

# THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

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

## Inside Valley Forge

Meetings are on the **First Saturday** of every month, at 1:45 PM (ending at 3:30 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

### Meeting Schedule and other

#### Meetings -

July— 7/06/2024 @ 1:45

August— 8/3/2024 @ 1:45

September— No Meeting

October - 10/5/2024 @ 1:45

November — 11/2/2024 @ 1:45

December— 12/8/2024 -  
Remembrance service, 2 pm

The reason there is no meeting,  
the church has time reserved for  
other activities.



## July 2024

### Chapter Leader:

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

Email: [rhonda@tcfvalleyforge.org](mailto:rhonda@tcfvalleyforge.org)

### Newsletter Publisher:

Rhonda Gomez

### Love Gift Acknowledgements:

Connie Nolan

Treasurer: Joe Purifico

Librarian: Carole Bailey

### National Headquarters

48660 Pontiac Trail

#930808

Wixom, MI 48393

Toll Free: (877)969-0010

[www.compassionatefriends.org](http://www.compassionatefriends.org)

There are no dues or fees to belong to Compassionate Friends or to receive our newsletter. Your tax deductible donations (which we call love gifts) given in memory of your love ones enables us to defray the cost of the chapter expenses, particularly the newsletter, meeting and our outreach to 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

## 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.

## 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.

### The Chapter

## LOVE GIFTS

Rose Marie Cote — Love gift Paul and Mark Cote

John and Dolores Heil - Memory of Susan Dina 6/4 & 6/8

---

"I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who will have sought and found how to serve."

Albert Schweitzer

---

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 truth the relationship transcends time.

Love, like a river, flows eternal, and it embraces all those who swim in its streams.

Author Unknown

## 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

Lori Bartholomew - Matthew - brother - 7/14  
 Eleanor Brennan - Jonathan Masiak - grandson - 7/9  
 Jackie & Steve Brown - Doug Brown - son - 7/23  
 Ellen & James Burbano - Eric - son - 7/14  
 Joanne & Tom Christman - Kyle R. O'Neill - son - 7/20  
 Catherine Dardozzi - Evan Schmidt - grandson - 7/15  
 Vanessa Diaz - Samir - friends child - 7/12  
 Laurie Downing - Trevor - son - 7/24  
 Lily Eason - Peter Montijo - son/stepson - 7/27  
 Bob & Connie Ercole - David - son - 7/2  
 Sharon & Francis Gailey - Danielle Marie Gailey - daughter - 7/14  
 Ron & Sue Gamza - Rachel & Troy - daughter & Grandson - 7/24  
 Gwen & Walt Gearhart - Jamie Rogers - grandson - 7/12  
 Carolyn & Allen Gephart - Joseph Malec - son - 7/14  
 Victoria Gerber - Brea - daughter - 7/11  
 Craig & Kathleen Gerland - Alexis - daughter - 7/18  
 Frank & Rhonda Gomez - Frank Jr. - son - 7/17  
 Danielle & Joshua Graham - Jake - brother - 7/29  
 Sharon Harvey - Christopher William - son - 7/21  
 Tracey Hawley - Sean - ,7/20  
 Jean & James Hayden - LCDR. Timothy M. Hayden - son - 7/26  
 Mark & Vicki Hoffman - Eric Daniel Hoffman - son - 7/21  
 Dennis & Lois Ianovale - Dennis - son - 7/6  
 Margaret Innes - Frank - brother - 7/13  
 Mary Pat King - Griffin Scott Gearhart - son - 7/25  
 Barbara Kirk - Eric - son - 7/2  
 Sara & Carl Kresge - ,7/6  
 Bob & Laura Latshaw - Scott - son - 7/12  
 Maryann Lockyer - Keith - son - 7/15  
 Maryellen & James Madden - Anne Marie Madden - daughter - 7/28  
 Linda Massey - Gene - son - 7/16  
 Lee & Laurie Maxwell - Dan - son - 7/21  
 Frank & Bernadette McAllister - Christopher J. McAllister - son - 7/11  
 Sue, Dave, Dan, and Lauren McCarthy - Brian McCarthy - son and brother - 7/7  
 Cheryl Mezzaroba - Lon Mezzaroba - son - 7/24  
 Betty (Elizabeth) Miller - Raymond Jim - son - 7/26

