

THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

MAILING ADDRESS: P. O. Box 8283 • Hermitage, TN 37076 • (615) 356-4TCF(4823)

Nashville Website: www.tcfnashville.com



Chapter Leaders: Robin Hunt (615) 319-2090 rmhunt4651@att.net and Ron Henson (615) 789-3613 packerron10@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Melanie Bell, (615) 513-5913, email: melaniebell2210@gmail.com

Treasurer: Ed Pyle, (615) 712-3245, email: edpyletaxlaw@gmail.com

Regional Coordinators: Polly Moore, (931) 962-0458, email: lolly39@aol.com and Dana Gall (931) 581-7090

The mission of The Compassionate Friends is to assist families toward the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child of any age and to provide information to help others be supportive.

*Welcome: The Nashville chapter meets at 3:00 P.M. on the second Sunday of each month at the ABC (Associated Builders and Contractors of Greater Tennessee) Building, 560 Royal Parkway, Nashville, TN 37214 (**SEE MAILING ADDRESS ABOVE**). We truly regret that we have no accommodations for young children, but teenagers and older siblings are welcome to attend.*

August 9th Meeting Program:

Hope and Wisdom

Kim Harmon will speak at our August 9th meeting. She is a bereaved sibling and author of the book *Fall Forward*, a story about her family's tragic loss of her brother and the events that followed. Kim will share her personal experience as well as offer words of hope and wisdom about self-care after being kicked in the gut with the worst of life.

Join us for Kim's program and for our regular sharing groups that will follow.



Phone Friends

We have all experienced the pain of losing a child. We understand and would like to listen. If you can't reach one of us, feel free to call another person on this list.

Accidental Death	Mike and Paula Childers
	615-294-4959
Infant	Jayne Head
	615-264-8184
SIDS	Kris Thompson
	931-486-9088
Suicide	Ron Henson
	615-789-3613
Alcohol/Drug Overdose	Ed Pyle
	615-712-3245

Attending your first TCF meeting can be difficult. Feelings can be overwhelming. We have all experienced them and know how important it is to take that first step. Please attend two or three meetings before deciding if TCF is right for you. There are no dues or fees. If you choose, you need not speak a word at a meeting. We are an international, non-denominational group, offering support and information to bereaved parents, siblings, and grandparents.

We need not walk alone.

ALWAYS WITH LOVE, WE REMEMBER THEM--**In the month of their births**

Kahlani Sage Brown-Cotton August 31 Daughter of Brionna Brown and Devon Cotton	Nancy Louise Copeland August 31 Daughter of Tom and Jenny Copeland	Jamison Michael Duncan (Jamie) August 27 Son of Mike and Kay Duncan Brother of Jon	Jared Ensley August 23 Grandson of V.G and Karen Banta Son of Tim and Ann Banta
Mark Bwayne French August 2 Son of Jennie Reeves	Morgan Priscilla Graves August 9 Daughter of Ginger Graves	Benjamin David Hardesty August 20 Son of Theresa Hardesty Heimer	Valerie Marie Magnan August 26 Daughter of Sheila Howarth
Harrison Jones August 18 Son of Dana Jones	Wade Hampton Morgan August 5 Son of David and Barbara Morgan	Brittany Marie Hardesty August 13 Daughter of Theresa Hardesty Heimer	Marissa Montecalvo August 31 Daughter of Kim Montecalvo
Selena Renee Potts August 12 Daughter of Timothy Potts and Nicole Wentzel-Potts	Jacob Federman Smiley August 24 Son of Troy and Susan Smiley Brother of Rachel	Jeremy Russell Powers August 4 Son of Phillip and Linda King	Blake Thomas Steen August 29 Son of Jennifer Anderson

For Brothers and Sisters:***A Brother Means So Much***

*The gift of a brother
Is a precious treasure.
It is the love, tears, and
Joys of a friendship that
Has unbreakable bonds.*

*The beauty of a brother
Cannot be described,
Measured or defined.
For it is a wonderful legacy
That will always be carried
In a sister's heart.*

Jill Hricik
TCF, Pittsburg, PA

On Your Birthday

*I wrote this date this morning,
Paused,
And felt the room grow cold.
It always does
When I remember
All of it –
Down to the last petal
Tossed by winds
Above the upturned earth
This time the chill
Does not leave
So easily
It would have been your birthday.
Soon, I shall be
As old as you will ever be.*

