

# THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS, INC.

A self-help organization offering friendship and understanding to bereaved families

## DECEMBER 2008

### Inside Valley Forge

Meetings are on the first Thursday of every month at 7:45PM (ending at 9:30PM). We meet at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall at Valley Forge and Henderson RDs, King of Prussia, PA. Phone on meeting evenings only is 610-265-0733. All other times please call Ann or Rhonda at 484-919-0820.

#### Meeting Schedule

Please Mark Your Calendar

- Dec 4** General Sharing  
**Dec 14** Children's Memorial Day Service  
2PM Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
(please see page 3 for details)  
**Jan 8, 2009** General Sharing & Loss by Suicide  
Please see page 3  
Please note January meeting is  
scheduled for the second Thursday

We encourage newsletter writings from our members. You may also submit articles written by others, please include the author of all articles submitted. The cut-off date for newsletter entries is the 15th of the preceding month.

**ARTICLES SHOULD BE SENT TO THE NEWSLETTER EDITORS.**

There are no dues or fees to belong to The Compassionate Friends, or to receive our newsletter. Your tax deductible donations given in memory of your loved one enables us to defray the cost of chapter expenses, particularly the newsletter, meetings, and our outreach to the newly bereaved. Please include any special tribute you wish printed in the newsletter along with your gift.

**PLEASE MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO:  
TCF VALLEY FORGE CHAPTER  
SEND TO: RECORD KEEPER, FRANK GOMEZ  
PLEASE SEND ALL OTHER CHAPTER MAIL  
TO CHAPTER CO-LEADERS  
ANN RAPOPORT or RHONDA GOMEZ**



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NEW FRIENDS

Laura Giordano, son *Peter* 3  
Sharon Martin, brother *Shawn Lampmann* 43  
Barbara Smisko, daughter *Linda* 40  
Lisa Bellopede, son *Johnny* 9

We welcome our newly bereaved friends. We are sorry for the cause that brings you. We have all been in the depths of despair, and know that it is difficult to share our pain and personal feelings. We hope you will attend three or four meetings before evaluating the benefit of our group to you. We offer confidentiality, unconditional love, compassion and understanding to all of you.

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NOVEMBER REFRESHMENTS

Sandi Kensicki, sister *Rose* 44  
Marilyn Toole, son *Ted Toole* 36

Anyone wishing to donate refreshments (cheese & crackers, fruit, cakes, cookies, etc. ) in memory of loved ones, please call **Ann Rapoport or Rhonda Gomez (484)919-0820**, or you may sign the refreshment chart located on the refreshment table. Beverages are provided by the chapter.

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LOVE GIFTS

**Shirley & Philip C Kennedy**, in loving memory of our son, *Philip V. Kennedy* on his 21st anniversary.

**Barbara Purtell - Frank**, in loving memory of my son, my angel, *Michael John Keller Purtell*. You are in my heart forever. Love, Ah-Ma.

**Nancy Thompson**, in loving memory of *Steven Schneibolk*, son of Pamela Hofmockel Schneibolk, grandson of Marie & Ken Hofmockel.

**Jamie Cote Weaver**, in loving memory of my brother *Mark Cote*, and my father, *Paul Cote*.

**Helen Deery**, in loving memory of my son, *Ronald J. Deery Jr.*

**Margaret & Robert Rooney**, in loving memory of our daughter *Sharon Rooney*.

**JoAnne Forman**, in loving memory of my son, and Heather Chandler's brother, *Scott Hartman*.

**Nancy Althouse**, in loving memory of my daughter *Donna Lee Althouse*.

**Laurene & Tony Quercetti**, in loving memory of our daughter and sister, *Christine L. Quercetti*. You are gone yet not forgotten, although we are apart your spirit lives within us, forever in our hearts.

