



# THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

## Door County Chapter

P.O. Box 193, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235  
1-800-589-2669 (Voice Mail) [www.doorcountytcf.org](http://www.doorcountytcf.org)

Volume 15, Issue 2

Spring 2010

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL?? PLEASE SEE PAGE 10.**

THE FOLLOWING BEREAVED PARENTS ARE EAGER LISTENERS AND HAVE GRACIOUSLY VOLUNTEERED THEIR TIME AND "EARS" FOR YOU:

- GARY KIRACOFE -854-9801 (LOSS OF PRESCHOOL CHILDREN)
- LYNN MAGGLE -743-5707 (LOSS OF CHILDREN AGES 7-13)
- BOB MOELLENBERNDT - 743-3476 (LOSSES FROM ACCIDENT)
- KAREN DUTIL - 837-7133 (LOSSES FROM SUICIDE AND CANCER)
- SANDY GREENWOOD - 746-9313 (LOSSES FROM MOTORCYCLE & AUTO ACCIDENT)
- SUE WARREN - 743-8029 (INFANT, STILLBORN DEATH AND MISCARRIAGE)

THE DOOR COUNTY CHAPTER MEETINGS ARE THE SECOND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH, AT DOOR COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, CONFERENCE ROOM #3, LOWER LEVEL. WE MEET FROM 7PM TO 9PM.

CHAPTER LEADER: DAWN SANDUSKY -854-9801  
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### WHAT IS THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS?

The Compassionate Friends is a not-for-profit self-help organization composed of bereaved parents, siblings, and grandparents. We offer friendship and understanding to those who have experienced the death of a child, sibling, or grandchild.

Our meetings give parents an opportunity to talk about their child and about their feelings as they go through the grieving process.

The purpose of this support group is to assist each other in the positive resolution of the grief experienced upon the death of a child and to support our efforts to achieve physical and emotional health.



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 Message from Karen
- 3-4 Parents Page
- 5-6 Sibling Page
- 7 Love Gifts
- 8 Our Children Remembered
- 9 Help Us Get the Word Out
- 10 Coming events and E-Mailing of Newsletter



## A MESSAGE FROM KAREN

### *The Little Girl*

Once upon a time there was a little girl who had a little curl—wait, that's already been done. When she was three or four, mother reprimanded her for chewing her bedsheets ragged. She did not know why the chewing was necessary, but sleep was unavailable without the chewing.

Many would have thought she was weird if they knew anything at all about her, but they were too obtuse to even make an observation. She knew that she was made of magic for her ladies told her so. They being dressed in long black dresses, having black hair and dark eyes. She was not afraid of them because they didn't look like her mother.

By the time she taught herself to read during her fourth year, after she learned to tie her shoes, she knew that she was way different from others—her family, her friends and even the insipid girls she read about who sat around sleeping or waiting for someone to rescue them. She figured out early on that no one was going to save her; thus she made plans to save herself.

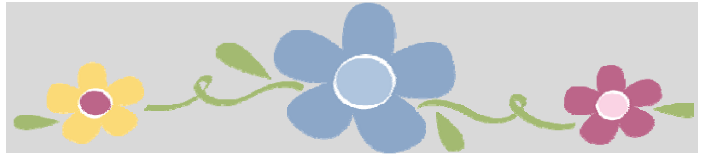
If you have any brains at all, you know that it's really hard to take charge of your life when you are four years old, even if you can read. It was definitely an adventure, one that many older beings would fear to face, but she was too young and innocent to see the future.

Many years later she learned of a computer game called *Dungeons and Dragons* and was amused because it was much less scary than her early life in which there were no dungeons. Dragons were yet another thing. Like *Red Riding Hood*, she skipped through the forest oblivious of the beast who was not a wolf, but someone she trusted. And that, my dears, is the worst beast of all.

This story, however, is not about her childhood which even if it had hideous details has been over for a long time, so long that no one gets to use it for an excuse anymore.

Throughout the long years of her life, muses and saviors dropped in to touch and bless and listen to her woes. She was not a person who made up problems out of whole cloth, but there were certainly difficult times to try her soul, her mind and her sanity. Eventually she moved to a cottage built by the elves of the cedar woods and there, at last, she found peace, writing reams of poetry which she sent by the messengers called internet to those she held dear.

Her last years were splendid, spent magically, taking out her memories, one by one and pasting them into the scrapbook of time. She wondered if her children understood, but relinquished that question just as she had let go of the whys and hows of her many losses. For after all, she had grandchildren to whom she left her poems and her journals.



*what if you lost him  
something not considered  
in 1958  
when i was twenty  
what with all the wedding plans  
the dress  
the reception  
the church  
the promises*

*sadly i did  
in 1987  
when i was forty-nine*

*too many memories  
by far  
invade my dreams  
my heart  
long broken  
has inexplicably healed*

*so what if you lost him  
turned into  
what if you found you  
a puzzle inside an enigma*

*long ago and far away  
i asked a question  
lost my love  
and found  
myself*

~ Karen

## TCF National Conference

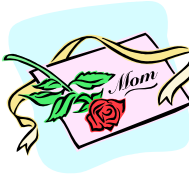


"Reflections of Love, Visions of Hope" is the theme of The Compassionate Friends 33rd National Conference which will be held in Arlington Virginia July 2-4, 2010. The event will be held at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City promising a beautiful venue for the 33rd TCF National Conference. Independence Day will not only feature our Walk to Remember, but will include a world-class display of fireworks over the National Mall, visible from Arlington.

Go to [www.compassionatefriends.org](http://www.compassionatefriends.org) for more information.

### *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  
Second Sunday of May*



*Annette Mennen Baldwin  
In Memory of my son, Todd Mennen  
May 2006  
TCF, Katy, TX*

### **MOTHER'S DAY**

How is the weather now,  
on mother's day?  
Shining with spring,  
promising early roses?  
But hides there, in secret,  
a moment of grief?  
Frost in the sunlight,  
pale heartache of sorrow?  
-The children are gone.-  
Are you reminded twice over:  
The children are gone?  
And will you be ready perhaps  
To remember without tears  
The sunlight, the laughter, the roses,  
You shared with the children  
on next mother's day?

*For you From Sascha  
Alexandera Sascha Wagner*



### **SPECIAL DAYS**

Spring comes and with it the uneasy awareness of difficult days ahead. For those who are still going through all of the "firsts" without their child, we want to share with you some of the ways parents have coped and managed. Mother's Day... Father's Day... graduation... vacations - these are special family times which often catch us unaware and bring unexpected tears and painful memories of young lives cut short. You can make these special days easier with some planning and with encouragement from those who have already been there.

Whichever day lies ahead for your family, try to focus of doing something meaningful and tangible in remembrance of your child. Share thoughts and suggestions about the possibilities: planting a tree, starting a garden, donating a book, lighting a candle, putting flowers on the altar or taking that long talked of vacation. Remember, tears and moments of sadness are expressions of love.

Also remember:

1. Take one day at a time.
2. Keep things simple.
3. Change your routine from past years.
4. Make plans to keep busy.
5. Give your surviving children some space--they not only feel your sadness, but they also have their own feelings to deal with.
6. Remember that the anticipation is often worse than the day itself.

Fox Valley, IL TCF Newsletter



### Father's Day Revisited

Now, I can look back at that first Father's Day, the first after the death of our son, Jeff. I was a mess. A man without hope, with little or no reason to continue living, deep in my own depressive grief. I could not share any joy with others.

I look back wondering how I could have treated my wife and children as I did while they were trying to celebrate in my honor. Inside, I was crying out, "What are these useless gifts? Don't you know the only gift I want is to have my son back?"

But it was through the love, caring, understanding and nurturing of those loved ones that has brought me so far from that first Father's Day. Now I can enjoy the joy of others. I can laugh once again, and once again, there is a life worth living.

For all those fathers for whom this is the first Father's Day, have the best day that you can.

P.O.K.  
TCF, Louisville, KY



### HURTING ON FATHER'S DAY

As the day approaches  
I wonder how I will react -  
Am I still a father?  
I will sit quietly never  
Allowing friends and family  
To see how I feel.  
I miss my son  
but I can't allow myself to "break".  
I must remain strong  
And always be the "rock".  
I wish I could just let  
Someone know how much I  
Miss my little angel.  
How much I cry and how  
Much I miss hearing,  
"Dad, I love you."  
I am a father, but I  
Wonder will I just pretend,  
As usual, that  
"it doesn't bother me?"  
Remember me, for I hurt, too,  
On this Special Day.

TCF, Tampa, FL

*Grief is like a long valley, a winding valley where any bend may reveal a totally new landscape. ~*

From A Grief Observed  
by C. S. Lewis

### **A Chinese Story**

There is an old Chinese tale about the woman whose only son died. In her grief she went to the holyman and said, "What prayers, what magical incantations do you have to bring my son back to life?" In stead of sending her away or reasoning with her, he said to her, "Fetch me a mustard seed from a home that has never known sorrow. We will use it to drive the sorrow out of your life."

The woman set off at once in search of the magical mustard seed. She came first to a splendid mansion, knocked at the door, and said, "I am looking for a home that has never known sorrow. Is this such a place? It is very important to me." They told her, "You've certainly come to the wrong place," and began to describe all the tragic things that had recently befallen them.

The woman said to herself, "Who is better able to help these poor unfortunate people than I who have had misfortune of my own?" She stayed to comfort them, then went on in her search for a home that had never known sorrow. But wherever she turned, in hovels and in palaces, she round one tale after another of sadness and misfortune.

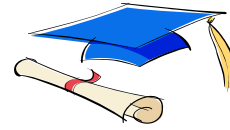
Ultimately, she became so involved in ministering to other people's grief that she forgot about her quest for the magical mustard seed, never realizing that it had in fact driven the sorrow out of her life.

*Lovingly lifted from TCF newsletter in Wilmington, DE*

### To Young Adult Brothers and Sisters with Love

The young adult transition is often a time of rapid, wrenching changes and puzzling, complex emotional patterns. Then a sudden traumatic loss of a brother or sister may come, and this may make the load seem too heavy to carry. Then, your once hopeful confidence and the joyous feeling that you are going places in life can sour with sadness, cynicism and bitterness. Yet your peers go blissfully on, unable to comprehend why you seem so different now...why you haven't gotten over it now. Your friends may drift off to more cheerful prospects in spite of your valiant efforts to keep pace. Sometimes employers and professors grow impatient with our lapses of concentration and decreased vitality. You may trip over new fears you didn't even know existed. Young adulthood is a time for happy social occasions but they aren't as carefree for you anymore. Contacts that used to be entertaining now seem trivial and empty. Maybe you no longer feel the high you once got from achieving something important to you. And maybe you do okay on the outside, but inside everything seems overshadowed by your burden of grief. If any of the foregoing experiences seem to describe you, you don't need to cope alone. Sharing the burden with another who understands your special sorrow is like finding an oasis in the desert. It revives the spirit so you face the next few steps with renewed strength.

~TCF Sibling, Portland, OR



### GRADUATION—A TIME TO REMEMBER

I was driving down the road the other day, thinking of how the retail market makes any event an opportunity for revenue. Graduation seems to fall into that category, with cards and gifts for every Graduate. This time of year reminds me that my graduation from high school was a bittersweet time.

Really, it was the first time I had "surpassed" my older brother, David, in anything significant. I turned the age that he was when he died, 18, in the beginning of my senior year of high school. That year was difficult for me, as I felt that I was getting to move past where he had been cut short. Graduation day was no exception. I was happy to be getting out of high school, and looking forward to that coming August when I would go to college. But why was I getting to do these things, and not David? What made me so special that I got to stay here and experience these things? I still am not quite sure of the answer to those questions.

Graduation from high school was really just the first of many events which I have gotten to experience that David never will. College graduation, my wedding, and the birth of my two children are examples. And for me, each event has been a bit bittersweet.

