

THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS INC. International Organization
Offering Friendship and Understanding to Bereaved Parents
MIAMI COUNTY CHAPTER NO. 1870
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Candlelight Memorial Service

3:00 PM Sunday December 10

Zion Lutheran Church
Main and Third Street
Tipp City, Ohio

Every year we invite anyone that has lost a child, sibling, or grandchild to join us 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. (If you are going to bring a store-bought item, please consider a salad or vegetable as we generally have a good number of home-made desserts.)

We will again have a slideshow of our children's pictures playing during the dinner. Provide Kim Bundy with a picture of your child by December 7. If you provided a picture last year, you do not need to send it again unless you wish to send a different picture. You can email your picture to Kim at KBundy.TCF@gmail.com. Please include the child's name, your name, address, and phone with the photo. Pictures will be returned. 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.

We are also collecting new children's books to be taken to Children's Medical Center. These books

NO DECEMBER MEETING.

.Candlelight Memorial Service
3:00 PM Sunday December 10

Zion Lutheran Church
Main and Third Street
Tipp City, Ohio

Next Meeting - January 25, 2018

Topic: Specific Secondary Losses

Members will have open discussion about secondary losses that pertain to their child's specific cause of death, such as suicide, addiction, etc., as well as losses experienced due to their passing such as loss of visitation with their grandchildren, step-children, etc.

January Refreshments:
Bob & Penny Walter (Memory of Rob)
Pam Fortener (Memory of Melissa)

Thank you for November Refreshments
Deb Turner (Memory of Leslie)
Cindy Glaser (Memory of Andy)

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!

If you plan to attend the Memorial Service and did not sign up at the November meeting, please contact Barb at 937-836-5939 or email her at barb.lawrence1961@gmail.com
The last day to RSVP for the Memorial Service is December 3rd.

Volunteers are needed to help set up for the Memorial Service. Set up will be held at 3:00PM on Saturday, December 9th. If you can help, please contact Deb (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.

21st Annual Worldwide Candle Lighting Event

December 10, 2017

The Compassionate Friends 21st annual Worldwide Candle Lighting 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 at 7:00 p.m. local time, hundreds of thousands of persons commemorate and honor the memory of all children gone too soon. The Worldwide Candle Lighting creates a virtual 24-hour wave of light as it moves from time zone to time zone.

The Compassionate Friends and allied organizations are joined by local bereavement groups, churches, funeral homes, hospitals, hospices, children's gardens, schools, cemeteries, and community centers. Services have ranged in size from just a few people to nearly a thousand.

Every year you are invited to post a message in the Remembrance Book which will be available, during the event, at TCF's national website. www.compassionatefriends.org

The Worldwide Candle Lighting gives bereaved families everywhere the opportunity to remember their children so that *their lights may always shine!*

Remember

Light a quiet candle
Send a quiet kiss
Say a quiet fare-thee-well
To the one you miss.
Light a quiet candle
Shed a quiet tear
Sing a quiet lullaby . . .
And the quiet Christmas Star will hear.



Sascha Wagner
TCF Des Moines



letter. It fills my heart with sorrow that I must pass this over to another person to undertake the support and comfort of our membership. It has been an honor and a blessing to have been your editor.

I will be happy to assist the new editor with the transition when that person steps forward. I hope that, whoever that person is, he/she finds it to be the blessing that I have found it to be.

I will continue to support our chapter through the steering committee and other tasks that make our chapter the center of grief support that it is.

Again, thank you all for being my TCF family. I can move forward with my life because of all of you!

Cathy Duff, Past Newsletter Editor
In Memory of my son, Shaun Bradley Duff

Where is my child now?

So many times after our son died, I found myself asking questions. Where has he gone? Is there really life after death? Is there really a Heaven? Was his life with us worth anything?

