



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

A Quarterly Newsletter

by and for Bereaved Parents

October/November/December 2025

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

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 Niefert**, Meeting Facilitator/ Steering Committee
- ♦ **Carol Pomrenke**, Remembering our Children
- ♦ **Mickey Schmeisser**, Chapter Leader
- ♦ **Steve Schmeisser**, Treasurer
- ♦ **Kim Skar**, Newsletter Editor

E-mail:
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Monthly Support Group
Bring along a photo of your child.

Tuesday, October 21, 2025 6 p.m.

Let's talk about what's on your mind.
Open Forum Discussion,

Tuesday, November 18,, 2025 6 p.m.

Let's talk about what's on your mind.
Open Forum Discussion,

Tuesday, December 16, 2025 6 p.m.

Let's talk about what's on your mind.
Open Forum Discussion,



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.

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.



FALL

Peggy Hartzell
TCF Ambler, PA



It is so hard to believe that summer is over! Even though summer is technically still here until September, the cool evenings we have been having, school starting, and football games being played are all signs that fall is here. And I love it!

To me, fall is the most invigorating time of the year. The crispness of the air, the beautiful coloration of the trees, the smell of leaf and wood smoke, the sky full of birds traveling south "talking" with one another as they go, are all part of this wonderful world we live in. I hope all of you will be able to feel and see the wonders of fall.

Sometimes we are so "down" and preoccupied with our child's death, and we are working so hard to just get through each day, that we are unable to appreciate what is going on in the world around us. Try to take a few minutes each day and look around. If you can focus on a beautiful tree or leaf, smell the chrysanthemums blooming in the garden or bite into a fresh apple just picked and enjoy doing this for just a few minutes, it will make your day seem brighter. And, if you are up to it, go to a high school football game or a band

competition. The enthusiasm of the young people participating in these events is contagious.

Yes, it sometimes hurts. We want our children to be there also, enjoying these activities. But it also gives us renewed faith that life does go on, and there is happiness and excitement in the world. I hope you all can find some beauty and peace in the fall months ahead.



AS WE NEAR THE SPECIAL SEASON

Ann Frost
TCF Middle Georgia Chapter

As we near the special season that stirs up feelings of heritage, patriotism, thanksgiving, and our relationship with God, we are instantly reminded that it doesn't seem to fit together for us; our personal sense of well-being is suffering. Our hearts and spirits are undergoing the trauma of painfully fresh wounds in some cases, while others are coping with the scar tissue of older grief that refuses to heal or restore comfort to their lives. This season reminds me we are living with extra stress that must be resolved. I offer a few thoughts to each of you, along with my love, in hope that feelings of peace and purpose will return to bring you comfort.

First, be careful in agreeing to take on the traditional extra work that goes with holidays. You are coping with grief that will take much of your usable energy.

Second, be especially kind and patient with yourself. The need for physiological rest is vital at this time; regular sleep and rest hours will help.

Third, be aware that holidays and alcohol have become traditional companions; extra caution may be necessary to prevent the depressant effects of alcohol from further aggravating your grief anxiety.

Fourth, it's okay to change past practices that are especially painful reminders of what can be no more; do something different if you have to.

Finally, allow yourself private time as you need to, but also remember it's important to allow others to try to bring you comfort and give you extra help during the holidays. Loved ones need feedback that says: "I'm trying to recover, and I appreciate your help." Peace be with you.





A Christmas Gift from Heaven

Cathy L. Seehuetter
TCF St. Paul, MN
In Memory of my daughter, Nina



The first snow of the season is gently falling outside my office window. On the one hand, it is beautiful to look at; on the other hand, for me, as I know it is for those whose loved one's chair will sit empty at the holiday table this year, it signals the advent of the remaining three of the "Big Four" holidays. This time of year is perhaps one of the ultimate tests of endurance for the bereaved, and it is particularly difficult for those who will undergo Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's for the first time since their child, sibling or grandchild died.

It has been eight holiday seasons since my Nina died. Though I remember little to nothing about the first Thanksgiving, I still quite clearly remember that painful first Christmas. Even with the blessed numbness of early grief to anesthetize me from some of the sting, I still recall the emptiness. That only an 8 x 10 photo of her smiling face with a lit votive candle placed next to it marked Nina's presence that Christmas of 1995, along with the knowledge she would never physically be present at another holiday family celebration, was beyond comprehension. Although everyone tried desperately to bring some normalcy to an anything-but-normal holiday, by the end of the day we were exhausted from the effort. As we drove quietly from my parent's house that evening, I will never forget the car ride home and watching my son in the rearview mirror. Where in other years past there would have been the back-seat horseplay of brother and sister after a fun holiday spent with extended family, instead he sat alone with tears streaming down his face with the conspicuously unoccupied seat next to him. The silence was deafening and spoke volumes of our intense sorrow.

