



**THE
COMPASSIONATE
FRIENDS
of Green Bay**
Supporting Family After a Child Dies

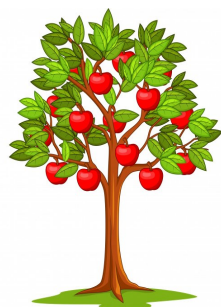
A Quarterly Newsletter

by and for Bereaved Parents

JULY/AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2020

Our Mission Statement:

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, and support to every family experiencing the death of a son or a daughter, a brother or a sister, or a grandchild, and helps others better assist the grieving family.



3 Months Later and the “New Normal”

It seems like I was just writing this article the other day and here we are 3 months later. A lot has happened and changed since March/April and our last newsletter. The Safe at Home Order was overturned by the State Supreme Court. Things are slowly beginning to open up but there are still restrictions in place at certain businesses. Facemasks, social distancing are new words and phrases that we are hearing daily. One statement that strikes me is everyone discussing the “New Normal” as we move forward. For us, we are well aware of the “New Normal” since the passing of our children. Our “New Normal” is living our lives without our loved ones. Many of us are just starting our New Normal and for others it has been years of living the New Normal.

It looks like we might be able to resume our meeting at the church beginning in July. We are awaiting word on what the limitations will be for those meetings. It is possible that meetings might be limited to 10 persons. If we have more than that, we will be looking at splitting the meeting into 2 groups, with Mickey leading one and I will lead the other. We do know that we will have to wear masks and absolutely no food or drinks can be brought into the church. If you bring something you will have to leave it in your car or you will not be allowed inside. This will also impact our social after the meeting, plus we will be required to wipe down the meeting area after we have finished.

The National Conference will be a virtual conference from July 31st to August 2nd. The cost will be \$65 per person and will be on a Zoom platform with online registration. We will email out the registration link once it becomes available.

In Peaceful Sadness, Melissa and Emily’s Mom and Dad
Mickey and Steve

The Green Bay Chapter of The Compassionate Friends

meets the third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.
at First United Methodist Church, 501 Howe Street, Green Bay.
(Enter the parking lot off Monroe at Doty)

For further information contact:

Main Number: 920-370-3858

Sue DeLong, Remembering our Children

Terry Knoke, Webmaster/Facebook

Peg Le Roy, Programs

Mickey Schmeisser, Chapter Leader/Newsletter Editor

Steve Schmeisser, Treasurer

Sue Van Straten, Remembering our Children

Carol Wautlet, Resource Coordinator

E-mail: info@compassionatefriendsgb.org

Website: <http://compassionatefriendsgb.org>

Monthly Support Group

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 6 p.m.

Utilizing Internet Grief Support Resources

Tuesday, August 18, 2020 6 p.m.

Share and Remember

Tuesday, September 15, 2020 6 p.m.

Creating a Legacy in your Child’s Memory



Loss of an Infant . . .

Pregnancy and Infant Loss

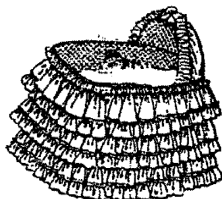
In our society we avoid talking about death. The death of a baby is even more hidden because it so violates our expectations. A difficult challenge for many of us is society's refusal to acknowledge that the loss of an unborn or newly born child is the loss of a unique individual. The fact that our babies were in the womb or in our arms for such a little while adds to the pain and isolation of losing a child.

However or whenever it occurs, a baby's death is a profound loss, and one of the most painful and traumatic experiences a parent will confront in a lifetime. Our attachment can begin before conception. When we lose a child, our hopes and dreams for the child have already become a part of our life. The loss of a child, regardless of gestational age, is a loss of part of our future.

Memories, so important for the bereaved, allow us to experience a more gradual goodbye. When a child dies before or shortly after birth, we have precious few memories. Our child is gone and we have very little evidence that he or she ever really existed. This abrupt hello – goodbye relationship makes grieving very complex and painful.

Unfortunately, many friends and relatives do not recognize the depth of the loss of an unborn or newly born child. Because so few people actually knew our child, our grief may be even more isolating. Although nothing can take away the pain, it may be helpful to know what others have experienced or found comforting as they struggled to deal with the intense grief that followed their child's death. May we reach out and comfort one another on this journey.

*TCF, Vedugo Hills, lovingly lifted
from Livonia, MI TCF newsletter*



Memorial on a Brief Life

For eight months he grew inside me.
His heart beat; his legs kicked;
His arms moved.
Then one day it stopped.

