

April 2024



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



Our next meeting will be Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at 7p.m.



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



*Our next virtual meeting online will be Thursday, April 25th at 7 pm.



We support each other with
understanding and compassion.

You are not alone.



"It is the capacity to feel consuming grief and pain and despair that also allows me to embrace love and joy and beauty with my whole heart. I must let it all in." — Anna White

The Compassionate Friends of Brushy Creek
YOU NEED NOT WALK ALONE; WE ARE THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

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.

The Mission of The Compassionate Friends

When a child dies, at any age, the family suffers intense pain and may feel hopeless and isolated. 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.

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, laugh, share how you feel, or 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.

To Our Members Further Down The “Grief Road”

Each meeting will have new parents, siblings, and grandparents. **THINK BACK** – what would it have been like for you at your first meeting if there had not been any TCF “veterans” to welcome you, share your grief, encourage you, and tell you, “Your pain will not always be this bad.” We welcome your presence and support!

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.

Monthly Topic for Discussion

As we cover these subjects, something might be said to help you cope a little bit better. We are open to suggestions for additional subjects you might like to see discussed.

April – What I wish I could have said to my loved one.

Though you have made me
see troubles, many and
bitter, you will restore my
life again; from the depths
of the earth, you will again
bring me up. You will
increase my honor and
comfort me once again.
PSALMS 71: 20-21





Birth Date

Casey	<i>Daughter of</i>	Cindy	4/1
Jonathan	<i>Son of</i>	Rhonda & Ben	4/12
Antonia	<i>Daughter of</i>	Elisa Martin	4/14
Andrea	<i>Sister of</i>	Stephanie	4/16
Carol	<i>Sister of</i>	Paul	4/17
Kade	<i>Son of</i>	Marc & Julie	4/21
Kade	<i>Grandson of</i>	Becky	4/21
Daniel	<i>Son of</i>	Anita	4/22
Taylor	<i>Daughter of</i>	Rebecca	4/26





Angel Date

Jerry	<i>Son of</i>	Tammy & Frank	4/3
William	<i>Son of</i>	Martin	4/5
William	<i>Stepson of</i>	Elisa	4/5
Brian	<i>Son of</i>	Brandy	4/7
Daniel	<i>Son of</i>	Karen & Len	4/07
Madison	<i>Daughter of</i>	Amber Choa	4/09
Daniel	<i>Son of</i>	Rosa & Jesus	4/10
Steve	<i>Son of</i>	Don & Betty	4/14
Steve	<i>Brother of</i>	Shelley	4/14
Steve	<i>Brother of</i>	Robin C	4/14
Jake	<i>Son of</i>	Tina	4/15
Ben	<i>Son of</i>	Paul & Alissa	4/24
Travis	<i>Son of</i>	Angela	4/29
Troy	<i>Brother of</i>	Lisa	4/30



Empty Hands

My hands feel empty without your touch,
My arms ache for your embrace.
My heart yearns for your sweet smile,
Your cheeky laugh that filled these walls.
My house is silent now without your cheerful voice,
The warmth of your presence filling every room.
My life feels less colorful without you in it,
My days pass slowly with you far away.
But you remain forever in my memory, my child,
Filling the void in my heart with your unconditional love.
So, though we're apart now our souls remain connected,
And I take comfort in knowing one day we'll reunite,
My arms are no longer empty wrapped around you once more.
Until then I'll keep you close, my precious child, missing you always
Yet grateful you were mine, For however long. - *Unknown*



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.

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.

Contact Information

TCF Brushy Creek

Committee Members:

Robin Cassens

Mary Delaney

Penny Leone

Advisory:

Rebecca Burgman

Sibling Rep.:

Stephanie Thompson

Newsletter:

Todd & Joyce Camp

TCF Regional Rep.:

Gene Caligari

TCF National Office Information:

The Compassionate Friends

PO Box 3696

Oak Brook, IL 60522 (or)

900 Jorie Blvd. Suite 78

Oak Brook, IL 60523

Phone (630) 990-0010

Toll-Free (877) 969-0010

www.compassionatefriends.org

Email Address:

TCFBrushyCreek@gmail.com



Join us on

Facebook

*Thank you to Christ Lutheran Church
We really appreciate your generosity!*

On the Death of the Beloved - John O'Donohue

Though we need to weep your loss,
You dwell in that safe place in our hearts,
Where no storm or night or pain can reach you.

Your love was like the dawn brightening over our lives
Awakening beneath the dark a further adventure of colour.

The sound of your voice found for us
A new music that brightened everything.

Whatever you enfolded in your gaze
Quickened in the joy of its being;
You placed smiles like flowers
On the altar of the heart.
Your mind always sparkled
With wonder at things.

Though your days here were brief,
Your spirit was live, awake, complete.

We look towards each other no longer
From the old distance of our names;
Now you dwell inside the rhythm of breath,
As close to us as we are to ourselves.

Though we cannot see you with outward eyes,
We know our soul's gaze is upon your face,
Smiling back at us from within everything
To which we bring our best refinement.

Let us not look for you only in memory,
Where we would grow lonely without you.
You would want us to find you in presence,
Beside us when beauty brightens,
When kindness glows
And music echoes eternal tones.

When orchids brighten the earth,
Darkest winter has turned to spring;
May this dark grief flower with hope
In every heart that loves you.

May you continue to inspire us:

To enter each day with a generous heart.
To serve the call of courage and love
Until we see your beautiful face again
In that land where there is no more separation,
Where all tears will be wiped from our mind,
And where we will never lose you again.

The Compassionate Friends of Brushy Creek

YOU NEED NOT WALK ALONE; WE ARE THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS