



Katy, Texas
Chapter Newsletter
January 2018

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

Chapter Co-Leaders
Newsletter Editor
Treasurer

Bill & Debbie Mercer & Ghislaine Thomsen
Annette Mennen Baldwin
Terion Peloquin

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.

*** *January Meeting* ***

When: Tuesday, January 9, 2018

6:30 PM – Doors Open

*If this is your first meeting,
Please arrive by 6:30 pm*

7:00 PM—Meeting Begins

Where: **Kingsland Baptist Church**

20555 Kingsland Blvd,

Katy, TX 77450

John Burns Building, East side of church



Program: New Beginnings

Directions:

From East of Fry Road (coming from Houston): Go west on I-10 to Fry Road. Turn left (south) on Fry Road. Turn right (west) on Kingsland Blvd and travel 0.5 miles to Kingsland Baptist Church.

From West of Mason Road (coming from San Antonio): Go east on I-10 to Westgreen Blvd. Turn right (south) on Westgreen Blvd and travel 0.6 miles to Kingsland Blvd. Turn left (east) on Kingsland Blvd and travel 0.5 miles to Kingsland Baptist Church.



Welcome

We extend a warm welcome to all who attended their first meeting in December

We need not walk alone.

We are The Compassionate Friends. We reach out to each other with love, with understanding, and with hope. The children we mourn have died at all ages and from many different causes, but our love for them unites us. Your pain becomes my pain, just as your hope becomes my hope. We come together from all walks of life, from many different circumstances. We are a unique family because we represent many races, creeds, and relationships. We are young, and we are old. Some of us are far along in our grief, but others still feel a grief so fresh and so intensely painful that they feel helpless and see no hope. Some of us have found our faith to be a source of strength, while some of us are struggling to find answers. Some of us are angry, filled with guilt or in deep depression, while others radiate an inner peace. But whatever pain we bring to this gathering of The Compassionate Friends, it is pain we will share, just as we share with each other our love for the children who have died. We are all seeking and struggling to build a future for ourselves, but we are committed to building a future together. We reach out to each other in love to share the pain as well as the joy, share the anger as well as the peace, share the faith as well as the doubts, and help each other to grieve as well as to grow. We Need Not Walk Alone. We are the Compassionate Friends.

~ TCF Credo

The death of your child is probably the most traumatic, life-changing event that you will ever experience. The Compassionate Friends is an organization of parents who have also lost a child to death. Each of us has experienced the deep, searing pain that you are feeling now. Each of us has turned to other parents who were farther into their grief journey for guidance, support and understanding. This is done through our monthly meetings, our newsletter, our website, our phone-a-friend program, our library, our e-mail program and our referral program. Each month parents find our meeting to be a safe place where they can talk about their pain and problems with others who are uniquely qualified to understand; bereaved parents offer gentle suggestions or often simply listen. We invite you to bring a friend to your first few meetings until you feel a level of comfort with the group. Do not be surprised if we talk about the happy times with our children, the wonderful memories and the various methods we have created to keep our children close to us. It is here that many bereaved parents find hope as those who are more seasoned in their grief shine the light of experience to help illuminate each grief path. We have no dues. We are self-sustaining through donations and the generosity of so many in our community. You Need Not Walk Alone.

