



The Compassionate Friends

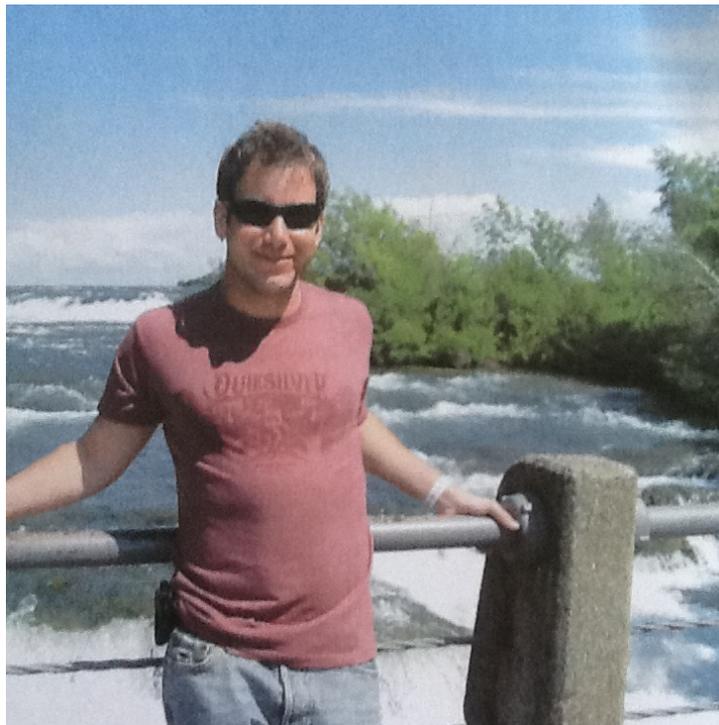
**Greater Providence Area Chapter
Supporting Family After a Child Dies**

Holiday 2016

In Loving Memory: Stephen Leach

It has been 7 1/2 years since we last saw Stephen and the time has not gone by quick. Paul and I remember walking through the doors of TCF and thought that was it, we made it, we are here. They are here to save us and make us feel better again. Little did we know everyone in the room was feeling the way we were, and also struggling. We made it through the first, second, and third meetings and all that followed. We learned we were not alone and had friends who shared in our thoughts and grief. TCF is a group of caring individuals who strive to help their fellow grievers. We share our thoughts, our hopes, and our tears.

Ironically I purchased a decorative suitcase that says "Travel" and I have kept all of Stephen's pictures, sympathy cards, letters from friends, news articles, a recording of his voice and TCF newsletters, and here we are traveling. As some of you know, we are moving to Florida, which is a big decision as we are leaving our son Warren,



granddaughter Juliana, and I feel like I am also leaving Stephen. I will be able to visit my son and granddaughter. However, Stephen will be with us in heart on our new journey in life whatever it has in store. My hope is that my new friends will be as understanding as all of you have been and allow me to talk of Stephen. We will look for another group as it is nice to share thoughts and know that you are not alone.

It is nice to carry on a conversation with less tears (sometimes). This has taken years and with the help of our friends at TCF and their guidance, we are able to see more clearly. And as I mentioned before, we are not alone.

Paul and I want to thank each and everyone of you for sharing your children with us as we know they hold a special place in your heart. You will not be forgotten but thought of often.

Warmly,
Marlene and Paul



Holiday Gifts, Stockings and Grief

As the holidays roll around our hearts are filled with emptiness whether this is your first or you are a long time griever. We are stunned that all around us people are rejoicing. Stores are filled with decorations and songs, colorful lights are shining, and you receive that holiday card wishing you a Happy Holiday, but then you notice no one mentioned or noticed your child that is gone.

Our first years were the hardest, when you have other children you still put up the tree and decorations. Now for Sheila and me it is 13 tree lightings, 13 silent nights and 13 years of watching our other children open gifts but remembering our sons who loved to celebrate Christmas with all of us. We can't buy our child a gift, all we can do is buy them flowers for their grave. What we have done at the Candle Lighting is to buy gifts for a needy child, maybe one that your child would have enjoyed. As the gifts are being opened around your tree you can think of that child who is opening your gift and smiling that he or she enjoyed it like your child would have that morning. Make quiet time to remember those past holidays. At first it will be through tears and later on in your grief journey it might bring a small smile to your face.

