

THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS, INC.

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

August 2009

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

Aug 6 General Sharing

Aug 7-9 National Conference , Portland OR

Sep 3 General Sharing & Death by Suicide

Fall Banquet (date to be announced) see page 3

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 MURRAY or RHONDA GOMEZ**



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NEW FRIENDS

Peggy Orner, daughter *Debra* (52)

Brad Ingerman, son *Justin* (24)

Bud Cunnane, son *Patrick* (35)

Barbara Jacobs, daughter *Pamela Faye* (55)

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.

JULY REFRESHMENTS

Diana Clark, in memory of grandson, *Alexander* (7)

Linda DiPasquale, in memory of my son *Thomas* (22)

Pat & Rochena Fatale, in memory of all our children

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.

LOVE GIFTS

JoAnn (D) & Gary Chavez, in loving memory of our son, *Christopher Dale Chavez* on his birthday August 4th.

Carole Solomon, in memory of my beloved niece, *Avery Silverman* (17)

Irene & Bob Weaver, in memory of our daughter, *Monica* on the anniversary of her death July 17th.

Marie & Ken Hofmockel, in loving memory of our son, *Douglas* on his birthday August 27. Remembering the love and joy he brought to those around him.

NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL

The newsletter is available by email to those who wish to receive it in this form. You will receive the newsletter earlier if you opt to receive the newsletter by email. If you chose to use the email method of receiving your newsletter, and later decide you want to receive it by postal service, you will have the option to switch back to the old method. If you wish to receive the newsletter by email please contact: Frank Gomez fgomez@hybridpoplars.com

Marie & Ken Hofmockel welcomed a healthy new great-grandson, Jeffrey Andrew Schneibolk June 26, 2009. Jeffrey is the grandson of Pamela Hofmockel Schneibolk of Poolesville, MD.

FALL BANQUET BEING PLANNED WITH GUEST SPEAKER ALAN PEDERSEN

Alan Pedersen has been performing for more than 25 years. An accomplished singer and award winning songwriter, he spent several years writing and recording music in Nashville, Tennessee. Alan has had several songs recorded by other artists.

In August of 2001 Alan's life took a tragic turn, his 18-year-old and only daughter, Ashley, was killed in an automobile accident. This tragedy would take his life in a direction he never imagined. Struggling for months to find answers and trying to cope with tremendous pain and anger, he entered a grief program in Denver, Colorado and began attending monthly meetings of a support organization (The Compassionate Friends.)

Alan has performed at National Conferences for The Compassionate Friends, Bereaved Parents of the USA, and the World Gathering on Bereavement. Alan will travel and speak to chapters of TCF, BP-USA, and other grief organizations dedicated to helping families grieving the loss of a child.. See his website: www.everashleymusic.com

LAST MINUTE OPPORTUNITY

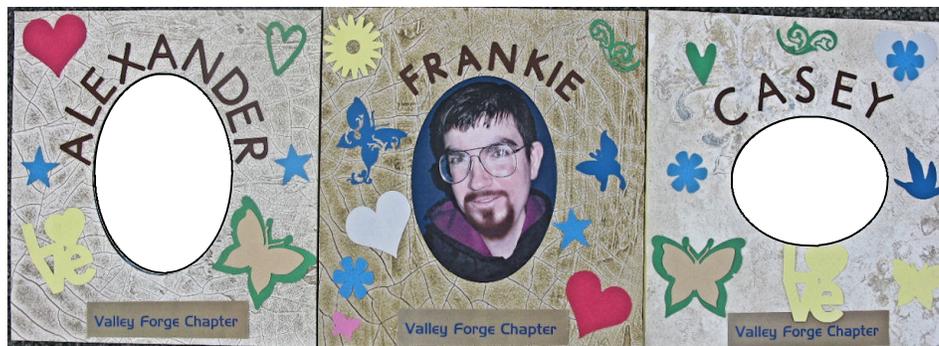
The July TCF Valley Forge newsletter (page 4) had a notice that Frank Gomez had generously volunteered to hand carry a photo of your child or sibling to place on the National Conference memorial board. Frank has designed 8" x 8" color mattes, with each background a different pattern. See samples below.

