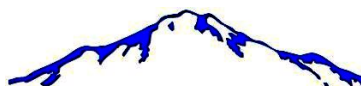




THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

PIKES PEAK CHAPTER
Supporting Family After a Child Dies



June, 2022

STEERING COMMITTEE

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Stewart Levett
Son, Aaron Paul Levett

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Son, Jonathan Steven Gabriel

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Son, Patrick Michael Doyle

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*Steering Committee

Welcome

Attempting your first TCF meeting can be difficult. Feelings can be overwhelming. We have all experienced them and know how important it is to take that first step. Please attend two or three meetings before deciding if TCF is right for you. There are no dues or fees. If you choose, you need not speak a word at a meeting. We are an international, non-denominational group, offering support and information to bereaved parents, siblings, and grandparents. We need not walk alone.

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



TCF 45th National Conference
Houston, TX • August 5-7, 2022

ORGANIZATIONAL CONTACTS

TCF National Office Address:
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WEBSITES:

Pikes Peak - www.TCFPikesPeakChapter.org
Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/TCFPikesPeak>
National - www.compassionatefriends.org



My First Five Years as an Only Child

I've been without my brother for five years. I guess the hard part is over now. Sometimes I think I have aged 30 years in the past five. In a strange way, these past five years have been the best and worst years of my life.

I have accomplished the many things of a typical young adult learning to drive, graduating from high school, going to college, and starting a career. Every one of my accomplishments has been clouded by the fact that my brother George is not here to share each milestone, and is not achieving any more milestones for himself. He was cheated of so many things.

He will never graduate, get married, have children or travel. He will never

grow old, and I will never have a brother to grow old with. Never have nieces and nephews.

The sibling relationship, usually the longest relationship of one's life, has been cut short for us. In these five years, although I have learned to accept that he is not coming back, the difficult part is dealing with it day by day.

My relationship with George ended just when we started to become friends. The childish fights and other annoyances of having a big brother here changing to real conversations and to having an occasional ally.

I am angry about all the things that we have missed and all the things that will never be, and I guess I always will be.

Five years heals a lot of wounds but the hurt will always be there, no

matter how many years pass. In these past five years, I have been forced to grow up too fast. I have been forced into a new outlook on life. I have felt lonely and alone. I now realize that I will never be the same person as before.

Maybe I am a better person because of what I have been through.

Five years ago I never thought I would survive, but I am still here dealing with it every day. I don't know what the next five years will bring, but at least I have made it this far.

Kristin Steiner, TCF, Staten Island, NY

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!



CHAPTER NEWS



We hold our in person monthly meetings at the First Baptist Church. We will meet in our meeting room upstairs behind the office at 7:00 pm on the third Thursday of each month. We look forward to seeing you. The **June 16th** meeting will be moderated by Steering Committee member Ron Agee.

TCF asks for donations in memory of our children who have died.

Our chapter is funded solely through donations; therefore we sincerely appreciate your support. Your generosity helps us purchase brochures and cover the many of the expenses that help grieving families in our community. All donations are tax deductible. You and your child's name will be noted in our next newsletter. Workplace "Matching Gift" programs can increase your donation by 50-100%. Please help us help others by making a LOVE GIFT donation today.

Refreshments Anyone?

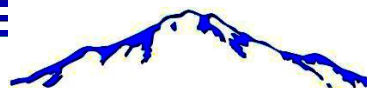
We encourage you to bring and share your child's favor snack on their birthday month or feel free to bring some treats to share just because you're a nice person! As usual, we will have the coffee pot on with an assortment of hot and cold drinks.

We've all endured a tough two years and now we look forward to meeting and seeing each other once again in the coziness of the church and certainly want to thank those people at the First Baptist Church who have made our meetings once again possible.

Dreams

You were here the other night, So alive and well it seems.
But I awoke and then I knew, You were only in my dreams.
The tears then came so quickly, For the time with you was brief.
You were alive and talking. If only in my grief.
I heard your voice and touched you. As if you were with me,
But I awoke and realized this was not reality.
So I'll take my dreams whenever they come.
And keep them close to my heart.
Cause in my dreams you are alive
And we are really never apart.

