



THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

NORTHEAST LOUISIANA CHAPTER

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APRIL / MAY / JUNE 2011

HERE COMES THE DAWN

Another Mother's Day without me,
I know that you were sad,
Having lost your baby boy,
how can anyone be glad?

Then comes my birthday,
just a short time after,
A day that our family had,
to celebrate with laughter!

These days are remembered fondly,
by three women in my life,
You my darling mother, a dear
sister,
and a forever loving wife!

Thank God I can be many places,
all through a busy day,
For I try to visit all of you,
in a very special way!

My thoughts are with you always,
although it's just not the same,
To think of how I'd like to be there,
when you call my name.

Following the Atlanta Braves is easier,
with truly the best view,
But nothing compares to the times,
I sat watching them with you.

I miss that furry friend of mine
and all the fun we had,
I try to make him happy,
but sometimes he looks so sad.

Another night has passed
and here comes the dawn I see,
A day filled with good wishes and with love sent by
me.

Created In Memory of Chad Gordon
May 21, 1972 – Sept 3, 1996
Son of Wayne and Jayne Newton
Brother of Lisa Gordon
written by Dan Bryl
TCF Atlanta, GA

YOU ARE SO STRONG

Empty words
That don't touch the reality
That my life has become.
Walking through fog
Incredible pain
Searching for the beloved face
I crave to see
The voice that I strain to hear over the
noises
Of people who have no idea
Of what the world has lost

Charisse Smith
TCF Tyler, TX



*"When it seems that our sorrow is too great to
borne, let us think of the great family of the heavy-
hearted into which our grief has given us entrance,
and inevitably, we will feel about us, their arms and
their understanding."*

—Helen Keller

Monthly Meetings

Thursday, April 7

Thursday, May 5

Thursday, June 2

6:30 PM
St. Paul's United Methodist Church
1901 Lexington Ave.
Enter through the back parking lot off Milton St.

For Siblings

An outlet for siblings is the TCF Sibling Forum. It is available online and is a place where siblings from all over can share and help each other cope with the unique grief of losing a brother or sister. Siblings are able to ask questions, make a comment or leave a thought for others to respond.

Visit the Sibling Resources Page at www.compassionatefriends.org
Email tcsiblingrep@compassionatefriends.org for the password

MY FRIEND

At one time you were my world.
As the years passed us by, you were my brother, my friend.
The older we grew, the closer we drew.
We lived our lives and suffered many sorrows, together.
But to suffer this one alone, I just don't know.
You made your own rules, you conquered the world, and more-- Heaven's door.
The world will forever be a little emptier, a little colder, and yet Heaven is so much richer.
Blessed God, please watch over my friend until I can join him; we'll all join him soon.
I love you still, my friend.

Lori Boyle
TCF Wellsville, NY

TOMORROW

Tomorrow
I'll try to understand her,
Try to understand the excitement behind
Those piercing hazel eyes,
Try to understand her zeal for life,
Tireless energy and love for others.

Tomorrow
I'll sit down beside her and get to know
This big sister of mine.
I'll get to know the skinny little girl
I grew up with and shared a bedroom with
For all our childhood years.

Tomorrow
I'll ask her about her boyfriend.
I'll ask her about her girlfriends.
I'll even ask her what her favorite subject is in school.

Today
I'm too busy.
I have too much to do.
She's getting on my nerves.

Today
She's borrowing my clothes and ruining them.
Today she's telling me to do all these chores for her.
Today she's asking stupid questions
I just don't feel like answering.

Today
I'm too tired.
But tomorrow
I'll tell her how much I love her,
I'll hug her and tell her she's pretty,
I'll tell her I'm glad I have a sister...

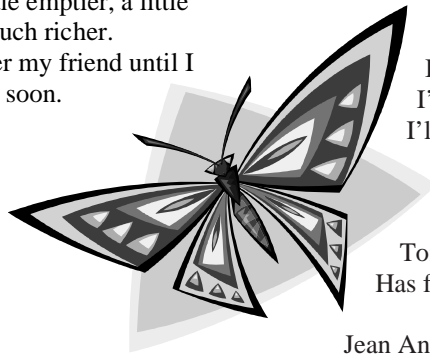
Tomorrow,
Tomorrow
Has finally come and she is gone!

Jean Anne Read
TCF Tulsa, OK

REST, MY BROTHER

Rest, my brother, you now have peace.
The wars within you all have ceased,
And with the rising sun each day,
Upon the heaven you will play.
Until that day we meet again,
Know I love you, my brother, my friend.

Sandra Evans
TCF Kearsarge, NH



COME ON, DAD!

The sun's shining, not a cloud to be seen
A day made in Heaven, isn't it keen?

Wow, can you believe such a glorious sight,
A dream come true, a fantasy delight!
Dad! Hey, Dad! Something's not right.
Mom's upstairs crying, Did you have a fight?

No one is laughing or having any fun.
Dad, what's wrong? Is it something
I've done?

Come on, Dad, this is your day.
Get up, get going, come on and play.