If you wish to participate in this project, allowing Frank to make a matte with your loved ones photo, please send the photo. (see cut-off date below) Be sure the photo fits in a regular business size envelope and the name of the loved one(s) is written on the back. If you place a light weight cardboard in the envelope it will help to keep the photo from being damaged. Sorry, Frank cannot accept photos as email attachments, his printer's colors are not accurate.

After displaying photos at the National Conference, Frank will laminate the matted photo and bring them to the September meeting for you to pick up.

ALL PHOTOS MUST BE RECEIVED BY AUGUST 1ST

**Send to:
Frank Gomez
12 Brook Circle
Glenmoore, PA 19343**



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 given to the editors, Marie & Ken Hofmockel.**

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

AUGUST ANNIVERSERIES

Maryellen & Dick Abell, son *Brian Abell* - 8/19
Emily L. Alm, son *Bryan W. Alm* - 8/23
Anne Aycocle, sister *Mary Aycocle* - 8/9
Lisa Bellopede, son *Johnny* - 8/12
Dorothy & Jack Bert, son *Matthias* - 8/29
Bruce & Barb Campbell, son *Greg* - 8/21
Joann (D) & Gary Chavez, son *Christopher Dale Chavez* - 8/4
Mary & John Chelius, son *John J. Chelius, Jr.* - 8/24
Cynthia Chester, son *Christian* - 8/7
Liz & Scott Conaghan, brother *Jan* - 8/27
Jean & Bill Cotter, son *Patrick Cotter* - 8/11
Holly & John Cross, son *John* - 8/13
Dorothy & G. Robert Daily, Sr., son *G. Robert Daily, Jr.* - 8/10
Antoinette & John DiDonato, son *John Jr.* - 8/17
Cindy & Jim Donahue, son *Michael Donahue* - 8/2
Richard & Martha Fenoglio, daughter *Judith Fenoglio Daw* - 8/6
Lisa Foos, son *Curtis* - 8/12
June & Tsuneo Fujita, daughter *Sharon Kimi Fujita* - 8/17
Carol Funaro, sister *Bernadette Funaro* - 8/24
Molly Gehring, son *Daniel* - 8/26
Robert & Kathy Gelinis, daughter *Krystal Gelinis* - 8/24
Angela Giannantonio, son *Anthony* - 8/2
Stephanie Grier, son *John "JD" Grier* - 8/17
Tom & Judy Hahn, daughter *Erica Hilley* - 8/23
Joan Jagers, son *John Costello* - 8/18
Joseph & Kathy Leahan, daughter *Samantha* - 8/29
Greg & Anita Lewicki, son *Eric Stephen Lewicki* - 8/20
John & Nancy Logue, daughter *Heather Logue* - 8/23
Kathleen & Hugh Martin, Jr., son *Colin John "C.J." Martin* - 8/16
Jeff and Kathy McCarron, daughter *Sarah* - 8/14
Lorice McDonald, son *Oral* - 8/27
Robert & Marjorie Meckley, son *Douglas Meckley* - 8/16
Kathleen Mitchel, daughter *Danielle* - 8/21
Carol & Dennis O'Connor, son *Michael O'Connor* - 8/23
Angela Perachio, daughter *Melanie McAllister* - 8/26

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES continued

Patricia Peraino, brother *Anthony* - 8/2
Marge Randolph, husband *Bob Fixter* - 8/18
Thomas & Jeri Reinert, mother (of Jeri) *Theresa Volpe* - 8/23
Thelma Rosen, son *Thomas Grisafi* - 8/24
Susan & John Rutland, son *Justin Rutland* - 8/30
Carol Sannella, son *David Sannella* - 8/31
Melinda & Craig Schewe, son *Nathan Schewe* - 8/4/
Marie Shippen, son *Michael Morgan* - 8/29
Robert & Nell Shoemaker, daughter *Brynn Shoemaker* - 8/9
Eddie Smith, son *John Seddon "Sed" Wilson* - 8/20
Linda Sposato, daughter *Bernadette Funaro* - 8/24
Elaine & Joe Stillwell, daughter *Margaret Mary O'Connor* - 8/2
son *Denis E. O'Connor, III* - 8/6
Walter & Irene Stolarczyk, daughter *Barbara Stolarczyk* - 8/10
Juan & Casey Terrero, son *Jalen* - 8/31
Judy & Bert Tomarelli, son *Daniel Robert Tomarelli* - 8/10
Marie Torrey, sister *Trudy* - 8/31
Kevin Welde, brother *John Welde* - 8/14
Christine & Raymond Welker, brother *Doug Adam* - 8/21
Eleanor Wolfe, son *John Kuesel* - 8/26
Dave Ziv, son *Kenneth Ziv* - 8/6

