



The Compassionate Friends

Southwest Suburbs/Cleveland Chapter
Supporting Family After a Child Dies

Fellow Compassionate Friends,

Your April newsletter appears on the following pages. As we all do our part to stop the spread of the Coronavirus, the newsletter has grown by a few pages. Those additional pages contain a few more stories and poems that hopefully will provide additional support during this period of physical distancing.

As noted in the newsletter, our April monthly meeting has been cancelled. This decision was made in order to follow guidelines from public health officials, and to comply with government directives. We will continue to weigh the situation as we consider future chapter activities.

As a reminder, several phone numbers appear on the first page of each chapter newsletter for members who feel the need to talk. Additionally, many other support resources can be found through:

- **The National TCF website (www.compassionatefriends.org)**
- **The National TCF Facebook page**
- **Our chapter website (www.tcf-cle.net)**
- **Our chapter Facebook page**

Remember ... *We're all in this together! Stay safe and stay healthy!*

Doreen and Brian Sismour
Chapter Leaders





The Compassionate Friends

Southwest Suburbs/Cleveland Chapter
Supporting Family After a Child Dies

We Need Not Walk Alone, We Are The Compassionate Friends

P.O. Box 3696 Oak Brook, IL 60522 1-877-969-0010

National Website: www.compassionatefriends.org

Chapter Website: www.tcf-cle.net



Chapter Closed Facebook Group

April, 2020

Phone Contacts:

Pauline Dey
Phone: 440-526-2087

Judy Luff
Phone: 440-234-7098

Chapter Leaders:

Doreen and Brian Sismour
Phone: 440-327-8678
bsismour@oh.rr.com

Chapter Treasurer

Cheryl Ondrejch
Phone: 440-799-1980
echondo@aol.com

Chapter Newsletter Editor:

Bill Luff
Phone: 440-234-7098
jb13665@sbcglobal.net

Regional Chapter Coordinator:

Karen Pinsky
Phone: 513-207-8714
karenpinsky@gmail.com

WHAT IS COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS?

Compassionate Friends is a self-help organization offering friendship and understanding to bereaved parents.

THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS CREDO

We need not walk alone. We are The Compassionate Friends. We reach out to each other with love, with understanding, and with hope. The children we mourn have died at all ages and from many different causes, but our love for them 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, creeds, and relationships. 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 they feel helpless and see no hope. Some of us have found our

MISSION STATEMENT: When a child dies, at any age, the family suffers intense pain and may feel hopeless and isolated. The Compassionate Friends provides highly personal comfort, hope, and support to every family experiencing the death of a son or a daughter, a brother or a sister, or a grandchild, and helps others better assist the grieving family.

faith to be a source of strength, while some of us are struggling to find answers. Some of us are angry, filled with guilt or in deep depression, while 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 the children who have died. We are all seeking and struggling to build a future for ourselves, but we are committed to building a future together. We reach out to each other in love to 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.

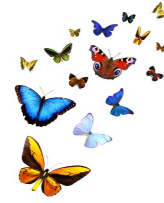


April Monthly Meeting - Cancelled

This decision was made in order to follow guidelines from public health officials, and to comply with government directives. We will continue to weigh the situation as we consider future chapter activities. *Stay safe and healthy!*

Remembering Our Children

Please take a moment to remember these children and those who love them on their birth dates and anniversaries. Although they were only here for a short time, the impact they made on their loved ones remains forever.



April Birth Dates

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 3 - Kevin John Napolz | 22 - Jeffrey Lamont "Man-Man" Harris |
| 7 - Jacob Benjamin Pritchard | 22 - Megan Leigh Homyak |
| 7 - Dominic Zunis | 22 - Mark Anthony Weber |
| 8 - Matthew Hickernell | 24 - Jillian Deborah Martovitz |
| 13 - Christopher Kuzma | 24 - Paul Eugene Olexo |
| 13 - Lucille Alexandria Uhlir | 24 - Ashley Nicole Szewczyk |
| 14 - Alex B. Sismour | 25 - Donna Lynn Tischler |
| 16 - Brittany Holtzman | 27 - Zachary Thomas Gott |
| 17 - Ryan Kenneth Perkins | 27 - Carl Raymond Grants |
| 17 - Lauren Jane Rehker | 27 - Adam Timothy Grodzik |
| 19 - Brenda Cole | 28 - Stephen Kanz |
| 19 - Mark Adam Kapusta | 28 - Ruth Elanor Pickett |
| 19 - Gregory Charles Christopher Musichuk | |

To My Husband

Your tears flow within your heart,
Mine flow down my cheeks.
Your anger lies with thoughts and movements.
Mine gallops forward for all to see.
Your despair shows in your now dull eyes.
Mine shows in line after written line.
You grieve over the death of your son,
I grieve over the death of my baby.
But we're still the same, still one,
Only we grieve at different times,
Over different memories,
and at different lengths.
Yet we both realize the death of our child.

