

# THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

Post Office Box 583 Taylors, South Carolina 29687

(864) 288-9820 [www.tcfogreenville.org](http://www.tcfogreenville.org)

## Monthly Meeting

September 14, 2006

*Always the second Thursday of the month*

### Topic:

The topic for this month's meeting is "Friends, Family, and People You Meet: Interacting with the people around you after the death of a child."

### Facilitated by:

Robb Ellis

### Meeting Time & Location

7:30 P.M.

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

## Do It Your Way

It is not possible to lose someone as vital as one's child and not have the pain of deep grief. You will find a great many non-bereaved people who will encourage you to play the old game of, "If you'll pretend you're okay and it's not really so bad, we'll let you come play with us. But if you're going to cry and talk about your dead child, then you can't play."

This is one time in your life you don't have to meet anybody else's standards. There is nothing more unique about you than the way you express your grief – and you have the right however it is manifested. A great deal of how you go about it is determined by how you have handled previous losses.

So if someone tries to influence you to play the old game by rewarding you with attention because "you're doing so well," tell them you're NOT doing well. Tell them your child has died and you're hurting. Let them know it doesn't help you for them to pretend everything is okay. Do whatever it is you need to do to survive this trauma and don't worry about

whether it pleases or displeases other people – DO IT YOUR WAY!

*By: Marcy Cleckly ~ TCF~ Atlanta, GA*



## Our Many Special Days

The beginning of the school year each fall seems to signal the coming holidays. The commercial market starts stocking school supplies, just after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, shortly thereafter by late summer the school supplies are crowded out by all the paraphernalia of Halloween! A glimpse of Thanksgiving whizzes by and it is an all out affront on the Christmas season. After the death of our child we stumble around each year looking for the appropriate way of handling these seasons that once had so much joy to them.

But the calendar holidays are far from the only "Special Days" that bereaved parents face. Our child's birthday and death date are especially hard days but also are the days relating to their illness or other events that relate to their death date and funeral or memorial. The most obvious days are not always the only hard days to live with. Rainy days, snowy days, starry nights can all trigger tugging emotions. Tuesday for laundry day may be the hardest day all year long!

No bereaved parent will have the same feeling of a special day or have the same special day because our children were different people to each person. Because of this, like in everything else in our grief work, we have to allow space for each other's "bad" days.

Each passing year after the death of our child finds us relating to special days differently each year. It is a continuing process never to return to that which used to be. As the years pass and we work hard at our "grief work" we will heal but that does not mean being like we were or doing the things we used to do. We are an evolving new person learning to live again.

*Gerry Hall-TCF, South Central, MO*

Thomas McAfee Funeral Homes presents the following seminar. The Compassionate Friends of Greenville is honored to be one of their many sponsors.

## UPCOMING SEMINAR THIS MONTH **"Death, Divorce and Difficult Times"**

**Presented by Maria Trozzi,  
Educator, Grief Counselor**

**Tuesday, September 26, 2006  
Palmetto Expo Center  
6:45 PM to 9:00 PM  
Free to general public**

**Professional's Program  
"Good Grief: Building Resiliency in  
Children and Families Facing Losses"  
Wednesday, September 27, 2006  
8:45 AM to 12:00 PM  
\$25.00 Fee**

## The Battle

It seems we're all alone, like a few army troops in the jungle, struggling to stay alive and keep our sanity. Sometimes, right when it seems it's over and you can go home – you're ambushed, and you realize you're at the beginning. Later, after this happens over and over again, you know you'll be fighting forever; grief is a battle that cannot be won but just gets easier to live with. I'll always love and remember my big brother. As my battle goes on and others begin, we all can come together and try to overcome this everlasting battle – GRIEF.

*Justin Jenkins  
TCF Mesquite, TX*



"We may not be able to make the sun shine for you – but we can hold the umbrella."

*~Ann Swann – TCF, Valley Forge, PA*

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

**Our Children Remembered:**

Kelly Bennett - 9/14/81 ~ 10/28/02  
Kimberly Bennett - 9/12/88 ~ 8/7/89  
Chase Bowen - 9/20/91 ~ 9/7/05  
Jeremy Brooks - 3/15/82 ~ 9/6/02  
Stephanie Corder - 9/19/56 ~ 4/25/61  
Allan Dobson - 6/10/75 ~ 9/2/00  
Michael Dorsey - 9/22/81 ~ 5/6/03  
Jill Dunlap - 9/24/67 ~ 1/29/86  
Christopher Ellison 9/25/78 ~ 1/13/04  
Robert Ewing - 8/25/55 ~ 9/4/99  
Timothy Gilbert - 5/30/64 ~ 9/5/87  
E.J. Gonzalez - 6/16/80 ~ 9/23/00  
Holden Gregory - 8/17/02 ~ 9/14/02  
Tim Malone - 9/18/60 ~ 2/16/04  
Olivia S. Moser - 8/26/01 ~ 9/27/01  
Kim Patterson - 9/17/57 ~ 5/10/99  
Amy Pieszchala - 9/2/76 ~ 5/22/01  
Kristen Posey - 11/15/83 ~ 9/19/02  
Josh Pritchett - 9/28/84 ~ 7/1/05  
Matt Renner - 9/21/72 ~ 1/13/01  
Jason Satterfield - 8/2/86 ~ 9/14/04  
Molly Sheridan - 4/21/89 ~ 9/7/02  
John Turner III - 12/19/76 ~ 9/5/02  
Daniel Walker - 10/18/80 ~ 9/7/01  
Jason Warlick - 10/12/73 ~ 9/14/98  
Brett Warren - 9/23/85 ~ 9/10/2005  
Lynn C. Watson 9/8/71 ~ 9/9/95  
Joey Williamson - 9/13/69 ~ 6/20/89



We acknowledge "Love Gifts" with appreciation in memory of:

- **Robert Ewing** ~ by his mother, *Caroline Ewing*



The Greenville Chapter of The Compassionate Friends is now an official agency of the "United Way". If you want to make donations through your employer, all you have to do is complete a donation card and indicate that you want your donations to go to **The Compassionate Friends of Greenville SC, Chapter 1041**. This is great way to help defray the cost associated with publishing our monthly newsletter, special programs, books, events and other resources needed to help our chapter help other bereaved parents and grandparents.



A New School Year

**TO MOST PEOPLE SCHOOL MEANS:**

The kids out from underfoot, buying a new lunch box, new clothes, new shoes and the usual school supplies. Fixing breakfast and trying to get it eaten, getting to a school bus on time.

**WHAT DOES SCHOOL MEAN TO A PARENT WHO HAS LOST A CHILD?**

Watching other children filled with excitement. A little boy who should be in kindergarten. A brother who must go off to school by himself. A teacher who must reach out to a class, when her little one won't be in school this year. A mother sends two children off, when there should be three. Many tears, behind smiling faces!

**Please Ask**

*By Barbara Hudson  
Cincinnati, OH*

Someone asked me about you today. It's been so long since anyone has done that. It felt so good to talk about you...to share my memories of you...to simply say your name out loud.

She asked me if I minded talking about what happened to you or would it be too painful to speak of it? I told her I think of it everyday and speaking about it helps me to release the tormented thoughts whirling around in my head.

She said she never realized that my pain would last this long. She apologized for not asking sooner. I told her, "Thanks for asking."

I don't know if it was curiosity or concern that made her ask, but I told her, "Please do it again sometime soon."

**Missing You**

There are no words written  
In any poem or song,  
That say how much we miss you  
Now that you have gone.

The memories of your smile  
May help to ease the pain,  
That will stay with us forever,  
Until we meet again.

*By: Jackie Short  
TCF, UK*