



The Compassionate Friends

Greater New Orleans Chapter

Supporting Family After a Child Dies

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 9

September 2025

Chapter Leaders: William and Millie Hunton 504-265-0581 Email address: tcfnola@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE – SEPTEMBER 13TH Memorial Walk and Auction

To be held in the Lafreniere Park Foundation Center

See Page 4 for more details.

See Page attached FLYER for registration and sponsoring.

MYTHS ABOUT GRIEF by Shari O'Loughlin

Feeling misunderstood in grief is common when a tragic death occurs, such as a child, sibling, or grandchild. Those who have not experienced a loss of this magnitude may struggle to understand its enormity and comprehensiveness. This can result in unintended hurt for the people left grieving.

Many myths about grief cause those navigating it to feel isolated, harshly judged, and unsupported in the relentless pain they experience. One myth is the view that grief is primarily a painful emotion. Grief manifests physically, mentally, and spiritually, as well as emotionally. Grief is exhausting in ways that others can't see. Everyday tasks in life tend to be much more draining of a person's resources than they were before their loved one died.

Cont. on Page 3 – See MYTHS

BIRTHDAY RECOGNITION: Birthdays can be found on "Our Children Remembered" page. We do encourage both you and your family to come when it is your child's birthday month, to share your child with all of us with photos and memories. You will receive a special birthday gift in memory of your child. Bring that treasured picture of your child that always makes you smile so we may smile with you. **The August Birthday Cake was sponsored by Garrinell Southall in memory of her son Keishawn Southall. The September Birthday Cake will be sponsored by JoAnn & Sam Giovingo in memory of their son Ray Keith Constantine, Jr.**

Grief changes everything, both around us and within us. And, as the seasons change, our grief shifts and changes too. So, it seems no matter what I do, my heart will always look for you. In everything, I do, in every memory old and new, my heart will always look for you. - *Liz Newman*

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.

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING:

September 8, 2025

Lafreniere Park Foundation

Center Conference Room

7:00 – 9:00 pm

2nd Monday of every month

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

13 Jan 25	10 Feb 25	10 Mar 25
14 Apr 25	12 May 25	9 Jun 25
14 Jul 25	11 Aug 25	8 Sep 25
13 Oct 25	10 Nov 25	8 Dec 25

REGIONAL COORDINATOR

Position Open

Nominee To Be Announced

NATIONAL OFFICE

The Compassionate Friends
48660 Pontiac Trail # 930808
Wixom, MI 48393

nationaloffice@compassionatefriends.org
www.compassionatefriends.org
877-969-0010

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Butterfly Release

April 27, 2025 – held in the Children's Memorial Garden in Lafreniere Park

Memorial Walk and Auction

September 13, 2025 – held in the Children's Memorial Garden in Lafreniere Park

WorldWide Candle Lighting

December 14, 2025 – Held in the Foundation Center in Lafreniere Park

Our Monthly Meetings

To all those newly bereaved, who are receiving this newsletter for the first time and to all our Compassionate Friends, we wish you were not eligible to belong to this group, but we want you to know that you and your family have many friends. We, who received love and compassion from others in our time of deep sorrow, now wish to offer the same support and understanding to you. Please know we understand, we care, and we want to help. **You are not alone in your grief.**

Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of each month at the Foundation Center Conference Room in Lafreniere Park at 7:00 P.M. We are a self-sustaining organization with no funds except what we receive through donations from members and newsletter recipients. Please join with us at a meeting.

Grief support after the death of a child

The Compassionate Friends is a national non-profit, self-help support organization that offers friendship, understanding, and hope to bereaved parents, grandparents and siblings. There is no religious affiliation and there are no membership dues or fees.

The secret of TCF's success is simple: As seasoned grievers reach out to the newly bereaved, energy that has been directed inward begins to flow outward and both are helped to heal.

The vision of The Compassionate Friends is that everyone who needs us will find us and everyone who finds us will be helped.

Big Thanks to Our Steering Committee



Contact:

Phone: (504) 265-0581

Email: tcfnola@gmail.com

www.tcfneworleans.com

1104 Colony Rd, Metairie, LA 70003

Chapter Leader	William Hunton
Chapter Co-Leader	Millie Hunton
Treasurer	Isabel Vigne-Miranda
Facilitator	Millie Hunton
Newsletter Editor	William Hunton
Webmaster	Jason Vicari
Database Management	Jerrie Vicari
Outreach Committee	Dena Peters
Hospitality	Jan Dutilh
Coffee Hostess	Patsy Ashton
Memorial Park Director	Jacques Bitoun
Memorial Brick Director	Peggy Boardman

Steering Committee: William Hunton, Millie Hunton, Jan Dutilh, Dena Peters, Isabel Miranda-Vigne, Patsy Ashton, and Christi Vercher.