Hardly a human lifespan,
Yet an eon of remembered fact: Of
anticipation. Of what our baby
would be like.

Of a crib filled with love and happiness.
Of a tiny baby we would carefully watch grow.

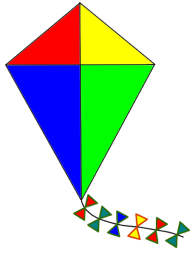
For eight months he grew inside me . . .
Long enough to have memory forever remind
me that I never saw him,
Never held him, never felt his softness,
Never counted his toes,
Never knew the color of his eyes.

Long enough to tell me and retell me of the
Death-paled hands not quite covered by the
gown he never got to wear home;
Of all the stuffed animals he never got to cuddle;
Of a small casket;
The smell of moist earth, and tears.

In my hand I hold an obituary,
A statistical report,
A map to the cemetery lot where he was buried.
A picture of his casket . . .
Souvenirs.
We are all sorry,
We know how you feel, they say.
Thanks, but you can't know,
For I don't feel . . . not yet.

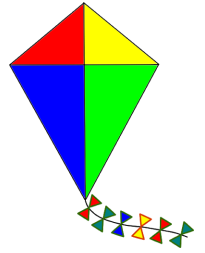
It all went so fast – love – anticipation
Where has it all gone?

Mary Eggen, TCF, Central Coast Chapter, CA



Flying a Kite

Daniel Max Rausch
New Haven, CT
In Memory of my son, Max Benjamin Rausch



I have been a kite flyer for a long time. What joy it brought me when I was a child. I remember going up on the high, flat roof of my father's machine shop in the city of New Haven and sending my kits aloft from that rooftop. I felt excitement and wonder as I watched my kite dance among the white clouds and the blue, blue sky. Kites are fun.

Later, as I grew to adulthood, I still had fun with kites, but my kite flying became more contemplative, relaxing and therapeutic for me—a peaceful leisure time activity, much like fishing is to the fisherman.

Kites are such curious toys. Often they are flown as symbols of great events or flown as flags of our emotions—and rightly so—because we put so much of ourselves into the flying of our kites.

In Japan, a kite is flown from the house in which there is a newborn, and the child's name is on the kite, flying over the household and announcing the happy birth. In Bermuda, school children fly kites on Good Friday, not only for fun, but as a tradition to commemorate the death of Jesus Christ. The sticks of the kites resemble a cross. I believe that kites are also wonderful symbols of resurrection, ascension, and eternal life.

Now I am a bereaved father. My son, Max Benjamin Rausch, died two years ago in May when he was fifteen and one half months old. I never flew kites with Max. Born in January, he was much too young to participate in kite flying during his first spring, and in his second spring he died. Immediately after Max's funeral I fled to Cape Cod with my wife, Katherine. I was in shock and rage, clutched by a deep, numbing sadness. "Why should Max have to get sick and give up life?" I howled at the heavens. I remember trying to fly a kite at that time on the Cape, on the beach at Nauset, but it brought me no peace. In fact, the harsh winds broke my kite and my kite fell into the ocean. I reeled my kite in, its wood and plastic body broken and lifeless at my feet, like Max's body on the hospital bed.

Time passes, and God's grace slowly heals. I have not "gotten over" Max's death. I will grieve for Max for the rest of my own life. I now visit Max at the cemetery, then I go to a beach and fly a kite for him. And I feel a deep satisfaction and a great sense of release and peace now when I fly a kite for Max, for with my kite ascend all my sorrow, all my joy, all my anger, all my prayers, and all my love.



The Gift of Someone who Listens

Nancy Myerholtz
TCF Waterville/Toledo, OH



Those of us who have traveled a while
Along this path called grief
Need to stop and remember that mile,
That first mile of no relief.
It wasn't the person with answers
Who told us of ways to deal.
It wasn't the one who talked and talked
That helped us start to heal.
Think of the friends who quietly sat

And held our hands in theirs.
The ones who let us talk and talk
And hugged away our tears.
We need to always remember
That more than the words we speak,
It's the gift of someone who listens
That most of us desperately seek.

Remembering our Children

During the three months that each newsletter covers, we include your child's birthday and the anniversary of your child's death — if we know those dates. Based upon TCF National policy, we will not print the year of your child's birth or death.

