



A Back to School Letter

Summer is winding down and I'm gearing up for a new school year. Yesterday, I sat down to finish my mailing for my new Kindergarten students. I worked my way through the list, personalizing each letter with my student's name (I feel like it adds a little extra love when you put pen to paper for someone) and daydreaming about the year ahead.

Then, I thought of them; the children who should be coming to Kindergarten. The ones who have died at any point before this important life moment. I imagined the families who should be receiving letters from new teachers, but instead, they are receiving yet another dose of heartbreak at the milestone their child did not reach.

So, I have decided that, for this year, they can join my classroom. I will be their teacher.



Here is their welcome letter:

Dear Friend,

Welcome to Kindergarten! My name is Mrs. Whalen and I will be your teacher. I am looking forward to holding space for you in my classroom this year. Even though you can't physically attend, I will feel your presence in my classroom every day.

Kindergarten is an exciting place and how I wish you could experience it with me! I want to teach you all about letters, the sounds they make, and how to make words. I wish you could be next to me as we learn lots about numbers, plants, and animals. I'll be thinking of you when we learn about life cycles and watch as our classroom caterpillars become beautiful butterflies. I just know you would have so much fun studying the work of famous artists, making scientific discoveries, and learning so many other wonderful things.

I know how much your families wish you were here to share the joys of Kindergarten with them. They want to walk you to your new classroom, help you hang up your backpack, and hear all about your day. Please know that no matter how full our classroom is, you will always be missed.

So, on the first day of school, please make sure you send a little extra love to the ones who are missing you. They will be doing the same for you. I am so honored to have you as part of my classroom and to hold space for you in what should be your year in Kindergarten.

Love,

Mrs. Whalen



Birthday Remembrances

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

August

Mary Elaine Ackaway
Nathaniel Robert Asselin
Christopher Robert Boone
Sean J. Conley, Jr.
Robert Desmet

Gabriella Bella DiPalma
Christopher Mark Leahey
Dante Mann
Tamara Suzanne Meyer
Monika Krystyna Prus

Jason Alan Smith
Joshua Spinelli
John Taglione
Matthew A. Viegas
Justin Wilks

September

James Avitabile
Mike Batalon
Christine Marie Bernier
Stephanie Lynn Blum
Donald K. Bradley
David D. DeMoura
Traci L. DeMoura

Craig Robert Fregeau
Nicholas Giugilelmetti
Brian Lang
Daniel M. Malo
Matthew Marandola
Jordan M. Neves
Olivia Paone

Rhonda Pari
Nathan Parker
Joan Elizabeth Plante
Jamie Rappaneau
Eddie Reed III
Alex Theriault
Thomas Watson

October

Cody Johns Craynock
Larissa Downing
Arianna Davis Griffin
Rebecca C. Hopkins
Bradley Lawrence
Kameron Montanino

Kevin Munroe
Katherine Paoletta
Amy Prada
Marissa Salabert
Christian Salvatore
Rose Block Shatz

Ethan Simpson
Alfred "A.D." Silvia, III
Wendy Smith
Craig Robert Valliere

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.**

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.



August

Alex Abjorson
Joseph Allard
Patrick Avitabile
Donald Anthony Capasso
Matthew A. Cardillo
Sean Conley, Jr.
Cody Johns Craynock
Lorenzo Francis DeSimone
Gabriella Bella DiPalma
Lily Galoob

Nicholas Giuglielmetti
David W. Greenwood
Matthew Humbyrd
Ryan N. Jennings
Thomas P. Kenney
Jason G. Naylor
Lauren Rose Norwood
Almanny I. Nuñez
Wyatt Pierce
Nicholas Pizetoski

Amy Prada
Melissa Rourke
Angela Rose Sbardella
Ethan Simpson
Jeffrey Swanson
Stephen Treistman
Matthew A. Viegas
Jonathan Blake Waxler
Jackson Weintraub

September

Joshua Anekea
Jason David Bates
Michael Bolivar
Leonidas Ashton Caruso
Peter Collins
Madelyn Getter

Arianna Davis Griffin
Nazzique Hernandez
Matthew Marandola
Anthony M. Napoleoni, Jr.
Emily Otrando
Joseph A. Pari

Rhonda Pari
Marc Daniel Pinzon
Daniel Erik Schuster
Brent Douglas Sheldon

October

Sebastian Cocco-Babcock
Eric Boyd
Anthony Stephen Casale
Henry Charbonneau
Larissa Downing
Craig Robert Fregeau