## Anniversaries - Cont'd

Christy O'Brian - Evie - daughter - 7/19  
 Janet Patrizio - Stephen - son - 7/5  
 Kent & Virginia Patterson - Scott Edward Patterson - son - 7/16  
 Betty Jane - Peters - Neilson - Walter C. Peters - son - 7/21  
 Marie Poulsen - Jerry August Warfel - grandson - 7/3  
 Chris Poulsen - Jerry - nephew - 7/3  
 Debbie Repas - Stacy Lynn - daughter - 7/18  
 Christine Rizol - Tyler - son - 7/10  
 Donna Rogers - Jamie Rogers - son - 7/12 - Jonathan Rogers - husband - 7/13  
 Linda Sandlin - LCDR. Timothy M. Hayden - brother - 7/26  
 Jackie Savage - Gwen - Granddaughter - 7/25  
 Mildred Sayles - Fredrick Chavis - son - 7/6  
 Donna & Eric Schaertl - Jared M. Schaertl - son - 7/13  
 Suzanne Schoenhut - Joe - son - 7/5  
 Matthew Silverman - Avery Silverman - sister - 7/14  
 Howard & Margorie Silverman - Avery Silverman - daughter - 7/14  
 Janis Siravo - Christian - son - 7/22  
 Eileen Smith - Craig - son - 7/31  
 Philip & Ilene Spector - Avery Silverman - neice - 7/14  
 Margaret & Wade Stallard - Wade Hampton Stallard, III - son - 7/27  
 Margaret & Matthew Strickler - Timothy Strickler - son - 7/23  
 Suzanne Teleha - Peter Teleha - son - 7/29  
 Hellmut Theil - Hellmut Theil, Jr. - son - 7/14  
 Gerard & Jane Thimm - Gary Thimm - son - 7/12  
 Nancy Thompson - Andrew Thompson - son - 7/28  
 Brenda Timbers - Niya Raquel Timbers - daughter - 7/2  
 Betsy Townsend - Wendy Townsend Besche - daughter - 7/29  
 Roseanne Vigliotti - Adriana - granddaughter - 7/4  
 Shelly Wagner - Andrew Wagner - son - 7/26  
 Ellen & Dale Weaver - Jeffrey M. Weaver - son - 7/29  
 Irene & Bob Weaver - Monica - daughter - 7/17  
 Peggy West - Kelly Ann West - daughter - 7/28  
 Donna White - Diane White - sister - 7/4  
 Nancy Willis - Alex - son - 7/9

---

# BIRTHDAYS

Eileen & Tom Algeo - daughter - Megan - 7/17  
 Nina Ansel - daughter - Jenny - 7/27  
 Loretta Bovell - daughter - JoAnna - 7/12  
 Carol & Ira Caplan - don - Julian - 7/7  
 Gary Chavez - son - Christopher Dale Chavez - 7/19  
 Tracy & Mike Collins - daughter - Krystal Chuck - 7/19  
 Hazel Corbin - daughter - Dayle C Rutledge - 7/7  
 Jennifer Dixon - son - Graham - 7/22  
 Heather Gabell - son - Marin Gabell - 7/23  
 Nancy Hartzell - son - Adam - 7/29  
 Sharon Harvey - son - Christopher William - 7/28  
 Giuliana Hilend - son - Patrick Andrew Hilend - 7/9  
 Nancy Jones - grandson - Jeff - 7/2  
 Stacy Ludy - daughter - Alyssa Kenny - 7/27  
 Maureen and Pat McCormick - son - John McCormick - 7/20  
 Cameron and Sandra Meikle - daughter - Laura - 7/4  
 Pete Mihalek - son - Andy - 7/15  
 John & Mary Ann Murphy - son - Brian Michael Murphy - 7/20  
 Carol & Dennis O'Connor - brother - Jack Coladonato - 7/14  
 Gary & Patricia Otto - son - Benjamin Otto - 7/26  
 Betty Jane Peters - Neilson - son - Walter C. Peters - 7/4 - son - Russell F. Peters, Jr. - 7/25  
 Karen Pilcicki - son - Jeff - 7/2  
 Vernice Quattlebaum - daughter - Gwendolyn Y. Ashe - 7/11  
 Jill & Richard Reich - son - Patrick - 7/20  
 Donald & Freda Rhinier - son - Glenn D. Rhinier - 7/18  
 Rocco & Fran Rinaldi - son - Stephen - 7/30  
 Tracey Robinson - son - Connor - 7/6  
 Kelly Rossi - brother - Kevin - 7/24  
 Mike & Beverly Smith - son - Ryan - 7/18  
 Helen (Barb, daughter) Smith - son - Bob Smith - 7/2  
 Patricia & Bertram Snead - son - James Christopher Snead - 7/15  
 Jen & Alex Soutos - daughter - Alexi - 7/27  
 Harry & Merrily Spiess - son - F. Ryan Spiess - 7/16  
 Lisa M Spinks - brother - Robert - 7/9  
 Linda Sposato - daughter - Bernadette Funaro - 7/23  
 Ellen & Frank Svitek - daughter - Kate Elizabeth Svitek - 7/11  
 Jean Sykora - son - Mark - 7/14  
 Chris & Larry Teal - son - Wade Teal - 7/30  
 Renee Teufel - son - Gregory - 7/28  
 Nancy Thompson - son - Andrew Thompson - 7/21  
 Brenda Timbers - daughter - Niya Raquel Timbers - 7/3  
 Melissa Toland - son - Connor Shepherd - 7/10  
 Steven Tucker - son - Patrick Ryan - 7/12  
 Barbara Tuller - son - Charles - 7/3  
 Bill & Patti Whitehead - daughter - Maria - 7/4



