



The Compassionate Friends

Southwest Florida Chapter
Supporting Family After a Child,
Sibling or Grandchild Dies

VOL 4, 1ST QUARTER JANUARY -
MARCH 2016

Chapter Co- Leaders

Chrissy & Mark
Hutchison

Linda Wallace

Loving Listener

Alicia Mobley

Kit Daniher

Loving Writer

Alicia Mobley

Loving Outreach

Caren Plotkin

Loving Newsletter

Assembler/Mailer

Donna & John Pfeiffer

2nd Annual WALK TO REMEMBER

Save the date for this upcoming event- Sunday, February 28, 2016 at North Collier Regional Park, 15000 Livingston Road, Naples, FL Registration starts at 8:30 am and the walk begins at 9:00 am. We will be joining together to walk in loving memory of our precious children, grandchildren and siblings. Last year's event was a huge success and gave us the funds for our local chapter to operate and reach out so no one will walk alone. Our goal is to be here for the families that need us today as well as the families that do not know they will need us tomorrow!

Please print a copy of the registration form and pledge form from our chapter website www.tcfswfl.org Start asking friends, family and businesses to back you with pledges. The registration fee is \$25 per walker and includes a t-shirt & bib.

This year we are also giving you the opportunity to order a sign that will be displayed on our walking route in Memory of your loved one or business. For information on a sign please contact Janet Congero, Rylee & Xavier's mom, at jlc1093@comcast.net The cost for the sign is \$75 and the deadline to order is February 22, 2016

We are so thankful to Patrick's parents, Mark & Chrissy Hutchison for creating and nurturing this event. They truly love our chapter, all our children and we love them!



T-Shirt & Bib

2015 Candle Lighting

It was a beautiful evening! Thank you to everyone who helped make this a success. Many families were touched by the way we honored their loved ones. The personalized candles, beautiful ornaments, the pictures displayed in the slide show and the wonderful buttons lovingly made by Patrick's parents meant so much to our families. The gifts collected for the Giving Tree were distributed to 55 families with the Ethan & Lily Foundation at the Village Oaks Elementary School in Immokalee. Many, many thanks to ALL who helped with this event!



Gallery of Remembrance



Presenting Buttons



Gift Distribution at Village Oaks School



MONTHLY MEETINGS

2nd Monday of Each Month

YMCA Naples

5450 YMCA Rd, Naples, FL 34109

7:00-8:30 ;m

Sunrises of our Chapter's children are read at this meeting.

4th Saturday of Each Month

Unity Church of Bonita Springs

28285 Imperial Pkwy,

Bonita Springs, FL 34135

9:00-10:30 am

(Not in February-building unavailable)
Sunsets of our Chapter's children are read at this meeting.

We also have 2

"Go Out to Eat Groups"

Girls Night Out is the 1st Tuesday of each month locations change check our Meetup or Facebook page starting at 6:00 pm

Guys Night is the 2nd Thursday of the month at Ruby Tuesdays, 8777 Tamiami Trail N, Naples @ 6:15 pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb 8th Chapter mtg YMCA Naples
- Feb 27th **NO formal meeting** the building is unavailable. We will meet in the parking lot at 9 am if anyone wants to then go have a cup of coffee and visit.
- Feb 28th, 2016 Chapter Walk To Remember, Naples
- March 14th Chapter mtg YMCA, Naples
- March 26th Chapter mtg Unity, Bonita
- March 26th Avow Butterfly Release, Cambier Park, Naples
- March 31st Painting With A Twist 7-9 pm 13500 Tamiami Trail N, Naples
- May 8th Mothers Day Beach Gathering TBD
- June 19th Fathers Day Barbecue TBD
- July 8-10 National TCF Conference, Scottsdale AZ
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OUR CHILDREN LOVED & REMEMBERED

