



**The
Compassionate
Friends**
Supporting Family After a Child Dies

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS NAMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

JUNE 3, 2014 - The Compassionate Friends Board of Directors President Patrick O'Donnell announced the National Board of Directors' decision to select Alan Pedersen as TCF's next Executive Director. The board's decision represents the culmination of an exhaustive selection process that began in January of 2014. Alan is a bereaved father whose beloved 18-year-old daughter Ashley died in an automobile accident on August 15, 2001. He is a nationally recognized voice in the grief community. Over the last decade, Alan has appeared in nearly 900 grief forums across the United States and Canada. He began serving on a temporary basis as the Interim Executive Director in December of 2013. Since that time, Alan has been actively working with TCF's Chief Operating Officer Lisa Corrao, the National Office staff, and local Chairperson Mary Seibert and Committee to ensure the National Conference scheduled for July 11-13, 2014 in Chicago, Illinois will be a comforting experience for every person who attends.

The mission of The Compassionate Friends: When a child dies, at any age, the family suffers intense pain and may feel hopeless and isolated. The Compassionate Friends provides highly personal comfort, hope, and support to every family experiencing the death of a son or a daughter, a brother or a sister, or a grandchild, and helps others better assist the grieving family.

Today TCF has more than 650 chapters serving all 50 states plus Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, and Guam offer friendship, understanding, and hope to bereaved parents, siblings, grandparents, and other family members during the natural grieving process after a child has died. Around the world more than 30 countries have a Compassionate Friends presence, encircling the globe with support so desperately needed when the worst has happened.

For further information regarding The Compassionate Friends, please visit our website at www.thecompassionatefriends.org, or call directly at 877.969.0010.

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