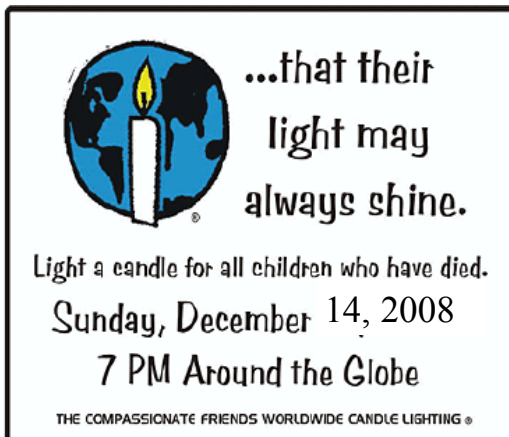
**Antoinette & John DiDonato**, in loving memory of our precious sons *Kenneth J. DiDonato & John W. DiDonato, Jr.*. Mom & Dad

**Joanne & Thomas Lennen**, in memory of our son *Scott C. Lennen* on his 45th birthday. Always in our thoughts, forever in our hearts, love you always. Mom & Dad.

**Joan & Sheldon Plam**, in memory of our dearly beloved son, *Michael Tobiah Plam*, on his birthday.

Please note that the date of the January 2009 meeting will be held on January 8th, since the first Thursday falls on a holiday, New Years Day.

## The Compassionate Friends



The Valley Forge Chapter of The Compassionate Friends will hold a remembrance service on December 14th at 2 PM, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in the fellowship hall (same place our monthly sharing secessions are held). We also urge you to light a candle in your home at 7 PM.

We chose 2 PM for our local service so that it would be available to everyone, including those who do not drive at night. We hope you will take this opportunity to join us in remembering our children who have died, but will never be forgotten. Let us ensure that their light may always shine.

### GUEST SPEAKER - JOE PURIFICO

Joe & Marti's twenty year old son, Jeffrey, died January 2003 in an auto accident. They have been members of the Valley Forge Chapter since February 2003.

Today is gone and  
Yesterday is only a memory --  
But tomorrow is hope.  
That all of the today's -  
And all of the yesterdays -  
We hold in our hearts,  
Can strengthen us.  
For we can now walk

With a lighter step  
For we are not alone.  
We now walk together  
Thru the sharing, warmth  
And understanding -  
In the special companionship  
Of our Compassionate Friends.

*Deby Amos, TCF, Anniston, AL*

***WE WISH ALL OF YOU  
A HOLIDAY FILLED WITH MEANING AND LOVE***

**OUR CHILDREN & SIBLINGS LOVED, SADLY MISSED AND REMEMBERED**

Each month some of us must face those special, but difficult days of birthdays and anniversaries. This Month we ask your thoughts and prayers for the parents/siblings/relatives of the following children: **Additions or corrections to this list should be directed to the editors, Marie & Ken Hofmockel.**

**We will no longer list the birth and death dates of deceased persons in our newsletter. We have concerns this information could be misused, and result in an adversity for the families.**

**Chris Aiello, brother *Louis (lou)***  
**Anne R. Ambirge, daughter *Marjorie P. Christakis***  
**Tai & Karen Bahn, daughter *Michelle Bahn***  
**Carole & Henry Bailey, son *Matthew J. Bailey***  
**Lori Bartholomew, brother *Matthew***  
**Richard & Jo Bewley, son *Kevin Bewley***  
**Lisa Bledy, sister *Danielle Bledy***  
**Eleanor Brennan, grandson *Jonathan Masiak***  
**Ben Breskman, son *Brian***  
**Cecile Buonocore, son *John Buonocore, III***  
**Debie & Stephen Carr, daughter *Dana Carr***  
**Jennifer Catanese, son *Andrew***  
**Libby Cavallaro, sister *Theresa***  
**Benjamin E. Cohen, daughter *Donna Lynne Cohen***  
**Irene Collins, son *Artie Zeigler***  
**Anita Conway, son *Daniel***  
**Martin & Mary Conway, son *Neal***  
**Nina Coppolella, daughter *Nina Marie Tumolo***  
**Jean & Bill Cotter, son *Patrick Cotter***  
**Bobbie Coyle, son *Whitney Coyle***  
**Carole and Kevin Creighton, son *Ryan Kent Creighton***  
**Reno & Bonnie Crescimone, son *Jonathan***  
**Bill & Donna Deasey, daughter *Michelle Deasey***  
**Bob & Madeline Deery, brother *Ronald J. Deery***  
**Helen Deery, son *Ronald J. Deery, Jr.***  
**Susan Dehlinger, daughter *Amy M Dehlinger***  
**Antoinette & John DiDonato, son *Kenneth (Kenny)***  
**Robert Dilbeck, son *Daniel Dilbeck***  
**Maura & Chuck Dombroski, son *Paul Dombroski***  
**Joseph & Patsy Dooley, son *Peter J. Dooley***  
**Ed & Sue Duffy, son *Peter***  
**Barbara Frederick, son *Michael J. Frederick***  
**June & Tsuneo Fujita, daughter *Sharon Kimi Fujita***  
**John Gething, son *Adam Gething***  
**Sherry Goldberg, son *Neal***  
**Susan Goldberg, brother *Neal***  
**Sofie & Lige Grahn Jr, son *Richard Grahn***  
**Jack & Freda Gross, daughter *Linda Joy Gross***  
**Beverly & Marty Halvorsen, Jr., son *Erik M. Halvorsen***  
**Christine Hertzog, son *Nicholas***