Denise St. Pierre, Regional Coordinator

(504) 460-2970

TCF National (877) 969-0010

www.compassionatefriends.org

The Meeting Agenda

7:00 p.m. - The meeting will begin with a short introduction followed by lighting of candle and then reading of the Credo. Remembering our children's birthdays of the month. Then followed by smaller groups of sharing.

8:45 p.m. - Meeting will close by recognizing our children's names. Feel free to visit with each other and check out a book from our library.

Newsletter Submissions: TCF Greater New Orleans welcomes all submissions to our newsletter. Send articles, poetry, love messages and scanned photos to: **TCF GNO, 1104 Colony Rd., Metairie, LA 70003**. You may also text photos and messages to 504-251-1938. As our chapter is only funded by your donations, we ask for a donation of **\$15** or more for a dedication for our newsletter. This is tax-deductible. We reserve the right to edit for space and/or content. Deadline for submissions is listed below. TCF Chapters may copy articles from this publication provided credit is given to the author and the original source. Errors and Omissions: Please notify me if any of your information is incorrect. Thank you!

Newsletter Dedications to be put in our newsletter are due the 20th of each month.

A Newsletter Dedication: is a special page dedicated in memory of your child with a poem or writing that you submit.

A Love Gift: is a short one or two sentence message in your child's memory.



BIRTHDAY CAKE: Our child's birthday is still such an important day to us bereaved parents. In TCF this is where we can celebrate our child's birthday and remember the love we still have for them no matter how long it has been since they died. Our members are welcomed to sponsor our cake to recognize their child's birthday. Please notify me if you wish to sponsor our Birthday Cake, **William Hunton (504) 265-0581**.

TCF Greater New Orleans Memorial Candles and 3" Photo Buttons

We are asking for donations of \$20 per candle. Candles will have 3 photos, name, dates, and an LED insert.

We are asking for donations of \$5 for each button or \$12 for three buttons.

Email Your Child's Photo to tcfnola@gmail.com or call William Hunton (504) 265-0581 for info.

Candles and/or photo buttons will be delivered to the next meeting if info is received 72 hours before meeting.

Please make checks payable to: TCF – GNO, 1104 Colony Road, Metairie, LA 70003

Grief is all-consuming for someone who has experienced a catastrophic and premature death of their loved one. A myth is that once the person gets through the initial period after loss, they should “get back to normal.” There is no “getting back to normal” after a loss of this depth. It is permanently life altering and changing, and the bereaved person must find ways to incorporate this new reality into their lives.

After a few years have passed, others may want the bereaved person to “move on.” Suggestions are made that the person should not talk about it so much or that cleaning out their room and belongings will help them from being rooted to the pain. The reality is that the love for our child, grandchild, or sibling hasn’t changed or lessened after their death. The griever is working hard to move forward in their lives while bringing the memories of their loved one with them.

The healing that comes from remembering a loved one who died is also frequently misunderstood. A myth is that if the person who died is brought up, the griever will be reminded of their loss and pain. A grieving person has not forgotten their loved one died. When someone holds space for the griever to speak about their loved one’s life and how much they still mean to them, it is healing and a gift for their hurting heart.

While it’s not possible to bring back our children, siblings, and grandchildren, reducing common misperceptions about grief is helpful. Developing awareness and better understanding about the true and enduring nature of grief, creates more meaningful support for those navigating such heartbreaking pain.

Warmly,

Shari O’Loughlin, MBA, CPC, CEO, The Compassionate Friends



TCF Greater New Orleans Chapter Memorial Walk & Auction

The Greater New Orleans TCF Chapter is sponsoring a Children’s Memorial Walk followed with an Auction on **September 13, 2025** at Lafreniere Park in Metairie, LA to raise funds for the operating expenses of our chapter.

We are encouraging you to contact any vendors you may know who will be willing to donate merchandise or gift cards. We will also welcome any items you may wish to donate. This can range from anything old or new. If we are going to have a successful fundraiser this year then we are going to need your help.

This letter is to ask YOU, our MEMBERS, to help us make our Children’s Memorial Walk a great success. We are asking for a donation. All donations are tax deductible and will be acknowledged. For cash donations please make checks payable to The Compassionate Friends GNO. Non-cash items donated will be auctioned off at our auction following the Children’s Memorial Walk.

