



The Compassionate Friends

Honolulu Chapter

Supporting Family After a Child Dies

VOLUME 35, ISSUE 1

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2025 (FOURTH QUARTER)

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Kaniaupio

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Fundraising Coordinator: Karen Cho

Website: www.compassionatefriendshawaii.org

Facilitator (Sibling): Jennifer Wall

Apprentice Helper: Ethan Won

Grandmother – Infant Loss: Pearl Stewart

HONOLULU CHAPTER

When Words Become Gifts

On Thanksgiving Day, 1994, two of my three young adult sons, Erik and David, were killed in a freak car accident. Years after the accident, my husband and I were at David's college alma mater for a holiday event. I was in the dessert line when a woman came up to me and said, "I saw your name tag—are you David Aasen's mom?" After doing a double take (it had been some time since I had been asked what used to be a rather common question), I replied with much appreciation, "Yes, I am!" With those three, almost magical, words this person gave me five gifts.

Her first gift was saying David's name. Instead of just thinking to herself, Hmmm, I bet that's David Aasen's mom but I better not say anything, she said something. Her second gift was sharing a story with me about how her daughter, a classmate of David's, still treasures the friendship she and David shared. Acknowledging that I'm still a mom was her all-important third gift. While my sons' deaths have resulted in my becoming a bereaved mother, death cannot take away the fact that I am, and always will be, Erik and David's mom.

The fourth gift was permission to share a bit of my grief journey with her. Since their deaths, I explained, there haven't been any truly easy, carefree, feeling-on-top-of-the-world days, but taking each day as it comes has been the most "doable" way for me to go on. Her questions and manner did not make me feel obligated to cover up my grief and was the fifth gift. I felt valued for my honesty and my integrity remained intact.

The warmth of those five gifts has lingered on in my heart and has comforted me. As I reflect on the experience, I marvel at how just a few simple words had such an impact. I have come to the conclusion that most bereaved parents want nothing more than the opportunity to talk comfortably with others about their children. Just being able to share stories about our sons and daughters in a safe place, along with the permission to mourn in our own way and for as long as we need to, even for a lifetime, is what matters most to us.

The real treasure comes when others introduce our children's names and stories into an everyday conversation. Knowing our sons and daughters are remembered and live on in the hearts and lives of others is a measure of the meaningful legacy that our sons and daughters have left to us and to the world.

Nita Aasen

In memory of my sons, Erik and David Aasen

St. Peter, Minnesota

Two Monthly Meetings

Hybrid: In Person and Zoom

Meeting time: First Saturday of every month 10:00 – 11:30 am

Meeting Place: Kaneohe Bay Plaza

Address: 45-955 Kamehameha Hwy,
Room 401

City: Kaneohe, HI 96744

Parking: First entrance up ramp is
public parking

Virtual Zoom Meeting

Meeting time: Third Tuesday of every month 6:30 – 8:00 pm

See the Announcements

Upcoming Events

Honolulu Chapter's Candle Lighting Ceremony

Date: December 14, 2025

Time: 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Place: Windward Community
College

TCF HI Regional Grief Conference 2026

Date: March 19-20, 2026

Place: Ala Moana Hotel Honolulu

Register at:

<https://compassionatefriendshawaii.org/events>

See the Announcements

Regional Office

Regional Coordinator: David Kaniaupio

Phone Number: (808)222-6556

Email: hontcf@gmail.com

National Office

The Compassionate Friends

PO Box 46; Wheaton, IL 60187

(877) 969-0010

Email:

nationaloffice@compassionatefriends.org

Website: www.compassionatefriends.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Monthly Meetings Update ~ Our in-person meetings are held on the first Saturday of the month, 10:00-11:30am, at The Kaneohe Bay Plaza, Room 401, 45-955 Kamehameha Hwy, Kaneohe, HI 96744. The Saturday meetings are Hybrid, meaning we are also conducting the meetings virtually via Zoom. Our Tuesday evening meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month, 6:30-8:00pm, virtually via Zoom only. You will need to download the Zoom APP (Zoom Client for Meetings). To download the Zoom APP, go to: <https://zoom.us/download> and follow the instructions to download the APP. The monthly meeting reminders will contain the link to join the meetings. Clicking on the link in the reminder email will allow you to join the meetings. If you have any questions, please call or email David Kaniaupio – (808)222-6556 or email – hontcf@gmail.com.

