

THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

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

Inside Valley Forge

Meetings are on the first Thursday of every month, at 7:45 PM (ending at 9:30 PM) We meet at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Founders Hall, Valley Forge Road and Henderson Rds., King of Prussia, PA

For info call Rhonda @ (484) 919-0820

August 2021

Chapter Leader:

Rhonda Gomez
12 Brook Circle
Glenmoore PA 19343
(484) 919-0820 Chapter cell phone

Meeting Schedule and other TCF Events of Interest.

Next Meeting - 8/5/2021

Meeting - 9/2/2021

Butterfly Release - 9/18/2021
at 3 PM, Saturday



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Compassionatefriends.org

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 editor.

There are no dues or fees to belong to the Compassionate Friends, or to receive our newsletter. Your tax deductible donations (which we call love gifts) given in memory of your loved one enables us to defray the cost of the 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 Rhonda Gomez

TCF Mission Statement

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.

NEW FRIENDS

We welcome our newly bereaved friends, sorry for the cause that brings you. We all have been in the depths of despair, and offer unconditional love and understanding to all of you, it sometimes takes several meetings to feel the full benefit of group sharing. We offer confidentiality, unconditional love and understanding to all of you.

Anna Maria Tamaro-Bintliff - son, John S. Tamaro (56)

REFRESHMENTS

Refreshments may be donated in memory of loved ones. Please call Rhonda (484) 919-0820 or you may sign the refreshment chart located on the refreshment table.

Rhonda and Frank Gomez in memory of their son, Frankie

Donation - Kent & Virginia Patterson

THE PATH

My world lay shattered around me. Gone were the flowers and the sun. The path ahead looked dark and threatening. I heard a voice saying, "You have to travel this path alone."

"I don't want to go down that path. I can't." I protested. "I liked the old path."

"The choice is yours," said the voice, "but you may never go back to the old path. You may stay here at the crossroads where anger and pain will keep you company and wither your spirit. Or, you may runoff into the surrounding woods and pretend you are going somewhere, but you will become disoriented and lost. The only peace is to be found at the end of the path ahead."

"If you have the courage to set forth upon the new path and keep struggling through the storms, you will discover depths in yourself that you never knew existed. If you reach out you will find those who have already traveled this difficult way and are there to support and guide you. Though it seems impossible now, your path will become beautiful again, as will your spirit. You will emerge from the desolation a stronger, wiser, and more compassionate person. Then you too can turn and extend your hand to those who are still on the way."

I made a choice. I picked up the remains of my life -- my aching heart and wounded spirit, my broken dreams and disbelief -- and wrapped them carefully in my blanket of grief. Holding them closely to me, I walked steadfastly ahead into the storm with faith in the promise of peace on the other side.

Sharron Cordaro, Riverside, CA

A boy was flying his kite. He kept adding more spools of string to make it go higher. A woman walked by and said, "you have that kite flying high." And the boy agreed. The woman left and went about her business. On her way back, she looked up toward the kite and said, "I do not see your kite." The boy agreed. She asked, "Then why don't you let go of it?" The boy answered, "I can't. I can still feel it tugging." This is the plight of bereaved parents.

TCF of Tilton, GA

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.

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.