SUNRISES

JANUARY

- 1st - **Kimberly Ann Nowak** daughter of Cynthia Meyer & David Roney
1st - **Ian Forrest Kirk** grandson of John & Wilba Wallace
1st - **Daniel Joseph Quinn** son of Mary Jo Landers
2nd - **Sean Terry** son of Wendy Terry
3rd - **John McVey** son of Judy McVey
7th - **Anthony Ray Baker** son of Mary Baker
7th - **Mark Evan Shepherd** son of Patrica Sala & Larry Aguilar
12th - **Tyler John Beck** son of Beth & Edward Beck
12th - **Ziven Dabrowski** son of Sharon Bruckman
12th - **Michele Dawn Kafka** daughter of Harriet & Bruce Cole
14th - **Brianna Dwyer** daughter of Karen Dwyer
15th - **David Seth Cohen** son of George & Trina Cohen
15th - **Christopher Daly** son of John & Naomi Daly
15th - **Matthew "Matt" Woods** son of John & Bitsy Woods
15th - **Eliza Nicole Pina** daughter of Vilma & Carlos Pina
18th - **Daniel Friedman Everham** son of Karyn & Win Everham
20th - **Michael Danos** son of Harry & Kitty Danos
21st - **Katie Raines** daughter of Lenora Raines
22nd - **Michael DiSebastiano** son of Vivian & Carmine DiSebastiano
22nd - **Darren Michael Saucier** son of Betsy O'Neil
23rd - **Xavier James Andersen** son of James Andersen & Janet Congero, grandson of Joe & June Congero, brother of Andrew (Drew) Andersen
23rd - **Scott Alan Nelson** son of Wayne & Annie Nelson
23rd - **Tyler A. Thompson** son of Robert & Jill Thompson
24th - **Carolyn Diann Gralewski** daughter of Richard & Phyllis Gralewski
24th - **Lily Herrera** daughter of Jorge Herrera, sister of AJ Herrera
24th - **Robert Neinas** son of Pam Arsenault-Craig & Jim Craig
29th - **Tatha Carli** son of Nancy Lochner
29th - **Bert Buede, Jr.** son of Josette & Bert Buede

FEBRUARY

- 1st - **Bill Bishop** son of JoAnn Bishop
2nd - **Nastassia Rawls** daughter of Gregory Rawls
2nd - **Martin Angel Creed** son of Kris Creed
4th - **Rachel Ann Helton** daughter of Jackie Starkloff
5th - **Paul David Gray** son of Karen Bothwell
5th - **Rylee Andersen** daughter of James Andersen & Janet Congero, granddaughter of Joe & June Congero, sister of Andrew (Drew) Andersen
8th - **Maureen Lynne Blackburn** daughter of Lois & Mike Blackburn
8th - **Griffin Daniel Shaw** son of Susan & Dennis Shaw
10th - **Ethan Herrera** son of Jorge Herrera
11th - **Christian Vincent Castaldo** son of Lorraine & Gennaro Castaldo
14th - **Fred Thomas** son of Twyla Kundmann
22nd - **Richard B. Burress** son of Richard & Anita Burress
24th - **Amber Dawn Phillips** daughter of Mary Phillips
24th - **Zoran Curic-Krulj** son of Silvana & Goran Krulj
28th - **Brendan Todd Hunt** son of Liz Cole & Henry Pruitt
28th - **Daniel L. Jacoby** son of Carol Jacoby

