



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



Newsletter

Volume 40 No. 9 September 2019

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

CHILDRENS MEMORAIL

CHUCK and MARLISE PRESTWOOD in memory of KRISSY PRESTWOOD

WILEY and WANDA FISHER in memory of DANIEL MERRITT FISHER (Heaven Date 09/10)

WILEY and WANDA FISHER in memory of RYAN COURTNEY FISHER KNIGHT

The Compassionate Friends THANK YOU for your donations
They are tax deductible and deeply appreciated.

Printing of TCF Monthly Newsletter: Courtesy of BLUE CROSS/BLUE SHIELD OF MS

TCF JACKSON CHAPTER NEWS

August TCF Meeting

We had 16 people present at our August Meeting including one new couple. We are so glad they came but so sorry for the reason why. Our chapter leader, Marcia Lefteroff began the meeting by welcoming everyone and making announcements.

Marcia announced that it is time to begin sending pictures to Bob Gates for our Annual Candle Lighting. Details will be in upcoming newsletters. Special Days were read by Faye McCord and Marcia Lefteroff. Joy Gates told of another grief group that is held monthly at St. Richard's Catholic Church and that some from our group have been attending and it is very good. Our facilitator for our August meeting was not there so we had general sharing. We went around the room introducing ourselves and sharing briefly about our precious children, their ages, the causes of their deaths, and how long it is been. Some shared what our group means to them and how much our group has helped them.

Each of us has our own story and how special our child or children are to us. We shared some ways we are coping, and it was agreed that our TCF group has helped each of us to be able to go on with our lives, although the hardest thing we have ever done. One lady shared about a butterfly she saw and that it flew around her several times and then landed on her finger. What a special blessing that was to her. Who knows? That could be a message from her child. Butterflies are our symbol and a sign of new life.

We all agreed that losing our child was and is the worst, most painful thing we have ever been through. We will never have some of the answers we seek, may never know why this happened to us or to our children, but we go on the best that we can and try to live the rest of our lives as a tribute to the memory of our child.

A special bond is found in those who have lost children. We know each other's pain, each other's heart! We have learned so much from our grief and from each other.

Thank you to those who came and to those who brought the delicious snacks.

*Faye McCord
TCF/Jackson, MS*



TCF MEETINGS

2nd Tuesdays monthly at 7:00 p.m.
Fondren Presbyterian Church – Fellowship Hall
3220 Old Canton Road, Jackson, MS

Directions: Take West Lakeland Drive exit off I-55 North until it dead ends into Old Canton Road.
Turn right, go to 2nd traffic light.
Fondren parking lot is on the right.

Meeting

Meeting: Tuesday, September 10 - 7:00 p.m.
Facilitator: Albert Hinson
Topic: Suicide, Those Left Behind and the Want to Join Them.

Please Come!

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Although our meetings are held in donated church facilities, The Compassionate Friends is not a religious organization, and espouses no religion affiliation or doctrines. Persons of all faiths (or no faith), creeds, color, and race are welcome.

Prenatal Bereavement Support Group

*1st Wednesday/ Noon
UMC Cong. Ctr. Jackson Medical Mall
For more information, call
Kelly Hinson @ 601-815-7096

*If the meeting date falls on a holiday—the following
Wednesday

For Children Grieving the Death of a Loved One

The McClean Fletcher Center—12 Northtown Drive, Jackson, MS offers peer support groups for children ages 4-18. This includes the child's family and meets every other week. For more information call:
Jennifer at 601-206-5525

MS SIDS ALLIANCE INFANT LOSS SUPPORT GROUP

Monthly 1st Tuesday – 7:00 p.m.

River Oaks Hospital Lobby Classroom
MS SIDS ALLIANCE offers education to the public and professionals on risk reduction of SIDS and bereavement support.
Cathy Files – 601-955-1057
Leslie Threadgill – 601-573-1458



**Newsletter folding: Saturday, September 28th @
4:00 pm at the Fellowship Hall of Fondren
Presbyterian Church.**

CHILDREN'S MEMORIAL UPDATE

We are pleased to announce that the concrete foundation for our new statue/fountain has been poured at Fondren Presbyterian Church and we are well on our way to getting our statue/fountain delivered and installed, along with our existing pieces that are currently still at our old location moved.

