



# THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS INC.

International Organization Offering Friendship and Understanding to Bereaved Parents

## MIAMI COUNTY CHAPTER NO. 1870

February 2019 NEWSLETTER Vol. 36 No.12

Facebook page "The Compassionate Friends of Miami County Ohio Chapter 1870".  
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### *There's a Valentine Waiting for You*

*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*

### **February Meeting – Feb 28th, 2019** **7:00pm**

**Topic: Love Endears : Rituals by Pam Fortner**

**February Refreshments:**  
Cindy Glaser (Memory of Andy)  
Kathy Barker (Memory of Nicole)

**Thank you for January Refreshments**  
Debbie Turner (Memory of Leslie)  
Jackie Glawe (Memory of Jordan)

*Special Thanks to all who helped make the Memorial Service such a wonderful experience for all of us. To Jeff & Jackie Glawe for the use of the church and reception hall, to Randy & Debbie Turner for getting the meat and paying for a portion of the cost, to Penny Walters for making the beautiful snowflake ornaments and to the many who helped with setting up prior to our service and with clean up after wards.*

Meetings are held at:  
Nashville United Church of Christ  
4540 W. St. Rt. 571, West Milton, Ohio  
Meetings are held in the basement of the church. Please park in the lot on the west side of the building. Enter the building through the door facing the west parking lot.

## **The New Year A Time of Hope**

Another New Year has slipped into our lives, radically changing some things and leaving other things to evolve naturally. For bereaved parents a new year marks another year on the calendar without their precious children. It is a new year, but not much has changed since the old year. Why is that?

We act as the catalysts of change for ourselves. We choose to help ourselves; we choose to stay in a specific place in our grief. We choose to reach out for hope or we choose to withdraw into the familiar and postpone facing life and hope another day. There are no set rules or specific timetables in bereavement. We are each unique in our grief.

Eventually we all find hope. We find it in different ways and in different times. There will be no one moment of epiphany for bereaved parents. Instead, there are a series of minutes, hours, weeks, months and often years until we realize that we can truly say we feel the power of hope coming alive from deep within us. This moment will come for each of us. It will come in its own time and its own way.

Even those of us who have found hope and who shine its light on the paths of newly bereaved parents, still regress and withdraw into the dark sadness of our loss. And that is as it should be. For we have lost the most precious gift of our lives...our children's presence with us and their future in this life. Our children live in our hearts and our memories and our dreams. They do not share this plane with us. It is normal and it is good to think of our children often and to shed some tears for all that has been lost. These aren't setbacks as much as sweet memories that bring cathartic tears.

The element we find in these memories is a closeness to our child and our child's life. This, too, is healthy. An often-expressed fear is that our children will be forgotten. Worry not, gentle parent, your child will be remembered for all of your days and for many days thereafter. You will never forget your child. Others who knew your child will never forget. The proof of this is in our memories...sweet memories that take us back to another time when our child was with us.

So this New Year, whether you are a few months, a few years or many years in your grief, think about hope. You have not forsaken your child when you reach for hope. Your hope brings your child back in a positive way that will warm your heart. Reach for that hope. As you move forward in your grief in the New Year, reach for hope. Your child will still be with you. And one day you will find that your child's presence is sweeter when hope is within you.

~Annette Mennen Baldwin  
In memory of my son, Todd Mennen  
TCF, Katy, TX



**National Compassionate Friends Conference**  
**July 19<sup>th</sup> – July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019, Philadelphia, PA**

Several members of our chapter have attended yearly conferences. They highly recommend attending these National conferences where you will be amongst other bereaved parents who are also walking this child loss journey. You have the opportunity to attend workshops of your choice with other bereaved parents and presented by bereaved parents. Workshops are another way to obtain a tool for our survival tool belt we must carry around to journey through to the other side. You'll also hear keynote speakers and share dinner with other parents.

Don and Pam Fortener, members of our chapter have been notified of a wonderful opportunity by a local sponsor to help cover some of the costs of the conference. If you are interested in attending the conference and would like to get your name in our chapter drawing please send an email to our chapter leader Kim Bundy at [kbundy.tcf@gmail.com](mailto:kbundy.tcf@gmail.com).

**“Butterfly Boutique” donations needed**

Our chapter members have been asked to help with donations for the “Butterfly Boutique” that will be located at the upcoming 2019 National conference.

This letter is from the chairperson and co-chairperson of the Butterfly Boutique that will be located at the conference:

In order to be successful and raise money ... we need donations of items to sell. We would like to have new and gently used pre-owned items. We need anything: that you have purchased or were given that has angels, butterflies, hearts, hummingbirds, dragonflies or any other appropriate subject matter. It could be jewelry (pins earrings, rings necklace, ankle bracelet) or jewelry box ..maybe a scarf or a tote bag ...a candle or coasters ...could be a Christmas ornament or decoration ...kitchen or bath towel (new of course), framed pictures, artwork or handmade items ...Seraphim angels or Susan Lordi Willow Tree, Butterflies on anything ..a chair or lamp...a night light or magnet ..note paper, a pen, something you may have purchased at the national conference and never used ...even heart things...wallet, a watch. At the national convention they even sold items that did not have butterflies or hearts like Coach wallets and Vera Bradley items...so any and all items that can be sold would be greatly appreciated. If you'd like a donation receipt, please let them know when you send your donation. TCF is a 501(c)3 tax exempt organization.

**Donations may be sent to: Betty Valentine, 302 Llangollen Blvd., New Castle, DE 19720**

## A Death Has Occurred

A death has occurred and everything is changed by this event. We are painfully aware that life can never be the same again, that yesterday is over, that relationships once rich have ended.

But there is another way to look upon this truth. If life went on the same without the presence of the one who has died, we could only conclude that the life we remember made no contribution, filled no space, meant nothing.