Sponsor a Newsletter

We are pleased to offer our members the opportunity to sponsor a newsletter. This means that we will feature your child's story and photo on the front page of our newsletter when you make a donation (\$300 for full page, \$150 for half page). This offers members another way to share their child with our group, as well as to help offset the cost of producing and mailing our newsletter. We are offering up to two sponsorships per newsletter. Your story can be any length up to 500 words and can include 1-2 photos.

If you would like to see your child featured in a future issue, please contact Lucille at 401-231-9229 or lcvalliere49@gmail.com.

Newsletter Correction

We apologize for the misspelling of **Christine Grinavic's** name on her anniversary date in our last newsletter.

Through our meetings we discuss what we can do to make our grieving during the holidays a little easier. One thing is to do what is good for you and your family. If going to the stores is too painful, order on line. If you can't send cards, don't. There is no right or wrong way of getting through this difficult time. Remember your child at the dinner table by lighting a candle in their memory as your centerpiece. Hang their stockings and maybe you can write notes... I always write a letter on Christmas Eve and tuck it in his velvet stocking.

There is one word I love to see around the holiday season and that's "BELIEVE." Believe that you will feel your child around you that you will hear them whisper "I Love You." They are not truly gone when they shine in our hearts forever.

Sheila and I want to extend to all of you, a *season filled with gentle memories that will bring you peace.*

Lucille and Sheila

A Christmas Wish

I'll miss you at Christmas
When laughter's everywhere,
When church bells chime
In merry rhyme
And warmth is in the air.

I'll think of you at Christmas
Of when you were with me,
Of simple joys and silly toys
And days that used to be.

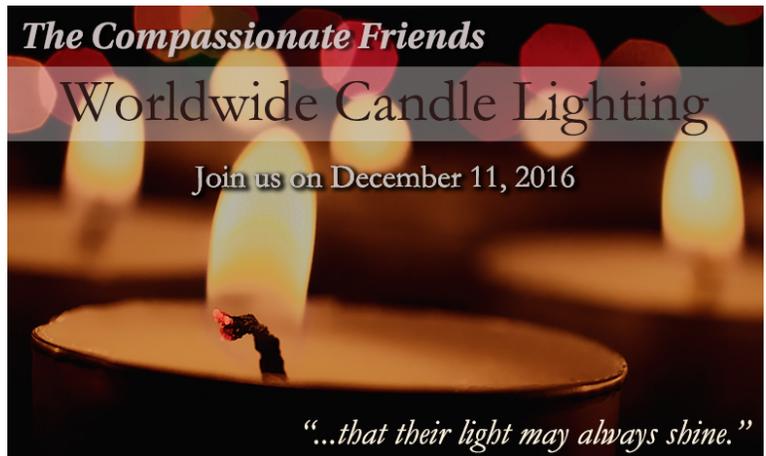
I'll miss you at Christmas
When children's faces glow,
And gaze in childish wonderment
At Santa and presents in a row.

I wish a Christmas miracle
Could bring you back this way,
And we could be together
For one more Christmas day.

Lily deLauder

Join us for the TCF Worldwide Candle Lighting, Sunday, December 11, 2016

We will take part in our annual **Worldwide Candle Lighting on Sunday, December 11, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.** This event will take place at the Central Congregational Church at 296 Angell Street, Providence, RI. At this event, we come together with friends and families for a special program that includes a soloist providing beautiful music to ease our pain, as well as readings from our members that speak of hope, and love we have for our children. The highlight of the event is lighting a candle and saying our child's name as we go around the room, which begins promptly at 7:00 p.m. When you light your child's candle this begins a wave of light for 24 hours around the globe in memory of our precious children.



You are invited to bring a picture or remembrance of your child to be placed on our table where we all gather for friendship and support following the program. Refreshments will be served. We also ask that you bring an unwrapped toy to be donated to children who are in need during the holiday season.