*Pam Burden
TCF, Augusta, GA*

Remembering Our Children

April Angelversary Dates

Jay (John) Defeverre (Age 45)	Michael Edward Moran (Age 26)
John Anderson Greer (Age 7 months)	Paul Eugene Olexo (Age 17)
Thomas D. Hayn (Age 21)	Ivan Marko Penavic (Age 18)
Andrew P. Hudgins (Age 32)	Ruth Elanor Pickett (Age 23)
Monique Nicole Jones (Age 26)	Robert Clayton Samels (Age 24)
Kimberly Ann Keenan (Age 20)	Lisa Simpson (Age 46)
John Lazor (Age 3)	Jason Tompkins (Age 32)
Taylor Makela (Age 2 months)	Lucille Alexandria Uhler (Age 1 day)
Christopher Brandon Mercurio (Age 1)	Jackie vanDaalwyk (Age 30)
James Louis Morabito (Age 22)	Rhonda Zusack (Age 18)

Love Gifts

Love gifts are donations that are made to our chapter to support the continuation of the chapter as well as the newsletter. We would like to thank these people who donated to our Chapter in memory of their loved one(s).

~ Donna Penavic ~ In loving memory of
Ivan Marko Penavic (Age 18)

~ Clayton Samels ~ In loving memory of
Robert Clayton Samels (Age 24)

~ Elaine Schuster ~ In loving memory of
Lisa Simpson (Age 46)

~ Doreen and Brian Sismour ~ In loving memory of
Alex B. Sismour (Age 14)

~ Hertha and Don Tischler ~ In loving memory of
Donna Lynn Tischler (Age 38)

~ Linda Yonkof ~ In loving memory of
Stephen Kanz (Age 21)

*A real friend is one who walks in
When the rest of the world walks out. ~ Widely attributed to Walter Winchell*

Newsletter Dedications



Stephen Kanz (Age 21)

Happy Birthday Steve!

You are forever remembered and forever loved.

*Till we meet again,
Mom.*



Ivan Marko Penavic (Age 18)

Our dearest and oldest son,

We love you and miss you more than ever.

Mom, Dad, Michael, Grandma and Aunt Helen

Newsletter Dedications



Robert Clayton Samels (Age 24)

My life goes on in endless song:
Above earth's lamentation,
I catch the sweet, tho' far-off hymn
That hails a new creation.
Through all the tumult and the strife
I hear the music ringing;
It finds an echo in my soul--
How can I keep from singing?



Lisa Simpson (Age 46)

As the sun rises
and sets, you live
in my heart each
and every day.

*Love and miss you,
Mom*

Newsletter Dedications



Alex B. Sismour (Age 14)

Alex,

You blessed our lives for 14 years.
We wish it could have been forever.

Happy 23rd birthday in heaven.

*Always loved,
Always missed,
Love you - Mom, Dad and Andrew*

Time Heals

They told me that to comfort me
When my child died.
Four years and two children later
I think maybe they lied.

Friends and family tried their best.
God sheltered me under his wing.
Still, the mother inside me
Cries for that child,
And time hasn't changed a thing.

The gaping wound granulated to a scar.
The tears are now slower to spill,
But deep in my heart there's an empty hole
That only that child could fill.

No, I don't really think that it's true about time,
For I know that the love bond remains.
Time never heals the loss of a child,
You just learn to cope with the pain.

*Marsha Fredrickson
TCF, SD*

The Paths to Peace

As bereaved parents, we look to others for answers about our grief journey. For eight years I have listened as so many parents spoke about the combination of factors which brought peace to their hearts and allowed them to move forward into a different, less painful, life. I have read books, watched movies, attended seminars and retreats. I have gone to 93 Compassionate Friends meetings. And I have discovered one key factor in finding peace and resolution on this terrible grief journey: there is no single element or singular combination of elements that answers the needs of more than one parent. Each parent must patiently seek those elements that will enhance the individual and a unique personal journey: there is no magic map to finding the path to peace.

