

THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS, INC.

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

MARCH 2011

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, Valley Forge and Henderson RDs, King of Prussia, PA. Phone **on meeting evenings only** is 610-265-0733. All other times please call Rhonda at 484-919-0820.

Meeting Schedule

and other TCF Events of interest

Please Mark Your Calendar

Mar 3 General Sharing & Death by Suicide

Apr 7 General Sharing

Apr 10 Spring Luncheon at Peppers (see page 4)

**July 15 -17 34th National Conference
Minneapolis, Minnesota (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 (which we call love gifts) 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.**

If you donate to **United Way** at your place of work, and wish your contribution to go to the Valley Forge Chapter of The Compassionate Friends, you may do so by entering: **The Compassionate Friends - Valley Forge Chapter United Way ID# 04-104.** on your pledge form.

**PLEASE MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
TCF VALLEY FORGE CHAPTER
SEND TO: CHAPTER LEADER
RHONDA GOMEZ**



Valley Forge Chapter

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NEW FRIENDS

Bonnie Gardner, daughter *Michelle* (21)

Tom Del Rosario, son *Dominic* (20)

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

FEBRUARY REFRESHMENTS

Nina Bernstein, in memory of my son, *Andrew Voluck* & his girlfriend *Molly*.

Anyone wishing to donate refreshments (cheese & crackers, fruit, cakes, cookies, etc.) in memory of loved ones, please call **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

Harold & Macia Epstein in memory of our grandson, *Andrew Voluck* on the February anniversary of his passing.

Vivian & Kenneth Maahs in loving memory of our beautiful, precious daughter, *Kiri Maahs* on her 33rd birthday. Love, Mom, Dad and Kenny.

William & Carol Meehan in loving memory of our son, *Patrick W. Meehan* on his birthday March 11th.

Audrey Morasco in loving memory of my son, *Christopher* on his birthday February 22nd.

Art & Nancy Singer, in loving memory of our son *Jeffrey Vincent Singer* (35).

Mary Walker, in loving memory of *Dick Miller*, father of *Raymond "Jim" Miller*.

NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL

We are asking if possible , would you please receive your newsletter by email.

We do not want to remove anyone from our newsletter mailing list who is benefiting from receiving it. We hope it is a help to you while going through your grief, giving you better understanding of your feelings, and letting you know **"We need not walk alone"**. A newsletter helps to keep our TCF family informed of local and national events. We consider this an important function of our program.

We are asking if you have email, would you consider receiving your newsletter in email format. You will receive your copy earlier if you opt to receive it by email. If you chose to use the email method of receiving your newsletter, 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

We extend our continued love and prayers for the **family of Diana Clark**.

Amber Clark (daughter of Diana) and her son **Danny** were in a very serious auto accident January 20th. Danny had a broken leg. Amber has been in very critical condition since the accident, undergoing 8 major surgeries in 11 days. **Her survival is amazing.**

Diana has been her constant bedside companion both day & night. Diana ask for our prayers for Amber's healing and courage. We also ask that you remember Diana. She is going through a very trying time. Diana has been posting a daily journal of Amber's rehabilitation on the website (<http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/amberclark>).

Diana joined the Valley Forge Chapter of TCF June 2009, shortly after the death of her grandson Alexander (son of Amber). She accepted the position of Database Record Keeper, November 2009.

Thanks to **Frank Gomez** for assuming interim responsibility for keeping the Chapter database record.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED FOR CO-LEADER

This position requires that you have at least 18 months distance from the death of your child or sibling, and have attended monthly meetings on a fairly regular basis.

Newly bereaved often need additional support between meetings, a co-leader needs to be willing to accept their calls on the Chapter cell phone.

The co-leader should be available to help plan and attend 3 or 4 special programs per year, the programs are held on Saturday or Sunday afternoons.

The Steering Committee (members who have assigned duties) meets with the co-leaders four times annually in order that all are abreast of how the chapter is functioning.

If you have resolved some of your grief, can accept each member without judgment, and feel capable of helping other bereaved families, it can be very healing to reach out to others in pain.

The Chapter is looking for a volunteer to accept the position of Co-Leader with Rhonda. If interested, please contact Rhonda Gomez. Her contact information is on the front page of this newsletter.

