



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:
compassionatefriendsgb@gmail.com
Website:
compassionatefriendsgreenbay.org



Monthly Support Group
Bring along a photo of your child.

Tuesday, October 20, 2026 6 p.m.

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

Tuesday, November 17,, 2026 6 p.m.

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

Tuesday, December 15, 2025 6 p.m.

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

This will be our 9th holiday season without our daughter, Amanda Rose. As grieving parents, the upcoming holidays are not only different, but they can also be very difficult. We cherish the memories of our children whom now live within our hearts, from their first school days, the celebrated Halloweens, Thanksgivings and of course their excitement of Christmases.

For those who haven't stopped by for a meeting in a while, we are always here to help. Meetings are held the third Tuesday of every month, dates are listed within this newsletter. As a reminder, the National Candle Lighting Ceremony is held on the second Sunday of December. Our chapter will hold ours on December 13th at 3 PM. You can invite anyone to attend with you that you would like. Don't forget your photo of your child and a candle to light.

I am always looking for stories of your loved ones to share with our chapter of TCF for the newsletter, it could also be a poem, or whatever you would like to share. They can be sent to me, at wkskar@gmail.com. You can also include a photo of your child if you would like.

As the year comes to an end, cherish those memories you have of your loved ones to help guide you through the upcoming holiday season. As this is our last newsletter of the year, we would like to wish you all, a Happy Halloween, a grateful Thanksgiving, and a peaceful Christmas in whatever form they take for you.

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.



MUSINGS ON HALLOWEEN, PAST AND PRESENT

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



As I type this, the nip in the October air is a reminder that the major holidays are just around the corner. Halloween paraphernalia has been in the stores since July with Christmas decorations right behind them. For those of us who are bereaved parents, this means the sooner the décor is on the store shelves, the longer we have the constant reminders that we will be facing the holidays without our child present. Whether this is your first Halloween following their death or years down the road, such as in my situation, the holiday season stirs the emotions. For example, with Halloween, there could be the sorrow of no longer having to find that perfect costume or witnessing the delight in your child's eyes as they head out the door to trick-or-treat. If your child was an adult when they died, perhaps it is your old memories of Halloweens when they were youngsters. And there are those whose children died before they ever had the opportunity to create memories, the sadness that they were never able to experience even one holiday with that child.

Halloween can be particularly hard to get through. In the past, I always thought of it as innocuous enough; costume parties, children excitedly dashing door-to-door looking for treats, pumpkin carving, and the occasional harmless prank. However, after my daughter Nina died, I became acutely aware of things that I had never given a second thought. For instance, my neighbor made their whole front yard into a graveyard scene of fake headstones with scary or silly epitaphs on them, and terrifying creatures coming out of the earth. Before Nina died, I also found cemeteries "creepy", but now look at them differently, even with a sort of reverence. I no longer have a problem going out to my daughter's grave-site, even in the middle of the night. I find the solitude of the historic countryside graveyard where she lays peaceful, dignified and worthy of respect. I was hurt by what I felt was ridicule and disdain for the final resting place of our loved ones' physical bodies. In addition, some of the masks portrayed faces of death in a way that I found highly offensive, especially since I knew many who lost their children to some of the means depicted. I perceived it as a mockery of the tragedies that these families suffered.

Though I still don't pretend to understand the allure

of the above-mentioned Halloween depictions, they aren't as painful to me as they were the first few years after Nina died. Especially in the early grief years, we become hypersensitive to our surroundings and more keenly aware of anything related to death. It is pretty hard to look past the non-bereaved populations seeming nonchalance about something we take so personally. Though we wish there was more understanding, we also know all too well that they cannot truly empathize unless they have walked in our shoes. It is easy to forget that, before our children's deaths, we too may have shown the same indifference. We'd like to think that we would not have been so callous because we now know firsthand how much this hurts those affected. However, before we lost our "innocence", truth be told, we probably didn't give any of it much thought.

On this 10th Halloween without Nina, I do my best to ignore all the ghoulishness surrounding this time of year. If I do find I am having difficulty, I try very hard to focus on positive memories of Halloween's past, such as her grade-school costume party where our basement became a makeshift haunted house where blindfolded "witches" and "fairy princesses" shrieked and giggled as they plunged their hands into bowls full of peeled grape "eyeballs" and wet macaroni "brains". Or the photos I have of her in different costumes over the years, from Care Bear to Punk Rocker. Then there is the photo taken of Nina on her last Halloween. No longer of trick-or-treat age, she stayed home to pass out the candy and carved her own Jack-O-Lantern that she is pictured proudly along side, with her ever-present smile and that wonderful twinkle in her brown eyes; such precious memories...

For those with a missing trick-or-treater this Halloween, the first holidays are the most difficult. Though I find they are easier to bear as time marches on, there will always be the awareness that someone so loved is absent from the family gatherings. Remember that this roller-coaster grief-ride brings different feelings with each passing year. It is important to allow those feelings—whatever they may be—and let them happen. Try not to be waylaid by other's expectations of you. Trust your instincts. Truly, only you know what is best for you.