The good news is this: that while time does make it easier to bear day-to-day activities without your sibling, each major event in your life presents itself as a new opportunity to remember your brother or sister, as well. For me, figuring that out was a huge relief, as it meant that my fear of forgetting David was not something I needed to worry about any more. His memory is just as alive for me today, 15-1/2 years later, as it was when I took that walk across the stage to accept my high school diploma.

*Amy Baker Ferry  
Heart of Florida TCF, Longwood, FL  
June 2004*



**A Tribute to my Sister  
Lori Lee Smith**

**I Saw You**

*I saw you today in the morning dew*

*As brilliant as a sea of shimmering diamonds*

*I shared the most amazing sunrise with you today*

*A million shades of red so random in their  
perfection*

*I heard you today in the laugh of my children*

*An enchanting melody a thousand angels strong*

*I walked with you today and we talked about  
everything*

*. . . and nothing all at once*

*I saw you today in the changing of the leaves*

*The colors of your life, the close of one season*

*And the ushering in of another*

*I sat beside a stream with you today*

*The peaceful flow, steady and constant*

*I saw you today . . . and you were perfect*

*And rest assured . . . I shall see you again*

By Avery Smith  
TCF Ada Area Chapter

**THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS INTERNET  
SIBLING RESOURCES:**

**Sibling Chat**

This chat is available for adult and teen siblings to share concerns and feelings. Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings: 6pm PST, 7pm MST, 8pm CST and 9pm EST. Saturday evenings 7pm PST, 8pm CST, 9pm CST & 10pm EST.

<http://www.compassionatefriends.org/Chat/chatentrances.shtml>.

**Sibling Forum (a discussion board for bereaved siblings).**

In many areas of the country there aren't any TCF Siblings groups available. The Sibling Forum, available online, where siblings from all over can share, help each other cope with the unique grief of losing a brother or sister. Siblings will be able to ask questions, make a comment or leave a thought for other siblings to respond to. **This isn't a public board; interested siblings will need to request the password from**

[TCFsiblingrep@compassionatefriends.org](mailto:TCFsiblingrep@compassionatefriends.org)

**TCF Sibling Pen Pal Program:** This program is offered for bereaved siblings of any age, wishing to meet other siblings with similar interests, hobbies and whose sibling may have had a similar cause of death. This is an email list of bereaved siblings for The Compassionate Friends that offers one more avenue to communicate with others who are walking the same path of grief. It is a most rewarding method for our Compassionate Friends to extend the bonds of friendship that we all need so much to help with the heartache of grief. **Please email the TCF sibling representative for URL.**

**Please visit**

<http://www.compassionatefriends.org> and click on the Sibling Resources link to view more resources.

**Daniel P. Yoffee, Sibling Representative**

**E-Mail [TCFsiblingrep@compassionatefriends.org](mailto:TCFsiblingrep@compassionatefriends.org)**

## LOVE GIFTS

Love gifts are tax deductible donations made to the chapter, in memory of our children or from people who want to help in the work of The Compassionate Friends.

Chuck and Judy Dams in memory of their son, George "Ken" Stoneburner. They donated the money they won from the Sturgeon Bay Jaycee Christmas Lighting contest in December, 2009.



WE GRATEFULLY ACCEPT THESE GIFTS WITH THE KNOWLEDGE THAT OUR CHILDREN ARE  
WARMLY REMEMBERED  
THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!

If you would like to give a Love Gift, please send your donation to  
"The Compassionate Friends"  
P.O. Box 193, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

### It's happening again -- Spring

Spring is a time for optimism. Suddenly living seems easier, happier, and less stressful. Depression lifts and a feeling of hope fills the air. We shed our winter blues and replace our frowns and cantankerous attitudes with smiles and loving kindness. We visit our neighbors over fences, clean up the barbecues, and start leafing through seed catalogues. Life is good...but not invariably and not for everyone.