TCF 34TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The conference will be held in Minneapolis/St. Paul July 15-17, 2011. Room Reservations are now being accepted. Room rate is \$129 per night for a King Room or Double Bed Room, single or double occupancy; \$139 for triple and \$149 for quad. Special reduced rates are available on stays from July 10-19, if reservations are placed by June 21.

Reserve your accommodations online at [Sheraton Bloomington Hotel Minneapolis South](#) or telephone 952-835-7800 and mention you are with The Compassionate Friends. There will be a free shuttle pick-up to and from the hotel and the Minneapolis St. Paul International Airport, and complimentary parking at the hotel (Valet service is available \$8 per day).

**SPRING LUNCHEON
Peppers Restaurant
239 Town Center Road
Valley Forge Shopping Center
King of Prussia, PA**

We hope you will plan to attend the Spring Luncheon. This is a social gathering to share the afternoon with other bereaved families, and the opportunity to feel comfortable speaking of our loved ones. Every one is welcome.

Directions: Town Center Rd. intersects 202, one traffic light south of Henderson Rd. Peppers will be on your left, next to K&G Fashion, Men’s Super Store.

**Sunday - April 10, 2011 1:00PM
Speaker: Fred Mountjoy**

The deaths of Marilyn & Fred’s daughters brought them into TCF. Their twin daughters, Barlyn & Maralin, died shortly after their birth in 1961. There was no TCF at that time. Their third daughter, Marian, was born with inoperable cardiac abnormalities in 1962, & died in 1996. Shortly after her death they attended their local TCF meeting. Marilyn & Fred have been involved with TCF for over 13 years. Fred is well known in The Compassionate Friends organization. He was a presenter at our Eastern Pennsylvania Regional Conference in 2005 & 2007, & also a speaker at the 2007 E. PA Regional conference. His presentations were well received.

**Menu - Buffet
Cost per person \$20.00 (includes gratuity)**

Please return this section with your remittance by April 3rd

Please Return reservations to: **Rhonda Gomez, 12 Brook Circle, Glenmoore, PA 19343**

Name: _____ Phone number: _____

Number of guests: _____ Name of guests: _____

Amount enclosed: _____

Please make checks payable to: _____

“The Compassionate Friends - Spring Luncheon” _____

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.**

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Catherine Dardozi, son *James Dardozi* 3/7
Janie & Joseph Dougherty, son *Brendan K. Dougherty* 3/29
Richard & Martha Fenoglio, daughter *Judith Fenoglio Daw* 3/30
Sarah Fishel, daughter *Allyson* 3/26
Bill & Karen Flavin, son *Chad Flavin* 3/7
Lisa Foos, son *Curtis* 3/14
Kenneth Frantz, son *Kenneth Frantz, Jr.* 3/20
Jo Ann Gatlin, daughter *Lisa Diane Gatlin* 3/20
Marco & Patricia Giubilato, daughter *Robin Giubilato Zarelli* 3/18
Elizabeth Haney, son *Christian* 3/6
Nora & Peter Heiss, daughter *Kathleen Heiss McCaughan* 3/25
Margaret C Jones, son *Christopher* 3/17
Gloria and Jerry Koval, son *Steven* 3/11
William & Margaret Lang, son *Michael J. Leib* 3/15
Fred & Kay Lokoff, daughter *Terry Lokoff* 3/17
Vivian & Kenneth Maahs, daughter *Kirsten* 3/22
Lorelei Malandra, brother *Jeff Singer* 3/9
Tom & Charmaine Malik, son *Danny Malik* 3/3
Jeff and Kathy McCarron, daughter *Sarah* 3/30
William & Carol Meehan, son *Patrick W. Meehan* 3/11
Paul & Jackie Mimless, daughter *Stephanie* 3/20
John Mscisz, grandson *Liam John Williamson* 3/8
Danielle Murtha, brother *Jake* 3/27
Aminah Na'im, son *Dawann* 3/3
Marie O'Connon, son *Curran J* 3/27
Raymond & Marguerite Posluszny, son *Alex Posluszny* 3/22
Lyla T. Poulson, daughter *Kimberly Poulson* 3/4
Rusty & Anthony Puglisi, son *Michael Puglisi* 3/5
Susan Reynolds, son *Craig Anderson* 3/24
Thelma Rosen, nephew *Charles Carswell* 3/26
Bonnie Russo, son *Matthew* 3/29
Lisa and John Russo, son *Casey* 3/17
Susan & John Rutland, son *Justin Rutland* 3/28
Carol Sannella, son *David Sannella* 3/18
Michelle & Bill Schmidt, brother *James Dardozi* 3/7
Janet & Jonathan Schultz, friend *Christopher Harvey* 3/5

