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

Spring 2022

Persephone's Home

Today we visited Dwight
In a pouring rain
Spring was everywhere about
And flowers filled each lane
Thoughts of February's mourning
A few years now gone past
Persephone's left her misery
But summer never lasts

Peace comes to this resting
Paid at a heavy price
Sometimes all of this makes sense
Others one must think twice
So we live in deep reflection
Different yet still the same
Going to a sacred place
Each time we call your name

Dear Compassionate Friends,

Losing a child leaves us with so many emotions. The deep sense of loss is sometimes visited by a welcomed memory of long ago. This might come from recalling a birthday party, a ball game, or a simple conversation. Smiles don't always last, but the times that produce them will endure a lifetime.

The story of Persephone, and her mother Demeter, illustrates both happiness and grief. Ancient Greeks used this myth to describe the seasons. They also used it to describe a mother's loss and the ensuing pain. Each year Persephone returns from the underworld, and Hades, to reunite with a place of light. These powerful extremes often reside in the hearts of those who grieve.

Elaine and I wish to thank you all for your compassion and friendship. While the poem, *Persephone's Home*, mentions Dwight it was written in the hope that somewhere there would be commonality with you. We are all better people for loving our children. This can never be taken away. Please enjoy the spring and summer.

By Bob Haughtaling, TCF Greater Providence member and Steering Committee member

Birthday Remembrances

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

April

Patrick Avitabile
Jason David Bates
Louie Capodilupo
Anthony Stephen Casale
Anthony Michael D'Arezzo
Gabrielle Dinsmore
Brian Gault
Stephen Hallisey
Donald LaMotte
Keeley Lynch
Gregory "Josh" Montigny
Joshua Smith
Brian Squadrito

May

Derrick Blair
Eric Boyd
Brandon Burns
Robert Carmone
Gregory S. Earley
David W. Greenwood
Tucker Keene
Jennifer Mailloux
Justin T. Marron
Michael V. Medeiros
Jason Sherratt
Lori Taglione
Stephen Treistman
Thomas D. Walker

June

Steven R. Aubin
Travis Battle
Jeffry J. Berg
Connor Brandon
Cheryl Bucci
Leonidas Ashton Caruso
Christine McKay Chabot
Sebastian Cocco-Babcock
Michael Gastall
Nicholas Charles Hendee
Roger Hobbs
Ryan N. Jennings
Jason Killian
Nicholas Messier
Lorie Okerholm
Gina Marie Pontarelli
Melissa Rourke
Daniel Erik Schuster
Jackson Weintraub

July

Natalie Joy Adamo
Melissa Elizabeth Allin
Patrick Christian Barbosa
Connie Lee Bradley
Daniel Reid Cornell
Shane Currier
Amando Gomes
Matthew K. Serio
Matthew Sheehan
Paula Jane Torrico
Alex Valicenti
Christopher Paul Valliere
Conor Alexis Young
Evan Zompa

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.

April

Matthew Arsenault
Nathaniel Robert Asselin
Michael Barry
Alison Bowman
Connie Lee Bradley
Donald Bradley
Michael Bradley
Kyle Cabral
Luigi Civitelli
David D. DeMoura
Gary E. DeMoura
Traci L. DeMoura
Erika Hall
Roger Hobbs
Donald LaMotte
Christopher Mark Leahey
Keeley Lynch
Jamie Mayer
Jordan. M. Neves
Martha Noble
Nathan Parker
Marissa Salabert
Patricia Lynn Salera
Matthew K. Serio
Joshua Smith

May

Abby Aukerman
Michael P. Batalon
Cheryl Bucci
Brandon Burns
Dante Cappelli
Shane Currier
Christine Grinavic
Bradley Lawrence
Thomas P. Lewis
Jeffrey S. Monica
Gregory "Josh" Montigny
Tre Jordon Paquette
Arthur Pelliccia
Kyle Saunders
Dan Schnebly
Jason Alan Smith
Joshua Spinelli
Christopher Paul Valliere
Rebeckha Lynn Whitefield

