



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

The vision statement of The Compassionate Friends is
*that everyone who needs us will find us and
everyone who finds us will be helped.*

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Supporting Family After a Child Dies

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.

Annual National Conference



A National Conference of The Compassionate Friends is unlike any other conference you may ever attend. It is a place where you can go and know that you truly are not alone as you travel your grief journey. Every person comes for the same reason, a child has died. It is a place where “friendship, understanding, and hope” are more than just words. For almost three and a half decades, The Compassionate Friends has held National Conferences in different locations, from the east coast to the west coast, from north to south. Today it’s normal to have 1100-1400 bereaved parents, siblings, and grandparents attend.

Walk to Remember



When a child dies in a family, life as that family knows it is never the same. They learn to cherish the ways in which they can have their special child remembered. The Compassionate Friends Walk to Remember® was created as a symbolic way to show the love we carry for the children we mourn. The Walk to Remember® kicks off the final day of the Annual National Conference. Every year volunteers carry the names of thousands of children whose parents, grandparents, and siblings are not able to attend, but wish to have them remembered.

Worldwide Candle Lighting



On the second Sunday in December, The Compassionate Friends Worldwide Candle Lighting unites family and friends around the globe in lighting candles for one hour to honor the memories of the sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, and grandchildren who left too soon. As candles are lit at 7:00 p.m. local time, hundreds of thousands of persons commemorate and honor the memory of all children gone too soon. TCF’s WCL started in the United States in 1997 as a small internet observance, but has since swelled in numbers as word has spread throughout the world of the remembrance of children who have died, but will never be forgotten.