Wanda M. Trawick
TCF, Acme, PA

And in the month of their deaths, we remember them-

Alex Stephen Cook

August 13

Son of

Jean Cook

Preston Chauncey

Birdsong

August 13

Son of

Preston and Janice Birdsong

Nancy Louise Copeland

August 28

Daughter of

Tom and Jenny Copeland

**Laura Abigail Czirr
(Abby)**

August 10

Daughter of

Steve and Paige Czirr

Granddaughter of

Robert and Cynthia

Daugherty,

John and JoAnn Czirr



Mark Joseph Dinkel

August 10

Son of

Richard and Kathleen

Dinkel

Brother of Amy

Gary Lee Durichek

August 6

Son of

Jimmy and Barbara

Hayes

Marvin Lee Edwards

August 3

Son of

Charles and Ruth Edwards

James Austin Garcia

(Austin)

August 5

Son of

Danny and Sherri Garcia

Max Hillman Harris

August 1

Son of

Becky Harris

Brother of

Will Harris

Benjamin Bedell Koomen

(Ben)

August 9

Son of

John and Betsy

Koomen

Brooke Jasmine Murphy

August 13

Daughter of

Elaine Murphy

Lauren O'Donnell

August 17

Daughter of

Denny and Shirley

O'Donnell

Sister of

Sean and Katie

Lauren Kristina O'Saile

August 28

Daughter of

Don Davenport

Granddaughter of

Martha Davenport

Michael Stanley Overcash

August 19

Son of

Mike and Jean Overcash

Brother of

Kim and Steve

Lindsay Smith-Thistle

August 29

Daughter of

Wendy Smith and

Greg Thistle

Evan Barrett Williamson

August 13

Son of

Beverly Williamson

Camdyn Elijah Woods

August 11

Son of

Steven and Alicia Frankenfield

Brother of

Brooklyn and Daxtyn



Sometimes the light goes out

but is blown again into flame by an encounter with another human being.

Each of us owes the deepest thanks to those who have rekindled this inner light.

Albert Schweitzer

GIFTS OF LOVE AND REMEMBRANCE

We are deeply grateful for the voluntary gifts of love that make it possible for The Compassionate Friends to offer comfort to those families who do not know today that they will need us tomorrow.

***Don and Sherry Eakes
in Loving Memory of their grandson,
Taylor Christian Brewer,
Son of Justin and Tracy Brewer***

***Mike and Jean Overcash
in Loving Memory of their son,
Michael Stanley Overcash,
brother of Kim Stanford***

***The following Individuals have made
Donations in Loving Memory of
Peggy Gibson:***

***Mike & Melanie Bell
Lamar & Joy Bradley
Laurie Laughlin
Judy Moser***

***The following Individuals have made
Donations in Loving Memory of
David and Peggy Gibson:***

***Pat Moore
Sigrid & Mark Owyang***

***Thanks to you, Kroger Shoppers,
we received a gift of \$86.59
from the Kroger Plus Community Rewards Program***

***Each month, Price Printing, 615.360.3339, donates the printing of this newsletter as a gift to the families of TCF.
Deanna Brown and her family assemble, label, sort, and mail the newsletter in loving memory of
her son, Marcus Dean Brown. We appreciate so much these people and their generosity to all of us.***

Any Child's Death Diminishes Me

What difference does it make whether a child is stillborn or dies after some years of life?

A woman spoke of the lack of memories because her child was stillborn. A man commented on the deep pain brought by those very memories which remind one of what is lost!

When it comes to a child's death, does the type of death matter? Is a murder worse than an accident? Suicide worse than chronic illness? Teenage worse than the older adults? Stillborn worse than teenage?

I've tried to be thankful that Jeanie wasn't murdered. That she did not commit suicide. That she and those dear boys did not linger, comatose. Or die from prolonged illness. I could not find thankfulness though I have sought diligently for it within my deepest being!

The death of a child, whatever the age or circumstances, brings its own guilt and anger. Its own despair and questioning. Any child's death diminishes the parents who loved that child. And, for those bereaved parents, that death is surely the worst. Their grief the most severe!

Robert F. Gloor
TCF, Tuscaloosa, AL

In Loving Memory of TCF Nashville Co-Founder, Peggy Gibson

August 2, 1934 – June 10, 2026



Peggy Gibson, 91, of Nashville, Tennessee, passed away on Wednesday, June 10, 2026.

A native of Winchester, Kentucky, Mrs. Gibson moved to Jackson, Tennessee in 1945, where she lived until she graduated from Union University in 1956. In Nashville she was employed by the Baptist Sunday School Board (now Lifeway Christian Resources), where she met her husband, John David Gibson. In 1961, she resigned to raise their three daughters. In 1987 she and her husband co-founded the Nashville Chapter of The Compassionate Friends, a support organization for families who have suffered the death of a child. She was active in the local chapter and presented leadership and parent workshops on the national level.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 67 years, John David Gibson; parents Warren Francis Jones, Margaret Scott Jones, and Stepmother Dixie Martin Marcum Jones; sisters Betty Jones Pearce (Robert) and Jane Marcum Matthews (Jim); brother William M. Jones (Elizabeth); daughter Laura Paige Gibson; and her niece Wanda Strawbridge Perry.

