



**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.



“What the Hell is Going on out Here”

As a long time Packer fan, that is probably the most shown film clip and quote from Vince Lombardi. He was upset with his team which lead him to this quote and tirade against his players. With all that is going on in the world today and especially our country that is how I feel at times and I am sure many of you also. Today is the first day of Fall, the year is 3/4 over, we have a presidential election in a month, there is racial unrest that reminds me of growing up in the 60’s, tropical storms are ravaging the east coast and Gulf of Mexico, forest fires in California and Covid-19 is spiking in many areas as schools open and it seems everyone is tired of staying home and social distancing. Will there be a vaccine and when and how effective will it be, so yes, “What the Hell is Going on out Here.”

Some good news is that in August we were able to resume our meetings at the church with some restrictions, such as facemasks must be worn and no food or drink at our meetings. We must limit our participants to around 10 and if we have more we will divide into 2 groups. Our Candle Lighting ceremony is still on but again we will be social distancing by sitting in every other pew and wearing facemasks. So at least we will be able to gather and see old friends and faces and unfortunately some that are newly bereaved like us. But as you know if cases spike and the church decides it won’t be safe for us to meet, we will have to cancel again. If that is the case, we will post something on Facebook and the Website. If you have any questions or wondering if we are meeting you can also call the Chapter cellphone at 920-370-3858. You can leave a voicemail and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

I sometimes find myself envying our children, even though I wish they were still here with us, they don’t have to deal with all this stuff that life can throw at us especially now in these difficult times. But I do know that they are watching over us and guiding us during these difficult times. If we are so inclined and it is part of our beliefs, we can reach out and even pray to them to help us through these difficult times and help us navigate these turbulent times. Sometimes I wish I had a crystal ball to see what the future holds but at other times, I am not sure that I really would like to find out what the future has instore for me or us. All I can say is that I hope everyone stays safe and healthy and now on to 2021.

In Peaceful Sadness, Melissa and Emily’s Mom and Dad

Mickey and Steve

The Green Bay Chapter of The Compassionate Friends

meets the third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.
at First United Methodist Church, 501 Howe Street, Green Bay.

(Enter the parking lot off Monroe at Doty)

For further information contact:

Main Number: 920-370-3858

Sue DeLong, Remembering our Children

Peg LeRoy, Programs

Mickey Schmeisser, Chapter Leader/Newsletter Editor

Steve Schmeisser, Treasurer

Sue Van Straten, Remembering our Children

Carol Wautlet, Resource Coordinator

E-mail: info@compassionatefriendsgb.org

Website: <http://compassionatefriendsgb.org/home.aspx>

Monthly Support Group

Tuesday, October 20, 2020 6 p.m.

Dealing with Questions and Comments

Tuesday, November 17, 2020 6 p.m.

DVD—Handling the Holidays and
Candle Lighting Discussion

Tuesday, December 15, 2020 6 p.m.

Positive Actions for the New Year



Halloween...Still a Holiday to Remember



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

Two Halloweens have now passed since my 8-year-old Stephanie and 5-year-old Stephen left us to live with God.

Even before the kids were old enough to go trick or treating, I still recall their delight at the costumes worn by all the neighborhood kids who came to the door. I still remember how thrilled Stephen was to be handing out the candy when he was only one and half years old. We still have a picture of him holding the plate of goodies. If you look close, you can see where he took a bite out of one of the candy bars (with the wrapper on) and set it back on the plate.

I can still remember the all too few times I was able to take my children out trick-or-treating. I remember my daughter dressed up as a nurse, offering to "fix-up" all those other trick or treaters who were obviously hurting with all that fake blood they were wearing.

I remember Stephen wearing his great pumpkin outfit. We stuffed it so full of padding that when he fell down, not only did he not get hurt, he had to be physically picked up because he was flailing his arms around like a beetle on its back.

I can still see Stef holding Stephen's little hand and patiently leading him up the walkway and helping him hold open his bag so that the candy would find its mark. She always made certain he said thank you for the candy. It usually came out "thank-woo."

The first Halloween following their deaths I remember driving home with tears streaming down my face as I watched the other trick-or-treaters roaming up and down the streets. My wife and I fled our home, depositing bags of candy for our next door neighbors to hand out for us. Last year we found the courage to stick around and greet the ghosts and goblins who found their way to our door. The funny thing was, we felt as dressed up as the trick-or-treaters. We were wearing our "happy face" masks.

The memories are now starting to fade of the Halloweens before our children died. It won't be too long and I'll be leading Christopher, our new son who is now a year old, up those driveways just like I did before. I feel sad that Stef and Steve can't be there. But you know, I have a feeling that if I hold out my hands and close my eyes, two little gloved hands will slip into mine and I'll again hear in unison, "Just one more house Daddy!"