There is one common denominator in this quest for the peace on our long journey, and that is patience. Patience with ourselves is mandatory, because the grief journey after the death of our precious child is so horrible, so painful, and so isolating that our psyches and our bodies take so very much time to begin the healing process. There are setbacks. There is progress. Each of these comes in spurts. Each is partially reversed and the process begins anew.

Friends and family do not thoroughly understand our perspective on our unique journey. We must make allowances for them. But we must ask that allowances be made for us. For we are finding ourselves while on a path that we did not choose. We are lost. We are weakened. We are heartbroken. Each of us in our own way is seeking the formula that is uniquely our own.

Some parents find a kind of peace in their religion. Some parents are angry with their God. Many parents seek private counseling. Other parents read prolifically about the grief journey, seeking some element which resonates with them. Many parents come to Compassionate Friends meetings and actively participate. Others attend meetings and say little. Some parents slip into denial and proceed on the old path of their lives. We each make choices. We are different people with different experiences, backgrounds, cultures, genetic hard wiring, education and combination of abilities.

The path to peace is found by searching, by reaching out to every resource available. We will reject much of what we find; but if we search, we will find what we need.

For many of us, finding other bereaved parents presents an opportunity to listen to the stories of their child and their journey and, within those stories, we find many threads that fit our unique journey. Many stories, many journeys, many new threads are shared in group discussion and in private discussions. We find "seasoned" grievors who provide perspective on our feelings, and listen to our story. We find newly bereaved parents who touch our hearts and remind us how we have built our path to peace brick by brick. Their pain brings reflection and new revelations about our own grief journey.

I found kindred souls at Compassionate Friends. These kindred souls have allowed me to explore the various aspects of my being and gradually create a path of peace for myself. But the journey does not suddenly end. We walk this path for the rest of our lives. And if we do the hard work and face our demons early on, we accept the unacceptable and face life on our own terms. And that is as it should be.

Annette Mennen Baldwin
In memory of my son, Todd Mennen
TCF, Katy, TX

TCF National News



43rd TCF National Conference
July 24-26, 2020 • Atlanta, GA

43RD TCF NATIONAL CONFERENCE

JULY 24 - JULY 26

The Compassionate Friends National Conference is a weekend spent surrounded by other bereaved parents, grandparents and siblings. It is a place where hope grows and friendships are made with others who truly understand. With inspirational keynote speakers, abundant workshops for everyone's wants and needs, and a remembrance candle lighting program culminating with the annual Walk to Remember, this time of healing and hope is the gift we give ourselves. Join us as together we remember and share the everlasting love we have for our precious children, siblings and grandchildren.

The 43rd TCF National Conference will be held in Atlanta, GA on July 24-26, 2020. "Sharing Sweet Memories of Love" is the theme of this year's event, which promises more of last year's great National Conference experience. This year's conference will be held at the [Atlanta Marriott Marquis](#), 265 Peachtree Center Avenue in downtown Atlanta. We'll keep you updated with details here, on the national website as well as on our [TCF/USA Facebook Page](#) and elsewhere as they become available. Plan to come and be a part of this heartwarming experience.

*Choose to attend from nearly hundred different workshops and sharing sessions, given by professionals and also individuals just like you.

- Take advantage of "Healing Haven" to receive free personal services such as a massage.
- Craft items to commemorate the love for your family member in the "Crafty Corner".
- Step away for a quiet moment of pause in the "Reflection Room".

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Pre-registration will be available soon.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Our hotel block is now officially open for the 2020 TCF National Conference in Atlanta. Reservations can be made [online](#) or by calling Marriott Reservations directly at (866) 469-5475 and ask for the group rate for The Compassionate Friends 2020 Annual Conference.

TCF National News

AN UPDATE FROM THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS ABOUT OUR NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Dear Compassionate Friends,

Dr. Anthony Fauci of the NIH put it best this past week when he said, “We don’t set the timeline. The virus sets the timeline.” We at The Compassionate Friends are dealing with that reality regarding our upcoming 2020 National Conference in Atlanta, which is scheduled for July 24-26, 2020. We want to share our current thoughts about the conference.