Donating to TCF ~ Loved ones have asked how they can give to The Compassionate Friends – Honolulu Chapter. The Compassionate Friends is an approved non-profit organization. We are listed with both the Aloha United Way (under “The Compassionate Friends” #72860) and Combined Federal Campaign of Hawaii-Pacific (under “Compassionate Friends Inc” #78470). If your employer participates in either of these Giving Campaigns, please consider The Compassionate Friends when completing your pledge – Mahalo!

Voices ~ We would like to include writings from parents in our chapter’s quarterly newsletter. If you are a creative writer and would like to share your child through stories, poems or artwork in our newsletter, please submit it to us at hontcf@gmail.com.



Candle Lighting Ceremony ~ The Honolulu Chapter will be holding the Candle Lighting Ceremony at Windward Community College (WCC) on December 14, 2025, 6:30-8:00 pm. The following page has directions to Windward Community College campus and the location of the Candle Lighting Ceremony. There is also a map on our website. Hope to see you there!



Farewell Doreen ~ Best wishes always to Doreen as she travels to live with family in Malaysia. Your TCF Honolulu Ohana will remember Jason always. We look forward to seeing you at our monthly Zoom meetings from Malaysia!



TCF Hawaii Regional Grief Conference 2026 ~ E Komo Mai, all are welcome, to find comfort and support in a caring community of families grieving the death of a child, grandchild, or sibling, presented by The Honolulu Chapter of the Compassionate Friends. Join our two-day conference, March 19th and 20th, 2026, featuring a lineup of prominent national grief and healing speakers at the Ala Moana Hotel Honolulu. To learn more and register: <https://compassionatefriendshawaii.org/events>



