

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

A Quarterly Newsletter by and for Bereaved Parents January/February/March 2021

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.



What a Crazy Year and it is Finally Over!!!!!!

As I sit and write this the morning after our Annual Candle Lighting ceremony, I started thinking what a crazy year this has been for all of us. Today, a Covid-19 vaccine is being distributed and I wonder how effective it will be and when will the entire nation be vaccinated. We survived the fall elections and we will have a new administration in January, 2021. But I wonder what 2021 will hold for all of us after this crazy year of 2020.

We had 23 people at our Candle Lighting ceremony yesterday representing 12 families. We also had 5 families join us on live stream and a big thank you to Joe at the church for doing this for us. Some remarked to Mickey, that it seemed like we were just doing this, so that shows you how fast the year flew by again. This year unfortunately we could not gather afterwards and visit with the folks who do not attend the meetings regularly but just attend the candle lighting ceremony. Everyone wore a facemask and socially distanced as the church had requested we do and I thank them for that. I know our children were watching the ceremony and probably chuckling because they do not have to wear masks or social distance.

On the drive home, I mentioned to Mickey that it is hard to believe our meeting is on Tuesday the 15th of December. Plus it seemed strange to me that besides one family that lost a child in 1963, that Mickey and I were the next longest bereaved family there. This was our 16th candle lighting ceremony. We have gone from just being attendees to now being an integral part of the program. Even after 16 years, I still get teary eyed doing the Welcome and the Opening and Closing. It is especially hard when it comes to the part of lighting the candles and saying, I light this candle for our daughter Melissa who lived for 17 years and her sister Emily who lived for 14 years and who died together on May 15th. Plus it is very hard and sad to see the newly bereaved coming up for their 1st or 2nd time and feeling their pain and sorrow as they struggle to get the words out, knowing that it seems like it was just yesterday that we were in the same situation. Yes, it does get softer as the years go by but it is difficult to tell them that, when their grief is so fresh and intensely painful, like in our Credo. But as we all know that our Credo starts and ends with, We need not walk alone, We are the Compassionate Friends. Here is hoping that you made it through the holidays again and take those small steps forward.

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
Peg Le Roy, Steering Committee
Mickey Schmeisser, Chapter Leader/Newsletter Editor
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Sue Van Straten, Remembering our Children
Carol Wautlet, Resource Coordinator
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Monthly Support Group

Tuesday, January 19, 2021 6 p.m.

Reflections On Christmas

Tuesday, February 16, 2021 6 p.m.

Am I Stuck In My Grief?

Tuesday, March 16, 2021 6 p.m.

Recognizing Signs From Our Loved Ones



THE PATHS TO PEACE

Annette Mennen Baldwin In Memory of my son, Todd Mennen TCF, Katy TX



As bereaved parents, we look to others for answers about our grief journey. For eight years I have listened as so many parents spoke about the combination of factors which brought peace to their hearts and allowed them to move forward into a different, less painful, life. I have read books, watched movies, attended seminars and retreats. I have gone to 93 Compassionate Friends meetings. And I have discovered one key factor in finding peace and resolution on this terrible grief journey: there is no single element or singular combination of elements that answers the needs of more than one parent. Each parent must patiently seek those elements that will enhance the individual and a unique personal journey: there is no magic map to finding the path to peace.

There is one common denominator in this quest for the peace on our long journey, and that is patience. Patience with ourselves is mandatory, because the grief journey after the death of our precious child is so horrible, so painful, and so isolating that our psyches and our bodies take so very much time to begin the healing process. There are setbacks. There is progress. Each of these comes in spurts. Each is partially reversed and the process begins anew

Friends and family do not thoroughly understand our perspective on our unique journey. We must make allowances for them. But we must ask that allowances be made for us. For we are finding ourselves while on a path that we did not choose. We are lost. We are weakened. We are heartbroken. Each of us in our own way is seeking the formula that is uniquely our own.