BIRTHDAYS

Kristin Metsa (daughter of Bethany Metsa)	7/1	Luke Watzka (son of Rita & Marty Watzka)	8/17
Patrick Wilkinson (son of Alfred & Isabelle Wilkinson)	7/5	Doug Cole (son of Don & Karol Cole)	8/19
Madeline Wotachek (daughter of Brandon & Michelle Wotachek)	7/5	Wendy Jacques (daughter of Sally Martin)	8/19
Megan Short (daughter of Norb & Mary Short)	7/6	Cooper Schroeder (son of Georgia Schroeder)	8/20
Riviera Konen (daughter of Jennifer Konen)	7/9	Dalon Calkins (son of Kate Calkins)	8/21
Eric Schalow (son of Lorrie Shafer)	7/12	Lily Froelich (daughter of Tony & Stephanie Froelich)	8/23
Austin Reeck (son of Ann Rieckmann)	7/13	Gabriela Jacques (granddaughter of Pat Wojcik)	8/23
Gary Glebke (son of Joyce Glebke)	7/19	Bruce T Blaser Jr (son of Bruce & Paige Blaser)	8/24
Bryan VanderKelen (son of Bob & Debi Lepak)	7/19	Robby Rohr (son of Carol Wautlet)	8/25
Shane Lardinois Malliet (son of Debbie Lardinois)	7/19	Kymberly Koskiniem (daughter of Trudie Koskiniem)	8/26
Evan DeWan (son of Matthew & Christine DeWan)	7/20	Andrew Steiner (son of Nicole Steiner)	8/28
Ella Smetana (daughter of Frank Smetana)	7/22	Jessica Hoffman (daughter of Jodi Hoffman)	8/29
Eloise "Ella" Kasprzak (daughter of Eddie & Kimberly Kasprzak)	7/22	Nicholas Resch (son of Lynn & Steve Marcks)	8/30
Jason Ziemann (son of Diane Strick)	7/22	Timothy Metoxen (son of Florence Petri)	8/30
Heather Sigl (daughter of Greg & Joyce Sigl)	7/25	Chad Schaefer (son of David & Miriam Schaefer)	8/31
Eric Rasmussen (son of Karen Rasmussen)	7/26	Stephen DeBroux (son of Matt & Jean DeBroux)	9/1
Joseph Derge (son of Randy & Ann Derge)	7/27	Ross Ambrosius (son of Melissa & Rob Ambrosius)	9/5
Austin Robert Bush (son of Terry & Nan Bush)	7/30	Eric Barlament (son of Jim Barlament & Penny Maraccini)	9/5
Keaton Sirianni (son of Jason & Lindsey Sirianni)	8/2	Adam Schultz (son of Stan & Deb Schultz)	9/5
Jeff Skenadore (son of Jude Skenadore)	8/4	Matthew Kiefer (son of Mary Jo Hempel)	9/8
Sarah Lesperance (daughter of Maria Smith)	8/4	Paige Franklin (granddaughter of Judy & Chuck Dams)	9/9
Makayla Lego (niece of Christine Newtols)	8/5	Danielle Rogan (daughter of Craig & Harriet Robbins)	9/9
Sean Tobin (son of Michael & Rosemary Tobin)	8/7	Brett Erickson (son of Christa Erickson)	9/11
C. Lynn Calder (step-daughter of Phyllis Calder)	8/9	Jenah VanGroll (daughter of James & JoAnn VanGroll)	9/11
Ken Johnson (son of Kathy Johnson)	8/11	Wendy Johnson (daughter of Tom & Debbie Johnson)	9/12
Tara Pfaller (daughter of Sally Winger)	8/12	Todd Inman (son of Kathie Inman)	9/12
Grant Lardo (son of Jenny & Tim Cornell)	8/15	Mike Wos (son of George & Jane Wos)	9/12

Megan Mae Vincent (daughter of Mark & Connie Rissling)	9/13	Andy Bell (son of Patrick & Debbie Bell)	9/24
Jackson Rukamp (son of Bob & Missy Rukamp)	9/13	George Stoneburner (son of Judy & Chuck Dams)	9/24
Melissa Schmeisser (daughter of Steve & Mickey Schmeisser)	9/14	Troy Tousey (son of Tim & Vicki Tousey)	9/24
Craig Jacobs (son of John & Cathy Jacobs)	9/16	Kendyn Blaser (grandson of Mark & Kari Blaser)	9/25
Susan Nickel (daughter of Mike & Judy Parins)	9/18	Amaris Soletski (daughter of Amy Soletski)	9/26
Troy Jacques (son of Sally Martin)	9/19	Aaron Lison (son of Adele Coopmans)	9/28
Jessica VanStraten (daughter of Sue VanStraten & Randy Merryfield)	9/22		
Greg Corbeill (son of Sylvia & Richard Corbeill)	9/22		

