

THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS INC.

International Organization Offering Friendship and Understanding to Bereaved Parents

MIAMI COUNTY CHAPTER NO.1870

February 2024 NEWSLETTER Vol. 32 No. 2

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

Meetings are held at:
Zion Lutheran Church
14 W Walnut St
Tipp City, OH 45371

**(entrance by parking lot on W. Walnut St.,
handicap accessible)**

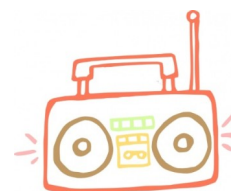
Next Meeting:

February 22, 2024

7:00 pm

Topic:

Signs – Presented by Don Fortener



Power 107.1 in partnership with our chapter
would like to have parents come in to share
their story in Feb.

. Please contact Kim Bundy at

937-765-7788 to set up an interview time.

SNOWFLAKES

By Denise Falzone
Jan 7, 2021, compassionate friends.org

Every snowflake that falls is unique and has its own individual design. There are beautiful patterns in each snowflake and even the tiniest of flakes have their own markings. These patterns change again and again — even after the flake touches the ground. Each snowflake is a cause for wonder, each flake is one of a kind. No two are exactly alike.



Like the snowflake, our beautiful children were each unique and special; some we only dreamed about and some danced upon the earth. They filled our lives with wonder and transformed our world. We held them too briefly, but we will hold them in our hearts forever. We shall remember them always.

At this time of remembering, it may help to reflect upon how our lives have been enriched by the love we have given and the love we have received from our children. Our children leave treasures behind that time can never take away.

IT MIGHT HELP

Your child has died. Your pain is so devastating that you cannot move. The tears come in waves — unstoppable. You keep crying not knowing when you will stop. You may be surprised when you can't control your emotions.

A basketball star injures his ankle and is taken out of the game. There is nothing he can do about it except apply ice and wait for the healing. Unlike his ankle, your grief is not going to go away. You are out of “the game” for a while. You find that you have difficulty concentrating.

You panic in the middle of the night thinking that your whole experience is a bad dream. A bandage won't help — an ice pack won't help — running away won't help. The difference between you and the basketball player is that he wants back in the game; you have no desire to “go on” with your daily routine.

Your “ice pack” may be a friend who is willing to sit with you and just listen. Your “ice pack” may be meeting and sharing through The Compassionate Friends. You may find, as time passes, that your sharing begins to help others.

Be prepared for those who will say that you should get over it and get on with your life. You will know that, even though they mean well, they have no clue what is going on inside of you.

Know that you can “dump” all you want in a Compassionate Friends meeting.

Let the meetings be your “ice pack” for healing.

Our “ice pack” just might help.

~Sam & Phyllis Turner, TCF Wake County

NEED TO TALK TO SOMEONE?
A listening ear is sometimes the best medicine.

Kim Burgundy (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

Chapter website by Mica Glaser Jones:
www.thecompassionatefriendsmiamicounty.com

CHAPTER NEWS

Upcoming meetings:

Feb	- Signs presented by Don Fortener
Mar	- Music memories

47th Annual National Conference of The Compassionate Friends

July 12th – July 14th
New Orleans, LA



(They are still in the planning stages of
workshops & presentors)
Watch for more information on the
Compassionate Friends National website

Thank You 
for your love gifts!

- ★ Lynn Reitz in memory of Parker Locke's birthday.
- ★ John Alexander in memory of Clifton Alexander.
- ★ Chevrolet of Troy donation through Power 107.1 radio station partnership.
- ★ 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.

*One day you wake up and realize that you must have survived it because you are still here, alive and breathing. But you don't remember the infinitely small steps and decisions you took to get here. Your only awareness is that you have shed miles of tears and what seems to be an endless road of sorrow. One day—one glorious day—you wake up and feel your skin tingle again, and you forget, just for an instant, that your heart is broken...
And it is a beginning.*

~Susan Borrowman, TCF, Kingston, Ontario



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
 Keegan Freytag – John & Hanna Freytag



February Angel-versaries

Child—Parent, Grandparent, Sibling

Brian Patrick "Stew" Stewart - Joel & Connie Kempton
 Mark Kurtis O'Dell - Sandy O'Dell
 Mark Nordquist - 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
 Jeffrey Gardner – Bob & Bev Gardner
 Caleb McKenzie Baker – Tam Baker



We all know how difficult those "Special Days" can be - birthdays and death anniversary days. Please remember these parents on their special days and let them know that they are not alone; someone cares about their pain and their grief. It means so much to be remembered!

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, Kim Bundy/Chapter leader or Cindy Glaser/Treasurer



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

BROTHER-SISTER BOND SHOWED ITSELF ON VALENTINES DAY

A couple of years after my son Michael died, I was sorting through some things which I had saved from our children's school years. I came across a Valentine card which depicts a little girl surrounded by heart symbols.

"Stuck on you Valentine!," the card reads. On the back of the card is seven-year-old Michael's hand-written signature. The card was to his big sister Kelly.

The emotional bond between Kelly and Michael was formed very early. Almost three years older, Kelly was excited about the prospect of welcoming her new brother into the world.

When I was pregnant with Michael, we didn't know the baby's gender in advance.

"It's not a girl," Kelly had insisted.

"He's my brother, and his name is Michael!"

The relationship between our two children was not unlike that of many other healthy siblings.

Kelly and Michael were daily companions and playmates during the early years. They had their bouts of sibling rivalry, too, which on some days would drive me insane! Their love for each other was solid, however. On one particular evening, after a day of almost non-stop arguing between the two of them, while they were lying in their beds I heard, "Night Mike, I love you!" "Night Kelly, I love you!"

...At age 19, Michael died in an automobile accident while Kelly was away at college. Kelly has had to learn how to be an only child. She has had to define for herself a new identity, a difficult task as a young adult. I am confident that the bond which was formed between them will remain forever. Kelly is married and shares her new home with her husband and an adorable Pug named Otto. They occasionally spend a weekend at our house and sleep in Kelly's old bedroom, where Michael's "Stuck on you Valentine!" card can still be found on the night stand as a symbol of a bond that will never die.

FOR AMBER'S SISTER TARA

I ache for you
daughter of mine
child of my heart.
I ache for the pain
you feel you cannot share
the pain you cannot express
though I know it is there.
I ache for you, child
your sister is gone
our life is not the same
nor will it ever be again.
I ache for the friendship
that has no chance to grow,
the joys and sorrows
and no sister to share.
The hole will be there:
a bridesmaid, an aunt,
someone who cares
no matter what.
I ache for us all
for what we are missing
can never be replaced.

~Judy Vasas
TCF Winnipeg, Canada



**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.