**Michelle Hillstrom**, daughter *Jen*  
**Patricia Hofmeister**, daughter *Patti L Gallagher*  
**Anthony & Carol Iacobucci**, son *Anthony Iacobucci*  
**Enid M. Irizarry**, daughter *Lisette M. Molina*  
**Dorothy & Carl Johnson-Speight**, daughter *Carlena Speight*  
son *Khaaliq Jabbar Johnson*  
**Millie Jones**, grandson *Shawn Dian*  
**Joan Kellett**, son *Daniel Thomas Kellett*  
**Russell L. Kinder**, daughter *Susanna B. Kinder*  
**Joan Kingslake**, daughter *Ann Kingslake Woods*  
**Al & Sue Koenig**, daughter *Emily Grace Koenig*  
**Howard & Stacy Koller**, daughter *Kaitlin*  
**Wendy Kuhn**, brother *David*  
**Teresa & Bill Lattanze**, daughter *Jodi Noell Lattanze*  
son *William Noel Lattanze*  
**Barb & Larry Lauchle**, son *Gray*  
**Eleanor Lee**, son *Tom*  
**Timothy & Maxine Lurowist**, daughter *Kristine*  
**Gerrie Matchus**, son *Michael*  
**Norine & William McDevitt, Jr.**, son *Sean Francis McDevitt*  
**Lorice McDonald**, son *Oral*  
**Alfred J. Michini**, son *Alfred J. Michini, II*  
**Joanne F. Michini**, son *Alfred J. Michini, II*  
**Gerald & Margaret Milice**, son *Gerald Milice*  
**Pat Miller**, son *Nathan*  
**Fran & Kathy Moran**, daughter *Denise Nicole Moran*  
**Audrey Morasco**, son *Christopher Morasco*  
**George W. Nase**, son *Brian D. Nase*  
**Betty Jane Peters- Neilson**, son *Martin A Peters*  
**Philip & Patricia Newton**, son *Seth Newton*  
**Bonnie Nimerfroh**, son *David*  
**Dorothy Noel**, son *Stephen Schark*  
**Emil Nunez**, son *Oliver Nunez*  
**Carol & Dennis O'Connor**, brother *Jack Coladonato*  
**Marianne & William O'Connor**, daughter *Kelly Ann O'Connor*  
**Joseph O'Neil**, daughter *Beverley A. Schlotterer*  
**Ann Rapoport**, son *Brian Rapoport*  
son *Jonathan Rapoport*  
**Roy Redman**, daughter *Linda Inez Redman*  
**Pamela Reese**, daughter *Laura Ann Peskoff*  
**Tony & Toni Riccardi**, son *David Riccardi*  
**Elise Rice**, son *Raymond Anthony Rice*  
**Maureen & David Rich**, daughter *Mallory Kirby Rich*  
**Morris Romano**, daughter *Diane Romano Donovan*  
**Margaret & Robert Rooney**, daughter *Sharon Rooney*  
**Thelma & Ike Rosen**, brother (Thelma's) *David Beeler*  
**Toby & Herb Rosenberg**, daughter *Dina Rosenberg*  
**Melissa Schnitzler**, brother *Richard "Jon" Masso*