She is survived by her daughters Sandra Claire Gibson and Cynthia Kay Howard (Richard); grandchildren Rachel Paige, Emilee Elizabeth and Samuel Forrest Howard; brother Warren Francis Jones (Donna); Sister-in-law Sarah Gibson Strawbridge (Joe); nephew David Strawbridge; Grandniece Ella Weiss Keely (Adrian) and other numerous nieces and nephews.

Donations in her memory may be made to The Compassionate Friends, P.O. Box 8283, Hermitage, TN 37076.

Loving tributes:

Peggy and David Gibson were the founders of the Nashville chapter of The Compassionate Friends 49 years ago. On April 12, 2026 David passed away. Less than two months later on June 10 Peggy passed away. The last chapter meeting they attended was April 2025. During that meeting I asked Peggy if the chapter was her baby. Her response was, "Yes."

At one of our Candlelight Memorial Services at the old ABC building on Elm Hill Pike, Peggy asked me, "Ron, who is that couple up there?" The couple was about ten rows in front of us. I said, "I don't know." Peggy told me, "Go and find out." She wanted to know everyone attending a meeting including the December Candlelight service. I was reluctant to go. I'm to ask total strangers, "Who are you? Because Peggy wants to know." You don't tell Peggy, "No." So, I went towards the strangers. Fortunately for me, as I was halfway to them, I recognized them. What a relief! I gladly returned to Peggy to let her know the names of the couple.

Rest in peace Peggy and David. We miss you both.

Ron Henson
TCF, Nashville, TN

Our first TCF meeting was barely 2 months after our son Michael died in April 1989. David and Peggy were the chapter leaders. They greeted us like we were old friends. Peggy intentionally listened to our story as we poured out our hearts, always looking at our faces with her kind eyes and warm smile. Peggy and David served the Nashville chapter in every capacity, teaching us how to listen and to support grieving families. Thank you, Peggy, for your leadership, friendship and encouragement. I will miss you.

Robin Hunt
TCF, Nashville, TN

When we attended our first TCF meeting in July 1992, David and Peggy were Chapter Leaders and one of them probably met us at the door for that meeting. That was the beginning of a lifelong friendship. Peggy was always kind and encouraging and shed light on our path when we were in the darkness of grief. What a blessing to have known and loved David and Peggy Gibson! I have never met any individuals who were so dedicated to the cause of helping bereaved parents as they were. Prayers for Kay and Claire as they grieve the loss of their wonderful parents.

Joy and Lamar Bradley
TCF, Nashville TN

She Picked Daisies

One day in the summer of 1984, I was sitting in the den with my husband, David, and our oldest daughter, Paige. We were chatting about nothing in particular when David made an interesting suggestion. "I know what let's do," he said. "Let's plan our funerals." Since he loved poetry, his first request was for "Thanatopsis" to be read at his own funeral. Before I could even think about my own wishes, Paige spoke up with her own—and they were very clear. She had a warm bond with her father—knowing he liked the poems of Robert Frost, and she asked that Frost's poem, "Nothing Gold Can Stay," be read. We feel this was intuitive on her part, for that poem deals with the death of youth. She also said that daisies were her favorite flower and asked that they be used on her casket.

Three months later, in November, Paige came home for the weekend from Memphis where she was doing her graduate studies in social work. Early Sunday morning she lost consciousness following a nightlong headache. Emergency surgery revealed a highly malignant brain tumor, and six months later she died from complications of chemotherapy. At her funeral, her requested poem was read. Without knowing about our conversation, many people sent arrangements of daisies. Her church sent a lovely white Bible opened to the 23rd Psalm, surrounded by masses of white daisies, and of course, her casket was covered with a blanket of them. On either side of her gravestone, there are bouquets of silk daisies at all times.

As the months go by, we add various other flowers to signify the season—mums in the autumn, pink poinsettias at Christmas time, jonquils in the spring. On each of her special days, her birthday and death anniversary, as well as holidays—vases of fresh daisies are also placed there. At home, I keep fresh daisies on our breakfast table, sometimes a bunch, sometimes only one in a bud vase. In 1993 one of our younger daughters was married. As she and her dad came down the aisle, they paused beside a lovely arrangement of daisies to light a special candle in memory of Paige. Paige spent her life "picking more daisies"—she filled her years with usefulness and unselfishness, but, sadly, it's true: "Nothing gold can stay." We've moved away from those first years of dreadful grief; our lives have not stood still; however, as long as I'm able, I'll pick daisies in huge handfuls - and our Paige will always be close by.



