

Dear Family Members,

I hope you've been enjoying this great weather. I can't remember ever turning off the A/C, opening up the house and keeping it cool with a window fan for 2 weeks in July. This just doesn't happen in Maryland. I thought I'd seen it all with the weather. But here we are in, what should be, the Dog Days of Summer and again the A/C is off, the windows are open, the fan is on and it's actually chilly in the house. I guess it goes with the crazy weather we had this winter. It was the coldest I could remember. With temperatures hovering around zero, hearing that this winter was the coldest in 100 years didn't surprise me.

When the winter weather was changing and getting warmer, the huge Butterfly Bush I have started to bud. The unsuspecting bush was blindsided when the bottom dropped out of the thermometer. I was so concerned that it wouldn't survive. I planted it 2 years after my daughter, Ashley, died and watched it grow from a small twig to be 10' tall and 10' wide in 11 years. Every time I would look at it in the summer, butterflies were flitting all over and around it. There would be no less than 15 of those beautiful reminders visiting it at any given time. In the spring when other things started to grow, there was no growth activity on the Butterfly Bush. I kept waiting and hoping but it became apparent that a lot of, if not all of it had died. It broke my heart. I never had such an emotional attachment to a bush before. Finally, I had to cut most of the bush back to the ground. It was a mere shadow of its former self. I was left with the tall branches in the center and that was about it. I probably should have cut the whole thing back but I just couldn't do it. So much had changed. Every time I looked at the bush it reminded me of me in so many ways of *my* journey. We both were minding our own business when the shock hit us. After some time, when it was right for the bush, I saw what appeared to be growth at its base. I just brushed it off as nothing much but in time there was some incredible new growth coming out of the ground and the remaining branches started to have new buds. It was coming back! I couldn't believe it. I thought it was done. It was amazing to watch this transition. Today the "new" bush doesn't look a whole lot like the "old" one but it's growing and changing. Yes, it's different but it's there with its own "New Normal". The butterflies are all over the bush again and moving from flower to flower. I'm thankful for those visitors that are a part of this change. It's the same with my family members from our Chapter. With all the unwanted changes we've undergone, we're in this together and I'm grateful we are. I never thought I would ever have anything in common with a bush but our journeys *are* similar. If you have a "Butterfly Bush" journey, please share it with us. It may help others look at theirs.

Please take note of the article concerning the Worldwide Candlelight Memorial in the Newsletter. Sunday, December 14 is only a few months away. It's never too early to make plans to join us. My Butterfly Bush wasn't the only victim of last winter. We also had to cancel The Memorial due to a snow storm. There will be a limited number of last year's programs available at the sign in desk. Included in this newsletter is an update and "Love Gift" donation form. Please consider supporting your chapter financially so we can keep providing outreach and a safe place for our family members. Also, there is an informative article from our new chapter Treasurer, Howard Wade.

I would like to take a moment to thank Maura Taylor for all of her work on your Newsletter. For several years Maura has been relentlessly scanning other chapter newsletters and sites to compile the Newsletter for us. At this time, Maura is going to step back a bit from those duties and look to do other things for our chapter. Joe and Irene Belcher will be stepping up and taking over for Maura. Please continue to send your poems, thoughts and stories to: newsletter@BaltimoreTCF.com. Your words may be the thoughts others have but are unable to express.

May you find peace (and maybe a butterfly bush moment) on your journey.

Garrett Tollenger
Chapter Leader



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Summer 2014

Dear Compassionate Friends:

As your newsletter editor for the past five years, it has been my privilege and honor to get to know many of you through your shared memories.

At this time, I am going to take a moment of personal privilege. There are no adequate words to express my gratitude to the sacred circle of the Baltimore Chapter of Compassionate Friends. In that room in Towson, in that safe space, I am able to share my grief, my memories, my struggles, what I have learned, and even some laughter. Garrett, Miss Paula, Howard, Linda, Denise, Neil, Phil, Miss Pearl, Ilene, Lisa, Holly—you were there at my first meeting five years ago this month and have shared the journey with me all along and helped me more than words can express. I hold all of you and your children in my hearts along with my sweet Brennan.

As I reflect on the last five years, first, I cannot believe it has been five years since I lost my precious grandson. That I could lose him still seems impossible even though it has been my reality for five years. I still miss and think of him every day. I still cry. I still long to hold him—to know him. I still have days when I simply cannot stand that this is my life; that this is my daughter's life, for losing him truly destroyed her, which is the danger of unbearable grief.

At this time, with a heavy heart, I am giving up my newsletter duties as my life has gotten in the way and I feel I cannot give the very worthy members of this chapter the attention they so deserve. I will be working with Garrett to transition and will continue to work behind the scenes as much as possible because I truly understand how very important this group is. I know it saves people, it helps to heal

broken hearts as much as they can be healed, and provides comfort to the inconsolable.

Thank you for your trust, your compassion, and your friendship. I am forever grateful to everyone with whom I have shared this space.

