



The Compassionate Friends

Greater New Orleans Chapter
Supporting Family After a Child Dies

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 7

July 2026

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

SAVE THE DATE!!

ANNUAL MEMORIAL WALK & AUCTION

Saturday, September 19, 2026 - See Page 3

Looking for Gift Baskets – Auction Items – Gift Cards

THE POWER OF SITTING TOGETHER: WHY PEER-TO-PEER SUPPORT MATTERS IN GRIEF

Grief changes everything. It shifts the rhythm of a family, the meaning of ordinary moments, and the way the world feels when you wake up each morning. For parents, grandparents, and siblings who have experienced the death of a child, grandchild, or sibling, that shift can feel isolating, like living in a space that others simply cannot fully understand. And that is where peer-to-peer support becomes not just helpful, but essential.

See Page 4 – SITTING TOGETHER

Gift Card Challenge

The winner will receive a beautiful basket filled with butterflies, wine, and a cruise for two on the Delta Queen, altogether
totaled over \$200

See Page 6

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 June Birthday Cake was sponsored by Jaimie Kimball in memory of her sister, Jenny Kimball. The July Birthday Cake will be sponsored by Millie Hunton in memory of her sister, Niva R. Murillo.**



Several Chapter Members travel this year to Baltimore, MD for
TCF's 49th National Conference

See Page 9 for a travel poem call “See You Soon” provided by Brenda Busby.

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:

July 13, 2026

Lafreniere Park Foundation
Center Conference Room

7:00 – 9:00 pm

2nd Monday of every month

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

12 Jan 26	9 Feb 26	9 Mar 26
13 Apr 26	11 May 26	8 Jun 26
13 Jul 26	10 Aug 26	14 Sep 26
12 Oct 26	9 Nov 26	14 Dec 26

REGIONAL COORDINATOR

William Hunton
504-251-1938
tcfnola@gmail.com

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 11, 2026 – held in the Children’s Memorial Garden in Lafreniere Park

Memorial Walk and Auction

September 19, 2026 – held in the Children’s Memorial Garden in Lafreniere Park

WorldWide Candle Lighting

December 13, 2026 – Held in the VFW Post 3267, 1133 Hickory Ave., Harahan.

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
Memorial Park Director	William Hunton
Memorial Brick Director	Peggy Boardman
Memorial Brick Installer	David Ashton

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

Regional Coordinator – William Hunton

(504) 251-1938

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



♥ **SAVE THE DATE** ♥
Children's Memorial Walk & Auction
📅 **Saturday, September 19, 2026**
📍 **Lafreniere Park – Metairie, LA**



🕒 **Registration: 8:30 AM** | 🚶 **Walk Begins: 10:00 AM** | **Auction to follow at the Foundation Center**

The Compassionate Friends invites bereaved families, relatives, friends, and our entire community to come together for a morning of love, remembrance, and hope. On this day, we will **WALK TO REMEMBER** every beloved child who has left this earth too soon — and to show their families they will never be forgotten.

Whether you walk two miles or just a few steps, what matters most is the reason you walk — to honor these precious children and keep their memories alive.

We will wear race-style bibs, each carrying the name of a child loved beyond measure. Some will walk for their own child, others for children whose families cannot be present but want their names spoken and remembered.

Every dollar raised through pledges and donations will help our Greater New Orleans Chapter continue its mission — covering the cost of our monthly newsletter, outreach, and the programs that offer **friendship, understanding, and hope** to grieving families.

Your presence that day will be more than an act of support — it will be a promise to every bereaved parent, grandparent, and sibling that their child's life and love will always be remembered.

Mark your calendar. Walk with us. Remember with us. Hope with us.

YOUR DONATION CAN HELP SO MUCH!

We are reaching out to you today to ask for your help in making this event a success. Your gift — whether a financial contribution, a gift certificate, or an item for auction — will directly support our chapter's ongoing work. All donations are tax-deductible and will be gratefully acknowledged. Checks may be made payable to *The Compassionate Friends*.

For over 20 years, the Greater New Orleans Chapter has been a safe harbor for grieving families. Your support helps us:

- Hold monthly support group meetings where broken hearts find understanding.
- Print and mail our monthly newsletter to over 350 families, health care professionals, and social workers.
- Maintain our serene and beautiful **Children's Memorial Garden** in Lafreniere Park — a place of reflection and love.
- Host three annual public events that honor our children: the **Butterfly Release**, the **Children's Memorial Walk**, and the **Worldwide Candle Lighting Ceremony**.

Your kindness tells bereaved parents and families that they are not alone — that their child's memory matters. Together, we can continue to offer the friendship, understanding, and hope that every grieving heart deserves.

