



The Compassionate Friends Newsletter  
c/o Anne Rinaldi-Nonamaker  
168 Lake Point Lane  
Naples, Florida 34112

Compassionate Friends Web Address: [www.compassionatefriends.org](http://www.compassionatefriends.org)  
Regional coordinator: Sally Migliaccio (561)747-2691

Dear Friends: To receive this newsletter by email, which will help us save on the cost of printing and postage, please send an email to me at: [anne.rinaldi@comcast.net](mailto:anne.rinaldi@comcast.net). On the subject line insert "TCF Email"

TCF meets every first Monday of the month unless otherwise noted

**Next Meeting: January 1, 2006**

**Welcome and Sharing Begins @ 7:00 PM**

**St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church**

**(in the PLC building behind the church)**

**625 111th Ave. North, North Naples, FL 34108**

At the Immokalee and 41 intersection turn on 111th Ave. (travel toward the beach)  
TRAVEL ABOUT 1 MILE AND THE CHURCH IS ON THE RIGHT

\*\*If we have inadvertently missed your child's Birthday or Anniversary Date or made any other errors, please accept our deepest apologies. Do call us at 287-5968 or email [anne.rinaldi@comcast.net](mailto:anne.rinaldi@comcast.net) to make an immediate correction.



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Siblings chat: Wednesdays, 9 p.m. EST: [www.compassionatefriends.org/Chat/chatentrance.html](http://www.compassionatefriends.org/Chat/chatentrance.html)

**TONIGHT I HOLD THIS CANDLE**  
Alan Pedersen  
Father of Ashley

Tonight I hold this candle in memory of you  
Hoping someday somehow my love will shine through  
I close my eyes lost in the glow  
There are so many things I want you to know

**CHORUS**  
This candle says I love ~ This candle says I miss you  
This candle is saying I remember you  
When I'm holding it toward heaven  
It feels like you are near  
If you're looking down tonight and see this candle burning bright  
It says I'm wishing you were here

In the glow of this candle I can almost see your smile  
And it carries me away for a little while  
To another time another place  
When all it took to light up my world was your beautiful face

**CHORUS**  
Someday Someway I'll see you again  
I'll hold you in my heart until then

This candle says I love ~ This candle says I miss you  
This candle is saying I remember you  
When I'm holding it toward heaven  
It feels like you are near  
If you're looking down tonight and see this candle burning bright  
It says I'm wishing you were here



## Our Children, Loved and Remembered



<i>Birthdates</i>		<i>Anniversary Dates</i>	
Sean Terry Son of Wendy Terry	1/2/1969	John Izzo Son of Mike & Carla Chodkowski	1/2/2004
Jason Smith Son of Merry & Tim Smith	1/3/1984	Debbie Pascarella Daughter of Jeanne Milano	1/3/2003
Betsy Perry Daughter of Ruth H. Sanders	1/6/1953	Keala Howard Daughter of Robert Howard	1/4/1994
Lisa Marie Ayers Daughter of Therese Ayers	1/7/1984	Tyler John Beck Son of Beth & Edward Beck	1/6/1995
Michele Daidone Daughter of Harriet & Bruce Cole	1/12/1966	Jacqueline White Knight Daughter of Mildred White	1/17/1997
Ziven Dabrowski Son of Sharon Bruckman	1/12/1979	Rebecca Ann Cameron Daughter of Don & Joyce Cameron	1/19/1996
Tyler John Beck Son of Beth & Edward Beck	1/12/1983	<b>December Anniversary</b>	
Brianna N. Dwyer Daughter of Karen Dwyer	1/14/1995	Tatha Carli Son of Nanci Lochner	12/18/2005
Michael Danos Son of Harry & Kitty Danos	1/20/1967	<p><b><u>Why Butterflies?</u></b></p> <p>Since early times, the butterfly has symbolized renewed life. The caterpillar signifies life here on earth; the cocoon, death; and the butterfly, the emergence of the dead into a new, beautiful and freer existence. Frequently, the butterfly is seen with the word "Nika" which means victory. Elisabeth Kubler-Ross movingly tells of seeing butterflies drawn all over the walls of the children's dormitories in the World War 11 concentration camps. Since Elisabeth believes in the innate intuitiveness of children, she concludes that these children knew their fate and were leaving us a message. Many members of The Compassionate Friends embrace the butterfly, a symbol—a sign of hope to them, that their children are living in another dimension with greater beauty and freedom—a comforting thought to many.</p>	
Katie Raines Daughter of Lenora Raines	1/21/1981		
James Michael Perkowski Son of Anita Opp	1/23/1977		
Tyler A. Thompson Son of Robert & Jill Thompson	1/23/1986		
Robert Neinas Son of Pam Arsenault (Craig) & Jim	1/24/1970		
Tatha Carli Son of Nancy Lochner	1/29/1972		
Bert Budde, Jr., Son of Josette & Bert Budde	1/29/1986		

**🦋 If I go to a meeting: Continued**

**🦋 Religion doesn't matter to me anymore. Can people at a meeting accept that?**

I think you will find TCF members are very tolerant of any views. After the death of a child, many priorities, as well as values, change.

