

# THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS INC.

International Organization Offering Friendship and Understanding to Bereaved Parents

## MIAMI COUNTY CHAPTER NO.1870

July 2022 NEWSLETTER Vol. 31 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 28, 2022

6:00pm



Nashville UCC Picnic Grounds  
West Milton

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 12th if you will be attending the picnic to Kim Bundy (937) 573-9877 or email [kbundy.tcf@gmail.com](mailto: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 a traditional balloon release, you are welcome to bring your own balloon and send it up to heaven with your messages after the butterflies are released.

Meetings are now being held at:

Zion Lutheran Church

14 W Walnut St

Tipp City, OH 45371

(located on the corner of Main and Third  
handicapped accessible, entrance by  
parking lot on W. Walnut St.)

**JULY - NO REGULAR MEETING**

Annual Picnic & Butterfly Release

July 28th, 6:00pm

Thank you  
Cindy & Steve Glaser for June refreshments in  
memory of Andy

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*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*

# HOPE = THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

By Marie Levine

Olivia was born still - an umbilical cord too tightly wound. Lucas was two days old when he died from complications. Greta was only two years old when she was killed by falling debris. Max was seven when he died from a brain tumor - Jasmina was only six. Jaden was ten when an asthma attack proved fatal - Donald was 16 when he suffered a similar fate. Kareem was 15 when he drowned along with his brother Kevin; Peter was 22 when his friend lost control of the car he was driving him home in; Charlie was 23 when his prescription didn't work with his social life; Mark and Karen were on their honeymoon when their bus ran off a mountain in Nepal; Kelli was 39 when she succumbed to ovarian cancer; Jimmy was 36 when a heart attack took him, and his brother Charlie followed a year later when cancer chose him. Eleanor was 41, Philip was 45, Andrew was 47, and Harvey was 59. Sudden, unexpected deaths - walking, running, skiing, skating, driving, flying, burning, drinking, drugging, falling, swimming, shooting, stabbing, hanging, jumping; heart attacks, brain tumors, seizures, aneurysms, strokes, organ failures - so many ways to die.

No matter the age, no matter the reason - they all were children - leaving their parents and siblings here to grieve their too early, unexpected deaths. Every day children die. While the world turns for most, for so many parents the world suddenly stops. Losing a child sets survivors on a totally unanticipated life path.

This grief is different. There is so much to deal with even while disbelief is the prism through which everything else must now be seen. In a numb state of initial shock, we go through the motions necessary to shutting down a life only partially lived. At last, able to focus on our grief, we discover it is not like any grief we have ever experienced, learned about or lived through with anyone we've ever known. We try in vain to understand this mind-bending confusion while the uninitiated around us try to offer well intended but ultimately useless comfort and solace based on their own limited understanding of loss. Our inability to fathom our new reality and the loss of hope for a future creates even more pain and isolation. Only those who have lived this calamity recognize the future that newly bereaved parents face. The bereaved become aliens in a world where they no longer feel like they belong.

Losing a child is the beginning of an extraordinary grief experience. Because healing doesn't begin as expected, doubts about one's own sanity begins to creep in. We begin to think that perhaps we are losing our minds. Healing seems unattainable. We are reluctant to "let go" as others encourage us to do. Our grief is the most solid thing we have. We hang on for dear life. "Getting over it" is impossible. They say we'll never be the same; they are right. Frustrated by our inability to describe this unique grief experience, we finally find a measure of relief when we meet others who have lost a child. Without saying a word we feel safe in knowing they understand exactly what we are feeling. They've been there - and survived.

Parents who survive their children are chemically rearranged. Like a butterfly's metamorphosis, we too must confront changes in our personality, our physicality, our perspective, our health, our attitudes, our capabilities, our needs, our desires, and our understanding. Our healthy survival depends on our ability to reinvent ourselves. The future we spent a lifetime envisioning and working towards becomes a black hole; we have no idea where we're headed and we simply slide toward some unknown destination. Adjustment to this new reality can take years - the better part of a lifetime. As Jason Greene, Greta's Dad said, "Children remain dead in ways adults do not." Eventually we do get over other inevitable losses. Like a stone in our pocket, we carry this loss for always. It takes a very long time to care about anything again But hope does live - in our world hope is The Compassionate Friends.