Our Children Remembered

Birthdays



January 1	Sean Kevin Mendoza, son of Mary Mendoza
January 5	Tyler Herbst, son of Steve & Kathy Herbst
January 6	Casey Aren Chesson, son of Phillip and Patty Chesson
January 7	Tyson Caley Nick, son of Karen Nick-Dobbs
January 9	Kyle James Snyder, son of Lori Snyder
January 9	Jared Matthew Sanchez, son of Joseph & Melinda Sanchez
January 11	Richard Edward Mayoski, son of Richard & Mechele Mayoski
January 12	Karen Reding, daughter of Laura & Henry Reding
January 13	Mark Moellendorf, son of Don Cagle
January 14	Ronald Howard McCall, son of Jeri McCall
January 14	Justin Richard Clinton, son of Robin Clinton
January 14	Tyler Ray Richard, son of Veronica Malhiot
January 16	Kerri Krieg, daughter of Sandra & Tom Krieg
January 16	William (Hunter) Huntington, son of David & Nada Wood
January 18	Judah Lyon Sanjur, son of Tiffany & Emiliano Sanjur
January 19	Jennifer Hollis, daughter of Scott and Betsie Hollis
January 20	Kaleb Yerasillov, son of Rose Salazar
January 24	Brittany LeeAnn Lewis, daughter of Lisa & Mike Atkinson
January 25	Anthony Joseph Leanard, son of Larry & Lisa Leanard
January 26	Garrett Davis Lawson, son of Beverly & Tom Lawson
January 28	Brandi Leigh Rushing, daughter of Tracy & Kim McCarty
January 30	Chrystophor Green, son of Rodney & Ryver Green
January 30	Johnny "Bryan" Hoover, Jr., son of Bonnie Guillot
January 31	Jason Kyle Reph, son of Kristin Kennedy
January 31	Carly Beaman Smith, daughter of Karen Smith

Anniversaries

January 2016	2 Years	Joseph Brandon Daniels, son of Ken & Malinda Fuchek
January 2016	2 Years	John Michael Moore, son of Jeff Moore & Sue Reichl
January 2015	3 Years	Christopher (Mikey) Michael Johnson, son of Chris & Kelly Johnson
January 2015	3 Years	Billy Bryant, Jr., son of Billy & Gloria Bryant
January 2015	3 Years	Christopher John Hudson, son of Michelle Marquart
January 2014	4 Years	Chelsey Lee Jones, daughter of Dennis & Deanna Jones
January 2013	5 Years	Jerad Matthew Whitten, son of Ethel McTigue
January 2013	5 Years	Tristan Luis Bartlett, son of Karen Lopez-Bartlett
January 2011	7 Years	Elliot Locke, son of Christina Bisha
January 2010	8 Years	Luis E. Molina, son of Dahlia Salinas-Molina
January 2010	8 Years	Christopher Wayne Smith, son of Pamela Smith
January 2009	9 Years	Dustin Christopher Krause, son of Susan & Tony Krause
January 2008	10 Years	Shannon Faye Hooker, daughter of Janis Hooker
January 2007	11 Years	Sarah Eileen Magri, daughter of Neal & Virginia Magri

Katy TCF Volunteers

Cards of Remembrance—Debbie Mercer

Welcome Cards to new members—Brenda Schmitt

Newsletter—Annette Mennen Baldwin amennenbaldwin@hotmail.com

E-mail to group—Annette Mennen Baldwin tcfkaty.messages@gmail.com

Publicity & E-Mail correspondence—Annette Mennen Baldwin

Picture Buttons—Annette Mennen Baldwin

Holiday & Craft Projects—Neela Sen

Welcome Packages—Sherrie Schurman

Library—Jan Bigbee Weesner

Web Site—Lee Schurman

Treasurer 2018—Terion Peloquin terion_p@yahoo.com

Snacks—Debbie Mercer

Facilities Coordinator: Melinda Ginter

Memorial Bench Maintenance—Need a volunteer

Group Facilitators - Lisa Leanard, Annette Mennen Baldwin, Jan Bigbee Weesner, Sherrie Schurman, Jo Wood, Viola Escareno, Sherry Contreras, Brenda Schmitt, Terion Peloquin, Debbie & Bill Mercer & Ghislaine Thomsen.

Chapter Leaders—Debbie & Bill Mercer and Ghislaine Thomsen

Join Our Chapter E-Mail List

Join our chapter e-mail list to receive timely notices, writings, articles, special information and more. This is an important communication tool throughout the month for our members.