LOVING LISTENERS
DAVID KANIAUPIO (808)222-6556
TERRY KANIAUPIO (808)222-2729

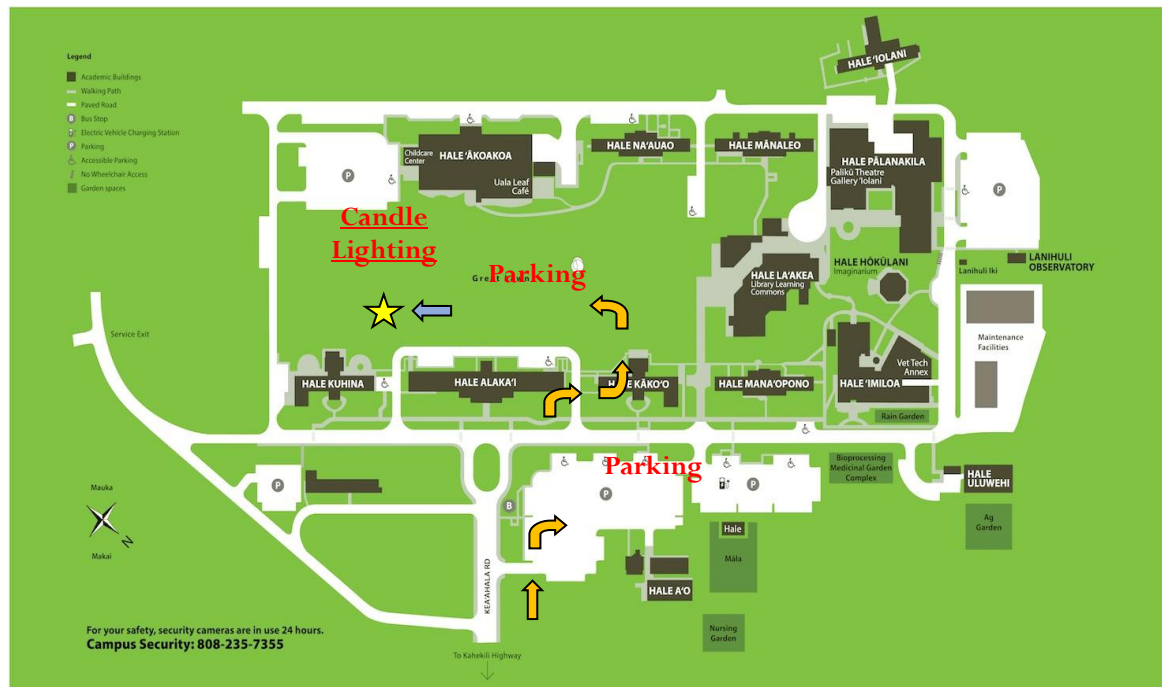


TCF Honolulu Chapter Candle Lighting Ceremony

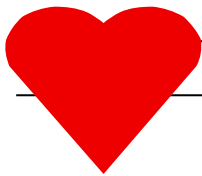
Windward Community College

Sunday, December 14, 2025, 6:30 – 8:00 pm

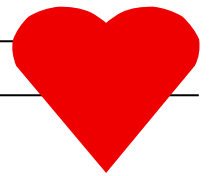
To get to Windward Community College (WCC) from Honolulu, when you get to the windward side, get on Likelike Hwy and take the Kahekili Hwy Exit. Once on Kahekili Hwy heading North (to the north shore), the second stop light should be Keaahala Rd. Turn left onto Keaahala Rd. Keaahala Rd leads into Windward Community College shown at the bottom of the map below.



The Candle Lighting Ceremony will be held in Hale Kūhina. The Entrance is in the back of Hale Kūhina. Identified by the★ above. There is limited parking behind Hale Alaka'i. If that parking is full, you can park in the main parking lot.



Gifts of Love



Bob Baugher, PhD

www.bobbaugher.com

Special Mahalo for your generous donation and presentation of your workshop on Guilt: Coping with “If-Onlys & I Should Haves” held October 2, 2025 in Kaneohe and online.

The Honolulu Chapter of The Compassionate Friends operates solely on donations: monetary gifts in any amount are deeply appreciated. Donations can be made to: The Compassionate Friends, c/o Tami Cox Martinez, 45-1013 Waialele Road, Kaneohe, HI 96744 Mahalo!

OUR CHILDREN REMEMBERED

FOREVER LOVED, MISSED, REMEMBERED

OCTOBER

Our Children Born in October

Michael Edward Anderson, Oct 1983 - Oct 2004
Ileiana Bintliff, Oct 1994 - Oct 2013
Jeffery Kanaiaupuni Carvalho, Oct 1980 - Feb 2004
Shawn C. Carvalho, Oct 1979 - Mar 1996
Tom Christie, Oct 1976 - Nov 2009
Robert S. M. Chun, Oct 1960 - Sep 2005
Frank Joseph-James Cleboski, Oct 1989 - Jun 2015
Clarke Cuyler, Oct 2018 - Nov 2018
Elia Puahone Heder, Oct 1982 - May 1991
Shaun Makena Kailikea, Oct 1982 - May 2017
Maile Christina King, Oct 1989 - May 1998
Ikaika Kale Kelepine Lopes, Oct 1987 - Aug 2013
Ryan Joseph Martin, Oct 1980 - Feb 2014
Jessica May, Oct 1977 - Oct 2013
Michael McNeil, Oct 1956 - Aug 1981
TeeJay Meier, Oct 1977 - Mar 1999
Kyla Mariko Meaney, Oct 2010 - May 2015
Ruthie Mersburgh, Oct 28th – Dec 4th
Wiley Muir, Oct 2013 - Feb 2014
Rudy Chung Murakami, Oct 1981 - Sep 2012
Jon Keith Nobles, Oct 1973 - Mar 1998
Liam Francis Ramos, Oct 2018 - Oct 2018
Manuel Reza, Oct 1980 - May 1996
Kaipo Vierra, Oct 1982 - Jul 2009

