



**THE
COMPASSIONATE
FRIENDS**
JOHNSON COUNTY KANSAS
Supporting Family After a Child Dies

On-line Registration, conference schedule and a description of all workshops: www.jocotcf.org

Location:

The conference will be held at the DoubleTree hotel at 10100 College Blvd, Overland Park, KS. Park in the rear of the hotel and enter through the banquet entrance for easy access to the conference rooms.

To make reservations: www.jocotcf.org under the Events page and there will be a link to register directly with the hotel.

Directions to the hotel:

From the north take I-35 south to 69 South, exit 225B to College Blvd East.

From the south I-35 North to I-435 East to Hwy 69 South to College Blvd East Exit.

Alan Wolfelt is sponsored by Penwell-Gable Funeral Home and the Professional morning CEU's are certified by KU Medical Center.



2012 Kansas City Compassionate Friends Regional Conference

SUNFLOWERS OF HOPE...Walking Together Down Grief's Yellowbrick Road

**Friday and Saturday February 17 & 18, 2012
at the DoubleTree Hotel in Overland Park, KS**

Friday morning February 17th Professional morning with Alan Wolfelt. This is free and open to everyone attending the conference. 3 CEU's will be available for professionals.

Friday afternoon February 17 & February 18th for all family members 16 and older.

If you have lost a child, sibling or grandchild, this conference is for you whether you are newly bereaved or further along in your grief journey. Join with other bereaved parents, siblings and grandparents to find hope and healing with some of the best in the bereavement field.

Keynote speakers:

Alan Wolfelt:

Dr. Alan D. Wolfelt is a noted author, educator, and grief counselor. Recipient of the Association for Death Education and Counseling's Death Educator Award, he serves as the Director of the Center for Loss and Life Transition in Fort Collins, Colorado. In addition, he is also a faculty member of the University of Colorado Medical School's Department of Family Medicine.

A frequent guest of the media, Dr. Wolfelt has appeared on the Oprah Winfrey Show, the Larry King Show, the NBC Today Show, and Nick News. He is the author of over thirty books on grief and loss. Among his titles are "Understanding Your Grief: Ten Essential Touchstones for Finding Hope and Healing Your Heart; Healing Your Grieving Heart: 100 Practical Ideas; The Journey Through Grief; Healing the Bereaved child; and Creating Meaningful Ceremonies.

Alan and his wife Sue, a family physician, are parents to three children: Megan, Christopher and Jaimie. They live in the foothills of the beautiful Rocky Mountains next door to the Center for Loss and Life Transition.

Kris Munsch:

Kris has been referred to by many of his friends as "a doer". There was never a project too big for Kris; that is until his sixteen-year-old son Blake was killed in a car accident December 23rd of 2005. Kris spiraled out of control, selling his businesses and entering into a world of depression. It wasn't until he started to realize that he had this talent to rebuild almost anything, why couldn't he rebuild his life. That's what he began doing and he did it in a high school classroom teaching woodworking. The authenticity of the teens he worked with inspired him to start *The Birdhouse Project*. His life was going as planned until he discovered the five year marriage he was enjoying imploded and he ended up divorced a second time. "This never again" was his mission as he sold all his belongings and set out this past July 4th with a dream to build a birdhouse in all the lower 48 states in honor of his son. Whether he slept in his car in a Wal-Mart parking lot or with people he met along the way, Kris began to understand the importance of "authenticity" in his life. After traveling thousands of miles by car and bicycle to tell his story, Kris is now writing a second book, offering workshops, keynote speaking and pursuing a clinical therapy certificate in grief counseling.

Darcie Sims:

Darcie D. Sims, Ph.D., CHT, CT, GMS is a bereaved parent and child, a grief management specialist, a nationally certified thanatologist, a certified pastoral bereavement specialist, and a licensed psychotherapist and hypnotherapist. She is the author of *Why Are the Casseroles Always Tuna?*, *Footsteps Through the Valley*, *Touchstones* and *If I Could Only See Hope*. She co-authored *A Place for Me: A Healing Journey for Grieving Kids*, *Footsteps Through Grief*, *The Other Side of Grief* and *Finding your Way Through Grief* with her daughter, Alicia Sims Franklin

She is an internationally recognized speaker and was Coping Editor for *Bereavement* magazine for 15 years. She is now an editor for *Grief Digest*. She served on the national board of directors for **The Compassionate Friends**, the national board of directors for the **Association of Death Education and Counseling** and the board of trustees for the **National Catholic Ministry to the Bereaved**. Darcie received **The Compassionate Friends Professional Award** in 1999. She co-chaired the 1991, 1996 and 2005 **World Gathering on Bereavement**, and keynoted at all 4 **World Gatherings**.

Darcie is president and co-founder of **GRIEF, Inc.** a grief consulting business and the Director of the American Grief Academy in Seattle, Washington. She is a Diplomate in the **American Psychotherapy Association**, a Certified Diplomate in Clinical Hypnotherapy and is listed in *Who's Who in America*, *The World Who's Who of Women* and *The International Who's Who of Professional and Business Women*.

Alan Pedersen:

Alan is an award winning songwriter, successful recording artist and nationally recognized speaker on grief and loss. In July of 2010, he was named the Professional of the Year by the Board of Directors of The Compassionate Friends, the largest organization in the world helping bereaved families.

As a former Nashville songwriter, stand-up comedian and network radio news reporter, Alan has over 30 years of experience writing, performing and producing all genres of media.

On August 15, 2001 Alan's life was changed forever. Ashley Marie Pedersen, his oldest child and only daughter, died as a result of an automobile accident.

Alan has turned his journey through the valley of grief and the pain of loss into a collection of powerful and moving songs recorded on to 4 highly acclaimed CD's.

His music is popular with bereaved people around the world and has been used at thousands of candle lighting services, balloon and butterfly releases and by hundreds of professionals and organizations as a healing tool for the bereaved.

His music has been played at Ground Zero in New York City, the memorial at Virginia Tech University, the memorial at Columbine High School and is featured on many memorial and tribute websites.