I read. I talked to people. I prayed. I cried. I became depressed and I yelled at my God. Then I found Elizabeth Kubler Ross's book, "On Children and Death." She responded to a mother's letter and shared her wisdom and experience. She told that grieving mother (and through her, me) that out of her pain - if she chooses - comes a great amount of compassion, increased understanding and wisdom, and love for others who are in pain. It is her choice whether out of tragedy comes a blessing or a curse -- compassion or bitterness.

She concluded her letter with these words: "I want you to know that our research in death and life after death has revealed beyond a shadow of a doubt that those who make the transition are more alive, more surrounded with unconditional love and beauty than you can ever conceive. They are not really dead. They have just preceded us in the evolutionary journey all of us are on; they are with their former playmates (as they call them), or guardian angels; they are with family members who proceeded them in death and are unable to miss you as you miss them since they are unable to feel any negative feelings. The only thing that stays with them is the knowledge of love and care that they have received and of the lessons they learned in their physical life."

Claudia Waller, TCF Alexandria, VA

For your
Thank you
love gifts!

- ◆ Ann Flory for the Anniversary Love Gift in memory of her daughter, Elizabeth Flory Duff 04/1975 -- 01/2005.
- ◆ Ralph & Vera McLean for the Love Gift in memory of their son, Antonio McLean 06/1972 -- 04/2003.
- ◆ Dennis & Susan Ream for the Love Gift in memory of their daughter, Kristen Nicole Ream 03/1974 -- 08/2011.
- ◆ Joe and Maggie Risko for the Birthday & Anniversary Love Gift in memory of their son, Robert Anthony Risko 01/1962 -- 12/1993, and Anniversary Love Gift in memory of their nephew, Matthew "Matt" Schaaf, 09/1971 -- 12/2003.

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.

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.
 ~Lily deLauder

CHAPTER NEWS

Upcoming Topics

February - Scrapbook Pages

Members are invited to bring pictures, memorabilia, etc. to be shown how to set up a scrapbook of your child

March - Supporting Your Surviving Siblings

There will be discussion of how we can be there for any surviving siblings. We will share ideas, any books or articles that have helped previous members.

April - Tools to Ease Grief Pain

This meeting would be a good session for bringing your journals. Guidance for using your journals as well as other ways to ease your grief will be provided.

TCF Chapter 1870 wishes you Peace, Hope, and Love during the Holidays and throughout the New Year!



NEED TO TALK TO SOMEONE?

A listening ear is sometimes the best medicine.

Kim Bundy (suicide)	573-9877
Lori Clark (organ donation)	233-1924
Pam Fortener (cancer death)	254-1222
Sheryll Hedger (siblings)	997-5171
Lora Rudy (infant death)	339-0456
Cathy Duff (auto accident)	473-5533

A Christmas Gift from Heaven

The first snow of the season is gently falling outside my office window. On the one hand, it is beautiful to look at; on the other hand, for me, as I know it is for those whose loved one's

chair will sit empty at the holiday table this year, it signals the advent of the remaining three of the "Big Four" holidays. This time of year is perhaps one of the ultimate tests of endurance for the bereaved, and it is particularly difficult for those who will undergo Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's for the first time since their child, sibling or grandchild died.

It has been eight holiday seasons since my Nina died. Though I remember little to nothing about the first Thanksgiving, I still quite clearly remember that painful first Christmas. Even with the blessed numbness of early grief to anesthetize me from some of the sting, I still recall the emptiness. That only an 8 x 10 photo of her smiling face with a lit votive candle placed next to it marked Nina's presence that Christmas of 1995, along with the knowledge she would never physically be present at another holiday family celebration, was beyond comprehension. Although everyone tried desperately to bring some normalcy to an anything-but-normal holiday, by the end of the day we were exhausted from the effort. As we drove quietly from my parent's house that evening, I will never forget the car ride home and watching my son in the rearview mirror. Where in other years past there would have been the back-seat horseplay of brother and sister after a fun holiday spent with extended family, instead he sat alone with tears streaming down his face with the conspicuously unoccupied seat next to him. The silence was deafening and spoke volumes of our intense sorrow.

