



# THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS, INC. ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN CHAPTER OCTOBER 2016 NEWSLETTER

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## THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS, ANN ARBOR

Meetings: *held 3rd Sunday of every month*  
From 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
First Presbyterian Church, Vance Room  
1432 Washtenaw Ave. (between Hill St. and S. University)  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
Chapter Phone: 734-707-8141  
Chapter Website: [tcfannarbormich.org](http://tcfannarbormich.org)

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## October 2016 Meeting Welcome

We will be meeting on October 16th from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. (**the 3rd Sunday of the month**). To all who are receiving the newsletter for the first time, we wish you were not eligible to belong to this group, but we welcome you and we want you to know that you have many friends here. We who have received love and compassion from others in our time of deep sorrow now wish to offer the same support to you. Please know we understand, we care, and we want to help. You are not alone in your grief. We all need a safe place to talk about and remember our child. It is especially important to newly bereaved parents that others who have found some comfort, or who have moved ahead in their journey, come and lend their support.

As we go into the Holiday season, sometimes memories of past years weigh us down more than usual. I'd like to welcome you to come to the November and December meetings in particular. You will have a chance to be with the rest of us - those who've gone through this many times before and those who are going through it for the first time. We schedule special programming during November and December that we hope brings something additional to the season.~ Mike

## Caring Listeners:

The following Compassionate Friends are available to listen. Please call if you wish to talk to someone about your child or what you are experiencing:

Susan Kirkup	734-424-9322	Young child, Long term illness, Miscarriage
Ann Wagner	734-996-0205	Murdered child
Valerie Wilsdon	734-678-4396	Auto accident/multiple deaths

# **BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

## **In Spirit, Heart & Memory, Love Lives Forever**

**This is a difficult time for those observing the death date or the birthday of their child, please remember them with a card or a hug!**

### **OCTOBER**

**Cameron Milliere**, son of Andy & Paulette Milliere  
**Justin Speiker**, son of John & Kathy Speiker  
**Andrew Luke VanArtsen**, son of Mary Smith.  
**Doug Sproull**, son of Marie Sproull & Mark Fazel.  
**Andrew Willmon**, son of Cindy & James Willmon.  
**Joseph R. Brown**, son of Cindy Brown.  
**Anthony Fabbri**, son of Charles & Sandra Fabbri.  
**Christina Fabbri**, daughter of Charles & Sandra Fabbri.  
**Rebecca Fabbri**, daughter of Charles & Sandra Fabbri.  
**Sara Janet Wallbank**, daughter of Janet Shoemaker & John Wallbank.  
**Raymond John Uhle**, son of Katharine Uhle.  
**Tina Marie Jordan**, daughter of Chris Battersby.  
**Kate Birdsall**, daughter of Susan Kirkup & Michael Birdsall.  
**Liam Patrick Nicholson**, son of Michael & Char Nicholson.

### **NOVEMBER**

**Kendall Clair Frank**, daughter of Melissa Frank.  
**Sheri Hamann**, daughter of Chuck & Kathy Davenport  
**Benjamin Adam Van Artsen**, son of Mary Smith.  
**Morgan Smith**, daughter of Claire Joslin  
**Mark Timothy Whitaker**, son of Venus & David Lascewski  
**Emily Elizabeth**, daughter of Karen Gratopp.  
**Madison Rose**, daughter of Karen Gratopp  
**Avery Anne**, daughter of Karen Gratopp.  
**William Edward Thomas**, son of Donald Gene Thomas Jr.  
**Ambria Winston**, daughter of Regina Miller  
**Kristien Lemke**, daughter of Bob Lemke.  
**Corinna Harmon**, daughter of Diane Santure.  
**Jamie Weeks**, daughter of Penny Weeks.  
**Norman Robert "Rob" Campbell**, son of Norman & Shirley Campbell.  
**Dustin Dale Smith**, son of Roberta Smith.  
**Jonathan D. Michael**, son of Susan Vickers.  
**Matthew Smith**, son of Carolyn Smith.  
**Michael B. Eisley**, son of Karen & John Eisley.  
**Kipling Scott Hemingway**, son of Tom & Jenne Hemingway.  
**John H. Street III**, son of Dawn & Al Yeager.  
**Julie Ann-Aiko Harrison**, daughter of Robert & Sherry Harrison.  
**Bill Linn**, son of George & Anne Linn.

#### **Note about birthday and death date information**

The information comes from telephone calls requesting to be put on our list, the sign in sheet when attending the monthly meetings, and by emailing Julie at [mosbeyjuliana@gmail.com](mailto:mosbeyjuliana@gmail.com). If you have only given your name and not that of your spouse, that is what will be used in the newsletter. We are always happy to add/change any information. This column is for you, and to give an accurate remembrance of your dear child.

