

A Message from the President

Dear TCF Members and Friends,

We all carry with us our own heartbreaking stories linked by sorrowful threads that weave together the sadness of our collective hearts. So often in tragedy, there is a singular moment in time we can reflect upon that may take our breath away. For some of us, the distance between our tragedies and where we stand today is a matter of years, while the fresh grief of others is measured in months or weeks. Yet, at the end of the day, all of us share a common bond that renders time measurement irrelevant as we assign all matters into the "before" and "after" columns.

We have been drawn to a special club that no one ever sought to join. As you read these words, you are likely bereaved or care about someone who has experienced great tragedy. You have discovered The Compassionate Friends, a non-profit organization that offers comfort and hope to grieving families around the world—and around our country.

Throughout the year devoted Compassionate Friends members participate in balloon lifts, candle lightings, Walks to Remember, TCF Internet Online Support Community rooms, visits to the TCF website and Facebook Page, and in offering reassuring hugs whenever a new member embraces his or her very first meeting in one of over 625 chapters nationwide.

We reach out to help others because our hearts are broken and we understand their unique pain. We also strive to ensure our sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, grandsons, and granddaughters are never forgotten. They once occupied a place on this earth. We want the world to remember. All of us at TCF cherish and honor our loved ones by reaching out to others in need. This includes those families who today do not know that they will need the comfort of TCF's warm embrace tomorrow.

As I complete my first year as your president, I am proud of all that TCF has accomplished in memory of our loved ones. This brochure contains an informative summary of our 2010 financial report and a review of our last 10 years for your information. TCF charges no individual membership fees or dues and we are entirely dependent on the generous support of others to keep us viable. Despite tough economic times TCF has remained steadfast in our resolve to strengthen our existing chapters and to expand our outreach to grieving families in many other areas across the country.

Our outstretched hands extend from the first TCF Chapter in Florida (the group that comforted my own father in 1973), to the newest chapters founded this year in Ohio, Wisconsin, Washington, Massachusetts, Montana, Kentucky, Arkansas, New Mexico, and California. I am very appreciative to our Executive Director, Pat Loder, and the staff of the TCF National Office for their dedicated work responding to the needs of bereaved families throughout the year.

If you are financially able to support TCF, your generous contributions are most appreciated. Your support will help us fulfill our mission and reassure anyone grieving the death of a child, sibling, or grandchild that he or she is not alone. Our vision at TCF remains that everyone who needs us will find us and everyone who finds us will be helped.

I extend my deepest gratitude to our chapter leaders, newsletter editors, treasurers, delegates, regional coordinators, as well as our national Board of Directors, all of whom have volunteered their time and the love in their hearts to ensure that no grieving family need ever walk alone. *We are The Compassionate Friends!*

Thanks,

Pat O'D
Patrick O'Donnell
TCF Board President

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THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

C R E D O

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
so 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.*

**WE NEED NOT WALK ALONE.
We are The Compassionate Friends.**



THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

Supporting Family After a Child Dies

and TCF FOUNDATION

2010 ANNUAL REPORT

● Vision

That everyone who needs us will find us, and everyone who finds us will be helped.

● Mission

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.

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2010 Highlights

Reviewing Our Past, Focusing on Our Future

Year after year for over four decades, The Compassionate Friends (TCF) has been spreading hope. TCF is widely recognized as a unique lifeline for those who are dealing with the tremendous grief that follows the death of a child. With an eye always on how we can assist bereaved families after the death of a child, in the last decade, The Compassionate Friends/USA has seen change, growth, and many enhancements.

Principles Updated

The Principles of The Compassionate Friends were updated to better reflect the inclusivity of the organization and modern ways in which the organization is expanding its reach to the bereaved.