Some parents find a kind of peace in their religion. Some parents are angry with their God. Many parents seek private counseling. Other parents read prolifically about the grief journey, seeking some element which resonates with them. Many parents come to Compassionate Friends meetings and actively participate. Others attend meetings and say little. Some parents slip into denial and proceed on the old path of their lives. We each make choices. We are different people with different experiences, backgrounds, cultures, genetic hard wiring, education and combination of abilities.

The path to peace is found by searching, by reaching out to every resource available. We will reject much of what we find; but if we search, we will find what we need.

For many of us, finding other bereaved parents presents an opportunity to listen to the stories of their child and their journey and, within those stories, we find many threads that fit our unique journey. Many stories, many journeys, many new threads are shared in group discussion and in private discussions. We find "seasoned" grievers who provide perspective on our feelings, and listen to our story. We find newly bereaved parents who touch our hearts and remind us how we have built our path to peace brick by brick. Their pain brings reflection and new revelations about our own grief journey.

I found kindred souls at Compassionate Friends. These kindred souls have allowed me to explore the various aspects of my being and gradually create a path of peace for myself. But the journey does not suddenly end. We walk this path for the rest of our lives. And if we do the hard work and face our demons early on, we accept the unacceptable and face life on our own terms. And that is as it should be.

Grief never ends....but it changes. It's a passage, not a place to stay. Grief is not a sign of weakness, nor a lack of faith...It is the price of Love.

River Reflections

Emily Moore TCF Los Angeles, CA In Memory of my brother Nat



I just got back from a river rafting trip, where I found myself thinking about my brother a lot. He died 16 months ago of an overdose of morphine. I don't know why it happened; it happened. I didn't see the beginning of his life—he was three years older, but I saw the end. I can look at it now and see it in its entirety—his 33 years of living that I so much counted on and expected to last another 70 or 80 years. I thought I would always have him to talk to—about life, about family, and about ourselves.

The river was a meditative place for me. The rhythm of the oars, the gentle motion of the raft, the shore gliding by, the gurgle of the water as it seeped into and back out of our raft—all of this provided just enough stimulation and was hypnotic enough that I didn't want to do anything but sit and think. For a few days on the river, I floated without any of my day-to-day concerns, without the usual level of tension standing behind me.

What rose to the surface, visible in the clear water of my mind after the silt of all my worries sank to the bottom, were My brother was there in the river's sand and mud, in the full thoughts of my brother. Nat would have liked this trip. The rough beauty of the terrain and the quiet power of the water would not have been lost on him. He would have noticed the beauty of the full moon and the light on the canyon walls as the sun rose and set.

I have felt a lot of anger at him for dying, for taking his own life, for engaging in an activity so dangerous, for playing Russian roulette, for committing suicide. He left no note, he didn't say good-bye; he left a wife and two sons whom he loved very much but who, like me, were not enough to keep

him alive. It wasn't the anger, though, that I felt on the river. I just remembered him.

Grief is at its sharpest when, after a death, he all of a sudden flashes into focus so real and so present that I can hear his voice as if he has just spoken to me. I can imagine the scent of his hair, remember the texture of his face as I touch it, and I can see him walking and talking as if he were only there a moment ago. At these times, the grief flares up; the wound feels fresh and sharp with memories of the love, the charm, and the grace. I realize both with gratitude and with anguish for the wound this reality carries, that he is not someone I can let go. These memories will come to me for the rest of my life. He is truly a part of me. He is mixed up in my blood and my bones and the electrical impulses of my brain. And in whatever way all of these things go together to form a soul, he is a part of that too. There is no escaping him. This is the gift and the price of love--it doesn't end.

moon, the constantly flowing cold water, the clear dry air, the red canyon walls, and the blue sky. And he was there in me. And I was there, alive and more appreciative than I would have been before he died. I was more aware of my connection to my surroundings—that one day my body will be river mud, water, and bones like driftwood. What form my love will take then, I don't know. Maybe if there is a river and desert light offering delight to someone's senses, that will be enough. I don't know.



