



# THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

Supporting Family After a Child Dies

GALVESTON COUNTY CHAPTER  
April 2011

Support Meetings held on 2nd Monday  
of the Month (exception is December)

Mail:  
PO Box 568  
Texas City, TX 77592

Phone:  
(409) 996-9440  
(Calls to this number will be returned  
within 24 hours)

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

Co-Chapter Leaders:  
Larry Oshel  
Bambi Oshel  
[grammy127@earthlink.net](mailto:grammy127@earthlink.net)

Treasurer:  
Dana Rogers  
[sabalo130@comcast.net](mailto:sabalo130@comcast.net)

Newsletter:  
Lori Kelly  
For email submissions:  
[sabalo130@comcast.net](mailto:sabalo130@comcast.net)  
[grammy127@earthlink.net](mailto:grammy127@earthlink.net)



*Next Meeting*  
*April 11, 2011*  
*7:00 pm*

at  
First United Methodist Church  
317 Fifth Avenue N  
Texas City, TX 77590

National Office: The Compassionate Friends  
PO Box 3696  
Oak Brook, IL 60522-3696  
(877) 969-0010  
[www.compassionatefriends.org](http://www.compassionatefriends.org)

## Special Thanks

Texas City Terminal Railway  
For all your support of the  
Galveston County Chapter  
The Compassionate Friends

Manning Masonry Co, Inc.  
For the placement of the bricks  
In the Memorial Garden

Anniversaries and birthdays are difficult for bereaved parents. In the days ahead, may we lovingly remember these children and support their families. Your child is listed here only at your request, with a signature on the response form in this newsletter. You need to submit it only once.

The Mission of the Compassionate Friends is to assist families toward the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child of any age and to provide information to help others be supportive.

# APRIL REMEMBRANCES

**Ann Marie Broussard**

April 1st

Donna James, mother

**Rodney Jacob Sterns**

April 7th

Gabby Anne Wood, mother

**Thomas Ross Key, III**

April 15th

Marvin & Bonita Wicher, grandparents

**Shane Lee Carter**

April 16th

Cheryl L. Carter, mother

**Ashlyn Leigh Shoemaker**

April 21st

Crissy & Joel Helmke, parents

**Margaret Mary Myers**

April 22nd

Glenda Spielman, mother

**Holli Lou Hart**

April 26th

Wayne & Becky Hart, parents

# APRIL BIRTHDAYS

**Michael Dick**

April 1st

Sharon Willingham, mother

Lanette Harris, sister

Cathy Langmaid, fiancé

**Keith Scott Chance**

April 1st

Millie Chance, mother

**Jeremy Thomas Angel**

April 3rd

Johnny & Susan Angel, parents

**Trevor Harrigan Hodne**

April 5th

Garrett & Kim Hodne, parents

**Rehannon 'Reh-Reh' Ingmire**

April 9th

Donna Ingmire, mother

**John Terry Billingsley, II**

April 10th

Eleanor Billingsley, mother

**Michael P O'Toole**

April 11th

Verna L O'Toole, mother

**Erick Joseph 'Rick' Rogers**

April 12th

Erick & Dana Rogers, parents

**Richard Eric Price**

April 12th

Richard Price, father

**Henry Clay Billingsley**

April 12th

Eleanor Billingsley, mother

**Holli Lou Hart**

April 16th

Wayne & Becky Hart, parents

**Jeffrey Joel Underwood**

April 23rd

Dorothy Underwood, mother

**Mary Lee Bonura**

April 29th

Judy Bonura, mother

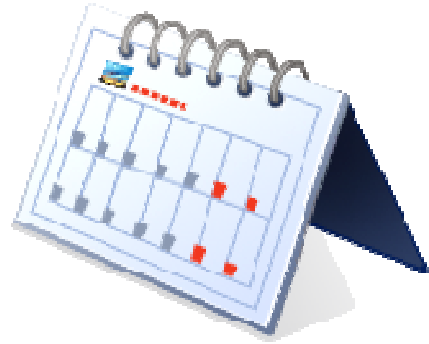
Please take a few moments to reflect on the children on this page and remember their families. A phone call or a note to the family would be so special and kind. None of us forgets our child's special days and the messages we receive that say 'I care', can help us get through them.