I can truthfully say that each holiday since the first two have become a little more tolerable—I would never say "easier" because there is nothing "easy" about any of this. I think the word "gentler" fits better. Though obviously never the same as before, it has become bearable, even with moments of joy and laughter sprinkled in. The fact that it gets gentler with time may or may not help any of the newly bereaved reading right now because, honestly, that first and second year I couldn't imagine another holiday season, much less life, without Nina. Moreover, on my early grief voyage when someone who had been down the road before me gave the old "it will get better with time" routine, it fell on deaf ears. I could see no hope, no light at the end of the tunnel. My reality was that my daughter was dead and she was never coming back. Whether it would get better down the road mattered little at that time; it just plain hurt.

Though you may not wish to embrace stories of hope just yet, please let me share with you something that happened to me the week before that first Christmas. For 15+ years, a group of my friends get together right before Christmas. We only see each other once a year but always seem to be able to catch up right where we left off the year before. I decided to go to that gathering of friends that first Christmas after Nina's death. I felt she would want me to surround myself, if I felt able (an important point—please don't feel you have to do anything you don't feel up to—you are the best judge of what you can and cannot handle), with comforting and caring people and perhaps give me a small reprieve from some of the "awfulness" of the holidays.

When I got there one of my friends, Anne, walked over to me, gave me a hug and handed me a box. To the best of my recollection she said something like, "I know this is going to seem odd and I don't know what to make of it, but as I was baking these cookies, something told me to bring some to you. I have no idea why, but the feeling was very powerful to do this, so here they are." I opened the box and I couldn't believe what I saw: Spritz cookies—unbeknownst to Anne, Nina's very favorite Christmas cookie! I had bought a cookie press the previous year so that Nina and I could make them together and I very much regretted that we never had gotten a chance to do that. I agonized about that so often that first season after her death. Through my tears, I explained this to Anne.

I know, without a doubt, that those delicious little butter cookies were Nina's Christmas gift from heaven to me. It was her way to tell me to let go of the guilt of never making Spritz cookies together, and to let me know that even though she was gone from my sight, that she was still very much with me and holding me close during that excruciatingly difficult season. I share this hopeful message of love, which I believe is sent through Nina from **ALL** our children, siblings and grandchildren; that though we can't "see" them yet in the way that we wish, they do most definitely live on.

I hold each of you and your precious children close to my heart this holiday season. Please be gentle with yourself,

Cathy L. Seehuetter, TCF St. Paul, MN, In Memory of my daughter, Nina

The Gifts of Grief by Donna Goodrich

First, let me make a statement: anything positive or any gift we may receive as a result of our child/children's death we would gladly give back, if only we could have them back with us again. Since that isn't possible, then why not accept and acknowledge the gifts or positives that we may receive as a result of their death? For a bereaved parent, this is very hard to do.

I know what most of you are thinking; "You are crazy! Nothing good can come from the death of my child!" I thought the same thing when I first started my grief journey. I continued this path of thinking until I attended a TCF National Conference and began re-thinking how I was handling my grief. In my grief journey, I actually had begun to see positives in my life as a result of my children's deaths. But, like a lot of bereaved parents, I did not want to acknowledge that "gifts" or positives could come from my loss. The "gifts" were there just the same, so I began to acknowledge and use them in my "new normal" life - the one without my children. Here are examples of "gifts" you may have received as a result of your child's death.

Following the death of your child, do you remember that one special person who was there for you? They didn't talk, they listened. They didn't give you advice or spout those awful clichés. They were just there, maybe doing a load of laundry or mowing your lawn. They never asked what they could do, they just showed up and did what was needed. They held us when we cried and let us talk about our precious child. This was possibly our first real gift of grief.

One of our next gifts is one we give ourselves—the gift of "courage"—to walk into that first TCF meeting, into a club that no one wants to belong. We didn't want to be in a room of bereaved parents, but our own gift of "courage" helped us to attend that first meeting.