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Marilynn Anton, cousin/godmother *Douglas Hofmockel* 8/27
Anne Aycocle, sister *Mary Aycocle* 8/9
Rob and Janet Beiswenger, son *Jared* 8/17
Dorothy & Jack Bert, son *Matthias* 8/16
Jovanna & Joseph Bevilacqua, son *Donato "Danny" Bevilacqua* 8/20
Richard & Jo Bewley, son *Kevin Bewley* 8/24
Marvin & Wilma Bordetsky, daughter *Noreen Bordetsky Cook* 8/29
Bonnie Buler, son *Michael Buler* 8/26
Linda & Joe Carty, brother *Joe Clerico* 8/26
Thomas & Janet Cleary, son *Ryan* 8/21
Patricia & Ben Clerico, son *Joseph Clerico* 8/26
Evelyn M. Corrado, son *John A. Corrado* 8/5
Allison Crowder, daughter *Amber* 8/8
Dorothy & G. Robert Daily, Sr., son *David* 8/26
Cindy & Jim Donahue, son *Michael Donahue* 8/2
Jim and Patty Duffy, son *Michael Duffy* 8/8

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Nancy & David Dykty, brother *Jim Sutton* 8/7
Tom & Irene Edmunds, son *Kyle Derek Edmunds* 8/1
Donna & Stanley Edwards, son *Stanley Austin Edwards* 8/1
Mary Ann Erdek, nephew *Joseph Clerico* 8/26
Rita & Thomas Gibbons, son *Paul Gibbons* 8/13
Mary Lou Harrison, son *Lance 'Scott' Harrison* 8/4
Danielle Hemmench Ricci, boyfriend *Ryan* 8/21
Beatrice K Hildebrandt, son *John R. Hildebrandt* 8/26
Marie & Ken Hofmockel, son *Douglas Hofmockel* 8/27
Jan & Dan Jackson, son *John Jackson* 8/18
Michael & Betsy Jarrett, son *Michael Jarrett* 8/13
Joan Kingslake, daughter *Ann Kingslake Woods* 8/3
Sue Lawlor, son *Jim* 8/24
Mary Leech, daughter *Phyliss Leach* 8/28
Kathleen & John Leeper, son *Shaun Michael Leeper* 8/17
John & Nancy Logue, daughter *Heather Logue* 8/16
Timothy & Maxine Lurowist, daughter *Kristine* 8/24
Anna E Marchese, son *Matthew Paul Marchese* 8/28
Diane Mazzagatti, son *John Pirocchi, Jr.* 8/3
Sue McMaster, cousin *Patty* 8/30
Joanne F Michini, son *Alfred J. Michini, II* 8/2
Alexandra Milas, daughter *Nicole Penelope Wiseley* 8/23
Kathleen Mitchel, daughter *Danielle* 8/21
Mary C. Monahan, grandson *Shaun Michael Leeper* 8/17
John B. & Lillian Neff, son *Patrick Neff* 8/30
Philip & Patricia Newton, son *Seth Newton* 8/28
Sharon Ott, daughter *Amber* 8/12
Joan Palumbo, son *Michael* 8/4
Angela Perachio, sister *Catherine Curcio Fitzgerald* 8/9
Sharyn & Joe Pozzuolo, son *Joey Brad Pozzuolo* 8/26
Joe & Marti Purifico, son *Jeffrey* 8/3
Elise Rice, son *Raymond Anthony Rice* 8/29
Bonnie Rosen, son *Troy* 8/30
Toby & Herb Rosenberg, daughter *Dina Rosenberg* 8/20
Marie & Sam Schmeltzer, son *Sam "Sonny" Schmeltzer* 8/22
Pamela Schneibolk, brother *Douglas Hofmockel* 8/27
Harry & Carol Schultz, son *Brian Andrew Schultz* 8/23
Janet & Jonathan Schultz, brother *Marc Ernest Stein* 8/17
Tom Silvia, brother *Danny Silvia* 8/27
Ray & Lorraine Spear, daughter *Kimberly Jean Spear* 8/15
Elaine & Joe Stillwell, daughter *Margaret Mary O'Connor* 8/23
Karen & Alan Stoner, daughter *Holly Patricia Stoner* 8/11