AUTUMN TEARS

Penny Young
TCF Powell River, British Columbia

We look back on September and we realize that somehow we made it through those dreaded first days of school. Whether it was the anticipation or the actual days that were the worst, we survived. We used our faith, our support systems or just plain hard work and made it over yet another hurdle. We watched small children heading for their first day of kindergarten, listened to excited teenagers talk of high school and heard stories of children leaving home to attend post-secondary school. Somehow we rode the waves of grief and found ourselves ashore again.

As these waves subside new ones will build as we head into the holidays that speak of, and to, children. Halloween will soon approach and for some, painful memories. Thanksgiving arrives to exemplify family and togetherness and Christmas looms ahead. These special days are forever reminders of our loss—the costumes we'll never sew, the empty chair at turkey dinner, the fun and magic we'll never share with someone we love. Forever reminders that our child has died.

To survive when these events and anniversary days come around let's find time to think of the good memories we have—the announcement of our long awaited pregnancy at Thanksgiving dinner, the look of excitement on our son's first Halloween night, the vision of our daughter helping prepare the turkey dinner. These holidays will always be reminders that our child died. Let us also make them reminders that our child lived! They left us memories more precious than any others to hold and celebrate!

The Magic of Christmas

Dana Rogers
TCF Galveston County, TX
In Memory of my son, Rick
Mother to Michael



The magic of Christmas, it's contagious. You can't help but get caught up in the joy with the barrage of holiday festivities. We are surrounded with commercials for the perfect gift, the anticipated smells from the kitchen, the Santa's in the Mall with the line of children waiting to ask for their most desired gifts. Your heart can't help but beat a little faster. The houses decorated to express the joy of the season, inside and out, demand your attention. The twinkling lights draw your eye. You can't help but feel the magic of Christmas.

I had my own collection of decorations that occupied a special space in the attic, carefully wrapped and packed away from last year. The collection of ornaments that had been objects of careful selection each year was a prized possession. The other decorations such as sleighs, bells, angels, holly, statues had always bejeweled the house to shout out the joy, magic and anticipation of the season.

My own childhood memories of Christmas' past were precious and served as a starting point to create memories for my own children. Soon after the turkey carcass was thrown out from Thanksgiving, up to the attic we would go and drag the boxes down the narrow attic stairs. "Be sure and get the box with the green lid" I would shout up the stairs, "but be careful. That one contains the glass ornament collection."

The boys would be so excited as their Christmas season began. Their house would be transformed into a winter wonderland all in a day. The season would officially begin as soon as the stockings were hung on the fireplace and the Christmas lists would be started. Catalogs were leafed through and advertisements taken seriously. There was no limit to the lists. The sky was the limit on dreams they were encouraged to dream.

Something happened after losing my son, Rick. The magic is gone, the thrill forgotten. The decorations are no longer in the attic but were given away the first Christmas after Rick died. How could I possibly gather the strength or will

to put on such a show? There is no enjoyment, only memories of a joy that once was. The collection of glass ornaments are still wrapped in their tissue in the box with the green lid.

Michael has been robbed of his innocence surrounding Christmas but more than that he was robbed of his brother and future memories. My heart hurts when my mind captures the full scope of my new life. That's when I shut the door on that room in my mind to be visited when I have more strength. But in the meantime another Christmas will come and go.

We have found a new way to observe Christmas. We use that day to honor life and the blessings that are bestowed upon us. We now appreciate family so much more and those in it. We celebrate our family, friends and the love of Christ. We have found that Christmas is not about the decorations, the food, or the gifts. To us Christmas is about the three of us rejoicing in our memories and the love we have in our lives now.

Even as I write this poignant story I do want to express my sincere appreciation for the precious memories that we had as a family when Rick was still here, when his gifts had their own place under the tree, his stocking had a place on the fireplace next to Michael's. The tack hole is still there as a reminder; "He was here".

I'm so thankful for the pictures in my mind and in the photo albums to remind me of the happiness that once was. I'm grateful for the time I had as a mother of young children during the magic of Christmas. Their exhilaration was priceless. I was witness to the sparkle in their eyes and their shivering of excitement on Christmas morning. I was able to go to them on Christmas morning and say, "Santa came." Christmas morning was the ultimate climax of the entire season and it was always as thrilling as promised. I will have these memories for the rest of my life and for that I'm thankful.

