



The Compassionate Friends

Greater New Orleans Chapter
Supporting Family After a Child Dies

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 9

September 2023

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

OCT 14TH Memorial Walk & Auction Gift Card / Gift Certificate Challenge

See Pages 3 & 4 - See attached flyer for full details and Business Donation letter.
See Page 7 for Memorial Walk Registration Form

Children's Memorial Garden Enters Its 20th Year

See Page 4

MASS FOR THE VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE

On Sunday, October 15, 2023, at 11:00 AM, the annual Mass for Victims and Survivors of Violence will take place at St. Louis Cathedral

AUTUMN MEMORIES

My son and I always enjoyed the autumn season. Yes, when we lived in the cold zone, we knew that winter's winds and snows were on the way. But, yet, we took time to enjoy the beautiful array of colors that nature gave us as a final salute to the growing season.

Todd and I raked leaves in the autumn. I had purchased a home in a town on the Mississippi River bluffs; the home had been built in the 1860s and I am sure some of the trees were well over 50 years old. The leaves would fall and we would rake. We made a game of it. Sometimes his best friend, Allen, would come over and help. The boys would jump into the piles and laugh with delight. We'd create a big pile and rake it to the concrete so that it could be burned. I can still see Todd laughing and dancing around that fire. His pure childhood joy was contagious.

Continued on Page 3 – See Memories

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.

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 Keith Reppel in honor of his son Keith H. Reppel. Birthday memories were also shared by Keith Reppel for his son Keith H. Reppel, and Birthday memories were shared by Susan Monroe for her daughter Ayme Mills Hopkins.

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING:
September 11, 2023
Lafreniere Park Foundation
Center Conference Room
7:00 – 9:00 pm

2nd Monday of every month

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

9 Jan 23	13 Feb 23	13 Mar 23
10 Apr 23	8 May 23	12 Jun 23
10 Jul 23	14 Aug 23	11 Sep 23
9 Oct 23	13 Nov 23	11 Dec 23 ZOOM

REGIONAL COORDINATOR

Denise St. Pierre
504-460-2970
denisestp12@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 22, 2023 – held in the Children's Memorial Garden in Lafreniere Park

Memorial Walk and Auction

October 14, 2023 – held in the Children's Memorial Garden in Lafreniere Park

WorldWide Candle Lighting

December 10, 2023 – Held in the Foundation Center Patio in Lafreniere Park

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 griever 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
Special Advisor	Denise St. Pierre
Treasurer	Isabel Vigne-Miranda
Facilitator	Millie Hunton
Newsletter Editor	William Hunton
Webmaster	William Hunton

Steering Committee: William Hunton, Millie Hunton, Denise St. Pierre, Isabel Miranda-Vigne, Jan Dutilh, Linda Provance, and Dena Peters.

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.

Cont. from Page 1 – Memories

Todd and I loved to look at the changing leaves along the bluffs of the river. We would drive on weekends and find the best view. Then we'd park and marvel at nature's wonder. The big bluffs, the turning leaves, the eagles soaring above us. Ducks flying south....even the occasional group of geese overhead...honking, honking as they journeyed to a warmer climate.

The light is different in the autumn...it's diffused somehow. It's different than the light in any other season. Autumn sun was our favorite light. It seemed less harsh, more forgiving, gentler in a strange sort of way. That was another time and another place.

Now in the autumn I remember all the special times I shared with my child. Looking at leaves, collecting leaves, raking leaves.....we did this together, just the two of us. "Mom, when are we going to go look at leaves?" Todd would ask. That was my cue to load up some soft drinks and sandwiches and head out on the first sunny Saturday. We'd repeat this ritual until the leaves had all fallen and it was time to rake.