The fact that the person left behind a place that cannot be filled is a high tribute to this individual. Life can be the same after a trinket has been lost, but never after the loss of a treasure.



*Time does restore to us our quiet joy in the spiritual presence of those we love, so that we learn to remember without pain, and to speak without choking up with tears. But all our lives we will be subject to sudden sell reminders which will bring all the old loss back overwhelmingly.*  
~Elizabeth Watson

## **The Promise**

Your birth brought me  
Star-shine,  
The moon and the sun,  
My wishes, dreams gathered  
'round my little one.

My life became sacred,  
full of promise and light,  
all wrapped in the child  
who brought love at first sight.

The years of your living  
filled with laughter and tears,  
excitement, adventure,  
some boredom, some fears.

But ended too quickly,  
ahead of its time.  
The loss so horrendous,  
such heartbreak was mine.

But from the beginning,  
one thought rose so clear:  
never would your death erase  
the years that you were here.

I would not be defeated  
or diminished by your death;  
I would hang on,  
learn to conquer,  
if it took my every breath.

For if your death destroyed my life,  
made both our lives a waste,  
'twould deny your life's meaning  
and all the love you gave.

I vowed that years of sadness  
would change,  
with work and grace,  
to years of happiness, even joy,  
in which you'd have a place.

Memories of you,  
like shining stars  
in the patterns of my soul,  
are beacons  
flashing light and love,  
and with them I am whole.

In honor, I live my life,  
now living it for two.  
Through all my life,  
you too will live.  
You lived, you live, you do.

~Author Unknown~

## 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.

~Daniel Haughin, TCF Massillon, OH



*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

## CHAPTER NEWS

### Upcoming Topics:

**Feb** – *Love Endures:Rituals* – by Pam Fortner

**Mar** - *Randi Pearson shares thoughts on Dennis Apples book: Life after the death of my son: What I'm learning.*

**Apr** - *Sharing tattoo ideas.*

## Thank You for your love gifts!

- ★ Neil & Lori Clark for the Birthday Love Gift in memory of their son, Ian Wesley Clark 12/1982 – 05/2002.
- ★ Ann Flory for the Anniversary Love Gift in memory of her daughter, Elizabeth Flory Duff 04/1975 -- 01/2005.
- ★ Steve and Cindy Glaser for the Love Gift in memory of their son, Andy Glaser 12/1975 -- 06/2014.
- ★ Jo Hendrix for the Birthday Love Gift in memory of her daughter, Nan Marie Hendrix 12/1967 -- 06/2009.
- ★ Bob & Fran Karl for the Birthday/Anniversary Love Gift in memory of their son, Matt Karl 11/1961 -- 01/2002.
- ★ James & Marilyn Mitchell for the Birthday Love Gift in memory of their son, Michael Daniel Mitchell 12/1980 -- 09/2003.
- ★ De De Mott for the Love Gift in Memory of her son, Montgomery "Monte" Mott 10/1973 -- 02/2001.
- ★ Dave & Jonnie Shoemaker for the Anniversary Love Gift in memory of their son, Justin David Shoemaker 11/1980 -- 01/2018.

*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.*

# Our Children Lovingly Remembered

## February Birthdays

Child—Parent, Grandparent, Sibling

Amelia Beeman - Peggy Beeman  
 Brian Swartz - Lisa Swartz  
 Cameron Ferror - Chad & Tonya Ferror  
 Clifton Alexander - John Alexander  
 David J. Elam - Danny & Tammy Elam  
 James C. "Jimmy" Skaggs - James & Bonnie Skaggs  
 Jeffrey Scott LaCoste - Peggy LaCoste  
 Jeremiah Lee Bubeck - Rick & Becky Bubeck  
 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 - Tim & 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

### Heavenly Birthday

My birthday gift  
 to you, would be –  
 Cherished thoughts  
 carried, in memory  
 Of my love for you  
 that will always live on –  
 In life, as in death,  
 you will never be gone.  
 Always Loved Forever Missed  
 By – Toni Kane  
ALLGREATQUOTES.COM



*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*

## NOW for book review....

**"Dark Nights of The Soul"**, A guide to finding your way through life's ordeals  
 By Thomas Moore



Our lives are filled with emotional tunnels: the loss of a loved one or the end of a relationship, aging and illness, career disappointments, or just an ongoing sense of dissatisfaction with life. Society tends to view these "dark nights" in clinical terms as obstacles to be overcome as quickly as possible. But Moore shows how honoring these periods of fragility as periods of incubation and positive opportunities to delve into the soul's deepest needs can provide healing and a new understanding of life's meaning. (from back of book)

My loss is nine years out and it was very helpful for me in understanding the Dark Nights of the Soul and what it does to the soul. That the dark nights of the soul lasts for a lengthy period of time. This helped me to move to another state of my soul after being nine years in grief. I would recommend it for those that are at least five years or more into the loss of their child. For me it was the right time in my loss to embrace this book.

Review by Jeff Glawe, (Jordan's dad)

**A Sister's Love**

When the visions around you  
Bring tears to your eyes  
I'll be your strength  
I'll give you hope  
For a sister's love never dies

I promise you never  
Will you hurt anymore  
I'll be your strength  
I'll give you hope  
For a sister's love never dies

Over and over your heart breaks  
Without me in your life  
I'll be your strength  
I'll give you hope  
For a sister's love never dies

I will love you forever  
Even now that my life is through  
I'll be your strength  
I'll give you hope  
For a sister's love never dies

You are never alone  
My arms are always wrapped around you  
I'll be your strength  
I'll give you hope  
For a sister's love never dies

Copyright, 2014, Holly Graham

**Don't Ask If I'm Okay**

*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



**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.