Our Children Who Left Us in October

Jasonims Amora, May 1981 - Oct 2013
Michael Edward Anderson, Oct 1983 - Oct 2004
Brandon Aurand Stephens, May 1989 - Oct 2010
Ileiana Bintliff, Oct 1994 - Oct 2013
Ian Tyler Coronas, Aug 1993 - Oct 2016
Irene Free Devine, Jun 1999 - Oct 2022
Jeremy Patrick Dias, Sep 1971 - Oct 1987
Brian Gene Ellis, Sep 1985 - Oct 2014
Jesse Garcia, Sep 1981 - Oct 2005
Arya Marika Alexandratos Hixson, Sep 2017 - Oct 2017
Carter Horlback, Jan 2012 - Oct 2016
Jennifer Jacobi, Feb 1972 - Oct 2005
Hinaaiinameleonalani Keahiwelomakalehuaikauaokapo Johnson-Ahia, Mar 2012 - Oct 2014
Helen Sayako Kaneshiro, Aug 2000 - Oct 2000
Ryan Kono, - Oct 2003
Jessica May, Oct 1977 - Oct 2013
Lisa Marie Ortiz, Jun 1978 - Oct 1998
Josiah Ramos, Aug 1997 - Oct 2016
Liam Francis Ramos, Oct 2018 - Oct 2018
Lindsey Shinsato, Jul 1991 - Oct 1993
Christopher Scott Staackmann, Sep 1960 - Oct 2010
Benjamin U. F. Stevens, Mar 1985 - Oct 2009
Diane Marie Taylor, May 1973 - Oct 1996
Leif Timothy Umphrey, May 2008 - Oct 2008
Al Zaharis, Feb 1964 - Oct 1991