Peace,
Maura

~Monthly Meeting Information

Baltimore County-The First Wednesday
Brown Woodbrook Memorial Presbyterian Church
6200 N. Charles St. Baltimore
7:30-9:30 PM

TCF Chapter Contact Information

Chapter Leader: Garrett Tollenger,
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Newsletter editor: Maura Taylor,
newsletter@baltimoretcf.com

The Sibling Corner

Our Towson chapter meeting hosts a sibling group, which coincides with our regular meeting time. There are so many special issues that occur when you lose a brother or sister. This group will offer a safe place for you to share your challenges, concerns and successes when walking this path. Siblings age 16 and over are welcome and encouraged to attend. This will be facilitated by siblings for siblings.

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To Our New Members:

Coming to your first meeting is the hardest thing to do. But you have nothing to lose and everything to gain. We do understand.

To Our Seasoned Members:

We need your encouragement and support. You are the string that ties our group together and the glue that makes it stick.

TCF is here to welcome you, share your grief and encourage you.

Mark Your Calendars!

It's time to mark your calendars now for the annual Worldwide Candle Lighting which will be held at Brown Memorial Church beginning promptly at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 14.

If you have not attended before, this is a very moving and uplifting experience. During the service a family member will read the name of their loved one. During the reading of name(s), each family will light a candle for their child(ren). Families are invited to read a story, a poem, sing a song or play music in honor of their child. Families are also invited to create a decorative butterfly with their child's name on it. Bring your special butterfly or create one at the Memorial to be included in Madeline's Butterfly Garden. This precious garden was inspired by the true story found on our Website and is dedicated to Abigail and Madeline. We invite you to bring pictures for our Memory Table. Also, please join us in the Parlor after the Candlelighting for our reception.

If you would like to include your child's name in the program or request to speak, read a poem, play a song, etc., please email (with "Candlelight" in the subject line) to candlelight@baltimoretcf.com by December 8.

Poem to Brennan

Footprints

By Maura Taylor

I touch the footprints on the page
And feel your tiny feet in the palm of my hand

Soft, pink, and perfect
Ticklish to the touch

Leaving a forever imprint on my heart

Memories

Julie Timmerman, TCF, Tulsa, OK

When a child dies our memories are held tightly with lots of pain, just like the tightly folded petals of the rose bud with the many thorns to stick and prick causing pain. As we talk about our child and share memories with others, we begin to open ourselves to healing as the rose petals start to open ever so gradually. Just as a rose becomes more beautiful as it blossoms, so do the memories of our child!

Yes, the thorns are still there and will hurt when touched, but, oh how beautiful the rose and oh, how beautiful the memory of our children!

Share the memory of your child so that memory can start to bloom to become as beautiful as a rose.

Candles Lit for Deborah [aka Debbie] Bernadette Castro

On Sunday, December 8, 2013, Deborah's family and friends joined with The Compassionate Friends across the globe to light candles for those we have lost. Many candles were lit for Debbie. What a poignant reflection of the bright lights that shone through her short life and the wonderful impact she left in her path.

On July 30, 2013, Debbie left us to join God's band of angels. While we miss her terribly, we are comforted in knowing that she lived a wonderful and blessed life. She was born November 7, 1970 and throughout her life was adored and cherished by her family, especially being the first grandchild.

Deborah was a success throughout her academic career, beginning with being a popular ballerina in Elementary School, a wiz at math in Middle School, and valedictorian in High School. She went on to achieve her Bachelor's and Master's Degree at Howard University. While Deborah focused on her academics, she also found the time to have fun and developed very close bonds with friends and cousins. She also traveled across the country taking up temporary residences where her professional career led her. Deborah's passing has left such a void in the lives of all those who loved her. Her sister, who she loved dearly, and I struggle every day to cope with the loss. We are, however, comforted by her strength, especially through her illness, and how much she loved and cared for others. For example, in the hospital room even when she could not communicate orally, she would motion her visitors to sit down if she felt they were standing too long. In some way, we are finding some solace in knowing that she would not want to see us hurting. We are continuing to ask for God's grace to carry on in our love for her.

Ena Castro
Deborah's Mom

To My Family and Friends,

I want to thank you all for caring, loving, and being here with me through the worst life event that any parent can have. Having lost my youngest son Corey on July 7, 2013 has changed my life forever. To all of you that were with me that first week, I will never be able to thank you enough or even tell you how much I needed and appreciated

your help and support. I was so lost for the first time in my life and you guys were my beacon of light.

Having survived Corey's Celebration of Life, and the tribute paid to him that day by so many family and friends was touching, heart warming and surprising to many. I don't think many of us realized how many lives Corey had touched. Thank you to everyone who helped organize, donated food, found the location and rode in the memorial ride in tribute to him. That was an amazing day for such a tragic event.

When Corey passed, I asked you all to be patient with me. I know I couldn't do many things those first few months. I asked you to keep me in your lives and not give up on me. You all have more than complied. I am so grateful for my wonderful support system, which includes family, friends, co-workers, Corey's friends, even people I had never even met but have touched my life. Thank you for not always expecting a response to your texts, calls or emails. Please know that I appreciate all forms of communication and that sometimes I can't respond at that point in time.