June

Mary Elaine Ackaway
Caitlyn Marie Adler
Rebecca Eisen
Michael Gastall
Tucker Keene
Kameron Montanino
Erin Noble
Jennifer Lynn Peterson
Jamie Rappaneau
Emma Elizabeth Soares
Kyla Vinacco
Tyler Anthony Williams
Marrina A. Yeomans

July

James Avitabile
Patrick Christian Barbosa
Stephanie Lynn Blum
Connor Brandon
Daniel John Coleman
Alexandria Marie Curtis
Anthony Michael D'Arezzo
Robert Desmet
Brian Gault
Nicholas Charles Hendee
Daniel M. Malo
Jennifer Mailloux
Justin T. Marron
Joan Elizabeth Plante
Gina Marie Pontarelli
Matthew Sheehan
Jason Sherratt
Paula Jane Torrico
Lori Taglione
Thomas D. Walker
Evan Zompa

Another Mother's Day

Another Mother's Day!
But a different one this year.
For, you see, I am a mother but
my child isn't here.
I am a mother who is hurting for
this child who was so dear, as I
face this and other occasions
each and every year.
I am a mother who feels an
emptiness over and over again
because I miss THIS child and
all that could have been.
I am a mother who cared as I
watched my child grow and truly
loved her more than anyone will
ever know.
I am a mother who has memories
and many tears to cry over.

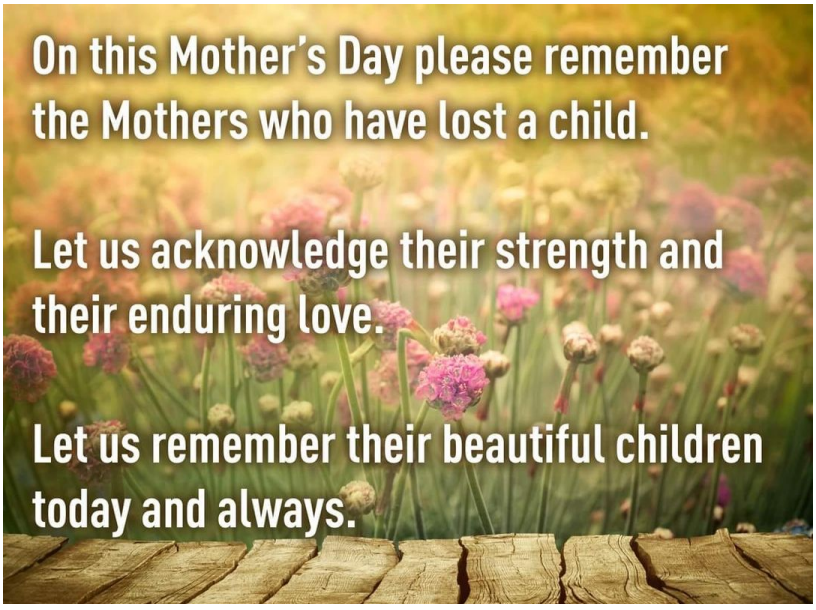
by Judy A. Sittner

Hurting on Father's Day

As the day approaches, I wonder
how I will react – am I still a father?
I will sit quietly never allowing
friends and family to see how I feel.
I miss my child, but I can't allow
myself to "break."
I must remain strong and always be the
"rock."

I wish I could just let someone know
how much I miss my little Angel.
How much I cry and how much I
miss hearing "Dad, I love you."

I am a father but I wonder will I
just pretend as usual that "It
doesn't bother me."
Remember me.
For I hurt too on this special day!



Graduation Day

Today is Graduation Day – a day when children don the cloak of adulthood. They leave the structure of their home to find the structure of their lives. They scatter in many directions – each to the beat of his own drum, each to follow his ow heart.

Today is Graduation Day – and I am sad. My child will not be among his classmates as they are handed their diplomas. My child will not participate in the proms and excitement of this time. My child will not be there. Is he forgotten? Does not one mind remember him or one heart feel his presence" Please, let him be a part of this day even if I don't know it. Let one person for one second think of him and say, "I wish Jim were here today."

