



THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

Supporting Family After a Child Dies

November 2011 Newsletter

WNY Chapter #2303

Batavia, NY 14020

The Mission of The Compassionate Friends is to assist families toward the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child of any age and to provide information to help others be supportive.

Upcoming Meetings

November 15, 2011

December 20, 2011

Meetings are held at
The Holland Land Office Museum
131 W. Main St
Batavia, NY 14020
Meeting Times: 7 -8:30pm

National: The Compassionate Friends, Inc.

PO Box 3696. Oak Brook, IL 60522-3696
Toll Free 877-969-0010. Fax 630-990-0246
www.compassionatefriends.org

The Compassionate Friends of WNY

447 Ellicott St, Batavia, NY 14020

Parent Contact, Chapter Leader, Founder

Pat Wheeler 585-219-4256 or 716-601-9648

[wwpatsuw@aol.com](mailto:wwpatsuw@comcast.net)

Donations can be mailed to Pat

Treasurer, Parent Contact & Advertising

Reed Vogel 585-535-7783

Secretary:

Genevieve Mahoney

Greeters: Mae & Larry Wheeler

Our Regional Contact; Al Visconti

altcfny@gmail.com

Visit our local web site: www.tcfowny.org

The Compassionate Friends is about transforming the pain of grief into the elixir of hope. It takes people out of the isolation society imposes on the bereaved and lets them express their grief naturally. With the shedding of tears, healing comes. And the newly bereaved get to see people who have survived and are learning to live and love again. "

*Simon Stephens, Founder of The
Compassionate Friends*

To include your child or children on our web site, bring a photo along with a short story about them to the meeting. Pat will forward the information to our Webmaster so that your child or children can be remembered.

Our Birthday Table - Parents/Grandparents: We have a Birthday Table at our TCF meetings. If you would like to share your child's favorite cake or anything that will help you remember their birthday with others who are open to "celebrating" with you, please take this opportunity to share with us. You may bring photos and other mementos to the meeting as well.

We are going to decorate a Christmas Tree at The Holland Land Office Museum. We will be decorating the night of our November meeting. If you have an ornament that you might want to display please bring it to place on the tree. Hopefully we will have time for a meeting as well. December is our Christmas Program. If you would like a poem or song included, please let Pat know.

Buttons are available from Pat for \$3.00 each. Just give Pat a photo and a button will be made. Preferably a small photo, such as a 4x6. The buttons are 2 1/4 inches so plan accordingly. Contact Pat with the info

Pat is also making **concrete stepping stones**, which come in various shapes and can include birthdates, remembrance dates & a small photo. First one is free. Contact Pat with the info

OUR CHILDREN LOVED AND REMEMBERED

Let us remember our children who have left us too soon

October Birthdates

Damien, son of Allison Watson
October 2

Buddy, son of Eleanor & George Filowick
October 3

Torry, daughter of Joann & Don Yahn
October 5

James, son of Debra Hall
October 5

October Remembrance Dates

Sharon, daughter of Catherine Horton & sister to Martha
Horton
October 1

Buddy, son of Eleanor & George Filowick
October 7

Demitrius, son of Shelcy & Brian Plueckhahn
October 15

Reed, son of Reed Vogel
October 16

November Birthdates

Donna, daughter of Rita Cone
November 1

Jenna Helene, daughter of Sharlene & John Pratt
November 2

November Remembrance Dates

Edwin Joseph & Randiene Jo, children of Vicki Becker
November 5th & 7th respectively

Jeremy, son of Mel & Guy Brunner
November 9

Please contact Pat Wheeler if any of your child(ren's)
information is incorrect or missing. Phone 219-4256 or email

wwpatsuw@com or mail to home address at

447 Ellicott St
Batavia, NY 14020

Circles

How do you bear it all?
The cry came from a mother
Whose son had died only weeks before.
We were in a circle, looking at her.
Looking around, looking away,
Tears in our hearts, in our eyes.
How do we bear it?
I don't know,
But the circle helps.