March

- 1st - **Ryan MacNeil Ulrich** son of Anne Ulrich Donahue & Jack Donahue
1st - **Nester Kratz** son of Valerie Kratz
5th - **Bethania Rossi** daughter of Barbara A. Schaffer
6th - **Michael Gerenstein** son of Marilyn & Barry Gerenstein
7th - **Michale Szwed** son of Doug & Barb Szwed
8th - **Ian Stanley McFarlane** son of Leslie Bruner
10th - **Christian DeBiasi** son of Diane DeBiasi
12th - **Dawn Marie Gerenstein** daughter of Marilyn & Barry Gerenstein
12th - **Colleen** granddaughter of Kay Mitchel
12th - **Jason Forbes** son of Dorothy Forbes, brother of Tommy Forbes
13th - **Patrick Allen Hutchison** son of Mark & Chrissy Hutchison, brother of Bryttany Hutchison
15th - **Molly Moran** daughter of Patti Moran
15th - **Jennifer Collins** sister of Doug Collins, daughter of Lewis & Betty Collins
16th - **Timothy Patrick Regan** son of Jerry & Patricia Regan
17th - **Christopher Allen Mobley** son of Bob & Alicia Mobley
17th - **Michael Duane Wallace** son of Linda & Ben Wallace, brother of Amanda & Annie Wallace
18th - **Victoria Marzano** daughter of Eleanor & Victor Marzano
21st - **Timothy Taylor** son of Richard & Cheryl Taylor
25th - **Kane Lee Mills** son of Mary Mills
25th - **Wendy Ann Murphy Burke** daughter of Bill & Nancy Murphy
27th - **Matthew Christian Haller** son of Cindy & Tim Haller
28th - **Brooke Ashley Miller** daughter of Tink Bechtol
29th - **James L. Duffany** son of Marcia & Joe Dehnick
29th - **Lisa Pallerino** daughter of Stephanie & Donald Pallerino

I'm Beginning

I'm beginning to know your children
From the things I heard you tell.
From the pictures that you've brought here
I think I know them well
Our hurt and sorrow are immense
I'm not sure where to start.
Compassion after all is
Your Pain in my heart.
My thanks to you for listening
To words wrung from my soul.
We are The Compassionate Friends
That's all I need to know.

Jack Brown TCF Louisville

Thank you Christopher's mom, Alicia for sharing this with us.

OUR CHILDREN REMEMBERED

SUNSETS

JANUARY

- 1st - **Christopher Adam Mitchell** son of Kimberly Dawn Lanier
3rd - **Jason Balcom** son of Pamela Balcom
4th - **Keala Howard** daughter of Robert Howard
5th - **Brendan Todd Hunt** son of Liz Cole & Henry Pruitt
5th - **Daniel Friedman Everham** son of Karyn & Win Everham
6th - **Tyler John Beck** son of Beth & Edward Beck
9th - **Tyler Kelce** son of Scott & Suzy Nania Kelce
10th - **Rylee Andersen** daughter of James Andersen & Janet Congero, granddaughter of Joe & June Congero, brother of Andrew (Drew) Andersen
10th - **Marc Anthony Jacques** son of Alana & James Maloney
12th - **Paul David Gray** son of Karen Bothwell
12th - **Joseph "Joe" Mark McCann** son of Lynne McCann
15th - **Michael G. Craig** son of Dennis M. Craig
18th - **Debbie Couture** daughter of Julia & Jack Turesky
19th - **Richard B. Burress** son of Richard & Anita Burress
22nd - **Wendy Ann Murphy Burke** daughter of Bill & Nancy Murphy
24th - **Lily Herrera** daughter of Jorge Herrera, sister of AJ Herrera
24th - **Ethan Herrera** son of Jorge Herrera, brother of AJ Herrera
25th - **Mark Evan Shepherd** son of Patrica Sala & Larry Aguilar
26th - **Shelli Plotkin** daughter of Ron & Caren Plotkin
26th - **Michale Szwed** son of Doug & Barb Szwed
28th - **Vincent Lee Barbera** son of Vincent James Barbera

February

- 1st - **Danielle Chapman** daughter of Daniel Chapman
1st - **Andrew Morello** son of Andrea & Joe Morello
1st - **Kimberly Ann Nowak** daughter of Cynthia Meyer & David Roney
3rd - **Ziven Dabrowski** son of Sharon Bruckman
4th - **Benjamin Carl Wallace** son of Linda & Ben Wallace, brother of Amanda & Annie Wallace
4th - **Jennifer Collins** sister of Doug Collins, daughter of Lewis & Betty Collins
5th - **Phil Antonio Santos** son of Ozzie & Marcia Santos
8th - **Kyle Fernstrom** son of Fred & Shelby Church
9th - **Robert "Rob" Edward Kerrigan, Jr.** son of Bob & Linda Kerrigan
12th - **Jessica Leigh Skelnik** daughter of Lisa Shanks
18th - **Mark David Broman Goldstein** son of Donna & Richard Goldstein
18th - **Robert Neinas** son of Pam Arsenault-Craig & Jim Craig
20th - **Remmey Bumsted** son of Patti & Roy Bumsted
22nd - **Nastassia Rawls** daughter of Gregory Rawls
22nd - **Daniel Patrick Jacoby** son of Carol Jacoby
26th - **Charles David Kuntz** son of Charles & Marilyn Kuntz