Marie and Phil Levine's only child, Peter, was killed while being driven home by a college friend who had been drinking. She has been Chapter Leader in Manhattan, NY for many years and also serves as leader of the Twin Forks/ Hamptons chapter, which she founded 10 years ago. In addition, she is Newsletter Editor of both chapters. Recently, Marie was appointed to the TCF national board of directors. She was awarded TCF Chapter Leadership Award in 2012. She presented the "Now Childless" webinar currently available on the TCF website. She has been a frequent workshop presenter at TCF National Conferences and is the author of First You Die: Learn to Live After the Death of Your Child and The Tincture of Time for those further along in their grief journey.

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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The Things I didn't Say -

If I could sit and talk to you for just a little while, To say the things I wish I'd said, like....how I loved your smile, how much I loved the sight of you, your voice, your eyes, your face, to watch you playing basketball and see you win a race.

You were so much a part of me, the part that's gone away. These memories you left became more precious every day.

I pray that you can hear and God will let you see, the pride, the joy, the happiness, your life has given me.

~Pat Fennell, TCF, Delmar/Albany, NY

CHAPTER NEWS

Upcoming meetings:

\*\*Note front page for new location of meetings\*\*

Jul - Annual Picnic and Butterfly Release – in place of meeting-see page 1

Aug - It is OK to not be OK

Sept - Child's Favorite Food

Thank You for your love gifts!

★ 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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★ Do you have a story or poem to share about your child? Or a siblings story/poem.

★ Do you have something to share about your grief journey? Your struggles, your hope?

★ We would love to include them in the newsletter.

★ Send to Jackie Glawe at im4song@aol.com.

## *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. - Jackie Glawe/Editor*

Every year the National Compassionate Friends holds their annual conference for all bereaved parents. This year it will be held in Houston, Texas

*Love Soars Through Clouds of Hope  
TCF 45<sup>th</sup> Annual  
National Conference  
Houston, TX  
August 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022*



*\*See the [CompassionateFriends.org](http://CompassionateFriends.org) website for more information and to register*

*Bittersweet is good in chocolate ...  
Looks nice as a growing plant ... but is  
hard to take when it's a family day and  
one child is missing.*

*~Joan D. Schmidt, TCF, Central Jersey*

## Table for Four

We walked slowly, cautiously into the musky dim room.

We had put on our Sunday best to eat a steak, and take our minds off of the harsh reality of our new lives. In a daze, we almost ran in the the hostess desk. She smiled, "A table for how many?" The question lingered in the air, on our minds, the words turning our stomachs. We shifted uncomfortably, waiting for one of us to answer the heart-stopping question. My father's voice boomed as though he had no control.

"We're 4."

The number made me shudder.

As hot tears burned behind my eyes, my mother's face turned red, tears rolled down her cheeks uncontrollably.

My brother stood in silence, eyes glazed over in a coma.

My brain told me no, for I did not want to be here, but my legs told me yes.

My first steps were uneasy as though the ground had become soft.

Together we solemnly walked to the table of our new life.

By Lauren Alperstein

In memory of her younger brother and best friend, Ethan, who passed away on October 17, 2002.

Published in We Need Not Walk Alone  
Autumn, 2007



## You Listen, Still

Tonight we cried together,  
my lovely, special friend.  
It's rare to share true feelings;  
most try to keep them in.

When all my words are sad ones,  
and all my thoughts tear-filled,  
it helps to know you love me,  
enough to listen still.

Others think to cheer me  
they should take my thoughts away.  
but my pain remains unbroken.  
My words dam up and stay.

Instead you burst me open –  
out come my words of grief.  
I share my darkest thoughts with you,  
and then I feel relief.

~Genesse Bourdeau Gentry, from her book, "Stars in the Deepest Night"

*"Grief is nature's way of healing the broken heart. There's no timetable, and emotions are as different as snowflakes or fingerprints. It depends on the relationship with the loved one, the ability to handle stress and the support received.*

*But the only cure for grief is to grieve and there's no getting around the pain."*

*Rabbi Earl Grollman, 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.