Manuel Reza



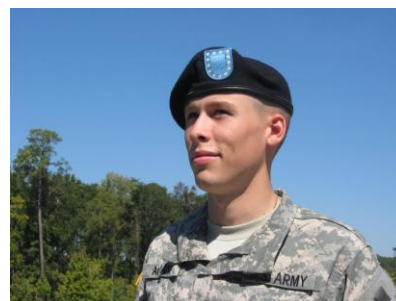
Ileiana Bintliff



Ruthie Mersburgh



Jessica May



Brandon Aurand Stephens



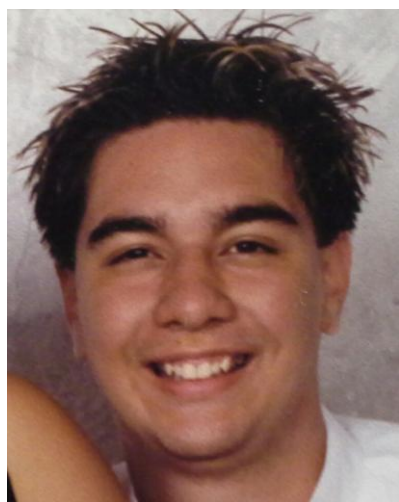
Jennifer Jacobi



Josiah Ramos



Rudy Chung Murakami



Ryan Kono



Ryan Joseph Martin



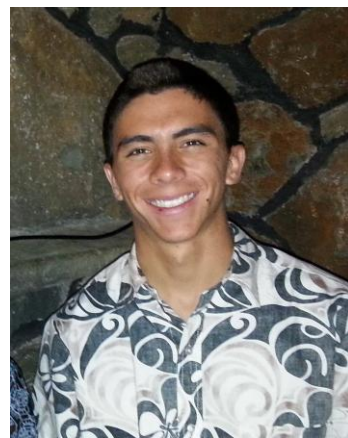
Michael Edward Anderson



Ikaika Kale Kelepine Lopes



Hinaaiinameleonalani
Keahiwelomakalehuaikauaokapo
Johnson-Ahia



Ian Tyler Coronas



Frank Joseph-James Cleboski



Helen Sayako Kaneshiro



Our Unborn Children



TeeJay Meier



Brian Gene Ellis



Diane Marie Taylor



Liam Francis Ramos



Arya Mariko Alexandratos Hixson



Clarke Cuyler



Irene Free Devine

OUR CHILDREN REMEMBERED

FOREVER LOVED, MISSED, REMEMBERED
NOVEMBER

Our Children Born in November

Dave Adams, Nov 1982 - Aug 1998
Angela Lace Apostadiro, Nov 1992 - Feb 2010
John Charles Bomke III, Nov 1982 - Aug 2006
Lea Bussell, Nov 1992 - Jan 2014
Kristin Akemi Claudi, Nov 1980 - May 2009
Jayden Joseph Kawika Dade-Tavares, Nov 2001 - Nov 2003
Evan Robert Kai Gleason, Nov 1992 - May 2009
Joseph Alike Kealoha-Lopez, Nov 2017 - Nov 2017
Aukahimaina'ale Leafchild, Nov 2005 - Dec 2006
Jesse Leung, Nov 2013 - Nov 2013
Joshua Levine, Nov 1988 - Jul 2016
Kristofer Nedorolik, Nov 1997 - Jul 2015
Ramona Shapiro, Nov 1985 - Feb 2008
Princess Zuna Ilacad Yadao, Nov 2014 - Sep 2016



Our Children Who Left Us in November

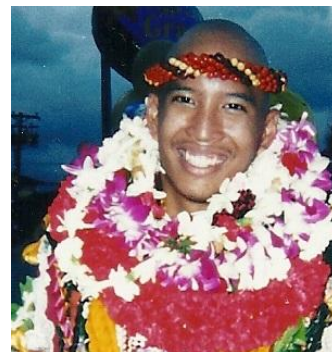
Walter J. Agno, Feb 1987 - Nov 2007
Craig "Kamaki" Anderson, Dec 1974 - Nov 1997
Kellee Jones Briggs, Jan 1978 - Nov 2013
Waika Wiia Carvalho, Aug 1986 - Nov 2009
Tom Christie, Oct 1976 - Nov 2009
Sara Ann Cosson, Sep 1968 - Nov 2012
Clarke Cuyler, Oct 2018 - Nov 2018
Jayden Joseph Kawika Dade-Tavares, Nov 2001 - Nov 2003
Jacob Hensley, Apr 1993 - Nov 2015
Alaina Marie Jenkins, Aug 1967 - Nov 1992
Devin Johnson, May 1986 - Nov 2009
Betteanne Momilani Aldrich Pang Kaaa, Jul 1964 - Nov 1992
Darryl Kahoeikaika Kaniaupio, Aug 1981 - Nov 1999
Joseph Alike Kealoha-Lopez, Nov 2017 - Nov 2017
Jesse Leung, Nov 2013 - Nov 2013
Michael Joseph Maneha, May 1986 - Nov 2008
Peter Nelson, Jan 1964 - Nov 2013
Anders Pederson, Jan 1987 - Nov 2015
George Arthur Pellegrin, Dec 1972 - Nov 1991
Kaleo Pierce, - Nov 2013
Benjamin Madigan Snavelly, Feb 1982 - Nov 2015
Hope or Matthew Virtudazo, - Nov 2016
Jaime Wong, Sep 1965 - Nov 1998
Simon Chung Yuen Wong, May 1974 - Nov 2009