We greatly appreciate any help you can give us.
Please feel free to contact me to arrange a donation.
William Hunton – 504-251-1938

So many things can live in a human heart all at once. Grief and gratitude. Love and loss. Hurt and hope.
Seemingly opposite things, all begging to take up space and be seen and heard.
To allow them to mingle and to interconnect and to know that it is a tender reality of the human condition:
this painful yet beautiful ability to feel so many different things at once. -Liz Newman

NOTE: PER TCF NATIONAL RECOMMENDATION – WE ARE REMOVING ALL YEARLY DATES OFF OF OUR DEDICATION ENTRIES.

A DOZEN ROSES

If I had a dozen roses, I know just what I'd do.
I'd give each one a name that reminded me of you.
The first rose I'd name "sunshine" cause you brighten every day.
The second would be "beauty", the kind that never goes away.
The third rose would be priceless, like those hugs you gave to me
I'd name the fourth one "silly", oh how funny you could be.
Rose five, of course, is "patience", something you have helped me find.
The sixth rose I'd call "memories", the precious gift you left behind.
The seventh and the eight rose would for sure be "faith" and "grace".
Nine would be "unique" because no one can take your place.
The tenth rose, well, that's easy; I'd simply name it "love".
Eleven, I'd call "angel"; I know you're watching from above.
I'd think about that twelfth rose, and I'd really take my time.
After all these roses are for you, my Valentine.
I'm sending them to heaven in every color that I know.
So number twelve I'll name "forever", that's how long I will love you so.



Alan Pedersen is an award-winning speaker, songwriter and recording artist. His inspirational message of hope and his music have resonated deeply with those facing a loss or adversity in their lives and have made him one of the most popular and in-demand presenters in the world on finding hope after loss.

THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS CREDO

We need not walk alone. We are The Compassionate Friends. We reach out to each other with love, with understanding, and with hope. The children we mourn have died at all ages and from many different causes, but our love for them unites us. Your pain becomes my pain, just as your hope becomes my hope. We come together from all walks of life, from many different circumstances. We are a unique family because we represent many races, creeds, and relationships. We are young, and we are old. Some of us are far along in our grief, but others still feel a grief so fresh and so intensely painful that they feel helpless and see no hope. Some of us have found our faith to be a source of strength, while some of us are struggling to find answers. Some of us are angry, filled with guilt or in deep depression, while others radiate an inner peace. But whatever pain we bring to this gathering of The Compassionate Friends, it is pain we will share, just as we share with each other our love for the children who have died. We are all seeking and struggling to build a future for ourselves, but we are committed to building a future together. We reach out to each other in love to share the pain as well as the joy, share the anger as well as the peace, share the faith as well as the doubts, and help each other to grieve as well as to grow. We Need Not Walk Alone. We are The Compassionate Friends.

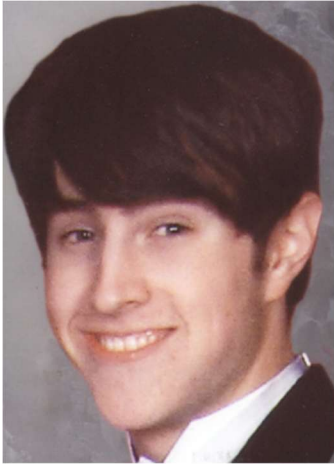
Grief seeps into every aspect of our lives: the sorrows, the celebrations, and everything in between.

So many people think of grief as heart-shattering and agonizing sadness. Which it is.

But it is also the tender ache that echoes in the chambers of your heart after something exciting happens or a milestone is achieved.

It's the unsettled feeling when you accomplish something and your biggest cheerleader is no longer here to see it. -Liz Newman

Memorial Newsletter Dedication in Memory of
Cody Martin
February 27 ~ September 22



God called your name so gently
 There was nothing for you to fear
 No one heard the footsteps
 Of the angel drawing near
 Softly from the shadows,
 There came a gentle call
 You closed your eyes & went to sleep
 Then quietly left us all.



Love, Mom, Dad, Katie, & Meaux

Dedication sent in by Betty Boudreaux



Memorial Newsletter Dedication
Pearson Sung Pratt
September 14 - July 9



Happy Heavenly "25th" Birthday, Pearson !



But it helps
 To remember,
 To talk about you
 To know there are others
 Who hurt this way too

To acknowledge
 The ache
 May always be there
 But your love will be with me too.