## The Process

Recently we faced the second anniversary of my son's death. Quietly, at home, no friends, no phone calls, no plans, just personal thoughts and reflections. That is how we chose to honor Todd Mennen on this saddest of days.

My husband said he woke up during the night; he had been dreaming about the accident and Todd's death. I slept throughout the night, but when I awoke in the morning I was still in that place between awake and asleep; I was "in a dream". Todd and I were having a conversation; it felt nice. I didn't feel the usual jolt of reality when I awoke—the jolt each of us feels when we awaken to remember our child is gone. The conversation was comforting.

We miss him so much. His laugh, his sincere, sparkling eyes will never grace us again. His deep concern about others, his love of life, his gifts of analyzing, listening, gently suggesting....those have gone with him. In their place is a deep void.

The process of grieving is a strange one. Each day is different. Throughout each day my child is in my mind.....in the forefront or in the background....but in my mind. I shed tears unexpectedly, my voice breaks when I remember truly special events in Todd's life. Sometimes I get angry over little things. Sometimes I don't react to anything. Sometimes I seem normal to everyone, but it doesn't matter.

Normal, of course, is what others want to see in me. What is normal for a mother whose only child is dead? Who has that answer? Everyone has an opinion, but in truth, there is no normal, there is no answer.

And so, as we continue to travel this highway of life, our grief is in us and around us.

Sometimes our grief is all we have. Still we travel this empty road.

We understand. We're all different, yet, we are all the same. Our child is dead. We are Compassionate Friends.

Taken from the Editors Database  
on The Compassionate Friends  
website January 27, 2005

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

If you would like to submit a poem, story, or any other material for publication, please send it to: [newsletter@tcfannarbor.org](mailto:newsletter@tcfannarbor.org) with **TCF in the subject line**. Also, If you know anyone who might benefit from receiving our newsletter, please give them Julie's email address: [mosbeyjuliana@gmail.com](mailto:mosbeyjuliana@gmail.com)



### OUR PARTNERS

*The Compassionate Friends recommends The Open to Hope Show as a grief/loss resource for families going through the natural grieving process after the death of a child. The ongoing series is dedicated to Dr. Gloria Horsley's and Dr. Heidi Horsley's son and brother, Scott Preston Horsley. It keys on issues of importance to families that have experienced the death of a child. Watch the most recent episode of the Open To Hope Show: [Open to Hope](http://www.opentohope.com/tv/) <http://www.opentohope.com/tv/>*

The Ann Arbor Chapter will have a Candle Lighting event at our regular Sunday Meeting on December 18th at 2:30. Please consider participating by volunteering to share your favorite poem or writing, sing a favorite song, or play an instrument. Also, we would love to see pictures of your children if you would like to share them.



*The Compassionate Friends*

# Worldwide Candle Lighting

Join us on December 11, 2016

*“...that their light may always shine.”*

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.

Now believed to be the largest mass candle lighting on the globe, the 20th annual Worldwide Candle Lighting, a gift to the bereavement community from The Compassionate Friends, creates a virtual 24-hour wave of light as it moves from time zone to time zone. TCF's WWCL started in the United States in 1997 as a small internet observance, but has since swelled in numbers as word has spread throughout the world of the remembrance. Hundreds of formal candle lighting events are held and thousands of informal candle lightings are conducted in homes as families gather in quiet remembrance of children who have died, but will never be forgotten.

If no Worldwide Candle Lighting service was held near you last year, please feel free to plan one open to the public this year or next year. You are welcome to use TCF's "[Suggestions to Help Plan a Memorial Service in Conjunction with The Compassionate Friends Worldwide Candle Lighting](#)©" to help in planning the service. All allied bereavement organizations, churches, funeral homes, hospices, and formal and informal bereavement groups are invited to join in the remembrance. When you confirm plans for your candle lighting, please return to this site and submit the event information form so TCF can list your service with the many hundreds held in the United States and around the world. The Worldwide Candle Lighting gives bereaved families everywhere the opportunity to remember their child(ren) **so that their lights may always shine!**



**Thank you for the Love Gifts:** Love Gifts help with the cost of mailing the newsletter, contacting newly bereaved parents and keeping our Chapter going. We greatly appreciate all gifts. Please let us know if we have missed thanking anyone for their generosity. See the attached form to fill out and mail in.

**Detroit Chapter TCF:** Vivian Shelton/Kelly Warren, Chapter Co-Leaders, phone 734-660-9557. Meets on the **second Thurs.** of the month from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at United Methodist Church, 12065 W. Outer Dr., Detroit 48223. Email: [tcfdetroit@yahoo.com](mailto:tcfdetroit@yahoo.com)

**Pinckney Chapter TCF:** James Batchelor, Phone 734-277-9705. Meets **second Monday** at 6:00 p.m. at Christian House of Prayer, 9949 McGregor Road, Pinckney, MI 48169.