We all seemed to be able to handle going through the first Thanksgiving and Christmas without Corey on this earth. He was missed and will always be missed at these gatherings. Please don't hesitate to talk with us about him. I want to thank everyone who joined me at the gathering on Friday, December 27 to pay tribute and keep Corey's memory alive. It was so nice to share stories and pictures. I hope we can do this remembrance of Corey at least twice a year. I love my Friday night dinners with Corey's friends, (my other children), as their love and support is truly helping me on this journey. You young people are amazing and your love and support helps more than I can ever express.

As much as it would seem that the holidays are the hardest part, for me it is the other stuff. The tags on one of Corey's cars expired December 31, 2013, and the DMV was nice enough to send a letter to him saying he can't renew his tags because he is deceased. The removal and turning in of his tags are the experiences that bring tears to my eyes. I feel like every time I cancel something or terminate something that I am deleting more of him from my life.

Tuesday January 7 will be 6 months with Corey gone. Wow, sometimes it feels not even real, and sometimes it feels like a million years. I wanted to let you know how I am doing and what I am feeling. As most of you know, I am taking some medication to help me cope with this

unimaginable loss, and it does help. I am not having near the amount of anxiety that I was having and so it makes it a little easier to do more social activities. As most of you know, I am in counseling every week and support group at least once a month. All things combined are what keep me going through this life time journey of coping with the grief and loss of a child.

To all of you I hope you had a wonderful Christmas, or other holiday and I wish you all a Happy, Prosperous and Healthy New Year. I would also like to request that you keep me and my family in your hearts, heads, prayers, and lives. Continue to support and ask me to do things, one day I will say yes. Please remember that there will still be tears as this is a journey that will only end when I am not on this earth. However, I do know that with time the sadness will reduce and hopefully the good memories will increase. Don't hesitate to talk with me about Corey or be afraid to mention him, as he is gone from earth, but never from our hearts. If it makes me cry, that is ok as that is also very much a part of the healing and continuing to live process. Please also realize that even if I look and do activities, I am not healed, or over it. This is a loss that will be with me for a lifetime. It started as a physical pain in my heart and the feeling like half my heart is gone. As time marches on, the physical pain is subsiding and the emotional pain is slightly more tolerable. Thank goodness I have so many wonderful people to help me on this journey.

Love to all,
Gina (Baltimore Chapter)
Corey's Mom

From your Chapter treasurer:

As the Chapter's new treasurer and an accountant by trade I will try my best to not only keep good records but to keep the Chapter informed on how it is doing financially. I know the difference between debits and credits and can balance a bank statement, but that's not all I understand and that's why I am making this plea to you who love and care so much for this wonderful outreach Ministry.

On October 12, 2005 when my wife Linda and I had our world turned inside out with the death of our son Jeffery Van Wade and we wondered how in the world we would ever get our lives back, we soon learned we would never get our lives back as it was but we would find a different path to walk, and that path has come in the form of this organization that has been so much a huge part of our lives for the past eight years. This brings me to my plea.

The National organization of The Compassionate Friends does not financially support local chapters. In fact a local chapter must stand on its own financially and annually send to the National organization a membership fee. In the beginning of 2013 our chapter started out with a balance of \$3,094.90 in our checking account and during the year had expenses of \$1,256.66 an income of \$1,115.77 giving us a net loss of \$140.89 bringing our balance in the checking account down to \$2,954.01 at the end of December 2013.

At this point the chapters past treasurer resigned and I took over the treasurer's job and so far this year the deficit trend has continued. To date we have had expenses of \$617.04 and only \$380.00 in income giving us a net loss to date of \$237.04 leaving our checking balance at \$2,716.97. The Chapter has some fixed expenses such as telephone, post office box rent, web site, bank fees and the annual membership fee to National. In addition the Chapter has the cost of our newsletter, postage, meeting refreshments and annual expenses for our candle lighting memorial service. Quite a bit of these expenses are covered by in-kind giving of Chapter volunteers and we thank those individuals from the bottom of our hearts for their wiliness to help in this fashion. I will make available at our monthly meetings a copy of the past months financial status and will provide anyone who wants a copy of my report sent directly to them either by mail or email. You can contact me at linwade@cablespeed.com or call the Chapter phone line at 410-560-3358.

What we need to do is ask ourselves how I can help support The Greater Baltimore Chapter of The Compassionate Friends. Keep in mind that your financial gift is tax deductible and needs to be made payable to TCF Greater Baltimore Chapter and sent to the local Chapter at P O BOX 2103, Ellicott City, MD 21041-2103 not to the National office. Even if you send your gift to the National office and mark it for the Greater Baltimore Chapter it does not come back to us, it stays at National. All contributions will be recognized in Loving Memory of your child or children in our newsletter.