To join, send an email to: tcfkaty.messages@gmail.com

National TCF Contact Information

TCF National Office
P.O. Box 3696
Oak Brook, IL 60522

Toll Free: (877) 969-0010
www.compassionatefriends.org

Mark Rambis
Regional Coordinators
Southern Texas



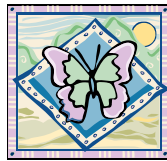
January Birthday Table

If your child's birthday is in December or January, please bring a picture or memento to our January meeting to share with the group. In April and December we ask that you bring your child's picture for the birthday table in the month preceding or following the actual event.



Special Small Group Meetings For Parents Whose Child Was Lost to Suicide

The Katy Chapter of TCF has a unique program for parents whose children died from suicide. All parents attend the opening of our meeting each month and then adjourn to their own private meeting for the remainder of the meeting. Death from suicide usually requires additional and unique group dynamics.



This program is offered only to parents who have lost children to suicide.

Tailored Small Group Meeting For Parents Whose Child Died From Addiction or Related Cause

By request we have established a group meeting for parents whose child died from addiction disorders, overdose or a cause of death related to the years of struggle with addiction.

You will still meet at the opening of our evening together with the entire group. Following opening remarks and special topical discussions, we will break into our small groups. If you would like to meet with this tailored group, you simply need to accompany the leader to the small group meeting room.

This is a unique group that was requested by our existing members. You are welcome to join this group and share your grief journey with others who have experienced a similar tragedy.



Printed in Loving Memory Of
Todd M. Mennen
1967-2002



January's Meeting: New Beginnings

New beginnings...new year...new opportunities. Each year we assess our lives on several levels. For bereaved parents, the choices made are defined by the length of our journey in this grief and by how far we've personally come on our own journey.

January is the perfect time to slow down, size up our progress and focus on achievable goals for our grief journey and all that goes into that journey.

What do we reasonably want to achieve this year? How can we achieve these goals? How do we measure our progress? What are the options that we want to use from the sizeable tool box we have at our disposal?

These and many other elements of our new beginnings will be discussed at the January meeting. Whether you have been on your grief journey for 5 weeks, 5 months, 5 years or 15 years, this is one meeting you should attend each year.

We hope to visit with each one of our members at the January meeting. This meeting helps to close the book on the holidays and open the book on a time of renewal and new beginnings.

The meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 9, 2018,, at the Kingsland Baptist Church in the John Burns Building on the east side of the church complex. Use the east side parking lot.



A New Year of Hope

The New Year's Resolution has faded in popularity, but it once meant an opportunity for a "clean slate" where we each could redefine ourselves: throwing out the bad, bringing in the good. We would strive to learn more, do more, reach out, reach in, shed bad habits, add good habits. Many people still practice this.....witness the upswing in health club memberships after the holiday season. The new year is the blank slate: tabula rasa.

As bereaved parents, we know there is no "blank slate." We know, also, that we travel slowly, hesitantly and with much care on our grief journey. The new year presents an opportunity to continue our search for that most ethereal longing: the need for hope. Hope for bereaved parents can be something as simple as a "normal" day. Hope could be an afternoon filled with productivity, grace and gratitude. Hope might be a feeling of a fog lifting, a soft light shining. Hope is a positive emotion that can give parents a refreshed perspective, a sense of optimism for this day and the next.

Finding hope in the midst of grief, while difficult, is certainly not impossible. Most of us who have been without our children for a period of four years or more know that hope, eventually, will find us if we are in the right place. The grief work we do, the seminars we attend, the counselors we call upon, the Compassionate Friends meetings we attend, the books and other readings we select, the entertainment choices we make: all equal the intentional reframing of our lives to find hope after our child has died. Through these activities we shape the person we will become. We are different now, you and I. We have suffered the most traumatic loss a human being ever faces: the death of our precious children. We must acknowledge the differences in ourselves. We must shape our lives around those differences. We must share our lives with gentle people now....maybe for a year or two, maybe until death takes us, too. But at least for now, gentleness lessens the percussive assault on our psyche.