I remember a spring that bore no resemblance to what I have just described. It was the spring of 1997 and it was the first spring after my son's death. By the time the first warm day arrived that year, the numbness of Jason's death had disappeared and I had entered what I call the "pit of grief." Simply typing this paragraph takes me back in time and once alone, curled up in a corner of this make-believe my only link to him, my only awareness, the only away from it, I may lose him again. I cannot do it. I cradle the pain in my arms, shielding it from those who want to take it from me, and I weep...



However, spring arrives without invitations and it calls on everyone. It skips in like a long awaited guest and expects to be welcomed with open arms. I recall what seemed like the entire world growing jovial and light-hearted, which merely pushed me to tunnel further into my corner and the sanctuary of my grief. I longed for the reappearance of winter because it had kept the "ones who do not know" away from my door. I remember feeling betrayed. How could the earth suddenly wake up and come alive when my son had no opportunity to do so?

It's happening again. Spring is once again knocking on our doors.

By Sandy Goodman, author of *Love Never Dies: A Mother's Journey from Loss to Love*  
(Jodere Group, 2002)  
Wind River TCF Chapter

## OUR CHILDREN REMEMBERED

Anniversaries and birthdays are difficult for bereaved parents. In the days ahead may we lovingly remember these children and send our prayers, love and support to their parents. This quarter's newsletter will cover the months of April through June. If your child is not mentioned and you would like them mentioned in the spring newsletter next year, please contact Sandy Greenwood at 746-9313 or sgreenwood@dcwis.com. (Our National Office has asked us to discontinue publishing the year of birth and anniversary dates of our children because they could be used to commit identity theft.)

### MICHAEL JENNERJOHN

Born April 1  
Son of Ray and Ellen Jennerjohn



### IVAN GILBERT

Born April 5  
Died June 14  
Grandson of Randy and Joan  
Fameree

### CHRISTOPHER SIMON

Died April 6  
Son and Step-son of Terry and  
Darlene Simon  
Son of Mary White

### JASON REISDORF

Born April 7  
Son of Ann and Jim Reisdorf

### ERIN SHUFELT

Born April 7  
Daughter of Brenda Shufelt

### EMMA BACON

Died April 11  
Daughter of Helen Bacon

### JOHN GREENWOOD

Born June 26  
Died April 16  
Son of Sandy Greenwood



### CHERYL JOHNSON

Born April 20  
Died June 9  
Daughter of Ann Johnson

### KAITLYN SCHLEY

Born April 24  
Died April 19  
Daughter of Jon and Ann Schley

### TRENTEN CHARLES HERALY

Born April 21  
Died April 21  
Great-Grandson of Rita and Loyd  
Heraly

### BRIAN HERALY

Born April 24  
Son of Rita and Loyd Heraly

### ADAM SCHULTZ

Died April 29  
Son of Lester and Sherry Schultz

### LOUIS A. GRIESE

Born April 30  
Son of Sue and Jim Frihart

### WILLIAM WOLTER

Born June 20  
Died May 2  
Son of Dorothy Corbisier

### PAUL VANDERMEUSE

Died May 4  
Son of Mae and Julius  
Vandermeuse

### BRIAN GEURTS

Died May 6  
Son of Mary Fulwiler  
and Steven Geurts

### LUKE MADDEN

Born May 8  
Son of Mike and Barbara Madden

### AUSTIN SCUDDER

Died May 9  
Son of Jessica Viste

### JUSTIN DANIEL NESBITT

Died May 16  
Son of Dan and the late Rosie  
Nesbitt

### KEITH BAULDRY

Born June 2  
Son of Harlan and Patricia Bauldry

### LARRY HARTL, JR.

Born June 11  
Son of Larry and Katie Hartl

### JENNIFER GILBERT

Died June 13  
Daughter of Randy and Joan  
Fameree

### EVANGELINE GILBERT

Died June 14  
Granddaughter of Randy and Joan  
Fameree

### PHILIP SUNSTROM

Died June 15  
Son of Lois Sunstrom

### DEBRA LALUZERNE

Born June 21  
Daughter of Carol and the late  
Gerald Dart



A support group for families who have experienced the death of a child.

Meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at Door County Memorial Hospital Conference Room #3 800-589-2669 National website: [www.compassionatefriends.org](http://www.compassionatefriends.org)



5000509660

This ad sponsored in memory of Anton Moellenberndt 1974-1993

HELP US GET THE WORD OUT about The Compassionate Friends of Door County and at the same time remember your child/children. You can choose the date for the placement of your ad. It will appear in the obituary section of The Door County Advocate.

Cost is \$50.00 per ad.

The reserve your date send a photo along with a check made out to "The Compassionate Friends". Your photograph will be returned. You may e-mail a digital photo to [dawn@scrimshanders.com](mailto:dawn@scrimshanders.com)

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Your child's/children's name(s) and dates:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Send photo, check and this form to:

The Compassionate Friends of Door County  
P.O. Box 268  
Ephraim, WI 54211

Call Dawn Sandusky at 920-854-9801 with any questions.

## GRANDPARENT CORNER



### A Grandparent's Lament

By Rabbi Earl A. Grollman

*My seven-year-old grandchild was killed in a tragic accident. We had such wonderful times together. He was the shining light of my life. And now he is gone. I feel sorry for my daughter and son-in-law, but they have lots of support from caring friends. No one seems to understand my agony.*

*Grandparents mourn too!*

Rabbi Grollman responds: How true. The grandparent-grandchild relationship is very special. With quality time they provide the biggest laps, make few demands, and give many gifts. It has often been said that parents aren't supposed to bury their children. But neither are grandparents supposed to bury their grandchildren. When a child dies, both parents and grandparents have lost a part of their future -- one of the most horrific blows that human beings can endure.

There is the double assault of grieving for a grandchild while witnessing the suffering of your daughter and son-in-law. Your grief work may be different. Memories and attachments are not the same. Each of you has been rocked in individual paths to the very depths of your being in an attempt to patch together the pieces of your shattered lives. You must find a way to express what you are feeling or this suffering will stay inside you and fester. Seek out those with whom you can share your heartbreak. Pour out these emotions of grief and if necessary repeat them time and time again. Perhaps keep a journal for your eyes alone to flood out your sorrow. But most of all, talk. Talk to your friends, family, clergy, neighbors, support group or a professional counselor. How sorely you need their expressions of help, warmth and understanding.

The death of your grandchild may also result in an even closer relationship with your daughter and son-in-law and the rest of your family. Recall the unforgettable memories of the past as your search for a meaningful future. Even in your overwhelming despair, you will realize that part of that child's life will live with you forever.

From "Because You Asked" - Hospice Foundation of America

Coming Events

The next Newly Bereaved Meeting for those who would like to find out more about The Compassionate Friends, or would like an extra place to talk, will be on Thursday March 25th from 7-9pm at the Sturgeon Bay United Methodist Church, 836 Michigan Street, Sturgeon Bay. It is not necessary to register, but if you know that you would like to come or have questions call Carol at 743-3476.♥

All are welcome to attend a special concert on Thursday April 22nd, 7pm at the Ladder House in Sturgeon Bay. Alan Pedersen is a bereaved father, award winning songwriter, successful recording artist, and nationally recognized speaker on grief and loss. Alan's only daughter Ashley was killed in an automobile accident in 2001. This tragedy took his life in a direction he never imagined. He is now touring the country singing and talking with other bereaved parents. Alan's message is simple, "We were put on this earth to love them for as long as WE live, not for as long as THEY lived." He believes that healing comes slow, but does come as we reach out to others who share this journey and offer our hand to help. With a gentle mix of humor and straight-from-the-heart talk wrapped around powerful songs about love and loss, an evening with Alan Pedersen will make for a unique, healing and memorable concert experience. This concert is free and refreshments will be available. Everyone is welcome. To read more about Alan Pedersen go to [www.EverAshleyMusic.com](http://www.EverAshleyMusic.com) or [www.AngelsAcrosstheUSA.com](http://www.AngelsAcrosstheUSA.com) If you have questions you can call Carol at 743-3476.♥

*"It has been said that time heals all wounds. I do not agree. The wounds remain. In time the mind, protecting its sanity, covers them with scar tissue and the pain lessens, but it's never gone." ~*  
**Rose Kennedy**

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**WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL?**  
For convenience and also for saving postage and paper, the Door County Chapter of The Compassionate Friends is sending this newsletter by email. If you would like to receive this newsletter by email in the future, please notify the editor at [sgreenwood@dcwis.com](mailto:sgreenwood@dcwis.com). If you would like to be added (or deleted) from The Compassionate Friends mailing list, you may either email me or call our voice mail at 1-800-589-2669.

