



The Compassionate Friends

Santa Clarita Valley Chapter

Supporting Family After a Child Dies

February 2017

Volume XVIII No. 2



THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS is a self-help, nonprofit organization offering friendship, understanding and hope to families grieving the death of a child of any age, from any cause. When a child dies, at any age, the family suffers intense pain and may feel hopeless and isolated. The Compassionate Friends provides highly personal comfort, hope, support to every family experiencing the death of a son or daughter, a brother or a sister, or a grandchild, and helps others better assist the grieving family. The butterfly signifies a new life for our lost children and a different life for ourselves. It is a symbol of hope, rebirth, and regeneration and beauty.

THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS, INC.

P.O. Box 3696
Oak Brook, IL 60522-3696
Toll Free (877) 969-0010 *Fax (630) 990-0246
Email: nationaloffice@compassionatefriends.org
website: www.compassionatefriends.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/TCFUSA
Regional Coordinator: Olivia Garcia 818-212-3506

THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS OF SANTA CLARITA VALLEY

Mailing Address: 27949 Park Meadow Dr.,
Santa Clarita, CA 91387
E-mail TCF.SCV@gmail.com
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/
TheCompassionateFriendsofSantaClaritaCA](http://www.facebook.com/TheCompassionateFriendsofSantaClaritaCA)
website: www.compassionatefriends-scv.org

MEETINGS

We have one meeting a month. They are usually held on the 1st Thursday of each month.

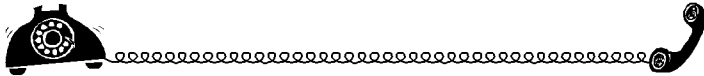
Our next meeting will be **February 2, 2017**.
We will be making a "Box of Love & Memories"

TIME: **7:00 P.M.**

MEETING: **Fellowship Christian Church**

PLACE **26889 Bouquet Canyon Rd., Ste. C,
Saugus, CA 91350**

(Take the side street next to the Goodwill store and make a left behind the store, church is located in that building, entry to the church is the double glass doors)



**FOR INFORMATION OR FOR A LOVING LISTENER,
PLEASE CALL:**

Diane Briones (Leader) 661-252-4654
Alice Renolds (Co-Leader & Editor) 661-252-4374
Carol Costin (Treasurer) 661-670-0395
Linda Stout (Remembrance Secretary) 661-202-8638



Dark Day

On a very dark day in winter:

when your eyes have forgotten
the color of apple trees...

On a very dark day in winter,
count the days until spring.

On a very dark day in winter
when your mind can't remember
the color of memories..

On a very dark day in winter,
reach for the healing kindness
of time.

~Sascha Wagner

From the Book "For You From Sascha"

*Life turns out best
for those who make the best
of the way life turns out.*

~Art Linkletter

A father of two children who died





S.W.A.K.
(Sealed With A Kiss)

Valentine's Day

Remember how we used to write to those we loved
the best?
Our letters we would fill with hopes and dreams and
seal them with a kiss.

To you our child, we write today – and wish we could
impart,
The hopes and dreams that once we had, now crush
our breaking hearts.

The thoughts of what we had planned for you float
through our wishful minds,
Then burst like bubbles in the air, while dreams
explode with time.

And yet we still have hope and still dream on, and
think of all we'll miss,
And wish with all our hearts we could write to you,
and seal it with a kiss.

The grief we have for you is like a weight upon our
 chests, There's no way we can ignore it – it never gives
 us rest.

And no words could ever tell of our longings to
express, to write a love letter to you, our child,
and to seal it with a kiss.

And if we had but one chance more to write to you
today, The words would come with no regrets and
we'd like for them to say...

"To love and to be loved by you, our child...an honor
and so blessed,
Our time on earth cut short, it's true...But We Sealed it
With a Kiss."

*~Faye McCord,
TCF Co-Chapter Leader, Jackson, MS*

*Time does not really heal a broken
heart,
It only teaches a person how to
live with it.*

~Author unknown

This Month of February, I Wish You Love



This is the month that a whole day is dedicated to love.
In our sorrow, let us not forget that one emotion which,
above all else, can comfort and console us.

Let us think of the things we love-

1. Our child-whom we love-still love-and always will love-here in our hearts as long as we live.
2. Our families-hurting like us-lonely-needing each other-needing us.
3. Our true friends-listening-trying to help-wanting to lighten our load, but not knowing how-not always understanding, but there.
4. Our memories-of wonderful times gone by-some that make us laugh-some that make us cry-but all part of the fabric of our lives and of our love for each other.
5. Our quiet times-to get away by ourselves and think-to read-to note again the world around us-to let peace enter.
6. Our Compassionate Friends-who are there-who know-who understand when others do not.

