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For Immediate Release

March 3, 2009

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Compassionate Friends Bereavement Organization Recognizes 141 Compassionate Employers Nationwide

Oakbrook, IL— One hundred forty one employers, representing 39 states plus Washington DC. are being recognized by The Compassionate Friends for showing extra sensitivity to bereaved employees following the death of a child. The Compassionate Friends (TCF) is the nation's largest self-help bereavement organization with over 600 chapters serving all 50 states, Washington D.C., and Puerto Rico.

Nominated by the persons they have directly helped, these employers are receiving Compassionate Employer Recognition in 2009 for going above and beyond the normal policies of most companies in helping their employees when the death of a child occurred.

Criteria for Compassionate Employer Recognition include, but are not limited to:

1. Allowing additional time off without loss of benefits.
2. Allowing flexible work schedules and assignments.
3. Allowing leeway in job performance standards.
4. Fostering an environment of mutual support among coworkers.
5. Providing professional grief counseling, human resources support, or information regarding self-help bereavement organizations.
6. Other policies and practices that go beyond what is normal in the community.

This is the ninth year for recognition of employers, with recipients jumping from three the first year, to the current 141 for 2009. Employers being recognized range from small companies with as few as four employees to large companies with many thousands of employees.

The 2009 recipients of TCF's Compassionate Employer Recognition are (by state): **ALABAMA:** Dynamic Contract & Consultant Services, Montgomery; **ALASKA:** Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, Anchorage; Family Centered Services of Alaska, Fairbanks; **ARKANSAS:** Middleton Heat and Air, Bryant; **CALIFORNIA:** American Honda Finance Corporation, Torrance; Centerplate, San Diego; Employment Development Dept, Sacramento; Hegge Electrical Contractors, Indio; Hughson High School, Hughson; Huntington Hospital, Pasadena; Little Company of Mary, Torrance; Maxim Craneworks, Long Beach; MV Transportation, Fairfield; Pacific Medical Buildings, San Diego; Petrol Advertising, Inc., Burbank; Radiological Associates of Sacramento, Sacramento; Service Rock Products, Victorville; Skyway House, Chico; Victor Valley Union High School District, Victorville; **COLORADO:** Century 21 Metro Alliance, Colorado Springs; Holland & Hart LLP, Denver; **CONNECTICUT:** Michael P. Krol & Co., CPA, PC, Stafford Springs; **FLORIDA:** Beach City Motors, Ft. Walton Beach; Crown Auto Group, St. Petersburg; Florida Hospital Centra Care, Winter Park; Hospice of Palm Beach County, West Palm Beach; PGA Tour, Inc., Ponte Vedra Beach; St. Johns County School District, Augustine; **GEORGIA:** Mount Vernon Bank, Mount Vernon; Schroeder Enterprises, Inc., Atlanta; **IDAHO:** Kingston Companies, Idaho Falls; **ILLINOIS:** Kenneth B. Gore, LTD, Chicago; Outback Steakhouse, South Elgin; Quad City USA Family Restaurant, Moline; Standard Industrial and Automotive Equipment Inc, Hanover Park; Urban Retail Properties, Chicago; **INDIANA:** Bowen Engineering Corporation, Fishers; **DRIVE Medical Consulting & Communications, Indianapolis; The Hearth at Prestwick, Avon; IOWA:** Bourbon Street & Voodoo Lounge, Cedar Falls; LaJames International College, Fort Dodge; Lisbon Community School

District, Lisbon; Mercy Hospital of the Wheaton Franciscan Sisters, Oelwein; Quality Medical Services, Mason City; Tripoli Nursing Home, Tripoli; Young Plumbing and Heating, Waterloo; KANSAS: PKM Steel Service, Salina;