Peggy Gibson
TCF, Nashville, TN

From the editor:

My Friend and Mentor: Peggy Gibson TCF Nashville Newsletter Editor 1987-2008

As I sit and compose the TCF Nashville newsletter each month, I hear voices. I hear the voices of grieving parents at our monthly meetings and echoes of my own experience of grief for two stepsons and a husband. But I hear another very special voice guiding me. She whispers her compassion, her own beautiful expressions of grief for her daughter. And I hear her dedication and high standards for composing a balanced and caring newsletter as she gently demands that I produce a newsletter as perfect as possible. As I compose each edition, I hear her gently saying, "Mel, what about moving this around?" and "Mel, I only found a few errors. Here's the list!" She taught me so much as she fostered in me the confidence to do the job. I relied on her as her eyes and mind remained sharp long after her body began to wear down.

I felt sad but filled with her love after my last visit to her bedside just 24 hours before she passed away. My last glance of her as she flashed that beautiful smile that twinkled in her eyes lives in my heart. Her name is Peggy Gibson, and I miss her.

Melanie Bell
TCF, Nashville, TN

*To have been loved so deeply,
even though the person who loved us is gone,
will give us some protection forever.*

J.K. Rowling

CHAPTER INFORMATION

Are you Moving?

Each time a newsletter is returned to us with an incorrect address, we pay to retrieve it in order to find out where you've moved; then we pay again to mail it back to you. This is in addition to the original bulk mail cost. It would help a great deal in both time and money if you would notify us immediately of any address change so your newsletter can reach you right away. You may call, write or email the chapter leaders or the newsletter editor. Thanks for your help.

The “Children Remembered” Listings

If you are unable to attend TCF meetings and would like for your child to be listed on pages 2 and 3 in The Children Remembered list, please let us know, printing the exact way you'd like the child's name to appear, the child's birth and death dates, and the parents' names as they should be listed. Drop us a note at TCF, P.O. Box 8283, Hermitage, TN 37076. We'll be glad to include them. You need to contact us only once, unless any of your information changes.

Corporate Donations to TCF

To benefit TCF, go to the Kroger website and click on “Community Rewards”; then follow the instructions on that page and designate The Compassionate Friends Nashville Chapter. After that, when you shop at Kroger, swipe your Plus Card or key in your phone number when you check out, and Kroger will donate dollars to our chapter.

How You Can Help

Most people who attend TCF meetings never heard of TCF before they lost a child, and many bereaved parents still have not heard that there is an organization that exists to help them navigate their grief journey. If you know a family in the middle Tennessee area who has experienced the death of a child, regardless of age or cause of death, and you think they would benefit from finding out about TCF and possibly attending a TCF meeting, we will be happy to send you some information that you may share with them about what TCF is and what we do to support bereaved parents. If you have attended a TCF meeting, it might be helpful if you would invite them to attend their first TCF meeting with you. We also have a monthly newsletter that they can receive free of charge simply by asking for it.



BEREAVEMENT RESOURCES

Alive Alone

Alive Alone is an organization to benefit parents whose only child or all children have died. Visit their website at www.alivealone.org.

Alive Hospice Support Group for Bereaved Parents

For general information about grief support services and groups at Alive, please call the Grief Line at: 615-963-4732 or email griefsupport@alivehospice.org. They offer eight-week groups, ongoing monthly groups, family groups and Little Hearts Club for children who have experienced the death of a sibling. Services are in Franklin, Nashville, Hendersonville, Lebanon, and Murfreesboro.

Sharing

SHARING is a community organization for parents who have experienced a miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of an infant. The website is sharingmiddletn.org.

Survivors of Suicide

There is a caring SOS group in Nashville. For information about meetings, you may call (615) 244-7444, or go to the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network at TSPN.org, and you will find a list of all Tennessee SOS locations.

TCF Website —A Treasure for You

When you log onto the TCF Website at www.compassionatefriends.org you will find a wealth of information about TCF and grief—poetry and articles, chat rooms, grief in the news, other chapter Web sites and numerous other resources.

The Compassionate Friends

P. O. BOX 8283
Hermitage, TN
37076

Return Service
Requested



August 2026

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Nashville, TN
Permit No. 593

The Living Shrine

*A shrine there is
 within our house
A shrine created
 with my spouse
A shrine to call
 the thoughts so dear
Of our child
 no longer here.*

*A shrine not of
 the morbid climes
But rather one
 of happy times
Of days gone by
 when in our mid
We shared in life
 this wondrous kid.*

*This shrine is not
 of wood and stone
For it is housed
 in flesh and bone.*

*It does not have
 an altar place
Nor will you find
 a display case.*

*Contained there is
 that memory
Of thoughts we hold
 in reverie
A shrine of deeds
 we hold in pride
When our newborn
 was by our side.*

*No others see
 our thoughts of gold
About our child
 who now lies cold
But we shall keep
 within our mind
This honored place
 Our living shrine.*

Guy Rall
TCF, Houston/West, TN