I can truthfully say that each holiday since the first two have become a little more tolerable—I would never say "easier" because there is nothing "easy" about any of this. I think the word "gentler" fits better. Though obviously never the same as before, it has become bearable, even with moments of joy and laughter sprinkled in. The fact that it gets gentler with time may or may not help any of the newly bereaved reading right now because, honestly, that first and second year I couldn't imagine another holiday season, much less life, without Nina. Moreover, on my early grief voyage when someone who had been down the road before me gave the old "it will get better with time" routine, it fell on deaf ears. I could see no hope, no light at the end of the tunnel. My reality was that my daughter was dead and she was never coming back. Whether it would get better down the road mattered little at that time; it just plain hurt.

Though you may not wish to embrace stories of hope just yet, please let me share with you something that happened to me the week before that first Christmas. For 15+ years, a group of my friends get together right before Christmas. We only see each other once a year but always seem to be able to catch up right where we left off the year before. I decided to go to that gathering of friends that first Christmas after Nina's death. I felt she would want me to surround myself, if I felt able (an important point—please don't feel you have to do anything you don't feel up to—you are the best judge of what you can and cannot handle), with comforting and caring people and perhaps give me a small reprieve from some of the "awfulness" of the holidays.

When I got there one of my friends, Anne, walked over to me, gave me a hug and handed me a box. To the best of my recollection she said something like, "I know this is going to seem odd and I don't know what to make of it, but as I was baking these cookies, something told me to bring some to you. I have no idea why, but the feeling was very powerful to do this, so here they are." I opened the box and I couldn't believe what I saw: Spritz cookies—unbeknownst to Anne, Nina's very favorite Christmas cookie! I had bought a cookie press the previous year so that Nina and I could make them together and I very much regretted that we never had gotten a chance to do that. I agonized about that so often that first season after her death. Through my tears, I explained this to Anne.

I know, without a doubt, that those delicious little butter cookies were Nina's Christmas gift from heaven to me. It was her way to tell me to let go of the guilt of never making Spritz cookies together, and to let me know that even though she was gone from my sight, that she was still very much with me and holding me close during that excruciatingly difficult season. I share this hopeful message of love, which I believe is sent through Nina from **ALL** our children, siblings and grandchildren; that though we can't "see" them yet in the way that we wish, they do most definitely live on.

I hold each of you and your precious children close to my heart this holiday season. Please be gentle with yourself.



