



THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

PIKES PEAK CHAPTER
Supporting Family After a Child Dies



August, 2021

STEERING COMMITTEE

CHAPTER LEADER - Acting

Stewart Levett
Son, Aaron Paul Levett

MAILINGS & DATABASE

Jane & Steve Gabriel
Son, Jonathan Steven Gabriel

TREASURER

Ruby Doyle
Son, Patrick Michael Doyle

NEWSLETTER EDITOR & EMAILINGS

Stewart Levett
Son, Aaron Paul Levett

SC MEMBER/WELCOME PACKETS

Leta Levett
Son, Aaron Paul Levett

SC MEMBER/FACILITATOR

Ron Agee
Daughter, Melody Victoria Agee

SC MEMBER

Jen Sutton
Son, Austin L. Sutton

TELEPHONE FRIENDS

Any of these members may be contacted to
talk about your loss:

CHAPTER HELP - 719-344-3216

Jen Sutton *	719-354-0057 - Normal Business Hours
Jane Gabriel *	719-282-1924 - Leave Message
Ron Agee *	719-308-7473 - Between 8 and 5
Ruby Doyle *	970-560-9434 - Daytime Hours
Stew Levett *	719-534-0350 - 9 to 3pm, 9pm to 11pm
Leta Levett *	719-531-5488 - 9 to 3pm except Thursday
Raye Wilson	303-814-9478 - Daytime Hours

*Steering Committee

Welcome

The death of your child is probably the most traumatic, life-changing event that you will ever experience. The Compassionate Friends is an organization of parents who have also lost a child to death. Each of us has experienced the deep, searing pain that you are feeling now. Each of us has turned to other parents who were farther into their grief journey for guidance, support and understanding. This is done through our monthly meetings, our newsletter, our website, our Telephone Friend program, our library and our e-mail program. Each month parents find our meeting to be a safe place where they can talk about their pain and problems with others who are uniquely qualified to understand; bereaved parents offer gentle suggestions or often simply listen. We invite you to bring a friend to your first few meetings until you feel a level of comfort with the group. Do not be surprised if we talk about the happy times with our children, the wonderful memories and the various methods we have created to keep our children close to us. It is here that many bereaved parents find hope as those who are more seasoned in their grief shine the light of experience to help illuminate each grief path. We have no dues. We are self-sustaining through donations and the generosity of so many in our community.

We understand your pain; won't you let us help you through your grief?

Remember The Children
Balloon Launch
August 20, 2021 - 7PM
Bonforte Park
Details Inside This Newsletter
See Page 7



LOVE GIFT DONATION

Costs are rising. We need your *Love Gift* to support our chapter & newsletter! If you can, please help.

I would like to make a donation: ☐ in Memory of ☐ a Chapter Gift

In loving memory of: _____

Love Gift Donation: \$ _____ Please make check payable to: The Compassionate Friends

Cut and mail this form with your Love Gift to: Ruby Doyle – 6552 Lange Dr. – Colorado Springs, CO 80918

Contributor Name & Address: _____

Relationship: ☐ Son ☐ Daughter ☐ Grandson ☐ Granddaughter ☐ Friend ☐ Other

Photo Enclosed: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Photo To Be Returned: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Love Gift Donations

A "Love Gift" is a wonderful way to remember your child, while also helping our TCF chapter "reach out" to bereaved families. There is no charge to attend meetings, use the library, or receive the newsletter. We depend solely upon these gifts, monetary or gifts-in-kind, to support our chapter. You may choose to donate a tax deductible "Love Gift" at any time. Let us be here for the families who do not know today that they will need us tomorrow.

Our chapter exists entirely through your donations which are tax deductible. A Love Gift is money donated to the chapter in memory of your child who has died. If you feel a Love Gift is an appropriate way to honor the memory of your child, please consider a donation, large or small. Please fill out the form located in this newsletter and mail it to the address listed. All pictures submitted will be electronically scanned and added to our electronic Child Remembered "Picture Frame" displayed at monthly meetings and then returned to you.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

\$50 or more - Newsletter Sponsor. May include a full page for printing. Please remember to send your page "Copy Ready" as you would like to see it printed in the newsletter.