APPRECIATION TO: Scott May, who owns S & S Builders of Mississippi, Inc who donated his time and efforts in getting the foundation poured in memory of his brother, Billy Jack, Jr. "Jackie", Glen Weldon MMC, Concrete who donated the concrete, and Tanya Hearn, who gave of her expertise and time in helping finish the concrete. Also, thanks to John Huntington, who is facilitator representing the property committee at Fondren Presbyterian church in getting the property ready at the church for our statue/ fountain. There is lots to consider in getting everything moved and installed, including having electricity and water to our fountain and we appreciate so much Fondren Presbyterian Church and their part in helping us with getting all of this done.

We do not know yet just when the fountain/statue and other pieces will be moved and installed, as it depends on the weather as well as the schedule of Four Seasons Garden Art and those who will be doing the work. But it does look like it will be soon, and we may have more news on this in next month's newsletter. Thanks to those who have donated to this worthy cause in memory of their children and we have finished paying for the actual statue/ fountain. We do not know yet what the costs will be in moving and installing everything. We do have "some" money left in the memorial fund which we hope will take care of that, but we are in need of more donations to replenish our regular budget needs. Some of you may know that we are now paying for a security guard each month and we cannot take money from our children's memorial for that or for other regular expenses, so NOW would be a great time to make a donation to our chapter in memory of your child/children. Please designate or note it as a "Love Gift" and in whose memory.

We would appreciate it so much and remember your donations are always tax deductible. We appreciate so much your understanding and patience in the completion of this worthy project in memory of our precious children who have crossed over ahead of us.

WE LOVE AND APPRECIATE OUR TCF FAMILY.

Faye McCord
TCF/Jackson, MS

Within the sorrow there is also grace. When we come close to those things that break us down, we touch those things that also break us open.

~Wayne Miller~

Thoughts From our Director

One of my jobs is at a Hallmark store and recently a lady came in whose mother had died recently and she was looking for something in honor of her mother. She had already picked out a redbird figurine but wanted something else. As we were looking, she was telling me about how terrible it was to lose her mother. Of course, I was thinking, no, that's not the most terrible loss. But, I also knew that she had not experienced the death of a child so she could not possibly know the heartbreaking pain of that. I could not know her pain since I was only 9 when I lost my mom, so I never had an adult relationship with my mom. As I'm progressing further down the road since the loss of my child, I am understanding that we shouldn't put degrees on pain such as my pain is worse than yours. Everyone experiences pain in their lives, and everyone should be able to not have to feel that their pain is any lesser than anyone else's.

Your journey through grief cannot be compared to another person's journey. You will grieve in your own way and in your own time. Grief does not have a set time limit. The only certainty is that it will take longer than you want it to, or not. Several in our group have expressed that they want to hold on to the pain as they feel that is holding on to their child. I too feel that way. One day I may not but for now I do.

Going through grief is like going through a tunnel. The bad news is the tunnel is dark. The good news is that once you enter the tunnel, you are already on your way out.

Marcia Lefteroff, Director
TCF/Jackson, MS



A Season of Many Feelings

Fall is a season of many feelings
Autumn is here once again
As it comes every year.
And with the leaves
My falling tears.
This time of year
is the hardest of all
My heart is still breaking,
Once again it is fall.
Memories once so vivid
Are seeming to fade.
My time spent with you
Seems some other age.
This season reminds me
Of grief and of pain.
But yet teaches hope
And joy once again.
For trees are still living
Beneath their gray bark,
And you my sweet child
Are alive in my heart.

Cinda Schake
TCF, Butler, PA

BALLON LIFT-OFF

The balloon lift-off will be the third Saturday in September which is **September 21st**.

Corinne Watts is checking to see if we can have the balloon lift-off at Pelahatchie Park on the Reservoir like last year.

In preparation for this, please fill out and return if you cannot attend but want your child's name to be included with a brief message and lifted off on a balloon.

Please return to:
The Compassionate Friends, Inc.
Balloon Lift-off
P. O. Box 1396
Jackson, MS 39215-1396

Our planned date for this is: Saturday, September 21, 2019 @ 6:30 pm. Please fill out, cut on line and send the bottom part.