KENTUCKY: Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, Frankfort; Our Lady of Bellefonte Hospital, Ashland; LOUISIANA: HomeCare Inc, Baton Rouge; Northwestern Mutual Financial Network of Louisiana, Metairie; Northwestern State University College of Nursing, Shreveport; Salario Law Firm, Marksville; MAINE: Fidelity Investments, Marlborough; MARYLAND: American Mechanical Services, Laurel; Cecil Bank, Elkton; Southern Maryland Skin Specialists, Prince Frederick; Southwest Airlines, Baltimore; Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Bethesda; Washington County Hospital, Hagerstown; MASSACHUSETTS: Au Bon Pain, Boston; Charles River Laboratories, Shrewsbury; City of Lowell School Health Unit, Lowell; First Electric Motor Service, Woburn; J.G. Pyne Arts Magnet School, Lowell; New Horizons CLC of Boston, Waltham; Watermark Environmental, Lowell; WJDF, Orange; MICHIGAN: Autocam Corporation, Kentwood; Hastings Surgeons, P.C., Hastings; MINNESOTA: Cambridge Isanti School District / Community Education, Cambridge; University of St. Thomas, St. Paul; USG Interiors Inc, Red Wing; MISSOURI: Century 21 Show-Me Realty, Houston; Heartland Lion's Eye Banks, Springfield; HNTB, Kansas City; MONTANA: Kringen Construction Co, Sidney; NEBRASKA: Marriott Global Sales and Customer Service Center, Omaha; NEW HAMPSHIRE: Henry Wilson School, Manchester; Londonderry School District, Londonderry; Parks-Tuttle/ New England Financial Services, Manchester; NEW JERSEY: MedQuist Inc., Laurel; NEW MEXICO: Carlisle Office Center, Albuquerque; Inland Kenworth, Albuquerque; NEW YORK: Evo Merchant Services, Melville; Miteq Inc, Hauppauge; Wegman's Food Markets, Depew; NORTH CAROLINA: A.G. Edwards, Greensboro; Hardin Construction Company, Raleigh; Jones Family Practice, Shelby; OHIO: Career Tech, Willoughby; Community Health Care, Inc, Canal Fulton; Health Care Management Group, Cincinnati; Laser Care, Batavia; Motor Carrier Service, Northwood; Tween Brands Inc., New Albany;

OKLAHOMA: HighMount E&P, Oklahoma City; Nabholz Construction, Tulsa; Oklahoma Cardiovascular Associates, Oklahoma City; OREGON: American Red Cross, Oregon Pacific Chapter, Eugene; Blue Mountain Community College, Pendleton; Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, Roseburg; Fred Meyer, Albany; Hanna Strader, P.C., Portland; Liberty House, Salem; PENNSYLVANIA: Faulkner-Ciocca, Quakertown; H. J. Heinz, Pittsburgh; Interim Health Care Pittsburgh Office, Pittsburgh; Sam's Club, Wilkes-Barre Twp.; Unionville Chadds Ford School District, Kennett Square; SOUTH CAROLINA: Maurice Stephens Financial Group, Myrtle Beach; McLaughlin Group Inc., Greenville; TENNESSEE: Dairy Partners, LLC, Decherd; Deloitte and Touche, Hermitage; ServiceMaster, Memphis; Town of Collierville, Collierville; TEXAS: Citigroup, San Antonio; Genecov Physician Group, PA, Dallas; Hallsville ISD, Hallsville; Keller Williams Realty, San Antonio; LakePointe Medical Center, Rowlett; Medical Center of Plano, Plano; Sign Tech International, Austin; Wylie Independent School District, Abilene; Zale Corporation- Zales North America, Irving; UTAH: Marriott Global Incentives and Gift Cards, Salt Lake City; Smart Schofield Shorter and Lunceford, Murray; VERMONT: Northeast Primary School, Rutland; The Vermont Country Store, N. Clarendon; VIRGINIA: Bon Secours Hospitals, Richmond; Doctors On Call, Virginia Beach; WASHINGTON: Mt. Baker Care Center, Bellingham; Providence Everett Medical Center, Everett; Providence St. Peter Hospital-Olympia, Olympia; W.B. Sprague, Inc., Tacoma; WISCONSIN: HJ Martin and Son, Green Bay; Luther Midelfort - Mayo Health System, Eau Claire; Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Milwaukee; Rexnord Industries LLC, Milwaukee; Transport Refrigeration, Inc., De Pere; Washington, D.C.: US Capitol Police.

“So often employees who have experienced the death of a child are expected to return to work in three days, handle the same work load as before, and to leave their grief at home,” says Patricia Loder, Executive Director of The Compassionate Friends. “There is oftentimes a lack of understanding by employers about the realities of grief in the workplace. These 141 employers, large and small, public and private, are being recognized for providing the compassion and understanding that is so vital to the bereavement process.”

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. To contact The Compassionate Friends, call toll-free 877-969-0010 or visit the TCF national website at www.compassionatefriends.org.

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