Eva Lager,
TCF Western Australia

GOD SAID *submitted by Bev Thomas*

I'll lend you for a while a child of mine, He said
For you to love while he lives and mourn for
when he's dead
It may be six or seven years, or twenty two or
three
But will you till I call him back, take care of him
for me?
He'll bring his charm to gladden you, and should
his stay be brief,
You'll have his lovely memories as solace for
your grief.
I cannot promise he will stay, since all from
earth return,
But there are lessons taught down there I want
this child to learn.
I've looked the world over in My search for
teachers true
And from the throngs that crowns life's lanes I
have chosen you
Now will you give him all your love, and not
think the labor vain,
Nor hate Me when I come to call to take him
back again?
I fancied that I heard them say Dear Lord, Thy
will be done!
For all the joy the child shall bring, the risk of
grief we run.
We'll shelter him with tenderness, we'll love
him while we may.
And for the happiness we've known, forever
grateful stay.
But should the angels call for him much sooner
than we planned,
We'll brave the bitter grief and try to understand.

CAN YOU HELP? Do you remember your first meeting of The Compassionate Friends, those first months of your grief journey? You desperately needed someone to talk to, someone who knew the pain of losing a child, someone to hug you, cry with you, listen to you. And there are newly bereaved parents who now need your help. Are you willing to be there for them? If two years or more have passed since the death of your child, and you feel that you are ready to give back some of the support that was shown to you, please consider a place of service in our chapter. There is a job for everyone. Don't wait call me at 585-219-4256. If you can't serve, please, at least, come to meetings to lend your support and understanding to our newly bereaved families. We have had so many new members join us the past few months. We need all the help we can get to help them. Thank you from all of our children.

The sky is filled with angels
With puffy lacy wings
The remnants of God's beauty
With treasures they now bring

Each one of them a Guardian
That travels in the sky
To watch throughout eternity
Their parents from on high

Smiles that come from angels
They fall like crystal rain
Eases earthly burdens
Lifting all life's pain

Halos so astounding
That glitter gold each day
Following their loved ones
In such a perfect way

Wings in gentle breezes
That fall from up above
Kissing every parent
With everlasting love

Angels soar through heaven
With everlasting light
Looking down from heaven
Saying their "goodnights"

Wings and shiny halos
Travel from on high
Surrounding all their loved ones
They never say good-bye

BY Francine Pucillo

Heart-Song

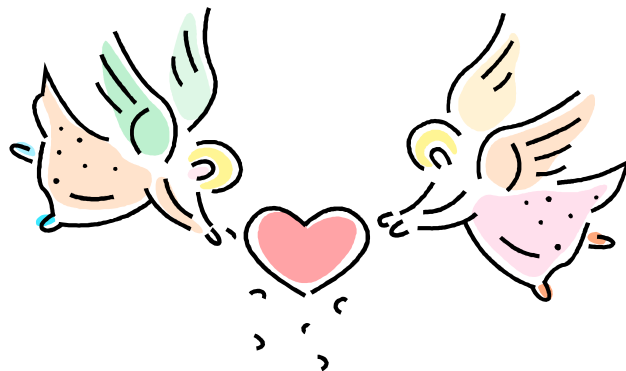
The haunting strains,
Of love's sweet refrain,
Softly play,
Throughout my days.

Beautiful notes of memories past,
Music that will forever last,
Up and down the distant chords,
Remind me of times adored.

No matter the tune that I now hear,
In the background your song is clear,
Gently fingering my heartstrings,
Songs of love and remembering.

Beautiful melodies intertwining,
With love and joy realigning,
Two hearts that beat as one,
In harmony with my beloved son.

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A Thanksgiving Poem by Jason Program

**Dear Father Who art in Heaven...
Please join our family on this Thanksgiving day
And bless each one of us as we sit down to pray
As we remember those who have joined You
above
So dearly missed and deeply loved.**

**Please provide us strength on this Thanksgiving
day**

**Bless us with memories of those faraway...
Please grant patience to family & friends as we
grieve
And help us to reach out to others who are
bereaved.**

**We give thanks to you on this Thanksgiving
day....
For your presence in our lives each and
everyday.
For Your comfort, guidance and never ending
love....
And for taking care of our loved ones..in
Heaven above.**

**As we light this candle on this Thanksgiving
day.....
And it glows in memory of those in Heaven
today..
May their lights always shine down on us and
give us light...
And may we feel their presence along with
Yours tonight.**

**May the peace and tranquility of this
Thanksgiving day
Be an everlasting light within each of us along
the way....
Lets bow our heads and give our Thanks to God
above...
For our blessings, whether on earth or in
Heaven above....
Amen**



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.**