

THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

Post Office Box 583 Taylors, South Carolina 29687
(864) 288-9820 www.tcfogreenville.org

Monthly Meeting

August 10, 2006

Always the second Thursday of the month

Topic:

The topic for this month's meeting is
"Aren't You Over It?"

Facilitated by:

Norm Raiford

Meeting Time & Location

7:30 P.M.

Pelham Rd. Baptist Church,
Family Life Center
1108 Pelham Rd., Greenville, SC



On Your Birthday

I wrote this date this morning, paused, and felt the room grow cold.

It always does when I remember all of it – down to the last petal tossed by the winds above the upturned earth.

This time the chill does not leave so easily. It would have been your birthday. Soon, I shall be as old as you will ever be.

Wanda Trawick – TCF, Acme, PA

Please Support TCF?

If you are a BiLo shopper with a BONUS CARD; you can support TCF by enrolling in the BiLo Booster Club. TCF as a non profit organization qualifies for this program, and can earn up to \$3,000 per year.

- **How do I enroll?** Simply take your enrollment card (the bar code included in this newsletter) to a BiLo & have it scanned with your BONUSCARD. Current BiLo Booster Card Members must enroll again by scanning the bar code enrollment card.
- **When are the enrollment periods?** Enrollment opens on July 1st and closes on April 30th. Therefore, May & June are the only months you can NOT enroll in the program.
- **Do I have to use the enrollment card bar code each time I shop?** No, you only need to use it once every school year.
- **Do I have to shop at the Bio where I enrolled as a member for my purchases to count for TCF?** No. Every BiLo store is a member.
- **Do you have to be a member of TCF to participate in this program?** No. You can give friends, co-workers, neighbors, etc. an enrollment card & TCF will still receive the benefits.

A Grandparent's Point of View

The death of a child is the most tragic thing that can happen to anyone. It affects so many lives – family, friends, and even strangers.

I lost my grandchild through death, and only a grandparent can understand the love a grandparent has for a grandchild and the loss that is felt when the child dies. For a grandparent, it is a double loss. Not only is your grandchild gone, but you also watch your child die each day. The smile that was always on her face is no longer there.

The hurt is so deep and the questions so many. You feel helpless as a parent. You can't kiss the hurt away as you did when she was a child. You have no answers for her questions, for you don't understand the many feelings that you are experiencing yourself. Each day you hope and pray for a little ray of sunshine to show on her face. You search for a little something to say or do that will comfort her. It seems that there is no end to the suffering.

As time goes slowly by, the healing process begins. In time, a ray of hope will show on her face and a smile will make her eyes light up again. She will turn to you for what little comfort you can give her. There will always be a part of you that is gone, but in time you can learn to live with the part that is still here.

By: Ruth Eaton – TCF Savannah, GA

"When the young bury the old, time heals the pain and sorrow. But when the process is reversed, the sorrow remains forever."

~ Joseph P. Kennedy

Adjusted

"It's been several years since your son died" they say. "Surely you must have adjusted by now?"

Yes, I am adjustedAdjusted to feeling pain and sadness and grief and guilt and loss.

Adjusted to hurting and unexpected tears. Adjusted to seeing people made uncomfortable upon hearing me say "my son died."

Adjusted to losing my best friend because I'm not always "up". Adjusted to people acting as if grief is contagious and TCF meetings are "morbid."

Adjusted? Oh, yes, to many things. Knowing I won't hear his voice, but listening for it still. Knowing I won't see him drive his Toronado, but staring at every one I see. Adjusted to feeling empty on his birthday and wishing for just one more time with him.

Adjusted - as life goes on...to realizing I cannot expect everyone I meet to wear a bandage – just because I am still bleedingBy Shirley Blakely Curle

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The August newsletter is lovingly
dedicated to the memory of our
children....gone too soon.

Our Children Remembered:

Michael Allen – 10/16/94 ~ 8/25/02
Melissa Atkinson – 8/30/75 ~ 5/6/03
Kimberly Bennett – 9/12/88 ~ 8/7/89
Leah Blackstock – 4/19/91 ~ 8/12/93
David Bridges – 8/25/82 ~ 4/7/00
Brenda Burnett – 8/8/62 ~ 2/28/03
Jason Chappell – 8/2/82 ~ 3/26/05
Devin Chumley – 10/4/03 ~ 8/20/04
Robert Davis – 3/12/80 ~ 8/3/01
Christopher Deviney – 3/8/80~8/13/98
Robert Ewing – 8/25/55 ~ 9/4/99
Holden Gregory 8/17/02 ~ 9/14/02
Christopher McLauchlin 8/2/83~1/27/05
Krystal Milwood – 7/12/83 ~ 8/28/04
Ben Morris – 8/18/76 ~ 11/18/95
Olivia Moser – 8/26/01 ~ 9/27/01
Jacob Nicholson – 1/30/94 ~ 8/29/04
Shane O’Sullivan–8/12/85 ~ 10/20/03
Christopher Reeves – 8/18/82 ~ 11/8/02
Jason Satterfield – 8/2/86 ~ 9/14/04
Tommy Strange Jr. – 8/13/51 ~ 4/21/86
Matt Taylor – 8/16/86 ~ 12/9/03
Jonathan Trexler – 8/9/83 ~ 5/26/04
Eric White – 8/11/57 ~ 2/5/97
Patrick Whitehurst-6/11/83 ~ 8/19/99
Donny Wilkinson – 8/29/72 ~ 7/5/02

Grief over the death of a child is the hardest work that most of us will ever do. While we all wish for the pain to stop, we need to remember that we grieve intensely because we loved intensely. It is unrealistic to expect the grief to ever totally go away because the love we have for our child will never go away. Our grief is an act of love and is nothing for which we should be ashamed.

*Elaine Grier
TCF, Atlanta, GA*

**The Single Parent and The Loss of
an Only Child**

Having been responsible single parents, and realizing that we are no longer - can be devastating! Our need to be comforted by another adult is great. This realization takes time. It could be months before we are aware we are not coping as well as we could. For this reason we must not always be alone. We must reach out to family and friends. Best of all, we should join a self-help group of bereaved parents. They alone will be there for us in the many months and perhaps years that are needed to learn to cope with the death of a child. We need understanding adult companionship to help us become strong, secure, childless, single adults.

For my life to change, I had to give to someone the love and caring I had for my child. But I felt it was better not to love, not to give, to protect myself from the pain. It was many months before I could reach out to others. Later I became the chapter leader of a sibling group in The Compassionate Friends organization. If I had not learned to love and give again, I would always have had that feeling of aloneness.

*Theresa Rando, Ph.D.
Parental Loss of a Child*



I will always cry sometimes...
Because I miss him
I will always laugh sometimes...
Because I knew him



The melody of the child who played upon the piano of my life will never be played quite that way again, but I must not close the keyboard and allow the instrument to gather dust. I must seek out other artists of the spirit, new friends who will help me find the music of life again, creating new tunes and harmonies to enhance the melody which will always sing in my heart.

~Carol Cavin

Sometimes



Sometimes, something clicks, and with a tear, remembrance of the pain and the loneliness floods the heart.

Sometimes, something clicks, and with a smile, remembrance of the love and the laughter floods the senses.

And there are times when nothing clicks at all and a voice echoes through the emptiness and numbness never finding the person who used to fill that space.

And sometimes the most special times of all a feeling ripples through your body, heart and soul that tells you that person never left you and he’s right there with you through it all

*Kirsten Hansen – Bereaved Sibling
TCF, Kenifield, CA*