**🦋 I notice the meeting is in a church. Do I have to belong to a church to attend?**

TCF has no religious affiliation. Chapters meetings are held in a wide variety of locations depending upon what is available in our communities.

**🦋 I have baby-sitting problems. Would it be all right to bring my child with me?**

While we understand the difficulties of finding child care, we must ask that any children attending with you be old enough to understand the meeting discussions and not be upset by them. Some chapters have sibling groups for children sixteen or older; check with your local chapter about this.

**🦋 Do I need a reservation before I come to a meeting?**

No reservations are needed. Just come whenever you feel up to it.

**🦋 My child died several years ago, and I postponed my grief work. Now it's catching up with me. Is it too late to come now?**

We all grieve differently. Many parents don't feel the need of a support group until years after the death of a child. It's all right to come whenever you are ready, whether it's soon after your child's death, months later or years later.

*Thank you for your Gifts of Love*

Barbra & Sid Finkelstein in memory of their son, Graham Edward Woody

Bernadette and Matthew Burks - Christmas remembrance for their son, Matthew Burks

A friend of Annette Carulli in remembrance of Phillip Carulli

All donations are gratefully accepted and assist the chapter in its mission to help bereaved families following the loss of a child. Please mail to: Teresa Mitchell 11081 Longshore Way West, Naples, FL 34109

*Loving Listeners:*

For those times when you need to speak to someone who will listen with understanding and who can offer hope and support from their own process of healing in grief please call us:

Annette Carruli 250-4071

Teresa Walker 353-3215

Anne Kithcart 775-5640

**If I go to a meeting, will I have to talk?**

No one is required to talk at any meeting. We understand how difficult that can be when our grief is so fresh. We do ask that you listen, however.

**My child was an adult and didn't live at home. Can I still go to a meeting?**

Chapter meetings are open to all families who have experienced the death of a child, at any age, from any cause. Regardless of age, we in TCF believe our children will always be thought of as just that....our children.

**Is there a charge to attend?**

There is never a charge to attend a TCF meeting. Our chapters rely on voluntary donations from members, friends and the community at large.

**What happens at a meeting?**

Some meetings are simply introducing ourselves and sharing our thoughts and feelings. At other times, chapters have short programs before the sharing time. The programs may include a brief guest speaker, viewing a video tape, or listening to an audio tape.

**Can I bring a friend with me?**

Of course, you can bring a friend, but we ask that they, as well as all members, respect each other's privacy. It is important for us to be able to share freely within our group and be sure confidences will be respected.

**My partner says they won't come with me. Can I come alone?**

Yes. We all grieve differently and they may not be ready to take part just yet...or ever. And, likewise, many parents attend meetings without their partners.

**My child died from AIDS. Will I still be welcome?**

Yes. All families who have experienced the death of a child at any age, from any cause, are welcome.

**Members Area: Southwest Florida Compassionate Friends:**

**A Grandparent's Grief**

The death of your grandchild is like a double edged sword. You grieve for the death of a baby whom you cherished; a baby whom you had hopes and dreams for. But you also grieve the death of your own child, the baby's mother or father. For the baby's parents died with the baby. Not physically, but figuratively. Your own flesh and blood, the person whom you once knew your child to be, will never be again. Your child has been transformed in a moment of time into a new person. An overwhelming grief has touched their lives. It is a time of confusion, anger and frustration for many grandparents. Offer your unconditional love and support. Go to support group meetings with your child and go to a grandparents group for yourselves. Remember your grandchild on special occasions such as his or her birthday/death day, Christmas and Easter. Send your child a Mother's Day or Father's Day card reminding them that they are still the parents of the precious child, always loved but now lost. Share their pain with them, even years later. It will surely create an even deeper bond of love, appreciation and fortitude withstanding the passing of time and circumstances.

In Peace and Memory of our Beloved Children...© 1997 Roslyn Ellis



We are pleased to have partnered with Basket of Kindness as our fundraising website. We will receive 15% of every gift basket purchased in the name of The Compassionate Friends Naples from Basket of Kindness. We do not have many expenses, but this will help us with the few expenses that we do have. If everyone could just send one or two gift baskets it would help us greatly.

**For those of you who would like to share your ideas, growth, insight, stories or poems, please email your material for the newsletter. Or if you prefer, mail it to my address: 168 Lake Point Lane, Naples, FL 34112. Sincerely, Anne Rinaldi-Nonamaker: 239-287-5968**

**Our Mission:** 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 to be supportive.

The Compassionate Friends is a national nonprofit, self-help support organization that offers friendship, understanding, and hope to bereaved parents, grandparents, and siblings. There is no religious affiliation and there are no membership dues or fees.

The secret of TCF's success is simple: As seasoned grievers reach out to the newly bereaved, energy that has been directed inward begins to flow outward and both are helped to heal. Please come, bring your hope and energy, and be a Compassionate Friend to another.