Legacy of Love Foundation Campaigns

In 2000, thanks to the dedication and commitment of many members and friends of TCF the creation of TCF Foundation, an organization created to manage an endowment fund, was born. TCF Foundation was created with the sole purpose of guaranteeing enough financial stability for The Compassionate Friends to always "be there" to provide emotional support to those who may see no hope. In 2002 the Legacy of Love foundation campaign was launched and in 2003 TCF Foundation reached its \$1 million goal in contributions. In 2007 a second Legacy of Love campaign was launched pushing the endowment fund to over \$2 million.

Improved Communications with Members

Communications were improved with our chapters, members, and supporters. TCF continues to publish the always popular *We Need Not Walk Alone* magazine. In December 2004 TCF National e-newsletter was launched. In 2008 the e-newsletter was redesigned and TCF surpassed 10,000 subscribers. A newly redesigned national website was unveiled in August 2008 and a Spanish language section was added in 2009. TCF also took its first step into social media in June 2009 when it established a Facebook Page, The Compassionate Friends/USA. A Spanish language Facebook site has been established and TCF also has a presence on Twitter. TCF's Facebook page nearly surpassed 20,000 active fans by the end of 2010.

Chapter Leadership Training Programs

Chapter Leadership Training Programs were reinstated in 2001 on a continuing basis. These trainings teach chapter leadership the skills necessary to run a successful chapter. Twenty-nine programs have been held in the last decade, all around the country, serving hundreds of chapter leadership.

National Conferences Continue

TCF continues to organize National Conferences annually. The conferences, held throughout the country, have as many as 1400 attending. Complete information about the conference is available from TCF's national website. Online registration has been added.

Walk to Remember Grows

In 2000 TCF held its very first Walk to Remember. During the past 10 years, the event has grown ever more popular: Each year over 1,000 people, and as many as 1,400 Walk to Remember their precious son, daughter, brother, sister, and/or grandchild. The Walk is held the final day of the national conference and draws people from all over the country to honor their child in this very special way. As an adjunct to the Walk to Remember, TCF added the TCF Walk to Remember online "Friends Asking Friends" fundraising program which raises tens of thousands of dollars for the national organization and dozens of participating chapters. Additionally, chapters across the country hold concurrent Walks to Remember to improve awareness of their chapters and to raise outreach funds.

Worldwide Candle Lighting Burns Brightly

The Compassionate Friends Worldwide Candle Lighting grew from less than 150 known services open to the public in 2001 (its fifth year of existence) to more than 530 known services worldwide in 2010 including every state, Washington DC, Puerto Rico, and at least 16 countries worldwide. TCF's Remembrance Book online received nearly 5,000 messages from approximately 60 countries on the 2010 day of the Worldwide Candle Lighting.

Online Support Community

In 2006 TCF's national website unveiled the new "Online Support Community" (OSC), which replaced TCF's Chat program. Running on all new software, the OSC incorporated a number of changes designed to improve the online support experience. All moderators receive specialized training designed to give them maximum effectiveness in their role of helping those who enter their OSC room.

BBB and Independent Charities Give TCF Their Highest Official Recognition

The Better Business Bureau completed a rigorous evaluation of The Compassionate Friends, with the organization meeting all 20 BBB charity standards and allowed TCF to use the BBB Accredited Charity Seal. In addition, year after year TCF is awarded the Independent Charities Seal of Excellence. This award is given to charities that have, upon rigorous independent review, been able to certify, document, and demonstrate on an annual basis that they meet the highest standards of public accountability, program effectiveness, and cost effectiveness. These standards include those required by the U.S. Government for inclusion in the Combined Federal Campaign, probably the most exclusive fund drive in the world. Of the 1,000,000 charities that have been operating in the United States, it is estimated that fewer than 50,000 or 5 percent, meet or exceed these standards, and, of those, fewer than 2,000 have been awarded this Seal.

Tagline

TCF added the tagline "Supporting Family After a Child Dies" to help TCF's branding efforts. The tagline allows people looking at the logo to understand the purpose of the organization.

