



THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

Supporting Family After a Child Dies

GALVESTON COUNTY CHAPTER
February 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

Co-Chapter Leaders:
Larry Oshel
Bambi Oshel
grammy127@earthlink.net

Treasurer:
Dana Rogers
sabalo130@comcast.net

Newsletter:
Lori Kelly
For email submissions:
sabalo130@comcast.net
grammy127@earthlink.net



Next Meeting
February 14, 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

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.

FEBRUARY REMEMBRANCES

Trevor Harrigan Hodne
February 1st
Garett & Kim Hodne, parents

Erick Joseph 'Rick' Rogers
February 3rd
Erick & Dana Rogers, parents

Robby Dale Martin, Jr.
February 11th
Lorena & Lanny Martin, grandparents

Raven Marie Johnston
February 14th
Rachel Johnston, mother

Frances Kay Kimble
February 17th
Mary G Kimble, mother

Evelina Therese 'Teri' Mesquita Hall
February 17th
Paul & Evelina Mesquita, parents

Jeffrey Joel Underwood
February 19th
Dorothy Underwood, mother

Michael Bonura
February 26th
Judy Bonura, mother

Wayne Arthur Hart, Jr.
February 27th
Wayne & Becky Hart, parents

Teresa Smith
February 27th
Emilie & Arnold Sefcik, parents

Robert 'Bert' Galvan, Jr.
February 27th
Robert & Lucy Galvan, parents

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Norma Jean Diaz
February 2nd
Diana Moreno, mother

Robby Dale Martin, Jr.
February 3rd
Lorena & Lanny Martin, grandparents

Jerry Knight Haney
February 5th
Dugan & Shirley Haney, grandparents

Becky Kurusz
February 6th
Helen Kurusz, mother

Dustin Wayne Garcia
February 16th
Vicky Jones, mother

Brett Ray Brantley
February 18th
Karen Corn, mother

Chaz William LaBry
February 24th
Linda Massey, grandmother
Darenee LaBry, sibling
Randy & Robin LaBry, parents

Evelina Therese 'Teri' Mesquita Hall
February 26th
Paul & Evelina Mesquita, parents

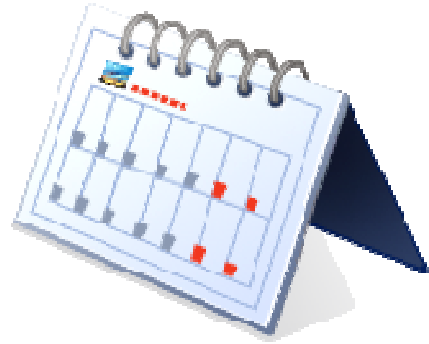
Please take a few moments to reflect on the children on this page and remember their families. A phone call or a note to the family would be so special and kind. None of us forgets our child's special days and the messages we receive that say 'I care', can help us get through them.

Special Information

Mark your Calendar for
Saturday, April 9th—Walk to Remember
More information on page 6

Save the Date
Sunday, May 8th
Mother's Day Balloon Release
more information on page 7

TCF National Conference
Minneapolis, MN
July 15—17, 2011
more information on page 5



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 or sabal0130@comcast.net or snail mail it in to the po box. Submissions are welcome anytime!

Thanks,
Lori
Newsletter Editor

Rick Rogers



Feb. 3, 2011

To my beautiful son, Rick,

Until Then – That is my new motto. Until my time is up I will put one foot in front of the other. Until we meet again I will grieve my loss. Until then I will live until I die. That is what I can do until then. I will look for you in the flowers in my garden. I will look for you in the clouds of a summer day. I will appreciate the life around me. I will be thankful that you were in my life. I will recognize a good friend and a warm hug. I will do the best I can – Until Then.

Your Mom Forever

Rick Rogers
4-12-81 2-3-05
Dana Rogers - Mother

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 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.

"You are so strong"

Empty words

That don't touch the reality

That my life has become.

Walking through fog

Incredible pain

Searching for the beloved face

I crave to see

The voice that I strain to hear over the noises

Of people who have no idea

Of what the world has lost

Charisse Smith,
TCF Tyler, TX

Ready, Set, Walk

Mark your calendar:

Saturday, April 9, 2011 - 1:00 pm

Walk to Remember

Bay Street Park - Texas City



As we wrap up the old year chalking it up as a success for our Chapter we are anxious to continue to move forward in our grief together by hosting a “Walk to Remember” for our members. Dust off your walking shoes. We’ve got a job to do. We hope this will act as a positive and constructive manner of dealing with our grief as well as offer a place and activity where we hope you feel welcomed, accepted and validated. Our Chapter is only as strong as its members and you all have something to offer even if it’s just your presence. We often hear our plight being described as our “grief journey” and invite the newly bereaved to join us on the road to healing. We are all on this road together; some ahead and some behind. All of us keep our own pace. There are rest stops along the way and this is when you should look to the crowd and take hold of the many hands that are being offered you.

Come join your Chapter on April 9, at 1:00 at Bay Street Park where we will create a strong group of proud TCF family members to “Walk to Remember” our children. There is no entrance fee. You have bought a lifetime acceptance in TCF when you lost your child. Nothing is asked of you except to show up and support our Chapter and honor your child. We will have TCF t-shirts to sell as well as our cookbooks, magnets and will take donations for our bumper stickers. “Love Gifts” will also be accepted to help our chapter to continue to support its members and to reach out to those who need us.