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS continued

Fred & Irene Sutton, son *Jim Sutton* 8/7
Nancy Sullivan, granddaughter *Megan Sullivan* 8/22
Tracey Sutton-Vitabile, brother *Jim Sutton* 8/7
Hellmut Theil, son *Hellmut Theil, Jr.* 8/2
Thomas & Sara Thiermann, daughter *Heather Bruce Thiermann* 8/26
Pat Villante, daughter *Patty* 8/30
Eleanor Wolfe, son *John Kuesel* 8/18
Andy & Peg Yanoviak, daughter *Elizabeth "Betsy" Hershman* 8/6

SHARED THOUGHTS ON FEAR

After losing a child or sibling, we quickly realize that we are very vulnerable to death. Those terrible tragedies that normally happened to other people have now come into our own home.

Before we even get through the stages of shock or denial, we fear losing another family member. Our interest in daily living and ourselves is at a very low ebb, but often the concern for surviving children or family members increases to the point of smothering them. If there are no other children, the concern frequently is transferred to the mate.

As my youngest surviving son once said, "Can I not live because my brother died?" (He was then 16, the age our Doug died in an auto accident.) This helped me to realize that robbing him of the carefree feeling that belongs to teenagers was wrong. I certainly did not want him to worry to the extent I did. As frightened as we are, we have to accept the fact we can not control or protect our children against all dangers. I chose to back off, and just prayed a lot.

The fear of "going crazy" is very common. I had this fear because I was not healing at the same rate as when my siblings and parents died. It would have been helpful had I been going to The Compassionate Friends, and known a bereaved parent's grief is different, and for me much longer and more intense. Even though the fear of suicide and going crazy is very common, I have never known a bereaved parent who attended The Compassionate Friends to do either.

If we share our grief and pain with someone who has been in the same depth of despair, they can sometimes help us to sort out our feelings. The long time bereaved parents and siblings can help us through our bad times, just by letting us know they "were there" and survived. They too had intense exaggerated fears, which eventually left. A certain residue of fear remains with us, but this degree of fear we can live with.

Sharing is probably the one thing that helps us most. It helps us to look at ourselves more objectively, and sometimes realize when we are unduly alarmed. We fear forgetting our child, how they looked, laughed, their voice, and the things they did, we can't bear losing anything pertaining to our child, but **these things we never forget.**

Our children are no longer with us to touch and hold, but our love and memories are very much alive. It bothers me terribly when others say, "but you have six other children left". Our love for our child that died can not be transferred to another. Our relationship was between the two of us. Some people say a part of them died with their child. I like to say a part of me is reserved for the memories of Doug. This is its only function. So I need to keep the memories alive to use this part of me.

God Bless, *Marie Hofmockel*, TCF Valley Forge

ME AND MY DANNY BOY

On the date of April 17, 1978 I had a baby boy. His name was Daniel Christopher Weaver. He was born in Pottstown, PA. His nickname was Danny, like the song “*Danny Boy*”.

There were things wrong with my Danny Boy that I didn’t realize were happening until the last minute. People around me were trying to protect me from getting emotionally upset and having a seizure.

When Danny was first born, the doctors thought he had a heart murmur. We took him to our doctor, who recommended we go to Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. We consulted with a doctor there, after running tests, they discovered Danny had a tumor on his heart.

The doctor from Children’s Hospital could perform the operation he needed, but this particular surgery had only been performed once, and it was done on a girl. The doctor also told us in order to receive the operation and live like a normal boy, Danny needed to gain weight.

