



THE
COMPASSIONATE
FRIENDS
of Northeastern WI
Supporting Family After a Child Dies

A Quarterly Newsletter
by and for Bereaved Parents
April/May/June 2025

The Northeastern WI Chapter of TCF
meets the third Tuesday of each month at
6 p.m. at
NEW MEETING PLACE

OneWay Christian Church
2071 9th St.
Green Bay, WI 54304

For further information contact:
Main Number: 920-370-3858

- ◆ Sue DeLong, Remembering our Children
- ◆ Joleen Krings, Facebook Administrator /Steering Committee
- ◆ Mike Nieft, Meeting Facilitator/Steering Committee
- ◆ Carol Pomrenke, Remembering our Children
- ◆ Mickey Schmeisser, Chapter Leader
- ◆ Steve Schmeisser, Treasurer
- ◆ Kim Skar, Newsletter Editor



E-mail: compassionatefriendsgb@gmail.com
Website: compassionatefriendsgreenbay.org



A Self-help organization offering friendship, understanding, and hope to bereaved families that have experienced the death of a child.

A special message to those of you who are newly bereaved and receiving our newsletter for the first time, we warmly welcome you to the Northeastern WI Chapter of the Compassionate Friends. We are a self-help organization of parents, grandparents, and adult siblings who have experienced the death of a loved one. We offer understanding and support through our monthly meetings, a lending library, support materials and loving listeners. Please do not be afraid to come to a gathering. Every other person in the room has lost a child, grandchild, or sibling. They come because they feel the need to be with someone else who understands. We know it takes courage to attend that first gathering, but those who do come find an atmosphere of understanding from others who have experienced the grief that you have now. Nothing is asked of you. There are no dues or fees and you do not have to speak.

There is a special feeling at meetings of The Compassionate Friends

Until We see you again.
You are Always in our hearts,
Amanda's Mom and Dad,
Kim and Wayne Skar

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.



Monthly Support Group

Bring along a photo of your child.

Tuesday, April 15, 2025 6 p.m.

Open Forum Discussion

Tuesday, May 20, 2025 6 p.m.

Open Forum Discussion

Tuesday, June 17, 2025 6 p.m.

Open Forum Discussion



Mother's Day

*Mary Wildman
TCF Moro, IL*



As I write this, I am very much aware that Mother's day is coming soon. That will be an undoubtedly difficult day in countless homes. For all the thousands of mothers who will be glowing with a radiant kind of pride and happiness that day, there will also be those of you whose hearts are aching for that phone call that will never come, that special visit, that one Mother's day card which will not arrive. For us, the reading and re-reading of that one last card - "Mom, you are the greatest and I love you" - will have to last a lifetime. How does a mother face a lifetime of silence on "her" day? Ask those of us who have "been there" already, and we will tell you of lonely Mother's Day visits to spring-green cemeteries where the sweet clear notes of a single spring bird perched nearby float over our heads and seem surely to have been intended as divine comfort for a heart full to breaking. You will hear of yellow roses being sent to a small church - "in memory of..." and a cherished story of a kind and sensitive friend who sent a single rose that first Mother's Day "in remembrance".

Always we struggle with the eternal questions - how does life in fairness extract from us the life of a beloved child in exchange for a clear bird call in a spring-green cemetery, a slender vase of yellow rosebuds or even the kindness and sensitivity of a friend who remembered our loneliness and pain on that day? Where is the fairness and justice in such barter?

The answer comes back again and again - life does not always bargain fairly. We are surrounded from birth to death by those things which we cannot keep, but which enrich, ennoble and endow our lives with a fore taste of Heaven because we have

been privileged to behold, to experience, to wrap our arms around the joyous and beautiful.

Can we bottle the fragrance of an April morning or the splendor of a winter's sunset and take it home with us to place it on our fireplace mantle? Can we grasp and hold the blithesome charm of childhood's laughter? Can we capture within cupped hands the beauty and richness of a rainbow? Can we pluck the glitter of a million stars on a summer night or place in an alabaster box the glow and tenderness of love?