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
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	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
Chad Seitzer (son of Sandi & Fred Seitzer)	10/10	Karson Fenlon (son of Jennifer & Donald 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
Benjamin Edinger (son of Rosanna Scannell)	10/15	Chad Olson (son of Brenda Olson)	11/17
Jack Natzke (son of Jason and Renee Natzke)	10/16	Dane Cole (son of Don & Karol Cole)	11/18
Taylor Dale Postoak (son of Kathleen Postoak)	10/17	Dillon J. Mueller (son of George and Angel Mueller)	11/18
Lailah Faith Pouwels (daughter of Ed & Carrie Pouwels)	10/20	Amber Mastey (daughter of Brett & Amanda Mastey)	11/25
Evan Van Lanen (son of Dan & Peg Van Lanen)	10/22	Jimmy Wanner Jr. (son of Pam & Keith Blondeim)	11/25
Tara Beilke (daughter of Chuck & Judy Dams)	10/22	Joe Hinton (son of Tom & Kathy Hinton)	11/28
Van Jarchow (son of Mike & Dixie Jarchow)	10/26	Federico Abarca (son of Melgar Concepcion)	11/29
Shane Hopfensperger (son of Mike & Joann Hopfensperger)	10/28	Amanda Rose Skar (daughter of Wayne & Kim Skar)	11/29
Troy Milan (son of Pam Milan)	10/28	Shane Lambert (son of Kim Lambert, grandson of Maria Lambert)	11/30
Richard Allen Zey (son of Tina Zey)	10/28	Chris Krueger (son of Cheryl Krueger)	12/05
Jaysen Calkins (son of Kate Calkins)	10/30	Crystal (Falish) Peterson (daughter of Steve & Darlene Enderby)	12/06
Thea L Jacques (daughter of Sally Martin)	11/01	Danielle Deda (daughter of Noel & Sally Deda)	12/07
Cassandra LeMere-Zeller (daughter of Donald & Judith LeMere)	11/01	Tara Reetz (daughter of Daniel & Jean Reetz)	12/08
Jessica Lindberg (daughter of Dana Ewald)	11/02	Hannah Fowier (daughter of Ashley Weicheit)	12/12

Travis Stelzer (son of Don & Pam Stelzer)	12/13	Andrea Eve Wirth (daughter of Thomas and Angela Wirth)	12/27
Jessica Demo (daughter of Sheila & Chuck Henrichs)	12/16	Nathan Axelrod (son of Johanna Axelrod)	12/28
Joseph Jacques (son-in-law of Pat Wojcik)	12/17	Tom Manning (son of Peggy Manning)	12/29
Amy Schaut (daughter of Ron & Linda Gerbers)	12/20	Marvin W. Pies (son of Dean Pies)	12/29
Jamie Bialozynski (daughter of Mike & Arlene Bialozynski)	12/21	Marjie Duerr (daughter of Linda Duerr)	12/31
Jeremy DeMille (son of Marysue Gerondale)	12/23	Darrian Seppanen (daughter of Janet Deterville)	12/31

ANNIVERSARIES

Jacob Engel (son of Billie Jo Engel)	10/2	Ryan Rockstroh (son of Molly Rockstroh)	10/27
Caitlin Van Duyse (daughter of Brenda VanDuyse)	10/4	Ryan Tucker (son of Dawn Tucker)	10/28
Matthew Kiefer (son of Mary Jo Hempel)	10/4	Scott Zwieschowski (son of Linda Zwieschowski)	10/28
Dillon J. Mueller (son of George and Angel Mueller)	10/4	Jeffery Skenadore (son of Jude Skenadore)	10/29
Justin Banaszynski (son of Donna Baranczyk)	10/5	Amy Schaut (daughter of Ron & Lynda Gerbers)	10/31
Brandon Blue (son of Rondell & Barb Blue)	10/8	Aidan Hammer Fry (son of Linda Hammer & Megan Fry)	11/01
Danielle Deda (daughter of Noel & Sally Deda)	10/9	Steve Knaus (son of Luke & Shirley Knaus)	11/01
Seth Philhower (son of Shaun & Stacy Philhower)	10/9	Karen Mary Schley (daughter of Jon & Ann Schley)	11/01
Jason Ison (son of Rene Ison)	10/10	Jeffrey Triatik (son of Carol Triatik)	11/01
George Stoneburner (son of Chuck & Judy Dams)	10/10	Lance Vlies (son of Wendy Vlies)	11/01
Wendy Jacques (daughter of Sally Martin)	10/12	Joel Bagneski (son of Bill & Kelly Bagneski)	11/02
Jaysen Calkins (son of Kate Calkins)	10/16	Cody Green (son of Dan and Gwen Green)	11/06
Kelby Bagneski (daughter of Bill & Kelly Bagneski)	10/19	Jason Banaszynski (son of Donna Baranczyk - Pagel)	11/06
Jessica Lindberg (daughter of Dana Ewald)	10/20	Andy Haroldson (son of Ralph & Jean Haroldson)	11/06
Lailah Faith Pouwels (daughter of Carrie & Ed Pouwels)	10/20	Marjie Duerr (daughter of Linda Duerr)	11/07
Jami Daigneault (daughter of Penny & Armand Daigneault)	10/22	Jack Clusman (son of Jessica and Tim Clusman)	11/07
Ryan Bader (son of Cheryl & Mark Bader)	10/24	Ryan Brunner (son of Bill & Sue Brunner)	11/08
Andrew Sorensen (son of Wendy Sorensen)	10/24	Todd Inman (son of Kathie Inman)	11/10
Jeffrey Van Lieshout (son of Dave & Connie Van Lieshout)	10/24	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
Doug Cole (son of Don & Karol Cole)	10/25	Shane Lambert (son of Kim Lambert, grandson of Maria Lambert)	11/17
Jacqueline Evers (daughter of Joe and Alice Evers)	10/27	Joseph Adams (son of Cheryl Skenadore)	11/18