MARCH BIRTHDAYS (continued)

Abigail Schwartz, brother *Jake* 3/27
Arthur & Nancy Singer, son *Jeffrey Vincent Singer* 3/9
Phyllis Sisenwine, daughter *Jill* 3/12
Jeffrey Smith, son *Jacob Smith* 3/2
Mary Ellen Swider, daughter *Kelly Swider* 3/25
Allan Thomas, son *Vernon Odins* 3/5
Peggy Tweed, son *Matthew Bock* 3/18

We regret the omission of the following anniversary listing in the February 2011 newsletter:
Roda & Melvin Kreiner, daughter *Anna Kreiner* - 2/10

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Jovanna & Joseph Bevilacqua, son *Donato "Danny" Bevilacqua* - 3/27
Marvin & Wilma Bordetsky, daughter *Noreen Bordetsky Cook* - 3/24
Gary Chavez, wife *JoAnn* - 3/31
Rose Marie Cote, son *Mark J.* - 3/26
Jamie Cote Weaver, brother *Mark Cote* - 3/26
Mr. & Mrs. S. Cotteta, granddaughter *Denise* - 3/28
Robert Dilbeck, son *Daniel Dilbeck* - 3/25
Linda DiPasquale, son *Thomas* - 3/24
Ginny Ebert, son *Jason* - 3/25
Tom & Irene Edmunds, son *Kyle Derek Edmunds* - 3/17
Bob & Dena Filipone, daughter *Denise* - 3/8
Rita & Thomas Gibbons, son *Paul Gibbons* - 3/20
Ronald J. & Margaret Halas, daughter *Desiree A. Halas* - 3/11
Othell & William Heaney, son *Kevin* - 3/10
Brad Ingerman, son *Justin* - 3/18
Michael & Betsy Jarrett, son *Michael Jarrett* - 3/10
Suellen & Stephen King, daughter *Danelle Rossi* - 3/12
Marcia Kling, son *CJ* - 3/13
Susan Lipson, nephew *Justin Ingerman* - 3/18
Elaine & James Madden, son *Andrew Madden* - 3/6
Dan Markle, brother *Matt Markle* - 3/3
Anne McClenachan, brother *Andy McClenachan* - 3/30
Barbara Meisenhelder, daughter *Renee Meisenhelder* - 3/2
Bob & Janet Milnazik, daughter *Kim* - 3/3
Beth Mohr, brother *Matthew Bock* - 3/16
Ann Murray, son *Brian Rapoport* - 3/9
George & Estelle Null, daughter *Kathleen "Kathy" Null* - 3/7
Betty & Richard Owens, Sr., son *Richard H. Owens, Jr.* - 3/26
Michele Paul, sister *Desiree Halas* - 3/11

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES continued

Thomas & Mary Jane Poore, son *Bradley Poore* - 3/19
Kelly Rossi, brother *Kevin* - 3/8
Becky Rotkowski, brother *Brian* - 3/14
John & Marie Sanders, son *Matthew Sanders* - 3/28
Judy & Lin Schleicher, daughter *Quinna Marie Schleicher* - 3/10
Arthur & Nancy Singer, son *Jeffrey Vincent Singer* - 3/9
James & Betty Treichler, son *James Treichler Jr.* - 3/13
Peggy Tweed, son *Matthew Bock* - 3/16
Hans & Margaret Van Naerssen, son *Eric* - 3/25
Linda Weaver, son *Damon Weaver* - 3/18
Laurie Wyche, son *Jameson Wyche* - 3/1
Pat Zimmerman, daughter *Gabrielle* - 3/23

AN ANGEL'S KISS

I believe I felt an angel gently kiss my cheek today
While lost in daydreams once again I saw us both at play.

Breathe as warm as a summer breeze, moist as morning dew
Was it just a wishful thought, or a gift from God and you?