Will you join us in this mission of love and remembrance?

Plan Donations you can make for the Auction. Help us collect baskets.

49th TCF National Conference

Our conference is a place for bereaved families to find community and hope, while learning and sharing with others. Lifelong friendships are often made at the conference through meeting others who truly understand the painful loss of a child, sibling, or grandchild. This eagerly anticipated event will take place in Baltimore, Maryland, during the weekend of July 2-5, 2026.

Keynote Speakers:

David Kessler
Dr. Laura Berman
Stephan Panus
Katy Myers

Continued from Page 1 – SITTING TOGETHER

There is something profoundly different about sitting across from someone who knows. Not someone who has studied grief, read about it, or wants to help, but someone who has walked a similar path. A parent who has buried a child understands the silence that follows the funeral. A sibling understands the complicated mix of grief, identity, and memory. A grandparent understands the layered sorrow of watching their own child grieve. Peer support creates a space where explanations are not required.

In these spaces, you don't have to justify why certain dates are hard, why a song can stop you in your tracks, or why your grief looks different from someone else's. There is a quiet understanding that allows people to show up exactly as they are.

This is the heart of The Compassionate Friends; a mission rooted in the belief that living with grief happens best in the presence of others who understand. Our mission, to support families after the death of a child and to help others better assist the grieving, comes to life every day through peer-to-peer connection.

Across more than 450 chapters, dozens of private online groups, and a growing virtual presence, this mission is carried forward not by professionals alone, but by volunteers, bereaved parents, grandparents, and siblings, who choose to reach back and walk alongside someone else.

It is a model built on compassion, lived experience, and the simple but powerful act of saying, "You are not alone."

Grief often brings thoughts and emotions that feel difficult to share in everyday spaces. There can be fear of saying too much, of making others uncomfortable, or of being misunderstood. Peer support groups remove that barrier.

Within a peer-led group, there is permission to speak openly: to say your child's name as often as you need, to share the raw, unfiltered moments, to talk about anger, guilt, confusion, or even unexpected moments of peace.

These are not spaces that try to fix grief. Instead, they honor it. That distinction matters. Because grief is not something that needs to be solved, it is something that needs to be witnessed. Peer-to-peer support does something else that is equally important: it shows people what it can look like to move forward while still carrying love and loss side by side.

For someone newly bereaved, seeing another parent, grandparent, or sibling who is further along in their grief can provide a sense of possibility. Not that the pain disappears, but that life, connection, and even moments of joy can still exist. This kind of hope is different. It is not forced or offered too soon. It is quiet, steady, and believable because it comes from someone who has lived it.

Grief can be incredibly isolating, but community has the power to gently pull people back toward connection. Whether it is a monthly chapter meeting, a meaningful Facebook post at midnight, or a message from someone who remembers an anniversary, these moments matter. They remind individuals that their grief is seen. That their loved one is remembered. That they belong.

Through its chapters, Facebook groups, and online chat, The Compassionate Friends creates multiple pathways for connection, recognizing that grief does not follow a schedule, and support should not be limited to one place or time.

For many, peer support becomes more than something they receive, it becomes something they give. At some point, many bereaved parents, grandparents, and siblings feel a pull to support others. Not because their grief is "over," but because they understand how meaningful it is to have someone walk beside you. This act of giving back can be deeply meaningful. It allows individuals to honor their loved one's life in a tangible way, to create purpose from pain, and to continue a cycle of compassion that defines peer-to-peer support.

Peer-to-peer support matters because grief is not meant to be carried alone. It matters because being understood without explanation is a powerful form of comfort. It matters because in a world that often struggles to respond to grief, these communities know how to simply be present. And it matters because every connection, every shared story, every quiet nod, every moment of recognition, helps someone take one more step forward.

We invite you to join one of our many Peer-to-Peer support groups, our Peer moderated Facebook groups or participate in our local and National events. Should you have questions, thoughts or needs, please contact our Director of Operations, Brenda Busby at Brenda@compassioantefriends.org

Story by Brenda Busby

"How brave that our hearts find a way to continue beating even while they're breaking." — Liz Newman



NEWSLETTER DEDICATION IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Niva Rosa Murillo

July 26, 1955 – May 10, 1994



Thinking Of You Sister

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

Happy Birthday to My Dear Sister,

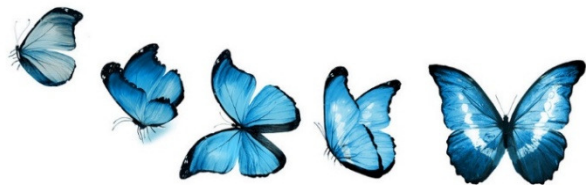
*You are missed more than you could imagine.
Your memories are not forgotten and I think of
you every day. I think of all the sisterly things we
would have done. Staying up late and chatting
about this and that, painting each other's nails,
hours and hours of shopping, and regular lunch
outings. I can imagine all the family get-togethers
and all the little things we would have shared.*

*You would be so proud of Becky and all she has
accomplished.*

Happy Heavenly Birthday Niva!