In those first meetings we should have received our next gift—"hope". We saw parents who had been bereaved for many years. At first, we were concerned about seeing these parents there; will we "still" need to attend TCF meetings five or 10 years from now? Then we heard from these parents that they were there for us; they wanted us to know that they too were as broken as we are now when they first walked through that door. They told us how they managed those difficult days and nights when their child first died. They also showed us that they had found joy in life again and gave us hope that we could too. Most importantly, they were there to walk this journey with us so we did not have to walk alone, and that is such an important gift. The Reverend Simon Stephens, founder of TCF, talked about the "Gift of Hope" when discussing TCF: "It is the gift of HOPE which reigns supreme in the attributes of The Compassionate Friends. HOPE that life can still be worth living and meaningful. HOPE that the pain of loss will become less acute and, above all else, the HOPE that we do not walk alone, and that we are understood. The GIFT of HOPE is the greatest gift that we can give to those who mourn."

Our next gifts come at various times in our grief: new relationships in our life with those who understand our "new normal" because they too have lost a child, and pictures given to us of our children that we never knew existed. Someone asking us to talk about our child years after their death, when it has been so long since anyone, even family members, have mentioned their names to us is

a precious gift as well.

Another gift that is so important to many of us is the gift of "signs" that our child is still nearby. These "signs" come in many different forms: pennies from heaven, dragonflies, butterflies, rainbows, hummingbirds, hawks, cardinals, feathers or deer—just to name a few—showing up at just the right time or at a time when it was totally unexpected. These are such small, insignificant (for some unbelievable) happenings to everyone else. But to a bereaved parent they are such special gifts, helping us through the darkest of days. Letting us know that our children are still with us—not as we want them to physically be, but they are still with us nonetheless.

Some gifts are actual changes to our own personality: Are you more compassionate than before; do you have a better sense of what matters most in life than you did before; and have your priorities or focus in life changed and now people or causes are more important to you than "things"? Have you ever stopped to think of all the wonderful scholarships, buildings, foundations, and, yes, even TCF, that came to be as the result of a child's death? Yes, we would gladly give back all these gifts just to have our children back, but...

One of the last "Gifts of Grief" that I want to mention is the gift of "Memories of our Child". Many of us can remember what goes through our mind when our child first dies. That "tape" our mind replays every time we try to sleep or rest; the tape of the actual event, of the funeral, of how we heard they were dead or simply that our child is dead. At an early TCF Conference, I heard a very wise lady, Darcie Sims, talk about the fact that our memories of our children change at some point in our grief. At first, when thinking about our children, all that comes to mind is that they died. But later on we will know we are moving forward in our grief journey when we think of our child and "the first thing we think of is NOT that they died, but that they LIVED, and those memories bring a smile to our face, not tears." I thought I would never get to that point in my grief, but I did and so can you. Death may have taken our children, but death can't take away our memories of them. Those wonderful, perfect, beautiful memories are ours to keep FOREVER.

Whether or not we recognize these gifts, accept and use them, these gifts and the death of our children have reshaped us all to our very core, from this point forward. As one of the Sandy Hook parents said "You have a choice; let it destroy you or let it strengthen you." Each of us has this choice to make at some point in our grief journey—to stay in the dark days of grief or to try to bring light to our journey and have the memory of our child be one of causing positive changes to ourselves and hopefully, to our world. I hope you can now begin to recognize all the "gifts" you have received.

Donna Goodrich has lost three children; a miscarriage; her son Garth, an identical twin, at birth; and her 17-year-old daughter Lauren in an auto accident. Donna has been involved with TCF for the past 17 years, including Chapter Leader, newsletter editor, 2010 TCF National Conference committee member, conducted nine Chapter Leadership Training Programs in North and South Carolina and Virginia, presented her workshop "Gifts of Grief" at the past four National Conferences, is currently co-Regional Coordinator for both North and South Carolina, Committee member for the 2018 TCF National Conference, and is a moderator for the TCF Closed page "Loss of a Child".