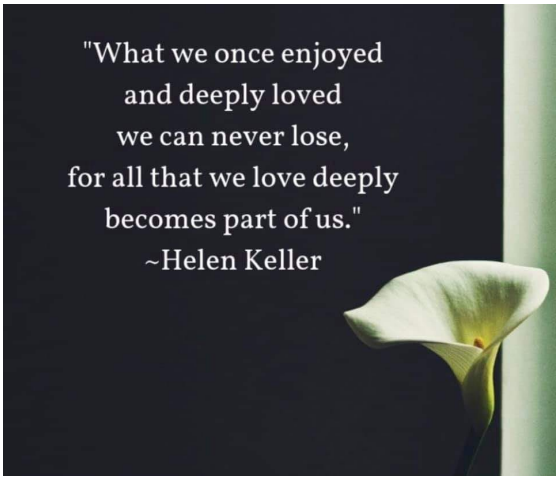
For today is Graduation Day – for everyone else's children, but not for mine. I could wish philosophical and say that he has already graduated – that he has made the most important step of all. But this doesn't help the ache in my heart or fill the hole left there. On other days, I can sometimes feel okay that he is in heaven, but, today, I want him here. I want him to go to the prom and wear the cap and gown and receive his diploma. I want to see his smile and take his picture and rent his tux. I want him going to college and choosing his courses and deciding what his future will be. I want – it does no good to want or to wish. These things can never be.

I must face this day as I've faced thousand of others – with longing, with pain, and with strength. This is what keeps me from crumpling into a ball of despair – this is what keeps me from giving up and giving in – this is what keeps me from looking down in object helplessness and lets me look up with new hope.

Today is Graduation Day – I think I can live through it – I think I can overcome what it brings with it – I know I can find my way once again through the longing, through the darkness, through the pain 'til once again I see the Light of tomorrow ...Yesterday was Graduation Day - And I'm still here....

by Susan Abbott, Quincy, IL

In loving memory of Jim Abbot (1978-1992)



Sponsor a Newsletter

We are pleased to offer our members the opportunity to sponsor a newsletter. We will feature your child's story and photo on the front page of our newsletter when you make a donation. 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 1-3 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.**

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.

Jeffrey Stephen Shank – Loved and missed every day, Love, Mom and Dad

John Taglione, Jr and Lori Taglione Corona – My children are in my heart forever, Love, Mom

Anthony Stephen Casale – The Love of my Life, Mom

Peter Collins – We miss you every day, Love, Mom and Dad

Douglas D. Gray – Forever in my heart, Love, Dad

Christopher Boone – Forever in our hearts, Love, Mom and Dad

Brian Christopher Lang – Brian, miss you, in our hearts and minds forever, Mom and Dad

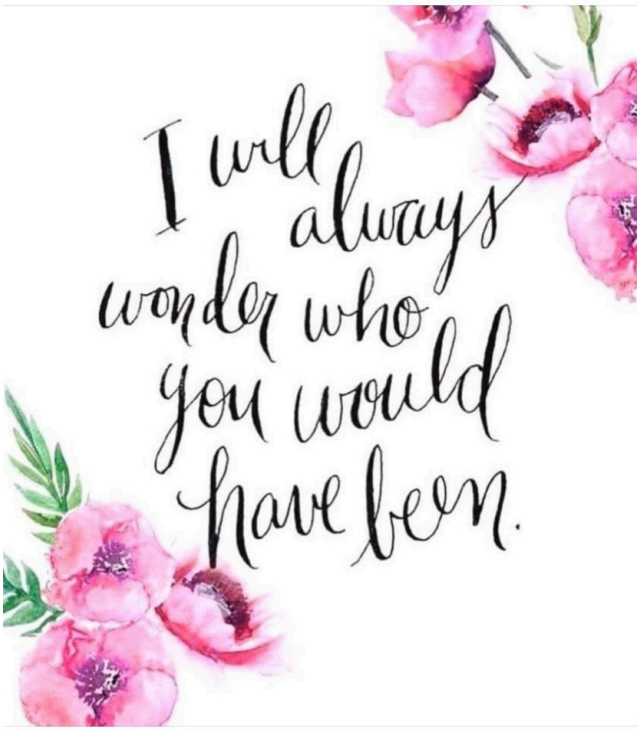
Connie Lee, Donald, and Michael – Your wings were ready but my heart was not. Loving you Always, Mom