Name: _____

From: _____

Message: _____



Emergence

There is no magic here
Pain in longing
Sorrow to the top
But wishes don't come true
Gone stays gone

Hope remains shattered
Shards at feet
Step lightly, small cuts in the soul
But onward walk
There is finality only

Then slowly
A butterfly emerging
Memories bring joy
And not just pain
Lives on in our heart

*Melissa Anne Schroeter
TCF Rockland County, NY
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The Learning of Love

Love lives - continually gives ~ LOVE NEVER FAILS
Love never leaves & never deceives.

Love always remembers, Love sometimes grieves
Love establishes, Love includes, Love understands,
Love honors, Love forgives, Love waits...

There are secret things with Love - mysteries,
moments, memories

The secret things belong to One higher, sovereign, &
wiser

But the things that inspire LOVE & the things that are
revealed about LOVE;

Belong to us - to our sons & daughters, to our siblings
& grandparents, family & friends

~THE THINGS REVEALED ABOUT LOVE BELONG
TO US~

That we may observe, honor, & remember
ALWAYS & FOREVER

Pamela Hagens



PHOTOS FOR CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY

Our candle lighting will be Saturday, December 7th this year. In preparation for that, we need to start getting our children's pictures to Bob Gates for the power point at end of program.

If you can, please send the pictures digitally to Bob Gates at guitarbobgates@gmail.com. Write in the **subject line**: Pictures for Candle Lighting 2019. Also include: child's name, parent's name and telephone number. Please get these pictures to Bob before **November 1st** as that will be the absolute cut-off date. If they are not to him by then, the pictures will not be included. This is a very time-consuming task for Bob.

If you have pictures on there from last year and you want to use them again, then you don't have to do anything. There are 3 pictures of your choice per child, whatever ones you want to use. If you can't email them then please snail-mail them to: Bob Gates, 1009 Harding Street, Jackson, MS 39202.

Be sure to send information with your pictures listing your child's name, your name, and phone number. I would suggest sending copies of originals. We can't be responsible for pictures that are lost in the mail. I think Rex McCord then puts them on the website.



TO MY FRIENDS

This is my pain.
 Let me feel it.
 Don't tell me not to cry.
 I know you mean well, dear friend.
 But telling me not to cry,
 Tells me you don't understand.
 But, how could you, really?
 Have you lost a child?
 Have you given birth, loved and laughed,
 And then watched him die?
 This is my pain.
 Let me feel it.
 Be patient with me when I want to scream
 to cry
 or be crabby
 or talk about him
 or be alone.
 This is my pain.
 Let me feel it.
 I know you'd take it all away,
 if you could.
 But you can't.
 I can't avoid it,
 Or stuff it down somewhere,
 Or run away from it
 Because it always finds me again.
 The cold, hard fact is,
 That I had a child that died,
 and it hurts.
 So I know, that this is my pain,
 And I have to feel it.
 To get through it.

Carolyn Johnson
 TCF Yuba City, CA

From *We Need Not Walk Alone*, Summer 1994



Tiny Little Footprints

Little footprints on a paper,
 Tiny footprints stamped on white.
 No smiling pictures of your bath time,
 No running or flying a kite.
 Such sparse memories I have of you,
 Sweet, beautiful, babies mine.
 No keepsake rattles or no bronzed shoes,
 No treasures for me to find.
 Just tiny little footprints,
 That I look at every day,
 My memories of two little boys,
 That the Angels took away.
 We will make a million memories,
 When Daddy and I get there,
 Oh wait, we'll make it two million,
 After all, you are a pair.

Marilyn Rollins/TCF/ Lake-Porter County, IN
 In Memory of Reece and Andersen, sons of Mike
 and Kathy Williams



Ritual

A gaze thru blurry window
 When did it start to rain?
 Then realize it's just the eyes
 They're crying once again

Emptiness is mighty
 Deep within begins the ache
 Intense, this pain that surely
 Will cause a heart to break

Shoulders gently tremble
 A moaning soft and low
 Arms tightly wrapped about oneself
 Body rocking to and fro

A ritual of comfort
 A numbing of the mind
 A cleansing of the tortured soul
 A knowing eye made blind

Thus begins the healing process
 Of this I know so well
 Without you, I fall victim to
 This mindless cast of spell

