

March 19, 2001

For Immediate Release

Contact: David Pellegrin (808) 524-7400

**Patricia Loder Named Executive Director
of The Compassionate Friends**

Patricia Loder has been named executive director of The Compassionate Friends, it was announced today by David Pellegrin, president of the organization's board of directors.

Loder had been serving as TCF's interim executive director for the past six months, following the resignation of Diana Cunningham from that position for health reasons.

"The board couldn't have been happier with Pat's interim leadership," said Pellegrin. "She is absolutely the right person to guide us toward our vision: 'That everyone who needs us will find us, and everyone who finds us will be helped.'"

A bereaved parent and sibling, Loder served previously as TCF's development director, responsible for fund-raising initiatives. And with her husband, Wayne, as co-editor, she converted two newsletters for bereaved parents and siblings into the award-winning TCF magazine, *We Need Not Walk Alone*®.

Loder worked in municipal government for several years as a purchasing director and planning coordinator. After starting her own consulting business, she administered projects and gained millions of dollars in federal assistance for cities and townships in Michigan.

Her background also includes troubleshooting for U.S. Census Bureau field offices across several states, and rewriting and editing U.S. government publications.

The Compassionate Friends has a national office in Oak Brook, IL, and nearly 600 chapters across the country assisting families toward the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child of any age.

#