

THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS
Post Office Box 583 Taylors, South Carolina 29687
(864) 288-8342
www.tcfogreenvillesc.org

March, 2005

We acknowledge this month's "Love Gifts" with sincere gratitude and deep appreciation in Memory of:

- **Greg Lackey** ~ by his parents, Curtis and Judy Lackey
- **Matt Renner** ~ by his parents, Dick and Margaret Renner
- **James Cox** ~ by his parents, Michael and Kathleen Cox
- **Robert Garland Davis** ~ by his mother, Ginny Davis
- **Kevin Adams** ~ by his parents, Don and Susan Adams
- **Corey and Stephanie Corder** ~ by their brothers, Chris and Cameron Corder

Kirby

We made it through another year, though time isn't really important. It's quieter, but not easier. Your room is still your room. When I call your name, there's an echo. I don't cry everyday now, but my heart still aches. The sparkle is gone from our lives, but not from our memories. Your friends have grown, graduated and married. We don't hear from them as often. Having you in our lives was an experience of a lifetime. You were wonderful because you were you. You weren't supposed to leave us so soon, but you did. You moved from here, to forever. It's not easier, only quieter.

*By his Mother, Nona Walser
TCF, Greenville, SC*



It's the Music That Bonds the Souls

The room you once lived in - doesn't look the same. The people who used to call you - never mention your name.

The car you used to drive, they may not make them anymore; and all the things you once treasured are boxed behind closet doors.

The clothes you set the trends by, are surely out of date. The people you owed money to have wiped away the slate.

Things have changed and changed again, since you went away. But some things have remained the same each and every day.

Like this aching in my heart - a scar that just won't heal - or the way a special song can change the way I feel.

Brother, you must know that the music bonds us and will keep us close; because secretly I know deep in my heart it's the music you miss the most.

So let the world keep on turning, and time can take its toll. For as long as the music keeps playing, you'll be alive and dancing in my soul.

*Stacie Gilliam
TCF - Oklahoma City, OK*

"Thank You"

*Written by Nona Walser
TCF, Greenville, SC*

Dedicated to Amanda Williams:

When you see a miracle rainbow stretch across the sky, that's my "Thank You" for giving my life colors that fly, and a life of miracles.

When you hear the birds singing their morning song, that's my "Thank You" for allowing me songs of my own, and a life of love.

When you see butterflies dancing across the flowers, that's my "Thank You" for devoting all your hours, and a life of waltzes.

When you wake mornings to a spectacular sunrise, that's my "Thank You" for giving me reasons to smile, and a life of laughter.

When you see the stars twinkling across the blue night, that's my "Thank You, Mom and Dad" for my wonderful life.

When Grief is New: Reminders

Try not to imagine the future, take one day at a time.

Allow yourself time to cry, both alone and with your loved ones.

Don't shut out other family members from your thoughts and feelings. Share these difficult times. You may all become closer for it.

Try to be realistic about expectations for yourself, your spouse, other family members and friends. If each of us is unique and different, how can there be perfect understanding?

When a good day comes, relish it. Don't feel guilty and don't be discouraged because it doesn't last.

Take care of your health. Even though the mind might not care, a sick body will only compound your troubles. Drink lots of water, take stress-type vitamins, rest (even if you don't sleep) and get moderate exercise. Help your body to heal as well as your mind.

Share your feelings with other compassionate friends and let them share with you. You will find that as you begin caring about the pain of others, you will start to come out of your shell - a very healthy sign.

*Mary Ehmann
TCF, Valley Forge, PA*



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The March newsletter is lovingly dedicated to the memory of all our Children . . . gone too soon.

Our Children Remembered:

Kevin Adams – 3/19/82 ~ 3/5/99
Steve Bell – 3/30/55 ~ 5/6/78
Jeremy Brooks – 3/15/82 ~ 9/6/02
Josh Bryant – 3/27/80 ~ 6/18/01
Rivers Chandler – 1/22/91 ~ 3/6/00
Carey Corder – 3/15/59 ~ 2/27/03
Adam Cox – 4/15/85 ~ 3/31/00
Robert Davis – 3/12/80 ~ 8/3/01
Bryan Denny – 7/23/55 ~ 3/28/98
Christopher Deviney – 3/8/80 ~ 8/13/98
Caleb Dromm – 3/31/03 ~ 4/1/03
Jessica Harris – 3/5/93 ~ 10/5/03
John Baron Howell – 3/9/90 ~ 3/9/90
Lisa Jackson. – 3/20/71 ~ 8/27/00
T.J. Johnson – 1/26/77 ~ 3/23/97
Mark Medina – 1/17/58 ~ 3/24/92
Michael Moyd – 6/24/95 ~ 3/29/96
Susan Oglesby – 3/31/76 ~ 5/31/91
Grant Patterson – 3/6/02 ~ 3/7/02
David Rush – 3/13/75 ~ 6/21/93
Travis Smith – 5/16/72 ~ 3/5/93
Tom Stearns – 3/27/64 ~ 8/4/93
Roger Strange – 2/6/61 ~ 3/13/88
Donna Wagner – 7/12/61 ~ 3/15/04
Kirby Walser – 3/19/78 ~ 3/23/99
Timothy Wilson – 2/12/82 ~ 3/25/01

**In Loving Memory of:
Robert Garland Davis
3/12/1980 ~ 8/3/2001**

By His Family and Friends

Just like the stars, Robert will always be with us. We are grateful that God placed Robert in our lives and allowed us to watch him grow from a little boy to the young man he had become.

Although Robert is not here for us to touch, he continues to touch us. We always have his memory in our minds and his love, laughter, and friendship in our hearts. We shall be forever linked through our love.

We are a family circle, broken by death, mended by love! May Robert's love of life and his laughter be what your remember most.....Angels now watch over him.



The Promise of Spring

M. Kramer-TCG, Arlington Heights, IL

When February comes, there is finally an end in sight to the long winter. Sometimes melting snow reveals green tips of an early crocus or even the exquisite blossom itself, a soft flower of hope invading a harsh landscape of graying snow and biting wind and ominous sky – a small promise of new life to come.

My heart, grieving for my son who died, was like that image of winter. For somehow, even during the darkest, coldest moments, an unexpected sign of hope would intrude and as the hours and months dragged on, my heart finally learned once again to be open to the promise of new life. Painful memories melted into loving ones. Life that seemed forever dormant once again sprang forth from my heart.

In living hopefully and lovingly, the season of the heart can change. The loving memories of your child, like the flower in the snow, can be the beginning of the end of winter.

**Special Upcoming Event
May's Meeting**

Our May meeting will be a little different than our normal monthly meetings. Mark your calendar! On May 12th we will again have a "Balloon Release" and a "Slide Show" honoring our children. We did this last year and have had many requests to do it again this year. Last year's event was a beautiful and meaningful experience for all who participated.

If you would like to have your child's picture(s) in our slide show, please submit them to me by e-mail at:

Janisgow@msn.com. Please put "TCF Pictures" in the subject line so I know this is a legitimate e-mail. You can also mail to: Janis Gow, 520 Dean Rd., Greer, SC 29651. Also, you must include written permission for us to use these pictures in the slideshow. Please limit the number of photos to 4. More info next month!

March's Meeting

The Greenville Chapter of *The Compassionate Friends* will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, March 10, 2005 from 7:30 to 8:30 pm at Pelham Rd. Baptist Church, 1108 Pelham Rd., Greenville. We will meet in the Church's Lobby area this month due to scheduled basketball games in the Family Life Center. Norm Raiford will lead this month's meeting. We will break out in separate discussion groups – one for men and one for women.