When we moved to the Houston area, Todd was 12, and we talked about the seasons. He told me about his great memories of leaves and drives and time together. He said he would miss autumn with me. That made me feel good. These were memories that we shared, of a time when it was just Todd and me for those special moments. Looking back, I am so glad that I spent the time to make memories. I thought I was making memories for my child, but in fact, I was making memories for us both. And now those memories are my memories.....good memories....memories that I will cherish always.

Here it is autumn again. Soon Todd will be gone five years. The memories are flooding back: the first day of each school each year, the changes as he grew to become a man. High school, college, graduate school....all began in the autumn. Autumn marks the beginning of many good memories for me. I listen as the school bus stops in front of our house to pick up today's children. Once in a while I go to the door and watch them load up, chatting with each other as they take their seats. I think of my 12-year-old son, getting on that bus in front of our home for the first time: the first day of school in Houston. And for a moment, just a fleeting moment, I think I can see him sitting at a window seat, waving at me. Waving goodbye.

By ANNETTE MENNEN BALDWIN

Gift Card / Gift Certificate Challenge

Dear Compassionate Friends,

With our Annual Memorial Walk and Auction less than two months away, we would like to offer all of you a challenge – a Gift Card / Gift Certificate 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 \$100.

Here are the rules:

- The Gift Card / Gift Certificate Challenge is open to all TCF-GNO Members
- All forms of Gift Cards / Gift Certificates accepted.
- Each Gift Card / Gift Certificate will be considered as one entry for the prize.
- The winning entry will be drawn at the Memorial Walk and Auction event, Oct 14, 2023.
- Winner does not need to be present to win.
- Entries will include Gift Cards / Gift Certificates already given and those presented to the Chapter Leader/Co-Leader No Later Than October 1, 2023.

*William and Millie Hunton
Parents of Chelsea M. Hunton*

47th TCF National Conference

The 2024 Conference will be held in New Orleans at the Marriott Hotel on the foot of Canal Street. Photos for the Memory Boards will be collected in June 2024 via text, email, or hard copy.

Children's Memorial Garden Enters Its 20th Year

September 14th will be 20 years since over 450 people gathered at our Children's Memorial Garden for its Opening Dedication. The construction of our garden began in December 2002 after much planning and fundraising. The entire orchestration was under the Leadership of Judy Bonura, while Operations were coordinated by Children's Memorial Garden Chairman, Arthur Buuck. Our garden can hold 3000 engraved bricks. Our bricks are available to any of our members who have lost a child, grandchild, or sibling. The first picture below shows Judy Bonura in the empty lot BEFORE the garden's construction. The second picture shows the completed garden. I can only imagine the tears of joy which Judy Bonura, The Chapter Leader, and all the other members, must have had when the project was finally complete.



Judy Bonura standing in the empty lot before the Garden was built.



Our beautiful Children's Memorial Garden after completion.

A Penny

I found a penny today
 Just Laying on the ground,
 That's not just a penny
 This little coin I've found.
 Found pennies come from heaven
 That's what my Grandpa told me,
 He said angels toss them down
 Oh, how I loved that story.



He said when an angel misses you
 They toss a penny down
 Sometimes just to cheer you up
 To make a smile out of our frown.
 So don't pass by that penny
 When you're feeling blue,
 That's a penny from Heaven
 That an Angel's tossed to you.

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 October 14, 2023 at Lafreniere Park in Metairie, LA to raise funds for the operating expenses of our chapter.

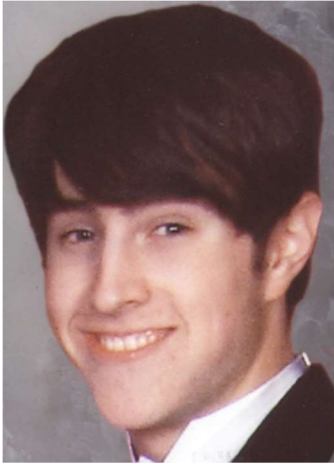
We are encouraging you to contact any vendors you may know who will be willing to donate merchandise or gift cards. We will also welcome any items you may wish to donate. This can range from anything old or new. If we are going to have a successful fundraiser this year then we are going to need your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