No, we cannot. But to those who have been given the splendor, the blithesome charm, the glory, the glitter, the tenderness and the love of a child who has departed, someday the pain will speak to you of enrichment, the compassion for others, of deeper sensitivity to the world around you, of a deeper joy for having known a deeper pain. Your child will not have left you completely, as you thought. But rather, you will find him in that first clear, sweet bird call, in those yellow rosebuds, in giving and receiving and in the tissue wrapped memories that you have forever in your heart.



***The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot
be seen, nor touched, but are felt in the heart.***

~ Helen Keller ~

A Bear Hug for Father's Day



Annette Mennen Baldwin
In memory of my son, Todd Mennen



As Father's Day approaches, we are reminded of the significant contributions and unique love of fathers and stepfathers. Their defined role, after the death of their children, is to support their wives and surviving children. But their pain is deep.

Men, by their nature and in response to our society's expectations, do not usually grieve as openly as women. They do not talk as candidly about their loss. They generally do not reach out to others for comfort. They are, after all, the rock, the solid center of the family. Their wife's pain supersedes their pain because women are fragile. Or so we are told.

Yet, as I look into the eyes of so many bereaved fathers, I see a deep, gripping pain. The tears left unshed, the words that are never spoken, the anger, guilt and agony....all remain in the eyes of the bereaved father.

What can a father do? Talk with other bereaved fathers. Read books written by bereaved fathers. Talk with spouses, private counselors and close friends who are not as structured in their "male" societal roles.

Try to attend three meetings of Compassionate Friends. You don't have to talk. But you might de-

cide to express a single thought or idea, logically presented, to the small group. You might find peace in this place, and then again, you might not. But, as my own dad often said, "Step up to the plate and see what happens." He was a pretty wise man.....a child of the depression, a football player, Greatest Generation, WW II Marine, a fighter, a provider, a protector.....a man's man. He endured much in his 78 years, and I only saw him cry a few times.

But when his friend lost a child, my tough dad was the first one to reach out with a bear hug that wouldn't let go until the tears began to flow. They both cried. They both knew that the agony of losing a child was far worse than the horrors of war. Together, they cried.

Happy Father's Day....May your bear hugs be many and your memories become sweeter with each passing year. May your child live forever in your heart so that peace embraces you always.



*A friend is one who knows you as you are . . .
Understands where you've been . . .
Accepts who you've become
And still gently invites you to grow. ~ author unknown*