Gianni Guerrieri
Kory Jeschke
Brian Lang
Dante Mann
Phillip Mello
Tamara Suzanne Meyer

Christian Salvatore
Wendy Smith
Sam Oliver Stein
Justin Vacher
Justin Wilks



Check Out *Still Here*, a Podcast of The Compassionate Friends

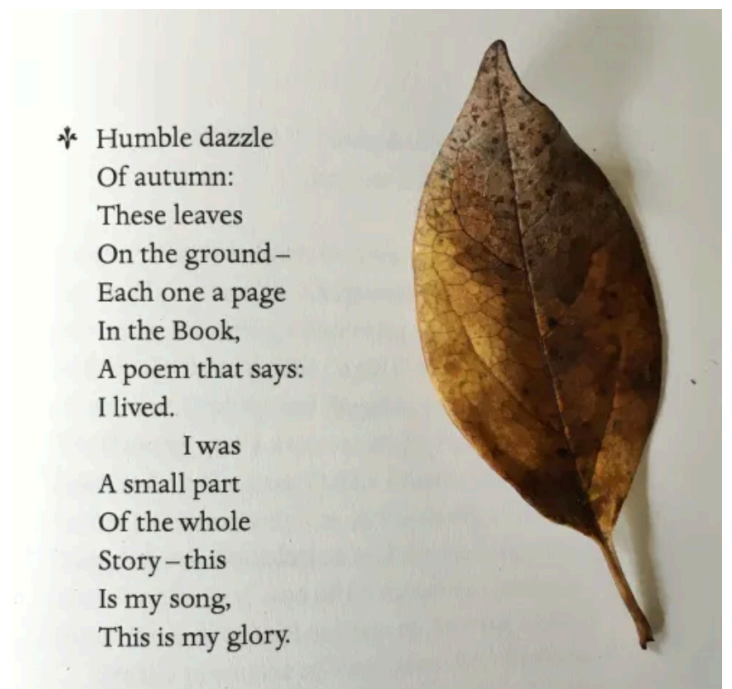
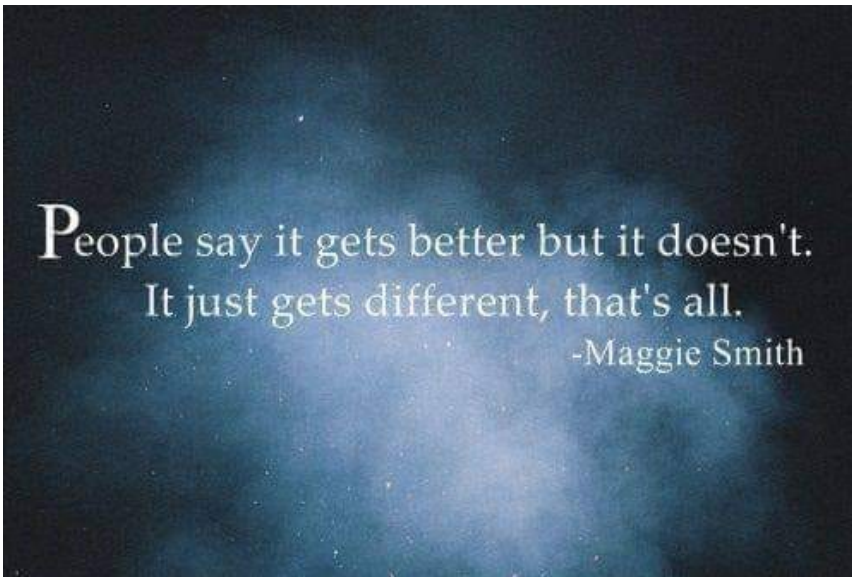
Each month our *Still Here* podcast features a guest who will address the grieving process while also providing potential insight. Hosted by TCF member Bob Houghtaling with administrative support from Elaine Arts, *Still Here* creates connections with those looking to learn more about TCF, while also offering support to individuals who cannot make it to meetings. You can listen to the podcasts any time from the *Still Here* digital library on our website at www.tcfprovidence.com/still-here.

Moving forward, if you have any ideas regarding future topics and guests please feel free to contact

Elaine Arts at elainearts@icloud.com. We are truly excited to be offering this valuable program. Thank you for all of your kind support. See you soon!