Our Children Lovingly Remembered

December Birthdays

Child—Parent, Grandparent, Sibling

Ian Wesley Clark - Neil & Lori Clark
 Andy Glaser - Steve & Cindy Glaser
 Michael Daniel Mitchell - James & Marilyn Mitchell
 Michael Milton Earl Cattell II - Michael & Patricia Cattell
 Nan Marie Hendrix - Jo Hendrix
 Scott Miller - Marilyn Miller
 Kyle Alexander Quinn - Ken & Betty Quinn
 Roy "Rusty" Phillips - Carol Weddington
 Johnathan Lillard - Kellie & Ralph Lillard
 Samuel James Barga - Linda Barga
 Bob Risko - Joe & Maggie Risko
 Josh Eversole - Steve & Valerie Thorn

January Birthdays

Child—Parent, Grandparent, Sibling

Denise R. Brown - Darlene N. Brown
 Justice Meade - Jenni Warner
 - Sue Brown
 Marlisa Bok - Lowell & Marilyn Bok
 Melissa Fortener McLaughlin - Don & Pam Fortener
 Nicholoas Drake Duff - Jonathon & Regina Duff
 Robert M. Walters III - Robert Jr. & Penelope Walters

December Angel-versaries

Child—Parent, Grandparent, Sibling

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

January Angel-versaries

Child—Parent, Grandparent, Sibling

Adam Douglas Cheadle - Gary & Elaine Meyers
 Elizabeth Flory Duff - Ann Flory
 Kyle L. Bryan - Jeanette Bryan
 Matthew J. "Matt" Karl - Bob & Fran Karl
 Melissa Fortener McLaughlin - Don & Pam Fortener
 Nicholoas Drake Duff - Jonathon & Regina Duff
 Shaun Bradley Duff - Michael & Catherine Duff
 Will Mohr - Valerie Mohr
 Stephanie Roselle - Mike & Cindy Berry
 Jeffrey Scott Bernard - Don Bernard
 Nicole Barker - Rod & Kathy Barker
 Bob Risko - Joe & Maggie Risko
 Harley Ludwig - Warren & April Hawkins

NOW for book review....Cathy Duff

"Dreaming Kevin, The Path to Healing"

by Carla Blowey



Join the author in her quest to interpret an ominous dream that predicted the death of her son, Kevin, just hours before he died in a bicycle accident. It is this nightmare that heralds the many dreams and synchronistic events that offer her spiritual growth, forgiveness, healing, and new life. It is an inspiring testimony of the healing power of dreams in reconciling the loss of a child.

Book review by Cathy Duff (Shaun Bradley's mom)

s i b l i n g P a r t s

The Unique Aspects of Sibling Grief

by Allie Sims Franklin, LICSW (Big A's sister)

From the shadows we come, the surviving siblings. We are all ages: younger, older, twins and subsequent children. We have our own story to tell, one that is often brushed aside in the concern for our parents, the spouse, and even the children of our sibling. We are grieving, experiencing the same intensity of pain, but not always acknowledged by others. When a child dies, a future is lost; when a parent dies, it is the past which is buried. The death of a sibling is the death of a friend, a rival, an antagonist, a confidant, and perhaps a co-conspirator. It is important to help give siblings a voice as we struggle in the shadows, searching to find light in the darkness.

My mother would tell you that when my brother, Big A died, "the world went dark and silent. No longer did life seem worth living. The sun grew cold and the music died. There were no happy sounds in our house anymore and the sun cast only shadows of sadness." When Austin died, we all thought the sun had left forever. But much to our dismay, the sun kept coming up and we had to keep going, even though we didn't always know where we were going! My mom used to tell people that the only reason she got up after my brother died was because I needed cereal. There is a little more to the story.