If we continue the current trend of deficit spending as you can see we will soon run out of money and will not be able to continue to provide the much need support to grieving families in this area. Join me in helping to keep this Chapter alive.
~Howard Wade, Chapter Treasurer

**Please send all newsletter correspondence to:
newsletter@BaltimoreTCF.com**

Angel of My Tears

Author Unknown

Shared by Tyniesha Williams, TCF Bustleton, PA Chapter

How do you love a person who never got to be,
or try to envision a face you never got to see?
How do you mourn the death of one who never got to live,
when there's nothing to feel good about and nothing to forgive?
I love you, my little baby, my companion of the night.
Wandering through my lonely hours,
beautiful and bright.
What does it mean to die before you ever were born,
to live the lovely night of life and never see the dawn?
Ah! My little baby, you lived like anyone!
Life's a burst of joy and pain. And then like yours, it's done.
I love you, my little baby, just as if you'd lived for years.
No more, no less, I think of you, the Angel of my tears"

Gutberlet Scholarship

The Center for Infant & Child Loss would like to remind interested parties that the **Ronald L. Gutberlet, M.D. Parent Conference Scholarship Award** provides parents/grandparents the means to attend conferences regarding SIDS and other child deaths. Conferences are always announced on our website at: www.infantandchildloss.org and most are held annually. Examples of organizations having annual conferences are California SIDS Program, CJ Foundation, First Candle/SIDS Alliance, and The Compassionate Friends. For more information please contact: LaToya Bates at 410-706-5089 / 800-808-7437 or lbates@peds.umaryland.edu

6 Things to Never Say to a Bereaved

Parent

By Angela Miller

If you're a bereaved parent, you can probably count on at least five hands the number of phrases you wish people would never, ever say to you. If only there was a way for the world to learn how to speak compassionately to the brokenhearted. What many people believe is a comforting statement, most often is not. It usually feels more like a slap in the face or a swift punch in the gut. Or like an uncontrollable need to vomit. Or all three at once. There seems to be a large gap between intention and what's actually being communicated to those of us who are hurting.

6 Things to Never Say to a Bereaved Parent:

1) Time heals all wounds.

Last I checked in my journey of trekking through the unimaginable, time hasn't been working any overtime hours "healing" me. And even if on some far away planet time does heal all wounds, it doesn't make it helpful or comforting to hear when suffering in a ditch. Alone. Without much hope or a rope. Time can help soften and change some of the sharpness of grief, but time alone doesn't *heal*. Time + focused intention can create a current in the direction of *healing*, but triple underline this: *Not all wounds heal, no matter how much time passes. Not every wound turns into a scar. Not all suffering ends in this lifetime.* Yes, in time it might scab over, but the slightest bump or scratch can make it start to bleed all over again. Ask any bereaved parent– he or she will tell you– child loss is a wound that won't ever completely heal. No matter how much time or good intention, living a life without one (or more) of your children is a wound that forever bleeds. No matter how many bandaids cover it over time.

Try instead: What would feel healing/helpful to you right now? ~ Is there any way I can help carry your burden? ~

What do you need most today? ~ I am with you. Always.

2) Let go... Move on. *You'd feel better if you let go/move on... You're hanging onto him too much, that's why you're so sad... If you'd just let go you could start living again...* Anything that implies "get over it" will only add more unnecessary pain and hurt to a bereaved parents' already

gaping, oozing wounds. What on earth is left for grieving parents to "let go of" when they've already lost the most precious treasure of their entire life to death? We've already been forced to let go of someone who we would've given our own life to keep. The only thing we have left to hold onto is our child's memory and our abiding love for him or her. And in doing so we courageously move *forward*, but never do we move *on*. Moving on implies not taking our child with us throughout the rest of our lives. When someone tells me I need to "move on/let go", I tell them to move on from my life because I will proudly carry my son with me *everywhere* I go. If people have a problem with it, I have

no problem letting *them* go.

Try instead: Hold on to me. I'll walk with you every step of the way. ~ No matter how painful, I'll be with you every breath you take apart from your child. ~ Tell me about your beautiful child. What was he like? What do you miss the most?

3) Have faith. *If you'd just have faith, this wouldn't hurt so badly... If you had a strong faith like I do, you wouldn't still be grieving like this... If you'd just trust God you wouldn't be suffering so much...*

Guess what? Grief is not indicative of a *lack of* faith. Ever. So stop playing the faith card in an attempt to comfort someone who is suffering the worst human pain IMAGINABLE. Having faith doesn't make the fact that our child was robbed from us far before her time any *easier* or more bearable. And it certainly doesn't make it hurt any less, or make us feel more supported. All it does is make it more probable that someone might feel like punching you in the face. Furthermore, it shames a bereaved parent into thinking– *Wow, if only I had more faith I wouldn't hurt so much.*

What am I doing wrong?– which I hope is the exact opposite message you're intending to send. Bereaved parents already feel isolated and

alone in a world that predominately doesn't understand child loss, and judging a grieving person's level of faith by their depth of grief is not only ludicrous, it's downright cruel. Just don't.

Try instead: I love you. ~ What is it like to keep living without your child?

4). Everything happens for a reason.

No. It doesn't. Sometimes the most horrible, cruel, unimaginably awful things happen to the best, most amazing, incredibly loving people on the planet. And guess what? Sometimes life just plain doesn't make sense. Sometimes things happen for no logical reason *at all*. Saying "everything happens for a reason" is possibly fastest way to make a grieving parents' blood boil. There is no reason good enough in all of heaven and earth that my son is buried underground while my feet continue to walk the earth. I get that most people say this in an attempt to make sense of what is senseless, but instead let's just state what is true: *It makes no *bleepin'* sense at all*. Children should never, ever die before their parents. We all want the world to feel safe and predictable, and the word childloss is the quickest way to shake the foundation of those closest to us.