Was that hushed sound falling leaves or a thousand other things
Perhaps it was just the sweet sound of fluttering Angel's wings.

I felt a fire rekindle, deep within my heart
A feeling I had not known since we've been apart.

I felt my pain and sorrow begin to ease away
As a little sun light broke through the sky of gray.

I may always wonder, but I am always grateful too
Because these are the things that help to get us through.

I may never know what happened, or just what words to say
Except that in my heart, I believe, my angel, I felt your kiss today.

Ed Young - Delaware County, TCF

SHARED THOUGHTS ON “MEMORIES of GRIEF”

Our son, Douglas, died 29 years ago on February 7th. Time does not erase the memory of those early years when my pain was so intense. Although never feeling suicidal, I began each day with a prayer that the world would end, so there would never be another bereaved parent. I did not want anyone to experience the degree of agony I was enduring. Never once did I regret having Doug, the joy he brought was greater than the death. As I look back, that was a foolish wish. Had the world ended, all those beautiful subsequent children would never have been. I was looking for a quick fix to my pain.

Frequently, we get caught up in hurrying our recovery. Our pain is so intense, we feel we can't endure one more day. Once the natural order has been violated, a deluge of fears overcomes us. It is very normal to be out of control in such an abnormal situation. It is important to recognize our grief, for much of it can be resolved through expressing ourselves. When talking to other bereaved parents and siblings, we realize our feelings are very natural reactions.

There are many books on grief that can offer a sense of direction. There are also many guidelines that warn of pitfalls. These are great tools to aid in our healing. But I feel nothing is as comforting as another bereaved person saying, “I know”. If you have been there, you fully understand. The love you receive is unconditional and this type of support is what sustains us.

If we devote time to grief work, and deal with our problems as they arise, it helps to clear our hearts and minds so we can make room for the new situations that we must handle. If we shelve our feelings, we soon have such an insurmountable load, that we can't deal with any of it. We must always take one day at a time, and face it little by little. Some days we may have such little strength that we not only did not gain ground, but we have slipped back. Don't run away from your grief, meeting it head on helps to gain a better foothold.

Slowly, we begin to heal, the happy memories often bring smiles rather than pain. Our sorrow softens, and the death becomes less important. The lives of our loved ones become more important, and we appreciate the beauty and happiness our loved ones gave to us. We can not expect to return to the way we were. Life will be different as we deal with the memories of grief, but it is a far cry from dealing with fresh grief. We will always regret the death, but doing our grief work helps the scar we carry to become tolerable.

My vacations are different, but enjoyable. I look forward to each new day, and enjoy being creative. I look forward to family gatherings, and feel life can be good again. Believe me when I tell you I dreaded each of these in my early grief. I could not even feel complete joy when my first granddaughter was born. I just couldn't feel anything. There wasn't any “complete joy” to be had. This particular grandchild has brought me so much joy in subsequent years, and now I know it was my grief that denied me these pleasures.

I wish for you that your grief will turn to memories of grief, and happiness will fill your lives again.

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

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 to-ally, 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

LIFE CAN BE GOOD AGAIN

For nearly sixteen years, his voice has been silent. It is a span now nearly equal to the time it was heard. Never did I anticipate life without the sounds that marked his presence. Learning to survive that silence once seemed an impossible task, one so overwhelming I could find no hope or expectation of ever finding life once more.

He was our son, our only child. The tempo of his growing measured the cadence, the beat, for our own living. His passing left an existence without any value that I could immediately perceive. Ultimately, I came to recognize that I was wrong.

Life still had meaning, but it had fallen to me to find it, just as it had been in the years before his coming. Indeed, even as it had been throughout the time of his living, life still demanded my active participation, my own commitment to give it purpose and resolve.

Hindsight affords an ease in stating this realization that did not exist while struggling in the depths of bereavement. The steps taken to finally seize life again seem logical and ordered while intellectualizing the process but I know that this is much easier to write than it was to experience.

I confess, with both sorrow and gladness, that I can no longer summon the full measure of those savage feelings and the unremitting pain that engulfed me in those early years. Working through them was the most demanding challenge of my life, enacting tolls in physical health perhaps even greater than the long-term effects on mind and emotion.

