

**The
Compassionate
Friends**
of Brushy Creek
Supporting Family After a Child Dies

Meeting location

Christ Lutheran Church
510 Luther Drive. Georgetown. TX. 78628
512-348-7885 TCFBrushyCreek@gmail.com
(If you have problems finding us call: 512-966-1651)



Our next in-person meeting will be Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
ZOOM Meeting Information will follow

Welcome

We, of the Brushy Creek Chapter of The Compassionate Friends, offer you a warm welcome. Our meetings are on the second Tuesday of each month at 7pm. The Compassionate Friends is a mutual assistance, self-help organization offering friendship, understanding and hope to bereaved families. Anyone who has experienced the death of a child at any time, of any age, from any cause is welcome. Our meetings give an opportunity to families to talk about their feelings as they go through the grieving process. The purpose of this support group is not the cause of death but rather to focus on being a bereaved parent, sibling or grandparent, along with the feelings and issues that evolve around the death experience of a child. There is no religious affiliation. There are no membership dues.

Information Regarding Our Meetings

This is YOUR group and we are here to support each other. Everyone in the room has walked the path you are on now. We hope you will find our meetings and newsletters to be a comfort and a place where you find hope.

To Our New Members

We recognize that it takes great courage to come to the first meeting, whether you are a bereaved parent, sibling or grandparent of one month or many years. Please don't be afraid to come to a meeting. You are welcome to bring a friend or relative for moral support if you wish. Nothing is asked of you. You will find that it is alright to cry and to laugh, to share how you feel or just listen. You do not have to talk at a meeting if you do not want to. We welcome your participation, but it is not a requirement. To be fair to yourself, please consider attending at least three meetings before you decide whether TCF is right for you.

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.

This Month's Topic
Does grief ever stop hurting?

Remembering Harry and Gaby

When we used to live on the lake, we loved going out on the boat and water skiing. Harry would drive the boat and always check on me or Gaby and make sure we were doing well while trying to give us a little challenge as well. These are fond memories. Gaby and I used to go hiking regularly and both loved nature. We would walk trails in the State Parks or just around the neighborhood. If we could catch a sunrise or sunset, that just made it that much better. When they died, we knew that we weren't going to put them in a cemetery, so we wanted to create a place to go and be with them. The memorial bench seemed like a great idea. Because of the lake, we got a bench at Lake Pflugerville as that honored both of them. We also added a tree in memory of Gaby since she loved trees, plants and flowers. 🌻



Astrid Kaufman
Gaby's mom



Cole & Lacey

As the anniversary of their death
draws near

Our mind & hearts are still in tears

We miss them each and everyday
Time to us has gone...by the way
Their love for each other was oh so much
It showed just when we saw them touch
Their life was great with wedding plans
The dress was bought with loving hands
The church was booked & reception
planned

Friends were going to bring their band
Rings were ready to promise their love
Their life was set just like a glove
But as we know in a blink of an eye
Our life can change and we ask why

Cole and Lacey died Easter Day

With shock and sadness started to pray
The life of two families changed that day
Now to plan a funeral...

And no wedding day

The numbers of people that they had touched

Showed up in hundreds and gave so much
With faith and love we made it through
But each day after are oh so blue
We pray each day and it is true
They are with our Lord and happy too
So our life will never be the same
But faith and love has set our way
Their love for life is truly missed
Each day we see them in our mist.



Lacey, Penny's daughter & Cole, Robin's son



Robin Cassens
Cole's Mom

February's Monthly Meeting on Valentine's Day



Penny, Meghan, Debra, Astrid, Brenda & Michelle



*thank
you*

Meghan,
Thank you for the beautiful light roses!

"I didn't just grieve for the child I lost... I grieved for the entire life I had planned and envisioned with them."

www.therainbowinthestorm.com

Contributed by Meghan, **Frankie's Mom**



Save the Date for TCF's 46th
National Conference

We are excited to share that many plans are underway for this year's National Conference, which will be held in Denver, CO, July 7-9, 2023.