We all miss you so much.

Your loving sister, Millie





NEWSLETTER DEDICATION IN LOVING MEMORY OF *Robert Teague*

July 10, 1985 – March 13, 2024

Happy 41st Heavenly Birthday
“Forever Remembered”



*Even after life is gone
In our hearts your love lingers on
Even After you left our sight
In our thoughts
your light shines bright
Even after you are gone
In our memories
you forever live on.*



***Greatly missed by your family
With all my Love, Mom***



Dedication sent in by Debbie Teague



GIFT CARD CHALLENGE

With our Annual Memorial Walk and Auction just a few months away, we would like to offer all of you a challenge – a Gift Card Challenge. The winner of this challenge will receive a beautiful basket filled with butterflies, wine, and a cruise for two on the Delta Queen, altogether totaled over \$200.

Here are the rules:

The Gift Card Challenge is open to all TCF-GNO Members

All forms of Gift Cards / Gift Certificates / Gift Letters accepted. (All referred to as Gift Cards.)

Each Gift Card will be considered as one entry for the prize.

The winning entry will be drawn at the Memorial Walk and Auction.

Winner does not need to be present to win.

Entries will include Gift Cards already given and those received No Later Than **09/01/2026**.

NEWSLETTER DEDICATION IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Alexis Bounds

November 9, 1981 – July 24, 2019



Alexis, this month it will be 7 years since you received your angel wings.

I am blessed that I had 37 years of memories with you. It's bittersweet knowing you had so much more to live for: Teddy, the love of your life, and your boys, now 7 and 11. All struggle with their loss of you in their own ways. They were robbed of making memories with you as they are learning to make new memories in a life without you. I continue to visit often with your boys and tell them how much you love them. Giving them plenty hugs and kisses. Lincoln always wishes you were here. Oliver says he doesn't remember you. However, your boys are always interested in hearing MaMa/Alexis stories while keeping your memory alive.

To live in the hearts of those we leave behind is not to die. For me, it's a continuous struggle but gets better over time. I think about you often and the energy and positivity you brought to everything that you did. I miss our time together, your beautiful smile, hearing your voice/cute giggle, receiving your phone calls, cards, love and hugs. I reminisce about all of the Mom/daughter fun times, teatime, lunches, trips, and adventures with your family. I'll never forget the nine years you were in California. Roger and I would visit. Together we learned to explore Wine country, tasted great wines, had fun, and made unforgettable memories.

I continue to feel your presence, please continue to send me your signs.

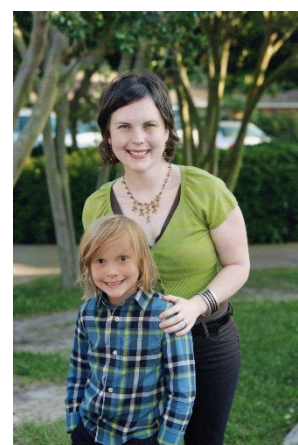
Roger and I continue supporting LSU's School of Interior Design in your memory. You graduated from LSU's School of Interior Design and went on to become an accomplished professional. Your award-winning designs in numerous facilities in California, Colorado, Texas and New Mexico stand today as testaments to your creativity, work ethic and talent. You made such a difference in the world with your design, work and continue to touch so many lives. Another recipient at LSU received the Alexis Bounds Scholarship for Interior Design Excellence this year. There are things that death cannot touch. Gone, but never forgotten.

You will forever be remembered cherished, and loved beyond measure. Your love will always be a part of us and will always be our guide.

Continue to pray for us, we all love and miss you dearly! Mom and family

A GLIMPSE OF "WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN"

The images below were created with Artificial Intelligence (AI) to honor Alexis and imagine special family moments that might have been shared over the past seven years. Though these photographs are not real, the love, memories, and hopes they represent are very real and remain forever in our hearts.