Today, however, I can reflect with gratitude upon a decade of mastery over the sadness. Control of my thoughts returned to me and I know freedom from the utter devastation of those early years.

Looking back reveals essential turning points on the road to healing. Some would seem to generalize easily for anyone. Others seem to respond to personal strengths and weaknesses more particular to an individual. These points included:

- * Self forgiveness for the many deficiencies found within on the endless soul journey that is our lot in the wake of our child's death.

- * Forgiveness of others, relatives, friends and associates, who are less affected than are we, who seem unable to help us in our time of deep trouble and need.
- * The accepting, at lost of the finality of our loss, and that we must gradually unleash ourselves from our former lives and structure anew.

Learn to communicate value to spouses, friends, and surviving siblings, our love for whom seems shrouded behind the totality of our grief.

Find ways to give expression to our need to somehow memorialize our child, be it through writing a book, planting trees, sustaining scholarships, or any number of ways. Our need to preserve and safeguard our child's memory is real and deserving of our attention.

A time comes for many to find new homes, jobs, and purpose. These are often part and parcel of any significant change in our lives.

Surrender to time, giving ourselves space within it to do our work. Use time to foster healing within, to enable us tomorrow with hope.

No recovery will return us to life as we knew it while our child lived. That life is forever gone and, to a certain extent, we may well have to accept that, as we perceive life today. The finest days of our lives may well be a part of our past. Somehow, we must recognize that this is not unique to surviving our child's death, but is often a portion of the human condition.

Olin is dead. As much as I would wish it otherwise, it will never be. He is not forgotten. His voice, his laughter, his joy, and his shortcomings live on in me. No day passes without thinking about him. I am grateful for his touch upon my life.

Yet, joy is again mine. Pleasure is no longer a forbidden or guilt-producing element in daily living. I live, gladly and with purpose, with Olin both behind me in time, but with me internally.

Is this not our goal, to heal, to find the strength to love both yesterday and today? Our children have been the richest part of our lives and today should reflect the grace of that love in all that we are today.

Don Hackett - TCF, Hingham, MA

ROOMS AND THINGS

How many people have suggested to you in subtle and not so subtle ways that you'd be better off if you'd only go ahead and get rid of your child's things and redo the room? You see, they think that the holding on to these things is morbid. These people, who have never suffered the loss of one of their children, really do not understand that you have to do your grief work, and whether you do this sad task now or later really doesn't affect the length or depth of your pain.

Some parents need to make the changes and decisions about personal belongings as soon as possible after the death. Having the chore ahead of them is more painful than the doing. These parents are advised, however, to go slowly when disposing of belongings. It may seem to you, also, that not seeing or having anything around to remind you of your dead child will somehow make your pain less. Later, though, when your grief has softened, you may find you need that special something, but by then it's too late.

On the other hand, you may try to keep everything, and it may take many months and several acts of sorting through the belongings at intervals before you're able to decide on just the special things you want to keep as mementos. As time goes by, you will be able to let go of the less important things without it ripping you to pieces. Not everything will forever have the same value for you. You may change in how you feel and find that it comforts instead of hurts to see your subsequent child wearing some of the baby's clothes, or that catching a glimpse of an old familiar shirt on one of your teenagers brings a warm feeling.

Whether you've made changes or haven't been able to make changes, it's okay. There is no rule about when you do it, so don't let well-meaning friends or relatives make you feel guilty because your needs don't meet their timetables. What we would like to suggest to you is, though there is no rules about when you do it, that you have as a goal eventually making the changes, otherwise the room and things become a shrine, and if you have surviving children or a spouse that may find it very difficult to live in this atmosphere forevermore. If they could be honest with you, many would tell you they don't want their dead sibling closed up in his or her room, as though their dying was something for which they're being punished. Instead, bring the record player and records into the den, or use the backpack and tent or whatever, because it comforts them to feel that their sibling has once again become a part of the family and not relegated to "the room".

I don't think I know of anyone who hasn't kept some belongings of their dead child, so that must be normal. What we learn after the death is that life is tenuous at best, and rather than hanging on to unchanged rooms, try to value the important people who are left in this life, be they family or friends, and savor them along with the memories of your dead child. For when all is said and done, those memories are truly the important part of what you have left of your child. That's a truth that doesn't need changing.

Mary Cleckley TCF, Atlanta, GA