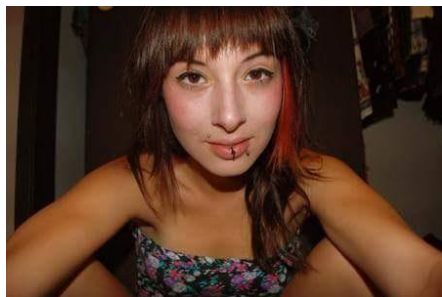
John Charles Bomke III



Benjamin Madigan Snavelly



Darryl Kahoeikaika Kaniaupio



Lea Bussell



Evan Robert Kai Gleason



Joseph Alike Kealoha-Lopez



Kristofer Nedorolik



Sara Cosson



Kellee Jones Briggs



Ramona Shapiro



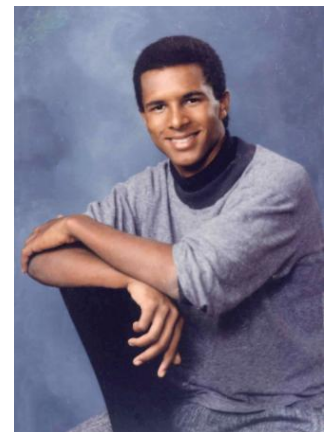
Clarke Cuyler



Alaina Marie Jenkins



Joshua Levine



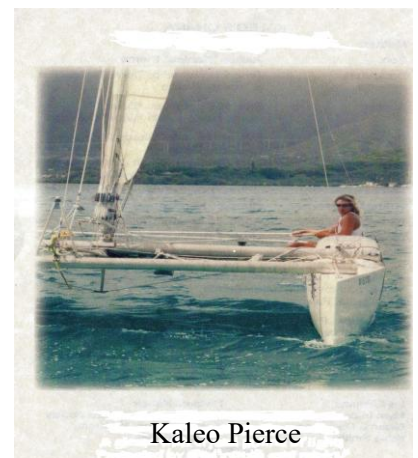
George Arthur Pellegrin



Princess Zuna Ilacad Yadao



Anders Pederson



Kaleo Pierce

OUR CHILDREN REMEMBERED

FOREVER LOVED, MISSED, REMEMBERED

DECEMBER

Our Children Born in December

Craig “Kamaki” Anderson, Dec 1974 - Nov 1997
Marcia Chu, Dec 1980 - May 2009
Jack Cone, Dec 1984 - Jun 2006
McKenna Fuglie, Dec 1991 - Sep 2014
Gregory Gareth Gaines, Dec 1984 - Jan 2002
Scott Hoover, Dec 1967 - Apr 2006
Dalzell Johns Potter, Dec 1961 - Apr 2005
Jacob Kealoha-Lopez, Dec 2014 - Dec 2014
Shaun Mahtani, Dec 1966 - Apr 1999
Charles “Keoki” Malott, Dec 1971 - Jul 2011
Zane Feliciano Mediano, Dec 2007 - Dec 2007
Michael Anthony Moriarty, Dec 1992 - Feb 2010
Heather Haunani Akiko Nahina, Dec 1977 - Jan 1992
Mariah Amanda Noguchi Lim, Dec 1992 - Dec 2014
George Arthur Pellegrin, Dec 1972 - Nov 1991
Maya Eve Tacadena Perdido, Dec 2002 - Apr 2004
Julie Anne McHale Reti, Dec 1965 - May 1995
Scott Rush, Dec 1963 - Sep 1980
Gabriella Ann Marie Stefan, Dec 2002 - Dec 2004
Brandi Ann Malia, Dec 1984 - Jul 2004
Matthew Jee Yul Williams, Dec 1978 - Jun 1998