Our board and Executive Leadership have been meeting on a continual basis to discuss the current circumstances and our options. We’ve been reaching out to experts in the field to see what other organizations with conferences are doing when confronted with these same realities.

TCF leadership is monitoring the COVID-19 situation on an ongoing basis and is responding as quickly as we can with needed support for our members such as our new training for Chapter Leaders on how to continue holding chapter meetings virtually. We are talking through the conference circumstances with our host hotel in Atlanta and are adjusting these conversations as our national information changes weekly and daily. With these decisions, we’re cognizant of multiple needs to be met including:

- Continued support of our members at a time when it’s needed more than ever.
- Addressing contract and timeframe aspects that are informed by outside national and state decisions in addition to our own.
- Keeping our members as safe as possible.

We are developing contingency plans should it become necessary to change our current conference structure and plans. We are keeping all options open and discussing them daily. This letter will be our starting point for communicating updates and changes to our full TCF membership, and we’ll continue these regularly as we have new information to share.

We realize in the past few weeks you’ve most likely been inundated with COVID-19 and pandemic information. Here are a few reminders and additional tips for all of us while we settle into our new normal:

- Please continue to wash your hands diligently for at least 20 seconds as this is the strongest line of defense right.
- Consider buddying with one another so that we all have someone to check in on and someone who is checking in on us.
- Let’s make sure we’re identifying who we know who may not have support or what they need right now. The newly bereaved have more difficulty identifying their needs and having a voice to reach out.
- Use compassion when communicating with others. This is our founding and why we’re here.

Please know that our thoughts are with you. We have heard from many of you about how this crisis is affecting you and your families. We know that when this crisis passes, even in the best of circumstances, we will have many more people reaching out to TCF. We hope all who need us will find us, and all who find us will be helped.

Please read the sidebar with a short note from the TCF Foundation on how they are responding to the current economic downturn sparked by the COVID-19 crisis.

Thank you for your continued commitment to our children, grandchildren, and siblings during these most difficult times. Please stay healthy and safe.

Debbie Dullabaun
Dales’s Mom
President, Board of Directors
The Compassionate Friends

Shari O’Loughlin
Connor’s Mom & Patti’s Sister
CEO/Executive Director
The Compassionate Friends

Our Chapter News

Candlelight Remembrance Service *(save the date)*

Our annual Candlelight Remembrance Service will be held at Bethany Lutheran Church on Sunday, June 28th. The service consists of lighting candles in memory of our children, with appropriate readings and music, a balloon release and refreshments. Please plan to attend this very special event in remembrance of our children. *More information will appear in the May and June newsletters.*



Library Notes – by Clayton Samels

I had hoped to announce a new book or two in our chapter library this month. But now that our chapter meetings are suspended for a while and we are under a stay at home order, that's not going to happen. And you won't be able to check out any other book in the chapter library. Or the regular library, either, for that matter, since they are closed, as are quite a number of things. What a difference a month makes, huh?



You can, however, still read library books on your computer, tablet, or phone, using an app like Libby, which is free. You can borrow materials online from the Cuyahoga County Public Library, which, by the way, was voted the number one library system in the country. You can also use apps like Kindle, Kobo, Nook, etc., to purchase ebooks online and read them, even if you don't have a dedicated ereader like the Kindle or Nook, so you might want to look into that. And many of us have some extra time on our hands now so that even if we aren't the most technologically inclined, we could still manage to get the apps up and running.

Of course, if you want to purchase paper books, you can still order them online. But I have become accustomed to reading books on my phone on the Kindle app for quite some time now. Currently, I am reading some trashy science fiction stuff, not really great literature, but a great escape, for a while, and a welcome respite from way too much television. I am trying to limit my tv to Wine with DeWine at 2 pm, only with diet Coke instead of wine. That gets me current info on the pandemic in Ohio, but I don't want to overdose on news like that. So it's back to reading, usually a couple of pages or a chapter and then go back to looking at Facebook or something to keep in touch with family and friends while I am socially distant. But now for more extended periods of reading, I have gone back to reading on my ancient Samsung Galaxy Tab 2 tablet, with a large ten inch screen. Ok, ok, too much tech talk. Now about the books.