TCF Bereaved Parent Survey

In 2006, as a follow-up to the 1999 "When a Child Dies" survey, a new survey was undertaken surveying bereaved parents across the United States. The survey examined a number of questions including knowledge of The Compassionate Friends by bereaved parents, sources of support and their use by bereaved parents, support provided by employers, and divorce statistics for parents following the death of their child. Of particular interest to the organization were that 22.3 percent of bereaved parents had heard of The Compassionate Friends. The survey also found that only 16 percent of bereaved parents divorced following the death of their child. A secondary mini-survey found that 7 percent of the general public was aware of The Compassionate Friends.

Credo Revised to be Inclusive

The Compassionate Friends has three major components, bereaved parents, siblings, and grandparents. For years TCF had a separate credo for parents and siblings. In order to make the credo representative of all three groups, a carefully worded revision was adopted by the Board of Directors in 2007.

TCF Brochure Program

In the past 10 years TCF's brochure program increased from 29 brochures (with 5 Spanish language) to 36 brochures (with 6 Spanish language). All brochures have been through a revision and update process. New brochures include "To the Newly Bereaved" and "You Need Not Walk Alone." In addition many additional Spanish language brochure translations are available on TCF's Spanish language website.

Additional TCF Accomplishments

TCF received a Google Ad Grant worth up to \$120,000 annually; TCF's Leadership Website expanded to better support chapter efforts; 515 employers were recognized during the 9 year Compassionate Employer Recognition program; After a Child Dies video helps define TCF organization to the public; TCF receives a portion of proceeds from *Chicken Soup for the Grieving Soul*; TCF provides at no charge brochures for Dover Air Force Base Mortuary Affairs to give families of Fallen Soldiers; Over 100,000 TCF "Forever in my Heart" wristbands distributed; Estate of beloved poet Sascha Wagner assigned all copyrights of her writings to TCF, which she greatly supported during her lifetime; Chase Community Giving program awarded TCF \$25,000 after TCF finished among top 100 vote-getters of the more than 500,000 non-profits eligible to participate.

Looking Toward the Future

TCF's Board of Directors and staff are proud of our past accomplishments and continue to focus on the future, to improve services and programs to our leadership and those who today, don't know they will need our help tomorrow.



January 2010– December 2010

The Compassionate Friends, Inc.*

	2010	2009
Support and Revenue		
Contributions	\$ 295,539	\$ 279,631
Chapter Support	\$ 121,001	\$ 128,582
TCF Foundation Grant	\$ 84,473	\$ 87,272
Memorial Walk, Net	\$ 122,163	\$ 106,612
Sale of Educational Materials, Net	\$ 41,349	\$ 13,182
Conference Proceeds, Net	\$ 127,747	\$ 108,788
In-Kind Donations	\$ 24,030	\$ 30,051
Dividends and Interest	\$ 34,088	\$ 60,032
Other Income	\$ 1,034	\$ 7,310
Total Support and Revenue	\$ 851,424	\$ 821,460
Expenses		
Program Services	\$ 672,691	\$ 652,359
Management and General	\$ 91,318	\$ 75,305
Fundraising	\$ 46,549	\$ 59,501
Total Expenses	\$ 810,558	\$ 787,165
Change in Net Assets	\$ 40,866	\$ 34,295
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$ 495,437	\$ 461,142
Net Assets, End of Year	\$ 536,303	\$ 495,437

TCF Foundation*

Support and Revenue		
Cash and Securities	\$ 2,563	\$ 6,763
Pledges		
Dividends and Interest	\$ 49,275	\$ 49,223
Investment Gains (Losses)	\$ 172,397	\$ 349,280
Total Support and Revenue	\$ 224,235	\$ 405,266
Expenditures		
Contribution to TCF, Inc.	\$ 84,473	\$ 87,272
Management and General	\$ 19,033	\$ 19,714
Total Expenditures	\$ 103,506	\$ 106,986
Change in Net Assets	\$ 120,729	\$ 298,280
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$ 1,857,460	\$ 1,559,180
Net Assets, End of Year	\$ 1,978,189	\$ 1,857,460

*Independent Auditor's Report available upon request at a nominal fee.