



# THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS INC.

International Organization Offering Friendship and Understanding to Bereaved Parents

## MIAMI COUNTY CHAPTER NO.1870

February 2022 NEWSLETTER Vol. 30 No. 12

Facebook page "The Compassionate Friends of Miami County Ohio Chapter 1870".  
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*There's a Valentine waiting for you,  
That's different from all the others.  
It's there every month at our meetings  
Of heartbroken fathers and mothers.*

*It's envelope is made of caring,  
The glue of understanding seals it tight.  
This nonjudgmental group  
Who've "been there"  
Help to take away your fear and fright*

*So, come join with us together,  
Read your loving message printed clear.  
In not only this month's valentine,  
But all those throughout the year.*

*By Mary Cleckley  
Lawrenceville, GA*

**\*\*New Meeting Location Announced\*\***  
**Beginning in February meetings will now**  
**be held at:**  
**Zion Lutheran Church**  
**14 W Walnut St**  
**Tipp City, OH 45371**

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

**Next Meeting: February 24, 2022**

**7:00pm**

**Topic: Show & Tell**

\*\*\*\*\*

*Thank you to all who helped make the December  
Children's Candlelight Memorial possible. It  
was a beautiful evening of love and  
remembrance of our children.*

\*\*\*\*\*

*\*A special "Thank You" to chapter member  
Barb Lawrence who has been the Treasurer  
for many years! Barb will be passing this  
important role to chapter member  
Cindy Glaser beginning in February. Thank  
you Cindy for stepping into this important  
role in the chapter.*

# The Valentines of Yesterday



In my lifetime I have received many Valentines. Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, school friends, boyfriends, good friends, acquaintances and my husband have showered me over the years with lovely Valentines which I have so appreciated. The tradition of declaring friendship and love on Valentine's Day is a very fond memory. However, the sweetest Valentines I have ever received are from my son. From the first days in nursery school when my son made a hand plaque and a drawing on construction paper to the final Valentine in 2002, I have cherished these gifts of love from my only child. I have kept every Valentine my son ever made for me or bought for me. I have every Valentine gift he ever gave me. These are the treasures that remind me how special a parent's love truly is. There is no love to compare with the unconditional love we give our children. I think my son knew that nobody in the world would love him as much as his mother did. Yet, he also knew that he would love his children in just this same way. This unconditional parent's love that we give our children is the most precious love in life. It is always our hope that they, too, will find the joy of this love with their children. When our child dies, we cling to our unconditional love as we feel the anguish of a final separation on this earthly plane and a tsunami of betrayal as the devastation of this incomprehensible loss sweeps over us. The pain is real. It is physical, emotional, psychological and forever embedded on our psyche. Yet, without that unconditional love, there would be no pain. Who among us would trade the most infinitely rewarding love and the subsequent pain of loss for a life of lukewarm relationships? And so, as Valentine's Day once again comes into my life, I will look back at this love, at the good times, the wonderful handmade childhood Valentine cards and gifts and the carefully selected cards of adulthood that my son gave to me. His words, his love, his appreciation for all that we had shared as mother and child will be reflected in these treasures. There will be tears, certainly, but these are tempered with the many wonderful, sweet memories of my son and his life. It is these sweet memories which sustain me, give me hope, and bring me gratitude for all that was given to me. My son is forever in my heart. He is with me every day and every night, and especially, he is with me on Valentine's Day.

~Annette Mennen Baldwin, TCF Katy, TX

**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

**WHO ARE WE TO JUDGE**

A little child who has never drawn his first breath  
 A child who lives a day, a month, maybe a year  
 A child who finishes school perhaps marries and then dies ...

Who is to compare which parents suffer the greatest heartbreak?  
 What about the mother whose breasts are full of milk  
 But has no little angel to feed.  
 What about the dreams that new parents had for their baby  
 The empty nursery, a constant reminder.  
 An older child who leaves behind  
 a room full of trophies,  
 treasures and mementos...  
 A knife in the heart reminder.

What about the children who grew up  
 and had everything to live for ...  
 They come from every walk of life.  
 They have babies of their own,  
 which will never get to see their mommy or daddy ...  
 All of their goals and dreams gone.

My heart breaks for young parents  
 who never had the chance  
 to see their dreams materialize.  
 Their children never quite learned to walk nor talk,  
 start school or go out on their first date.

There is no such thing as one loss  
 being greater than another.  
 We are all equally devastated ...  
 and therefore, we are forever bonded to one another,  
 in a very special way ...  
 that no one else can truly understand.