Butterfly Release Program  
Saturday, September 28, 2024 at 3 PM

Upper Merion Township Park (back of Police Station)  
175 West Valley Forge Road, King of Prussia, PA 19406

Diagonally across from our monthly meeting place at Good Shepherd Church.

This event will be held in back of the township building, left of the gazebo.

Cost \$6.50 per butterfly — August 19th last day to place order.

There is no admission or parking fee.

Water will be provided by chapter. Please bring folding chair or a  
blanket to sit on.

A family may order one butterfly to share, or order one butterfly for each family member. You may order as many butterflies as you wish. All butterflies must be preordered. If you are unable to attend on this date, we can release the butterfly that you have purchased in your loved one's name. The names of all loved ones will be read during the program.

For questions, please call TCF Valley Forge at 484-919-0820.

Any further details will be posted at VF website. [www.tcfvalleyforge.org](http://www.tcfvalleyforge.org)

---

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of loved one

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your relationship to them

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of loved one

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your relationship to them

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of loved one

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your relationship to them

Total number of Butterflies ordered: \_\_\_\_\_ \$6.50 each

Total money (no credit cards) enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Please forward registration and check to: Rhonda Gomez, 12 Brook Circle, Glenmoore, PA 19343

Make out check to TCF.

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**

---

### REFLECTIONS

With the death of my sister come some painful realizations; that life isn't always fair or predictable; that sometimes even my best still isn't good enough; and that from the day of her death, the happy events in my life would always be tinged with sadness.

Despite the pain and loss, death has also left me with some valuable lessons and precious gifts. As a result of my sister's death, I have a greater appreciation of life and a greater compassion for those who hurt. I have learned to be a survivor and to have a successful career and productive life in the face of tremendous grief and loss. I have been gifted with good friends and special people to help me through the rough times. But most of all, I have been given the gift of time – time to heal and time to replace those painful memories of death with priceless memories of my sister's life.

**Cathy Schanberger**

---

I wish I could tell everyone who has lost a loved one how important it is to let themselves, and their family, remember. Forget, if you can, the sickness or tragedy that took them, but give them a place in your life. My family speaks very naturally of their father and their sister. We remember the fun, the love, and the closeness... We have memories to cherish, and we shouldn't cheat ourselves by not doing that. I don't mean that we should constantly talk about them, but when something we're doing reminds us of something good that happened when we were still a whole family, we don't hesitate to say so.

Lettie Petrie

---

The breath of winter painted fragile stars on all the windows of my quiet house.

And there I found your face, more fragile even than the season's art, a wonder to my eyes.

How can it be that winter paints such secret things in white-and-silver sheen for those who  
cry alone at frosted windows?

Sascha Wagner



The  
Compassionate  
Friends Inc.

June 2024

NON-PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
SOUTHEASTERN PA  
PERMIT # 635

Valley Forge Chapter  
of the Compassionate Friends  
Rhonda Gomez  
Chapter Leader  
12 Brook Circle  
Glenmoore PA 19343

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



## The Compassionate Friends Credo

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 helpless 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.