



The Compassionate Friends
Rochester Chapter
Supporting Family After a Child Dies

May / June 2016 www.tcfrochester.org



I'm Sorry for Your Loss ...

I'm very sorry for your loss
The words so often spoke
But do they really understand
All that they invoke

They are sincere, they fill the gap
At that most awkward time
They sadly smile and grasp your hand
But move quickly down the line

I can't say that I blame them
I've been on the other side
There is nothing you can do or say
Little comfort to provide

Loss is just so personal
Each survivors not the same
Could be a parent, sibling, spouse
For which they feel the pain

Each loss brings on a different view
Of the void that's in their life
Some feel abandoned, all alone
If it's their husband or their wife

A brother or a sister
Brings it's own weight to bear
The memories of growing up
Of all that you have shared

A parent is a different loss
It's hard to say goodbye
You've lost your anchor, lost the one
You thought would never die

But losing your most precious gift
Is the hardest one to grieve
To lose one's child, a loss so great
Too heartbreaking to conceive

It's then those words don't seem enough
They leave you blank and numb
They'll never really understand
Unless it happens to them

There are no words to really say
That will sincerely come across
But to say those simple words
"I'm sorry for your loss"

From the Prose and Poems of
Deborah Passero Streb
In loving memory of son, Adam Marano
TCF, Rochester NY

We attend Compassionate Friends

not to dwell on our loss

But...

To not forget what we had



Posthumous

Posthumous ... Post Humous ...

What is that word?

Post Humous or Posthumous as it is defined as "following or occurring after death".

I continued to look on line and YouTube comes up with POSTHUMOUS the movie.

I checked out the trailer and it is a movie that came out in 2014.

It is about an artist who fakes his death and finds that since he is dead his work is more valuable. Everyone is intrigued by his works.

Where am I going with this?

Worth or value in our situations of parents whom have lost a child has taken a new direction.

Our children that we lost ... prior to their death held a great value to us, but were often less valuable because we took their existence for granted. They were supposed to outlive us weren't they? We can always hug them, kiss them ... hold them in the highest esteem ...

TOMORROW! Right?

Their death brought their life and very existence to the forefront of our minds only to be missed, cherished ... had they only been in the forefront always.

I miss my two sons ... I would give anything to take back the normal days and make their existence special ... important ... loving ... **WE ALL WOULD !**

When waters are rough
Simply let your body go
With the ebb and flow

Jason & Christine Price
In loving memory of son, Ethan Emerson Price
TCF, Rochester NY



Second Sunday of May

Many happy memories
linger in our hearts this day.
As we each remember our child
who has left this earthly plane.
The day is bittersweet for us,
the mothers who have lost so much,
for to remove all pain could well
erase the precious life we touched.
Tears will trace the memories of
other, happier Mother's Days,
as we dwell in a quiet reverie
this Second Sunday of May.

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

Father's Day

Warm and sunny day in June,
father's day.
Children, small and grown
give gifts to father
say thanks to father
say I love you.
But there are fathers
whose children are not here
to give and say thanks
and say I love you.
Remember the fathers
whose children are gone,
because all too often
they grieve in heartbreak silence.

The Poems of Sascha Wagner

Love Gifts

Nicholas & Cynthia Oliva, in loving memory of daughter Stephanie Anne Oliva

*Support for the meeting on March 8, 2016 was donated by
Paul & Linda Valint, in loving memory of son Paul Valint III*

*Support for the meeting on March 22, 2016 was donated by
Ed & Colleen Dobrowski, in loving memory of son Jason Dobrowski*

*Support for the meeting on April 12, 2016 was donated by
Bonnie Corbett, in loving memory of daughter Kelly Lynn Forrest*

*Support for the meeting on April 26, 2016 was donated by
Jason & Christine Price, in loving memory of son Ethan Emerson Price*



Love's Lasting Touch

Don't weep for me when I'm gone,
 Because I'll always be there.
 My spirit will exist in all the earth,
 In the water, trees, and air.
 You'll hear me say, "I love you",
 In the whisper of a breeze.
 You'll know that I'm beside you,
 With the rustling of the leaves.
 You'll feel my arms caress you,
 In the warmth of each sunrise.
 The moon will be my goodnight kiss,
 The stars my watchful eyes.
 Your life will be my legacy,
 Your memories my epitaph.
 These ties will bind us together,
 Till we meet on heaven's path.
 I'll not ever desert you,
 We'll never be far apart.
 I'll live within you always,
 Nestled deep inside your heart.

Jacquelyn M. Comeaux
In Memory of My Angels...
Michelle, Jerry & Danny
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Catching Butterflies

It often hurts 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
 I 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



Upcoming:

Annual Balloon Release ~ June 14, 2016 Regular TCF Location, First Unitarian Church
220 Winton Road South Rochester, New York Program begins: 7:00 pm Phil & Myra
DeFranco have donated 2 beautiful hand crafted bird houses (custom made by Phil) in loving
memory of son, Philip. These will be raffled off separately that evening. Raffle tickets are
\$2/each or 3 for \$5, available at our support group meetings or the evening of the program.
For more information, please see Flyer Attached

39th National Conference “Hope Rises On The Wings Of Love” ~ July 8-10, 2016
Scottsdale, Arizona For more information, please visit www.compassionatefriends.org or
www.tcfrochester.org

We want to share this support group information:

Face 2 Face Friendship Group -Rochester, NY

Providing support & hope to families coping with miscarriage, stillbirth, & infant loss

Leaders: Stephanie Brown, Melissa Ippolito, Jenn Rose Stremich

For more information:

585-454-9299

F2FRochestrer@gmail.com

<http://www.face2facerochester.com>

[facebook.com/Face2FaceRochesterNY](https://www.facebook.com/Face2FaceRochesterNY)

Peter Fellegara ~ Many thanks to you & your Xerox team for printing the newsletter these
many years in loving memory of your son Daniel! Your generous donation is truly appreciated.
Pete ~ We all wish you the best in your new position at Xerox.