Little Baby Joan D Schmidt TCF Spotswood, NJ



Little baby who was not to be, You were a person . . . at least to me. Would your eyes be blue? Or hazel and dark? Would you caw like the crow? Or sing like a lark? Would you have ten little fingers and ten tiny toes? A rosebud mouth, a turned up nose?

Would you be laughing and happy, Or somber and quiet? Would you run and jump or rather be still? Would you like to read, or prefer to play? None of my questions will have an answer. Your chance to live will never be. The only thing I truly know . . . Little baby, We would have loved you so!

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 — <u>if we know those dates</u>. Based upon TCF National policy, we will not print the year of your child's birth or death.

BIRTHDAYS

Marisa Nelson	1/01	Jeff Baenen	2/03
(daughter of Amy Nelson)	1/01	(son of Susan Otradovec)	2/03
Allison Fields	1/04	Ryan Brunner	2/03
(daughter of Leanne Fields)	1/04	(son of Bill & Sue Brunner)	2/03
Ben Garot	1/07	Matthew Dulak	2/03
(son of Keith Garot)	1701	(son of Frank & Maddy Dulak)	2/00
Megan Kelley	1/09	Mike Smith	2/04
(daughter of Bev Kelley-Miller)	1700	(son of Dave Smith)	2/04
Mathew Odea	1/09	Jesse Hettmann	2/05
(son of Nan Odea & Greg Warcham)		(son of Linda Hettmann)	_, ~~
Prisha Laabs	1/12	Caitlin Van Duyse	2/06
(daughter of Shamla & David Laabs)		(daughter of Brenda Van Duyse)	_, ~ ~
Alina Manders	1/13	Lily Boettcher	2/09
(daughter of Spring Manders)		(daughter of Melissa Mielke)	_, ~~
Alex Neiman	1/13	Julie Sarah Smits	2/10
(son of Angel Neiman)	., 10	(daughter of Jeane Smits)	2, 10
Corey Calaway	1/14	Brett Buhr	2/11
(son of Paul & Nancy Calaway)	.,	(son of Tim & Michele Buhr)	_,
April Erickson	1/14	Jason Peck	2/11
(daughter of Darla Nooyen)	.,	(son of Marianne Peck)	_,
Brody Post	1/14	Kelby Bagneski	2/12
(son of Jake Post)	.,	(daughter of Bill & Kelly Bagneski)	_,
Matt Pockrandt	1/16	Sam Compton	2/13
(son of Margaret Le Roy)		(son of Mark Compton and Todd & Sandra So	
Travis Christenson	1/17	Ricky Lambert	2/14
(son of Cheryl Oettinger)		(son of Maria Lambert)	
Dustin Wilkinson	1/21	Katie Culhane	2/15
(son of Dave & Donna Wilkinson)		(daughter of Muffy & Kevin Culhane)	
Justin Banaszynski	1/21	Austin Jirikowic	2/15
(son of Donna Baranczyk)		(son of Julie Jirikowic)	
Jason Banaszynski	1/21	Ryan Jozwiak	2/15
(son of Donna Baranczyk)		(son of Lenee & Eddie Jozwiak)	
Brian LaViolette	1/23	Derek Ferch	2/24
(son of Doug & Renee LaViolette)		(son of Jody Holmes)	
Joseph Wesolowski	1/25	Raina Manders	2/26
(son of Jennifer Heller)		(daughter of Spring Manders)	
Roberta Jean Glebke	1/26	Karen Mary Schley	2/27
(daughter of Joyce Glebke)		(daughter of Jon & Ann Schley)	
Austin Lindberg	1/28	Lucas Shallow	2/27
(son of Todd & Sandy Lindberg)		(son of Robert Shallow)	
Lawson Aerts	1/28	David Staude	3/01
(son of Dennis & Teressa Aerts)		(son of Irv & Bev Michaud)	
Dylan Krings	1/28	Matthew Blazek	3/03
(son of Jason & Joleen Krings)		(son of Betty & Bill Blazek)	
Maliyah Monacelli	1/29	Samantha DeLong	3/03
(granddaughter of Brenda Hendries)		(daughter of Joe & Sue DeLong)	
Doug Kwiatkowski	1/30	Mark Louis Starr	3/04
(son of Dave & Theresa Kwiatkowski)		(son of Ruth (Patti) Schmidt)	
Amy Laedke	2/02	Colton John Margotto	3/05
(daughter of Debra & Fred Laedtke)		(grandson of Deb Dobson)	
Adam Federwitz	2/03	Molly Klika Zarnoth	3/06
(son of Mary & Gary Federwitz)		(daughter of Bob & Barb Klika)	