Grief work, though hard work, is something we must do. We must structure our lives, our thoughts and our dreams as we each move along this uncharted pathway that is now our lives. Yes, we ache for our children. But our subconscious mind eventually accepts that we will take our children into the future in our minds, our hearts and souls. We define our new reality loosely because it changes with each sunrise. Like the caterpillar who labors to develop its wings and become a butterfly, we are constantly laboring to accept our new reality and make changes in our perspective while simultaneously coping with the tremendous pain of unchangeable loss. As we engage and embrace this process of acceptance and change, and do the hard work of reaching out for help, refining our lifestyles, speaking clearly and honestly of our feelings and what we can and cannot tolerate at each stage in our grief, we begin to develop strength. Like the butterfly whose wings develop after much labor, our new reality gradually becomes more natural to us. And just as the butterfly's fragile wings gently lift it from flower to flower, the seed of hope blossoms and grows in our hearts.

Annette Mennen Baldwin
In memory of my son, Todd Mennen
TCF, Katy, TX

The Smooth Transition

Periodically our chapter leadership changes, and at the January meeting you will meet our new team of chapter leaders. Selected by and from our Steering Committee, these new leaders have volunteered with your Katy Chapter of The Compassionate Friends and are ready to take on the leadership mantle. As always, the Steering Committee will continue to work behind the scenes to respond to the ever changing needs of our growing chapter. There is a sense of peace and gentle cooperation within the Steering Committee during this transition which energizes each of us. Please welcome our new leaders.

It's Not Goodbye

By Jo Wood

The time of our service as co-leaders of the TCF Katy chapter has come to an end. This realization came as both Jan and I have family members needing more of our committed time.

We have tried to lead with our hearts, with Annette's support -giving the needed structure, materials and skillful organization. The steering committee members have brought the energy and creativity needed to make our chapter strong. The steering committee is in the background setting up and then putting the meeting room back as it was, welcoming newcomers, sending notes, leading small groups, making sure there are snacks, visiting with the newly bereaved and communicating with our memberships throughout the month.

My husband and I started attending TCF in 1989, two months after Brian's death. We only stayed a few months. I then became active years later when Joyce Margarce wanted to start a Katy TCF chapter. We met after I wrote her a sympathy note when hearing about her daughter's death. She started attending TCF and met some people from Katy. She thought Katy would benefit from having a TCF meeting. She did the needed paperwork, found the place to meet, and we started with five people.

I participated actively for several years, and then helped out as needed as my work schedule increased and the chapter's needs multiplied. A few years ago the Steering Committee asked me to co-lead the chapter with Jan. It was a surprise to be asked to help in leadership again. Both Jan and I knew we couldn't lead on our own due to our commitments; however, we believed in the needed support for grieving parents as we begin and walk through this unwanted journey. So for around three years we've tried to stand beside you with the support of the steering committee members each serving however we could.

Jan and I have been blessed by knowing you, grieving and growing with you. You have been gifts in our journey. We will continue to come to meetings as often as we're able and remain on the steering committee.

Now three very committed and capable members have agreed to be the next leaders of our Katy TCF chapter. Welcome and support them as you have Jan and me.

Giving Back

By Ghislaine Thomsen

When my family and I joined The Compassionate Friends in September 2015, we were only 2 months into our grief journey, and like all bereaved families at this stage, we were totally lost, and in a state of shock.

I have attended every meeting since then, and I have received so much support from our chapter, from TCF National, and by attending the Annual TCF conference, that somehow, I have found the strength to push through and to live with my grief in a productive way. I really do not believe that I would be doing as well as I am, had it not been for The Compassionate Friends.

When I was asked to co-lead our chapter, I was truly honored and excited to be able to give back to bereaved families what our previous wonderful leaders, Jan Bigbee and Jo Wood, gave to me. My wish is that we will be able to continue to lead our chapter in the same gentle way as Jan and Jo did, and offer hope to all bereaved families.