## ***Special Information***

Mark your Calendar for  
Saturday, April 9th—Memorial Nature  
Walk

More information on page 10

Save the Date  
Sunday, May 8th  
Mother's Day Balloon Release  
See page 6 For more information



TCF National Conference  
Minneapolis, MN  
July 15—17, 2011  
more information on page 9

Our cookbooks, **Recipes of Times Remembered, Volume 2**, are now available. You can find them at Rust & Dust, 1519 6th St N, Texas City, Thursday through Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm. The cook books are \$10 each.



A Note from the Newsletter Editor:

When submissions are received we try extremely hard to place the submission in the newsletter exactly as submitted. However, there are times when this is not possible. You are always welcome to send the pictures and notes, poems, etc in without setting it up. I am always

happy to lay out your page for you. Please email your submissions to [ggrammy127@earthlink.net](mailto:ggrammy127@earthlink.net) or [sabal0130@comcast.net](mailto:sabal0130@comcast.net) or snail mail it in to the po box. Submissions are welcome anytime!

Thanks,  
Lori  
Newsletter Editor

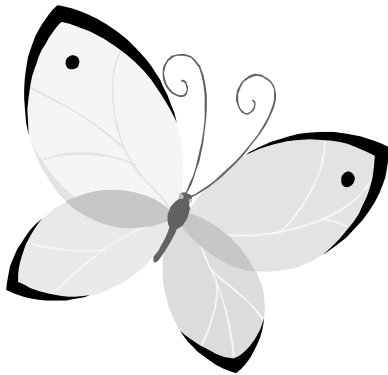
*Michael P. O'Toole*  
*April 11, 1964 December 24, 2007*  
*Verna O'Toole—Mother*

*My Dearest Michael,*

*I so wish this was a regular letter to say "Hello" but I can't change fate. I miss you so much it feels like yesterday I was talking to you. Your birthday is coming up again and I miss all the birthdays we had together. I love and miss you so much since you left us so tragically. If things could change I would be seeing your Phillip, Jonathan & Kegan like the old times. I know you have finally found the peace that you needed.*

*Love Always,*

*Your Mother*



**Erick Joseph Rogers, Jr.  
(Rick)  
4-12-81 2-3-05  
Dana Rogers—Mother**



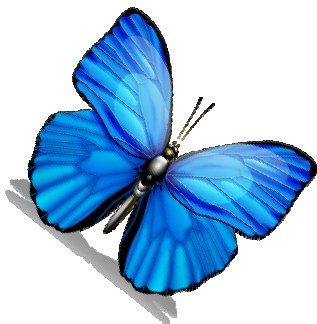
***My Dearest Rick,***

***What do I give you, my son, who now has everything? I give you a commitment to live my life to the fullest, to find happiness where I can, to smile when I can and to laugh at myself when I find myself talking to the flowers in my garden.***

***On what would have been your 30<sup>th</sup> birthday I want to thank you for the happiness you brought me, the blessings you gave me and the lessons you taught me. I am who I am because you were in my life and I will be forever thankful for that.***

***I find myself hurting so deeply because I loved you so deeply and if that's the price I must pay then so be it.***

***The day you were born Pappaw brought me a single red rose for the single happiest day of my life. The love in my heart on that day and for the 23 years to follow was a gift that will never be matched. That in itself is a blessing. On your birthday I find that I am the one receiving the gift; the gift of having you in my life.***



***Love Always, Your Mom***

## Mother's Day at the Garden

Come spend some time with your fellow TCF'ers on Mother's Day at our beautiful Children's Memorial Garden. We will start the informal event at 1:00 pm with a 'bring your own' picnic. This will be followed with a balloon release at 2:00 pm. We will furnish the balloons and markers to write a message to your child on your balloon. This gathering is a good way to meet and greet fellow chapter members and to remember our children. We need not walk alone. We are The Compassionate Friends.

Hope to see you there.

Steering Committee

### *The Long Forever*

*You left us so quickly;  
there were no goodbyes.  
How long this forever,  
your death and our lives.*

*The sadness, the anger,  
the loneliness of three,  
preferring four always,  
how small, this new we.*

*Genesse Boudreau Gentry  
From Stars in the Deepest Night  
- After the Death of a Child*



## WHO WAS THAT PERSON?

An eight year retrospective...