Becky asks that you please use "TCF Photos" in the subject line of the email. You can also send them in the mail to Becky Sheldon at 43 North Capalbo Drive, Bradford, RI 02808. Please make a copy of your pictures before mailing them just in case they are lost in the mail. Becky will bring original photos to the candle lighting, or you can coordinate with her to get them at the January support group meeting. If your child has been part of the slide presentation in the past those pictures will remain in the presentation.

Deadline to submit photos is November 28, 2016.

Sharing with the group has helped us get through many holidays and given us strength and healing to keep going. Each passing event tells us that we can survive. And remember that the anticipation of any day is often worse than the actual day itself.

All questions can be directed to **Lucille at 401-231-9229 or lcvalliere49@gmail.com** or **Sheila at 401-272-6267 or sheilac252@cox.net**.

Koczan Holiday Tree at Slater Park

The Koczan family is once again inviting all Chapter members to help decorate their family tree at Slater Park in memory of their son John Anthony Koczan and all the Angels of the Compassionate Friends. The decorating will be **December 1 at 1 p.m.** at Slater Park in Pawtucket. If you have an ornament with a picture of your child, you may bring it to the park on the day of the event. If you have any questions, please call Betty Koczan at (401) 438-1320.



Winter Parking Info

If there is a parking ban due to winter weather in Providence that falls on our meeting night, the meeting will be cancelled. Please check our website, Facebook page and a flash email will go out to all members.



Birthday Remembrances

We celebrate the day they were born and hold them in our hearts forever.

November

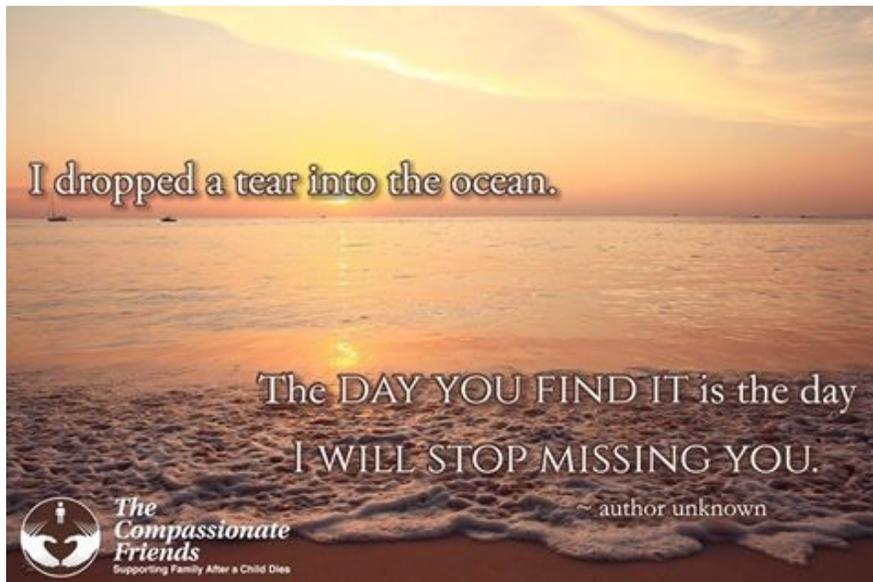
Caitlyn Marie Adler
Joseph Allard
Michael Barry
Steven Joseph Caito
Dante Cappelli
John David Barthlomew
Cinquegrana
Meghan Cooney
Anne & John D'Ercole
Todd M. Hallworth
Michael Latraverse
Dino Ludovici
Christopher J. Meehan
Frank Osborne, Jr.
Emily Otrando
Kelly Salisbury
Naryah Santana
Joshua Turcotte
Booby Wallas

December

Abby Aukerman
Alison Bowman
Vickey Branco
Jayce Kayden Chattelle
Henry Clemence
Anthony Colli
Jon Converse
Karyn DeLuca
Matthew Erwin
Marissa Gardner
Erika Hall
Nichole LoDico
Jeffrey Wood Martin
Charles McMahan
Candace Mendes
Erin Noble
Joseph A. Pari
Allison (Allie) Remarski
Kyle Saunders
Gregor Smith
Jonathan Stack
Zachary Stiness
Jeffrey Swanson
Samantha Walsh
Beau Wennermark
Rowan Christopher Williams

January

Patrick Cannon
Matthew A. Cardillo
Luigi Civitelli
Amy Zimmerman Duggan
Christine Grinavic
Jamie Mayer
Nathan Daniel Medeiros
Rachel Morris
Jason G. Naylor
Martha Noble
Arthur Pelliccia
Marc Daniel Pinzon
Christopher R. Shippee
Alexander Gonsalves Veiga
Terry Wallas
Karen Michelle Young



In Memory of Our Children

As long as we live, our children too shall live, for they are part of us in our memories. We lovingly remember the following children on Their Anniversary.