**Flint TCF:** John & Paulette Carpenter, phone: 810-701-5268. Meets **second Thurs.** and **last Tues.** from 7-9 p.m. at Hope United Methodist Church 4467 Beecher Rd. (Beecher & Mill), Flint, MI 48532.

**S. Rockwood TCF:** Sheri Schooley, phone: 734-365-4723. Meets **third Tues.** from 7-9 p.m. at S. Rockwood United Methodist church, 6311 S. Huron River Drive, S. Rockwood, MI 48179.

**Gladwin Area TCF:** Debbie Mason, phone 989-329-2109. Meets **third Thurs.** at 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1300 Bartlett Dr., Gladwin, MI 48624.

**Tecumseh Chapter TCF:** phone: 517-270-3308. Meets **fourth Sunday** from 2-4 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 211 West Chicago Blvd. Tecumseh, MI 49286. Email: [TECCF@outlook.com](mailto:TECCF@outlook.com)

**Livonia TCF:** Rhonda Temple, phone: 734-778-0800. Meets **first Thurs.** from 7-9 p.m. at St. Timothy Presbyterian Church, 16700 Newburg Rd, Livonia, MI 48154. Contact Rhonda Temple 25164 Hanover St. Dearborn Heights, MI 48125 E: [red101666@yahoo.com](mailto:red101666@yahoo.com)

**Troy/Rochester Hills TCF:** Tina Evola, phone: 586-634-0239. Meets **third Thurs.** from 7-9 p.m. at St. Paul United Methodist Church, lower level, 620 Romeo St., Rochester, MI 48308.

**TCF Online Weekly Chat Sessions:** Go to [www.compassionatefriends.org](http://www.compassionatefriends.org) for a schedule of topics.

### **We Need Not Walk Alone (TCF national magazine)**

The TCF national magazine is **now available online**. You can sign up to have the magazine **sent to your email address**. Go to: [www.compassionatefriends.org](http://www.compassionatefriends.org) Go to the very top of the page, click on "Find Support" Go to "Online Community" then "Sign up for National Publications". The cost to have yearly subscriptions sent to your **street address is \$20/3 issues**. Contact the National office at the phone number, fax, or email address on page one.

## **COMMUNITY AND OTHER RESOURCES**

### **MISCARRIAGE AND NEWBORN LOSS**

**SUPPORT GROUP:** This professionally led group meets on the **second Tuesday** each month from 7-9 p.m. at the Lamaze Association, 2855 Boardwalk Dr., Ann Arbor, MI 48104. For more information phone 734-973-1014. Website: [www.lamazeaa.org](http://www.lamazeaa.org)

**ELE'S PLACE:** A community-based resource to support children who have suffered the death of a family member. Peer support groups led by trained facilitators and divided by age, from preschool through teens. For information, contact Amy Goodman at 734-929-6640.

Website: [www.elesplace.org](http://www.elesplace.org)

**ARBOR HOSPICE:** Offers an extensive grief support program. Support groups are available to all whether or not Arbor Hospice provided hospice care. For information on current groups, call 734-662-5999 or 1-888-992-2273.

### **PARENTS OF MURDERED CHILDREN (POMC):**

A national self-help organization. There is a metro Detroit Chapter. Call the National Office for more information at 1-888-818-POMC (7662).

Website: [www.pomc.org](http://www.pomc.org)

### **CENTERING CORPORATION** offers a wide range

of books videos, and other products. Mention The Compassionate Friends for free shipping. Call 402-553-1200 or fax 402-553-0507. Website: [www.centering.org](http://www.centering.org)

**GRASP** (Grief Recovery After a Substance Passing) Meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Home of New Vision, 3800 Packard Suite 210, Ann Arbor 48108. Call Michelle Courdway 734-660-1905. Email: [mcourd66@gmail.com](mailto:mcourd66@gmail.com)

***The Compassionate Friends 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.***

To The Ann Arbor Compassionate Friends:

In keeping with the philosophy of The Compassionate Friends, we charge no dues and the newsletter is sent free to bereaved parents who request it . We operate solely from your generous memorial contributions. We do have expenses to meet, including rental of our meeting room and printing and mailing the newsletter. We also try to add to our library from time to time when materials become available to us. All work done for the chapter is strictly voluntary. Please take a moment to send us a check from time to time in your child's memory. Donations on your child's birthday or at Christmas time are greatly appreciated and help us keep the Ann Arbor Chapter operating. The Compassionate Friends is a 501 © (3) organization and contributions are tax deductible. Please fill out the information below and mail it to: Gloria Jones 2811 Lillian Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48103.

Thank you so much.

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Enclosed please find a contribution to TCF, Ann Arbor

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Born \_\_\_\_\_ Died \_\_\_\_\_

Please include your return address so we can send you an acknowledgement for tax purposes.

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The Compassionate Friends  
Julie Mosbey  
2515 Sequoia Parkway  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103