

THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS INC.

International Organization Offering Friendship and Understanding to Bereaved Parents

MIAMI COUNTY CHAPTER NO.1870

May 2022 NEWSLETTER Vol. 31 No. 3

Facebook page "The Compassionate Friends of Miami County Ohio Chapter 1870".

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A Grieving Mother's Mothers Day



It doesn't matter what day of the year you lose your child. Mother's Day will come too soon and last too long. But please believe me when I say that you won't always feel as empty and alone as you do on the first one.

I spent my first Mother's Day with my husband, and my anger and my pain. But mostly, I walked through it numb - numbed by the cruelty of a day set aside specifically to celebrate the joys of being a mother and feeling that I had lost my right to partake in that joy. And numbed by the anger at those who forgot to acknowledge that I was, in fact, a mother. I fought the need all day to just walk up to someone and say, "Hey, I know I don't have a child in my arms to prove it, but I really was a mom."

And I was a really good mom. And my little boy was the most beautiful person to grace the Earth. The shattered pieces of my heart and the tears that welled in my eyes kept me from seeing that I still was, and always would be, Justin's mommy. Ironically, the very words that I couldn't say last year will bring me comfort on this Mother's Day.

This year, I will believe them and I will find happiness in them. But most of all I will celebrate them and my motherhood. I earned the right and it is a gift from Justin I cannot ignore.

If I were so bold as to give a grieving mother advice on how to get through her first, second, third Mother's Day, I would say this: Spend it with a person (or people) you love and trust; someone who will respect your pain. I have laughed the

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 Street, handicapped accessible, entrance by parking lot on W. Walnut St.)

Next Meeting: May 26, 2022

7:00pm

Topic: "Grief, Purpose and Resilience"

Speaker: Brad Reed

hardest in the company of my husband and cried my most anguished tears in his arms; so for me, he was that person.

Do something that you find comforting. Treat yourself as wonderfully as you would treat a person who gives life, who nurtures it, and sees the miracle in it because that's who you are. Death's destruction is a powerful thing, but it's no match for our memories. No matter what you do this Mother's Day, take time to remember your baby's sweet smell, the softness of his/her skin and what it felt like against your cheek. Remember that smile that everyone said was just gas, but you knew better. Remember what it felt like to hold a miracle in your arms! Remember, because all these things are your child's Mother's Day gift to you. A gift that you have every right to show off to others. And you are not alone.

God Bless and Happy Mother's Day.

~Erica Blake TCF - Johnson County, Iowa City, IO

Grief's Doorway

It uses its stern frame to lead you into the room
You say you don't want to enter
It doesn't matter if you want to enter
Its not your choice

You're kicking and screaming
It doesn't care
It's only purpose
Is to get you in there

The doorway has no way out.
Thrust there without your doing
You don't even know how you got there
Yet you know why you're there

And now you don't even know where you're
going
You only know it looks sad and lonely in the room
And it's dark, it's very dark
And you want to leave already

You want to leave even though you just entered
The looming noise never stops
It's as if the door was slammed shut
And there is nothing you can do about it

~Jackie Glawe, Miami County/Ohio TCF
(Jackie and Jeff Glawe's daughter Jordan died in 2009
tragically as the passenger of a friend in a car accident.
She was 18 yrs old and their only child.)



Don't Ask If I'm Okay

all-greatquotes.com

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

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 |

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, 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.

CHAPTER NEWS**Upcoming meetings:**

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

- May** - "Grief, Purpose and Resilience"
Speaker: Brad Reed
- Jun** - Butterfly Bench Dedication – details to be announced in June newsletter
- Jul** - Annual Picnic and Butterfly Release

*Thank You
for your love gifts!*

- ★ *Mary Snyder for the Birthday Love Gift in memory of her son, Brent A. Snyder, 05/1953 – 10/2005.*
- ★ *Kern & Pam Carpenter for the Anniversary Love Gift in memory of their daughter, Tasha Nicolle Longyear, 11/1978 – 04/2008.*
- ★ *Ron Ladd for Love Gift in memory of his sons, Billy and Mike.*
- ★ *Josh & Liz Eichman in memory of daughter Maci Grace.*
- ★ *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