*By Rich Edler*

**Who was that person?** He looked like me. He talked like me. But I don't think I know him anymore.

**Who was that person?** He had so many friends. He was popular at cocktail parties and told good jokes. Today, he seeks out one person he can really talk to and that is enough. His telephone Rolodex is a lot smaller, but so much more important.

**Who was that person?** He had such different priorities. He skated over life, like an ice skater on a frozen pond. He never thought about how cold the water was. Now he has a totally new perspective on the world. He reaches out to people who hurt because he knows how they feel. He has been there. He has felt the ice water.

**Who was that person?** He had an orderly chronological sense of time. Now the world is divided forever into simply "before" and "after".

**Who was that person?** He used to rush through dinner or cut the family vacation short to get back to the office. Now he thinks back to the family times as the most wonderful times of his life. He knows what is irreplaceable.

**Who was that person?** He used to worry about so many imaginary troubles, most of which never happened anyway. Now he spends most of his time in the present. He appreciates today's sunset, daisies, simple things and good friends. He knows how precious each moment is.

**Who was that person?** He used to think about what he wanted to get out of life. Now he thinks about how grateful he is for the gifts he has had.

**Who was that person?** He used to measure his goals in terms of where he is going. Now he focuses more on what his life will have been about. He asks less and less why his child died, and more often: "Why did he live?"

**Who was that person?** He had never heard of The Compassionate Friends. Now they are his best friends. And he knows that by helping someone else through TCF, he also helps himself.

*Who was that person?* I don't think I know him anymore.

*Rich and his wife Kitty are founding members of the South Bay/LA Chapter of The Compassionate Friends. Son Mark died in 1992 and Rich's first book "If I Knew Then What I Know Now" is dedicated to him. His following book, "Into the Valley and Out Again" is the story of a father's grief after the loss of his son and the changes in priorities and approaches to life that follow." Rich served on TCF's National Board of Directors for several years including as president of the board. He died in February of 2002. Kitty is the current president of TCF's National Board of Directors.*

## Compassionate Friends Unveils “Create a Memorial Website” Program

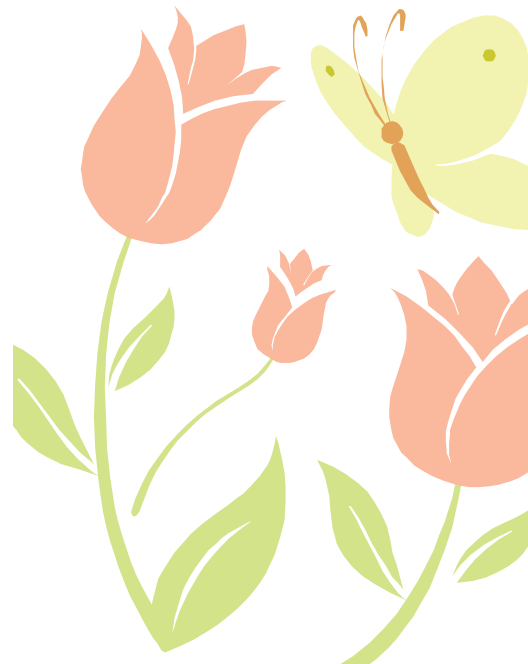
When you ask bereaved parents their greatest fear, you’re likely to hear that they’re afraid their child will be forgotten.

That fear can now be put to rest through The Compassionate Friends new “Create a Memorial Website” program. In partnership with online memorial leader Legacy.com., the new Compassionate Friends program allows you to easily create an online memorial website so that your child, sibling, or grandchild will always be remembered. A portion of the proceeds from the memorial website you create will also go to support The Compassionate Friends and its many national programs designed to aid families going through the natural grieving process following the death of a child.

With these unique, easy-to-create memorial tributes, you can: customize the design, yet create a site in five minutes using Legacy.com’s four-step process; include photos, videos, stories, and more; add music; invite family and friends to contribute and join in celebrating the life of the child you’re remembering; and much more.