- **SOS Survivors of Suicide** group meets in Door County on the fourth Tuesday of every month. The time is 6:30 to 8:00 pm at JAK's Place, 820 Egg Harbor Rd. in Sturgeon Bay. For more information call Becky at 920-825-1339 or Marlys at 920-743-6162..
- **SOS Survivors of Suicide** group meets in Green Bay on the second Monday of the month from 7pm to 8:45. It is located at the Bellin Hospital Annex Building, 2020 S. Webster, Green Bay. For information call Jonna Bostedt at 920-437-7527.
- **PAILS of Door County (Pregnancy and Infant Loss Support)** is a support group. For information all our voice mail at 1-800-589-2669 and leave a message.
- **There is a Compassionate Friends group in Green Bay** meeting on the third Thursday of the month at First United Methodist Church, 501 Howe Street. Call Rev. Dave Wilkinson at 920-437-9252 for information.
- **There is a Compassionate Friends group in Kewaunee County.** Their meetings are temporarily on hold. For information, call Dorothy Konop at 920-863-8003, or email at [tdkonop@theglobalnet.net](mailto:tdkonop@theglobalnet.net).

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**UPCOMING MEETINGS OF DOOR COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS:**

- April 8 - Darcie Sims Video "Hope for the Future"**
- May 13 - "Asking the Hard Questions"**  
Open discussion and sharing
- June 10 - "Rebuilding a Life" - a video about growth after loss**

**IF A MEETING IS CANCELLED DUE TO WEATHER, IT WILL BE ACCOUNCED ON WDOR, AND THEN WE WILL MEET AT THE SAME TIME THE FOLLOWING THURSDAY.**

## **An Invitation . . .**

Every bereaved parent at some time on the long and desperate journey through grief needs to meet someone else who is treading or has trodden the same path. We all long to know how others have coped, and if our feelings are normal for what we are going through.

We therefore warmly and lovingly invite any grieving parent, grandparent or sibling to join us at our monthly meetings. It does take courage to attend that first meeting (we remember our first meeting) but we believe you will find comfort and support when you attend.

To those of you who are newly bereaved and are receiving this newsletter for the first time, we wish to extend our sympathy and warmly hold out our hands in friendship. At our monthly meetings we offer each other support through gentle discussions, occasional presentations, a lending library and resource materials. We have loving listeners to take your call if you need someone to talk to. However we can help, we are here.

We welcome new members. We are truly sorry for the circumstances that made you eligible for our support group, but we are here to share your grief.

Attending your first meeting takes courage. But those who attend find a comforting network of support that only other bereaved families can give. Please try attending at least 3 meetings before deciding if it is beneficial for you.

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### **FOR YOUR INFORMATION:**

The National Office of The Compassionate Friends mailing address is:

P.O. Box 3696, Oak Brook, IL 60522-3696

National Office toll free number is (877)969-0246

National Office e-mail is [nationaloffice@compassionatefriends.org](mailto:nationaloffice@compassionatefriends.org)

Compassionate Friends web address is [www.compassionatefriends.org](http://www.compassionatefriends.org)

Regional Coordinator is Jim Staniforth, Telephone (608)835-7493

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Do you know of someone else who would like this newsletter? Please let us know!

P.O. Box 193, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

Email [rmoellen@doorpi.net](mailto:rmoellen@doorpi.net)

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FREE VIDEO - IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS AND THEIR MEETINGS, CALL FOR YOUR FREE VIDEO AT 1-800-589-2669.