Why are you sitting and staring at space?
I'm here, Dad! Can't you see I'm right here?
I'm here in your heart, isn't it clear?
I'm here in your thoughts and all that you do.
I've never been gone from any of you.

Our love lives forever. It won't go away.
That's why we'll always share this day.

Put on a smile, not an ugly ole frown.
Come on, Dad...Don't let me down!

Enjoy your day. Share it with me.
Laugh and love our whole family.

I'm here, Dad, like I'll always be,
Come on, Dad. Do it! Do it for me!

Carol Cichella
TCF Rockford, IL.

*Find a little time for Spring
even if your days are troubled.
Let a little sunshine in...
let your memories be doubled.
Take a little time to see all the things your child was
seeing...
And your tears will help your heart find a better
time for being.*

*Sascha Wagner
TCF Des Moines, IA*

IMPOSSIBLE WISH

I cannot always face the truth
Of death's finality;
It's easier to just pretend
He'll soon come home to me.

And yet, my spirit knows the son
I loved so much has died;
Reality, though harsh and cruel,
Must never be denied.

I want him back! I want my son!
I want to see his face!
How will my broken heart survive
With this hollow, empty space?

I must allow the tears to fall,
Allow my heart to grieve;
To close my mind to fact is but
To cripple and deceive.

With agony and sorrow,
This world of mine is rife;
My soul is struggling, battling the
Worst nightmare of my life.

In bitterness, I'm much aware
Of all that I now lack;
In utter pain, I can but cry
"Oh, God, I want him back!"

Peggy Kociscin
TCF Albuquerque, NM



Chapter co-leaders

Marilyn & French Smith

Steering Committee

Henry Cole, Facilitator

Johnny James, Treasurer

Dianne & Frank Bruscatto, Library

Frances & Jim Gregory, Outreach

John Dobbs, Outreach

Anna Ruth Hill, Outreach

Betty Jean James, Outreach & Hospitality

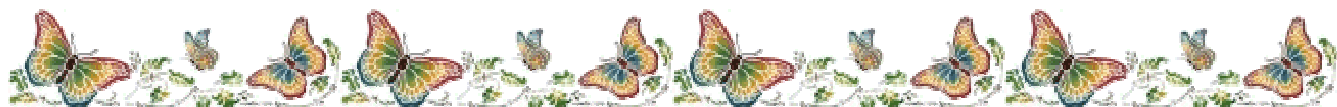
Julie & Danny Petty, Newsletter

Betty Jean & Johnny James, Memorial Park

OUR DAY – A VERY SPECIAL DAY

Our day, a very special day; a day that is set aside especially to honor all Mothers. Mothers, a beautiful word. What other word would you use to best describe giving birth to, nursing, loving and caring for tiny helpless human beings, a gift of life to treasure? But weren't we taught that once you give a gift to someone, you should never take it back? What went wrong? Mine was taken away from me. Does that mean that I wasn't worthy to be a Mother, that I was failing, that I didn't appreciate the gift? The gift was too precious to be given for keeps. It was only loaned to me for a short while, even in my sorrow I feel special, for I know the true meaning of the word Mother. I have reached the ultimate, from the joy of birth to the sorrow of death. I belong to a special group who truly knows the meaning of the word Mother. Would I have not accepted the gift if I had known the terrible loss I would feel by having it taken away from me? No, I would still hold out my hands and accept such a precious gift, to love and to cherish, even for a short while, is worth every fear. This year on Mother's Day, I'll shed my tears but let them be as a soft summer's rain, a rain that nourished the earth, tears that heal and cleanse my heart.

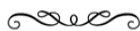
Vera Babb
TCF St. Louis, MO



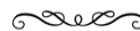
FATHER'S DAY

Father's Day...not a big holiday, but one that holds a lot of meaning to those to whom it applies. For first time fathers, it brings a sense of joy and pride. For a long time dad, it is a reminder of the fulfillment, which children have brought to his life. For those men who have lost a child, no matter what the "child's age, Father's Day can be a painful time. It can be a horror for those who must endure their pain in secret and silence, due either to their desire for that approach or society's expectations that they be strong and controlled. We wish to acknowledge the day because the death of a child does not negate the parenthood of a dad who loved him/her. We wish that all bereaved fathers experienced a taste of good memories and remembered love for your child.

Cape Fear Chapter
TCF Wilmington, NC



Everyone is encouraged to contribute to the newsletter to keep our chapter going strong. Please contact Julie Petty with your ideas.



Also, remember you can bring your child's favorite snack for refreshments to our monthly meeting or do a flower arrangement for the table. Please contact Marilyn Smith one month prior to the meeting.

Our Children Always Loved and Remembered



A special table is set up at our meetings to honor children whose special days are in that month. We invite you to bring a picture or memento of your child to share during that significant month.