Stay tuned for more information

Your Steering Committee

Save the DateSunday, May 8, 2011

Since the inception of our Children's Memorial Garden in 2007 we have found that our Mother's Day event is anticipated by many. It is on this day that we meet, share, send messages and remember our children. We hope that this might offer an opportunity to some who may find Themselves in need of support on that day. Only when we share our pain with others can we lighten our burden.

There will be more details forthcoming.

Your Steering Committee



The Sign

As a little boy Jody loved to pick Black-eyed Susans. He'd pick those wild flowers and bring them to me with such love and pride in presentation. The last bunch he picked for me was on my birthday before his death, August 4, 1976.

The Black-eyed Susan is an independent wild flower that cannot be forced to grow out of season. The growing period for these wild flowers is the middle of June to the middle of August. But there, the first of September in the year of my son's death, in the center of Jody's grave, was a single perfectly formed Black-eyed Susan. It stood with strength and reassurance. It was all alone in the still, unsettled dirt covering the grave. There was not even a blade of grass or a single weed around.

I wept with mixed emotions of intense loss and love, feeling both distance and closeness, sadness and sudden relief. I saw it as a sign from my darling Jody. It spoke to me words from my dead child. "Do not cry. Do not despair. I love you and never intended for you to suffer so much. Please forgive me, and please be happy with the rest of your life. Please believe that I'm okay and at peace."

Whether it was a sign from Jody or from God, perhaps a bird dropped a Black-eyed Susan seed on the fresh grave, it brought me relief. I felt that my son wasn't so far away, and that his spirit would always be with me.

If nothing more, it helped me to begin to think of Jody there at the gravesite. He was dead, and I began to accept that. I started to realize that I would never again see his form as I had known it. But his spirit would be close and would guide me. I would not forget him and what we shared. He would always be special. What we gave to one another, what we had meant to each other, would not die or diminish with the passage of years, and it has not.

Each year since Jody's death, a single Black-eyed Swan has grown on his grave. It is a comfort and a joy. It is a remarkable phenomenon that now makes me smile rather than cry. Joey was a kid who never forgot my birthday, and never outgrew giving his mom flowers. I choose to believe he still hasn't. There are many mysteries in life and death that can't be explained, and I think shouldn't be, just accepted.

Susan White-Bowden
"From a Healing Heart"

Shards of Grief Linger after Murder

On a dreary night in December, a knock came at our door with news that would forever alter our lives. The news was that Anne, our only daughter, had been kidnapped and brutally murdered by persons or a person unknown. The shock, disbelief, anguish and anxieties over the next several months, a small piece of the grieving process, were extraordinary, and I have often wondered how we survived.

There was the extreme rage at the person who was responsible for taking Anne's life for no reason except for the pure pleasure of destroying good. But we survived.

There was the awful anger against the legal system for being so callous and insensitive to the needs of the family and friends. The wounds from Anne's death were already deep and unhealing, but listening to and reading about the insinuations and innuendoes by the lawyers made the wounds grow deeper and deeper. The impression was given the family must endure punishment for allowing our daughter to be in the wrong place. This caused a feeling of guilt. But we survived.

There was the fear that Anne would become just another statistic, and the person responsible would go unpunished. Now the fear exists that the person will be released from prison to repeat his acts of violence. I am afraid that fears are addictive and one replaces another. Perhaps the worst fear is, when your faith in God is at its lowest ebb, that you will never be able to respond to normal stimuli again and regain all that faith. All the fears are real; but so far we have survived.

These, I suppose, are normal reactions as the result of a violent act. I believe these anxieties delay a normal (so-called) grieving period until after the culprit has been found, tried and sentenced. After these three things happened, I do know a terrible burden was lifted from our shoulders, and we could restart living our lives. Somehow we survived.

How did we survive? After much reflecting, I firmly believe we survived by recalling the positive aspects of Anne's life and character. Each individual is endowed with certain instruments, and we hear the music of their lives long after they are gone.

Anne's instrument of love of life was a

blessing, and we still can hear the melodies of her song in the night. These melodies cannot be taken away, and they are more valuable than diamonds to us.

Anne's instrument of hope for a future in which to achieve her goals and have some effect on society was the backbone of her dream. The songs of hope in work, in life and the goodness of heart cannot be destroyed by evil or circumstances. Today is gone, but we still hear the songs of hope for tomorrow. These songs of hope, heard in the night, sustain us.

Anne's instrument of faith that she would lead a productive life and achieve both her spiritual and material goals was music in her heart. The faith she had in herself, her family and her friends transmits to us, urging us to proceed with our lives. The music of her faith is still a beacon in the night. We will not believe Anne's dreams have ended, but we believe they will find their place in the world to come. The music that was set in motion by her love, hope and faith will move, everlasting, in sweet memories forever. The wounds from the loss of a loved one cannot be healed by words or deeds. These terrible burdens are borne by each of us in our own way and, hopefully, we survive.

*Bill Boggs
TCF, Atlanta, Georgia*



Love Gift

A Memorial gift was given for:

Roger Robinson

By Dana Rogers & Rhonda Trujillo-Lambert (aunt of Rick Rogers)

In Memory of Rick Rogers

A Memorial gift was given for:

Clarence Benson

By Dana Rogers

In Memory of Rick Rogers

A Memorial gift was given for:

Carol Prewitt

By Dana Rogers

In Memory of Rick Rogers



BP—Fabrick of America Fund

Given by: Doris Prewitt—Aunt of Rick Rogers

In Memory of Rick Rogers

4-12-81 2-3-05



TCF Library

Our Library is open:

Thursday through Saturday

10:00 am --- 5:00 pm

Inside Rust & Dust Resale Shop

1519 – 6th St. N.

409-996-9440 for any questions

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 or Dana Rogers at 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

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.