-- Joy Cummit (Jason's Mom)
TCF Savannah, GA



Remembering Our Children On Their May Birthdays

Name	Birth	Compassionate Friend	Name	Birth	Compassionate Friend
Jacob Foreman	Jun 1	Jan Foreman	Chris Barns	Jun 17	Bonnie Barns
Paul Kovacevic	Jun 3	Mary Kovacevic	Laura Dean	Jun 17	Barbara Dean
Benjamin Stewart Easton	Jun 3	Susan Stewart	Michael Jeffery Micke	Jun 18	Alice Micke
Madalynn Ann Bergevin	Jun 3	Mollie Bergevin	Jay William Sheridan	Jun 18	Mary & Tim Sheridan
Jake Matthew	Jun 5	Malcolm Matthew	Jim Eley	Jun 19	Judith Eley
Renee Lee Seiberlich	Jun 6	Joe & Leda Seiberlich	Jeanne Burroughs Widmar	Jun 20	Arlene & Charles Burroughs
John Doles	Jun 6	James & Susan Appleman	Richard McShan	Jun 20	Paul & Angelika McShan
Tyler Schmidt	Jun 6	Valerie & Jeff Schmidt	Dennis Lynn Gerringer	Jun 21	Kim Gerringer
Douglas Chadwick, Jr.	Jun 6	Deborah Chadwick	Kirsten Evelyn Cornell	Jun 26	Will & Marion Cornell
Sandra Steckiel	Jun 10	Beth Steckiel	Noah R. Wilkerson	Jun 26	Sarah Wilkerson
Mindy Baker	Jun 10	Terri Baker	Kyleigh Peltzer	Jun 26	Ashleigh Peltzer
Anthony Glusko	Jun 12	Jeaneatte Glusko	Cyan Pratt	Jun 26	Stanley Pratt
Clinton Boland	Jun 13	Velda Fields	Charles MacDuff	Jun 27	Cheryl & Melissa MacDuff
Yancy Hufford	Jun 13	Patty Hufford	Amy Feight	Jun 27	Patty & Bill Feight
Matthew Flint	Jun 14	Cathy Flint	Jimmy Schmidt	Jun 28	Jim & Laurie Schmidt
Andrea Mischel	Jun 14	Jerri Zimmerman	James Bishara	Jun 28	Phebe Bishara
Daniel Prickett	Jun 14	Jim & Elaine Prickett	Ian Izzeh	Jun 28	Tammy Haynes
Carl Simco	Jun 14	Loretta Chancellor	Jason Nathaniel Lurch	Jun 28	Kathleen & John Lurch
Jessica Robison	Jun 14	Terri Robison	Mike Petersen	Jun 30	Doug & Shelli Petersen
Nathan Gentry	Jun 16	Susan Gentry	Landon Spangler	Jun 30	Emma Spangler
Gryphen Barber	Jun 16	Sean & Cherie Barledge			
Forrest Kelly	Jun 16	Cindy Bronner			
Giorgiana E. Gordillo	Jun 16	Jennifer Gordillo			
Jason Bradford Pfeif	Jun 17	Chris and Brad Pfeif			
					

Welcome New Friends.

Becky Alber - Son, Zachary Michael Alber
Shelby & Cameron Dye - Son, CJ Dye

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.



REMEMBERING OUR CHILDREN ON THEIR MAY ANNIVERSARY

Name	Age	Passed	Compassionate Friend	Name	Age	Passed	Compassionate Friend
Evan Carara	18 years	Jun 2	Cindy & J.D. Carara	Sara Hernandez	21 years	Jun 19	Kathy Hernandez
Madalynn Ann Bergevin	1 day	Jun 3	Mollie Bergevin	Kyle Lyon	31 years	Jun 19	Tami Lyon
Billy E. Hendrickson	19 years	Jun 3	Grace Hendrickson	Kyle Joe Manning	11 years	Jun 19	Carol & Don Manning
Colin R. Spangenberg	31 years	Jun 3	Lois Spangenberg	Abbi Rose Starzynski	2 years	Jun 20	Sherry Starzynski
Aaron Steffens	36 years	Jun 5	Lynn Nickel	Tucker Ray Graef	14 years	Jun 21	Kathy Graef
Sean O'Connor	20 years	Jun 5	Dennis & Tracy O'Connor	Nicholle Guy	14 years	Jun 22	Lezlee Guy
Anton George Horn	13 years	Jun 6	Emma Horn-Adams	Daniel Prickett	32 years	Jun 22	Jim & Elaine Prickett
Mindy Baker	41 years	Jun 7	Terri Baker	Karen Sue Crawford	16 years	Jun 23	Joy Andrews
Robert George, Jr.	48 years	Jun 7	Robert & Margaret George	Anthony Paul Gratton	35 years	Jun 24	Luci Abrahamson
Ashley Meston	14 years	Jun 7	Jerry Meston	James M. Burroughs	43 years	Jun 24	Arlene & Charles Burroughs
Sarah Ness	24 years	Jun 8	Mary Ness	Andrea Mischel	30 years	Jun 25	Jerri Zimmerman
Jon Van Pelt	21 years	Jun 8	Claudette Van Pelt	Jay Simco	58 years	Jun 26	Loretta Chancellor
Nicole Johnson	34 years	Jun 10	Sherry Turner	Nickolas R. Vingren	3 years	Jun 26	Dale Vingren
Sandra Steckiel	4 days	Jun 13	Beth Steckiel	Daniel J. Whisler	38 years	Jun 27	JoAnn Mowdy
Arthur Lipphardt Jr	24 years	Jun 15	Art & Chris Lipphardt	Tyler J. Budfuloski	2 years	Jun 28	Rob & Alice Budfuloski
Austin Sutton	22 years	Jun 15	Jenny Sutton	Anthony James Pisor	25 years	Jun 28	Cynthia Pisor-Zapel
Gryphen Barber	1 day	Jun 16	Sean & Cherie Barledge	Stephen Lucas Tyler	19 years	Jun 28	Catherine Tyler
Erica Lynn Groat	26 years	Jun 16	Linda Groat	Kade Riefenberg	19 years	Jun 29	Andy Gibson
Ryan Sayers	20 years	Jun 16	Tom & Kate Sayers	Liam McDougal Lasher	11 years	Jun 29	Ashley Snyder
Bruce White	16 years	Jun 16	Gordon White	Kimberly Ann Hayes	22 years	Jun 30	Patty and Patrick Hayes
Scott White	12 years	Jun 16	Gordon White	Nick Naples	17 years	Jun 30	Laurie Naples
Megan White	15 years	Jun 16	Gordon White	Colby McCarley	17 years	Jun 30	Tami Sisneros
Vinnie Franz	18 years	Jun 17	Barb Franz	Noah R. Wilkerson	5 days	Jun 30	Sarah Wilkerson
Michael Jeffery Micke	1 day	Jun 18	Alice Micke				
Giorgiana E. Gordillo	4 days	Jun 19	Jennifer Gordillo				