Phil & Myra DeFranco ~ Thank you for the donation of the hand crafted suggestion box in
loving memory of your son Philip. What a beautiful piece, you are truly a talented woodworker!
We look forward to having this addition to our meetings.

Brenda Schmidt ~ You have been actively involved in TCF for many years. First as Co-leader
then as Treasurer. You have given freely of your time, talents, and caring heart. Thank you
from all of us! Please welcome Pati Primerano as our new treasurer.

Meeting Location:

First Unitarian Church, 220 Winton Road South
Rochester, New York

Meeting Days :

Tuesday the 10th & Tuesday the 24th (May)
Tuesday the 14th & Tuesday the 28th (June)
(Balloon Release Ceremony, flyer attached)

7:00 P.M. to 7:15 P.M. - social

7:15 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. - meeting

Contacts:

Mary Ann Dobbins 585-872-0566

TCF Regional Coordinator:

Jacque Edwards-Mitchell 718-451-0814

TCF National :

877-969-0010 or

www.compassionatefriends.org

Send newsletter inputs or web comments to:

Joan Carafos, jcarafos@photikon.com

If you would like to contribute to our Compassionate Friends Chapter, please forward your Love Gifts and Donations to:
The Compassionate Friends of Rochester
C/O 3446 Rush Mendon Road Honeoye Falls, NY 14472
Please make checks payable to: The Compassionate Friends of Rochester, New York

Sincere Thanks!

To receive this newsletter via e-mail, please contact
Alice Torres at alice3970@gmail.com

***Welcome New Friends***

At nearly every meeting we welcome new members to our group, always with mixed emotions. We are glad you found us, but we are so sorry for the circumstances that bring us together. We understand your pain; we hope our unconditional friendship and understanding will help you through your grief.

Attending a meeting for the first two or three times takes courage, but for many it is the first real step toward healing. It may seem overwhelming, so we encourage you to come to several meetings to give yourself a chance to become comfortable.

Rochester Chapter TCF Mission:

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. Adopted 2-25-12



Our Children Remembered
May 2016
Birthdays and Remembrance Days

Birthday

Mark P. Metzger	May 4
Conor LeVan Driscoll	May 5
Alani R. Young	May 7
Jeffrey Louis Russ	May 9
Shaun Michael Bohrer	May 14
Jeffery James Yates	May 14
William Tiberius Katawazi	May 15
Reynold Armand	May 16
William F. Beyerbach II	May 19
Slade Gerstner	May 31

Remembrance Day

Laura Beth Specht Monte	May 1
Carrie Nicole Merrick	May 3
James Michael Hissey	May 3
Kendra Marie Nelson	May 8
Melissa Ann Harris	May 9
Michael Clark Van Valkenburgh	May 9
Patrick Blandford	May 12
Christopher Bedford	May 20
David John Fountain, Jr.	May 21
Andrew Richard Primerano	May 24
Greg Paul Crawford	May 25
Joshua Lee Prescott	May 26





Our Children Remembered
June 2016
Birthdays and Remembrance Days

Birthday

James Michael Hissey	June 5
Philip John DeFranco II	June 7
Ryan James Frank	June 9
Adam V. Marano	June 9
Patrick D. Cooley	June 12
Curt AJ Hall	June 14
Michael Cucchiara	June 16
Michael Clark Van Valkenburgh	June 18
Christopher Brian Budwey	June 19
David John Fountain, Jr.	June 21
Kevin F. Schantz	June 25
Thomas William Costello	June 26
Mindy Ann Giardina - Harris	June 27
Giuseppe L. Arcuri	June 27

Remembrance Day

Brandon M. Sauer	June 1
Lesley Lauren Catchman - Rosato	June 2
Lisa Jean Voltz	June 3
Paul L. Valint III	June 8
Amy Marie Iwasko	June 10
Mindy Ann Giardina - Harris	June 11
Jaden Michael Fournier	June 15
Zachary Lawrence Yates	June 16
Lauren Paige Olander	June 19
Laura Collins	June 21
William Tiberius Katawazi	June 23
Giuseppe L. Arcuri	June 25
Kevin F. Schantz	June 28
Nicholas Jay Kovaleski	June 29





The Compassionate Friends

Rochester Chapter

Supporting Family After a Child Dies

Annual Balloon Release

June 14, 2016

Schedule of Events

6:00 p.m. **S**ocial Hour

6:30 p.m. **B**egin Filling Balloons

7:00 p.m. **B**egin Ceremony

Phil & Myra DeFranco have donated 2 beautiful hand crafted bird houses (custom made by Phil) in loving memory of son, Philip. These will be raffled off separately that evening. Raffle tickets are \$2/each or 3 for \$5, available at our support group meetings or the evening of the program.

Location:

Regular TCF Meeting Location,
First Unitarian Church
220 Winton Road South
Rochester, New York

If you have a poem or music you want to include in the program, please email to:
Christine Price graycl1@gmail.com