(continued on following page)

Our Chapter News

Library Notes – by Clayton Samels (continued from preceding page)



At our last actual chapter meeting, I was asked to recommend a book about loss due to drugs. I didn't have a quick answer, but have since become aware of a whole series of books called Grief Diaries. One book in the series is Grief Diaries Surviving Loss by Overdose, published November 2019, so that's really recently. What is great about books in the series is that each book has stories of a number of people, so it's kind of like being in a room with a bunch of folks and listening to their experiences. You could get this book for either Nook or Kobo reading apps. I have not used Kobo in a long while, so I had to download and install it again and then order the book, which cost me under eight dollars. I started reading the book last night, and the first section is really intense, being a whole series of recounting of the deaths of people by overdose as told by their parents. For people who have experienced such a loss, it must be very familiar territory. For people who haven't, it can be quite informative. I will keep reading and have more to say about the book in my next column. In the meantime, stay home, stay well. And good reading.

PAIN

I am not a young man, and I thought I knew the meaning of pain. I have experienced pain from a toothache, arthritis, and even the loss of relatives and friends. But nothing in my fifty-four years had prepared me for the pain I experienced when we lost our son. I had no clue to real pain.

I think only a bereaved parent knows the true meaning. Not to belittle the loss of a parent or spouse, but those who have lost both tell me that it is not the same. My mother said to me at my brother's funeral, "Now I know how you feel." Even though she had lost a grandson, it was not the same.

It has been almost five years now, and there hasn't been a day go by that I don't see his picture or think of him and feel that pain. Pain for what we lost...and for what he lost. That pain is not as intense now. I have learned to tolerate it and still lead a normal life. The Compassionate Friends helped me to realize that I was not alone and that there were many others who felt that same pain. They helped me learn how to deal with it. Now it is my turn to try to help someone else.

*Harold F. Underwood
TCF Southern Maryland*

WHERE ARE YOU?

*I missed you yesterday
and looked for you
among the artifacts of your life -
your room with pictures,
the clothes that still carried your scent,
your favorite tools and books,
the tapes you loved to hear.*

*The very walls echoed your vitality
and carried faint memories of riotous laughter.
And so I sat there, comforted for a while,
but forced at last to confess
that although beautiful memories lingered
you were not there,
not then and not ever again.*

*If I could not find you yesterday,
where, then, can I look today?
Who can I talk to, implore, beg
to show me the way?
Where are the hidden doorways
to the signs and wonders
others claim to see?*

*My musings bring no answers
so I take a walk to clear my mind.
Ahead, I see children playing,
and their laughter floating on the wind
reminds me of your own carefree approach to life.
Their running mirrors your own abandon
and the way you always found joy in simple things.*

*Can this be the answer
to the riddle of finding you again?
Can it be that I will hear you
in every moment of laughter?
That I will see you
in the actions of a mischievous friend,
that I will feel you in every touch of compassion?*

*I've always heard
that if you seek, you will find.
Perhaps the corollary to that
is that you must seek in the right places.
I've been looking in the scrapbook
of all that used to be
and found only momentary solace.*

*So let me look for you anew
in all the wonders and blessings of life.
I believe you are reflected there
with every expression of happiness and joy,
in every instance of fearless exploration
and with every act of unconditional love.*

Butterfly Wings, Bricks and Lead

When I saw her load of grief, it looked to me to be merely a light load of butterfly wings, as compared to my full load of heavy bricks. Then I saw another man, and he seemed to be carrying a small load of lead. But as I watched her step on the scales bearing her load of butterfly wings, the scales read "one ton." When he stepped on the scales with his load of lead, the scales also read "one ton." I knew my grief-load of bricks would weigh more, but those scales read for me, "one ton." Our loads of butterfly wings, lead and bricks weighed exactly the same to the one carrying that particular load of grief.

We bereaved parents often feel resentment when a non-bereaved person speaks about our child's death. HOW can THAT PERSON know or even dream of how I feel or what I am going through? These feelings may be justified. But when we begin to feel resentment toward another bereaved parent "That child's death was easy compared to my child's death," "I have suffered more than she/he ever did" —we should remember that each of our grief-loads weights two thousand pounds to the one under it. Compared to Rose Kennedy, who had one child in a mental institution, and lost one daughter and three sons in violent deaths, my grief-load begins to look as if it were made of gossamer soap bubbles, but when I again step on that scale, it still reads, "one ton."