The thought of it is downright terrifying. It pops even the most carefully crafted safety bubbles. The truth is, witnessing the suffering of others might crack you open— possibly *wide* open. Let it. It's supposed to. It's in the cracking that our hearts can offer empathy and true support instead of false platitudes, unwelcome advice or a severed relationship that offers no comfort to your hurting loved one.

Try instead: I'm so sorry. It's just not fair. ~ There's no good reason this happened. You don't deserve this pain. I wish I could take it away from you. ~ It breaks my heart to see you suffering. ~ This is complete bullshit. I'm so sorry.

5). At Least.

Any sentence starting with at least should never be spoken to a bereaved parent. Never. Ever. "At least she didn't suffer... At least he died young... (?!!!) ... At least you can have more children... At least you got as long as you did with her... At least it was quick and painless... At least you were blessed to have him at all." There is no *at least* in childloss. None. If you want to

support your loved one in the best way possible, keep "at least" out of your conversations with her.

Try instead: I miss him too. I wish he was here with us. ~ What's your favorite memory of her? ~ What helps you feel closest to him when you miss him the most?

6). Be thankful. *Be thankful you can have more children (newsflash: not everyone can!) ... Be thankful for your living children... Be thankful you had her at all.*

Telling someone who has lost more than you can ever imagine to *be thankful*, is like slapping her in the face instead of hugging her.

Seriously. Don't do it. You better believe any bereaved parent in the world could school you in the art of being *thankful*. There's no need to lecture us on the topic. We're thankful more than thankful has ever been thanked. We're grateful for each precious moment we were blessed to have our child, and this gratitude for every single blessed moment is what keeps our heart beating. And if we do have other living children you better believe we're thankful to the *nth* degree for the children we still have, but that doesn't take away the lifelong pain of living without one (or more) of our precious children. *Try instead: I'm thankful for you. ~ I'm thankful for your child. ~ I'm thankful for our friendship. ~ I'm thankful to witness your courage and bravery and strength.*

Last week I read a quote that sums up this one quite nicely: "Before you tell a grieving parent to be grateful for the children they have, think about which one of yours you could live without."

Enough said.



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.

Siblings Walking Together (formerly The Sibling Credo)

We are the surviving siblings of The Compassionate Friends. We are brought together by the deaths of our brothers and sisters. Open your hearts to us, but have patience with us. Sometimes we will need the support of our friends. At other times we need our families to be there. Sometimes we must walk alone, taking our memories with us, continuing to become the individuals we want to be. We cannot be our dead brother or sister; however, a special part of them lives on with us. When our brothers and sisters died, our lives changed. We are living a life very different from what we envisioned, and we feel the responsibility to be strong even when we feel weak. Yet we can go on because we understand better than many others the value of family and the precious gift of life. Our goal is not to be the forgotten mourners that we sometimes are, but to walk together to face our tomorrows as surviving siblings of The Compassionate Friends.

IN REMEMBRANCE...

December

Birthdays

Dominic Raymond Cordle
Katie Henninger
Terry Angel
Brandon Williams
William Patrick Ford III
Zachary Michael Larson
Teresa Campbell
Landen David Hoffman
Shastri Mark Ali
Aarna Acharya

Gordon Phillipson
Nico David Crary-Pohl
Tracy Renee Wood
Jack Levee
Irina Goslin
Esther Ann Brown Adler
Jennifer Nicole Schissler
Charles Dean Saenz
Judah Ahiva Blakeslee-Ringer
Kelly Nicole DallaTezza
Tony Michael Richey
Tylour Long
David J. Houck
Sarah Marie Stebbins
Keith Joseph Soskin
Aquil Abdullah
Kathy Ermatinger
Z. M. Dawson
David William deSabla, Jr.
Daniel Grubb
Jessie Badders
Christopher Gregory
Brian Speckmeier, Jr.
Michael Iwashko
Joseph Allan Caskey, Jr.
Robert James Berg
Matthew John Payne

Heaven Days

Karin Suzanne Masal
Teresa Campbell
Megan Richardson
Landen David Hoffman
Aarna Acharya
Joseph Edward Belcher, Jr.
Nico David Crary-Pohl
Brandon Nowlin
Alexandrea Chardonay Annetta Autry
Carlzell Chauncey Chavaz Connor
Raquan Demetrius Ali Campbell
Joseph Sanfilippo
Michael Francis Gist
Daniel Carl Torsch
Emily Elizabeth Blische
Jason Louis Patterson
Bryan Bolster
Lance Locklear
Z. M. Dawson
Jessica Brower-McGonigal
Daniel Grubb
Dillon James Shelton
Chelsea Rae Propper
Melisa Rene Lisa Shamer
Daniel Keith Richardson
David Franklin Howell, Jr.
Jessie Badders
Mark Anthony Elicerio
Matthew Sam Young
Chad Petterson

