



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

In Partnership with



**FUNERAL SERVICE
FOUNDATION**

THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

AFTERCARE SERVICES
FOR BEREAVED PARENTS,
GRANDPARENTS, AND SIBLINGS



WHO WE ARE

The Compassionate Friends (TCF) has been providing highly personal comfort, hope, and peer support to bereaved parents, siblings, and grandparents grieving the death of a child for the past 50 years. TCF was founded by Rev. Simon Stephens in 1978, when he introduced two families whose children had recently died to support one another. He believed that peer support, being with others who understand, was better than anything he could ever say or provide. Over the past 50 years, this movement has spread across the world, including here in the United States. Today, The Compassionate Friends has a presence in hundreds of communities across the United States in the form of chapters, local support groups, and online support. These peer support services are offered at no charge to those who need them. It is our vision that no one grieves alone and that everyone who needs us will find us.

ACCESS TO CARE

To ensure that those who find us have access to care, we have put together support services and resources that are easily accessible to bereaved parents, grandparents, and siblings where they live using a variety of modes of support. These support services are a referral resource for funeral service providers, helping professionals, and those caring for bereaved people. Grief is enduring and bereaved people face a variety of challenges along the way, over the years, after their loss. The Compassionate Friends is there each step of the way throughout the years.

Digital Resources

We Need Not Walk Alone Online Magazine – The national magazine of The Compassionate Friends, We Need Not Walk Alone, features inspirational, supportive articles by and for parents, siblings, and grandparents grieving the death of a child in their family. View current and past editions at: <https://www.compassionatefriends.org/resources/we-need-not-walk-alone-magazine/>

Downloadable PDF Resources and Materials – The Compassionate Friends has supportive written materials available for free download as PDFs for bereaved families to learn about coping with and navigating grief after the death of a child. To request grief resource materials, visit us at: <https://www.compassionatefriends.org/find-support/to-the-newly-bereaved/>

Local Chapter Support Gatherings

The Compassionate Friends offers over 500 chapters, local monthly supportive gatherings, across the United States. In small towns and large cities, bereaved parents, siblings, and grandparents meet together to talk, listen, share, and provide each other emotional support after the devastating death of a child. You can search for local chapters near you here: <https://www.compassionatefriends.org/find-support/chapters/chapter-locator/>

Online Communities

We understand that not everyone can access a local chapter, so we have created opportunities for bereaved individuals to access support online through our virtual chapters and private Facebook groups. Virtual chapters offer a friendly atmosphere that encourages conversation among friends who understand the emotions bereaved individuals are experiencing. Bereaved adults can choose from general bereavement sessions as well as specific themed groups. TCF also has over 40 Private Facebook Groups specific to different types of loss situations for bereaved parents, grandparents, and children. These pages are moderated by people who have walked the road of grief and ensure that groups offer the safe, compassionate setting bereaved individuals need. To learn more about TCF Online Support, visit us at: <https://www.compassionatefriends.org/find-support/online-communities/>

TCF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The TCF Annual Conference is a weekend that offers bereaved parents, grandparents, and siblings a supportive setting where they can be surrounded by others walking the same road. It is attended by over 1,000 individuals each year and meets in a different city / region of the United States to be accessible to different populations. With inspirational keynote speakers, and over 100 informative and supportive workshops, the TCF Annual Conference is a place where hope grows, and friendships are made with others who truly understand. You can learn more about the TCF Annual Conference by visiting: <https://www.compassionatefriends.org/event/47th-tcf-national-conference/>

WORLDWIDE CANDLE LIGHTING EVENT

The TCF Worldwide Candle Lighting (WCL) is held on the 2nd Sunday of December, National Children's Memorial Day. This special memorial event unites family and friends around the globe in lighting candles for one hour to honor the memories of sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, and grandchildren who left too soon. As candles are lit at 7:00pm local time in each time zone across the world, hundreds of thousands of people commemorate and honor the memory of all children gone too soon. This creates a virtual 24-hour wave of light as it moves around the world in the form of in-person local gatherings and virtual candle lighting events live in each time zone in the United States. To learn more about the Worldwide Candle Lighting Event visit us at: <https://www.compassionatefriends.org/event/27th-annual-worldwide-candle-lighting/>



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