

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

A Quarterly Newsletter
 by and for Bereaved Parents

April/May/June 2026

The Northeastern WI Chapter of TCF meets the third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at
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: compassionatefriendsgb@gmail.com
 Website: compassionatefriendsgreenbay.org

WE ARE SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS BUT GLAD TO CONNECT

Welcome usually means we are happy to meet, unfortunately in this instance, it means you are with us because you have lost a child, grandchild or sibling, a very sad time in your life. Having said that, we're glad that you found the courage to read this newsletter and/or join us at a meeting. We hope you find understanding and comfort with this group. We strive to help each other work through our grief in our own way, no matter how long the process may take. We encourage you to read this newsletter and attend our next meeting. Give us a chance to help! We hope that by exchanging information, sharing feelings, tears and compassion, we can help you move through this painful journey, towards hope and peace. There are no fees or dues required to participate in this organization just Understanding & Compassion.

We invite you to share a memory, photo, favorite toy or any item with the group at our Monthly Chapter Meeting.

As a reminder, I invite you to participate in **Sharing our Children**. This is an opportunity for all of us to get to know your loved one a bit more. You can share anything you would like to about your child and if you wish, include a picture.

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 wkskar@gmail.com.

If you haven't joined us at a meeting in awhile, please know you are always welcome.

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 21, 2025 6 p.m.

Open Forum Discussion

Tuesday, May 19, 2025 6 p.m.

Open Forum Discussion

Tuesday, June 16, 2025 6 p.m.

Open Forum Discussion



MOTHERS DAY AND GRADUATION

Julie Short
TCF Southeastern IL



After my daughter Kyra died on November 14 of 2004, one of my first thoughts was I am no longer a mother, because Kyra was my only child. It didn't take me long to realize that that was not true; I am and always will be Kyra's mom. As I have walked my grief journey I have found myself referring to grief as labor. It then came to me that for me, losing Kyra was like giving birth in reverse. I experienced intense emotional and physical pain that I wondered if I could endure, similar to the physical pain of labor, only in grief it lasts for weeks, months and years. It took my breath away, brought me to my knees and often I found myself crying out in anguish and anger, like child birth. It has been over a year and a half since Kyra died and I have felt a break in the pain. It has started back up recently due to graduation but I know it will ease some after May. Some women experience false labor leading up to the birth of their child. I think that those intense pains that come from out of nowhere and last only a short time is something that I will forever experience. I now realize that in letting go of her death, I can embrace and carry her spirit with me always. So, I liken grief to giving birth in reverse.

I go from Mother's day to Graduation, because Kyra would have graduated from High School at the end of May. Graduation was something I knew would be hard for me to endure without her here, alive and being part of the celebration. I thought about what Kyra graduating would mean to me and it didn't take me long to come up with, it was going to be my day to celebrate. Kyra was an intelligent child with a low attention span, a need to talk, and lower than I

would have liked motivation. It was a frustration that her teachers and I shared. So, homework time was a challenge and I used motivational charts, rewards and even punishment. But, I quickly found that you can't force someone to be motivated and went back to encouraging. I knew that she would come around and become motivated and I started seeing it her Junior year the year she died. I thought that graduation would be the reward for all the long nights and constantly trying to encourage and motivate. Well, it's not to be and I had to decide how will I endure graduation. I began to think about all she is missing. I believe in Heaven so I don't believe she is missing any joy or good times, because I believe she is now experiencing indescribable joy and unimaginable good times. The reality of what she is missing is, she is missing misery, pain, frustration, disappointment, a broken heart, grief, hopelessness and agony. And I am missing her incredible, joy and zest for life, her strong faith, beautiful smile and her wonderful heart.

As I close I remember when I was pregnant with Kyra, I took two helpings of food because I said I'm eating for two. Now I will try my best to live life to the fullest and be all that I can because now I'm living for two. Just as her living made me want to be a better person, her dying will make me a better person if I allow it, because I now carry her with me. I will strive to do and see life the way she would have if she could have stayed here longer.