Rachel Lynn Orr
Patrick Michael Butler
Robert James Berg
Elijah Joseph Virago

**January
Birthdays**

Drew William Putzel
Gregory Thomas Le Sueur
Shanae Nicole Griffin
Joshua Matthew Eisner
Marianna Louise Freeman
Brett Hofferberth
Kallie Lynn Esquer
Ernest Bo Neeko Gales, III
Jason Louis Patterson
Matthew Salafie
Robert M. Bryant
Hugo G. Jeffery Orbach
Michelle Celeste Wade
Andrew Alton Dowley
Brennan Michael Doll
Owen Inaganti
Curtis Jake Wethington
Mark Anthony Elicerio
James Stallings
Jamshid Ghannad
Curtis Jerome Gaither
Taylor McKenley

Heaven Days

Terry Angel
David Leavitt
Gordon Phillipson
Austin Damond Remines
Joshua Clark
Marianna Louise Freeman
Alexandra Ally Beaulieu
Matthew Salafie
Samuel Ying Fu Pang
Jenna Katherine Miller
Dahlia Katherine Osman
Michael Verleysen
Keith Joseph Soskin
David Michael Kappes
Irvin Bernard Lawson, Jr.
Amanda Kay Arnold
Joey Wayne DeHaven, Jr.
Bryan Canter
Michelle Celeste Wade
Anna Marie Stickel
Matthew J. Lewis
Bruce Francis Vasil
Brandon Zoch
Marcel Mitchell
Owen Inaganti
Gaebriel Patrick Kelly
Curtis Jake Wethington
Michael Iwashko

Michael Ruben Zelaya
Nathan Patrick Fenchak
Chamara Ashby
Michael Roasrio Creteila

**February
Birthdays**

Justin Thompson
Kelly Kraft
William Warren Pease, Jr.
Patrick Kenny Dieringer
Erik Pachino
Ellagrace Ann Garrison
Julius McGee
Shawn Michael Fischer
Carl Edward Palo
Janice Biondo ONeill
Kenneth W. Link
Garrett Daniel Staib
Natalia Erin Miller
Lawrence Dunmore, IV
David L. Murphy
DeShawn Christopher Green
Mason Griffin Medicus
Jose Luis Perez, II
Reece Taylor Stevens
Jasmine Daye Bishai
Sallie Pattillo
Marc Rory Goldberg

Heaven Days

Brad Wisniewski
Dominic Raymond Cordle
Madison Summer Lynn Corcoran-Narup
Shastri Mark Ali
Earl John Kohlhepp
Tylour Long
Meghan Ann Murphy
Devon Maryl Jagler
Kenneth W. Link
Garrett Daniel Staib
Nelson Yargar, III
Deborah Ann Tipton
Kelsey Elaine Brown
David William deSabla, Jr.
William Michael Hogan
Dimitra Y. Whittington
DeShawn Christopher Green
Brian Speckmeier, Jr.
Alexia Jo Bock
Justin Matthew Gregg
Chanda Leigh Painter
James Walter Babcock
Megan Ann Estey

March**Birthdays**

Jocelyn Chilvers
Virgil Maupin
Conor James OSullivan
Austin Damond Remines
Brandon Nowlin
Lydia Shirazi
Tanise N. Ervin
Julio Salgado
Sarah Alexandria Hinton
Margret Kelly Lane
Casey Santana Butler
Michael Orien Colotti
Lance Locklear
Kimberly A. Hummel
Deborah Ann Tipton
Matthew J. Lewis
Michael Cipres
Richard Frank Galentine
Stephanie Sanzone
Daniel Keith Richardson
Steven Gregory Radford
Angela Cheek-Barnett
Martin Barry Sollien
Christopher Stephen
Michael Ryan Atkins
David Franklin Howell, Jr.
Alexia Jo Bock
Angela Iyonna Amaya Jones
Michael James McQuaid
David Alexander Stratton

Heaven Days

Daniel William Beckenholdt
Rickey Donnell Henry II
Kenny Klingmeyer
Jonathan Paul Daily
Charles Dean Saenz
Jagger Lee Whisler-Crawford
Kelly Nicole DallaTezza
Tanise N. Ervin
Diane Marie Isella
Christopher William Diehl
Robert William Biondo
Ryan Michael Sheahy
Michael Leo Swift, III
Kathy Ermatinger
Phillip Holmes
Richard Frank Galentine
Natalia Erin Miller
Martin Barry Sollien
Christopher Stephen
Brennan Michael Doll
Daniel Scottodifrega
Christopher Gregory
James Stallings
David Alexander Stratton
Sallie Pattillo

April**Birthdays**

Karin Suzanne Masal
Kent Ferree
Erik Vincent Summers
Earl John Kohlhepp
Joseph Edward Belcher, Jr.
Miracle Cassie Evans
Samantha Lynch
Kenny Klingmeyer
Brendan James Huber
Joseph Sanfilippo
Robert Lee Johnson
Marcie Elizabeth Warch
Ashlyn Marie Sutherland
Alexander Gregory Fee
Jonathan Paul Daily
Jagger Lee Whisler-Crawford
Nicole Harlow
Lauryn Marie Little
Hayden Bradley Hoffman
Julie Ann Webster
Joseph Miranda
Channing Lane Wiles
Isabella Sue Pennel
Dillon James Shelton
Chelsea Rae Propper
Alan Scott Greenbaum
Genevieve Wilson
Gene Rossmark, Jr.
Daniel Scottodifrega
Amelia Panuska
Joseph Edward Benham
Steve Posedenti, Jr.
Yves Hugo Cubillos
Robert Palese
Carmen Odessa Dixon