March

- 1st - **Michael Joseph Bowen** son of Angela Bowen Steward
1st - **Greg B. Williams** son of Lloyd & Judy Williams
1st - **Andrew G. Milne** brother of Tracy Milne
4th - **Colleen** granddaughter of Kay Mitchel
4th - **Ronnie Sauce, Jr.** son of Ron & Pat Sauce, brother of Shelly Olsen
5th - **Mike Cummings** son of Mary Cummings

MARCH Cont'd

- 5th - **Darren Michael Saucier** son of Betsy O'Neil
6th - **Deena Leanne Moore** daughter of Doreen & Bruce "Jake" Fogerty
6th - **Steven Thomas** son of Twyla Kundmann
7th - **Tanya Lake** daughter of Elizabeth Lake
7th - **Tyler McKay Longoria** son of Shelly Pedersen
8th - **Bert Buede, Jr.** son of Josette & Bert Buede
9th - **David Xavier Michael Nonamaker, Jr.** son of Anne Arbelaez
9th - **Jason Lee Lawrence** son of Randy & Sandra Lawrence
9th - **Molly Moran** daughter of Patti Moran
9th - **Michael Paul Potter** son of Art & Carolyn Potter
10th - **Allison Gold** daughter of Rachel Gold
10th - **Christopher D'Agata** son of Tom & Benita Lauri
10th - **Blake Vincent Montague** son of Renay & Scott Montague
12th - **Nathaniel "Nate" Ketcham** son of Deborah Ketcham
13th - **Joseph J. Ribaud** son of Fran & Lou Racioppo
15th - **Christopher Wayne Mann** son of Marsha Mann
16th - **Bryan Steven Hettrick** son of Carolyn Gooden
16th - **Bethania Rossi** daughter of Barbara A. Schaffer
17th - **Michael Duane Wallace** son of Linda & Ben Wallace, brother of Amanda & Annie Wallace
19th - **Rachel Louise Brown** daughter of Susan & Michael Brown
20th - **Amanda Jane Bolten** daughter of Brenda Baker
20th - **Patrick Allan Hutchison** son of Mark & Chrissy Hutchison
20th - **Eliza Nicole Pina** daughter of Vilma & Carlos Pina
23rd - **Ernest Robert Ferraro** son of Beatrice & Ernie Ferraro
24th - **Frank Rahilly** brother of June Congero
25th - **Noah Abraham Warsaw** son of Ellen & Steve Warsaw
26th - **Charles David Kuntz** son of Charles & Marilyn Kuntz
27th - **Luke Joseph Burns** son of Ellen & David Burns
28th - **Kira Chandler** daughter of Mike & Jamie Chandler
28th - **Timothy Taylor** son of Richard & Cheryl Taylor
30th - **Collin Michael Creed** son of Terese Walker



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If we have made any errors in your child's information we sincerely apologize or if you would prefer not to have your loved one's name listed here please contact us at our email swflcf@live.com or visit our Website <http://tcfswfl.org> under "Resource" fill out updated member form so we can honor all of our children

Interested in North Fort Myers Meeting?

We are determining if a Fort Myers chapter can be established in the North Fort Myers area to serve parents, grandparents and siblings in that region.

Larry Boggio is in the initial planning stages with our Naples chapter providing support for him as needed and we are able. Larry and his wife are recent full-time residents to Florida. Larry oversaw and was the lead facilitator for the New Hampshire chapter's Nashua site.

