



# *The Compassionate Friends*

## Supporting Family After a Child Dies

Fort Worth Chapter | Phone: (682) 201-0837 | [tcffortworth@gmail.com](mailto:tcffortworth@gmail.com)

### CHAPTER WEBSITE:

[www.thecompassionatefriendsfw.com](http://www.thecompassionatefriendsfw.com)

### STEERING COMMITTEE

Charles & Genie Dean

Jeff & Marty Martin

Lydia Moore

Jaye Sanford

#### Hospitality

Christine Anderson

Jerry & Sharon Austray

David & Suzanne Wilkinson

#### Librarian

Donna Tusan

New Member Registration  
and

Newsletter Editor

Lisa Jo Adkison

#### Secretary

Becky Long

#### Treasurer

Steve Roberts

#### Welcome Bags

Janet DuPertuis

Thirteen volunteers attended the last Steering Committee meeting. Please consider joining our Steering Committee to help your chapter reach and help those who unfortunately need us.

Next meeting will be January 13, 2018.

### REGIONAL COORDINATOR

Bill Campbell

(972) 935-0673

[jojobill@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jojobill@sbcglobal.net)

### The Unfinished Path

When we were young, under your wing I was kept.  
As I grew older, on your shoulder I wept.  
With a problem I could come to you, day or night.  
Just knowing your answers would always be right.  
You joined the Marines and "*Semper Fidelis*" you barked.  
I could see right then my path was marked.  
It was a path to perfection or so I thought.  
To be like you is what I sought.  
Since your prints have ended, I don't know where to go.  
I've asked Mom and Dad, but they don't quite know.  
So I ask your advice just one more time.  
Because your prints have ended,  
The rest must be mine.

Tim Maloney, USMC  
TCF Hingham, MA

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### Annual November Memorial

Please join us for a special evening of remembrance on November 14th at 6:30. Feel free to invite friends and other family members of all ages. So here is HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

**By October 15th: Send One Picture to be in the Program.** If you would like your loved one's picture included in our Holiday Memorial program, please send an email to [Lori\\_Carver@yahoo.com](mailto:Lori_Carver@yahoo.com), **even if you just want to use the same picture as last year.**

If you are sending a photo, please put November Memorial in the subject line of your email, and attach the picture. Emails will be responded to within 24 hours, so if you do not receive a return email, please resend or call the chapter phone at (682) 201-0837.

**On the evening of the Memorial:** Please arrive at least 20 minutes early and bring an 8 x 10 or smaller picture of your loved one to place a candle in front of during the memorial. Each family will receive a copy of the program with each loved one's picture, as well as a memento of the evening to keep.

**This year our meal is being catered, so there is no need to bring a dish to share.** We look forward to spending a special evening with your family.

## Need to Talk?

Listed below are parents, grandparents and siblings who have walked where you are today. If you are having a difficult day and just want to talk, please call. *It isn't necessary to call someone who has suffered a loss identical to yours.*

### Addiction

David (214) 686-1901

### Auto

Jeff & Marty (817) 475-9141

### Drowning

Debi (817) 602-4018

### Drowning/Young Child

Stacy (817) 656-7540 or  
(817) 845-3433

### Grandchild/Multiple Loss

Lydia (817) 829-3801

### Homicide/Only Child

Steve (682) 583-0125  
sjroberts1216@hotmail.com

### Long Term Illness

Marty (817) 636-5645

### Premature Infant(s)

Amy (817) 944-1710  
amytori12@hotmail.com

### Siblings

Jaye (817) 475-9363

### Suicide/Only Child

Joy (817) 453-2227

### Middle of the Night Calls

Liz (817) 726-3999



TCF National Office —The Compassionate Friends, P. O. Box 3696 . Oak Brook, IL 60522-3696

Call toll free: (877) 969-0010 9 AM-5 PM, CST, Monday-Friday. Email: [nationaloffice@compassionatefriends.org](mailto:nationaloffice@compassionatefriends.org)

Website: [www.compassionatefriends.org](http://www.compassionatefriends.org) The website contains links to TCF's national and regional conferences, brochures, e-newsletter, online support community, We Need Not Walk Alone magazine, "Healing the Grieving Heart" and "The Open to Hope Show" radio program archives, webinars, chapter websites, and other resources. Facebook: The Compassionate Friends/USA

In Spanish: Los Amigos Compasivos/USA Twitter: Text follow TCFofUSA to 40404

## Halloween

It is here, this day of merriment and children's pleasure.

Gremlins and goblins  
and ghosties at the door  
of your house.