Heaven Days

Andy Dorsey
Mark D. Sokolik
Virgil Maupin
Miracle Cassie Evans
Esther Ann Brown Adler
Michael Vincent Manieri
Judah Ahiva Blakeslee-Ringer
Brian McBride Morris
Corinne Palo Ferguson
Tyler H. Kahn
Beth Szczepanski
Hugo G. Jeffery Orbach
Hayden Bradley Hoffman
Ramie Lamont Mays, Jr.
Channing Lane Wiles
Garrett Nelson
Curtis Jerome Gaither
Matthew Jonis Johnson
Isabella Sue Pennel
Rowan Grace Maisey-Brownfield

Paul J. Schmitt
Evan J. Weichert
Mason Griffin Medicus
Steve Posedenti, Jr.
Christopher Ryan LePore
Cathi Faye Horst
Jonah Alexander Respass
Galen Harig-Blaine
Michael James McQuaid
Joshua Matthew Belanger

May

Birthdays

Eric Nolan Ramey
Anthony Sorrentino
Devon Maryl Jagler
Daniel Frederick Reed
Dahlia Katherine Osman
Bryan Bolster
Chester Kirk Drew, Jr.
Ryan Michael Sheahy
Lillian Naomi Johnson
Anthony Brannock
Ian Brannock
Taavon L. Brown
Kevin Michael Ryan
Ramie Lamont Mays, Jr.
Stacey Lourn Gregg
Jessica Brower-McGonigal
Jenne Elynn Gans
Karie Rebecca Dietz
Kyle Brandon Rembert
Dimitra Y. Whittington
Marie Kamara
Tiffany Renee Russell
Shannon Lynne Van Gilder
Brooklynn Wilhite
Ali Muhammed
Keteylan Garner
Mateo Brannock
Danny Lee Gruzs
Wanda Louise Lulu Huester
Ashley Paige Tollenger
Daniel Vincent Staib
Patrick Michael Butler
Stanley Jermone Schisler
Michael Rosario Creteila

Heaven Days

Shawn Michael Fischer
Anthony Sorrentino
Jewel Donte Thomas
Daniel Frederick Reed
Sarah Marie Stebbins
Nicole Harlow
Julio Speedy Gonzalez, II
Chester Kirk Drew, Jr.
Anthony Brannock
Ian Brannock

Mackenzie Helen Caudell
Rebecca Hild Caudell
Taavon L. Brown
Connor Elliott King
Daniel Anderson Bowling
Angela Cheek-Barnett
Alan Scott Greenbaum
Amy Marie Adams
Genevieve Wilson
Mateo Brannock
Angela Lyonna Amaya Jones
Yves Hugo Cubillos
David Culbertson
Reece Taylor Stevens
Jesse Hollen Elkins
Matthew John Payne

June

Birthdays

Alex (Peanut) Wine
Corey Alexander Springmann
Sherry Latrece Montgomery
Brittany Leigh Ey
Ashlie Lynn French
Robert Anthony Jones
Daniel Carl Torsch
Meghan Ann Murphy
Tyler Hamrick
Christopher William Diehl
David Michael Kappes
Rachael Marie Wade
James R. Cullum
Anna Marie Stickel
Kelsey Elaine Brown
Daniel James Russell, Jr.
Chip Carroll Wyrde
Rowan Grace Maisey-Brownfield
Larry Schultz, III
Paul J. Schmitt
Heather Anderson
Christopher Black
DJ Knight
Jacob Edward Ramos-Grey
Matthew Sam Young
James Walter Babcock

Heaven Days

Justin Thompson
Kelly Kraft
Erik Vincent Summers
Tracy Renee Wood
Mark Christian Gardner
John Ohmann, III
Joshua Matthew Eisner
Kelly Murphy
Jerry Cooper, Jr.
Jennifer Nicole Schissler
Zakary Aaron Osiris DeGross
David J. Houck

Tyler Hamrick
Wayne Granger
John Christopher Adams
James R. Cullum
Michael Orien Colotti
Daniel James Russell, Jr.
Nelson Yargar, III
Emily Ann Higgins
Benjamin Thomas Huxtable
Steven Gregory Radford
Kayla Anna Boone
Stephen John Schultz, III
James Theodore Smith
Stephen J. Schultz
Aubrey Christina Wiseman
Daniel Vincent Staib
Jamshid Ghannad
Robert Anthony Jones
Taylor McKenley