Larry's phone number is (978) 761-5386 and his email is lalab1948@comcast.net Please feel free to contact him directly.

HOPE

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

There are many ways to get involved with our Chapter. We are working together so that "No One Walks Alone" on this heartbreaking journey. This is a "GROUP" effort and the more that get involved the more things we can do to help one another. **LOOK at all the things people have stepped forward to take over, Website maintenance-Anne Arbeleaz, Button Maker-Mauricio Arbeleaz, Newsletter Assembly/Mailer-Donna & John Pfeiffer, Lending Library-Susan Shaw, & Loving Listener-Kit Daniher.**

Here are some areas we would welcome help in:

- ♦ **Chapter Picture Board**—Responsible for adding new pictures to the board that we display at every meeting and event.
- ♦ **Chapter Event Board**-Gather pictures taken at events throughout the year and put together on a board to be displayed at our Candle Lighting in December
- ♦ **Name Tags & Lanyards**— Make name tags for new members
- ♦ **Newsletter Editor**— Would you like to be in charge of this quarterly publication? How about contributing to the "Parents Corner" or writing an article or a poem?
- ♦ **Memorial Garden**-We have a parent who is willing to contribute 2 benches; we are looking for someone who would find a location where we could have a place in Southwest Florida to go and reflect.
- ♦ **Coordinator/Greeter for Girls Night Out**—The 1st Tuesday of each month at the location the "hostess" chooses. Involves making the reservation and being at the restaurant first to greet the ladies. We have July, August, October, November & December available.

If any of the above interest you send us an email at swflcf@live.com

Lessons Learned

At our Saturday meeting in January we had the topic "Lessons Learned" below are just some of the things that were shared. It was a wonderful meeting that we trust gave hope and comfort.

- To laugh again
- Don't sweat the small stuff
- Be open to "signs, proddings" from our loved one
- Live life to the fullest
- We live in 2 different worlds now
- Our relationship with our child continues
- Compassion
- Not to suffocate our surviving children
- Grief hit us out of the blue, unexpected
- Grief comes in waves
- We do not have to walk alone
- Love

Watch for upcoming topics for our monthly meetings. They will be on our calendar and on our Meetup and Facebook events.

PARENTS CORNER

We want to have this spot to address things that are on your minds. A place to perhaps share something you have found helpful on your journey, an encouragement for others, thank you Disney's mom, Donna Pfeiffer for sharing this with us.

After leaving the hospital with my daughter's belongings it wasn't until days later I discovered she had kept a journal of her feelings for the past several years. I felt her pain as I read how she was suffering both mentally and physically. I would wake in the middle of the night and read it over and over. Then I started writing in her journal. My letter to her always began "Dear Disney" and ended "Love Mom". It's been nine years now and I am not writing as often. The pain is still there but not as unbearable as it was in the beginning. Her Journal turned out to be my therapy.

Donations & Foundations

In our Candle Lighting invitation we asked to be made aware of foundations that our families have created in honor of their loved ones. Please take a look at the amazing things these families have done. I received information from :

FOUNDATIONS: The Jonathan Yurewitch Memorial Fund Proceeds will be divided among causes Jonathan believed in. At the time of his death, Jonathan was volunteering for the Daniel Pitino Homeless Shelter in Owensboro, KY. My husband & I visited the shelter when we traveled to KY to retrieve Jonathan's belongings. Jonathan passed from epilepsy, so funds have been earmarked for the research and cure of epilepsy/SUDEP (Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy.)

Ethan and Lily Foundation supplies book vouchers for underprivileged children for the annual bookfair at Village Oaks Elementary and maintains the two butterfly gardens on school grounds. At the Vineyards Elementary we supply monetary awards given at the 5th grade recognition ceremony as well as maintain the butterfly garden at that school.

Butterflies of Hope was created to carry on the memory of Rylee Andersen. It now is also to carry on the memory of Rylee's brother Xavier as well.