And the other children  
come to the door of your mind.

Faces out of the past,  
small ghosts with sweet, painted faces.

They do not shout.

Those children  
who no longer march laughing  
on cold Halloween nights,  
they stand at the door of your mind

and you will let them in,  
so that you can give them  
the small gifts of Halloween,  
a smile and a tear.



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Sascha Wagner  
The Compassionate Friends

## LOVE GIFTS ACCEPTED YEAR ROUND

Donations to our chapter in memory of your loved one are received three ways and are tax-free. Love Gifts are accepted at our monthly chapter meetings, received ONLINE through our local chapter website or mailed to: Steve Roberts, P.O. Box 734, Euless, TX 76039.

Love Gifts help us host special events such as the upcoming Annual Memorial, our Butterfly Release, and host guest speakers at some of our chapter meetings. Your generosity and thoughtfulness does help others and is appreciated by many.

## AUTUMN TEARS

We look back on September and we realize that somehow we made it through those dreaded first days of school. Whether it was the anticipation or the actual days that were the worst, we survived. We used our faith, our support systems or just plain hard work and made it over yet another hurdle. We watched small children heading for their first day of kindergarten, listened to excited teenagers talk of high school and heard stories of children leaving home to attend post-secondary school. Somehow we rode the waves of grief and found ourselves ashore again.

As these waves subside new ones will build as we head into the holidays that speak of, and to, children. Halloween will soon approach and for some, painful memories. Thanksgiving arrives to exemplify family and togetherness and Christmas looms ahead. These special days are forever reminders of our loss—the costumes we'll never sew, the empty chair at turkey dinner, the fun and magic we'll never share with someone we love. Forever reminders that our child has died.

To survive when these events and anniversary days come around let's find time to think of the good memories we have—the announcement of our long awaited pregnancy at Thanksgiving dinner, the look of excitement on our son's first Halloween night, the vision of our daughter helping prepare the turkey dinner. These holidays will always be reminders that our child died. Let us also make them reminders that our child lived! They left us memories more precious than any others to hold and celebrate!

Penny Young  
TCF Powell River, British Columbia



### Birthday Table

October birthdays will be celebrated at this month's meeting.

If your loved one's birthday is in October, please feel free to bring a photo or memento of them to share with the group.

Due to the November Memorial, we will not have the birthday table in November. If your loved one's birthday is in November, please feel free to celebrate their birthday at either the October or December meeting.

### Picture Button Machine

We will have the picture button machine at this month's meeting. If you would like a picture button, please bring a 4"x6" copy of your loved one's picture. Please note that the picture buttons are 3" in diameter, so make sure your loved one's face will fit into that space.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**October 10th - Chapter Meeting 7:00 PM**  
Small Group Discussion "Preparing for the Holidays"

**October 15th** - Deadline to get photos in for program for our annual memorial night.

**November 14th - 6:30 PM – Memorial** - Friends and family members of all ages are welcome to attend

**December 10th (Sunday) - 6:30 PM - World Wide Candle Lighting** - Friends and family members of all ages are welcome to attend

**December 12th - Chapter Meeting 7:00 PM**  
Small Group Discussion "How Are You Handling the Holidays?"

**January 9, 2018 - Chapter Meeting 7:00 PM**  
**Guest Speaker:** Dr. Patrick O'Malley, author of "Getting Grief Right"

**January 13, 2018 - Steering Committee Meeting 10:00 AM**



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*The mission of The Compassionate Friends: 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.*

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## Fort Worth Chapter Meeting

**October 10th, 7:00 P.M.**

This Month's Program:

Small Group Discussion on

*“Preparing for the Holidays”*

Refreshments: Lydia Moore and Delmarie Bogan

Please remember snacks with NO nuts.

Drinks/paper goods are provided.

**Meet friends in room 271**

**ARBORLAWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

5001 Briarhaven Rd., Fort Worth

## A Special Message

To those of you who are newly bereaved and receiving our newsletter for the first time, we warmly welcome you to The Compassionate Friends. We are a self-help organization of parents, grandparents and adult siblings who have experienced the death of a loved one. We offer understanding and support through our monthly meetings, a lending library, support materials and loving telephone listeners. Please do not be afraid to come to a gathering. Every other person in the room has lost a child, grandchild or sibling. They come because they feel the need to be with someone else who understands. We know it takes courage to attend that first gathering, but those who do come find an atmosphere of understanding from others who have experienced the grief that you have now. Nothing is asked of you. There are no dues or fees and you do not have to speak. There is a special feeling at meetings of The Compassionate Friends.

*We meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month.*