Our grief-loads may appear to weigh less because we who are under them have grown stronger through time and grief process maturation. The load actually weighs no less; it is we who have grown stronger and can carry it more easily. Sometimes we can even completely ignore the weight that is still there. Always be careful in judging another's grief-load. Remember the lead, butterfly wings and those bricks, and how they all weigh the same to the one under that load of grief.

*Tom Crouthamel
TCF, Sarasota, FL*

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*

What Grieving People Want You to Know

- **I am not strong.** I'm just numb. When you tell me I am strong, I feel that you don't see me.
- **I will not recover.** This is not a cold or the flu. I'm not sick. I'm grieving and that's different. I will not always be grieving as intensely, but I will never forget my loved one and rather than recover, I want to incorporate his life and love into the rest of my life. That person is part of me and always will be, and sometimes I will remember him with joy and other times with a tear. Both are okay.
- **I don't have to accept the death.** Yes, I have to understand that it has happened and it is real, but there are just some things in life that are not acceptable.
- **Please don't avoid me.** You can't catch my grief. My world is painful, and when you are too afraid to call me or visit or say anything, you isolate me at a time when I most need to be cared about. If you don't know what to say, just come over, give me a hug or touch my arm, and gently say, "I'm sorry." You can even say, "I just don't know what to say, but I care, and want you to know that."
- **Please don't say, "Call me if you need anything."** I'll never call you because I have no idea what I need. Trying to figure out what you could do for me takes more energy than I have.

So, in advance, let me give you some ideas: *Bring food. *Offer to take my children to a movie or game so that I have some moments to myself. *Send me a card on special holidays, birthdays (mine, his or hers), or the anniversary of the death, and be sure to mention her name. You can't make me cry. The tears are here and I will love you for giving me the opportunity to shed them because someone cared enough about me to reach out on this difficult day. *Ask me more than once to join you at a movie or lunch or dinner. I may say no at first or even for a while, but please don't give up on me because somewhere down the line, I may be ready, and if you've given up, then I really will be alone.

Virginia A. Simpson
news@beyondindigo.com

The Magic Light of Day

Often, when I think of you it's in the morning light. Or other times, I find that it is in the soft twilight. Somehow in those early hours or in the dusk of day – I feel our connection soundly, from your place so far away.

There's something very special about soft and dim sunlight that lets me know you're by my side and everything's alright. Not many would believe it's true, for heaven is far away. But all I know is – there you are, with me every day. You walk with me and comfort me, and somehow let me know. You'll guide the way along my life and meet me when I go.

Kathie Winkler
 TCF Middleburg Heights, OH

Grief is like a long valley, a winding valley where any bend may reveal a totally new landscape.

~ from *A Grief Observed* by C. S. Lewis

What Is A Love Gift ?

A love gift is a gift of money to The Compassionate Friends. It is usually in honor of a child who has died, but it can also be from individuals who want to honor a relative or friend who has died, a gift of thanksgiving that their own children are alive and well, or simply a gift from someone who wants to help in the work of our chapter. All local TCF chapters are totally dependent on funds from our families. We DO NOT receive funds from our National Office. Everything we need to operate our local chapter is paid directly from our local resources and our local family contributions. All monetary love gifts are tax deductible.

Thank you to all who contribute and support our chapter. Some people contribute in memory of other's children ... this is a wonderful way for others to say, "I am remembering your child." Other "Gifts of Love" are evident by all the compassionate and giving volunteers we have within our organization.

Love gifts should be made payable to The Compassionate Friends and mailed to our treasurer:

Cheryl Ondrejch, 14365 Old Pleasant Valley Road, Middleburg Heights, OH 44130

Newsletter Dedications

A newsletter dedication is a wonderful way to remember your child, and to help defray the costs to produce the newsletter. The cost is \$30 (tax deductible). If you would like to include a dedication, please fill out the form below and either bring it to a monthly meeting or mail it with your check (made payable to The Compassionate Friends) to Bill Luff, 133 Fourth Avenue, Berea, OH 44017. If you have a picture to include or a small tribute, please e-mail it to Bill Luff at:

jbl3665@sbcglobal.net



Donor: _____
(Your Name)

Donor Address: _____
(Street) (City, State, Zip) (Phone #)

In Memory of: _____
(Child's Name)

I would like dedication to appear in newsletter for month of: _____
(1st Choice) (2nd Choice)

*There are things that we don't want to happen but have to accept,
things we don't want to know but have to learn,
and people we can't live without but have to let go. ~ author unknown*