\$25 up to \$50 - A picture, if available, and dedication to be listed in the newsletter.

\$0 up to \$25 - A Love Gift acknowledgement. All Love Gift donations should be sent directly to our treasurer, Ruby Doyle whose address is listed on the Love Gift Donation Form. Wouldn't you like to make a dedication to your child and help our chapter?

⇒ **Send Love Gifts to Ruby Doyle, 6552 Lange Drive Colorado Springs, Co 80918** ⇒

Thank you for contributing and supporting the work of our local chapter!



Carol & Don Manning
in memory of Kyle Joe Manning

Michaela Christianson
in memory of Damon Vincent Christianson

ORGANIZATIONAL CONTACTS

TCF National Office

P.O. Box 3656

Oak Brook, IL 60522

630-990-0010 or toll free 877-969-0010

Email: nationaloffice@compassionatefriends.org

WEBSITES:

Pikes Peak - www.TCFPikesPeakChapter.org

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/TCFPikesPeak>

TCFPikesPeak

National - www.compassionatefriends.org



CHAPTER NEWS

This month our regular meeting will be held at Bonforte Park for our annual Balloon Release in memory of our children. Bonforte Park is located on North Wahsatch & Jackson across from the Bonn Shopping Center. We will be located on the northeast corner of the park just east of the practice fields. Our start time will be 7pm and cake will be served following the readings, music and balloon launch.

We will continue to have our in person meetings at the Kempo Karate school located at 410 South 8th Street directly behind the Taco Express. Each month we will have a different facilitator hosting the group with a wide range of topics to engage our members. These in person meetings will be held the 3rd Friday of each month starting at 7:00 p.m. Masks will be optional if you have been fully vaccinated and mandatory for those who have not. Refreshments can be brought/served but we ask that they be consumed on the carpeted area only.

We have been in contact with the First Baptist Church about hosting our meetings there again and they are ready to host us but only smaller rooms are available at this time. We will continue to be in touch with them and look forward to starting back up at the church in the near future.

Meetings are available to all members each month and we look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.



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.

G

Grandparents Remembrance

We are the grieving grandparents, the shepherds of our children and grandchildren's lives. Our grief is two-fold and at times, we feel powerless to help. We seek to comfort our children in the depths of their grief and yet we need the time and space to face our own broken hearts. We have been robbed of the special tender touch a grandparent shares with a grandchild, and we have lost a symbol of our immortality. As we walk by our child's side, we both give and draw strength. We reach into their hearts to comfort them, and when they reach out to us in their distress, we begin the journey to heal together. We continue to be their guardians. We allow traditions to change to accommodate their loss. We support the new ones, which symbolize the small steps on their journey. It is in their healing that our hearts find comfort.

Susan Mackey - TCF Rutland, Vermont



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PIKES PEAK CHAPTER
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August, 2021
Page 4