Ross Andress	3/07	Shawn Wendricks	3/21
(son of Brad & Chelley Andress)		(son of Darrick & Amy Wendricks)	
Kelley Calkins	3/11	Allison Hunt Bush	3/23
(daughter of Kate Calkins)		(daughter of Terry & Nan Bush)	
Kevin Keane	3/12	Cam Wendt	3/24
(son of Mike Keane)		(son of Lon Wendt)	
Heather Fuller	3/14	Tami (Sam) Cornélius	3/25
(daughter of Leslie Tagge)		(daughter of Brenda Cornelius)	
Anne Johanski	3/16	Steven L Vosters	3/26
(daughter of Judy Johanski)		(son of Patti & Marvin Vosters)	
Beau Baxter	3/17	Mike Quinette	3/26
(son of Laura Martens)		(son of Carol Quinette)	
Tayler Nieft	3/18	Lane Harris	3/27
(daughter of Michael & Dawn Nieft)		(son of Susan Harris)	
Kali Pfaller	3/20	Andrew (Andy) Short	3/29
(daughter of Sally Winger)		(son of Barbara Short)	
Ella Cumicek	3/21	Mark Malueg	3/31
(daughter of Chris & Rhonda Cumicek)		(son of Sue Malueg)	
Parker Wendricks	3/21		
(son of Darrick & Amy Wendricks)			

ANNIVERSARIES

Eric Garsow	1/01	Shawnie Silas-Grode	1/18
(son of Barb Peterson)		(daughter of Pauline Silas)	
Maggie Pavlowski	1/01	Luke Linde	1/19
(daughter of Michelle & Karl Pavlowski)		(son of Rita Linde)	
Derek Benton	1/03	Joshua Webster	1/21
(son of Stacie Witt)		(son of Julie Denny)	
Kendyn Blaser	1/03	Matthew Murphy (1/21
(grandson of Mark & Kari Blaser)		(son of Kathleen Murphy)	
Matthew Daley	1/03	Elias Gonzales	1/22
(son of Mary Daley)		(son of Maria Gonzales)	
Aliina Manders	1/03	Alex Neiman	1/22
(daughter of Spring Manders)		(son of Angel Neiman)	
Collin Beno	1/04	Alex Olmsted	1/22
(son of Melissa Umentum)		(son of Lisa Olmsted)	
Natalie Aitken	1/06	Justin Merriner	1/23
(daughter of Rachel & AJ Aitken)		(son of Chris Merriner)	
Matthew Dulak	1/08	John Charniak	1/24
(son of Frank & Maddy Dulak)		(son of Maynard & Jeanette Charniak)	
Mark Shafer	1/10	Carson Murfield	1/24
(son of Bruce & Pat Shafer)		(son of Matthew & Christy Murfield)	
Ben Garot	1/11	Troy Jacques	1/26
(son of Keith Garot)		(son of Sally Martin)	
Jesse Hettmann	1/11	Heidi Lessmiller	1/26
(son of Linda Hettmann)		(daughter of David Lessmiller)	
Chad Schaefer	1/11	Chad Olson	1/26
(son of David & Miriam Schaefer)		(son of Brenda Olson)	
Ian Seymour	1/12	Maria Schumacher	1/26
(son of Diane and Paul Seymour)		(daughter of Karen & Phil Schumacher)	
Cameron James	1/13	Madeline Wotachek	1/26
(son of Linne Baenen)		(daughter of Brandon & Michelle Wotachek)	
Elizabeth Elsevier	1/13	Julie Kinney	1/27
(daughter of Susan Kemps)		(daughter of Mary Schwake)	
Craig Kozloski	1/14	Matthew Arnold	1/31
(son of Bobbie & David Kozloski)		(son of Bob & Carrie Arnold)	
Eddie Griffey	1/15	Mark Louis Starr	2/01
(son of Grace Griffey)		(son of Ruth (Patti) Schmidt)	
Robby Rohr	1/16	Zander Varga Schenzel	2/02
(son of Carol Wautlet)		(grandson of Nancy Varga)	