OUR CHILDREN'S APRIL BIRTHDAYS

<u>Child</u>		<u>Parent(s)</u>
Jason Farrell	04/02/67	Sandra Garrett
Thomas Stephens	04/12/95	Susan & Grey Stephens
Lee Deal	04/13/83	Melanie Deal
Ashley Loflin	04/22/74	Katie Loflin
Eddie Hoy, Jr.	04/24/67	Martha Fontenot

OUR CHILDREN'S APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

<u>Child</u>		<u>Parent(s)</u>
Aaron Akers	04/01/06	Allison Woods
Lauren Hemphill	04/04/06	Kitty McDougal & Tommy Hemphill
Krista Corrent	04/08/00	Anna Ruth Hill
Pamela Ford	04/10/04	Leona Upton
Martha Mickel	04/13/84	Ruth Mickel
Michael Johns	04/19/06	Nell Book

OUR CHILDREN'S MAY BIRTHDAYS

<u>Child</u>		<u>Parent(s)</u>
Bo Best	05/02/84	Charlene Best & Charles West
Justin Petty	05/07/82	Julie & Danny Petty
Melissa Blankenship	05/08/65	Peaches Cathey
Kelly Boies	05/08/85	Paula Gilliam
Jason Hutts	05/12/81	Carol & Greg Hutts
Derrick Sadberry	05/15/65	Belinda Sadberry
Kelly O'Neal	05/28/70	Nancy Oliver
Brian Gregory	05/28/73	Frances & Jim Gregory

OUR CHILDREN'S MAY ANNIVERSARIES

<u>Child</u>		<u>Parent(s)</u>
Clifton Scarborough	05/04/99	Tina Scarborough
Patrick Loflin	05/10/05	Katie Loflin
Ashley Loflin	05/10/05	Katie Loflin
Lee Deal	05/16/06	Melanie Deal
Carrie Peters	05/17/05	Florence Peters
Lance Thomas	05/18/08	Connie & Danny Thomas
John Dobbs	05/21/08	Maggy & John Dobbs
Dwain Whitehead	05/22/07	Mary & Ralph Whitehead
Justin Petty	05/26/01	Julie & Danny Petty

OUR CHILDREN'S JUNE BIRTHDAYS

<u>Child</u>		<u>Parent(s)</u>
Travis Lowery	06/07/78	Joyce & Dale Lowery
Sean Hanemann	06/09/67	Susan Tingle
Shellie Faith Young	06/09/77	LeJeune & Leslie Brock
Caroline Cole	06/11/70	Ann & Henry Cole
Colby Wixon	06/15/86	Laura Scriber
Alice Rains	06/18/70	Marie Rains
Jackson Kennedy	06/18/00	JonAnn Layton & Jeff Kennedy
Codye Mardis	06/19/90	Julie Beckley
Mike Hayes	06/20/63	Margaret & George Hayes
Kelly Chapman	06/23/78	Judy & Bennie Chapman
Walker Dayton	06/23/81	Vickie & Edward Dayton
Carrie Peters	06/24/64	Florence Peters

OUR CHILDREN'S JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

<u>Child</u>		<u>Parent(s)</u>
Joyce Ann Powell	06/07/10	Cynde Dubois
Dawn Rose	06/10/05	Debbie & Danny Upshaw
Melissa Blankenship	06/14/04	Peaches Cathey
Kody Spann	06/14/07	Cindy & Larry Spann
Wesley Canterbury	06/15/07	Dewanna Canterbury
Michael Prichard	06/23/07	Jo Lynn & Paul Prichard
Shellie Faith Young	06/24/09	LeJeune & Leslie Brock

TO OUR LONG TIME MEMBERS:

We need your encouragement and support. You are the string that ties our group together and the glue that makes it stick. Each meeting when new parents arrive with a fresh hurt and frightened eyes, I remember how we felt at our first meeting. Think back ... what would it have been like for you if there had not been any "oldies" to welcome you, share your grief, and encourage you? It was from them you heard, "your pain will not always be this bad; it really does get softer." They were the ones who wanted to really listen when you talked about your child. Can you be an "oldie" for someone else? By helping someone else, you help yourself and share your child with someone who never got to know them. Come out and share with newly bereaved parents to help them heal. Our own healing happens when we are reaching out to others.

**WE NEED NOT WALK ALONE;
WE ARE THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS**

OUR CREDO

We need not walk alone.
We are The Compassionate Friends.
We reach out to each other with love, with understanding and with hope.
Our children have died at all ages and from many different causes,
but our love for our children unites us.
Your pain becomes my pain just as your hope becomes my hope.
We come together from all walks of life, from many different circumstances.
We are a unique family because we represent many races and creeds.
We are young, and we are old.
Some of us are far along in our grief, but others still feel a grief so fresh
and so intensely painful that we feel helpless and see no hope.
Some of us have found our faith to be a source of strength;
some of us are struggling to find answers.
Some of us are angry, filled with guilt or in deep depression;
others radiate an inner peace.
But whatever pain we bring to this gathering of The Compassionate Friends,
it is pain we will share just as we share with each other our love for our children.
We are all seeking and struggling to build a future for ourselves,
but we are committed to building a future together
as we reach out to each other in love
and share the pain as well as the joy,
share the anger as well as the peace,
share the faith as well as the doubts
and help each other to grieve as well as to grow.

WE NEED NOT WALK ALONE
WE ARE THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

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Northeast Louisiana Chapter
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Return Service Requested