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 gifts and say thanks
And say I Love You.

Remember the fathers
Whose children are gone,
Because they will always be
Fathers at heart.
~Sascha



A CROWN OF THORNS

February 2020 was the thirteenth anniversary of my daughter Allison's death... It started out like all the other anniversaries.... Mostly negative thoughts, sadness, and still wondering what my purpose in life is.... But by the end of the day, I would see something that would absolutely warm my heart.... So, I thought I'd share the story with you!!

When Alli died in a car accident in February 2007, she was studying Biology and Horticulture and just loved her large collection of house plants!!! She was dating a young man that lived just down the road from me and had LOTS of her plants at his house!!

Years later after Alli died, he eventually married a woman that lived just six houses away from me. On the anniversary of Alli's death on February 20th, his wife posted this photo on Facebook with the following caption....

"My crown of thorns.

I have a plant. It is called a crown of thorns. It was never supposed to be mine. 13 years ago today my plant lost its true green thumb and owner. Someone I never met, someone that everyone else has, someone who will never be forgotten in our home and someone who could of by now had this plant blooming it's full potential. But it's my crown of thorns now and all I can do is give it my best. I love this plant more than any other. I'm aware it was never supposed to be mine and for that I am humbled."

Again, this absolutely warmed my heart and I thought I'd share it with you!!

Bill Spach, TCF Colorado Springs, CO and Frederick, MD



Father's Day

Father's Day...not a big holiday like Christmas or Thanksgiving, but one that holds a lot of meaning for those to whom it applies. For first-time fathers, that Sunday in June brings a feeling of joy and pride.

For a longtime dad, it's a reminder of the fulfillment which children may have brought into his life.

For those men who have lost a child, it can be a very painful time. For those who must endure their pain in secret and silence, either through their own desire for that approach, or through society's expectations that they must be strong and controlled, it can become a horror.

But we in TCF wish to acknowledge the day, because we noted in preparations for Mother's Day, the death of a child does not negate the parenthood of the mom and dad who loved him or her. Love for one's offspring does not die when the body dies, and death does not succeed in robbing us of our parental identity.

We wish all bereaved fathers a day of peace. In the midst of our grief and loss, may you experience a taste of good memories and remembered love for your child.

TCF Elgin, IL



Father's Day — A Grandfather's View

Now well into my fifty's and knowing Father's Day is approaching once again, I find myself recalling my very first. It was a beautiful Sunday morning, June 16, 1969, when I became a father for the first time. A Father's Day I will never forget. Already prepared with traditional cigars, I had to be a turkey strutting his stuff. Many of the Father's Day after that were spent away from home working and never stopping to think just how special this day really is.

After my retirement a few years back, I became a grandfather, and my whole life changed. I never dreamed I would be changing diapers, giving bottles in the middle of the floor, playing dolls, or outside watching bugs, birds, butterflies, bees, squirrels, rabbits, and loving every minute of it, with the most beautiful granddaughter anyone has ever seen (my opinion of course).

That was a special year for me. I found myself asking the wife, "did our kids do that?" many times, and she telling me "yes", but you were working or just didn't notice.

My granddaughter taught me more about beauty of life and how much I had missed, in the short time she was here, than I could have ever imagined.

We lost her at 13 months, 2 days, and 22 hours due to a very rare genetic disorder and again my life changed.

This Father's Day will be spent with my family and a new grandson, now 2. years old, and a great little guy. I see much of the same inquisitive nature in him. Making sure each visit he has a good time. I think I do it out of obligation, and not with the joy that I once had, but when you see that smile on his face you know you made his day a little better, and that makes it all worthwhile. Memories are a part of our past, and some become a part of our heart.

At the end of Father's Day, when everyone has gone to bed. I will sit at my desk, drink one more cup of coffee, say a prayer, and once again, tell my granddaughter just how much I love and miss her, and somehow know she knows, and in my mind will hear her say.

"Pa Paw I love you too."

Take time to smell the roses.

Bill "Pa Paw" Fausett - BP/USA Arkansas
In memory of Jessica Lynn Webb 2/4/1998 - 01/7/2000
Forever in Our Hearts



June, 2022

The Compassionate Friends
Pikes Peak Chapter
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