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

Matthew Daley (son of Mary Daley)	4/01	Nicole Kowalkowski (daughter of Roman & Sharon Kowalkowski)	5/09
Hannah Lynn Flauger (daughter of Daniel Flauger)	4/02	Carson Murfield (son of Matthew & Christy Murfield)	5/10
Dana Kapla (daughter of Bob Kapla)	4/02	Chayse Michael Wilcox (grandson of Todd & Melanie Wilcox)	5/10
Rick Strombach (son of Donna Strombach)	4/02	Jacqueline Evers (daughter of Joe & Alice Evers)	5/12
Jason Ison (son of Rene Ison)	4/04	Lance Vlies (son of Wendy Vlies)	5/12
Brittani Walker (daughter of Mary Walker)	4/04	Leo Fulmer (son of Evonna Krause)	5/13
Elizabeth Turek Bigley (daughter of Albert & Mary Turek)	4/06	Luke Stempa (son of Gerri & Steve Stempa)	5/13
Mylisa Klapatch (daughter of Dennis Klapatch & Tamara Walker)	4/06	Greg Lindbloom (son of Ginger Lindbloom)	5/17
Dean Collard (son of Debbie Collard)	4/08	Kevin Betker (son of Roy "Pete" & Renee Betker)	5/24
Jason Vogels (son of Pam Vogels)	4/08	John Charniak (son of Maynard & Jeanette Charniak)	5/25
Christopher Voght (son of Tammy Viegut & Timm Gay)	4/08	Stephanie Corbeill (daughter of Sylvia & Richard Corbeill)	5/27
Craig Kozloski (son of Bobbie & David Kozloski)	4/09	Patrick Meyer (son of Dan & Anne Meyer)	5/27
Jason Kurey (son of Deb Kurey)	4/09	Nathan Crowe (son of Tom Crowe & Lisa Hanneman)	5/28
Cody Green (son of Dan & Gwen Green)	4/10	Tyffany Stevens (daughter of Lynn Pigeon)	5/28
Brandon Scheider (son of Deb Scheider)	4/10	Bailee Ann Bullock (daughter of Faith Bullock)	6/02
Brandon Groh (son of Cathy Groh)	4/11	Shannon Saldana (daughter of JoAnn Koss)	6/02
Kevin Kazik (son of Sally Kazik & Charlie Kazik)	4/11	Amanda Dulak (daughter of Frank & Maddy Dulak)	6/04
Tammie Gustman (daughter of Victoria Fifield & Marvin Gustman)	4/12	Noah Froemming (son of Butch & Sara Froemming)	6/07
Brent Rosner (son of Tina Rosner)	4/12	Aidan Hammer Fry (son of Linda Hammer & Megan Fry)	6/08
Rebekah Puzen (daughter of Larry Puzen & Carol Schroeder-Puzen)	4/14	Hunter Vincent (son of Bonnie & Steve Vincent)	6/08
Jacob Peters (son of Jerry & Natalie Peters)	4/15	Sharon Ellner (daughter of Laverne Heezen)	6/09
Joel Bagneski (son of Bill & Kelly Bagneski)	4/19	Evan Meder (son of Randy & Margaret Meder)	6/13
Nathan Jarosinski (son of Mark & Jean Jarosinski)	4/21	Jared Gehm (son of Ken & Mary Gehm)	6/16
Joshua Calaway (son of Bonnie Calaway)	4/24	Taylor Poole (son of Kelly Poole)	6/16
Kaitlyn Marie Schley (daughter of Jon & Ann Schley)	4/24	Derek Waterman (son of Patricia Waterman)	6/16
Justin Plate (son of Mark & Grace Plate)	4/25	Stephen Charneski (son of James & Roberta Charneski)	6/17
Ryan Bader (son of Mark & Cheryl Bader)	4/26	Ashley MacDonald (daughter of Yvonne Cerkas)	6/18
Roberto Velez (step-son of Faith Bullock)	5/04	Emily Schmeisser (daughter of Steve & Mickey Schmeisser)	6/19
Matthew Baudhuin (son of Jason Baudhuin & Dawn Baudhuin)	5/06	Shawnie Silas-Grode (daughter of Pauline Silas)	6/19

Nicole Ekberg (daughter of Debbie Ekberg)	6/20	Chase Lasecki (son of Steven & Linda Lasecki)	6/26
Andrew Sorensen (son of Wendy Sorensen)	6/23	Matthew Murphy (son of Kathleen Murphy)	6/26
Alyssa Steward (daughter of Wendy Steward)	6/23	Joshua Webster (son of Julie Denny)	6/26
Maria Cambray (daughter of Jack & Gerry Cambray)	6/24	John Aulik (son of Germaine Aulik)	6/27
Matt Hanson (son of Dean & Mary Hanson)	6/24	Ben Delain (son of Peter & Becky Delain)	6/29
Ian Seymour (son of Diane & Paul Seymour)	6/24	Steve Price (son of Jennifer & Steve Price)	6/30
Skylar Beattie (daughter of Krystle Cooley)	6/26		
James Capelle (son of Tammy Capelle)	6/26		