I feel privileged to be in a leadership position at TCF. Jan and Jo are leaving some big shoes to fill, but we will do our best to serve all of you.

Wishing you Strength, Hope and Inner Peace in 2018!



Crossing a Threshold

By Jan Bigbee Weesner

Newly bereaved parents arrive at the doors of The Compassionate Friends' meetings with hearts that are heavy because of the unbearable losses of our beloved children. From many diverse sources, we have heard that TCF meetings are safe places where we can step away from a world of confusion into gatherings with other parents who understand us and offer much needed words filled with acceptance, comfort and support. When we commit ourselves to attending as many monthly meetings as we can, we soon discover that our new friends really listen to our words of unspeakable pain. We are not alone! They offer us our greatest need of all - the gift of HOPE.

I found all of the above and so much more when I attended my first Katy TCF chapter meeting only four months after the death of my son, Evan in 2008. That was almost a decade ago. I will never forget my first meeting when I walked through the door and was greeted by complete strangers who welcomed me with open hearts and whose eyes were filled with the quiet light of encouragement.

It has been an honor to serve as co-leader with Jo Wood these past 3 ½ years. Jo's compassionate, loving and gentle presence with our bereaved parents during her many years of commitment is steadfast and she will continue to be involved in our chapter. Also, our dedicated Steering Committee with whom we have served during our time of leadership is filled with often unseen angels who work together as a team to create the safe haven that all of us need to reach out to one another in our times of need. Lastly, Jo and I owe a debt of gratitude to Annette Mennen Baldwin who has been by our sides these past almost four years doing so much more than creating one of the finest monthly newsletters in TCF.

Jo and I plan to continue to walk this journey of hope with you for years to come and be of service in any capacity that we are needed. I am very excited about the new leadership team of Bill and Debbie Mercer and Ghislaine Thomsen. They bring a beautiful new energy and ideas that will strengthen our chapter. The transition and new beginnings have already begun! May all of our Katy TCF bereaved parents continue to receive blessing upon blessing as the years unfold. We need not walk alone. We are The Compassionate Friends.



New Beginnings 2018

By Bill & Debbie Mercer

It is the beginning of a new year, and Debbie and I are excited to start this next phase of our grief journey. Thanks to Jo and Jan for their leadership these last few years. Also, special thanks to the Steering Committee for asking us to co-lead the Katy Chapter starting this month.

We are excited to be able to give back, because we believe that helping is healing. However, when we realized the scope of what was being asked of us we were overwhelmed.

Our journey started 3 years ago last month and had us looking at several chapters of The Compassionate Friends. When we arrived at Katy TCF 2 months after Dustin passed away, we knew we found a place where we could make sense of everything. In addition, attending The Compassionate Friends National Conferences the last 3 years, have also really opened our eyes to what may be possible.

Without both the chapter meetings and national conferences, we are not sure where we would be now. We have come to realize that there is a progression in all of our grief journeys that is not bound by time limits, but more about how we deal with our grief in our own way.

We welcome this opportunity to serve our Katy Chapter.

The New Year: A Time of Hope

Another New Year has slipped into our lives, radically changing some things and leaving other things to evolve naturally. For bereaved parents a new year marks another year on the calendar without their precious children. It is a new year, but not much has changed since the old year. Why is that?

We act as the catalysts of change for ourselves. We choose to help our selves; we choose to stay in a specific place in our grief. We choose to reach out for hope or we choose to withdraw into the familiar and postpone facing life and hope another day. There are no set rules or specific timetables in bereavement. We are each unique in our grief.

Eventually we all find hope. We find it in different ways and in different times. There will be no one moment of epiphany for bereaved parents. Instead, there are a series of minutes, hours, weeks, months and often years until we realize that we can truly say we feel the power of hope coming alive from deep within us. This moment will come for each of us. It will come in its own time and its own way.