Anniversaries

Maryellen & Dick Abell - Brian Abell - son - 8/19

Emily L. Alm - Bryan W. Alm - son - 8/23

Lisa Bellopede - Johnny - son - 8/12

Dorothy & Jack Bert - Matthias - son - 8/29

Tom & Kathy Biggar - Ava Nobles - granddaughter - 8/28

Adam Blasucci - Danny - brother - 8/1

Joe & Maryann Bucci - Dante - son - 8/13

Carol & Ira Caplan - Julian - don - 8/6

Gary Chavez - Christopher Dale Chavez - son - 8/4

Mary & John Chelius - John J. Chelius, Jr. - son - 8/24

Wendy Coleman - Gabrielle - daughter - 8/18

Liz & Scott Conaghan - Jan - brother - 8/27

Joane Cooper - Ben - son - 8/2

Jean & Bill Cotter - Patrick Cotter - son - 8/11

Carol Curtiss - Kurt - grandson - 8/20

Dorothy & G. Robert Daily, Sr. - G. Robert Daily, Jr. - son - 8/10

Carol Dawidziuk - Michel - son - 8/21

Kimberly De Simone - Lacey - daughter - 8/13

Antoinette & John DiDonato - John Jr - son - 8/17

Scott & Charlene Fazekas - Eric Scott Fazekas - son - 8/13

Richard & Martha Fenoglio - Judith Fenoglio Daw - daughter - 8/6

Lisa Foos - Curtis - son - 8/12

Denise & Edward Frazier - Akhir - son - 8/25

Molly Gehring - Daniel - son - 8/26

Angela Giannantonio - Anthony - son - 8/2

Stephanie Grier - John JD Grier - son - 8/17

Tim & Rosemarie Griffiths - Timothy Griffiths - son - 8/17

Anniversaries - Cont'd

Tracey Hawley - Christopher - son - 8/10
Janet Higgins - Nicholas - son - 8/1
Margaret Huss - Robert - husband - 8/9
Joan Jagers - John Costello - son - 8/18
Janet & Dave Keller - Joseph E. - son - 8/21, Thomas A. Keller - brother - 8/10
Greg & Anita Lewicki - Eric Stephen Lewicki - son - 8/20
Frank & Laura Lincicome - Daniel - son - 8/29
John & Nancy Logue - Heather Logue - daughter - 8/23
Kathleen & Hugh Martin, Jr. - Colin John C.J. Martin - son - 8/16
Jeff and Kathy McCarron - Sarah - daughter - 8/14
Marjorie Meckley - Douglas Meckley - son - 8/16
Kathleen Mitchel - Danielle - daughter - 8/21
Joanne Morasco - Robert - son - 8/6
Jenn Nobles - Ava Ruth Marie - daughter - 8/28
Carol & Dennis O'Connor - Michael O'Connor - son - 8/23
Patricia Peraino - Anthony - brother - 8/2
Marge Randolph - Bob Fixter - husband - 8/18
Thomas & Jeri "Bubbles" - Reinert - Theresa Volpe - mother (Bubbles) - 8/23
Tracey Robinson - Connor - son - 8/29
Susan & John Rutland - Justin Rutland - son - 8/30
Carol Sannella - David Sannella - son - 8/31
Sheila Scanlon - Andrew McGuire - grandson - 8/29
Rosemarie Scott-Griffiths - Timothy F. Griffiths - stepson - 8/17
Enjoli Segneri - Shane - boyfriend - 8/8
Robert & Nell Shoemaker - Brynn Shoemaker - daughter - 8/9
Edie Smith - John Seddon "Sed" Wilson - son - 8/20
Linda Sposato - Bernadette Funaro - daughter - 8/24
Elaine & Joe Stillwell - Margaret Mary O'Connor - daughter - 8/2, Denis E. O'Connor, III - son - 8/6
Walter & Irene Stolarczyk - Barbara Stolarczyk - daughter - 8/10

Anniversaries - Cont'd

Judy Tomarelli - Daniel Robert Tomarelli - son - 8/10

Jack, Bobbie and Ross Trotter - Megan - daughter/sister - 8/26

Steven Tucker - Patrick Ryan - son - 8/18

Kevin Welde - John Welde - brother - 8/14

Carolyn & Tom Yuhas - Eric Whitelock - son - 8/17

SHARED THOUGHTS ON HEALING

Healing is the one gift all bereaved parents & siblings are searching for. Because our pain is so all consuming and overwhelming, it makes us feel that it would be impossible to laugh or be happy again. We and all those around us want the impossible, which is to return to the way we were before the death of our child or sibling. The shock of our loss usually insulates us, which helps us to get through those first few weeks of grief, but unfortunately that is about as long as some of our friends and family will hang in there with us. We are grieving for our child or sibling, but most friend's primary grief is for us and the pain we are going through, their tolerance for our extended grief wears thin. They want us to hurry and feel better so that their pain will go away. About this time even we ask ourselves, "when will I feel better?" I can remember, after Doug's death, of wondering if the pain would ever ease. Life seemed so pointless and without hope. Just to survive a day seemed so difficult and demanded every ounce of strength I had. Gradually, (and never as soon as we would like it to come), we do feel a glimmer of hope for some small interest in life again. No matter how small our accomplishment, we need to recognize this as healing. Little by little our empty feelings diminish, even though they are not gone. Since our healing time is proportionate to our loss, the road is very long and hard. We at Compassionate Friends, have traveled the road. We never want to forget our loved ones. Our child or sibling died, but the love lives on, and what ever we were to one another, we still are. Healing is not forgetting, it's remembering without pain. Our deep pain blocks our objectivity, but someday this agony (and the love for our child or sibling) will bring us new meanings about life. We have to choose our own path for peace and healing. During your grief, if you feel more compassionate toward another's loss, refine your priorities, are less judgmental, want to ease someone's pain, or can remember your loved one without intense pain. You are healing! Come share, we need one another to get to the other side of grief.

God Bless, Marie Hofmockel, TCF Valley Forge, PA

When love is strong and runs deep it pulsates with an energy that cannot be stopped, not even in death's grip. When two souls are connected and one departs from this world, the separation may seem final, but in truth the relationship transcends time. Love, like a river, flows eternal, and it embraces all those who swim in its streams.

