



**THE
COMPASSIONATE
FRIENDS**
Supporting Family After a Child Dies



Newsletter

Volume 39 No. 11 November 2017

Jackson, MS Chapter: P.O. Box 1396; Jackson, MS 39215-1396; 601-713-4357

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POSTAGE

PAUL BROOME in memory of CYNTHIA BROOME

ED and CAROLYN BUCHANAN in memory of ASHELY BUCHANAN

JERRY and CINDY WIGGLESWORTH in memory of LEE WIGGLESWORTH

LOVE GIFT

VIRGINIA STANLEY in memory of ANDREW THOMAS STANLEY (Birthday 11/03)

MARY ELLEN ALBRITTON in memory of DOUGLAS NEIL ALBRITTON

CHUCK and MARLISE PRESTWOOD in memory of KRISSY PRESTWOOD

SECURITY SERVICE

WILEY and BETH GREER in memory of BENJAMIN QUIN (BEN) GREER

The Compassionate Friends THANK YOU for your donations

They are tax deductible and deeply appreciated.

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Falling for you....

...while leaves fall, the river drifts by and friends sit, speaking of loved ones lost to suicide. Like the river, conversation drifts. Some smile at memories shared. Others cry tears of regret, anger, guilt, despair; tears for what could have been, but is no more. Through the years, this group of friends has learned that words fall short of describing sorrow. And so we sit silently, watching the....

....falling leaves....falling tears....falling for you....

...until the time comes to fall in line and drift toward a table adorned with recently fired clay shapes. At an earlier gathering, I molded soft gray clay then impressed it with words and symbols of your life. Although I don't speak of it, I know that yours is not the only life interrupted. My life is also damaged, diminished, in danger of falling apart in oh so many ways. This small group shares space with those we miss and love, both living and dead; in this, my child's birth and death season. How I long to see you float free with the....

....falling leaves....falling tears....falling for you....

...and I long to connect again with you but my plea falls on deaf ears. I'm left with the task of creating your wind chime. A year ago, on your birthday, leaves fell as I stamped the soft clay heart with musical notes, falling stars, hovering doves and the words "treasured memories." Now the clay has cured and along the holes in the edge of the stamped heart, I tie other clay shapes with lengths of string – my heartstrings. I add an anchor, a porcelain leaf inscribed with the words "falling in love." The pieces fall in place like....

....falling leaves....falling tears....falling for you....

....and then I playfully brush my fingers through your wind chime; fingers that long to run through your hair. The chime whispers your name but its music can never fill my heart like the sound of your voice. Fall – a time for friends to make wind chimes and memories. A time for....falling leaves....falling tears....falling eternally for you.

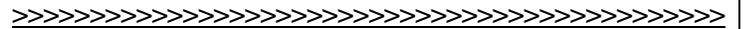
*Carol Clum
TCF Medford Oregon*



Thanksgiving & Christmas Thoughts

As we enter into the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, let us each remember each other and as we grieve for our own children, let us especially remember those who are newly bereaved as this may be their first Thanksgiving & Christmas without their child. This is an especially hard time for each of us and the grief never ends, but let us reflect also on this special time of year and the good times we had with our children while we had them on earth. Let us try to not blame ourselves or others for our children's absence and let us try harder to see the hurt and pain inside others and reach out to them in a special way this year. Perhaps, we may purchase a gift for someone in need in memory of our child or invite another grieving person to our home during the holidays. As we gather on Thanksgiving and Christmas, some of us may have large family gatherings, but others may be alone. We know this can be a lonely time of year even if we are around a crowd, simply because our precious child/children are no longer with us. We know it can be a definite challenge to look outside of our own pain and to consider another hurting individual, but let us each try in our own way, and perhaps in reaching out to others, our own pain and grief may be diminished. May each of you experience a new peace, purpose, and joy as you enter into this most joyous season of the year. Sending love and hugs to each of my special TCF friends!

*Faye McCord
TCF/Jackson, MS*



First Thanksgiving

The thought of being thankful
fills my heart with dread.
They'll all be feigning gladness,
not a word about her said.
These heavy shrouds of blackness
enveloping my soul,
pervasive, throat-catching,
writhe in me, and coil.

I must, I must acknowledge,
just express her name,
so all sitting at the table,
know I'm thankful that she came.

Though she's gone from us forever
and we mourn to see her face,
not one minute of her living,
would her death ever replace.