Our Children Who Left Us in December

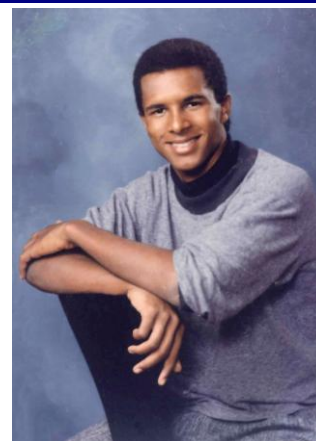
Jaime Akamie Coelho, Jun 1991 - Dec 2004
Mark Patrick Goldberg, Sep 1984 - Dec 2013
Jacob Kealoha-Lopez, Dec 2014 - Dec 2014
Donovan Keliiaa, Mar 1981 - Dec 2015
Aukahimaina'ale Leafchild, Nov 2005 - Dec 2006
Gerald “Jerry” Alan Massie, Jan 1966 - Dec 2015
Enzo Atsuo Matsumoto, Apr 2007 - Dec 2010
Zane Feliciano Mediano, Dec 2007 - Dec 2007
Noe Michele Melvin, Jul 1976 - Dec 1996
Ruthie Mersburgh, Oct 28th – Dec 4th
Keene Kainoa Nagaishi, Jul 1997 - Dec 2015
Mariah Amanda Noguchi Lim, Dec 1992 - Dec 2014
Mitchel Poissonnet, Jan 1963 - Dec 2014
Nina Ricci, Mar 1981 - Dec 2010
Adrenia Olena Cadiz Robinson, Jan 2012 - Dec 2013
Nicole Siegrist, Apr 1987 - Dec 2016
Gabriella Ann Marie Stefan, Dec 2002 - Dec 2004
Kirk Wehrenberg, Apr 1974 - Dec 2013



Scott Hoover



Mark Patrick Goldberg



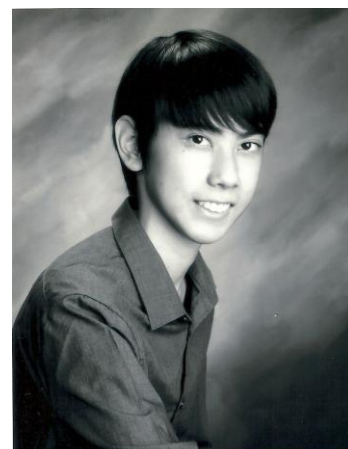
George Arthur Pellegrin



Mariah Amanda Noguchi-Lim



Heather Haunani Akiko Nahina



Keene Kainoa Nagaishi



Donovan Keliiaa



Mitchel Poissonnet



Matthew Jee Yul Williams



Adrenia Olena Cadiz Robinson



Gerald "Jerry" Alan Massie



Gregory Gareth Gaines



Ruthie Mersburgh



McKenna Fuglie



Jacob Kealoha-Lopez



Charles "Keoki" Malott



Nicole Siegrist

Halloween . . . Still a Holiday to Remember

Two Halloweens have now passed since my 8-year-old Stephanie and 5-year-old Stephen left us to live with God.

Even before the kids were old enough to go trick or treating, I still recall their delight at the costumes worn by all the neighborhood kids who came to the door. I still remember how thrilled Stephen was to be handing out the candy when he was only one and half years old. We still have a picture of him holding the plate of goodies. If you look close, you can see where he took a bite out of one of the candy bars (with the wrapper on) and set it back on the plate.

I can still remember the all too few times I was able to take my children out trick-or-treating. I remember my daughter dressed up as a nurse, offering to “fix-up” all those other trick or treaters who were obviously hurting with all that fake blood they were wearing.

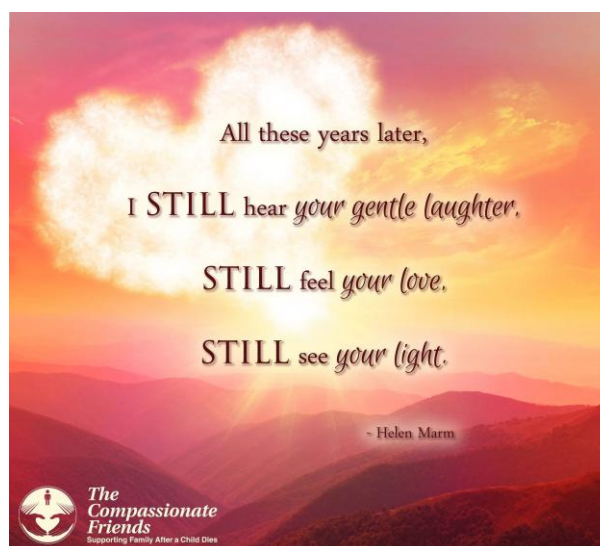
I remember Stephen wearing his great pumpkin outfit. We stuffed it so full of padding that when he fell down, not only did he not get hurt, he had to be physically picked up because he was flailing his arms around like a beetle on its back.