Remembering

Addie

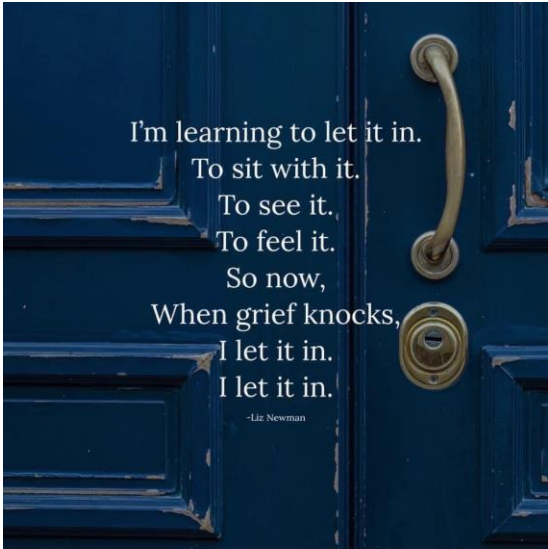
Addie was born in 2008 with Shone's Complex, a Congenital Heart Defect, which led to four open heart surgeries during her first year of life and spending her first birthday in the ICU at St. Joseph's Hospital in Phoenix. She left the hospital ready for adventure, and spent nearly 12 years living life to the fullest. Addie's favorite adventure was the beach from San Diego to Wee-Why-Ee (Hawaii) and we celebrated as many birthdays as we could with her toes in the sand and ocean breeze hitting her face. No matter where our adventures took us for Addie's birthday, we were always guaranteed a wonderful, rich meal complete with tiramisu, at Addie's request. Addie passed away shortly before her 12th birthday, and we have continued to honor her memory with new adventures and good food. Addie's dream was to spend her 15th birthday in Paris, and while we might not make it there yet, we will celebrate Addie's birthday this year "Paris Style". Addie made a lasting impression on this earth and we continue to support her dream of making the world a better place. You can read more of her story on

Terri Borocz

Addison's Grandmother

<https://sites.google.com/view/addiepacks/home>

Please let us know if you would like to contribute a memory of your loved ones, birthday, anniversary of death or any memories, stories or pictures for your newsletter.



I'm learning to let it in.
To sit with it.
To see it.
To feel it.
So now,
When grief knocks,
I let it in.
I let it in.

-Liz Newman

*Thank
You*

To the Christ Luther Church for providing space throughout the year for chapter meetings and each December for the World Candle Lighting

&

Thank You for the monetary gift

Astrid Kaufman
Gaby's mother

When grief
first came knocking,
I thought I had
two choices.
I could lock the door.
close the blinds.
Activate alarms
And shut it out.
But I still
lived in fear
of its intrusion,
of it finding a way
around my security systems,
around my defenses.
Or, I could invite it over
for morning coffee.
I would set the terms.
Block out the time.

I would get my house in order
and sit beside it,
let it say its piece
and send it away
as quickly as it came.
But grief doesn't care much
for schedules
or facades.
An unexpected visitor
who comes and goes
as it pleases.
So, now I'm learning
another way.
When grief comes to visit,
I leave the door unlocked.
Sometimes, it
Frantically storms in.
Sometimes, it taps quietly on
the door waiting for
my response.
But, I'm learning to let it in.
To sit with it.
To see it.
To feel it.
So now,
When grief knocks,
I let it in.
I let it in.
-Liz Newman



I
Look to
the
Mourning
Sky

Contributed by Penny
Lacey's Mom

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 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.

In this video, hear from Kathy Rambo, organizer of TCF's Crafty Corner, as she shares TCF has changed her life. She describes how the therapeutic benefits using her hands to create crafts has helped her after the loss of her son, Jason.

<https://www.compassionatefriends.org/blog/how-crafting-has-helped-you/?bblinkid=266264152&bbemailid=45413084&bbejid=-1705175979>

TCF Brushy Creek

Steering Committee

Co-Leaders:

Committee Members:

Robin Cassens

Caty Craig, Sibling Rep.

Stephanie Thomsen, Sibling Rep.

Mary Delaney

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