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

Mark Shafer (son of Bruce & Pat Shafer)	10/01	Craig St. John (son of Debra St. John)	11/02
Kara Rojas-Spice (daughter of Jerry & Amy Spice)	10/03	Matthew Skenadore (son of Jude Skenadore)	11/05
Michael Anderson (son of Ron & Lori Anderson)	10/04	Josh Kimes (son of Susan Kimes)	11/06
Josh Gilson (son of Ron & Cindy Gilson)	10/04	Chad Olson (son of Brenda Olson)	11/07
Allen O'Harrow (son of Cal & Lois O'Harrow)	10/04	Nick Baugnet (son of DeeDee & Joe Baugnet)	11/10
Peyton Haller (son of Paul & Angela Haller)	10/05	Jacob Kowalski (grandson of Jessica Fehlberg)	11/10
Corey Jonet (son of Dan & Lisa Jonet)	10/09	Debi Schultz (daughter of Barbara Fitzpatrick)	11/12
Seth Philhower (son of Shaun & Stacy Philhower)	10/09	Hunter Temme (son of Lisa Temme)	11/13
Leon Schroeder (son of Sawyer Schroeder, grandson of Marci Beck)	10/09	Ryan Patrick Bergevin (son of Randy Bergevin & Barbara Vandebusch)	11/16
Colton Steinhorst (son of Tara Steinhorst)	10/09	Ryan Rockstroh (son of Molly Rockstroh)	11/16
Matthew Arnold (son of Carrie & Bob Arnold)	10/10	Jillian Faymonville (daughter of Louise Faymonville)	11/17
Noah Thomas Campbell (son of Kelli & Craig Campbell)	10/10	Karson Fenlon (son of Donald & Jennifer Fenlon, grandson of Jan Hendricks)	11/17
Chad Seitzer (son of Sandi & Fred Seitzer)	10/10	Zander Varga Schenzel (grandson of Nancy Varga)	11/17
Benjamin Edinger (son of Rosanna Scannell)	10/15	Dillon J. Mueller (son of George and Angel Mueller)	11/18
Jack Natzke (son of Jason and Renee Natzke)	10/16	Elias Gonzales (son of Maria Gonzales)	11/21
Austin Jay Bullock (son of Faith Bullock)	10/20	Andy Haroldson (son of Ralph & Jean Haroldson)	11/24
Lailah Faith Pouwels (daughter of Ed & Carrie Pouwels)	10/20	E.J. Veard (daughter of Paula Veard)	11/24
Todd Reigner (son of Arthur & Barbara Reigner)	10/23	Amber Mastey (daughter of Brett & Amanda Mastey)	11/25
Winnifred "Freddie" McClory (daughter of Bob McClory & Carrie Brooks)	10/25	Jimmy Wanner Jr. (son of Keith & Pam Blondeim)	11/25
Van Jarchow (son of Mike & Dixie Jarchow)	10/26	Michael Kirst (son of Kris Kirst)	11/27
Shane Hopfensperger (son of Mike & Joann Hopfensperger)	10/28	Joe Hinton (son of Tom & Kathy Hinton)	11/28
Troy Milan (son of Pam Milan)	10/28	Federico Abarca (son of Concepcion Melgar)	11/29
Thea L Jacques (daughter of Sally Martin)	11/01	Austin Cottrell (son of Jeff & Nan Cottrell)	11/29
Cassandra LeMere-Zeller (daughter of Donald & Judith LeMere)	11/01	Amanda Rose Skar (daughter of Wayne & Kim Skar)	11/29
Jessica Lindberg (daughter of Dana Ewald)	11/02	Shane Lambert (son of Kim Lambert, grandson of Maria Lambert)	11/30

Kyle Barr
(son of Karen Strickfaden)
Crystal (Falish) Peterson
(daughter of Steve & Darlene Enderby)
Tara Reetz
(daughter of Daniel & Jean Reetz)
Travis Stelzer
(son of Don & Pam Stelzer)
Jessica Demo
(daughter of Sheila & Chuck Henrichs)
Joseph Jacques
(son-in-law of Pat Wojcik)
Hannah La Grassa
(Daughter of Stephen La Gtassa)
Jeremy DeMille
(son of Marysue Gerondale)
Andrea Eve Wirth
(daughter of Thomas and Angela Wirth)

12/02
12/06
12/08
12/13
12/16
12/17
12/17
12/23
12/27

Nathan Axelrod 12/28
(son of Johanna Axelrod)
Tom Manning 12/29
(son of Peggy Manning)
Matthew Shukoski 12/30
(son of Darlene VanHorn)
Marjie Duerr 12/31
(daughter of Linda Duerr)
Darrian Seppanen 12/31
(daughter of Janet Deterville)



ANNIVERSARIES

Matthew Kiefer
(son of Mary Jo Hempel)
Dillon J. Mueller
(son of George and Angel Mueller)
Caitlin Van Duyse
(daughter of Brenda VanDuyse)
Justin Banaszynski
(son of Donna Baranczyk)
Seth Philhower
(son of Shaun & Stacy Philhower)
Jason Ison
(son of Rene Ison)
Wendy Jacques
(daughter of Sally Martin)
Kelby Bagneski
(daughter of Bill & Kelly Bagneski)
Lailah Faith Pouwels
(daughter of Carrie & Ed Pouwels)
Ryan Bader
(son of Cheryl & Mark Bader)
Andrew Sorensen
(son of Wendy Sorensen)
Doug Cole
(son of Don & Karol Cole)
Gary Glebke
(son of Joyce Glebke)
Jessica Lindberg
(daughter of Dana Ewald)
Jacqueline Evers
(daughter of Joe and Alice Evers)
Ryan Rockstroh
(son of Molly Rockstroh)
Jeffery Skenadore
(son of Jude Skenadore)

10/04
10/04
10/04
10/05
10/09
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10/12
10/19
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10/27
10/27
10/29