ANNIVERSARIES

Donna Prilepp (daughter of Angeline Bocker)	7/2	Lucas Shallow (son of Robert Shallow)	7/20
Chase Lasecki (son of Steven & Linda Lasecki)	7/2	Jeff McCorison (son of Bonnie McCorison)	7/20
Megan Short (daughter of Norb & Mary Short)	7/3	Susan Nickel (daughter of Mike & Judy Parins)	7/21
David Jacob Schlinz (son of Dan & Brenda Schlinz)	7/4	Steven L Vosters (son of Patti & Marvin Vosters)	7/21
Sarah Schmitt (daughter of Claire Faville)	7/4	Megan Mae Vincent (daughter of Mark & Connie Rissling)	7/24
Jillian Faymonville (daughter of Louise Faymonville)	7/5	Heather Sigl (daughter of Greg & Joyce Sigl)	7/25
Dane Cole (son of Don & Karol Cole)	7/5	Eloise "Ella" Kasprzak (daughter of Eddie & Kimberly Kasprzak)	7/27
Grant Lardo (son of Jenny & Tim Cornell)	7/7	Greg Corbeill (son of Sylvia & Richard Corbeill)	7/29
Lily Froelich (daughter of Tony & Stephanie Froelich)	7/7	Travis Stelzer (son of Don & Pam Stelzer)	7/29
Jennifer Kazik (daughter of Cheryl Kazik)	7/7	Amber Mastey (daughter of Brett & Amanda Mastey)	8/1
Van Jarchow (son of Mike & Dixie Jarchow)	7/7	Justin Plate (son of Mark & Grace Plate)	8/2
Sam Compton (son of Mark Compton, and Todd & Sandra Scheffen)	7/8	Alison Johnson (daughter of Lon & Carolyn Johnson)	8/2
Kevin Kazik (son of Charlie Kazik & Sally Kazik)	7/11	Barbara Van Boxel (daughter of Angeline Bocker)	8/3
Tyffany Stevens (daughter of Lynn Pigeon)	7/11	Eric Rasmussen (son of Karen Rasmussen)	8/5
Sharon McDaniel (daughter of Jean LaHue)	7/14	Stephen Charneski (son of James and Roberta Charneski)	8/6
Cody Strauss (son of Debbie Strauss)	7/15	Austin Lindberg (son of Todd & Sandy Lindberg)	8/7
Patrick Wilkinson (son of Alfred & Isabelle Wilkinson)	7/16	Anne Johanski (daughter of Judy & Bob Johanski)	8/7
Debi Schultz (daughter of Barbara Fitzpatrick)	7/19	Brett Erickson (son of Christa Erickson)	8/8
Roberta Glebke (daughter of Joyce Glebke)	7/20	Brian LaViolette (son of Doug & Renee LaViolette)	8/8

Luke Stempa (son of Gerri & Steve Stempa)	8/8	Prisha Janice Laabs (daughter of David & Shamla Laabs)	8/31
Brett Jon Wery (son of Steve & Lonni Wery)	8/9	Jackson Rukamp (son of Bob & Missy Rukamp)	8/31
Megan Dillon (daughter of Mike Dillon & step daughter of Tina Baker)	8/9	Keaton Sirianni (son of Jason & Lindsey Sirianni)	8/31
Jessica Andringa (step daughter of Mike Dillon)	8/9	Evan DeWan (son of Matthew & Christine DeWan)	9/1
Jeremy DeMille (son of Marysue Gerondale)	8/11	Colton Steinhorst (son of Tara Steinhorst)	9/3
Samantha LaCount (daughter of Dale & Linda LaCount)	8/14	Kristin Metsa (daughter of Bethany Metsa)	9/7
Mike Vos (son of George & Jane Vos)	8/14	LaSean Jones (son of Kelley Younk)	9/8
Lola Doepke (daughter of Jean Kolstad)	8/16	Josh Kimes (son of Susan Kimes)	9/8
Maria Cambray (daughter of Jack & Gerry Cambray)	8/16	Tara Pfaller (daughter of Sally Winger)	9/9
Nick Baugnet (son of DeeDee & Joan Baugnet)	8/17	Jason Vogels (son of Pam Vogels)	9/10
Lane Harris (son of Susan Harris)	8/17	Katie McClary (daughter of Meagan McClary)	9/11
Ben Delain (son of Peter & Becky Delain)	8/18	Eric Schalow (son of Lorrie Shafer)	9/11
Molly Klika Zarnoth (daughter of Bob & Barb Klika)	8/18	Corey Jonet (son of Lisa & Dan Jonet)	9/11
Jimmy Wanner Jr. (son of Pam & Keith Blondeim)	8/20	Jack Natzke (son of Jason & Renee Natzke)	9/15
Andrea Eve Wirth (daughter of Thomas & Angela)	8/21	Austin Robert Bush (son of Terry & Nan Bush)	9/17
Kelley Calkins (son of Kate Calkins)	8/21	Matthew Skenadore (son of Jude Skenadore)	9/21
Jessica VanStraten (daughter of Sue VanStraten & Randy Merryfield)	8/22	Cam Wendt (son of Lon Wendt)	9/22
Greg Lindbloom (son of Ginger Lindbloom)	8/22	Laura Greiling (daughter of Bob & Lynn Greiling)	9/24
Kali Pfaller (daughter of Sally Winger)	8/25	Craig St. John (son of Debra St. John)	9/25
Jessica Hoffman (daughter of Jodi Hoffman)	8/26	Stephanie Corbeill (daughter of Sylvia & Richard Corbeill)	9/27
Kymerly Koskiniem (daughter of Trudie Koskiniem)	8/26	Troy Milan (son of Pam Milan)	9/28
Sarah Lesperance (daughter of Maria Smith)	8/28	Nick Hietpas (son of Bruce & Diane Hietpas)	9/30
Isaiah Ebben (son of Tim Ebben)	8/30		
Tammie Gustman (daughter of Victoria Fifield and Marvin Gustman)	8/31		