So I stop the cheerful gathering,
though my voice quivers, quakes,
make a toast to all her living.
That small tribute's all it takes.

*Genesse Bourdeau Gentry
from Stars in the Deepest – After the Death of a Child*



November Mourning

Memories rain down like falling leaves
 Amidst a torrent of tears
 Fall used to be my favorite -
 Now November brings only fear.
 For October was the last full month
 That we could share together.
 My bright October full of joy
 When again we heard your laughter.
 Then darkness came November eight
 Now there is only pain.
 For when your gentle heart was stilled
 We knew only loss and shame.
 How could we lose our only son?
 Our precious gift from God?
 We miss you with an intense love
 And grief is the road we plod.
 Never will I feel the joy
 That autumn used to bring -
 Although I smile at memories
 Of you saying funny things.
 Those days we spent are treasures;
 How I wish for just one more!
 So now, I'm waiting for the day
 We meet on eternity's shore.

Sarah Chavez
 TCF Greater Ozarks, MO

GRIEF IS LIKE A RIVER

My grief is like a river –
 I have to let it flow,
 But I myself determine
 Just where the banks will go.
 Some days the current takes me
 In waves of guilt and pain,
 But there are always quiet pools
 Where I can rest again.
 I crash on rocks of anger –
 My faith seems faint indeed –
 But there are other swimmers
 Who know that what I need
 Are loving hands to hold me
 When the waters are too swift,
 And someone kind to listen
 When I just seem to drift.
 Grief's river is like a process
 Of relinquishing the past.
 By swimming in Hope's channel,
 I'll reach the shore at last.

Cynthia G. Kelley
 TCF Cincinnati, OH



THANKSGIVING

You may ask, "What do I have to be thankful for now that my child is dead?" After the death of a child, where is the joy in a day off from work? What pleasure can we derive from sitting around a table when someone is missing, and an uttered prayer of thanksgiving echoes hollow in our hearts?

Maybe we have been concentrating on the loss which has brought the overwhelming sorrow of death, and have forgotten the complete joy of life. When I remember laughing brown eyes, a mischievous grin, a scraped knee that Mommy could fix, a new word learned, even the memory of the realization that I had a baby boy, I have a great deal to be thankful for. I had 1 1/2 years of a dream come true, and I'm truly thankful I had my child.

Sure, the agony of grief, the anguish of losing my precious child to death, the torture of wanting to see that child grow and mature and the pain of never knowing, rips me up.

There is no Thanksgiving in entertaining these thoughts, so this month I am going to concentrate on the Living of my child, the Life that brought me so much joy. In this I am thankful that Evan was born, thankful that he lived, thankful that even for those short 30 months—I lived them too. Even so, as he lived once, I live now and want a productive life.

I am thankful I have come that far in my grief work to know I want to live and remember the good times without sorrow. And, I am thankful for my husband, who stood by me during the rough times. The husband who is the father of the child of our love. In him I have found my child, in our marriage I have found love, and that love taught us how to love that child. I am also thankful for you, my real friends—Compassionate Friends.

Edie Kaplan
 TCF Ft. Lauderdale, FL
 In Memory of my son, Evan



When I grieve, when I stand by others as they grieve, even in the midst of seemingly unbearable sorrow, grief becomes a way to honor life — a way to cling to every fleeting, precious moment of joy.

~ *Cortney Davis, Nurse Practitioner*

OUR CHILDREN—LOVED, MISSED & REMEMBERED

“They may be deceased by a few days or years, but we still miss them so much and still shed our tears.”

Birth Date	Child’s name	Parent’s name(s)	Cause
11/03	Andrew Thomas Stanley	Virginia Horton	Suicide
11/04	Roger Savell II	Brenda Crumbley	Stroke
11/05	Nathan Allen Grice	Sandra Grice	Suicide
11/07	Kristi Diaz	Julie Diaz	Cancer
11/08	Nathan Myers	Gaye Myers	Suicide
11/11	Jesse Arron Griffing	Eddy/Rebecca Griffing	Suicide
11/20	Anthony Jerome Blair	Mary Ann Blair	Homicide unsolved
11/22	Donovan Rashad Thomas	Sandra Moffett	Auto accident
11/22	Wynn McAllister	Susan McAllister	Auto accident
11/25	Dixie Patrice Kendall	Sam/Barbara Kendall	Cancer
11/30	Abbie Gatewood	Brandie Campbell	Cancer

**CANDLE LIGHTING MEMORIAL CEREMONY
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2017 - 7:00 P.M.
Fondren Presbyterian Church Sanctuary**

We look forward to seeing you at this very special and memorable event sponsored by the TCF Chapter/Jackson, Mississippi. The Candle-Lighting Ceremony highlights our children's lives with music, poetry, and a special visual program that allows us to share our memories with each other.