We raise money to help other families fight the deadly disease that took our children from us way too soon. Currently we have joined forces with another family that is affected by Mitochondrial Disease to raise 1 Million Dollars for the UMDP to help find a cure. The million dollar mission is being spear headed by our two amazing 11 year old children. For more info please visit www.butterfliesofhope.com Our motto is Hope, Strength, Courage

The Mighty Mikey Foundation was founded in memory of Michael Weinstein and his love of puppets. We will be creating a Mighty Mikey Puppet to bring into children's hospitals. These puppets will be used to offer comfort, education, and Hope for whatever disease or illness these children maybe battling. During Michaels many trips to Sloan for treatment of his Brain Tumor, child life was an integral part of his comfort. He now will be comforting many in his own way.

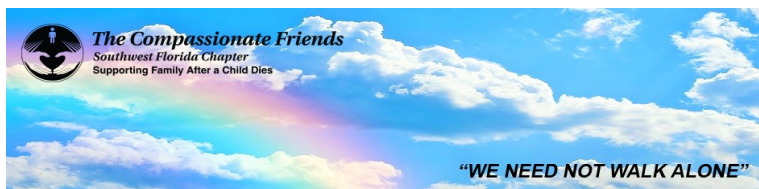
Others we know of are: [http://steverummlerhopefoundation.org-providing hope for those with chronic pain and addiction](http://steverummlerhopefoundation.org-providing-hope-for-those-with-chronic-pain-and-addiction)
<http://facebook.com/justagainstdrowning> <http://safehealthychildren.org>
<http://facebook.com/BLARSWFL?pnre=overview> <http://genedoyle.org> <http://lightningfoundation.org>

We apologize if we haven't listed your foundation. We would honored to list a foundation you have established in and upcoming newsletter. Please email us at swflcf@live.com

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

DONATIONS: Given in honor of **Brian Alexander** "Loving & thinking of Brian always-so proud" from Pam & David Alexander, **Barry Alan Belyea & Richard (Richie) Marquis** from Sue Bernier, **Perry Bracuti** from Elayne & Norman Planer, **Wendy Murphy Burke** from Bill & Nancy Murphy, **Phillip Carulli** from Annette Carulli, **Nicole Lorraine Chapman** "Nicole, we love & miss you so much everyday." from Jan & Ron Chapman, **Michael J. Clark** from Sandra Clark, **Santos Cuevas, Jr** from Lucy Cuevas Maldonado, **Christopher M. Daly** from Naolmi & John Daly, **Mark Richard Daniher** from Kit & Frank Daniher, **Christopher A. Davis** from Ron & Judy Davis, **John Duggan & Karen Duggan Syburg** from Russ & Corinne Duggan, **Daniel Friedman Everham** from Win & Karyn Everham, **Matheus Flor** from Marcia Flor, **Jane Frances Fodale** from Patricia Yasbeck Pike, **Adam German** from Nancy Crosby, **Mark David Broman Goldstein** "Loving, generous, compassionate, creative, beautiful, free spirit." from Donna & Richard Goldstein, **Carolyn Diann Gralewski** "Merry Christmas Carolyn, We miss you so much. Love Mom & Dad) from Richard & Phyllis Gralewski, **Adrienne Rene Hernandez** from Mario & Cary Perez, **Lily & Ethan Herrera** from Jorge Herrera, **Patrick Allan Hutchison** from Mark & Chrissy Hutchison, **Marc A. Jacques** from James & Alana Maloney, **Marc C. Krantz** from Joan & Byron Krantz, **Zoran Drulj** from Silvana & Goran Krulj, **Maximillian Raymond Krumm** "Heart to Heart" from Laura & Terry Krumm, **Corey Lee Lattimore** from Bill & Marcia Martin, **Joseph (Joe) Mark McCann** "Remembering Joe" from Lynne McCann, **Molly Moran & Betsy Moran Garthwaite** "I miss you so much-you are in my heart" from Patti Moran, **Kimberly Nowak** from Cynthia Meyer & David Roney, **Disney Pfeiffer** from John & Donna Pfeiffer, **Michael Paul (Mikey) Potter** from Art & Carol Potter, **Bo Rogers** from Kay & Jack Howerton, **Steve Rummler** from Bill & Judy Rummler, **Luis Saez** from Pete & Lynn Saez, **Griffin Daniel Shaw** from Dennis & Susan Shaw, **Jonathan Richard Yurewitch** "Losing a child and the subsequent grieving process is a very lonely experience. To have the choice to "Not walk alone" is a lifeline for the bereaved parents. Thank you! From John & Margie Yurewitch, **Jeffrey Charles Basso** from Joseph & Catherine Madigan, **Clint Beatty** from Karen Beatty, **Maureen Lynne Blackburn** from Lois Blackburn, **Christopher D'Agata** from Benita Lauri, **Miles Daniel Doxie** "donated in honor of our beautiful son" from Daniel & Gail Doxie, **Michael Eaton** from Jean & Fred Eaton, **Matthew Christian Haller** from Tim & Cindy Haller, **Rylee & Xavier James Andersen** from James Andersen & Janet Congero, June & Joseph Congero, **Benjamin & Michael Wallace** from Ben & Linda Wallace, **Corey Gotti** from Is Cloak, **Ziven Dabrowski** from Sharon Bruckman, **Ian McFarlane** from Leslie Bruner

