



The Compassionate Friends

Honolulu Chapter

Supporting Family After a Child Dies

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HONOLULU CHAPTER

A Bear Hug for Father's Day

As Father's Day approaches, we are reminded of the significant contributions and unique love of fathers and stepfathers. Their defined role, after the death of their children, is to support their wives and surviving children. But their pain is deep.

Men, by their nature and in response to our society's expectations, do not usually grieve as openly as women. They do not talk as candidly about their loss. They generally do not reach out to others for comfort. They are, after all, the rock, the solid center of the family. Their wife's pain supersedes their pain because women are fragile. Or so we are told.

Yet, as I look into the eyes of so many bereaved fathers, I see a deep, gripping pain. The tears left unshed, the words that are never spoken, the anger, guilt and agony....all remain in the eyes of the bereaved father.

What can a father do? Talk with other bereaved fathers. Read books written by bereaved fathers. Talk with spouses, private counselors and close friends who are not as structured in their "male" societal roles. Try to attend three meetings of Compassionate Friends. You don't have to talk. But you might decide to express a single thought or idea, logically presented, to the small group. You might find peace in this place, and then again, you might not. But, as my own dad often said, "Step up to the plate and see what happens." He was a pretty wise man,....a child of the depression, a football player, Greatest Generation, WW II Marine, a fighter, a provider, a protector,....a man's man. He endured much in his 78 years, and I only saw him cry a few times.

But when his friend lost a child, my tough dad was the first one to reach out with a bear hug that wouldn't let go until the tears began to flow. They both cried. They both knew that the agony of losing a child was far worse than the horrors of war. Together, they cried.

Happy Father's Day.... May your bear hugs be many and your memories become sweeter with each passing year. May your child live forever in your heart so that peace embraces you always.

Annette Mennen Baldwin,
In memory of my son, Todd Mennen
And my father, James M. Mennen,
TCF, Katy, TX



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

Walk to Remember

Sat., June 21, 2025

9:00 am -12:00 pm

Kapi'olani Park Bandstand,
Oceanside

See the Announcements

48th National Conference in Bellevue/Seattle, WA

July 11, 2025 @ 8:00 am –

July 13, 2025 @ 12:00 pm

See the Announcements

Regional Coordinator

Regional Coordinator: David Kaniaupio

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National Office

The Compassionate Friends

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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 – kaniaupiotcf@gmail.com.

Walk to Remember ~ The Honolulu Chapter's Walk to Remember will be held on Saturday, June 21, 2025, 9:00am–12:00pm at Kapi'olani Park Bandstand, Oceanside. Start time will be approximately at 9:00 am. Registration forms will be available at day of event. We will have a banner with photos of our children to be remembered. If you would like to have your child's photo on the banner, please send a digital photo of your child to David Kaniaupio at kaniaupiotcf@gmail.com. You may also submit a photo at the Saturday meeting, and David will scan and print it for the banner and return the original to you. See page 11 for 2024 event photo.

48th National TCF Conference ~ Terry, David, and other members of Honolulu TCF will be attending the TCF National Conference held in Bellevue, WA, July 11-13, 2025. We would like to honor your child at the National Conference by sharing a photo on our Honolulu TCF Memory board and our banner as we "Walk to Remember" our children. Please send a digital photo to kaniaupiotcf@gmail.com. See page 12 for additional information and 2024 event photos.

Donating to TCF ~ Loved ones have asked how they can give to The Compassionate Friends. 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.



Loving Listeners:

David Kaniaupio (808)222-6556

Terry Kaniaupio (808)222-2729



Mothers' Day, "Before" and "After"

While sorting through boxes and bags, it is not unusual for me to find something unexpected. It happened just the other day. Shifting through a box, I came across a wrinkled, somewhat yellowed piece of lined school paper. I carefully unfolded it only to find a drawing of a stick-Mom and stick-daughter standing alongside a mammoth daisy. The mom and little girl were holding hands with huge lop-sided grins on their faces. In her little girl just-learning-to-print handwriting were the words, "Happy Mother's Day, Mommy. I love you, Kristina."

Even six years later, little "gifts" such as these can bring fresh tears. It is times like these that I am glad that I was an incredible pack rat, especially when it came to saving things that my children have made. I can picture my then-blond, petite little Nina (her nickname), with the wispy hair, bent over the kitchen table, crayon in hand, creating that handmade card filled with love. Memories of breakfasts in bed, only to return to the kitchen after finishing the "gourmet" meal served with tender care, to find it in such disarray that it took hours to clean up! Even through the tears, these are the sweetest memories.

As I type this, I look at another gift from a Mother's Day past; a little statue of a harried mom, surrounded by mop, broom and bucket, that says, "World's Greatest Mom", chosen for me at a neighborhood garage sale. I came across it accidentally shortly after Nina's death, unearthing it from its hiding place. I wondered to myself, why had I packed it away. Did Nina know that I did and did she think that, by doing so, I hadn't appreciated her gift? Did I ever thank her for it along with the other garage sale items that she proudly brought home to me, or did it show on my face that I really didn't need any more "junk" around the house?