As long as I can I will look at this world for both of us. As long as I can I will laugh with the birds, I will sing with the flowers, I will pray to the stars, for both of us. ~ Sascha Wagner

Father's Day Is Still a Time for Celebrating . . .



Wayne Loder
TCF Lakes Area, MI
In Memory of Stephanie and Stephen Loder

A long time has passed since I've enjoyed a holiday—or for that matter any special occasion. With Father's Day coming up shortly, I've decided that this year I'm celebrating.

The kids used to love when special occasions came along. I can still remember Stef's eighth birthday, only three months before her death, and how proud she was when we told her she could invite her best friends over for a birthday party. She wore her prettiest blue trimmed party dress with the lace ruffles.

The games they played still stick in my mind. There was "pin the tail on the donkey" and then "Simon Says." I remember clothes flying everywhere in a contest to see which child could put on a complete set of clothes fastest over her party clothes. I remember the hotdogs, punch and cake, the party favors. I remember Stef's giggles.

The memories also wander back to the party our family threw for Stephen's fifth birthday, only three days before the accident which also claimed his life. I still have the picture in my mind of that goofy orange cap someone had given Steve. He loved it, but it was at least two sizes too small. When he tried to put it on, the bill of the cap was up and Stephen flashed us one of those impish grins that reminds you of Spanky and Our Gang.

As I'm writing this, the tears are flowing down my cheeks remembering the good times we had together.

A lot of things changed when the kids died. Christmas, Easter, birthdays all became days other people celebrated. But not us.

I've done a lot of thinking since then. I know Stef and Steve are in a better place than I could ever imagine and that every day is a holiday for them. In my mind, I think Stef and Stephen would be sad if they felt their Mom and Dad couldn't celebrate life anymore.

Pat and I now have another son, Christopher, plus we have our fourth child on the way. We're trying to rebuild our lives and I feel we have been blessed along the way. Of course, Christopher is too young to understand Father's Day, but even without him here, I would still consider celebrating Father's Day.

I can still remember the Father's Day a couple of years before Stef and Stephen died. With their mom, they had searched all over for something special for me, finally deciding on a T-Shirt that said "World's Coolest Dad." I still wear that now faded shirt occasionally despite the many grass stains and grease marks.

When Father's Day arrives, I think I'm going to pull out that old T-Shirt and wear it. *I'm going to lay down out in the grass, letting the warm breeze hit me. And I'm going to pretend I'm being caressed by Stef and Steve. I'm going to remember . . . and I'm going to celebrate!!!*



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

~ Helen Keller



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

Shawnie Silas-Grode (daughter of Pauline Silas)	6/19	James Capelle (son of Tammy Capelle)	6/26
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	Ben Delain (son of Peter & Becky Delain)	6/29
Matt Hanson (son of Dean & Mary Hanson)	6/24	Steve Price (son of Jennifer & Steve Price)	6/30
Ian Seymour (son of Diane & Paul Seymour)	6/24		
Skylar Beattie (daughter of Krystle Cooley)	6/26		

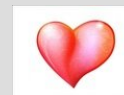
ANNIVERSARIES

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	Doug Kwiatkowski (son of Dave & Theresa Kwiatkowski)	4/23
Raina Manders (daughter of Spring Manders)	4/04	Mike Smith (son of Dave Smith)	4/23
Nicolas Resch (son of Lynn & Steve Marcks)	4/04	Dalon Calkins (son of Kate Calkins)	4/26
Rick Strombach (son of Donna Strombach)	4/06	Connor Carlson (son of Rhonda Carlson)	4/26
Eric Barlamant (son of Jim Barlament & 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	Gabriela Jacques (granddaughter of Pat Wojcik)	5/13
Patton Prunty (son of Ed & Pat Prunty)	4/15	Michael Anderson (son of Ron & Lori Anderson)	5/14
Olivia DeMeuse (daughter of Cheryl DeMeuse)	4/16	Noah Thomas Campbell (son of Kelli & Craig Campbell)	5/14
Travis Christenson (son of Cherie Oettinger)	4/18	Austin Jay Bullock (son of Faith Bullock)	5/15