-Liz Newman

*Love you forever, Andrew, Kelly, & Abigail...
 and all who walked across his kind path.*

Dedication sent in by Andrew and Kelly Pratt

*Newsletter Dedication in Loving Memory of
Caridad Rea*

September 4 – June 23



Although I'm sad without you
And wish that you were here,
Within my heart your lovely smile
Still shines bright and clear.
I treasure all those memories
Of growing up with you,
The secrets we would always share
The childish things we'd do.
And as the years passed quickly by
We grew closer still, I miss you,
Dearest Sister, And you know I always will.



Your loving sister, Isabel

Dedication sent in by Isabel Miranda-Vigne

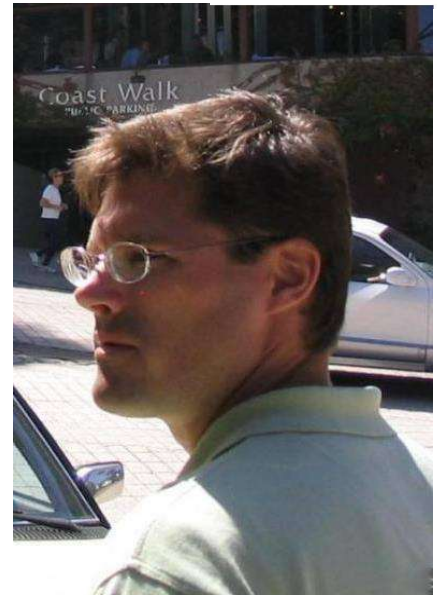


*Memorial Newsletter Dedication
Kevin Flock*

September 15 - May 31



*My only regret is that if I had known
that the last time I saw you,
would be the last time I saw you,
I would have hugged you a little tighter,
told you I loved you a little louder,
and stayed by your side a little longer.
My mind knows that you are gone,
but my heart will never accept it.
I miss you so much.*



Love always and forever, Mom, Dad, Denise, Harrison, Jordan, & Reesi

Dedication sent in by Janice Flock

Memorial Newsletter Dedication
Ray Keith Constantine, Jr.
 September 28 ~ May 29, 2021



*With all my heart
 With every inch of my soul
 With every breath I take
 I promise to love you forever.*



Always Missed, Always Loved
Love Mom & Stepfather

Dedication sent in by Mom, JoAnn Giovingo

REGISTRATION – TCF Greater New Orleans Chapter Walk to Remember
SATURDAY, September 13, 2025

Registration begins at 8:30 AM Walk starts at 10:00 AM in the Children's Memorial Garden at Lafreniere Park
 Our chapter is NOT offering T-Shirts this year. We will have Walk style Bibs to write child's name that you are remembering.

All monies raised go to fund TCF chapter expenses

Make checks payable to: The Compassionate Friends GNO. Mail to: 1104 Colony Road, Metairie, LA 70003

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____ Phone No. _____

**REGISTRATION IS \$15 BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1st, AFTER SEPTEMBER 1st
 THE DAY OF THE WALK REGISTRATION IS \$20**

LIABILITY WAIVER MUST BE SIGNED BEFORE MAILING: Please copy and complete this section for each person walking.

In consideration of being accepted as a participant in the TCF Inc., Walk to Remember, I hereby affirm, acknowledge and agree to the following: 1. That I assume all responsibility for any and all damages to, or theft of, my personal property or any bodily injury (including death) that may occur to me, and further, I assume responsibility for property damage and bodily injury (including death) that I may cause to others, in each case arising or resulting from, incidental to, or as a consequence of, my participation in the TCF Inc., Walk to Remember; 2. That I, for myself, my heirs, my executors and administrators, release and hold harmless from and waive all claims, damages, and rights of action, present or future, whether the same be known or unknown, anticipated or unanticipated, foreseen or unforeseen, arising or resulting from, incident to or as a consequence of, my participation in the TCF Inc., Walk to Remember, which I may now or hereafter have against The Compassionate Friends, Inc., any business or companies along the route and any and all sponsors and volunteers for said event, and the respective directors, employees and agents of all of the foregoing; 3. That I grant the permission for use of my name and/or picture in any broadcast, photograph, video, or other account of The Compassionate Friends, Inc., Walk to Remember; and 4. That I am aware of the physical demands and hazards of participating in a two mile walking event such as The Compassionate Friends, Inc., Walk to Remember.

Signature: (Parent or Guardian if under 18) _____ **Date:** _____
 Children 12 and under are free!