"Love makes the world go round" and when our world comes to a sudden, grinding, heart-shattering stop, love is the glue that keeps us from falling off.

*~Fran MacArthur,
TCF, Southern MD*

Chapter News

Meeting Topics & Info

February 2 - "Make a Box of Love & Memories"

March 2—"Ask It Basket"

"Make a Box of Love & Memories"



Please join us at our February meeting to decorate and fill your very own box of Love and Memories. If you do not wish to participate, the back room will be available for sharing.

Thank You!

Thank you for your generosity! Due to the amount of luminaries that were purchased this year for our Candle Light Ceremony and several large donations we were able to pay for the fees of another three years to continue our website. This is an important outreach tool to hopefully reach more bereaved parents to help find us and to support our existing members as well. We also paid for another year of online design software for our button machine. So, thank you again for all your kindness it is very much appreciated!!

Facebook Groups



Be sure to "LIKE" our Santa Clarita Chapter's very own Facebook page, at www.facebook.com/TheCompassionateFriendsSantaClaritaCA. Announcements, special quotes and informative links are some of things you will find posted on our page. You are also welcome to leave a message about your grief or talk about your child, sibling or grandchild. Or share an insight about anything that has brought you comfort, hope or some measure of peace. On our page, we also remember your precious children on their birthdays.

You also might be interested in one of the several special closed group pages that the National TCF has. Please check for a complete listing of those groups on their website, located at www.compassionatefriends.org.

Welcome New Members



Attending your first meeting takes courage and it is always hard to say "welcome" because we are so very sorry for the reason which made you eligible for our membership in TCF. However, we are glad you found us! We cannot take away your pain but we can offer our friendship and support. Do try and to attend at least 3 meetings so you have a chance to meet others who are bereaved and discover that special acceptance that occurs with new friends who truly understand.

New to our chapter are:

Scott & Jade Colley, parents of Nicholas

Susan Fitch, mother of Adam

Karen Lowery, mother of Sarah

Forgive Unto Forever

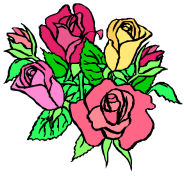
Grieving is a fierce and overwhelming expression of love thrust upon us by a deep and hurtful loss. Yet, grieving is frequently such an entanglement of feelings that we often fail to recognize that ultimately forgiveness must be an integral part of our grief and our healing. For what is love, if forgiveness is silent within us? We learn to forgive our children for dying, ourselves for not preventing it. We begin to forgive our God or the fate we see ruling our universe. We start to forgive relatives and friends for abandoning us in their own bewilderment over the onslaught of emotions they sense in our words and behavior.

I believe we must be open to the balm of forgiveness. Through its expression in our lives, be it through thought, word, or deed, we find small ways to seek life once more. Deep within us, forgiveness is capable of treading the wasteland of our souls to help us feel again the love that has not died.

It is the beginning of release from the dominance of pain, not from the continual hurt of missing those we have lost, but from lacking the fullness of the love we shared with our child. That love lives with strength inside ourselves and yet our beings are so entrapped in a whirling vortex of anger, despair, frustration, abandonment, and depression that we often feel it only lightly.

Let us all heed the quiet message heard so softly in that maelstrom of the spirit. Forgive, forgive, and forgive unto forever. Let love enfold our anguish, helping us to learn to grow and strive beyond this hour to a rich tomorrow.

Don Hackett
TCF Hingham, MA



A Dozen Roses

If I had a dozen roses I know just what I'd do
I'd give each one a name that reminded me of you

The first rose I'd name sunshine cause you brighten
everyday

The second would be beauty the kind that never goes
away

The third one would be priceless like those hugs you
gave to me

I'd name the fourth rose silly oh how funny you could
be

Rose five of course is patience something you have
helped me find

The sixth rose I'd call memories the precious gift you left
behind

The seventh and the eight rose would for sure be faith
and grace

Nine would be unique because no one can take your
place

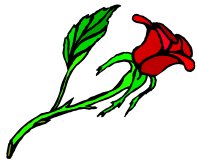
The tenth rose well that's easy I'd simply name it love

Eleven I'd call angel I know you're watching from above

I'd think about that twelfth rose and I'd really take my
time

After all these roses are for you my Valentine
I'm sending them to heaven in every color that I know

So number twelve I'll name forever that's how long I'll
love you so



*~Alan Pedersen
songwrtr@comcast.net
Executive Director of
The Compassionate Friends*

February



When February comes there is finally an end
in sight to the long winter. Sometimes melting snow
reveals the green tips of an early crocus or even an
exquisite blossom itself, a soft flower of hope invading
a harsh landscape of graying snow, 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 days and
months dragged on, my heart finally learned once
again to be open to the promise of new life. Painful
forever dormant once again sprang forth from my
heart. In living, hopefully and lovingly the seasons of
the heart can change. The living memories of your
special child, like the flower in the snow, can be the
beginning of the end of winter.