There is a 14 day free trial period and 25% discount off the first year’s sponsorship. To learn more and to take advantage of these offers, visit [www.compassionatefriends.org](http://www.compassionatefriends.org) and under “Resources” click on “Create a Memorial Website.”

Memorial websites make a great gift anytime!



## Reserve Rooms Now for 2011 TCF National Conference in Minneapolis, MN

Room reservations can now be made for TCF's 34th national conference, this year in Minneapolis, Minnesota July 15-17. The conference, which has the theme "Shining Stars-Guiding Hope" is being held at the Sheraton Bloomington Hotel Minneapolis South, only about 10 minutes from the Minneapolis St. Paul International Airport (shuttles will be available to and from the hotel—as well as the hotel and the Mall of America). Special room rates are \$129 per night for King or Double Bed with third and fourth persons at an additional \$10 each in the same room. Reservations can be made online or by telephone. Go to TCF's national website at [www.compassionatefriends.org](http://www.compassionatefriends.org) and click on "TCF 2011 National Conference – Minnesota" under "News and Events" for how to reserve a room and for latest up-to-date information on the conference and the Walk to Remember, held on the final day of the event. Information will also be made available on Facebook at The Compassionate Friends/USA.



# *Memorial Nature Walk*

**WHEN:** Sat., April 9, 2011 – 1:00 p.m.

**WHERE:**

Bay Street Park  
Parking at the 16<sup>th</sup> Ave. Entrance  
(Just down from the Dike Entrance)  
1600 Bay Street – Texas City

Water will be provided

T-shirts will be available for purchase as well as other  
TCF merchandise



***For directions or more info – 409-996-9440***



**THE  
COMPASSIONATE  
FRIENDS**  
Galveston County Chapter

*Be a part of your Chapter. A Chapter is only as strong as its members.*

***Public Invited***

# Chapter Information

## LOVE GIFTS

A love gift is a special way to remember a child.

The Compassionate Friends charges no dues, and your voluntary donations are our only source of income. All gifts are tax deductible. TCF is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization and 100% of all income is used to reach bereaved families through this newsletter, brochures, our grief materials library, and special events like our annual December Candle Lighting Remembrance and our Garden remembrance.

Checks should be made payable to  
The Compassionate Friends  
PO Box 568  
Texas City, TX 77592

## NEWSLETTER

In order to include your child's information in the newsletter written permission must be on file. If you would like to have your child's information included please send in the data sheet so that we can insure that we have the correct information.

Submissions for the newsletter are always welcome and can include short articles, poems & book reviews. Please include any authors or other sources if known.

All submissions are due for inclusion in the newsletter by the 20th of each month, some exceptions may arise but will be included as a note in the newsletter.

Submissions should be sent to either the PO Box listed under the love gifts or emailed to Bambi Oshel at [grammy127@earthlink.net](mailto:grammy127@earthlink.net) or Dana Rogers at [sabalo130@comcast.net](mailto:sabalo130@comcast.net)



***Note:** When you purchase a brick to be placed in the Memorial Garden be advised that they are placed randomly. The bricks are put in place by the generosity of Manning Masonry Co, Inc. While someone within the organization will be notified after installation of a set of bricks is completed, notification prior to the installation is not available.*

*Beautiful Memorial Garden Bricks*

***Acme Engraved Bricks @ \$50.00 each***

Please make checks payable to Compassionate Friends and mail to **P.O. Box 568 Texas City, TX 77592**. Should you have any questions regarding this order form please call **Louise Krone at (281) 534-3639** or email at [lak51757@yahoo.com](mailto:lak51757@yahoo.com)

To order an engraved brick: Fill the appropriate boxes below with desired inscription.

LINE 1														
LINE 2														
LINE 3														

LINE 1														
LINE 2														
LINE 3														
LINE 4														

Customer's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: - Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for supporting the Compassionate Friends Memorial Garden

**Love Gifts**, monetary or  
Gifts-in-kind are a beautiful expression of our deep  
And never-ending love for our children, and help us "reach out" to bereaved families.  
Our expenses include postage, printing & special programs.  
TCF is a 501 ( c ) ( 3 ) Organization—donations are tax deductible.  
Time is also a wonderful gift, volunteers are always needed.  
**Thank You for contributing and supporting the work of our local chapter.**