**Abigail Schwartz**, mother *Barbra*  
**Dorothy Shepherd**, son *Keith*  
**Art & Carol Silverman**, daughter *Cheryl Beth Silverman*  
**Holly Silverthorne**, son *Spencer Silverthorne*  
**Eileen Smith**, son *Craig*  
**Judy & Jim Snyder**, son *David Snyder*  
**Linda Spinks**, son *Robert*  
**Lisa M Spinks**, brother *Robert*  
**Karen & John Sprouse**, son *John James*  
**John & Rose Stanley**, daughter *Susan Stanley*  
**Ronda Stansbery**, daughter *Susan Anne Stansbery Stamman*  
**Edward & Mary Stimson**, son *Keith Stimson*  
**Fred & Irene Sutton**, mother(Fred) *Pearl Collins*  
**Pricilla Thoroughgood**, daughter *Kendra Enochs*  
**Judy & Bert Tomarelli**, son *Daniel Robert Tomarelli*  
**Marie Torrey**, sister *Trudy*  
**Emanuel and Claudia Utti**, stepson *Richard "Jon" Masso*  
**Emma Valenteen**, daughter *Marianne Valenteen*  
**Beth Wagner**, son *Ryan*  
**Jackie Ward**, grandson *Anthony*  
**Shirley Weir**, daughter *Lee Ann Weir Beckmann*  
daughter *Susan Weir-Grays*  
**Laura & Leo Weishew**, brother *Steven McGowan*  
**Christine & Raymond Welker**, nephew *Mark Ayer*  
**Dorothy & Clyde Weller**, son *Chad A. Weller*

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### **HELPING OTHERS HELP YOU - 10 RULES FOR SELF HEALING**

1. Tell friends to call you often. Explain that after the first couple of months you'll need their calls.
2. Tell your friends to make a specific date with you; none of this "we must get together for lunch". Remind them that you're bound to have "down" times and their patience would be appreciated.
3. Tell them to please feel free to talk about the person that has died -- and don't avoid that person's name.
4. It's important for friends to understand that you may appear to be "doing so well" but on the inside you still hurt. Grief is painful, it's tricky and it's exhausting.
5. Ask your friends to care but not to pity you.
6. Make plain that friends and relatives can still treat you as a person who is still in command and can think for yourself.
7. Tell your friends that it's all right to express their caring. It's OK for them to cry; crying together is better than avoiding the pain.
8. Let your friends know too, that it's all right to say nothing. A squeeze or a hug are often more important than words.
9. Let people know that they can invite you to socialize, but that you might decline.
10. Ask your friends to go for walks with you. You and your friends can "walk off" feelings. Walks promote conversation and help fight depression.

*Ruth Jean Loewinsohn*

## SHARED THOUGHTS ON LOOKING FOR YOUR GIFT

Newly bereaved families often face the holidays with fear and trepidation. Just the fact, holidays continue to go on, can cause outrage. Our sadness is monumental, and causes our bodies to resist moving on. We need to be gentle with ourselves; we are going through an emotional rehabilitation. Holidays often renew our grief, even if we are a distance from fresh grief.

We need to selectively choose what traditions are important to our family. If we over commit, we set our selves up for a let down when we cannot meet our goals. If you have some traditions that are very important and you are not physically up to doing them, you will find friends and extended family will feel honored if you ask for their help. Most people want to help you get through the holidays, but don't know what to do. Give them the opportunity to feel they are helpful in your healing.

Grieving cannot be put on the shelf until the holidays are over. We need to take time to feel our grief, and express our sadness. We also need to take time to try and put a bit of normality in our lives. We must remember it is not disrespectful to laugh. I'm sure our loved one would want us to surround ourselves with caring people who can help us through the holidays. A caring supportive person is one who encourages us to be the best we can be, not one who expects us to be as we used to be.