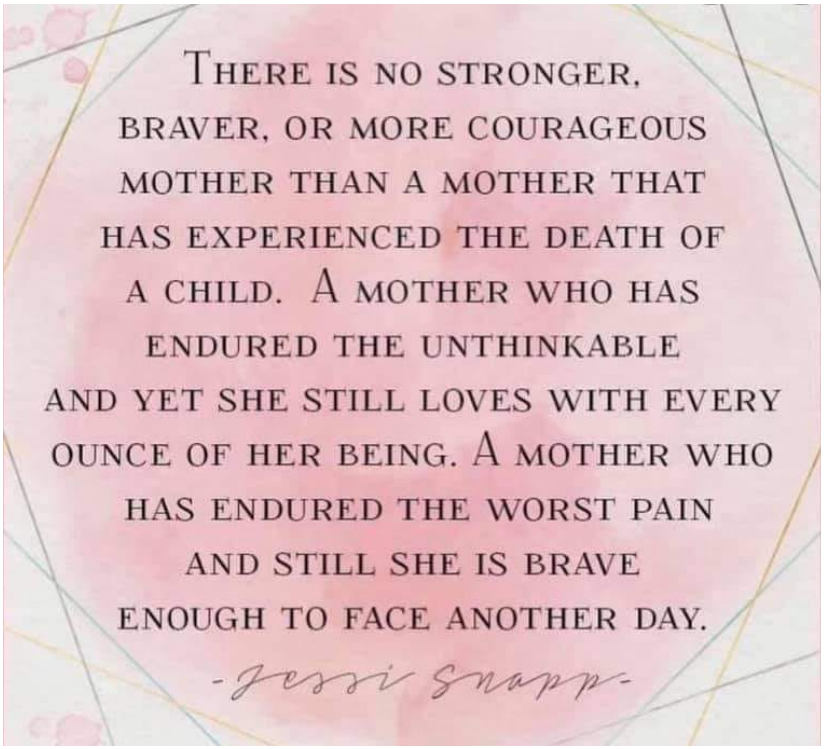
Servulo J. Gonsalves – My Son, Love, Mom

Rebecca Eisen – Forever in my Heart, Love, Mom

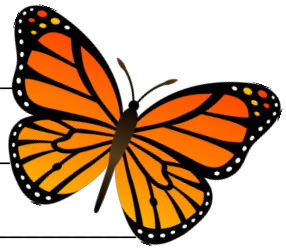
Nicole Reinert – To our dearest Nicole, you remain in our hearts forever. We miss you so very much. All our love, Mom and Dad

Thank You for your donations in memory of Our Children.