Andrew Steiner	2/02	Chayse Michael Wilcox	3/06
(son of Nicole Steiner)		(grandson of Todd & Melanie Wilcox)	
Tara Kieff	2/03	Todd Reigner	3/08
(daughter of Michaelyn Kieff)		(son of Arthur & Barbara Reigner)	
Steve Price	2/03	Zachary Larson	3/09
(son of Jennifer & Steve Price)		(son of Dan & Paula Larson	
Chris Krueger	2/05	Lance Catalano	3/12
(son of Cheryl Krueger)		(son of Gretchen Catalano)	
Dylan Krings	2/08	Jason Ziemann	3/12
(son of Jason & Joleen Krings)		(son of Diane Strick)	
Karson Fenion	2/09	Elizabeth Turek Bigley	3/13
(son of Jennifer Neshek)		(daughter of Albert & Mary Turek)	
Corey Calaway	2/09	Erin Marie Larscheid	3/14
(son of Paul & Nancy Calaway)		(daughter of Maribeth & Timothy Larscheid)	
Allen O'Harrow	2/09	Michelle (Shelly) Watke	3/15
(son of Cal & Lois O'Harrow)		(daughter of Martha Jolly & Tom Jolly)	0, 10
Grace Greenawald	2/10	Josh Gilson	3/17
(granddaughter of Lori Sparapani)	2/10	(son of Ron & Cindy Gilson)	5/17
Jeff Baenen	2/12	Beau Baxter	3/17
	2/12		3/1/
(son of Susan Otradovec)	0/40	(son of Laura Martens)	040
Chad Seitzer	2/13	Alexia Prosecky	3/18
(son of Sandi & Fred Seitzer)	0/40	(daughter of Wayne & Jennifer Prosecky)	0/40
Nathan Crowe	2/13	Michelle Schmidt	3/18
(son of Tom Crowe & Lisa Hanneman)		(daughter of Diane Kroll)	
Lawson Aerts	2/16	Amaris Soletski	3/18
(son of Dennis & Teressa Aerts)		(daughter of Amy Soletski)	
Maliyah Monacelli	2/16	Rebekah Puzen	3/19
(granddaughter of Brenda Hendries)		(daughter of Larry Puzen & Carol Schroeder-Puzer	n)
Derek Waterman	2/16	Julie Sarah Smits	3/20
(son of Patricia Waterman)		(daughter of Jeane Smits)	
Ella Cumicek	2/18	Sean Tobin	3/20
(daughter of Chris & Rhonda Cumicek)		(son of Michael Tobin & Rosemary Kennedy)	
Federico Abarca	2/22	Bryan VanderKelen	3/20
(son of Concepcion Melgar)		(son of Bob & Debi Lepak)	00
Nathan Axelrod	2/19	Ricky Lambert	3/21
(son of Johanna Axelrod)	2, 10	(son of Maria Lambert)	U,
Patrick Meyer	2/19	Parker Wendricks	3/21
(son of Dan & Anne Meyer)	2/13	(son of Darrick & Amy Wendricks)	J/ Z 1
Federico Abarca	2/22	Shawn Wendricks	3/21
	2122	(son of Darrick & Amy Wendricks)	3/2 1
(son of Concepcion Melgar)	2/22	` ,	3/22
Brett Buhr	2/22	Debra Mier	3122
(son of Tim & Michele Buhr)	0/04	(daughter of Anna & Frank Mier)	0/04
Chad Zimmerman	2/24	Hunter Vincent	3/24
(son of Dale & Linda Zimmerman)		(son of Steven & Dawn Vincent)	
Cooper Schroeder	2/25	Tayler Nieft	3/24
(son of Georgia Schroeder)		(daughter of Michael & Dawn Nieft)	
Matthew Odea	2/25	Luke Watzka	3/24
(son of Nan Odea & Greg Warcham)		(son of Rita & Marty Watzka)	
Loren Hubert	2/26	Randy Blezek	3/25
(son of Debbie & Butch Vander Kinter)		(son of Betty & Bill Blazek)	
Tim McCorison	2/27	Ryan Collins	3/26
(son of Bonnie McCorison)		(son of Carrie & Tim Collins)	
Shane Hopfensperger	2/28	John Aulik	3/26
(son of Mike & Joann Hopfensperger)		(son of Germaine Aulik)	
Jason Peck	2/28	Dustin Wilkinson	3/29
(son of Marianne Peck)		(son of Dave & Donna Wilkinson)	
Michelle Schriver	2/29		
(daughter of Annette Foster)			
Tom Manning	3/01		
(son of Peggy Manning)			
Mike Neddo	3/01		
(son of Debra Neddo)	J. J .		
Matthew Blazek	3/03		
(son of Betty & Bill Blazek)	3,00		
Colton John Margotto	3/05		
(grandson of Deb Dobson)	3,00		
(Arangon or pop poponi)			

ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENTS, & MISC.

Calendar of Events 2021:

January 19: Reflections On Christmas **February 16:** Am I Stuck In My Grief

March 16: Recognizing Signs From Our Loved Ones

Please Visit Our Site At:

compassionatefriendsgreenbay.org

All sorts of goodies are included:
 *Past Newsletters
 *Calendar of Events
 *Articles
 *Online Donations
 *and More!

A Day

Pam Burden TCF, Augusta, GA

A laugh a day keeps the heart pumping

A tear a day keeps the mind clear.

A smile a day gives joy to others.

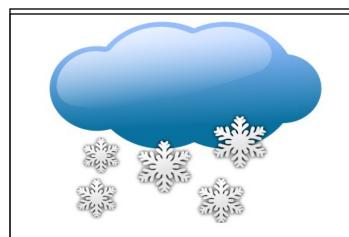
A hug a day gives the hopeless hope.

A thought a day brings loved ones near.

A memory a day brings you closer to me.

Laughs, tears, smiles, hugs stitched with thoughts and memories

They're all in my days without you.



Please note:
If area schools are closed,
due to inclement weather, we will cancel
our scheduled meeting

Love gifts were recently given by:

Don and Karol Cole, in memory of Dane and Doug Cole
Ken and Mary Gehm, in memory of Jared Gehm
Joyce Glebke, in memory of Gary and Roberta Glebke
Daniel and Myra Krhin, in memory of all our children
Jerry & Maria Lambert, in memory of Ricky and Shane Lambert
Kim Lambert, in memory of Shane and Ricky Lambert
David and Miriam Schaefer, in memory of Chad David Schaefer
Todd and Sandy Scheffen, in memory of Sam Compton
Wayne and Kim Skar, in memory of Amanda Rose Skar
Pam Vogels, in memory of Jason Vogels
Carol Wautlet, in memory of Robby Rohr





PO Box 211 Green Bay, WI 54305

We need not walk alone!

Our monthly support group meets next on:

Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

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

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.