If we have missed anyone please accept our sincere apology. Please email us @ swflcf@live.com so we can list your donation in the next newsletter.



The Compassionate Friends Southwest FL Chapter
P.O. Box 112524
Naples, FL 34108

Chapter Phone: 239-690-7801
Chapter E-mail: swflcf@live.com
Join us on MeetUp
www.meetup.com/compassionatefriends/

HTTP://TCFSWFL.ORG
PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE

Our Mission

The mission of The Compassionate Friends: 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.

Note from the Editor: This is YOUR newsletter. We want to make this more personal. Share our stories, our pain, our successes. If you have things to share or suggestions please send us an email.

Hugs-Benjamin & Michael's mom-Linda

GRANDPARENTS

A Name for My Pain

I have given a name to my pain—
it's called "Longing."

I long for what was,
and what might have been

I long for his touch and smell of sweat;
I long to hold him one more time.

I long to look on his beautiful face
and impress it upon my memories and heart.

I long to return to the day before
and protect him from his death.

I long to take his place,
so he may live and have sons too.

I long for time to pass much faster,
so my longing and pain will lessen.

Will they?

(This is a Sibling Story) It's a Family Affair

When a child dies, grief is a family affair. It hits mom, dad, and siblings with equal despair. Mom cries and cannot get out of bed. Dad holds in emotions and leaves much unsaid. Sister and brother simply cannot understand why death came and dealt this kind of hand. No one acts as they should and nothing is the same. The family wants to draw together but seems to only share pain. Someone must be responsible when a child dies. Each family member thinks in some way it's them, and cries.

But no one is responsible for things we cannot control. So reach out to each other and keep the family whole.

Don't let the differences in how each grieve change the love in your family or its belief. Be strong when you can and weak when you must, and love each other with kindness and trust. So treat the family with love and you will survive. For we who have been there and made it through together can say that holding on to each other makes love last forever.

*Jackie Roxen
TCF, Broward, FL*

*June Williams-Muecke
TCF Houston West, TX*

NATIONAL OFFICE

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nationaloffice@compassionatefriends.org

REGIONAL COORDINATORS

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Shelly Ellis Miami, FL yosmitesam46@aol.com

ON THE ROAD... Our Loving Outreach person, Caren Plotkin is continuing to meet with representatives from some of our local Assisted Living facilities to discuss the idea of bringing a TCF meeting to their residents. We are so excited to reach out to others so they will not walk alone.

SIBLING REPRESENTATIVE Tracy Milne—Andrew's Sister

National Board of Directors, Sibling Representative 239-676-9140 tracymilne@yahoo.com