If you are unable to attend and would like to have a candle lit in memory of your child, please send the following information to: The Compassionate Friends, P. O. Box 1396, Jackson, MS 39215-1396.

IN MEMORY OF: _____

FROM: _____

*****PLEASE SEND INFORMATION BY NOVEMBER 10, 2017*** (We usually have people who send their photos late and we want to accommodate you, but we "MUST" have your photos in by Nov. 10th in order to have time to include them in our program. IT TAKES LOTS OF TIME TO DOWNLOAD THEM SO PLEASE SEND THEM IN BY NOV. 10TH. We appreciate your understanding very much!**

Pictures of our children will be shown on a power point program and if you had pictures shown last year, you do not have to send them in again. If you did **NOT** have photos of your child shown last year or want **DIFFERENT** photos shown this year, please send **no more than 3 copies** to: Bob Gates.

It is preferred that you send digital copies to the following email address: guitarbobgates@gmail.com
If you cannot send digital copies then you may mail photos to: Bob Gates, 1009 Harding St. Jackson, MS 39202.

Please send information with your digital photos listing your child's name and your name and phone number and include in the subject line: Pictures for Candle Lighting.

Pictures must be received by November 10, 2017 in order to be included in the program. It is preferred that you send them in sooner than that, but they MUST ARRIVE NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 10TH TO BE INCLUDED IN OUR PROGRAM.

If you send photos in the mail, please **DO NOT SEND ORIGINALS** as they could get lost. **Send only 3 copies and print your child's name and your name and phone number on the back of each picture.**

Please mark the date on your calendar and plan on helping if you can. We will meet at Fondren Presbyterian Church at 10:00 A.M. the day of the program to decorate and get set up for the ceremony and you are welcome to come help. There is no need to bring anything. Candles and refreshments will be provided by the Jackson TCF Chapter. Feel free to invite your family and friends as we honor our children.

For more information: Marcia Lefteroff @ [601-937-1940](tel:601-937-1940) or Rex or Faye McCord @ [601-878-9339](tel:601-878-9339)

OUR CHILDREN—LOVED, MISSED & REMEMBERED

Heaven Date	Child's name	Parent's name(s)	Cause
11/02	Russell "Rusty" Wilkins	Jimmy/Barbara Wilkins	Heart Disease
11/05	Jeff Pritchett	Paul/Rita Pritchett	Auto accident
11/09	Jason Walters	Brenda Crumbley	Auto accident
11/09	Stuart Clark	Rai Clark Smith	Suicide
11/10	Rivers McGraw	Lauren McGraw	Suicide
11/16	Ted Jensen	David/Marilyn Jensen	Septicemia (sudden)
11/19	Price Harper	Alicia Harper Ball	Seizures/Handicapped
11/20	John Mack Osborne III	Mack Osborne	Suicide
11/24	Drew Little	Greg Little	Enlarged heart
11/26	Britney Gail Brinlee	Reba Gail Walker	Accidental overdose
11/26	Britney Gail Brinlee	Belinda Woolard	Accidental overdose
11/27	Doug Albritton	Mary Ellen Albritton	Auto accident
11/27	Charles Randolph Weatherly	Ruth Ellen Germany	Homicide



REPLY FORM—IMPORTANT

It is important for our children to be remembered. Please understand that in order for your child to be on the "special days" list, you must fill out this form, which gives us permission to list this information.

I/We are bereaved Parents grandparents siblings step-parents friends relatives professional

Please add remove keep me on the mailing list.

Remember my Child Sibling Grandchild on Special Days. Please have someone call me.

Name _____ Phone _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 E-mail address _____
 Name of Child _____
 Age when deceased _____ Cause* _____
 Child's Birthday _____ Child's Heaven Date _____

*You need not list cause of death. We ask this only so that parents whose children have died in similar ways may reach one another.

Optional: Your donations are tax deductible and allow us to reach to other bereaved parents.

Enclosed is \$ _____ given in memory of _____

I would like my contribution used to fund: Check one: Postage Children's Memorial Love Gift

Mail to: The Compassionate Friends; P.O. Box 1396; Jackson, Mississippi; 39215-1396