Aidan Hammer Fry 11/01
(son of Linda Hammer & Megan Fry)
Karen Mary Schley 11/01
(daughter of Jon & Ann Schley)
Lance Vlies 11/01
(son of Wendy Vlies)
Joel Bagneski 11/02
(son of Bill & Kelly Bagneski)
Kira Smith 11/04
(daughter of Tara Smith)
Jason Banaszynski 11/06
(son of Donna Baranczyk - Pagel)
Cody Green 11/06
(son of Dan and Gwen Green)
Andy Haroldson 11/06
(son of Ralph & Jean Haroldson)
Marjie Duerr 11/07
(daughter of Linda Duerr)
Ryan Brunner 11/08
(son of Bill & Sue Brunner)
Mariah Early 11/17
(daughter of Melissa Early)
Todd Konop 11/17
(son of Dorothy & Tom Konop)
Shane Lambert 11/17
(son of Kim Lambert, grandson of Maria Lambert)
Tami (Sam) Cornelius 11/18
(daughter of Brenda Cornelius)
Tara Reetz 11/18
(daughter of Daniel & Jean Reetz)
Alex Wolf 11/20
(son of Keith Wolf)
Jessica Demo 11/23
(daughter of Sheila & Chuck Henrichs)

Benjamin Edinger (son of Rosanna Scannell)	11/23	Joe Hinton (son of Tom & Kathy Hinton)	12/20
Nicole Kowalkowski (daughter of Sharon & Roman Kowalkowski)	12/01	Kyle Barr (son of Karen Strickfaden)	12/24
Jacob Peters (son of Jerry & Natalie Peters)	12/01	Dana Kapla (daughter of Bob Kapla)	12/26
Paul Stone (son of Joan Stone)	12/01	Thea L Jacques (daughter of Sally Martin)	12/27
Mylisa Klapatch (daughter of Dennis Klapatch & Tamara Walker)	12/02	Cassandra LeMere-Zeller (daughter of Donald & Judith LeMere)	12/29
Jack McDonough (son of Carrie Harrison)	12/03	Christopher Voght (son of Tammy Viegut & Timm Gay)	12/29
Ross Ambrosius (son of Melissa & Rob Ambrosius)	12/09	Ryan Jozwiak (son of Lenée & Eddie Jozwiak)	12/30
Brittani Walker (daughter of Mary Walker)	12/09	Joey Wesolowski (son of Jennifer Heller & John Wesolowski)	12/30
Brandon Scheider (son of Deb Scheider)	12/10	Kevin Betker (son of Roy "Pete" & Renee Betker)	12/31
Jason Kurey (son of Deb Kurey)	12/11		
Austin Cottrell (son of Jeff & Nan Cottrell)	12/15		
Adam Lee Schultz (son of Stan & Deb Schultz)	12/15		
Darrian Seppanen (daughter of Janet Deterville)	12/15		
Aaron Lison (son of Adele Coopmans)	12/18		



*A thousand words can't bring you back
I know because I tried
And neither can a million tears
I know because I cried. ~ Sarah Ratliff*

ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENTS, & MISC.

Meeting Dates for October, November, and December

Let's talk about what's on your mind.

October 21, 2025. Open Forum Discussion.

November 18, 2025. Open Forum Discussion.

December 14, 2025: Candle Lighting at 3 pm

December 16, 2025. 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.



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

Please Visit Our Website:

www.compassionatefriendsgreenbay.org

All sorts of goodies are included:

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

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

I'm thankful this Thanksgiving
That my grief is not so new.
Last year it was so painful
To think of losing you.
Death can't claim my love for you
Tho we are far apart,
Sweet memories will always be
Engraved upon my heart.
Time can never bring you back.
But it can help me be
Thankful for the years of joy
You brought our family.
To all the parents with grief so new
I share your loss and sorrow.
I pray you find with faith and time
The blessings of each tomorrow.

Charlotte Irick
TCF, Idaho Falls, ID



Love gifts were recently given by:

Ken and Mary Gehm, in memory of Jared Gehm
Bruce and Pat Schafer, in memory of Mark Shafer
Todd and Sandy Scheffen, in memory of Sam Compton
Ann Rieckmann, in memory of Austin Rieckmann





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of Northeastern WI
Supporting Family After a Child Dies



PO Box 211
Green Bay, WI

We need not walk alone!

Our monthly
support group
meets next on:

Tuesday,
October 21, 2025
at 6:00 p.m.

at OneWay
Christian Church
2071 9th Street
Green Bay
Call 920-370-3858
for information.

The Compassionate Friends Worldwide Candle Lighting unites family and friends around the globe in lighting candles for one hour to honor the memories of the sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, and grandchildren who left too soon. As candles are lit at 7:00 p.m. local time, hundreds of thousands of persons commemorate and honor the memory of all children gone too soon.

NOTE: Our local chapter will be holding our ceremony on Sunday, December 14th at 3:00 pm.