Our healing will eventually cause our pain to move out and make room for our loved ones memories. We learn to make a new life for ourselves. Holidays get better and we learn how to live again.

We tend to think of life's richest moments as being the joyous, fun filled, carefree days prior to losing our children and siblings. But, as I search for the most meaningful things that have given me strength and a real appreciation for life, they certainly do include the pain, overcoming my despair, losing my son, grandson, and 6 siblings. We cherish the friendships that doesn't always demand a smiling face, and those with the warm touch that says, "share your pain, let me be a part of your grief, don't worry about making us uneasy with tears, we have all been there". Much healing can take place through sharing as we learn to be very honest and courageous with our feelings, which helps us to find hope. Hope helps to restore our love for life, and gives us the strength to survive.

This holiday we will all miss our loved ones, who are no longer with us. Though it has been through much pain, you probably have never been so close to your child or sibling, or shared such a large part of your life with them. We hope the memories that ache with pain, can also bring you thoughts of love. For those of us who are further removed from our early grief, who can look back and appreciate the strength for our struggle, the compassion from seeing other's pain, wanting to become functional human beings again so we can contribute to making a better world, are gifts our children and siblings have given to us for our survival. These gifts are greater than any fancy bow tied box can contain. Look for your gifts and cherish them.

God Bless, *Marie Hofmockel*, TCF Valley Forge, PA

**THE LOSS OF A CHILD**

The grief of parents following the death of a child is one of the most profound forms of bereavement there is.

**What Is It Like to Lose a Child?**

Every bereavement is unique. Even when you are two parents grieving for the same child, you will grieve differently and at a different pace. At a time when you most need each other for support and understanding, your preoccupation with your own loss may make it difficult for you to help your partner. Or you may both take on the role of protector and try to "be strong" for the other, concealing your own pain for fear of adding to the other's distress. This situation is impossible to sustain and can lead to misunderstanding, even a breakdown in communication. You may find yourself saying, "He doesn't seem to feel anything", or "I can't seem to get through to her any more". Sexual intimacy, which once gave life to the child, may now be unbearable for one or both of you.

In the early months you may feel overwhelmed, helpless, disoriented, frightened and exhausted. It is not uncommon to imagine that you see or hear the child you have lost, and while this can be comforting at the time it can also seem to confirm your fear that you are going mad. You may, perhaps, wish for death because life no longer seems worth living or in the hope that you will be reunited with your child. Many partnerships suffer after such a loss. Far from bringing parents together, a child's death can threaten the stability of even the best relationships.

**The View from Outside**

Family and friends may urge you to pull yourself together or they may avoid contact because they too feel helpless and afraid of inadvertently causing further hurt. They may even feel threatened - if your child can die, they worry that so too can theirs.

It is at this point that many bereaved parents, feeling abandoned, seek outside help. But to seek help is also to have to acknowledge the reality of the loss, which some people understandably try to resist, often for several months. You may function on "automatic pilot" by going through the motions of a safe and familiar routine until you feel able to experience the full anguish of your grief. Sometimes it is not until the first year has passed that bereaved parents really begin the task of grieving, although some will still try to avoid directly facing up to their loss. After the second anniversary of the death, however (or the second missed birthday, Christmas, Mother's or Father's Day), your grief may erupt violently because avoidance and denial are no longer possible. Unfortunately, by this time others may expect you to have recovered from your loss and so the help you need may not be immediately available.

But the loss of a child is lifelong. You are likely to be reminded of the child you have lost when you see children of a similar age or appearance and, as you watch other children growing up, you will be reminded of what your own child would have been like and what you are missing. In time you may find some new purpose in living, but you do not ever forget the child you have lost. That child is, and will remain, part of you.

**Why Parents' Grief Is Different**

When your child dies, you feel as if you have failed in your role as protector, and this sense of failure can result in strong feelings of guilt and low self-esteem. You may also become over-protective towards any surviving children. At the same time, it is possible that in the early stages of your grief you will be preoccupied with the dead child to the exclusion of your other children, if you have them. It is the dead child you want and who embodies for you all that is ideal. The effect on the remaining children, who cannot replace the dead child or compete with this "perfect angel", is likely to be profound.