REMEMBERING OUR CHILDREN ON THEIR BIRTHDAY

Name	Birthday	Compassionate Friend
Eric Johnson	Aug 1	Gary Johnson
Lauren Hoover	Aug 1	Jill & Banty Hoover
Emma Renee Younger	Aug 2	Adam & Mindy Younger
Aaron Paul Levett	Aug 2	Stewart & Leta Levett
Genevieve Sucharski	Aug 2	Mark and Karen Sucharski
Eugene Harris, Jr.	Aug 2	Gene Harris, Stacey Burciago
Veronika Olivia Baca	Aug 2	Sharon Baca
Nicholas Clare Cousineau	Aug 3	George & Chris Cousineau
Matthew John McCallister	Aug 4	Steve & Carol McCallister
James Russell Kempa	Aug 4	Gayle Kempa
Rebekah Cano Moore	Aug 6	Janis Cano
Graham Stingley	Aug 7	Mary Winter-Stingley
Stella Elliott	Aug 8	Donna Elliott
Kali Albern	Aug 9	Sherri Albern
Clayton Neal Brehm	Aug 10	Ramona Atkinson
Nicholas Ryan Nelson	Aug 10	Marley Nelson Rhoades
Kimberly Denise Patterson	Aug 11	Sigrid Patterson
Lisa Marie O'Briant	Aug 11	Gary & Mary O'Briant
Eric Paul Deming	Aug 12	Denise Deming
Michael Williams, Jr.	Aug 13	Carmen Randall
Christopher Calegar	Aug 15	Kevin & Linda Calegar
Jackson Ahrold	Aug 16	Gretchen, Doug & Tina Blenkarn
Gina Marie Geffre	Aug 16	Joann Jahraus
Zack Orr	Aug 16	Dave & Sharon Orr
Santiago Ruiz	Aug 17	Miriam Ruiz
Adam Czyz	Aug 17	Robyn Czyz
Suzanne Bethany Thomas	Aug 20	Arnie & Mary Thomas
Brandon Naymik	Aug 20	Megan Riley
Cassandra Maureen Atkins	Aug 20	Cordell & Theresa Atkins
Dakota Willmann	Aug 20	Erin Welch
Susanna Jeanette Scruggs	Aug 21	Patricia Beard
James Wiezorek	Aug 21	Mary Beringer
Mia Allyson Gardiner	Aug 22	Peri Gardiner
Mark Anthony Hickman	Aug 22	Aundria & Dennis Casey
Abigail Ruth Smelser	Aug 23	Robin Myers
2Kalli Rose James	Aug 24	Lindsey James
JT Tills	Aug 24	Sarah Gleeson
Lance Alan Rigby	Aug 25	Deborah Rigby
Sayge Frisco	Aug 26	Renai Frisco
Patrick Casey Hildebrand	Aug 26	Dr. Jan and Judi Hildebrand
Sheldon Pasca	Aug 26	Norma Watkins
Jake Bair	Aug 26	Ginger Bair
Mary Hope Burton	Aug 27	Jim & Betty Burton
Kevin Hardman	Aug 28	Dianne McLaughlin
Matthew Medina	Aug 29	Vicki Schwindt
Ryan Pappas	Aug 29	Susan Pappas
Robert Yankosky	Aug 30	Dave & Lucy Klos
Nolan Edward Stites	Aug 31	Richard & Marilyn Stites



REMEMBERING OUR CHILDREN ON THEIR ANNIVERSARY

Name	Age	Anniversary	Compassionate Friend
Tyrone Elliott Bautista	19 years	Aug 1	Rosemary Devney
Jason Bradford Pfeif	18 years	Aug 1	Chris and Brad Pfeif
Joey Urbanowicz	31 years	Aug 4	Joe Urbanowicz
Chelsey Ann Kear	15 years	Aug 5	Tami Kear
Thomas Rosenkranz	20 years	Aug 5	Carolyn Kochis
Jared Todd LeFevre	34 years	Aug 5	Susan Reed
Jessica Rae Simmons	33 years	Aug 6	Mary McKenna
Kevin Hardman	21 years	Aug 6	Dianne McLaughlin
Sam Skaggs	10 years	Aug 7	Jennifer Skaggs
Keith Andrew Barrett	24 years	Aug 9	Ree Barrett
Jake Bair	19 years	Aug 12	Ginger Bair
Brent Eads	20 years	Aug 12	Lucy Butcher
Kali Albern	20 years	Aug 15	Sherri Albern
Jake Matthew	18 years	Aug 15	Malcolm Matthew
Laura Dean	30 years	Aug 16	Barbara Dean
Andrew Paul Weaver	20 years	Aug 17	Valerie Lightbody
Cassandra Maureen Atkins	33 years	Aug 18	Cordell & Theresa Atkins
Nikolas Chunn	5 years	Aug 18	Monica Chunn
Derrick Shane Moore	11 years	Aug 20	Ray & Deanna Moore
Ryan Colgrove	30 years	Aug 21	Theresia Colgrove
Nathaniel Hughes	18 years	Aug 21	Jim Hughes
Scott Martinson	6 years	Aug 21	JoAnn Martinson
Michael Ramirez	59 years	Aug 22	Jennie Ramirez
Clayton Champion	29 years	Aug 22	Jessie & Phyllis Roark
Jose N. Camacho	9 years	Aug 24	William & Veronica Camacho
Addie Marie Vande Stouwe	23 years	Aug 25	Shawn Roberson
Sayge Frisco	1 day	Aug 26	Renai Frisco
Jake Holm	19 years	Aug 27	Eric & Kalynne Holm
Nolan Edward Stites	19 years	Aug 29	Richard & Marilyn Stites



BACK TO SCHOOL FOR THE CHILD LOSS PARENT

It's mid-August in Nebraska which marks another school year starting. To some it's the thrill of having their kids gone all day so they can get things done at home. To others it's the stress of wondering if their child is making friends, behaving, and understanding the material; however, to the bereaved parent it marks another anniversary of not having a First Day of School picture. I see you. I hear you. I feel it too.