May Birthdays

Child—Parent, Grandparent, Sibling

Blaize Mansur - Stephanie Mansur
Brent A. Snyder - Claude & Mary Snyder
Erika Leigh Wetzel - Susan Wetzel-Philpot
Jacqelyn Elizabeth "Jackie" Ahlers - Bob & Peg Ahlers
James Robert Harry Gamble - Sheila Gamble
Jared Michael Belcher - Kelly Belcher
Lindsay Rose Donadio - Rick & Janell Claudy
Mark (Markie) Sweitze - Jeri Sweitzer
Michael James McGuffey - Kathy McGuffey
Randy Lee Hess - Kimberly A. Bundy



A Mother's Lament

If I had known
 The pain I'd bear
 The sadness and the great despair
 Would I have chosen the path I did
 To have this child
 Who so briefly lived?
 Yes, I am certain
 That I would
 For all the laughter
 All the good.
 He taught us all
 So much you see
 Through his kindness,
 Love and generosity.
 Though he's gone
 From us physically
 He lives on in our hearts
 Eternally.

~Sandy Roush TCF Lakes Area, MI
In Memory of Whit

May Angel-versaries

Child—Parent, Grandparent, Sibling

Bill Meadows - Fred & Pat Meadows
Blaize Mansur - Stephanie Mansur
Brent David Corn - Susan Hartrum
Brian Swartz - Lisa Swartz
Cody S. Pressler - Joe Miller & Tamra Pressler
David Allsbrooks - Brenda Slifer
James C. "Jimmy" Skaggs - James & Bonnie Skaggs
Karen Kay Paschal - Linda Paschal
Kyle Alexander Quinn - Ken & Betty Quinn
Mark (Markie) Sweitzer - Jeri Sweitzer
Molly Elizabeth Murphy - Kerry & Sarah Murphy
Nick Koleff - Bob & Linda Dils
Ryan S. Thuma - Scott & Renee Thuma
Stephen Anthony Freeman - Tom & Kathy Freeman
Tony Robert Lavy - Robert E. & Sharon Lavy



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

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

**See the CompassionateFriends.org website for more information and to register*

In Loving Memory of Brian

~by Kate Ludwig

This year was the fifth anniversary of the day my brother Brian passed away at age 34. He was at home alone with his two youngest children, (two and five years old at the time), and he had a pulmonary embolism. To know they saw their Daddy die was so very hard to accept. That is something they will never forget and it breaks my heart. I have lost all my grandparents but have never lost someone so close who was also so young. It is a really difficult thing to understand. I find myself incredibly sad all the time lately. Growing up, we were not what you would call extremely close. I was the only girl and with three brothers you tend to fight a lot, and get on each others' nerves. But if anyone of us was in trouble, we were always there for each other. Once we got older, Brian was more like the protector. He would even accompany me to clubs when I wanted to hear a band play and no one else could go. He said there was no way I was going alone. It was really sweet of him because we didn't exactly like the same kind of music. He was a country music fan. Once he had kids, he and I had an even better relationship; he was so happy being a father, those kids were everything to him. He always told me he just wanted them to be happy, that if he knew they were happy, he would be happy too. The night before he died he spent it in the basement with his five-year-old daughter teaching her how to skateboard. That was how he was. Whenever he had time, he spent it with his kids. He was the type of person who always worried about everyone but himself, and was the first person to volunteer to help if you needed anything. Now don't get me wrong, he wasn't perfect by any means, and I don't mean to say he didn't have his flaws, but he was a generally good person. He loved cars- especially fast cars and his son has followed in his footsteps there. I am so thankful I still see his kids on holidays, and special occasions. Every year for his birthday, we get together but there is always that hole. It hit me really hard for the first time at his oldest daughter's First Communion. It was not too long after he died and it was so sad to see all the other kids with their parents and my niece missing

one. I actually struggled to hold back tears during the ceremony. It still hits hard at certain times, especially because his son was only two years old at the time, and he doesn't remember much about his dad. But his sisters are good about remembering and telling him stuff his daddy did. I realize now that even though my brother was taken much too soon, his memory will live on forever. Brian, we all miss you so much!

Kate Ludwig works for a lighting distribution company and lives in St. Louis, Missouri. She is 38 years old, (although she says she pretty much stopped celebrating birthdays but does want to plan a really big trip the year she turns 40), and has two younger brothers. She tried to start a TCF chapter in St. Louis, and although it didn't come together, she has not given up hope that one day there will be a chapter there.
We Need Not Walk Alone Winter/Spring 2010-2011



*There is no one like a
brother or sister.*

*Their loss brings a
different kind of
sorrow.*



**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.