ANNIVERSARIES

Andy Bell (son of Patrick & Debbie Bell)	4/02	Kaitlyn Marie Schley (daughter of Jon & Ann Schley)	4/19
Bailee Ann Bullock (daughter of Faith Bullock)	4/02	Roberto Velez (step-son of Faith Bullock)	4/21
Joshua Calaway (son of Bonnie Calaway)	4/02	Mark Malueg (son of Sue Malueg)	4/22
Makayla Lego (niece of Tim & Christine Newtols)	4/02	Marisa Nelson (daughter of Amy Nelson)	4/22
Mike Quinnette (son of Jim & Carol Quinnette)	4/02	Andrew (Andy) Short (son of Barbara Short)	4/22
Hannah Lynn Flauger (daughter of Daniel Flauger)	4/03	Paige Franklin (granddaughter of Judy & Chuck Dams)	4/23
Raina Manders (daughter of Spring Manders)	4/04	Doug Kwiatkowski (son of Dave & Theresa Kwiatkowski)	4/23
Nicolas Resch (son of Lynn & Steve Marcks)	4/04	Mike Smith (son of Dave Smith)	4/23
Rick Strombach (son of Donna Strombach)	4/06	Dalon Calkins (son of Kate Calkins)	4/26
Eric Barlamant (son of Jim Barlamant & Penny Maraccini)	4/07	Winnifred (Freddie) McClory (daughter of Bob McClory & Carrie Brooks)	4/26
Wendy Johnson (daughter of Tom & Debbie Johnson)	4/08	Crystal (Falish)Peterson (daughter of Steve & Darlene Enderby)	4/30
April Erickson (daughter of Darla Nooyen)	4/09	Jon Boettcher (son of Roger & Pat Boettcher)	5/05
Amy Laedke (daughter of Debra & Fred Laedke)	4/11	Nicole Ekberg (daughter of Debbie Ekberg)	5/09
Shannon Saldana (daughter of JoAnn Koss)	4/12	Amanda Rose Skar (daughter of Wayne and Kim Skar)	5/09
Joseph Derge (son of Randy & Ann Derge)	4/14	Noah W. Froemming (son of Sara & Butch Froemming)	5/11
Megan Kelley (daughter of Bev Kelley-Miller)	4/14	Adam Federwitz (son of Mary & Gary Federwitz)	5/12
Lisa Becker-Fortuna (Daughter of Denise Van Zeeland)	4/15	Joseph Jacques (son-in-law of Pat Wojcik)	5/12
Jared Gehm (son of Ken & Mary Gehm)	4/15	Austin Reeck (son of Ann Rieckmann)	5/12
Patton Prunty (son of Ed & Pat Prunty)	4/15	Gabriela Jacques (granddaughter of Pat Wojcik)	5/13
Olivia DeMeuse (daughter of Cheryl DeMeuse)	4/16	Michael Anderson (son of Ron & Lori Anderson)	5/14
Travis Christenson (son of Cherie Oettinger)	4/18	Noah Thomas Campbell (son of Kelli & Craig Campbell)	5/14