—Bob Houghtaling


Still Here
The Compassionate Friends



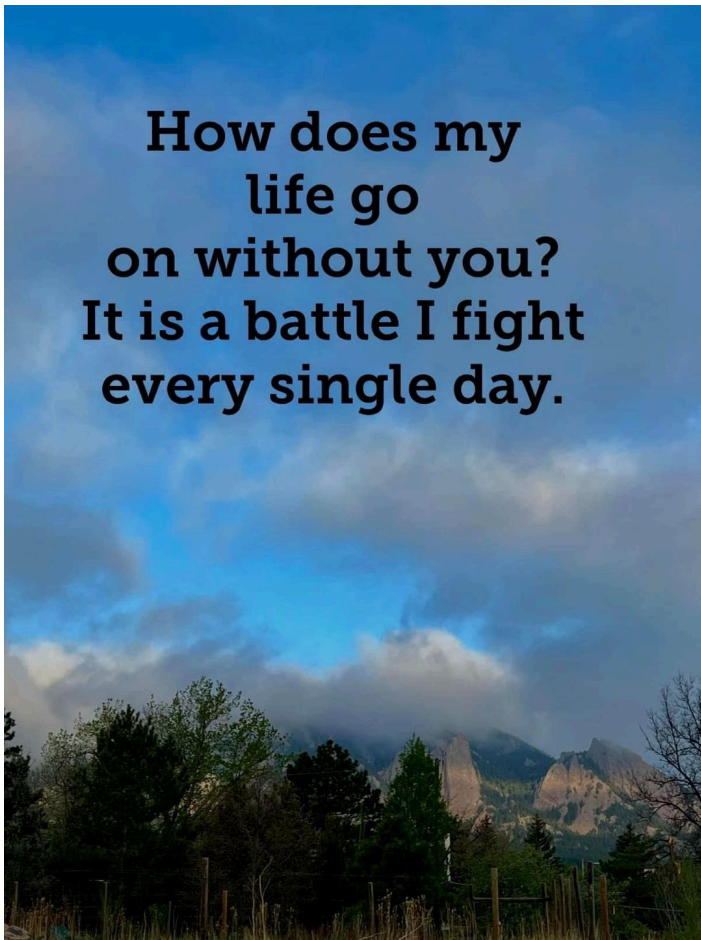
Save the Date for Our Annual Candle Lighting, December 10, 2023

Please join us Sunday, December 10, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Central Congregational Church at 296 Angell St, Providence, RI 02906. 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.

We also show a slide presentation with photos of all our children. If you would like to include your child's photo in the presentation, you must send it to tcfprovidence@hotmail.com (please limit to 3 photos). If your child has been part of the slide presentation in the past, those pictures will remain in the presentation. Thank you to Dawn Paoletta for putting together the slide show this year.

The deadline to submit your child's photos is November 15, 2023.

All questions can be directed to Russell Paone at rap396@aol.com. We look forward to seeing you December 10th for this special event.



LOVE 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

Kory Jeschke – We think of you every day. You are in our hearts forever. Love, Mom and Dad

Christopher Boone – So hard to believe life has gone on without you. Love, Mom and Dad

Jay Lawrence – Always remembered, Love, Dad and Mom

Jeffrey Stephen Shank – Forever in our hearts

Keeley Lynch – Thank you for being my daughter, Love, Mom

Servulo J. Gonsalves – Forever in my heart, Love, Mom

Nicole Meredith Reinert – We talk about you every day. We miss you always, Forever in our Hearts, Love, Mom and Dad

Gina Pontarelli – Love you forever, Mom and Dad

Marrina Yeomans – Always in our hearts and minds. We speak your name every day. Love, Mom, Dad and Family