Author unknown

**CHAPTER NEWS****Upcoming meetings:**

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

**Feb** - *Show & Tell*  
**Mar** - *To Be Announced*

*Thank You  
 for your love gifts!*

- ★ *Lowell & Marilyn Bok for the Love Gift in memory of their daughter, Marlisa Bok, 01/1968 -- 05/1989.*
- ★ *Kern & Pam Carpenter in memory of their daughter, Tasha Nicolle Longyear, 11/1978 -- 04/2008.*
- ★ *Julie & David Gillespie for the Love Gift in memory of their son, Liam Seamus Gillespie, 07/2000 -- 10/2015.*
- ★ *Marilyn & James Mitchell for the Birthday Love Gift in memory of their son, Michael Daniel Mitchell, 12/1980--09/2003.*
- ★ *Maggie & Joe Risko for the Birthday/Anniversary Love Gift in memory of their son, Bob Risko, 01/1962 – 12/1993, and the Anniversary Love Gift in memory of their nephew, Matt Schaaf, 09/1971 -- 12/2003.*
- ★ *Kathy Russell in memory of her infant granddaughter, Ava Nicole Liskey, 03/2002 -- 04/2002.*
- ★ *Carolyn Weddington for donation through the Rusty Phillips Memorial Fund in memory of her son, Rusty Phillips, 1969 -- 2012.*
- ★ *Our Special Thanks to Joe Johnson of Joe Johnson Chevrolet for the very generous donation he made to our Chapter this month. (Mr. Johnson is Kim Bundy's employer.)*
- ★ *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.*

# Our Children Lovingly Remembered

## February Birthdays

Child—Parent, Grandparent, Sibling

Alex J. Ritchie - Joel & Diana Ritchie  
 Amelia Beeman - Peggy Beeman  
 Brian Swartz - Lisa Swartz  
 Clifton Alexander - John Alexander  
 David J. Elam - Danny & Tammy Elam  
 James C. "Jimmy" Skaggs - James & Bonnie Skaggs  
 Jeffrey Scott LaCoste - Peggy LaCoste  
 John A. Brower - Robert & Barbara Brower  
 Matthew Cameron Ferror - Ken & Louise Ferror  
 Nick Koleff - Bob & Linda Dils



## February Angel-versaries

Child—Parent, Grandparent, Sibling

Brian Patrick "Stew" Stewart - Joel & Connie Kempton  
 Mark Kurtis O'Dell - Sandy O'Dell  
 Mark Nordquist - Peggy & Tom Nordquist  
 Michael Milton Earl Cattell II - Michael & Patricia Cattell  
 Montgomery Alan "Monte" Mott - DeDe Mott  
 Robert M. Walters III - Robert Jr. & Penelope Walters  
 Zachary James Dyer - Rod & Kelley Dyer



*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*

## I WILL LOVE YOU

As long as I can dream  
 As long as I can think  
 As long as I have a memory  
 ... I will love you.  
 As long as I have eyes to see  
 And ears to hear, and lips to speak  
 ... I will love you.  
 As long as I have a heart to feel  
 A soul stirring within me  
 An imagination to hold you  
 ... I will love you.  
 As long as there is time  
 As long as there is love  
 As long as I have breath  
 To speak your name  
 ...I will love you.



*In times of darkness,  
 Love sees...  
 In times of silence,  
 Love hears...  
 In times of doubt,  
 Love hopes...  
 In times of sorrow,  
 Love comforts...  
 And, in all times,  
 Love remembers.*

~Hallmark

~Daniel Haughin, TCF Massillon, OH

**DON'T ASK ME IF I'M OK**

*Don't ask me how I'm doing  
 Don't ask if I'm okay  
 Don't say they're in a better place  
 As you won't like what I say  
 No... Time is not a healer  
 And this was NOT God's will  
 If He knew how much I've really lost  
 They would be right here still  
 I WON'T try to be positive  
 And this wasn't for the best  
 My hearts in broken pieces  
 And it hurts deep in my chest.  
 Don't say, at least they're out of pain  
 Well I'm not, and MAY NEVER be.  
 Their pain is gone, but mines still here  
 It's been passed on to me  
 Don't tell me, you know how I feel  
 Even though, it may be true.  
 This Grief is MINE,  
 For what length of time...  
 It takes me, to get through.*

~Toni Kane  
 all-greatquotes.com

*“When you close your eyes and  
 remember, don't forget that  
 your sibling rests yet in you, in  
 your heart and in your thoughts,  
 in everything you do. They will  
 never leave you alone. You have a  
 listener at your beck and call.  
 What a gift!” – from a Sibling*

**SIBLINGS WALKING TOGETHER**

We are the surviving siblings of The  
 Compassionate Friends.  
 We are brought together by the deaths of  
 our brothers and sisters.  
 Open your hearts to us, but have patience  
 with us.  
 Sometimes we will need the support of our  
 friends.  
 At other times we need our families to be  
 there.  
 Sometimes we must walk alone, taking our  
 memories with us,  
 continuing to become the individuals we  
 want to be.  
 We cannot be our dead brother or sister;  
 however, a special part of them lives on  
 with us.  
 When our brothers and sisters died, our  
 lives changed.  
 We are living a life very different from what  
 we envisioned,  
 and we feel the responsibility to be strong  
 even when we feel weak.  
 Yet we can go on because we understand  
 better than many others  
 the value of family and the precious gift of  
 life.  
 Our goal is not to be the forgotten mourners  
 that we sometimes are, but to walk together  
 to face our tomorrows as surviving siblings  
 of The Compassionate Friends.







**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.