

THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS INC.

International Organization Offering Friendship and Understanding to Bereaved Parents

MIAMI COUNTY CHAPTER NO.1870

February 2025 NEWSLETTER Vol. 34 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 27, 2025

7:00 pm

Topic: Discussion cards



*We may not be able to make the sun
shine for you, But we can hold the
umbrella.*

~Ann Swann, TCF Valley Forge PA



Sometimes in life we have to go through profound sadness in order to find our hope. This is my journey of finding My Hopeful Heart. It has been nine years ago today that I lost my beloved daughter. Every year when this day is upon me I am filled with an overwhelming sense of sadness and anxiety because a part of me is gone that I know I will never get back. I am lost on this day, and these feelings never go away. They are with me every hour of every day. I have had to learn to live with these feelings, which are difficult, more than I could have ever imagined. It makes some days harder to get through than others. You deal with a different kind of normal, and emotions that are totally foreign. Losing a child changes everything. It changes who you are as a person in this unknown world that you have been thrust into. At times it is unbearable. Sometimes the anger grabs you and you think it will never let go. You never fully get on with your life, and there is no such thing as closure. But I realized early on that I must try and do my best to persevere and move forward for my family, my friends, and for myself, no matter how hard this may be (and it was extremely hard), because I know my daughter would want this for me. There is always hope in my heart. I have become the person I am today in large part because of my daughter. I know what it is like to be the mother of a beautiful, fun, happy, loving, kind, compassionate and caring girl. I know what it is like to have a daughter. For that short period of time that I was blessed with I will be forever grateful. My daughter made me a mom. She was my firstborn I became a playgroup mom, room mom, Sunday School mom, Girl Scout mom, dance mom, carpool mom, and a shopping mom, just to name a few. Some of the happiest times of my life were spent with her being all these various moms. But the role I truly cherish My Hopeful Heart by Barbara Hurst was just being her mom. That is something that will always be part of my soul. I will always have that, and that is what I hold on to. There is always hope in my heart. Someday our children will leave us to lead their own lives. Some will leave us to go away to college. Some will leave us to serve our country. Some will leave us to pursue careers. Some will leave us to get married and start families. And some will leave us because of the unimaginable; death. This is by far the most difficult and painful way that our children leave us because we know they are never coming back. There is no understanding it. There is no making sense of it. But I realize because of this, no matter how I feel, I have to make room for hope in my heart. Hope that the memories of my daughter will live on forever through me, through her dad, through her brother, and through her extended family and her friends. Hope that I can help others that are caught in the grips of grief and maybe make a difference. Hope that I know with the love and support of my family and friends I will continue to move forward and lead a life that I am proud of. Hope that I know that I am not alone in this journey. There is always hope in my heart. Hope gives me the courage to live with my broken heart, which I will have forever. Hope allows me to be happy at times and not feel guilty. Hope lets me know that there is no time limit on grief, not because I am sad, but because I am embracing my feelings of how much I love and miss my daughter. Hope is realizing that I can reminisce about my daughter, hear her name without always shedding tears, and instead sometimes smile. Hope is turning "what might have been" into comforting daydreams. Hope soothes my shattered spirit. There is always hope in my heart. I am forever grateful to my family and friends who stood by my side and continue to do so throughout this journey. They have made the impossible possible. I am surviving down this long hard road because they have given me hope in my heart. I would not have been able to write this without the unconditional love and support of my husband and my son. They are everything to me. They inspire and encourage me every day. I love you both more than I could ever put into words. I am grateful that they brought laughter, fun, and peace back into our lives. I am so blessed to have them both. They are the hope in my heart. Lastly, there are times in life when we are faced with inconceivable loss, devastation or adversity. But when we look deep inside ourselves, no matter how difficult that is, hope is there, just waiting. Be patient for it. Be open to it. Hope will come if you give it a chance. We all deserve hope in our hearts. I will always love and always miss my daughter. She is in my heart and soul forever. She will always be part of who I am. I know that this feeling of grief will be with me for the rest of my life. Grief, in some way, defines who I am now. I have hope because of the love my daughter showed to all of us and the love I have for her. She was loved by so many. I have hope that my heart will continue to grow stronger each and every day. Because of my daughter, I will always have hope in my heart. And I wish you to always have hope in yours.

