



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

**Upcoming Meetings: May 7, 2007**

June 4, 2007, July 2, 2007, August 6, 2007, September 3, 2007

**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

May 2007



The Compassionate Friends

The Compassionate Friends, Inc. National Headquarters: P.O. Box 3696, Oak Brook, IL 60622  
Phone (877) 969-0010 Fax: (630)990-0246. Email: [nationaloffice@compassionatefriends.org](mailto:nationaloffice@compassionatefriends.org)  
Web site: [www.compassionatefriends.org](http://www.compassionatefriends.org)  
Siblings chat: Wednesdays, 9 p.m. EST: [www.compassionatefriends.org/Chat/chatentrance.html](http://www.compassionatefriends.org/Chat/chatentrance.html)



Dear Mommy,

When you wonder the meaning  
of life and love  
Know that I am with you  
Close your eyes and feel me kissing you  
in the gentle breeze across your cheek

When you begin to doubt that you shall  
ever see me again  
Quiet your mind and hear me  
I am in the whisper of the heavens  
Speaking of your love

When you lose your identity  
When you question who you are  
where you are going  
Open your heart and see me  
I am the twinkle in the stars  
smiling down upon you  
Lighting the path for your journey

When you awaken each morning  
Not remembering your dreams  
But feeling content and serene  
Know that I was with you  
Filling your night with thoughts of me

When you linger in the remnant pain  
Wholeness seeming so unfamiliar  
Think of me  
Know that I am with you  
Touching you thru the shared tears of a  
gentle friend  
Easing the pain

As the sunrise illuminates the desert sky  
In that breathtaking brilliance, awaken  
your spirit  
Think of our time together, all too brief,  
but ever brilliant  
When you were certain of us, together  
When you were certain of your destiny

Know that God created that moment in  
time,  
Just for us  
I am with you always.

Dear Cheyenne © 1996 revised 1998 by  
Joanne Cacciatore All Rights Reserved  
This may be reprinted only with the permission of MISS  
In memory of Cheyenne .

**Our Children, Loved and Remembered**

<i>Birthdates</i>		<i>Anniversary Dates</i>	
<b>Nicole Chapman</b> Daughter of Ron & Jan Chapman	5/2/1980	<b>David Paul Plamondon</b> Son of Janet Plamondon	5/16/2003
<b>Christian John DeMarco</b> Son of Gus DeMarco	5/5/1972	<b>Jesus Salinas</b> Son of Sergio G. & Patricia Salinas	5/11/2001
<b>David Anthony Anderson</b> Son of David Anderson	5/8/1984	<b>Davie Addison</b> Son of Connie and David Addison	5/25/1997
<b>Connie Ann Hablutzel</b> Daughter of Mary Alice Mainini	5/9/1957	<b>Kenneth Priem</b> Son of Merle Holoubek	5/28/1999
<b>Jacqueline White Knight</b> Daughter of Mildred White	5/18/1950		
<b>Aaron Grof</b> Son of Marie Grof	5/20/1977		
<b>Tanya Rane Mitchell</b> Daughter of Teresa & Dennis Mitchell	5/22/1977		
<b>Pedro Luceno</b> Son of Amy Luceno	5/26/1988		
<b>Brian Dod</b> Son of Debbie Gaetano	5/27/1983		

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

***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 Rinaldi-Nonamaker 287-5968**

***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.

***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.



Please mail to: Teresa Mitchell 11081 Longshore Way West,  
Naples, FL 34119

We are pleased to have partnered with  
*Basket of Kindness* for fundraising.  
We receive 15% of your purchase!

**Victims' Families Need Support After Virginia Tech Tragedy . . . .**

**An excerpt from The Compassionate Friends press release April 20, 2007**

Oak Brook, IL—The tragic deaths of 32 innocent persons, most of them young people at the hands of a gunman at Virginia Tech University, is a reminder of the ever-growing need for support that newly bereaved families face.

"We grieve not only for all those who died at Virginia Tech, but also for the nearly 400 children from infant to young adult who die every day in this country," says Patricia Loder, Executive Director of The Compassionate Friends (TCF), the nation's largest self-help bereavement organization for families that have experienced the death of a child. "For the family, the deaths of these children is a shattering experience that only those who have been through it can truly comprehend."

Mrs. Loder, who herself lost two children in a 1991 automobile accident, emphasizes that support for the victims' families who died at Virginia Tech—from relatives, friends, coworkers, and even people who have never had contact with the family is critical. "It's important to show that you care and that you will be there for the long haul, not just for the funeral."

According to Mrs. Loder, there are some universal pointers bereaved parents and siblings agree that those who wish to help may want to keep in mind:

- Don't try to find magic words that will take away the pain. There aren't any. A hug and a touch are all that are needed. The simple words "I'm sorry" can offer the most comfort.
- Don't be afraid to cry. Those tears are a healthy release both for you and the family, and a tribute to the child who died.
- Listen to what the parents, siblings, and other family members have to say. Let them express their anger, their questions, the pain, and the disbelief they may be experiencing. Don't discourage them from talking about their feelings. Remember that siblings are often considered the "forgotten mourners" and need to have their grief validated, too.
- Be there. Don't say "call me if there is anything I can do." That call will probably never come. Think of what the family needs to have done and offer to do specific tasks.
- As time passes, remember the child by sending a card to the family or calling on special days. The worst fear for many parents is that their child will be forgotten.

One of the most important points those seeking to support the families of those who died at Virginia Tech, should remember, adds Mrs. Loder, is that there is no set timetable for grieving. "Some people believe healing starts the moment the family arrives home from the funeral. Bereaved parents and siblings are transformed into different people who will never be the same as they were. Grief doesn't end in a week or a year, and it may never end. But the pain does get softer in time with the help of friends who care."

**For those of you who would like to share your ideas, growth, insight, stories or poems, please submit your material for the newsletter by the 20th of the month. You may email it 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.