OH 45322. Please send your donation by the 15th of the month prior to the month you want your child remembered in the newsletter.

After the worst has happened,

With nothing left to fear,

The sun continues shining

With undiminished cheer,

And winds continue blowing

And skies continue fair,

As hearts continue bearing

The thing they cannot bear

~Anonymous, TCF, Pikes Peak

Our Children Lovingly Remembered

July Birthdays

Child—Parent, Grandparent, Sibling

Cody S. Pressler - Joe Miller & Tamra Pressler
Harley Ludwig - Warren & April Hawkins
Liam Seamus Gillespie - David & Julie Gillespie
Mary Herman - Mike Herman
Shannon Dyer - Denny Dyer



July Angel-versaries

Child—Parent, Grandparent, Sibling

Josh Eversole - Steve & Valerie Thorn
Mary Herman - Mike Herman



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. - Editor

JULY'S CHILD

**Fireworks race toward heaven
 Brilliant colors in the sky.
 Their splendor ends in seconds
 On this evening in July.
 "Her birthday is this Saturday,"
 I whisper with a sigh.
 She was born this month,
 She loved this month
 And she chose this month to die.
 Like the bright and beautiful fireworks
 Glowing briefly in the dark
 They are gone too soon, and so was she
 Having been, and left her mark.
 A glorious incandescent life,
 A catalyst, a spark...
 Her being gently lit my path
 And softened all things stark.
 The July birth, the July death of
 my happy summer child
 Marked a life too brief that ended
 Without rancor, without guile.
 Like the fireworks that leave images
 On unprotected eyes...
 Her lustrous life engraved my heart...
 With love that never dies.**

Sally Migliaccio
 TCF Babylon, Long Island, NY

Don't think of him as gone away--

His journey's just begun;
 Life holds so many facets--
 This earth is only one.
 Just think of him as resting
 From the sorrows and the tears
 In a place of warmth and comfort
 Where there are no days and years.
 Think how he must be wishing
 That we could know, today,
 How nothing but our sadness
 can really pass away.
 And think of him as living
 In the hearts of those he touched...
 For nothing loved is ever lost--
 And he was loved so much.

~Author Unknown

**44th TCF National Conference
Virtual 2021**

Sibling Workshops

More sibling workshops will be added as they are confirmed.

Suddenly Alone

How's Your Mother?

Wellness in Grief: Taking Care of Ourselves,
Honoring Our Grief

Sibling Loss Sucks!

Multiple Sibling Loss

Special Child, In a Loving World

Bibliotherapy and Grief: How Books Can Help Your
Grief

Sibling Grief Writing Workshop

Navigating the Loss of a Parent After Losing Your
Sibling

Poetry! A Vehicle to Help Hear, Feel, and Heal

How to Start a Sibling Group

Sibling Panel for Siblings by Siblings

Shifting Family Dynamics After Sibling

LGBTQ+ Siblings

Thoughts, Feelings and Sensations, What's the
Difference?

Twinship: When a Twin Loses Their Other Half

I'm Missing You

I'm missing you—All day, every day.

On a bright summer morning, or

When the moon is full.

In the golden days of fall,

As the storm clouds build,

And it's snowing,

When the willows begin to turn green--

You are always with me,

In my mind and in my heart.

My brother, my good friend,

I'm missing you.

Kris Cunningham TCF, Mora, IL

#1 Brother

I've been wanting to write these words for so long

But found it hard to say what I was feeling.

Besides loneliness and feelings of forlorn,

There's this missing piece in my life,

A space in my heart,

That I know time can never heal.

Some days when I'm thinking of you

A smile comes easy.

Other days, like today,

It's my tears that fall like the rain.

I'm missing you so much, Big Brother.

I look for you in the face of a crowd.

I search to find resemblance anywhere,

In anyone,

Hoping that seeing that slight resemblance

Will numb the pain at least for a while,

Maybe take away the ache in my heart

And put that smile back on my face.

I know you're watching out for me,

And I know you're with me.

And until the day when we are with each other,

I'll have to learn to live with the memories

And continue to search for your face in the crowd,

My #1 Brother.

~Susan Hemenway, TCF, Hopewell Junction, NY



**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 (937) 478-3318 AND LEAVE A MESSAGE.

Thank you.