Where there is great love there are always miracles.

~Willa Cather

ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENTS, & MISC.

Calendar of Events 2020:

July 21: Utilizing Internet Grief Support Resources
July 31: TCF's Virtual Conference
August 18: Share and Remember
September 15: Creating a Legacy in your Child's Memory
September 26: October Fest, Appleton, WI
Cancelled due to the Corona Virus
December 13: Worldwide Candle Lighting

Please Visit Our Sites At:

E-mail: info@compassionatefriendsgb.org
Website: <http://compassionatefriendsgb.org>

All sorts of goodies are included:

- *Past Newsletters
- *Calendar of Events
- *Articles
- *Online Donations

TCF's First Virtual Conference

Save the date: Friday, July 31st, to Sunday, August 2nd.
The conference will take place on a Zoom platform with an online registration system.
Training and orientation will be offered prior to the conference for attendees who may need some extra technology support.

Missing You

Gretta Viney
TCF Yakima, WA

Angels Among Us

By Jacquelyn M. Comeaux

Our Angels are among us
We see them everyday
In all the forms that God created...
They are with us along life's way.
We see them in the sunrise,
That brightens and warms our soul.
We feel them in the summer breeze
That chases away our cold.
They are there among the flowers...
Their sweet scent a memory of love.
They soar with the eagles,
As they fly so high above.
The night will find them in the stars,
Lighting our path below.
And even in our dreams,
Their presence we'll still know.
As the snow melts with the sun,
And spring flowers peek through their beds,
They come on the wings of butterflies,
And flutter about our heads.
They are telling us they are with us,
And will be forever more...
Until it's time for us to meet again,
As we pass through heaven's door.

I just can't believe it...
The sun still rises and sets,
The moon and stars still shine,
The flowers still bloom, The birds still sing.
I expected a change in everything

I just can't believe it...
It still gets dark and light,
The ocean still has waves,
The rain still rains, The wind still blows,
Is it because they do not know?

I just can't believe it...
I thought the world would stop
When in my house I found
an empty chair, a missing smile
I thought it would stop For just a while.
I just can't believe it...



**THE
COMPASSIONATE
FRIENDS
of Green Bay**
Supporting Family After a Child Dies



PO Box 211
Green Bay, WI 54305

We need not walk alone!

Our monthly
support group
meets next on:

Tuesday,
July 21, 2020
at 6:00 p.m.

at First United
Methodist Church,
off Monroe at Doty.
Call 920-370-3858
for information.



Love gifts were recently given by:

Randy Bergevin, in memory of Ryan Bergevin
Ken and Mary Gehm, in memory of Jared Gehm
Dave and Bobbi Kozloski, in memory of Craig Kozloski
Laura Martens, in memory of Beau Baxter
Mike and Dawn Niefert, in memory of Tayler Niefert
Todd and Sandy Scheffen, in memory of Sam Compton
Barbara Short, in memory of Andy Short