*~Morgan Kramer
TCF, Arlington Heights, IL*

Love

A million times we've missed you,
a million times we've cried.
If love could have saved you,
you never would have died.
Things we feel most deeply
are the hardest things to say.

Our deepest one,
we have loved you
in a very special way.

~Author Unknown



Love Gifts



Were Received From:

Tom & Alice Renolds

In Loving Memory of their sons:



**Danny Richard
Renolds**
6/22 – 2/17



**Timothy Lee
Renolds**
3/17 - 2/17

Unspoken Farewells

Farewell words were never spoken,
No time to say goodbyes,
You left us before we knew it,
And the pain of your absence is unbearable.
You were so loved by those you knew,
One day we'll rejoice and know renewed joy,
When we're once again with you,

~Sandra Hemstock

We love and miss you every minute of every day,
forever in our hearts,
Love Mom & Dad

Linda Stout

In Loving Memory of her daughter:

Reese Marleen Stout

4/30 – 2/10



Until We Meet Again

Each morning when we awake
we know that you are gone.
And no one knows the heartache
As we try to carry on.

Our hearts still ache with sadness
and many tears still flow.
What it meant to lose you,
No one will ever know.

Our thoughts are always with you,
your place no one can fill.
In life we loved you dearly,
In death we love you still.

There will always be a heartache,
and often a silent tear,
But always a precious memory
Of the days when you were here.

If tears could make a staircase,
And heartaches make a lane,
We'd walk the path to heaven
And bring you home again.

We hold you close within our hearts,
And there you will remain,
To walk with us throughout our lives
Until we meet again.

Our family chain is broken now,
And nothing will be the same,
But as God calls us one by one,
The chain will link again.



"Forever In Our Hearts"



Our Children/Siblings/Grandchildren Remembered



February 2017

<u>Name</u>	<u>Birth Date</u>	<u>Angel Date</u>	<u>Relationship</u>
<i>Daniel Richard Reynolds</i>	6/22	2/17	<i>Son of Tom & Alice Reynolds Brother of Scott</i>
<i>Timothy Lee Reynolds</i>	3/17	2/17	<i>Son of Tom & Alice Reynolds Brother of Scott</i>
<i>Walter Arnoldo Rodriguez</i>	4/25	2/3	<i>Son of Hugo & Carole Rodriguez Brother of Ivan, Nora & Enrique</i>
<i>Sammy Joseph Thomas</i>	2/1	4/10	<i>Grandson of Dave & Kay Thomas</i>
<i>William Lemke, Jr.</i>	2/12	12/18	<i>Son of Marilyn Lemke Brother of Tony</i>
<i>Jeanene Sykes</i>	3/2	2/5	<i>Daughter of Ted Sykes</i>
<i>Megan Jean Burton</i>	2/5	1/17	<i>Daughter of Terry & Jennifer Burton Sister of Sarah, Granddaughter of Susan Green</i>
<i>Santos Artura Aguilar, Jr.</i>	5/12	2/15	<i>Son of Santos & Carol Aguilar Brother of Alan, Alaina, Salina</i>
<i>Edward Evans</i>	2/28	1/2	<i>Son of Edward & Barbara Evans Brother of Jennifer</i>
<i>Brent Clarke</i>	2/23	11/1	<i>Son of Sue Clarke Brother of Brandie</i>
<i>Nigel Peddie</i>	1/19	2/1	<i>Son of Bruce Peddie Brother of Cole</i>
<i>Reese Stout</i>	4/30	2/10	<i>Daughter of Linda Stout Sister of Reno</i>
<i>Joseph</i>	2/2	8/5	<i>Son of Raneem Nafeh</i>
<i>Mason Kennedy Daigle</i>	2/12	2/23	<i>Son of Kevin & Victoria Daigle Brother of Kinley</i>

If, in remembering our children, there are any errors or omissions, we are truly sorry! Please let us know of any corrections or additions as soon as possible so they may be incorporated into the database.