November

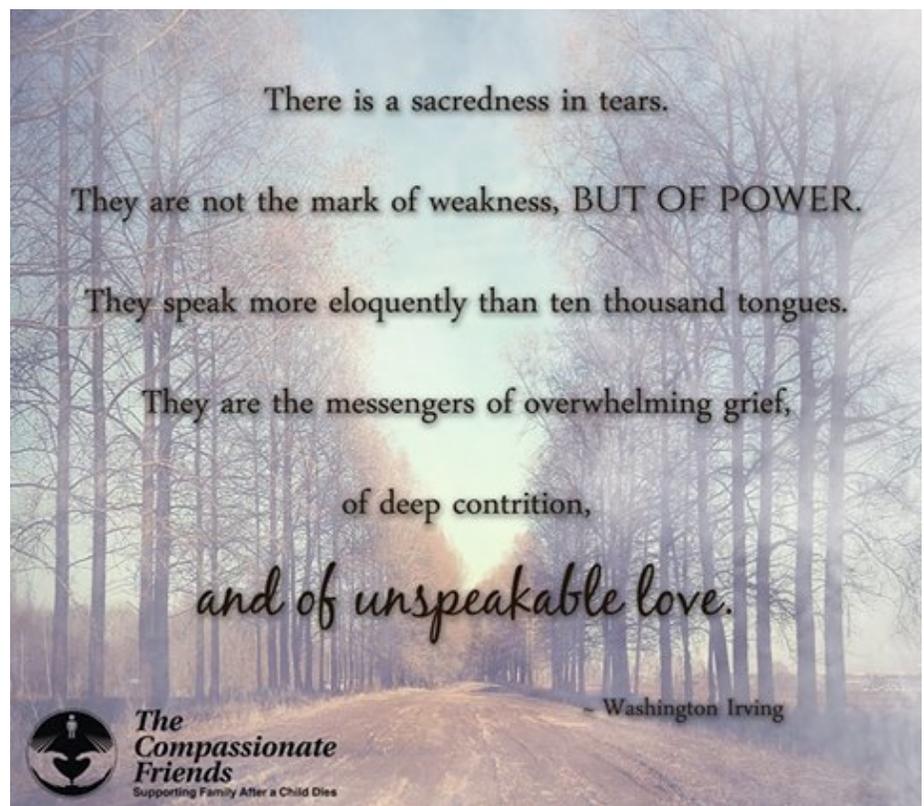
Angelo Argentieri
Brandon Bellucci
Brandi Lyn Burgess
Richard W. Buteau
Ronald S. Buteau
Megan Caron
Jon Converse
Anne & John D'Ercole
Jamie Dale Ebert
Nicholas Gershkoff
Rebecca Greene
Todd M. Hallworth
Rebecca Hopkins
John Anthony Koczan
Dino Ludovici
Taylor M. Marshall
Charles McMahan
Kelly Salisbury
Stephen Smith
John Taglione
Alexander Gonsalves Veiga

December

Angeline Nayah Antoine
Travis Battle
Steven Joseph Caito
Louie Capadilupo
Henry Clemence
Christopher Jacob Costello
Marc T. Fears
Matthew George Iavarone
Alan T. Lemay
Michael V. Medeiros
Michael Pelliccia
Rose Block Shatz
Rowan Christopher Williams
Chad Allan Woodsom

January

Christopher Ancone
Geoffrey Hugh Beattie
Vickey Branco
Meghan Cooney
Dina Davis
Karyn DeLuca
Amy Zimmerman Duggan
Christopher Higgins
Nichole LoDico
Nathan Daniel Medeiros
Nicholas Messier
Kevin Munroe
Brian Squadrito
Craig Allan Wood
Karen Michelle Young





Gifts & Remembrance Garden Love Gifts

A Love Gift is a living memorial to your child. Usually given on birthdays, anniversaries of their deaths, holidays, or just to remember. Our thanks to the following for their generous donations.