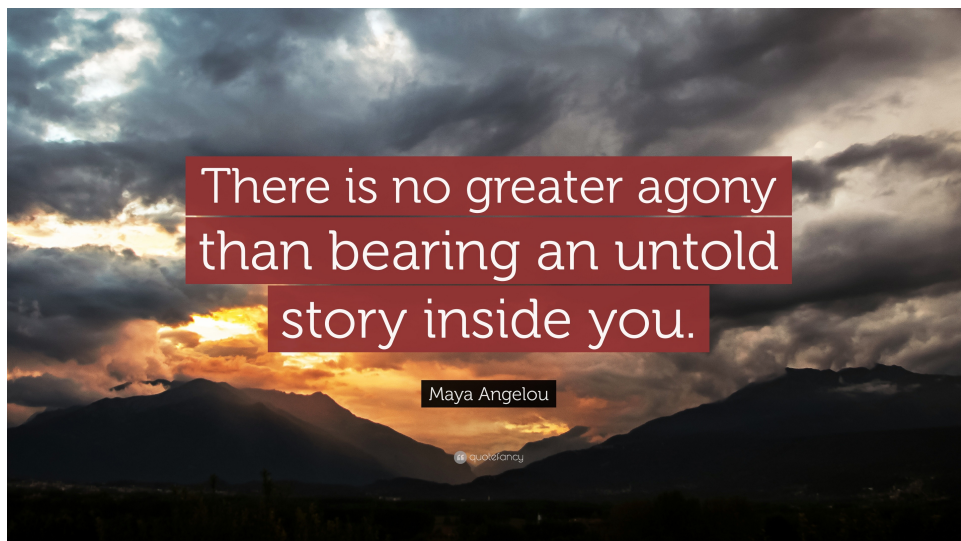
Matthew A. Viegas – August 10, 2023 Birthday Remembrance, Love, Mom

Nicholas Hendee – Love and miss you every day. Mom, Norm, and Sarah

Anthony Stephen Casale – Love of my life, Mom

Christian J. Salvatore – Always on our minds and forever in our hearts. Love, Mom, Dad, Jessica, and Jennifer Taylor

Thank You for your donations in memory of Our Children.



Love Gift Donation

For TCF Chapter Expenses



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

In Loving Memory Of _____

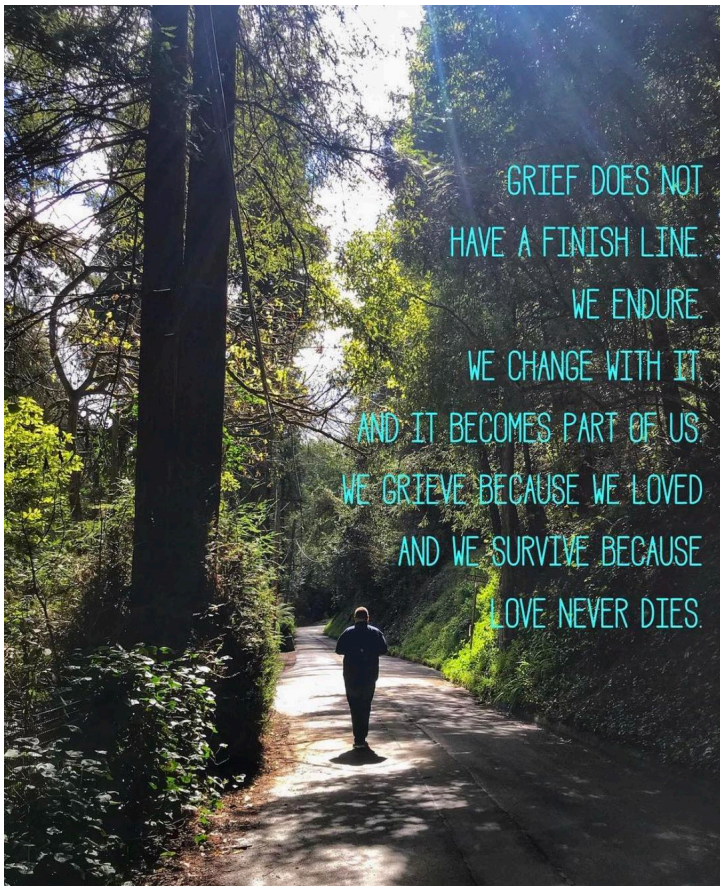
Love Gift \$ _____ Message _____

Your donation is tax-deductible and will be posted in our Newsletter.

Please make your check payable to: **TCF Providence Chapter.**

Please send donations to Chapter Treasurer: Kevin Sbardella
133 Fieldstone Lane
Fall River, MA 02720

cut here



Have you ever
had a
MEMORY
that sneaks
out of your
eye
and rolls
down
your cheek?...



www.facebook.com/MissingLovedOne



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

10 Dail Drive
North Providence, RI 02911
tcfprovidence.com



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. Please check the Meetings & Events page of our website tcfprovidence.com for notices of any changes to our meeting schedule. Please note: New members can arrive early, between 6:15 and 6:30.

- **September 11**
- **October 9**
- **November 13**
- **Sunday, Dec. 10 — Candle Lighting**