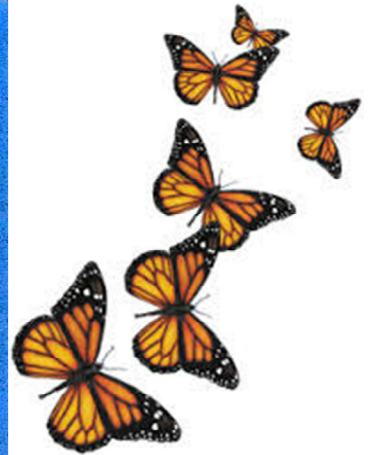
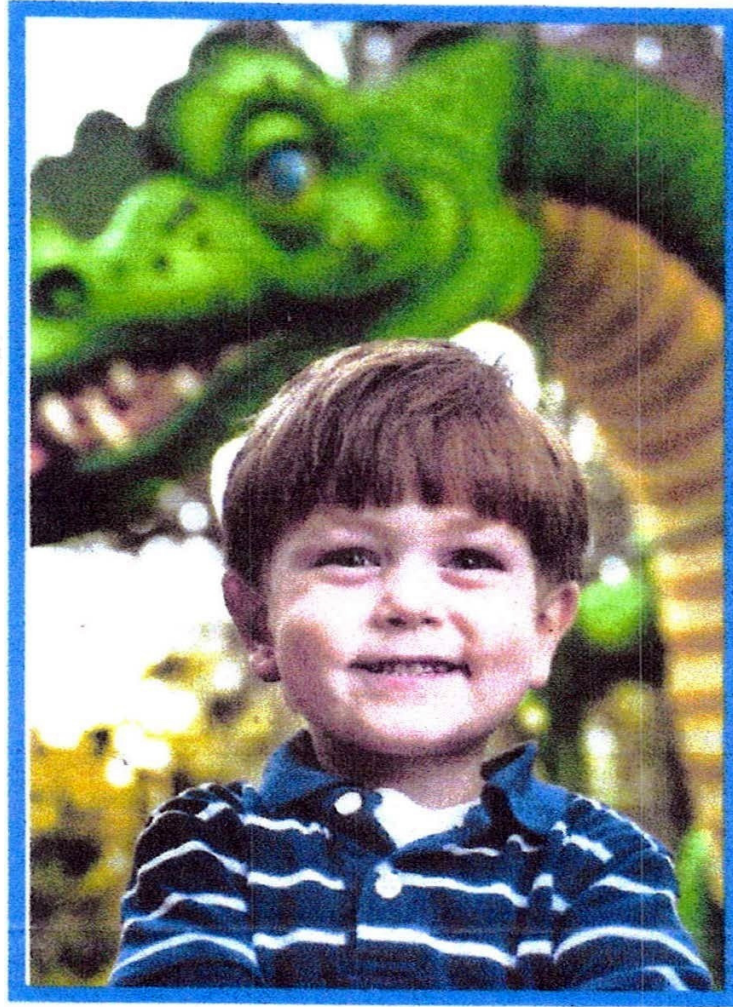
Dedication sent in by Peggy Boardman

NEWSLETTER DEDICATION IN LOVING MEMORY

Kendall Oliver Springman

IN LOVING MEMORY ON YOUR 21st BIRTHDAY

JULY 12, 2005 - JULY 31, 2011



We miss you so much !!!..

You are forever in our hearts

Mom, Dad, Kaol, Grandpa and Granny

Dedication sent in by Rosan Springman



NEWSLETTER DEDICATION IN LOVING MEMORY

Grant Adair Gorman

Born – July 4, 1992 Died – Jul 25, 1995

“Happy 34th Heavenly Birthday”

It is so hard to believe my first grandson would be 34 years old on the 4th of July. Such a sweet loving boy who stole my heart on my first glance. I wish you would have been here longer. I know you would have been a great big brother to Nik and now an uncle to Leah.

Watch for your balloons from your Mom and Dad and never forget how much you are loved.

Happy Heavenly Birthday my precious boy.

Love,

Missing and Loving you more each day.

Love, Mimi



Dedication sent in by Charlene Gorman

SEE YOU SOON

Every year we gather,
From places near and far,
Following familiar roads
Guided by a familiar star.

We come carrying stories,
Memories tucked deep inside,
Of children, grandchildren, and
siblings
Who forever walk beside us with
pride.

We arrive with eager hearts,
Knowing what awaits us there,
The hugs that need no
explanation,
The faces that instantly care.

Some friendships span decades,
Others begin today,
Yet somehow in a single moment,
The distance just melts away.

We laugh about years gone by,
We cry when memories appear,
We speak the names we cherish
Without hesitation or fear.

For here, no one has to explain
The weight that they still bear,
Because everyone around them
Knows exactly what is there.