It is true, I was hungry. But what she didn't tell you is that at first, she moved the cereal down to a lower cabinet, to make it easier for me to reach. And then she put the milk in a smaller container so I didn't need help pouring it. Then the TV was moved to a shorter shelf so I could turn on my own cartoons. By now, all the possible accommodations had been made for me to be "self-sufficient," -- mind you, I was 4. But every day I came back, needing something else. Finally, my mom, exhausted and looking to grieve in peace, asked me what more could I possibly need?

I told her that I needed my brother back. We cried together while she explained patiently to her 4-year-old daughter for the thousandth time that he could not come back. Then I asked her when our family would be fixed, "unbroken." I didn't have the words then that I do now, to say that I was hungry for more than cereal. I had lost my brother...and we were at risk of losing so much more...

It was then, in the early hours of a Saturday morning, that we came to realize that in our own unique struggles to find a way to breathe in those early days, we had lost each other. We didn't lose my brother, he died. But we were at risk of losing the support of our little family. This was the spark for us, the start of our commitment to find a way to reach through our differences in our losses to find some common ground.

Our story is not unique. One of the most difficult parts of being a bereaved sibling is the loss of the

family we knew. Our parents are consumed by their own grief and while we certainly understand why, our experience is that none of our supports are the same. Siblings are the people who have known us and our family the longest. Our friends may not know how to help, and may shy away. Extended family is primarily concerned with our parents, and the family that we knew is shattered seemingly beyond repair.

How can you help a bereaved sibling?

Acknowledge that Sibling loss is devastating – often sibs feel we are the "Forgotten Mourners." We may be asked how their parents are handling the loss. Many times, we feel that our loss is not given as much weight by supportive others. Take the time to ask surviving siblings how we are doing.

Encourage us to seek and accept emotional support for ourselves – sometimes we feel driven to support our parents. Many siblings report putting their own grief on hold to care for parents or out of fear that their grieving will make things worse for their grieving parents who "have enough to deal with." This can result in siblings feeling isolated and alone within their own families. We may need reminders and permission to grieve and to accept our own support.

Allow us to grapple with our guilt – the truth is that all sibling relationships are not perfect and even great ones come with some not-so-hot moments of rivalry or ugly words. Grief has a unique quality of playing back newsreels of the worst moments between us and our siblings when we are feeling down. Remind us of memories where we were kind to our sibling. Help us put into perspective our normal sibling relationships. It would be weird if every moment we had with them was actually perfect. We may need you to help us to remember this.

We are surviving siblings. We face many challenges, sometimes alone. But with support and a lot of grief work, we can emerge from the shadows. We can claim our roles, and live the legacies we have chosen of our loved ones with pride (colored with sadness).

Am I Still a Sister? You bet I am! And just as my little family learned in the wee hours of a Saturday morning, crying over breakfast cereal, I hope our TCF family can find that we are all bereaved, we are all hurting, we are many things, BUT WE ARE NOT ALONE. Together we can become a family circle, broken by death, but mended by love.

Allie Sims Franklin, LICSW is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and a grief management specialist, and the big sister of Austin Sims. She is the author of *Am I Still A Sister?* and a contributing author in *Dear Parents* and *The Dying and Bereaved Teenager*. She co-authored *A Place For Me: A Healing Journey for Grieving Kids*, *Footsteps Through Grief*, *The Other Side of Grief* and *Finding Your Way Through Grief* with her mother, Darcie D. Sims. Allie is currently serving as the resident of the Board of Directors for TCF and is the Executive Director of the non-profit crisis lifeline, Crisis Clinic, in Seattle, WA.



The Compassionate Friends

Miami County Chapter
Supporting Family After a Child Dies

9665 W Covington Gettysburg Rd
Covington OH 45318

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

What is The Compassionate Friends?

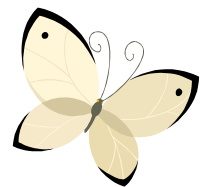
The Compassionate Friends is a self-help organization which offers support to families who have experienced the death of a child. Only a person who has experienced the trauma of losing a child can fully understand the pain and suffering involved.

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) 473-5533 AND LEAVE A MESSAGE.

Thank you.