TCF 2025 Chapter Financial Update **By** **Steve Schmeisser**

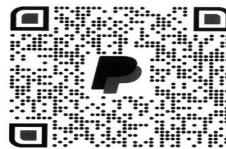


It has been a few years since I provided the last chapter financial update. Rather than bore you with the details, I will hit the highlights for 2025. We started the year with \$3,342 in our checkbook and ended the year with \$2,881, so we lost \$461 for 2025. Contributions to the Chapter totaled \$2,828 and our expenses were \$3,289. As you can probably guess our biggest expenses for the year were the printing of our quarterly newsletter of \$866 and postage of \$1,088. Our postage expense also includes the postage to mail out the birthday and anniversary cards. Our other expenses are post office box rental of \$210, chapter cellphone \$100, annual website and domain name \$187, meeting/office expenses of \$539. We gave OneWay \$300 for the use of their facilities. Since Mickey and I have been involved with the Chapter, neither First United Methodist Church nor OneWay has charged us a monthly rental fee. We do give them a stipend to help with their costs to host us. Twenty-one years ago, this was \$100 but as their costs increased, we felt the need to increase our stipend to them.

Over the years we have been very fortunate not to have to conduct any fundraising events or send out appeals for money from our members. In 2011, the Fox Valley Chapter closed, and we became the recipient of an annual donation from Freshly Squeezed. They have a booth at the Appleton Oktoberfest, selling orange juice and lemonade. They have provided us with \$4,600. One of the founding members of the Chapter were Jim and Roberta Charneski. Jim passed away in 2019, and he requested memorials be made to our Chapter. We received \$1,495 in funds from his memorial. Finally, my best friend from high school, worked for Glatfelter Paper Mill in Neenah. When the mill closed, he was put in charge of their portion of the Fox River PCB cleanup. Several of the contractors used their property to store equipment. They charged them a monthly rental fee, but the employees were able to designate a charitable organization to receive the funds. He submitted our Chapter, and it was approved. We received a total of \$7,900 from 2014 through 2018. The total of these three items are \$13,995. As you can see without these funds, we would be hurting financially.

We are also fortunate to have several donors who donate monthly to the chapter through PayPal and others who donate annually by check. We have even had a couple of people send us booklets of stamps to help mail out our newsletter. The quarterly cost of mailing a newsletter is \$1.88 or \$9.52 annually. If everyone getting the newsletter by mail would send the Chapter \$10 a year, that alone would be \$2,000. So, when it is your child's birthday or anniversary of their passing and you want to do something, think about donating to the chapter in their name and memory. If you have any specific questions about the Chapter finances, feel free to reach out to me via the chapter email.

Should you wish to donate to The Compassionate Friends, the QR code below is quick and easy for Paypal users.



Love gifts were recently given by:



Ken and Mary Gehm, in memory of Jared Gehm
Todd and Sandy Scheffen, in memory of Sam Compton

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

Tara Reetz (daughter of Daniel & Jean Reetz)	12/08	Matthew Shukoski (son of Darlene VanHorn)	12/30
Travis Stelzer (son of Don & Pam Stelzer)	12/13	Marjie Duerr (daughter of Linda Duerr)	12/31
Jessica Demo (daughter of Sheila & Chuck Henrichs)	12/16	Darrian Seppanen (daughter of Janet Deterville)	12/31
Joseph Jacques (son-in-law of Pat Wojcik)	12/17		
Hannah La Grassa (Daughter of Stephen La Gtassa)	12/17		
Jeremy DeMille (son of Marysue Gerondale)	12/23		
Andrea Eve Wirth (daughter of Thomas and Angela Wirth)	12/27		
Nathan Axelrod (son of Johanna Axelrod)	12/28		
Tom Manning (son of Peggy Manning)	12/29		