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	Bruce T. Blaser Jr. (son of Bruce & Paige Blaser)	6/12
Sierra Hecker (Daughter of Jason Hecker)	5/17	Eric Glass (son of Linda Glass)	6/13
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	Nevaeh Cadman (Daughter of Angel Young and Matthew Cadman)	6/18
Taylor Budysz (daughter of Krysta Budysz)	5/20	Alyssa Steward (daughter of Wendy Steward)	6/18
Matthew Baudhuin (son of Jason Baudhuin)	5/21	Leon Schroeder (Son of Sawyer Schroeder, grandson of Marci Beck)	6/19
Evan Meder (son of Randy & Margaret Meder)	5/22	Ella Smetana (daughter of Frank Smetana)	6/20
Ryan Patrick Bergevin (son of Randy Bergevin & Barbara Vandenbusch)	5/25	Samantha DeLong (daughter of Joe & Sue DeLong)	6/22
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
Ashley MacDonald (daughter of Yvonne Cerkas)	6/05	Timothy Metoxen (son of Florence Petri)	6/28
Aislinn Shimon (Daughter of Dave and Patricia Novak)	6/05	Michael Kirst (son of Kris Kirst)	6/30
Shane Bowhousen (son of Doug & Renie Bowhousen)	6/06		
Brent Rosner (son of Tina Rosner)	6/06		



Love gifts were recently given by:



Gary and Mary Federwitz, in memory of Adam Federwitz
 Ken and Mary Gehm, in memory of Jared Gehm
 Renee L and Douglas M LaViolette, in memory of Brian LaViolette
 Todd and Sandy Scheffen, in memory of Sam Compton
 Lon and Jean Wendt, in memory of Cam Wendt

ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENTS, & MISC.

Meeting Dates for April, May and June

April 21: Open Forum Discussion

May 19: Open Forum Discussion

June 16: Open Forum Discussion

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

Catching Butterflies

It often hurt to come upon reminders of
my son
Tho' often since I lost him I would search
around for one
Which always brought on sadness and
the tears that I would shed
Were caused by names or faces, all
things that I would dread.
But then one day I came upon a man
who'd lost his son
found that things I ran from, he wouldn't
even shun.
But rather he would treasure and I said
I wondered why
He told me that he called them "Catching
Butterflies."
This view of his intrigued me; I wanted
to hear more
And learned that he took all of them and
carefully would store
All of the reminders that I chose to push
away
He would tuck deep down inside his
heart each and every day.
Now a name or likeness when catching
me off guard
Does not upset me as it did and I don't
find it hard
For now instead I see these times as
opportunities
To see my son awakened in these new
fresh memories.

Dottie Williams
TCF Pittsburgh PA



Helpful Resources

www.compassionatefriendsgreenbay.org

All sorts of goodies are included:

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

We Need Not Walk Alone Magazine

The Compassionate Friends National website contains a magazine that is jam packed with information and articles. You can view the magazine online or

July 3, 2025 – July 5, 2025

49TH TCF NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The Compassionate Friends 49th Annual National Conference will be held July 3rd - 5th in Baltimore, MD. TCF's National Conference is an enriching and supportive event for many newer and long-time bereaved parents, grandparents, and siblings. Attendees come and find renewed hope and support, as well as strategies for coping with grief, all while making friendships with other bereaved people who truly understand the heart-breaking loss of a child, sibling, or grandchild. Lifelong friendships are often formed and rekindled each year at TCF conferences. *Watch for more details in the upcoming weeks*





THE
COMPASSIONATE
FRIENDS
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 21, 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..



The Compassionate Friends

**Supporting Family
After a Child Dies**

friendship, understanding, and hope