If the dead child was your only child, you lose your identity as a parent, and if you lost your first child through miscarriage, or the baby was stillborn, or died soon after birth, you may feel a sense of inadequacy and failure. In a number of ways children embody parents' hopes for the future. Their death means that they will not be able to care for you in old age when the protective, caring roles are reversed.

Your child's death also deprives you of your claim to immortality. The characteristics that have made you what you are will not now be passed on to future generations.

All parents struggle to find a meaning for their loss. Your sense of what is right and fair is deeply shaken, and you seek a purpose for the death which will restore meaning to your life and the belief that your world is still basically safe - for, after all, if a child can die, anything can happen.

**Trying to Understand**

Anyone who may be trying to understand what it feels like to lose a child might find it helpful to remember what one bereaved mother said in reply to someone who thought she should be "over it" after two years. "Which one of your children could you do without".

*Jan McLaren*, Director and Senior Counselor of the Laura Centre In Leicester, a centre that has been established specifically for bereaved parents. Submitted by **Kathleen Leeper**, mother of **Shaun Leeper** 8/17/74 - 1/15/96

**THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM**

There's an elephant in the room.  
It is large and squatting, so it is hard to get around it.  
Yet we squeeze by with, "How are you?"  
    and, "I 'm fine" ...  
And a thousand other forms of trivial chatter.  
We talk about the weather.  
We talk about work.  
We talk about everything else -  
    except the elephant in the room.

There's an elephant in the room.  
We all know it is there.  
We are thinking about the elephant  
    as we talk together.  
It is constantly on our minds.  
for, you see, it is a very big elephant.  
It has hurt us all,  
But we do not talk about the elephant in the room.  
Oh, please, say her name.  
Oh, please, say "Barbara" again.  
  
Oh, please, let's talk about the elephant in the room.  
For if we talk about her death,  
Perhaps we can talk about her life?  
Can I say "Barbara" to you and not have you  
    look away?  
For if I cannot, then you are leaving me  
Alone ...  
In a room ...  
With an elephant.

*Terry Kettering*

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**MEMORIES**

Within each tear that falls is a mirror  
That reflects a special moment in our lives.  
They trickle warmly down  
And land in a puddle in my heart.

*Tammy Tobac*  
TCF, Pittsburgh, PA

**THE ANSWER IS BECAUSE**

Early in the evening  
Reluctant to the dawn  
Scot would choose to die  
Before the early morn  
He chose the final method  
The one that hurts the worst  
He chose to die the loss -  
The loss of his self worth.  
I miss him something terrible  
I wish he knew I cared  
I wish he knew I loved him  
And really would have shared.  
I hope he's happy now  
I hope he's found his peace  
I hope he's found the things he wants  
The things he really needs.

*Stacy Blumenthal*  
in memory of her brother  
TCF, St. Louis, MO

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**LIKE THE BUTTERFLY**

It fluttered there, above my head,  
Weightless in the soft breeze.  
I reached up my hand, it lit upon my finger  
Waving glistening wings gently,  
Looked at me for timeless moments.  
I smiled, reaching deep, and  
Finding all those cherished memories.  
As it flitted off through the sunlit morn,  
I knew we had said hello, once more.

*Leslie Langford*, sibling  
TCF North Platte, NE

**THE HOLIDAY SEASON:**

Getting through the holidays can be a difficult task for bereaved parents. We as bereaved parents need to handle the holidays in a way that we feel is best for ourselves and our families. There are many things that bereaved parents can do to help ease the pain of the holiday season. Below are some suggestions that we thought may be helpful for you:

1. PLAN to be with people you enjoy.
2. VISIT the cemetery and take a Christmas tree to the grave. Decorate it with popcorn or food for the birds.
3. DO SOMETHING for someone else. Give a gift or make a donation in memory of your child. This can help to keep their memory alive.
4. INCLUDE YOUR CHILD IN CONVERSATIONS -- once others realize that you are comfortable talking about your child,

they can relate stories that will add to your memories of him or her.