Our Children Remembered



Angel Birthdays

Caridad Rea	Sep 4	Sister of Isabel Miranda-Vigne
Joshua William McNulty	Sep 4	Son of Pam McNulty
Margo Kiefer	Sep 5	Daughter of Linda Kiefer
Casey James Hart	Sep 8	Son of Debra Hart; Step-Son of Lynn Champagne
Carrie Ellen Gore	Sep 8	Daughter of Don and Ann Gore
Eileen Lacrouts	Sep 10	Daughter of Michael and Kelly Lacrouts
William Rexford	Sep 14	Son of JoAnn Roy; Brother of Renee Roy
Pearson Pratt	Sep 14	Son of Kelly and Andrew Pratt
Jennifer Lynn	Sep 14	Daughter of Mary Ann Piazza
Ashley Code	Sep 15	Daughter of Cassi Code
Kevin Michael Flock	Sep 15	Son of Janice and Jim Flock
Ryan Lawrence Plattsmier	Sep 15	Son of Mary Ann Orgeron
Cara Davis	Sep 17	Daughter of Ray Davis
Hughy Davis	Sep 20	Son of Beanie Davis
Gavin Battle	Sep 20	Son of Molly Aldridge
Hudson Williams	Sep 20	Son of Willis Williams
Bobbi Cade Anderson	Sep 21	Daughter of Lynnrose Danna Cade
Jules Henry Herbert	Sep 21	Brother of Susan Viener
Jeffrey Rodrigue	Sep 24	Son of Pati and Cary Rodrigue; Brother of Cari Serpas
Randall "Randy" Greg	Sep 26	Son of Diane Ardon; Brother of Ryan
Kenneth R. Herbert	Sep 26	Brother of Susan Viener
Ross Thonn, Jr.	Sep 27	Son of Jodi Valverde
Ray Keith Constantine, Jr.	Sep 28	Son of JoAnn and Sam Giovingo
Christopher Hanson	Sep 28	Son of Lynne Hanson
Robert Weeks	Sep 29	Son of Ellen Dotter
Sara Michelle Reynolds	Sep 29	Daughter of Harriet Reynolds
Eugene Webber, III	Sep 30	Son of Kathy and Kennedy Cook

Angel Anniversaries

Ashley Code	Sep 1	Daughter of Cassi Code
Gerry Provance	Sep 3	Son of Gerry and Linda Provance; Brother of Deena
Clay Hubble	Sep 3	Brother of Shannon Andrews
Terrance Peter Anderson	Sep 6	Son of Beulah S. Anderson
Brady Caillouet	Sep 7	Son of Brad and Sammi Caillouet
Barry James Boudreaux	Sep 7	Son of Melanie Boudreaux
Aaron Stephen Lopp	Sep 7	Son of Sonya Batten
Cameron Calamari	Sep 11	Son of Angie and Kevin Calamari; Brother of Megan Flettrich
Laura Whittaker	Sep 11	Daughter of Karen Whittaker
Bessma Hendawi	Sep 13	Daughter of Diane Hendawi
Gilgamesh "Gil" Homan	Sep 17	Son of Dr. Michael Homan
William John Smeltz	Sep 18	Son of Janice and Victor Smeltz; Brother of Nicholas
August Bertoniore, Jr.	Sep 19	Son of Christle & August Bertoniore
Hudson Williams	Sep 19	Son of Willis Williams
Cody Patrick Martin	Sep 22	Son of Jill & Rob; Brthr of Kaitlyn; Grandson of Betty & Charles Boudreaux
Keishawn Southall	Sep 22	Son of Garrinell Southall
Hughy Davis	Sep 23	Son of Beanie Davis
Matthew Boudreaux	Sep 23	Son of Julie and Ronnie Hemenway
Zayd H. James	Sep 23	Son of Nyla James; Grandson of Nia Woods
Joseph P. Traina	Sep 24	Son of Cynthia Blache; Brother of Nicole Traina
Dominic Avella	Sep 24	Son of Maria Nicholson and Francisco Avella
Alina Ezzo	Sep 24	Granddaughter of Sahar Chifici
Jeremiah Palmisano	Sep 25	Brother of Amanda Palmisano
Adam Paul Orgeron	Sep 26	Son of James D. Orgeron
Gabriela "Gabby" Hebert	Sep 26	Daughter of Rachel and Todd Hebert
Jonathan Miller	Sep 28	Son of Darwin and Dawn Miller
Gustav D. Hoxie	Sep 29	Son of Katrina and Darryl Hoxie



**Phone
Friend
List**

Our listeners are willing to listen, understand, and share.

504-456-8248 – Patsy Ashton, son, 24, drug overdose

504-559-2438 – Jaimie Kimball, sibling, 12, vehicle accident

504-265-0581 – William and Millie Hunton, daughter, 30, accidental overdose