That summer was rough and so was the heat. By this time the tumor had expanded to all of Danny’s heart. Finally, it cut off his oxygen flow. My Danny Boy was gone. He was only four months and four days old. I know now that he is with God and there is nothing on his heart to stop him from living with God the Almighty.

My son died on August 21, 1978. I miss him dearly. He was released to God. I do remember that I will see him again, along with another child of mine. God is taking care of them now and forever. For my Danny Boy is in heaven.

Linda Weaver, TCF Valley Forge, PA

Hold on to what is good even if it is a handful of earth.
Hold on to what you believe even if it is a tree, which stands by itself.
Hold on to what you must do even if it is a long way from here.
Hold on to life even when it is easier letting go.
Hold on to my hand even when I have gone away from you.

Nancy Wood, “Many Winters”

WHY CAN'T I REMEMBER?

I am a surviving sibling. Fifteen months ago I was not even familiar with the term...now I am one! How am I doing? What are the guidelines to measure my progress? Why can't I remember when I was told of my brother's death...or the days following the accident for that matter? Did I laugh just today when I never thought I would laugh again? What is the peaceful feeling that I feel from time to time? Is it healing?

Lee at 29, was still my little brother. I remember trying to alternately protect or tease him, make him laugh or make him cry. He was like having a real live baby doll to play with, since I was 10 years older than he. (Our mother said he was the cleanest little boy in the neighborhood. I guess having three older sisters is the reason for that!!!)

How can I explain the pain I felt on learning of his accident? I wanted to go to him right away to see that he was okay, but our cousin Judy said that wasn't possible. I guess that was when I was told that he was dead. But I don't remember that. I only remember screaming.

When was it that I began to heal? Probably at the same time that I thought I was going totally, certifiably crazy! Then someone told me about The Compassionate Friends and what they did. I wonder if they could help me, but doubted that they could. After all, how could they understand how much I hurt at having lost my precious baby brother or how close we had always been and how he always helped me? But, you know what...they did help. With the help and the support of this group of wonderful caring people, I am alive today and working toward a fruitful life. I will never be the same as I was before my brother died, but I truly believe I am a better person.

While Lee's life taught me so much, his death taught me some invaluable lessons. I have learned to become more aware of life and my own mortality and am more attuned to the needs of others. I no longer take anything for granted. I miss him terribly, but take solace in the belief that he is happy in his new world and that one day we will be reunited.

Sibling grief takes a tremendous amount of time and work. Sometimes just thinking of my brother, looking at his picture, or hearing his favorite song, "God Bless America", reduces me to a teary mess. Sometimes these same things make me smile. But I am closer to and cherish my family more than ever and realize how very important they are. I am dedicated to helping other surviving siblings work through their grief and I pray for peace, not only for myself and my family, but for everyone making this journey through grief.

One thing that I have found to be most helpful during the past fifteen months of grief work has been to talk about and be honest about my feelings. I encourage siblings to try to hook up with a support group such as The Compassionate Friends.

Sunday Lee Stanton - TCF, Wyoming Valley, PA

IN MY HEART FOREVER

I thought of you with love today
But that is nothing new.
I thought about you yesterday,
And days before that too.
I think of you in silence.
I often speak your name.

Now all I have is memories.
And your picture in a frame.
Your memory is my keepsake.
With which I'll never part.
God has you in his keeping.
I have you in my heart...forever.

Author Unknown

IT SEEMS LIKE YESTERDAY

It's been 8 years, Denny, since you went away.
But, for us it seems like yesterday.
As the seasons come and go,
We remember how you loved them so.
The Winter it was always the snow.
In Spring how you loved to watch things grow.
The Fall was football with all the force,
And Summer was the shore, of course.
So, you see my son,
no matter how long you're away.
For your Mom and Dad,
It will always seem like yesterday.

