



# *The Compassionate Friends*

## Supporting Family After a Child Dies

**FORT WORTH CHAPTER**

**NOVEMBER 2016**

Chapter Phone Number: (682) 201-0837

tcffortworth@gmail.com

### **HOLIDAY MEMORIAL, NOVEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>, 6:30 PM**

#### **STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

The Fort Worth Chapter Memorial will be a time to take a break from the world and come together as kindred spirits during the Holiday season and remember that our children, our grandchildren, our brothers and our sisters are no longer physically here on earth, but they are ALL still with us in spirit and always will be. We remind ourselves that we are richer because they LIVED and there is a vast measure of love, of tenderness, of fulfillment and a sense of purpose that we could not have enjoyed had it not been for them. They opened a new dimension of love to us. How grateful we are for that gift!

Jerry & Sharon Austray  
Charles & Genie Dean  
Mark Deegear  
Jeff & Marty Martin  
Lydia Moore  
Jaye Sanford  
Donna Tusan

The memorial will begin promptly at 6:30pm at Arborlawn United Methodist Church, 5001 Briarhaven Rd., Fort Worth. Dinner will be served immediately following the memorial event and this memorial is for the entire family of all ages, so feel free to bring guests to share this evening with. **Please bring a favorite dessert to share.**

**Hospitality**  
Annette Garcia-Gilmore  
(817) 244-9102

Christine Anderson  
(807) 300-6196

**Librarian**  
Position Open

**Newsletter Editor**  
Position Open

**Secretary**  
Becky Long

**Treasurer**  
Steve Roberts  
Sjroberts1216@hotmail.com

**Welcome Bags**  
Janet DuPertuis

#### **NATIONAL OFFICE**

The Compassionate Friends  
PO Box 3696, Oak Brook, IL 60522-3696  
Call toll-free (877) 969-0010 Mon. - Fri., 9 AM - 5 PM, CST  
nationaloffice@compassionatefriends.org  
[www.compassionatefriends.org](http://www.compassionatefriends.org)

The website contains links to TCF's national and regional conferences, brochures, e-newsletter, online support community, We Need Not Walk Alone magazine, "Healing the Grieving Heart" and "The Open to Hope Show" radio program archives, webinars, chapter websites, and other resources.

#### **REGIONAL COORDINATOR**

Bill Campbell  
(972) 935-0673  
jojjobill@sbcglobal.net

**Chapter Website:**  
[www.thecompassionatefriendsfw.com](http://www.thecompassionatefriendsfw.com)

### **20<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL WORLDWIDE CANDLE LIGHTING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>, 6:30 P.M.**

The Compassionate Friends Worldwide Candle Lighting unites family and friends around the globe in lighting candles for one hour to honor the memories of the sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, and grandchildren who left too soon. As candles are lit at 7:00 p.m. local time, hundreds of thousands of persons create a virtual 24-hour wave of light in quiet remembrance of children who have died, but will never be forgotten.

Our chapter's observance of the Worldwide Candle Lighting will be held at our usual meeting place, Arborlawn United Methodist Church, 5001 Briarhaven Rd., Fort Worth, on Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30p.m. This event is appropriate for all ages, and we invite you to bring children or other friends and family to this special occasion.



*"...that their light may always shine."*

**LOVE GIFTS**

Valerie Mitchell  
In memory of  
Leigh Taylor

Cindy Moser  
In memory of  
Brian Barrett

Patricia Smith  
In memory of  
Verna Smith

David & Suzanne Wilkinson  
In memory of  
Michael David Wilkinson

A Love Gift is a donation made in honor of a child who has died or as a memorial to a relative or friend.

Donations are tax deductible and are one means that allows us to reach out to other bereaved families through books and programs.

If you would like, you can specify that your love gift be used for specific use, e.g., continuing education, workshops, or books for our lending library.

You can make donations online through our website, or by mailing a check to:

Steve Roberts  
P.O. Box 734  
Eules, TX 76039

**NEED TO TALK?**

Listed below are parents, grandparents and siblings who have walked where you are today. If you are having a difficult day and just want to talk, please call.

**Addiction**

Helen (817) 431-6964

**Auto**

Jeff & Marty (817) 475-9141

**Grandchild/ Multiple Loss**

Lydia (817) 829-3801

**Drowning**

Debi (817) 270-3275

**Drowning (Young Child)**

Stacy (817) 656-7540 or (817) 845-3433

**Long Term Illness**

Marty (817) 636-5645

**Homicide (Only Child)**

Steve (682) 583-0125

[sjroberts1216@hotmail.com](mailto:sjroberts1216@hotmail.com)

**Suicide (Only Child)**

Joy (817) 453-2227

**Siblings**

Jaye (817) 475-9363

**Premature Infant(s)**

Amy (817) 944-1710

[amyl12@hotmail.com](mailto:amyl12@hotmail.com)

**Middle of the night calls**

Liz (817) 726-3999

**CHAPTER NEWSLETTER EDITOR NEEDED**

Our chapter is in need of someone to help with the newsletter - all that is required of you is to find three articles or poems a month from the National TCF database or other grief materials which allow reprinting. If you have read a book that helped you in your grief journey and you would like to review it for the newsletter, that would also be helpful. Even better would be something you have written yourself that you would like to share. If you would be interested in helping with the newsletter, please contact Becky Long through the chapter email address [tcffortworth@gmail.com](mailto:tcffortworth@gmail.com).

**NO BIRTHDAY TABLE IN NOVEMBER**

Due to this month's memorial, November and December birthdays will be celebrated at the December meeting on Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>.





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*The mission of The Compassionate Friends:  
When a child dies, at any age, the family  
suffers intense pain and may feel hopeless  
and isolated. The Compassionate Friends  
provides highly personal comfort, hope, and  
support to every family experiencing the  
death of a son or a daughter, a brother or a  
sister, or a grandchild, and helps others  
better assist the grieving family.*

## **Fort Worth Chapter Meeting**

### **Annual Holiday Memorial**

**Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 P.M.**

**Please bring a dessert to share.**

**~ Paper Goods and Drinks are provided ~**

**This event is appropriate for all ages -  
Feel free to bring children and other friends  
and family to join us.**

**ARBORLAWN UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH -  
5001 Briarhaven Rd., Fort Worth**

## **A Special Message**

To those of you who are newly bereaved and receiving our newsletter for the first time, we warmly welcome you to The Compassionate Friends. We are a self-help organization of parents, grandparents and adult siblings who have experienced the death of a loved one. We offer understanding and support through our monthly meetings, a lending library, support materials and loving telephone listeners. Please do not be afraid to come to a gathering. Every other person in the room has lost a child, grandchild or sibling. They come because they feel the need to be with someone else who understands. We know it takes courage to attend that first gathering, but those who do come find an atmosphere of understanding from others who have experienced the grief that you have now. Nothing is asked of you. There are no dues or fees and you do not have to speak. There is a special feeling at meetings of The Compassionate Friends.

***We meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month.***