I think about another school year starting, specifically 3rd grade. I walk through Target seeing all of the school supplies, the Back to School display with shiny backpacks, thermoses and lunch boxes. There's so many choices, a lot more than I had to choose from when I was starting 3rd grade. It's almost too many choices. From animals, sparkles, super heroes, sports teams, Disney characters, and plain ones; I look at them all, wondering.... Would Macie have wanted everything princess like her little sister or would she be a "tom boy" wanting everything Cornhuskers like her daddy? We live in Nebraska and everything is Go Big Red in our house.

Then I stroll over to the supplies, there was always something about a freshly sharpened pencil and the smell of the paper of a new notebook that excited me when I was little. The brand new markers that are so new the caps are still hard to take off! I've always had a passion for learning and a love for "school" supplies and at 35 this hasn't changed. I'm still a book nerd. I wonder if she would have had my love of learning. If she'd be excited to pick out supplies. If she'd have a preference for a freshly sharpened pencil or mechanic pencil? Things that seem so simple to parents. Things that most parents may even rush through. It's okay.

I wonder who her teacher would be. What school she'd attend? Would we have moved back from Lees Summit if she hadn't passed away? The truth is, as much as I love being back home in Nebraska, I simply do not know. I wonder who her friends would be and what'd they'd be like? Would she be into wearing dresses or athletic shorts? Would the first day of school be as monumental to her as it was to me? Would she have to try everything on to make sure she had just the right outfit for the first day? Would she let me walk her in on her first day or tell me good-bye from the sidewalk while she ran independently inside to her class?

I want to hug my 3rd grader and to hear all about her day. To see if she liked her teacher. To ask the daily question "what was the best part of your day today, Macie?" and "what was the worst part of your day, Macie?" If Maxene learns one thing from me, I hope it's to find the good in people, in every situation, in all of life and everything in general. You may have to really look to find the good, but it's always there just below the surface, waiting.... I digress, we're talking about my other daughter Macie.

I'm always going to wonder because Macie died. The day she died part of me died as well. A part of me that hasn't come back to life just yet and probably never will; there is forever this tiny little void that is empty in my heart, for that is the spot where Macie's love lived; the very essence of me that was all hers.... and it is forever gone now. The day she died all of my hopes for her died. My dreams for her. My plans for her, plans that she probably would have changed because, let's face it, she's my kid.

With all of this said, here is what the take away is: Enjoy the small things because when you look back they truly will be the BIG things. In the hustle and bustle of everyday life it's okay to take that extra minute to enjoy the moment. Cherish it! Give that extra hug or kiss, give two or three! Take the picture, take a hundred of them! Capture that moment, remember it, love it and share it!

There will be a graduation day in 2029 and there will be one missing. And, on that day, please say a quick prayer of comfort for us as well.

All my love,
Lisa Barton



THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

PIKES PEAK CHAPTER
Supporting Family After a Child Dies



August, 2021
Page 7

Our Child's Annual Memorial Balloon Release

will be held at **7 pm** in Bonforte Park
(2323 N Wahsatch Ave, 80907 - Across from Bonn Shopping Center)

FRIDAY, AUGUST 20th

Special readings, music and time to reflect.

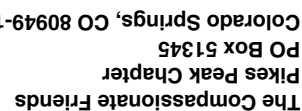
We will provide the balloons and a marker for you to make a dedication on your balloon before
Watching the balloons dance as they lift into the sky.

Refreshments will be served after the balloon release in the park.
Please join us for Fellowship and to Celebrate The Children!

Please Bring Your Lawn Chair

LOCATION NOTE: We will be congregating on the northeast side of the park just east of the practice fields. There should be ample parking around the park.





PO Box 51345

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Pikes Peak Chapter

The Compassionate Friends

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