

February 2006



The Compassionate Friends



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From: The Heart's of the Naples Chapter:

The Candlelight Service lit a fire in the heart's of the The Naples Chapter of Compassionate Friends that has created a new Committee for this new year. Last months newsletter announced the pending closing of this chapter following a newsletter that simply called for help. Sometimes it takes drastic measures to get action from all the people that don't think they are capable or experienced enough to help. Seventeen bereaved parents and family members came together to answer this call to action on January, 16th at the Moorings Presbyterian Church in Naples.

The bereaved in attendance ranged from a parent, Mary Loughray, who started this chapter in the 70's to a parent who's journey through the loss of her child is under one year. The breath of attendees tells us the Naples Chapter is in sync with the mission statement of Compassionate Friends. The support we each receive from our Compassionate Friends creates an impact in our hearts when we are most vulnerable. It seems the natural thing to want to be present to reach out to the newly bereaved. Mary Loughray is the epitome of this mission statement. We are so blessed to have this extraordinary parent in our group.

Mary has stood by to gently guide a small army of leaders that would take on leadership positions to keep the mission of Compassionate Friends active within our community. Pam Arsenault's 18 years of consistent selfless involvement and leadership has touched the hearts and lives of hundreds of parents and families in our community. Anne Kithcart has stood by Pam and Mary's side always willing to take on one more task including the Candlelight Service and this newsletter for the last 14 years. These women have been the nucleus and the front line of The Naples Chapter. Not in attendance was Elizabeth Lake who, like Pam, was instrumental in keeping the Chapter alive for 11 years. Then, there are the people behind the scene like Kris Doyle, the keeper of our children's birthday's and anniversary's, and Bernadette Burks who was there for us over the last year or two, The Print Shop that converts our newsletter to PDF for emailing, and Theresa Mitchell that continues to be our treasurer.

Please join me taking a minute to thank the people mentioned, and the one's not mentioned, for they have given. Without their dedication and passion. Their time and talent haws kept our Chapter active, willing, and able to be there when we each needed "it" to be. Now, let's welcome the new committee! Each of the people below are taking the reigns of their predecessors with full knowledge that they are not alone in their new position within the Chapter:

Patti Moran: Chapter Leader Theresa Mitchell: Will continue as Chapter Treasurer.
Anne Rinaldi-Nonamaker: TCF Editor for the newsletter. Annette Carulli: Chapter contact person.
Kris Doyle: Will continue to keep up the names and addresses of chapter members and their children's birthdays & anniversaries.
Helen Taylor and Sherrie Kelly: Will assist Anne in the mailing of the newsletter.

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 griever's 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.



Our Children, Loved and Remembered



<i>Birthdates</i>		<i>Anniversary Dates</i>	
Bill Bishop Son of JoAnn Bishop	2/1/1962	Andrew Morello Son of Andrea & Joe Morello	2/1/1992
Brad L. Corder Son of Mark & Pam Corder	2/11/1981	Ziven Dabrowski Son of Sharon Bruckman	2/3/2004
Leah Rose McCarrick Daughter of Pat & Fred Bifulco	2/15/1994	Manny Gonzalez Son of Manuel & Rose Gonzalez	2/11/1997
Rebecca Ann Wagoner Daughter of Don & Joyce Cameron	2/21/1956	Robert Neinas Son of Pam (Arsenault) & Jim Craig	2/18/1986
Daniel Patrick Jacoby Son of Carol L. Jacoby	2/28/1967	Ryan H.G. Chieffi Son of Merry Smith	2/20/2001
		Daniel Patrick Jacoby Son of Carol L. Jacoby	2/22/1987

Why Butterflies?

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 II 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.

**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 to make an immediate correction.

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. On the subject line insert "TCF Email Newsletter" and your name and you're done.

**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**

Thank you for your Gifts of Love

All donations are gratefully accepted and assist the chapter in its mission to help bereaved families following the loss of a child.

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

A tribute to our exiting leadership committee from the archives of The Naples Chapter:

To a Compassionate Friend

THEY told me life never gives you more than you can handle,
LIES—I cannot handle this.

THEY told me, in a year I would be old “self” again
They were wrong, “it” died with my child.

THEY told me to get my act together and start living again
All I see is the death of my child.

THEY said, if I was a true believer, this would be a time of joyous celebration.

Damn them! I could give him life, now I can’t give him heaven

YOU didn’t say, “You’ll handle this, you’re strong.”

You said, “Go ahead and cry. I’ll wait until you are ready.”

YOU didn’t say I’d be my old self again.

Your old self died too. You helped me find my new self.

YOU didn’t tell me to get my act together.

You said, “Take things slowly, a day at a time. The pieces will fit when you’re ready.”

YOU saw that my faith was shaken, you didn’t preach.

You reminded me that the He in whom I believe is patient and understanding. His love would persevere until I found my way back.

Thank you, Friend, for showing me Compassion.

Perhaps I can do for someone what you have done for me.

Edith Fraser, TCF Winnipeg, Canada

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The Compassionate Friends Newsletter
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Regional coordinator: Sally Migliaccio (561)747-2691



February Meeting Information: Monday, February, 13, 2006 7:30 P.M.

Please Note: This is the SECOND Monday of February, 2-13-06.

TCF normally meets EVERY first Monday of the month, unless otherwise noted

MEETINGS BEGIN AT 7:30 P.M.

**MOORINGS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
791 HARBOUR DR., NAPLES**

GOING NORTH ON U.S.41, HARBOUR DR. IS A LEFT TURN, ABOUT A MILE NORTH OF
COASTLAND MALL AND GOLDEN GATE PARKWAY.

Please don't hesitate to call me at 239-287-5968 if you need information of any kind or email: anne.rinaldi@comcast.net