This is the beauty of peer to peer,
Of one grieving heart helping
another,
Not fixing, solving, or changing,
But simply standing together.

Parents, grandparents, and
siblings,
Different journeys, one shared
thread,
United by everlasting love
For those who should still be here
instead.

Every conversation matters,
Every shoulder, every smile,
Every quiet understanding
Makes the difficult worthwhile.

We come seeking connection,
Yet somehow leave with more,
New friends added to our circle,

Old friends waiting at the door.

Then suddenly the weekend ends,
Suitcases fill once more,
Goodbyes are never easy
As we head toward homeward
shores.

But we never say farewell,
That word doesn't belong here,
Because this family we've created
Returns year after year.

So we hug a little tighter,
And hold each other near,
With a promise spoken softly,
“See you soon next year.”

*For The Compassionate Friends
it is more than a conference,
It's a place where broken hearts
belong,*

*Where love outlives loss,
And together, we learn to carry
on. - Brenda Busby*

Our Children Remembered



Angel Birthdays

Omar (Alex) Alegria	July 1	Son of Gloria Garcia
Grant Adair Gorman	July 4	Grandson of Charlene Gorman; Nephew of Denise
Jonathan Reid Caluda	July 5	Son of Faith Caluda
Christopher Harris	July 5	Son of Kelly Harris
Jennifer "GG" Arnold	July 8	Daughter of Dee Arnold
Leia Roniger	July 9	Daughter of Lexus Edmondson; Granddaughter of Leslie Edmondson
Tyler Jougard	July 9	Son of Lori Jougard
Robert Teague	July 10	Son of Deborah Teague
Je'Ryan T. M. Edwards	July 12	Son of Linda Edwards
Clint Butler	July 12	Son of Marilyn Strecker
Kendall Springman	July 12	Grandson of Rosan Springman
Jacob Cristin Buuck	July 14	Son of Alice and Arthur Buuck; Brother of Jennifer
Brian Christopher	July 14	Son of Gaynell and Sidney Leonard
Jason Lynn	July 17	Son of Nalani Lynn
Brent Ashley Isenberg	July 19	Son of Sandra and Jack Isenberg
Niva Rosa Murillo	July 26	Sister of Millie Hunton; Mother of Becky Greenup
Gustav D. Hoxie	July 27	Son of Katrina & Darryl Hoxie
Colby Wayne Adams	July 27	Son of Stephanie and Wayne Adams
Alexis Vicari Martindale	July 28	Daughter of Kathy Vicari
Clay Hubble	July 29	Brother of Shannon Andrews
Andrew Elijah Davis IV	July 29	Son of Tamara Arnold

Angel Anniversaries

Chase Anthony	July 1	Son of Sandy and Brent Chester; Brother of Molly
Lazaro Miranda	July 3	Brother of Isabel Miranda-Vigne
Jacob Cristin Buuck	July 3	Son of Alice and Arthur Buuck; Brother of Jennifer
Milan Arriola	July 3	Daughter of Imani Ruffins
Pearson Pratt	July 9	Son of Kelly and Andrew Pratt
Onzaye Morris	July 10	Son of Diane Morris; Brother of Nia Woods
Joshua Paul Keller	July 13	Son of Jerry and Dana Keller
Christopher Brady	July 14	Son of Janice Brady
Patrick O'Neil	July 16	Son of Kathy O'Neil
Leia Roniger	July 16	Daughter of Lexus Edmondson; Granddaughter of Leslie Edmondson
Christopher Harris	July 18	Son of Kelly Harris
Jennifer Lynn	July 18	Daughter of Mary Ann Piazza
Frank "Frankie" Castagna, Jr.	July 21	Son of Margaret and Frank Castagna
Jennifer "GG" Arnold	July 24	Daughter of Dee Arnold
Alexis Bounds	July 24	Daughter of Peggy and Roger Boardman
Grant Adair Gorman	July 25	Grandson of Charlene Gorman; Nephew of Denise
Jonathan Coslan	July 26	Son of Sheila and John Coslan
Chad Wershale	July 27	Son of Debbie Wershale; Sister of Brandi
Rebecca (Beca) DeMuth	July 27	Daughter of Kathy and Wilton DeMuth
Brian Christopher	July 28	Son of Gaynell and Sidney Leonard
Robert Weeks	July 30	Son of Ellen Dotter
Victoria Wintter	July 31	Daughter of Chuck Eagerton
Joshua Louis Matranga	July 31	Son of Jodi Caronna and Joseph Matranga; Brother of Jaclyn and Joseph
Kendall O. Springman	July 31	Grandson of Rosan Springman



**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