Even those of us who have found hope and who shine its light on the paths of newly bereaved parents, still occasionally regress and withdraw into the dark sadness of our loss. And that is as it should be. For we have lost the most precious gift of our lives...our children's presence with us and their future in this life. Our children live in our hearts and our memories and our dreams. They do not share this plane with us. It is normal and it is good to think of our children often and to shed some tears for all that has been lost. These aren't setbacks as much as sweet memories that bring cathartic tears.

The element we find in these memories is a closeness to our child and our child's life. This, too, is healthy. An often-expressed fear is that our children will be forgotten. Worry not, gentle parent, your child will be remembered for all of your days and for many days thereafter. You will never forget your child. Others who knew your child will never forget. The proof of this is in our memories....sweet memories that take us back to another time when our child was with us.

So this New Year's, whether you are a few months, a few years or many years in your grief, think about hope. You have not forsaken your child when you reach for hope. Your hope brings your child back in a positive way that will warm your heart. Reach for that hope. As you move forward in your grief in the New Year, reach for hope. Your child will still be with you. And one day you will find that your child's presence is sweeter when hope is within you.

Annette Mennen Baldwin
In memory of my son, Todd Mennen
TCF, Katy, TX



A CHRISTMAS PRAYER FOR ROBIN

It has been over 11 years since the demise of our beloved son, Robin, and we still feel the utter devastating sting of our loss. I still weep on occasion because it hurts to the core of my being that I will never again gaze into those liquid dark eyes in this life! Robin was such a handsome young man despite that huge wheelchair in which he glided around almost soundlessly, slipping up on people. He was so happy, debonair, cool and unpretentious with that deprecating laugh of his.

Everybody at Memorial Parkway Junior School, Taylor High and later the University of Houston found his joie-de-vivre irresistible: few can forget the spontaneity of the laughter and merriment he brought to any event he participated in. How much we miss the person who was truly "the life of the party" and we are indeed impoverished by his absence from our house.

When Robin was but 18 months old, he and I took a trip back to India to visit my family and my husband's family. This was Robin's first experience with large groups of people and initially it was overwhelming for the little guy. But then his cousin, Samir, who was five years old, took such delight in spending time with Robin that our toddler soon began to socialize with the other children and then with the adults. Robin's laughter was a rich, deep throated chortle which grew in intensity until your heart just melted and you could not help but smile.

There were little hiccups along the way, such as the big squeezing hug from a grandmother which frightened Robin terribly. But as the days moved forward and the balance of the extended family arrived, Robin became rather fond of this ritual of meeting and greeting new people and laughing robustly whenever someone did or said something that touched his sense of humor. I have a number of photographs of Robin laughing and smiling in the arms of family members and extended family members. Robin's first trip abroad is such a beautiful memory.

Robin blossomed after that trip; he welcomed new people and places and new experiences. He was quick with laughter, even self-effacing laughter as he became confined to a wheel chair. Robin wanted others to be at ease with him. Possibly because of his illness, Robin wanted to grab every bit of positive energy for himself and for others for as long as he was on this earth.

While it is true that Rob has departed this earth and that we miss him every day, we also know that he doesn't have to endure the physical pain that once enveloped him. Our fears about his life after we died were removed when the life force left Robin's body. He lived for 25 years and beyond life expectancy with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. He triumphed over adversity and proved what courage he had in that he lived and loved and laughed throughout the majority of those few years. No one can take those things away from him and his teachers at Taylor, like Mary Ann Morrison and Jo Wood will always remember Robin with great affection for his scholastic ability and his sweet laughter and joy. He graduated through Katy Independent School District's Distinguished Graduation Program, as a Commended National merit Scholar. We think of him with pride and tremendous satisfaction. Our prayer for Robin is that God's blessings continue to bring joy to his heart, a smile to his face, and laughter to his world. One day we, too, will share in that sweet laughter once again, as that was the essence of our precious Robin.