I can still see Stef holding Stephen’s little hand and patiently leading him up the walkway and helping him hold open his bag so that the candy would find its mark. She always made certain he said thank you for the candy. It usually came out “thank-woo.”

The first Halloween following their deaths I remember driving home with tears streaming down my face as I watched the other trick-or-treaters roaming up and down the streets. My wife and I fled our home, depositing bags of candy for our next door neighbors to hand out for us. Last year we found the courage to stick around and greet the ghosts and goblins who found their way to our door. The funny thing was, we felt as dressed up as the trick-or-treaters. We were wearing our “happy face” masks.

The memories are now starting to fade of the Halloweens before our children died. It won’t be too long and I’ll be leading Christopher, our new son who is now a year old, up those driveways just like I did before. I feel sad that Stef and Steve can’t be there. But you know, I have a feeling that if I hold out my hands and close my eyes, two little gloved hands will slip into mine and I’ll again hear in unison, “Just one more house Daddy!”

Wayne Loder,
TCF Lakes Area, MI
In Memory of Stephanie and Stephen Loder



Holidays for the Healing Heart

Posted on December 23rd, 2019, TCF Online Magazine

It's that time of year again. Carols are on the radio. Movies play on the television. Trimmings decorate the trees.

Memories linger in our hearts.

The holiday season can be challenging, even without being complicated by grief over the loss of a loved one. With the additional weight of grief, the holidays can become a complex maze of good intentions, great expectations, and high hopes, all mixed together with the stark reality that someone somewhere might end up disappointed.

We try to do our best to keep the traditions of previous Christmases intact, or we start new ones in an effort to reduce the painful throb of all we've lost. However, when we are forced to choose between what others want in the way of celebrations and what we desperately need in order to navigate the minefield of memories, some friction between the two expectations is inevitable.

May I make a suggestion? Each time frustration and discouragement come calling this holiday season, take a moment to try to see beyond the actions and words of your friends to the love (or grief) that drives those words and actions.

If you are the one who is grieving, be thankful that your friends want to celebrate with you. Be thankful that they are still making an effort to include you in their holiday plans. Try to meet them halfway, if you are able. True friends will respond with compassion when you explain what you can do and what you cannot, even if you cannot explain why.

If your friend is the one who is grieving, do what you can to give them the strength for those milestone events that squeeze their hearts so painfully. Be thankful that your grieving friend is making it through those tough days, even if making it through those days doesn't include all that you had hoped. And show your friend that you love them enough to accept a "No" to your invitations (even though you really wanted a "Yes"). Try to remember that "No" doesn't mean "I don't want to". It means "I want to, but I just can't". Be thankful that your grieving friend loves you enough to be honest about their need, and ask them how you can help them celebrate their loved one's memory during the holidays in a way that they find comforting.

Christmas is the season of giving.
Give grace.
Give compassion.
And give love unconditionally.
That is what Christmas is all about.



[Leslie Harder](#)

Leslie lives in rural North Carolina with her husband Sherman. She has two adult sons and a step-daughter. Her older son William died suddenly and unexpectedly in August of 2016, just five days after the death of her mother. Leslie began writing to memorialize all the ways God was working in and through her life to redeem the tragedy she had experienced. She is the author of *Joy in the Mourning: Viewing the Rainbow from the Vale of Tears*, an account of her first year as a bereaved mother.

The Compassionate Friends Credo

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. ©2016

The Mission of The Compassionate Friends

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.

The TCF Mission Statement

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.

*****Please Consider Helping*****

I have found through my own experiences that helping others through their grief journey has strengthened my own journey. The memories of my son are positively reinforced as other bereaved parents share their stories and memories. We Need Not Walk Alone. That simple phrase resonates throughout my journey. There are other aspects to The Compassionate Friends that need help. If you have a talent – web design, writing, creativity, organizing, and greeting and would like to help others – please let us know.