Author Unknown

BIRTHDAYS

Marilyn Anton - cousin/godmother - Douglas Hofmockel - 8/27
 Denis Nicholson & Asselin & Judy - son - Nathaniel - 8/21
 Dorothy & Jack Bert - son - Matthias - 8/16
 Jovanna & Joseph Bevilacqua - son - Donato Danny Bevilacqua - 8/20
 Richard & Jo Bewley - son - Kevin Bewley - 8/24
 Thomas & Janet Cleary - son - Ryan - 8/21
 Joane Cooper - son - Ben - 8/2, daughter - Katy - 8/2
 Allison Crowder - daughter - Amber - 8/8
 Dorothy & G. Robert Daily, Sr. - son - David - 8/26
 Lisa & David Dibello - son - Joey - 8/14
 Karen Donaldson - daughter - Willow Ann - 8/5
 Jim and Patty Duffy - son - Michael Duffy - 8/8
 Nancy & David Dykty - brother - Jim Sutton - 8/7
 Tom & Irene Edmunds - son - Kyle Derek Edmunds - 8/1
 Ron & Sue Gamza - daughter & Grandson - Rachel & Troy - 8/22
 Rita Gibbons - son - Paul Gibbons - 8/13
 Frank & Rhonda Gomez - brother - Donnie - 8/7
 Mary Lou Harrison - son - Lance 'Scott' Harrison - 8/4
 Marie Hofmockel - son - Douglas Hofmockel - 8/27
 Jan & Dan Jackson - son - John Jackson - 8/18
 Michael & Betsy Jarrett - son - Michael Jarrett - 8/13
 Vern & Joyce Kaiser - son - Michael - 8/4
 Joan Kingslake - daughter - Ann Kingslake Woods - 8/3
 Sue Lawlor - son - Jim Sinha - 8/24
 Kathleen & John Leeper - son - Shaun Michael Leeper - 8/17
 Janet Leflar - son - Scott - 8/11
 John & Nancy Logue - daughter - Heather Logue - 8/16
 Timothy & Maxine Lurowist - daughter - Kristine - 8/24
 Mary Mac Farland - son - Marc - 8/4
 Bonnie MacDonald - son - R, Scott Geddes - 8/30
 Anna E Marchese - son - Matthew Paul Marchese - 8/28
 Diane Mazzagatti - son - John Pirocchi, Jr. - 8/3



Birthdays — continued

Sue McMaster - cousin - Patty - 8/30
Alfred J. & Joan Michini - son - Alfred J. Michini, II - 8/2
Alexandra Milas - daughter - Nicole Penelope Wiseley - 8/23
Andrew Miller - daughter - Perri - 8/21
Kathleen Mitchel - daughter - Danielle - 8/21
John B. & Lillian Neff - son - Patrick Neff - 8/30
Sharon Ott - daughter - Amber - 8/12
Joan Palumbo - son - Michael - 8/4
Marie Poulsen - grandson - Jerry August Warfel - 8/12
Chris Poulsen - nephew - Jerry - 8/12
Sharyn & Joe Pozzuolo - son - Joey Brad Pozzuolo - 8/26
Joe & Marti Purifico - son - Jeffrey - 8/3
Elise Rice - son - Raymond Anthony Rice - 8/29
Christine Rizol - son - Tyler - 8/24
Bonnie Rosen - son - Troy - 8/30
Becky Rotkowski - brother - Brian - 8/17
Beverly & Joe Rush - daughter - Kelsey - 8/27
Marie Schmeltzer - son - Sam Sonny Schmeltzer - 8/22
Pamela Schneibolk - brother - Douglas Hofmockel - 8/27
Harry & Carol Schultz - son - Brian Andrew Schultz - 8/23
Susan Snyder - son - Brian - 8/24
Lorraine Spear - daughter - Kimberly Jean Spear - 8/15
Susan & Ron Spencer - son - Rob - 8/21
Elaine & Joe Stillwell - daughter - Margaret Mary O'Connor - 8/23
Karen & Alan Stoner - daughter - Holly Patricia Stoner - 8/11
Fred & Irene Sutton - son - Jim Sutton - 8/7
Tracey Sutton-Vitabile - brother - Jim Sutton - 8/7
Pety - Suy & Matthew Kuchler - son - Ethan - 8/22
Hellmut Theil - son - Hellmut Theil, Jr. - 8/2
Akhil & Judy Tripathi - son - Sunil - 8/29
Tina Ulshafer - son - Jimmy - 8/22
Pat Villante - daughter - Patty - 8/30



We need not walk alone. We are the Compassionate Friends. We reach out to each other with love, just as your hope becomes my hope. We need not walk alone. We are the Compassionate Friends. We reach out to each other with love, with understanding, and with hope. The children we mourn have died at all ages and from many different causes but our love for them unites us. Your pain becomes my pain, just as your hope becomes my hope. We come together from all walks of life, from many different circumstances. We are a unique family because we represent many races, creeds and relationships. We are young and we are old, some of us are far along in our grief but others still feel a grief so fresh and so intensely painful that they feel helplessness and see no hope. Some of us have found our faith to be a source of strength. While some of us are struggling to find answers. Some of us are angry, filled with guilt or in deep depression; while others radiate an inner peace. But whatever pain we bring to this gathering of the Compassionate Friends, it is pain we will share, just as we share with each other our love for the children who have died. We are all seeking and struggling to build a future for ourselves, but we are committed to building a future together. We reach out to each other in love to share the pain as well as the joy, share the anger as well as the peace, share the faith as well as the doubts and help each other to grieve as well as to grow. We need not walk alone, we are the Compassionate Friends.

The Compassionate Friends Credo



*A bereavement organization
For parents, siblings and families
We offer friendship, love and understanding
We talk, we listen, we share, we care.*

Valley Forge Chapter
of the Compassionate Friends
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