ANNIVERSARIES

Matthew Kiefer (son of Mary Jo Hempel)	10/04	Aidan Hammer Fry (son of Linda Hammer & Megan Fry)	11/01
Dillon J. Mueller (son of George and Angel Mueller)	10/04	Karen Mary Schley (daughter of Jon & Ann Schley)	11/01
Caitlin Van Duyse (daughter of Brenda VanDuyse)	10/04	Lance Vlies (son of Wendy Vlies)	11/01
Justin Banaszynski (son of Donna Baranczyk)	10/05	Joel Bagneski (son of Bill & Kelly Bagneski)	11/02
Seth Philhower (son of Shaun & Stacy Philhower)	10/09	Kira Smith (daughter of Tara Smith)	11/04
Jason Ison (son of Rene Ison)	10/10	Eric Jandro (son of Carol McMeen)	11/05
Wendy Jacques (daughter of Sally Martin)	10/12	Jason Banaszynski (son of Donna Baranczyk - Pagel)	11/06
Kelby Bagneski (daughter of Bill & Kelly Bagneski)	10/19	Cody Green (son of Dan and Gwen Green)	11/06
Lailah Faith Pouwels (daughter of Carrie & Ed Pouwels)	10/20	Andy Haroldson (son of Ralph & Jean Haroldson)	11/06
Ryan Bader (son of Mark Bader)	10/24	Marjie Duerr (daughter of Linda Duerr)	11/07
Andrew Sorensen (son of Wendy Sorensen)	10/24	Ryan Brunner (son of Bill & Sue Brunner)	11/08
Doug Cole (son of Don & Karol Cole)	10/25	Mariah Early (daughter of Melissa Early)	11/17
Gary Glebke (son of Joyce Glebke)	10/25	Todd Konop (son of Dorothy & Tom Konop)	11/17
Jessica Lindberg (daughter of Dana Ewald)	10/26	Shane Lambert (son of Kim Lambert, grandson of Maria Lambert)	11/17
Jacqueline Evers (daughter of Joe and Alice Evers)	10/27	Tami (Sam) Cornelius (daughter of Brenda Cornelius)	11/18
Ryan Rockstroh (son of Molly Rockstroh)	10/27	Tara Reetz (daughter of Daniel & Jean Reetz)	11/18
Jeffery Skenadore (son of Jude Skenadore)	10/29	Alex Wolf (son of Keith Wolf)	11/20

Jessica Demo (daughter of Sheila & Chuck Henrichs)	11/23	Aaron Lison (son of Adele Coopmans)	12/18
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	Ashley Wondra (daughter of Linda Jones-Blau)	12/23
Jacob Peters (son of Jerry & Natalie Peters)	12/01	Kyle Barr (son of Karen Strickfaden)	12/24
Paul Stone (son of Joan Stone)	12/01	Dana Kapla (daughter of Bob Kapla)	12/26
Mylisa Klapatch (daughter of Dennis Klapatch & Tamara Walker)	12/02	Thea L Jacques (daughter of Sally Martin)	12/27
Jack McDonough (son of Carrie Harrison)	12/03	Cassandra LeMere-Zeller (daughter of Donald & Judith LeMere)	12/29
Nevada Nelson (daughter of Yvette Nelson)	12/04	Christopher Voght (son of Tammy Viegut & Timm Gay)	12/29
Ross Ambrosius (son of Melissa & Rob Ambrosius)	12/09	Ryan Jozwiak (son of Lenee & 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		
Adam Lee Schultz (son of Stan & Deb Schultz)	12/15		
Darrian Seppanen (daughter of Janet Deterville)	12/15		



As the Holiday Season Ends

Pat Akery
TCF Medford, OR

Every time the holiday season comes to a close, I feel as if I can hear a collective sigh of relief. This year was no different except that the sigh seemed louder and longer than in past years. Some years are like that for us. This one was certainly like that for me. No matter how difficult I thought the holidays would be to get through I was wrong. In some ways, they were more difficult and in other ways, surprisingly, they were less difficult. The reality is that you and I, no matter how we anticipated the holidays, did get through them. We did survive the holidays and though it may be difficult for you to believe this now, there is no reason that this New Year shouldn't be better.

Which brings me to a favorite topic for this time of year, New Year's resolutions. Resolutions that I think are most helpful are those that concern our well-being. Above all else, resolve to take better care of yourself. Try to eat right and exercise. Find ways to nurture yourself—both your body and your mind. Remember all things in moderation. Seek advice from others when you need it and above all, ask for help when you need it. You won't always get the help when you ask for it, but remember, if you don't ask for it, you surely won't get it.

Another thing you can do to have a happier new year is to become more involved in your chapter of The Compassionate Friends. If you've not come to any meetings, or if it's been a while, give it a try. Commit to attending at least three meetings. If you were to attend only one, you would not necessarily get a very good idea of what meetings are like. Join us and make your needs known to us.

The newsletter is another way you can become involved in your chapter. Let us know contributing poems or stories. Tell us how we might be able to better serve your needs. Have a Happier New Year!

ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENTS, & MISC.

Meeting Dates for October, November, and December

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

October 20, 2026. Open Forum Discussion.

November 17, 2026. Open Forum Discussion.

December 13, 2026: Candle Lighting at 3 pm

December 15, 2026. 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.

Candles in the Night



Candles flame in darkness,
flicker, steadily glow,
bringing light from shadows
and help to soothe me so.
My daughter, like the candles,
gave my life true light.
I use the candle's beacon
to connect us in the night.
As I light the candles,
my wish and my request
is that she'll see my signal
and know my love's expressed.
As her light joins my lights,
our worlds touch and flame.
As I snuff out the candles,
I softly say her name.

Genesse Bourdeau Gentry

Please Visit Our Website:

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 you can print any or all of the pages.

<https://www.compassionatefriends.org/resources/we-need-not-walk-alone-magazine/>

Find us on Facebook

The Compassionate Friends of Northeastern WI



Please note:

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



THE
COMPASSIONATE
FRIENDS
of Northeastern WI
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,
October 20, 2026
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 13th at 3:00 pm.