Neela Sen
In memory of my son, Robin Kumar Sen
TCF, Katy, TX

In Memory of our Beloved Children

Memorials Given by:

In Loving Memory of:

Ghislaine & Henrik Thomsen	Andrea Thomsen
Debbie & Bill Mercer	Dustin Mercer
Tim & Cindy McDonald	Mark McDonald
Gene & Barb Caligari	Brendon Caligari
Mary Cook	Kasey Kamischke
Rhonda Salveski	Matthew Salcevski
Brenda Schmidt	Matthew Schmidt

Thank you for your donation to The Compassionate Friends, Katy, TX Chapter

Our chapter is operated entirely by volunteers dedicated to furthering the work of TCF. Your voluntary, tax deductible donations honor your loved one in a meaningful way by enabling us to print and mail this Newsletter and meet other expenses involved in reaching out to other grieving families. Donations along with the name of the person being honored may be sent to:

Perion Teloquin
P.O. Box 366
Katy, TX 77492

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS FOR BEREAVED PARENTS

IResolve:

That I will grieve as much and for as long as I feel like grieving, and that I will not let others put a time table on my grief.

That I will grieve in whatever way I feel like grieving, and I will ignore those who try to tell me what I should or should not be feeling and how I should or should not be behaving.

That I will cry whenever and wherever I feel like crying, and that I will not hold back my tears just because someone else feels I should be "brave" or "getting better" or "healing by now."

I will keep the truth in my heart--the truth that my child is always with me in spirit.

That I will try to eat, sleep, and exercise every day in order to give my body strength it will need to help me cope with my grief.

To remind myself that the grief process is circuitous--that is, I will not make steady upward progress. And when I find myself slipping back into the old moods of despair and depression, I will tell myself that "slipping backward" is also a normal part of the mourning process, and that these moods, too, will pass.



~From the Brooksville/Spring Hill FL TCF Newsletter

Welcome Our New Chapter Leaders

Our new Katy Chapter Leaders will be taking over the leadership role on January 1. Please welcome Bill & Debbie Mercer and Ghislaine Thomsen. They have introduced themselves in a special page devoted to our TCF Chapter's transition in leadership on page 4 of this newsletter.



Chapter Leaders' Contact Information

Ghislaine Thomsen, Andrea's mom
713-557-6637
Thomsen.tcfkaty@gmail.com

Bill and Debbie Mercer, Dustin's parents.
Bill Mercer 979-709-7438
Debbie Mercer 979-709-2557
billdebbiemercertcf@gmail.com

Another Year

Old year has gone away with gifts and candle-
Old year has gone away with thought and song.

Old year has given light and dark and season.
Old year has been too short and been too long.

Old year has given joy and disappointment
Old year has given grief and strength to cope.
Old year was memory and was forgetting-
Another year is come:
give it your hope.

Sascha Wagner

From the Poems of Sascha Wagner

Loving Listeners

TCF Katy has established a phone-a-friend list for parents who want to talk with someone who shares a similar loss. If you would like to volunteer to be a phone-a-friend, please contact Annette Baldwin.

- Accidental Death of Child Living at Home* Jo (281) 795-3235
- Loss of an Adult Child*.....Annette (281) 578-9118
- Only Child*.....Annette (281) 578-9118
- Murdered Child*..... Robin (281) 851-5425
- Neonatal Loss*.....HAND (832) 752-1919
- Death of a child from Addiction or Related Cause*....Jan (979) 830 3442
- Death of Teenage Child*..... Brenda (281) 804-7087
Jo (281) 795-3235
- Accidental Death of Adult Child*.....Annette (281) 578-9118
- Death from long term illness*.....Karen (832) 746-0279
- Support for Fathers*.....Albert (832) 885-4741
- Special Needs Child*..... Neela (713) 870-7296
- Suicide* Sherrie (281) 579-7741



Topic: New Beginnings

Tuesday, January 9, 2018
Meeting in Burns Building
Kingsland Baptist Church



January Meeting:

The Compassionate Friends
Katy Chapter
136 Cannon Street
Clute, TX 77531