July

Birthdays

Eric Thalwitzer
Andrew Thomas Russell
Casey Robert Leavitt
Megan Richardson
Mark Christian Gardner
Raquan Demetrius Ali Campbell
Travis Anthony Jenkins
Chase Smith
Corinne Palo Ferguson
Brearah Karli Stevens
Wayne Granger
Amanda Kay Arnold
Amelia Gresham
Sunshine Marie Royston
Phillip Holmes
Joe Harlee
Hope Lorden
Marcel Mitchell
Stephen John Schultz, III
Wyatt Duff
Aiden Joseph Johns
Stephen J. Schultz
Jonah Alexander Respass
Jesse Hollen Elkins
Rachel Lynn Orr
Trenton B. Reightler
Chamara Ashby

Heaven Days

Deborah Castro
Casey Robert Leavitt
Corey Alexander Springmann
Jack Levee
Irina Goslin
Julius McGee
Robert Lee Johnson
Marcie Elizabeth Warch

Ashlyn Marie Sutherland
Kallie Lynn Esquer
Julie Ann Webster
Jason Robert Kuzniarski
Joseph Miranda
Amelia Gresham
Michael Cipres
Stephanie Sanzone
Andrew Alton Dowley
Hope Lorden
David L. Murphy
Amelia Panuska
Brooklynn Wilhite
Ali Muhammed
Wyatt Duff
Keteylan Garner
Jose Luis Perez, II
DJ Knight
Aiden Joseph Johns
Jacob Edward Ramos-Grey
Tiffani Rose Wiberg
Jason D. Verfaillie

August

Birthdays

Andy Dorsey
Brad Wisniewski
Madison Summer Lynn Corcoran-Narup
Jerry Cooper, Jr.
Zakary Aaron Osiris DeGross
Emily Elizabeth Blische
Anna Treseder Bettenhausen
Alex Elste
Julio Speedy Gonzalez, II
Robin Tonette Thomas
Michael Leo Swift, III
Rebecca Hild Caudell
Jason Robert Kuzniarski
Vicki Gail Sears-Hube
Emily Ann Higgins
Elisa Michelle Guibas
Kareem Kelly Guest
Brandon Zoch
Michael-John Ludwig Heick
Jessica Stallings
Megan Ann Estey

Heaven Days

John Bernard Keller II
William Warren Pease, Jr.
Katie Henninger
Alex (Peanut) Wine
Elizabeth Conway Nass
James William Day
Ellagrace Ann Garrison
Eric Montgomery
Eric Nolan Ramey
Brendan James Truffer
Anna Treseder Bettenhausen

Alex Elste
Carl Edward Palo
Sarah Alexandria Hinton
Nathan Krasnopoler
Lillian Naomi Johnson
Rachael Marie Wade
Lawrence Dunmore, IV
Nickolas Benjamin Pippen
Jordon Proulx
Shannon Lynne Van Gilder
Heather Anderson
Jeffrey Alston
Michael-John Ludwig Heick
Karlee Marie Andrews
Wanda Louise Lulu Huester
Ashley Paige Tollenger
Marc Rory Goldberg
Carmen Odessa Dixon
Jessica Stallings

The Dying Child

By John Clare, 1793–1864

He could not die when trees were green,
For he loved the time too well.
His little hands, when flowers were seen,
Were held for the bluebell,
As he was carried o'er the green.

His eye glanced at the white-nosed bee;
He knew those children of the spring:
When he was well and on the lea
He held one in his hands to sing,
Which filled his heart with glee.

Infants, the children of the spring!
How can an infant die
When butterflies are on the wing,
Green grass, and such a sky?
How can they die at spring?

He held his hands for daisies white,
And then for violets blue,
And took them all to bed at night
That in the green fields grew,
As childhood's sweet delight.

And then he shut his little eyes,
And flowers would notice not;
Birds' nests and eggs caused no surprise,
He now no blossoms got;
They met with plaintive sighs.

When winter came and blasts did sigh,
And bare were plain and tree,
As he for ease in bed did lie
His soul seemed with the free,
He died so quietly.

**Please send all newsletter
submissions and correspondence to:
newsletter@BaltimoreTCF.com**

Donation and Membership Update

The Greater Baltimore Chapter of The Compassionate Friends

Dear Friends,

*Please consider making a contribution to The Greater Baltimore Chapter of Compassionate Friends. Our newsletter, phone line, website, outreach efforts and monthly sharing meetings are made possible by your generosity. TCF is a non-profit organization and **your donations are tax-deductible**. More importantly, they are vital to the continued operation of your group. All contributions received prior to December 1 will be recognized in Loving Memory of your child or children in our Candle Lighting program. If you choose to make a donation, please include the completed form below. Please help in whatever way you can. We are deeply grateful for your kindness. If you prefer to not make a donation, please fill out the rest of this form so we can update our contact information. This will assist us in keeping you updated on our Chapter events and activities. Please return this form no later than December 7, 2014.*

Yes, I wish to support the work of The Greater Baltimore Chapter of The Compassionate Friends and help grieving parents and their families by contributing the donation below:

_____ \$5 _____ \$10 _____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$250 _____ Other

Thank you for your love gift. May your holiday be full of warm and beautiful memories, as you make new memories this season.

In Loving Memory of: _____

MAIL TO: **The Greater Baltimore Chapter of TCF**
P.O. Box 2103
Ellicott City, MD 21041-2103