*Donna Gerrior/TCF/Pasco County, FL
 In Memory of Rob*



A Year in the Life

How can we ever understand
 The loss of a life so dear
 It's still so hard to believe
 It's almost been a year

We miss your love
 We miss your smile
 We pray that you are near
 We pray that you will help us
 Through relentless sadness
 And endless tears

You're in a better place now
 By God you were received
 You'll never feel life's pain again
 In that we do believe

We make our weekly journey
 To the place you now call home
 Across hillsides made of monuments
 To touch your name carved in stone

We stand alone, we cry, we pray
 Your brother, mom, and dad
 A full year gone and counting
 Our lives forever sad

*Tom Murphy
 Greater Cincinnati TCF - East Chapter, OH
 In Memory of my son, Brennan Murphy*

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
09/04	Matthew Omerza	Michelle/Eric Omerza	Suicide
09/08	Marilyn Yvonne Bennett-Roberts	Walterine Bennett	
09/09	James Shannon Bennett	James/Anita Bennett	Cancer
09/10	Michael Alan McNally	Ann/Robert McNally	Suicide
09/11	Travis Casey Macoy	Mary Pierce	
09/12	Jamel Jackson (relation)	Rosie Martin	Drowning
09/12	Jamel Dequan Jackson	Doris Martin Jackson	Drowning
09/12	Sid Wesley Champion	Sid/Janet Champion	Respiratory Arrest
09/13	Larkin Powers Honea	Dickey/Breck Honea	Suicide
09/15	John E. Brown, Jr.	Vincent/Dawn Venturini	Auto accident
09/16	Lauren Ann Clement	Bill/Hallie Clement	Complications/Crohn’s
09/21	Alan Ebersole	Bruce/Story Ebersole	
09/22	Kim Corban	Mickey/Pauline Corban	Heart Attack
09/23	Kyle Horn	Julie Diaz	Drug Overdose
09/26	Destiny McDonald	Pamela Hall	
09/26	Mattie Carroll	Lauren Carroll	Still Birth
09/26	Tina Shipworth	Faye Pope	Cancer
09/26	Eric McLaughlin	Ethel Duke	Automobile Accident
09/28	Debra Fortier	Earl/Trudy Dawson	Cardiac Arrest
09/29	John Charles Russel, IV	Jack Russel	Drug Overdose

Do I Have To?

Mom, do I have to stop loving my brother because he is not here?
 Will I forget all about him because he’s not near?
 I remember all the things we did together, even though we were very young.
 I laugh and feel warm each time I think of a particularly funny one.
 Sometimes I get so angry that he’s no longer here to share,
 But I know he knows it’s only because of how much I still care.

I miss him, so even though at times we didn’t agree,
 Just knowing he was there made things feel safe for me.
 He always felt he had to be my strong, protective big brother,
 And that’s a bond we’ll always share forever with each other.

He tried to protect me even when he, too, was just scared.
 No, I won’t stop loving that big brother of mine,
 Not now, not ever, not till the end of time.
 He will always be a part of what makes me be me.
 And that’s the part of our love that will live eternally.

*Jackie Rosen
 TCF N.Dade/S. Broward, FL*



OUR CHILDREN—LOVED, MISSED & REMEMBERED

Heaven Date	Child's name	Parent's name(s)	Cause
09/04	Aerica (Nikki) Robnett	Brandi Robnett	Unknown
09/06	Ryan DeWayne Thomas	Dwayne/Linda Thomas	Auto accident
09/06	Carl Gustave "Gus" Evers	Jan Evers	Suicide
09/08	Tyler Allen (T-Bug) Hinson	Albert/Shelly Hinson	Suicide
09/10	Daniel Merritt Fisher	Wiley/Wanda Fisher	Tractor rollover
09/13	Lane McCord	Rex/Faye McCord	Accidental drowning
09/17	Joshua Chase Taylor	Tina Taylor	Suicide
09/18	Timothy Lance "Tim" Rooker	Sylvia Little	Hit on Motorcycle
09/19	Sid Wesley Champion	Sid/Janet Champion	Respiratory arrest
09/26	Mattie Carroll	Lauren Carroll	Still birth
09/27	Patti Lynn Gary	Ms. Lynda F. Gary	Automobile accident

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