



**THE
COMPASSIONATE
FRIENDS**

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For Immediate Release

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Register Early for Atlanta

2003 National TCF Conference Registration Begins

Requests for registration forms have been pouring into The Compassionate Friends national office as members seek to register early with upwards of 2,000 expected to attend the national conference in Atlanta July 4-6.

More than 15,000 registration forms were mailed last week by the conference committee for the 26th National Conference of The Compassionate Friends. These went to all who have attended a national conference in the last three years and to most TCF members attending a TCF chapter in the Southeast United States.

In addition, each TCF chapter leader is being mailed a small quantity of forms for distribution to interested chapter members. Forms are also being included in all bereaved parent packets mailed from the national office over the next five months, as well as in all orders being shipped to bereaved families by TCF's recommended source for bereavement materials, Centering Corporation.

Persons who do not receive a registration form, or wish to beat the rush, may download the form from either the TCF national Web site at www.compassionatefriends.org or the official conference Web site at www.tcfatlanta.org/2003Conference. The conference Web site also has specific information on the conference programs, host hotel, surrounding points of interest, and other information that will answer many questions for those anticipating attending a national conference for the first time.

The conference is being held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Atlanta and the conference committee highly recommends that reservations be made early.

"There is a city-wide convention in Atlanta on this same weekend," says Conference Co-chair Patrick Malone. "We have a large block of rooms reserved for TCF members, but anticipate selling out."

To make hotel reservations, call the Hyatt Hotel direct at 404-577-1234. Do not use Hyatt's 800 number where you will be told the hotel has been sold out, as all blocked rooms are controlled by the host hotel.

Featured speakers are authors Tom Golden, Maria Housden, and Charlie Walton. Rounding out the speakers will be popular workshop presenter Fr. Alvin Johnson. A highlight of the conference will be the fourth *Walk to Remember* Sunday morning prior to the closing when 1,200 are expected to join together walking up to two miles in remembrance of their children. A registration form for the walk is included in the conference registration packet. Ninety-nine workshops are planned to ensure the conference has something for everyone, and includes a complete sibling program.

A pre-conference Professionals Day will be held July 3 for doctors, nurses, social workers, EMTs, firefighters, funeral directors, clergy, and all those who work with bereaved families following the death of a child. The general conference begins July 4.

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