Love Gift Donation



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

In Loving Memory Of _____

Love Gift $ _____ Message _____

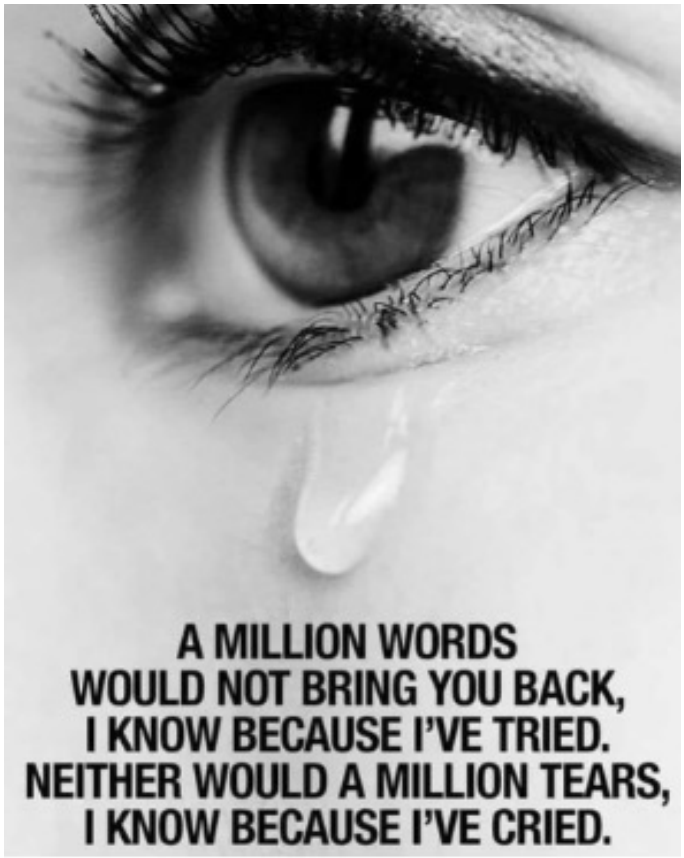
_____

___ I would like my Love Gift to go toward general Chapter expenses.

Your tax-deductible donation helps defray the costs for Chapter expenses. Your donation is greatly appreciated and will be acknowledged in this newsletter. Please make your check payable to: **TCF Providence Chapter**.

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

cut here



LOVE SOARS THROUGH CLOUDS OF HOPE

TCF 45th National Conference
Houston, TX • August 5-7, 2022

Registration is open for the 45th TCF National Conference in Houston, TX, August 5-7, 2022!

Learn more and register online here:
https://www.compassionatefriends.org/event/45th-tcf-national-conference/

The Compassionate Friends

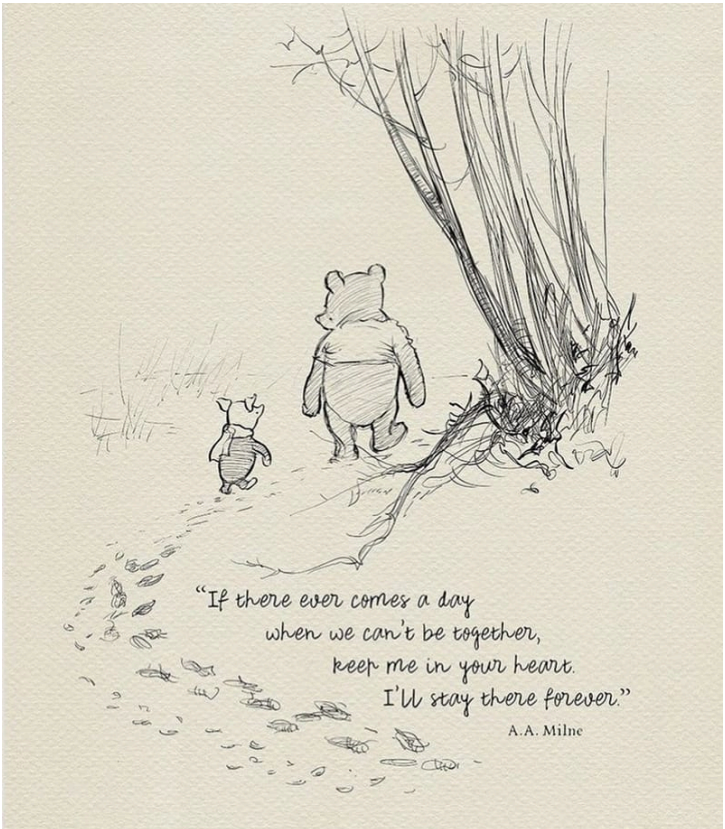
Greater Providence Area Chapter

Supporting Family After a Child Dies

10 Dail Drive
North Providence, RI 02911
tcfprovidence.com

Like Us On Facebook

Upcoming Events

All meetings take place on the second Monday of each month and begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Central Congregational Church, 296 Angell St. in Providence, RI. *Be sure to check the Meetings & Events page of our website for notices of any changes to our meeting schedule:* **tcfprovidence.com**. Please note: New members can arrive early, between 6:15 and 6:30.

- **May 9**
- **June 13**
- **July 11**
- **August 8**
- **September 12**