Mary Ackaway – Love Always, Mom

Lauren Norwood – Forever in our Hearts, Mom and Dad

Todd M. Hallworth – Loved and remembered always, Love, Mom and Dad

Angela Rose Sbardella – I love you, all day, every day, Dad

Angela Rose Sbardella – In memory of you, Pete Khoury

Angela Rose Sbardella – In memory of you, Robert Raposa

Nicholas C. Hendee – We miss you and Love you, Mom, Norm and Sarah

Anthony Stephen Casale – Love of my Life, Mom

Gina Marie Pontarelli – Love You, Miss You, Mom and Dad

Christopher Boone – Love Always and Forever

Rose Block Shatz – 10 years later we still miss you every day. Mom and Dad

Dino Ludovici – My precious Dino, I miss you so. My love for you is eternal. Mom

In Honor of Diane Amaral – from Marie Noble

Samantha Walsh – Samantha, There is not a day that we don't think of you. We are with you everyday. Happy Birthday. Love, Mom, Dad and Rachel

Karen Young – Forever Young

Alan Lemay – Love and Miss you, Mom

Brandi Lyn Burgess – Love and miss you, Gram

Karyn J. (DeLuca) Dugan – A treasure to behold. Love, Dad and Mom

Chad Woodsum – Love You

Servulo Gonsalves – My Son and Alexander Veiga, my grandson. Love you both forever

Louie Capodilupo – Forever in our hearts, every moment, every day, Mom

Brian Squadrito – Thinking of you always, Mom

In Memory of all our Children – Phil and Karen of Ocean State Pressure Company

Thank You for your donations in memory of Our Children.



Holiday Shopping Reminder: Support TCF When You Shop on Amazon!

We have set up an account for our Chapter on **AmazonSmile**. This is an easy way for you to support our Chapter every time you shop on Amazon—at no cost to you. Here's how:

- Go to **smile.amazon.com**
- Search for "The Compassionate Friends Greater Providence Chapter" as your charity.
- Shop as you normally would, finding the exact same prices and selection as on Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to our Chapter.
- Remember, you need to start each shopping session at the AmazonSmile URL:
smile.amazon.com.

To learn more about how AmazonSmile works, go to **smile.amazon.com/about** to read the FAQs. Thank you!



This Thanksgiving

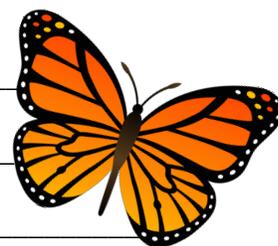
This Thanksgiving and always,
Through the grief,
Through the tears,
Through the loneliness,
Through the fears,

WE ARE THANKFUL
WE HAD OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS

*Khaki Chambers
TCF, Pensacola, FL*



Love Gift Donation



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

In Loving Memory Of _____

Love Gift \$ _____ Message _____

I would like my Love Gift to go toward (please check one):

General Chapter expenses

Upkeep of our Remembrance Garden

Your tax-deductible donation provides help for those who are grieving. General Chapter expenses helps defray the cost for the newsletter, postage, and other Chapter expenses. Upkeep of our Remembrance Garden goes toward lawn care and garden maintenance. Your donation is greatly appreciated and will be acknowledged in this newsletter. Please make your check payable to: **TCF Greater Providence Chapter**.

Please send donations to: Co-Leader Lucille Valliere
10 Dail Drive
North Providence, RI 02911



**The
Compassionate
Friends**
Greater Providence Area Chapter
Supporting Family After a Child Dies

10 Dail Drive
North Providence, RI 02911
tcfprovidence.com



Upcoming Events

Our regular support group meetings take place on the second Monday of each month. All meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Central Congregational Church, 296 Angell St., Providence, RI.

- **Sunday, December 11 - Annual Candle Lighting Ceremony, 6 p.m.**
- **January 9, 2017**
- **February 13, 2017**

Note: There will be no meeting in December.