Gwen Kearns TCF – Valley Forge, PA
September 2001

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

It is not easy returning to the world of normalcy when your world is upside down. It is not easy to stop being a mother or father to your child that has died. The thought for the day is a word – patience – patience with yourself who suddenly and powerlessly has been thrown into this horrid nightmare; patience with your spouse who always seems to be having an up day when you are having a down day; patience with relative and friends who wish to help but seem to hurt, with hollow advice and logical words; and patience with time, for it takes time to adjust, and time can move so slowly. **PATIENCE!**

Rose Moen TCF/Carmel – Indianapolis, IN

FORGIVE UNTIL FOREVER

Grieving is a fierce and over-whelming expression of love thrust upon us by a deep and hurtful loss. Yet, grieving is frequently such an entanglement of feelings that we often fail to recognize that ultimately forgiveness must be an integral part of our grief and healing. For what is love if forgiveness is silent within us?

We learn to forgive our children for dying and ourselves for not preventing it. We begin to forgive our God or the fate we see ruling our universe. We start to forgive relatives and friends for abandoning us in their own bewilderment over the onslaught of emotions they sense in our words and behavior. I believe we must be open to the balm of forgiveness. Through its expression in our lives, be it through thought, word or deed, we find small ways to seek life once more. Deep within us, forgiveness is capable of treading the wasteland of our souls to help us feel again that which has not died.

It is the beginning of release from the dominance of pain, not from the continual hurt of missing those that we have lost, but from lacking the fullness of the love we shared with our child. That love lives with strength inside ourselves and yet our beings are so entrapped in a whirling vortex of anger, despair, frustration, abandonment and depression that we often feel it only lightly. Let us heed the quiet message heard so softly in the maelstrom of the spirit. Forgive, forgive, and forgive until forever. Let love enfold our anguish, helping us to grow and strive beyond this hour to a rich tomorrow.

Don Hackett, TCF, Hingham MA

WITHOUT US

Where did they go
All of our cherished children and siblings?
Where did they go without us?
We the ones left behind who weep and yearn
And still love them so.

Are we just like them?
A part of a group caring for one another
So they don't have to worry.

Did they know there was another place calling?
Where they had to go
Without us, on their own.
Are they all there with each other?
The older ones taking care of the younger
So we don't have to worry.

If so, then maybe, just maybe
There is a bit of Heaven on earth after all.
Thank you, my Compassionate Friends
With much love and gratitude to all.

Kathleen Leeper, TCF Valley Forge, PA
In Memory of my Son --
Shaun Michael Leeper



WOULD HAVE BEEN ... SHOULD HAVE BEEN ...

He would have been ten years old on his last birthday. Blonde and fair with a sprinkling of freckles across his nose. He would have had friends over to play, collected bugs, played ball and watched the Power Rangers after school. For Halloween he would have been something scary, hiding rubber spiders around the house to frighten us.

He should have been healthy, strong and tall. Laughing in the sun, running through the grass and going swimming on a hot day. He should have been with us on all of our trips and visits to see grandparents, cousins, aunts and uncles. He should have had wonderful birthday parties and Merry Christmases with lots of presents and blissful parents. He should have been in the "family" photos.

He could have been cured. Was that so much to ask? To have been one of the "lucky ones" rather than the downside of the statistics. He could have lived to see the flowers and trees grow and bloom; the ones we planted together that last fall. Instead he has fake flowers lining his grave, fading in the hot New Mexico sun, as he faded away from us. He could have been a great man.

He might have been a doctor, or a scientist, or maybe an actor ... instead of the main character in a poem for bereaved parents. He made us laugh so much with his crazy costumes and rubber snakes. He might have or could have or would have but I'll never know ... all those dreams that died the night he died. He might have loved to read.

He might have ... but he ISN'T here, having spent only half of those 10 years on earth. He is the ghost who keeps me company as I wander through my remaining years on earth, a shadow of my former self, making clay angels that are fair and blonde with a hint of freckles on their noses. He ISN'T here with me. The deep void his passing left is only partially filled by day-to-day activities. There is an empty hole that opens up at night as I try to fall asleep without watching reruns of the horror movie called cancer. Can't I put life on rewind and do a second take, erase all of this sadness and sorrow?

What he WAS, was a teacher. He taught me about life and death and courage. A day does not go by that I don't think about him and I remember well the lessons that he taught me.

Donna Davis, TCF, Rossell, NM
In memory of **Sean Patrick Davis**