5. DON'T BE AFRAID TO MAKE CHANGES It really can make things less painful. Change the time you open packages, or when the holiday meal is served.
6. KEEP IN MIND THE FEELINGS of our other children and family members. Let your needs be known to others and try to understand their needs as well.
7. MOST IMPORTANT, it is pointless to pretend that everything is the same as it was. As you accept your loss, give yourself the necessary time for grieving during the holidays.
8. TAKE ONE DAY AT A TIME. Be realistic, and realize that we all need to set limits to do those things which are meaningful to ourselves and our families.

*Author Unknown*

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**A LETTER TO MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS**

Thank you for not expecting too much from me this holiday season. It will be our first Christmas without our child and I have all I can do coping with the "spirit" of the holiday on the radio, TV, in the newspapers and stores. We do not feel joyous and trying to pretend this Christmas is going to be like the last will be impossible because we are missing one.

Our family traditions will be too painful for us to continue this year. Please understand this and maybe some Christmas in the future we will have these traditions again.

Please allow me to talk about my child, if I feel a need. Don't be uncomfortable with my tears. My heart is breaking and the tears are a way of letting out my sadness.

I plan to do something special in memory of my child. Please recognize my need to do this in order to keep our memories alive. My fear is not that I'll forget, but that you will.

Please don't criticize me if I do something that you don't think is normal. I'm a different person now and it may take a long time before this different person reaches an acceptance of my child's death.

As I survive the stages of grief, I will need your patience and support, especially during these holiday times and the "special" days throughout the year.

Thank you for not expecting too much from me this holiday season.

Love, A bereaved parent, Madison, WI

**Dear Danielle;**

We miss you so, your laughing, your singing,  
 your wonderful show.  
 Your sister is fine and mom and I too,  
 Though our hearts still ache when we visit with  
 you.  
 We have a dog now, she's funny like you.  
 She's not a replacement, she's your wish come  
 true.  
 It's kind of odd...but once in a while,  
 When we're sad or in tears...she'll get us to smile!  
 Is that you telling us "cheer up mom and dad"?  
 It wouldn't surprise us, the thought makes us glad.  
 Mom Mom and Pop Pop, your cousins and  
 friends,  
 Still ask about you, still send their Amens.  
 Happy Halloween, your favorite day,  
 We'll be thinking of you when the kids go away.  
 When we run out of candy and lay our heads  
 down,  
 We'll ask God once more...  
 "please keep Danielle safe, please keep Danielle  
 sound".

LOVE DADDY

*Dan Condron*, father of

**Danielle Lynne Condron** 7/16/73 - 11/11/95

**THE GIFT OF  
SOMEONE WHO LISTENS**

Those of us who have traveled a while  
 Along this path called grief,  
 Need to stop and remember that mile  
 The first mile of no relief.

It wasn't the person with answers  
 Who told us the ways to deal,  
 It wasn't the one who talked and talked  
 That helped us to start to heal.

Think of the friend who quietly sat  
 And held our hands in theirs,  
 The ones who let us talk and talk  
 And hugged away our tears.

We need to always remember  
 That more than the words we speak,  
 It's the gift of someone who listens  
 That most of us desperately seek.

*Nancy Myerholts,*  
 TCF, Waterville/Toledo, OH

**I WILL NOT FORGET**

I will not forget you.  
 Boy with hazel eyes.  
 I will see you shining  
 In every new sunrise.

I will not forget  
 Your grin with dimples deep.  
 I'll hold you in my dreams  
 While in my deepest sleep.

I will not forget  
 Your laughter or your smile.  
 You'll be right beside me  
 And walk my every mile.

I will not forget you  
 Child with golden hair.  
 I will feel your presence  
 You are every where.

I will not forget you  
 Sweet memories make me glad.  
 I will not forget you  
 Not all the love we had.

No, I will not forget you  
 Your spirit fills my soul.  
 I will not forget my son  
 Your memory keeps me whole.

*Jacqueline Brown* Peace Valley TCF, New Britain, PA