*Memorial Newsletter Dedication in Memory of
Cody Martin*

February 27, 1989 ~ September 22, 2006

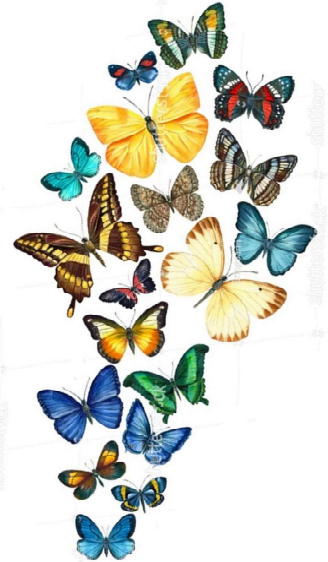


This is such a difficult anniversary of your death because now you have been gone for as long as you were here.

Your life was a blessing.
Your memory was a treasure.
You are loved beyond words,
and missed beyond measure.

Love, Mom, Dad, Katie, & Meaux

Dedication sent in by Betty Boudreaux





*Memorial Newsletter Dedication
Pearson Sung Pratt*
September 14, 2000 - July 9, 2019

**Happy Heavenly "23rd" Birthday, Pearson !
You live on in our hearts and fond memories.
Always loved and always missed,**

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



**Not a day goes by that we don't look
at your picture and smile. Or cry. Or both.**

- Dean Jackson

Dedication sent in by Andrew and Kelly Pratt

*Newsletter Dedication in Loving Memory of
Caridad Rea*

September 4, 1971 – June 23, 2016



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.



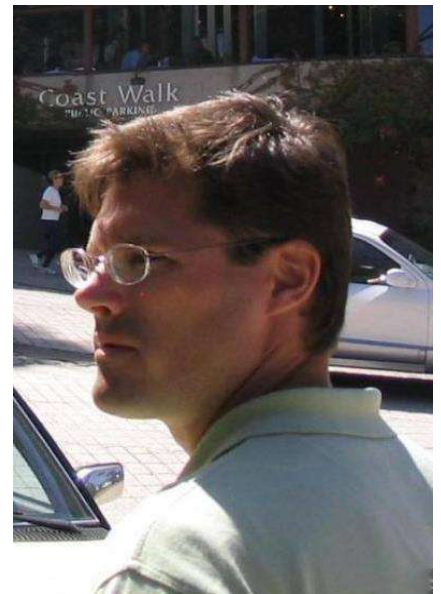
Your loving sister, Isabel

Dedication sent in by Isabel Miranda-Vigne

*Memorial Newsletter Dedication
Kevin Flock*

September 15, 1973 - May 31, 2009

*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, 1978 ~ March 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

Dedication sent in by Mom, JoAnn Giovingo

REGISTRATION – TCF Greater New Orleans Chapter Walk to Remember
SATURDAY, October 15, 2022

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 OCTOBER 1st, AFTER OCTOBER 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

Charles Kirklon III	Sep 2	Son of Ida Warfield
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
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; Sister of Jonathan
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
Hudson Williams	Sep 20	Son of Willis Williams
Bobbi Cade Anderson	Sep 21	Daughter of Lynnrose Danna Cade
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
Ray Keith Constantine, Jr.	Sep 28	Son of JoAnn Giovingo
Christopher Hanson	Sep 28	Son of Lynne Hanson
Robert Weeks	Sep 29	Son of Ellen Dotter
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
Charlette Marie Simmons	Sep 7	Daughter of Betty LeBlanc; Niece of Cheryl Jones
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
Adam L. Perret	Sep 11	Son of Kenneth M Perret
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 Bertoniere, Jr.	Sep 19	Son of Christle & August Bertoniere
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
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



Phone Friend List

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

504-454-3293 – Melva Duhon, son, 41, suicide

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

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

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