-by Barbara Hurst. Barbara Hurst is a native of Detroit, MI. She and husband Jon currently reside in Birmingham, AL. They have been married for 33 years and have two children. She is a former court reporter turned scopist/editor, who loves to write, and has had her own scoping business since 2003. Barbara lost her 15-year-old daughter Natalie in a tragic car crash in 2010. While in the throes of her own sorrow, she realized that she wanted to help others in their journey to navigate the tumultuous and difficult path of grief. TCF We Need Not Walk Alone, Autumn/Winter

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


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

CHAPTER NEWS

Upcoming meetings:

Feb - Discussion cards

Help others know your child through the newsletter

Do you have a poem, a special story , remembrance of your child that you would like to share in the newsletter? I would love to hear from you. You can also share your grief journey or how you found hope.

Send to me at im4song@aol.com

Also, if you have a topic you would like to see covered at a meeting let me, Kim or Cindy know.

Thank You 
for your love gifts!

★ *Steven & Cindy Glaser in memory of Ronnie Ladd's grandson, Trenton Paul Abraham Ladd.*

★ *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.*

LOVE GIFTS are monetary gift donations you can make to this Miami County of Ohio Chapter in memory of your child, grandchild, sibling or loved one. These gifts are used to help keep this chapter running by helping pay for newsletter printing, stamps, donations to meeting locations, care cards and outreach cards to the newly bereaved, the annual butterfly release/picnic, the Children's candlelight memorial, the website and so much more.



*Thank you to:
POWER107.1 LP-FM
Helping get information out about our chapter to help grieving families.
EmPOWERing Local Non-Profit Organizations! Broadcasting From The Heart of Beautiful Historic Downtown Troy*

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 Forrer - Ken & Louise Forrer
Nick Koleff - Bob & Linda Dils
Keegan Freytag – John & Hanna Freytag



*Sometimes love is for a moment,
 Sometimes love is for a lifetime.
 Sometimes a moment is a lifetime.*

Pamela S. Adams, TCF Winnipeg Canada

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 – Rob & Bev Gardner
Tam Baker – Caleb McKenzie Baker



My heart stopped the day you died
 I put it away in a heavy, metal box
 Away from laughter and sunlight.

I buried the box Beneath guilt, regrets and
 the pain of not saying goodbye Deeply
 buried under the pain of missing you

I went searching for you In forests,
 mountains and jungles
 In deserts, meadows and beaches
 Searching for a look, a trace, a glimpse
 of you

But you came looking for me
 In strange, unexpected places
 You'd show up for a brief moment when
 least expected
 Bringing me a bird, a song, a sign
 Unmistakably you

To show your love for me
 To comfort me To sustain me until we
 embrace again

~Karen Howe from Wake County TCF Newsletter, for Claire

Valentine's in Heaven

Are there Valentines in Heaven?
 Are there Red Hearts everywhere?
 Do they line the golden streets,
 Or is that very rare?
 I wish that I could send you one,
 Right through Heaven's Gate,
 To say how much we miss you,
 On this special date.
 I'd like to send a Candy Heart,
 That is printed, "I Luv U,"
 And maybe you would whisper back,
 "I know, I Luv U too."

**Letter Received at U.S. National
 Headquarters:**

"Dear Friends — I am only 13 years old, but my sister (who is a year older than me) died when she was 4 days old. The thing that I suffer about is whenever I want to discuss her death, my parents just turn away. And it seems as if they didn't even care about her, because they don't even cry. I do, because I keep wondering what she would be like and what fun we could have together. Well, I've gotta go, but I had to tell you this. I wish to remain anonymous."

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.