Austin Jay Bullock (son of Faith Bullock)	5/15	Brent Rosner (son of Tina Rosner)	6/06
Craig Jacobs (son of John & Cathy Jacobs)	5/15	Troy Tousey (son of Vicki & Tim Tousey)	6/06
Michael Schermerhorn (son of Jayne Schermerhorn)	5/15	Taylor Poole (son of Kelly Poole)	6/08
Emily Schmeisser (daughter of Steve & Mickey Schmeisser)	5/15	Kara Rojas-Spice (daughter of Jerry & Amy Spice)	6/08
Melissa Schmeisser (daughter of Steve & Mickey Schmeisser)	5/15	E.J. Veard (daughter of Paula Veard)	6/11
David Staude (son of Irv & Bev Michaud)	5/15	Ben Wilfer (son of Paul Wilfer)	6/11
Sierra Hecker (Daughter of Jason Hecker)	5/17	Bruce T. Blaser Jr. (son of Bruce & Paige Blaser)	6/12
Kory Kuran (son of Carol Pomrenke)	5/17	Allison Hunt Bush (daughter of Nan & Terry Bush)	6/16
Kevin Keane (son of Mike Keane)	5/18	Riviera Konen (daughter of Jennifer & Todd Konen)	6/17
Hunter Temme (son of Lisa Temme)	5/19	Alyssa Steward (daughter of Wendy Steward)	6/18
Taylor Budysz (daughter of Krysta Budysz)	5/20	Leon Schroeder (Son of Sawyer Schroeder, grandson of Marci Beck)	6/19
Matthew Baudhuin (son of Jason Baudhuin)	5/21	Ella Smetana (daughter of Frank Smetana)	6/20
Evan Meder (son of Randy & Margaret Meder)	5/22	Samantha DeLong (daughter of Joe & Sue DeLong)	6/22
Ryan Patrick Bergevin (son of Randy Bergevin & Barbara Vandenbusch)	5/25	Tara Beilke (daughter of Chuck & Judy Dams)	6/23
Dean Collard (son of Debbie Collard)	5/29	Katie Culhane (daughter of Muffy & Kevin Culhane)	6/23
Nathan Jarosinski (son of Jean & Mark Jarosinski)	6/02	Allison Fields (daughter of Leanne Fields)	6/23
Sharon Ellner (daughter of Laverne Heezen)	6/04	Heather Fuller (daughter of Leslie Tagge)	6/24
Ken Johnson (son of Kathy Johnson)	6/05	Timothy Metoxen (son of Florence Petri)	6/28
Ashley MacDonald (daughter of Yvonne Cerkas)	6/05	Michael Kirst (son of Kris Kirst)	6/30
Shane Bowhousen (son of Doug & Renie Bowhousen)	6/06		

Love gifts were recently given by:

Mark and Cheryl Bader, in memory of Ryan Bader
Frank and Maddy Dulak, in memory of Amanda and Matthew Dulak
Gary and Mary Federwitz, in memory of Adam Federwitz
Ken and Mary Gehm, in memory of Jared Gehm
Doug and Renee LaViolette, in memory of Brian LaViolette
Sue Malueg, in memory of Mark Malueg
Todd and Sandy Scheffen, in memory of Sam Compton

ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENTS, & MISC.

Meeting Dates for April, May and June

April 15: Open Forum Discussion

May 20: Open Forum Discussion

June 17: Open Forum Discussion

You are welcome to bring a photo of your loved one.

Sharing Our Children

Would you like to share your child? You can share anything you would like to about your child and if you wish, include a picture, so we can all meet them. If you would like to contribute, please send over a paragraph or two about your child and include a photo. You can send them to me, Kim Skar, at wkskar@gmail.com.

We only ask that you remember copyright when submitting.

Bereaved Parents

Different ages
Different stages
Different issues
Same pain
Daily strain
Occasional tissues
Our children have died
Often is all we know
A fact we fear to hide
Despite our ever-present woe
We live with pride
Though broken-hearted
To love, remember, and grow

Victor Montemurro
TCF Medford, NY



Please Visit Our Website:

www.compassionatefriendsgreenbay.org

All sorts of goodies are included:

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

July 11, 2025 – July 13, 2025

48TH TCF NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Our conference is a place for bereaved families to find community and hope, while learning and sharing with others. Lifelong friendships are often made at the conference through meeting others who truly understand the painful loss of a child, sibling, or grandchild. This eagerly anticipated event will take place in Bellevue/Seattle,



Bellevue, WA

Washington, during the weekend of July 11-13, 2025.



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COMPASSIONATE
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of Northeast Wisconsin
Supporting Family After a Child Dies



PO Box 211
Green Bay, WI 54305

Our monthly
support group meets
next on:

Tuesday,
April 15, 2025
at 6:00 p.m.

**OneWay Christian
Church
2071 9th St.
Green Bay, WI 54304**

Call 920-370-3858
for information.

Everyone who needs us will find us and everyone who finds us will be helped..



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**Supporting Family
After a Child Dies**

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