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Nation's Largest Bereaved Parent, Sibling Organization Recognizes 31 Compassionate Employers

Oakbrook, IL—In the face of apathy among many companies toward employees who have experienced the death of a child, sibling, or grandchild, thirty-one employers from across the United States have been recognized by the Board of Directors of The Compassionate Friends for showing extra sensitivity to bereaved employees. The Compassionate Friends is the nation's largest self-help bereavement organization with nearly 600 chapters covering all 50 states, Washington DC, and Puerto Rico.

Generally nominated by the persons they have directly helped, these employers are receiving the 2005 Compassionate Employer Recognition for going above and beyond the normal policies of most companies in helping their employees when the death of a child occurred.

The criteria for Compassionate Employer Recognition include, but are not limited to:

- Corporate policies that reflect a compassionate attitude toward bereaved parents, siblings, and grandparents.
- Personal support extended by management team toward the bereaved employees following the child's death.
- Caring attitudes demonstrated by employer's entire workforce.
- Flexibility in work assignments and evaluation of job performance during the stress and personal pain associated with the death of a child.
- All other acts of compassion that bereaved parents and siblings will forever remember.

Recipients of the 2005 Compassionate Employer Recognition are: Advanta Bank Corp., Spring House, PA; Air Products and Chemicals, Inc., Allentown, PA; Animal Medical Center, Ellensburg, WA; Aronoff, Rosen & Hunt, Cincinnati, OH; Bechtel SAIC Company, LLC, Las Vegas, NV; Colorado Territorial Correctional Facility, Cañon City, CO; Cox Communications-Omaha, Omaha, NE; Creve Coeur Camera, St. Louis, MO; Derse Exhibits, Waukegan, IL; dice.com, Urbandale, IA; Emerson, Corey & Barsotti, Fresno, CA; Fukuji & Lum Physical Therapy Associates, Inc., Kailua, HI; HeartLove Place Ministries, Milwaukee, WI; Hendricks Regional Health, Danville, IN; Homefield Financial, Irvine, CA; Huff Elementary School, S.D.U-46, Elgin, IL; La Gondola Spaghetti House, Morton, IL; Lake Shore Cryotronics, Westerville, OH; Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, IL; New Hampshire Hospital, Concord, NH; Northrop Grumman Ship Systems, Avondale, LA; Oak Ridge Associated Universities, Oak Ridge, TN; Palms West Hospital, Loxahatchee, FL; Pepper Hamilton LLP, Philadelphia, PA; PIP Printing & Documenting Services-Greensboro, Greensboro, NC; Salem Central School District, Salem, NY; Sewickley Valley Hospital, Sewickley, PA; United Community Independence Programs, Meadville, PA; University of Arizona, Cognitive Science Program, Tucson, AZ; The Village, Hudson, IL; Xanterra Parks & Resorts, Grand Canyon, AZ.

This is the fifth year for recognition of employers, with recipients jumping from three the first year, to the current 31 this year.

“For most newly bereaved parents, grief is not limited to their homes. It accompanies them to their workplaces, their churches, and their communities,” said TCF Board President Patrick Malone. “How those places respond has a major impact on how well and how quickly bereaved parents are able to manage their grief. Employers play an important role in the positive resolution of grief and it is gratifying to see these examples in both the public and private sector responding with compassion and understanding.”

The Compassionate Friends has a mission 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. To contact The Compassionate Friends, call toll-free 877-969-0010 or visit the TCF national website at www.compassionatefriends.org. A nomination form for Compassionate Employer Recognition can be downloaded from the website.

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