Tami (Sam) Cornelius (daughter of Brenda Cornelius)	11/18	Drew Stamsta (son of Lynn Stamsta)	12/13
Tara Reetz (daughter of Daniel & Jean Reetz)	11/18	Adam Lee Schultz (son of Stan & Deb Schultz)	12/15
Ella Fickett (daughter of Mindy Meisnest)	11/18	Darrian Seppanen (daughter of Janet Deterville)	12/15
George Mostek (son of Jim & Debbie Mostek)	11/21	Aaron Lison (son of Adele Coopmans)	12/18
Jessica Demo (daughter of Sheila & Chuck Henrichs)	11/23	Joe Hinton (son of Tom & Kathy Hinton)	12/20
Benjamin Edinger (son of Rosanna Scannell)	11/23	Stephen DeBroux (son of Matt & Jean DeBroux)	12/21
Kelli King (daughter of Joe King)	11/26	Timmy Parent (son of Steven & Cindy Parent)	12/26
Lance Steffens (son of LouAnn Steffens)	11/29	Matt Pockrandt (son of Margaret LeRoy)	12/26
Nicole Kowalkowski (daughter of Sharon & Roman Kowalkowski)	12/01	Thea L Jacques (daughter of Sally Martin)	12/27
Jacob Peters (son of Jerry & Natalie Peters)	12/01	Richard Allen Zey (son of Tina Zey)	12/28
Paul Stone (son of Joan Stone)	12/01	Dana Kapla (daughter of Bob Kapla)	12/29
Kevin Betker (son of Roy "Pete" & Renee Betker)	12/01	Cassandra LeMere-Zeller (daughter of Donald & Judith LeMere)	12/29
Mylisa Klapatch (daughter of Dennis Klapatch & Tamara Walker)	12/02	Christopher Voght (son of Tammy Viegut & Timm Gay)	12/29
Chloe Spice (daughter of Tricia & Jason Spice)	12/06	Ryan Jozwiak (son of Lenee & Eddie Jozwiak)	12/30
Ross Ambrosius (son of Melissa & Rob Ambrosius)	12/09	Marvin W. Pies (son of Dean Pies)	12/30
Brandon Scheider (son of Deb Scheider)	12/10	Joey Wesolowski (son of Jennifer Heller & John Wesolowski)	12/30
Jason Kurey (son of Deb Kurey)	12/11	Kevin Betker (son of Roy "Pete" & Renee Betker)	12/31



ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENTS, & MISC.

Calendar of Events 2020

October 20: Dealing with Questions & Comments
November 17: DVD—Handling the Holidays
December 13: Candle Lighting at 1 pm
December 15: Positive Actions for the New Year

Please Visit Our Sites At:

E-mail: info@compassionatefriendsgb.org
Website: <http://compassionatefriendsgb.org>

All sorts of goodies are included:

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

Do you want to Share ??

Do you want to share a picture and/or story of your child? Would you like to write an article about how you're feeling? If you would like to submit a post for our newsletter, we would love to hear from you. 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

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
Joyce E. Glebke, in memory of Gary and Roberta Glebke
William and Sally Kostka, in memory of Kandy Ann Kostka
Judge S. Dean Pies, in memory of Marvin Pies
Todd and Sandy Scheffen, in memory of Sam Compton
Sue Van Straten, in memory of Jessica Van Straten
Pam K. Vogels, in memory of Jason Vogels
Carol A. Wautlet, in memory of Robby Rohr



**THE
COMPASSIONATE
FRIENDS
of Green Bay**
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, 2020
at 6:00 p.m.

at First United
Methodist Church,
off Monroe at Doty.
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 1:00 pm.