Sometimes resurrecting these treasures can bring unpleasant feelings of guilt as we wonder if our children knew how much their little gestures of love meant to us. When our child dies, it becomes easy to second-guess ourselves, trapped in our fixations and exaggerations of the negative things that may have occurred during our child's life.

The first Mother's Day after Nina died was a grief numbing blur, as it occurred only three days following her death. Unlike previous joyful dinners out with my four children pampering their mom, we spent the day making funeral arrangements and choosing a casket for one of them. In the early evening, I overheard it said to someone else, "Happy Mother's Day." I turned to my own mother and apologized for having forgotten.

I could not imagine ever celebrating another Mother's Day again. I am sure the dads have these same feelings on Father's Day. My heart goes out to them, because I think we forget that they, just like us, grieve and hurt, too.

For those mothers and fathers who have lost their only child, I have been saddened by stories told to me by them of attending church on Mother's Day Sunday and when the pastor asked the mothers in the church to please stand, they were undecided on whether they should stand or not. I hope that they will always remember, and the fathers as well, "Once a mother, always a mother; once a father, always a father." We are forever their parents. (continue on next page)



If we are fortunate to have surviving children, they are often forgotten as well. In the early days, we become obsessed with the one who is missing. My own children showed quiet patience with this. I often wonder if they thought "What about us? We're still here!" Now with almost seven Mother's Days behind me, I try to accentuate what I do have. This does not happen overnight. I found that in celebrating my surviving children, I could still honor Nina's memory and find ways to include her as well. I have developed a ritual where I get up early on that morning and bring flowers out to the cemetery. I bring a flower and a note to some of the mothers that I know who have buried children there to tell them I am thinking of them and their child. There is something very healing when reaching out to others. I then sit by my daughter's grave-site on the spring-green grass listening to the sweet call of a robin. I bring her a flower and write in her journal telling her how thankful I am to be her mother, how much I love and miss her. That is our private time together; the rest of the day is spent honoring my other children.

Mother's Day and Father's Day are holidays especially created for us. Try to get through them the best that you can, in whatever way feels right for you. Truly, only you know what that is. Whether it is alone those first few years or with people that you love and who understand, do something that you find comforting. It is your day, for you were the giver of a precious life – you held a miracle in your arms. Even as powerfully destructive as death is, even that cannot take those memories away from you - they are your child's gift to you.

With gentle thoughts and peace on your special day,

Cathy L. Seehuetter,
TCF St. Paul, MN
In Memory of my daughter, Nina

I know for certain that we never lose the people we love, even to death.
They continue to participate in every *act, thought and decision* we make.
Their love leaves an *indelible imprint* in our memories.
We find comfort in knowing that our lives
have been *enriched by having shared their love.*

~ Leo F. Buscaglia



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

Our Children Remembered

Forever Loved, Missed, Remembered

APRIL

Our Children Born in April

Keisha Agena, Apr 1989 - Jul 2015
Andy Agnostinelli, Apr 1979 - Feb 1992
Victoria Kanani Augugliaro, Apr 2003 - May 2007
Brody David Black, Apr 1998 - Mar 2002
Clay Chung, Apr 1976 - Jul 2008
Stephan Dinnan, Apr 1978 - Jun 2013
Brandon Keola Fong, Apr 1975 - Aug 1995
Leah Marie Goldberg, Apr 1996 - Aug 2014
Michael Hallenbeck, Apr 1994 - Aug 2015
Jacob Hensley, Apr 1993 - Nov 2015
Laura Weldon Hogue, Apr 1965 - Jul 2009
Charlie Lilinoepahola Kimura, Apr 2014 - Jul 2016
Andrew Madrid, Apr 2000 - Sep 2014
Enzo Atsuo Matsumoto, Apr 2007 - Dec 2010
Arianna Lei Müller, Apr 2018 - Apr 2018
Dustin Phillips, Apr 1986 - Apr 1986
Linden Jordan Radona Quintal, Apr 1996 - Jan 2015
Allan Gordon Sanford, Apr 1960 - Aug 1990
Nicole Siegrist, Apr 1987 - Dec 2016
Shannon Shea Smith, Apr 1976 - Mar 1997
Jeremy Tolentino, Apr 1983 - Apr 2001
Kirk Wehrenberg, Apr 1974 - Dec 2013
Ross Yokoyama, Apr 1965 - May 2007

Our Children Who Left Us in April

Erika Byrd, Jun 1968 - Apr 2013
Kyle Spencer Iaukea Ennis, Jul 1991 - Apr 1994
Mark Gatanis, Mar 1967 - Apr 2013
Nicole Keonimelani Hookeno-Elliot, Mar 1980 - Apr 2009
Scott Hoover, Dec 1967 - Apr 2006
Yoshio E.K. Lamansky, Aug 1976 - Apr 1996
Shaun Mahtani, Dec 1966 - Apr 1999
Darius Ikaika Mau, Jan 1991 - Apr 2013
Arianna Lei Müller, Apr 2018 - Apr 2018
Broch Nall, Jun 1978 - Apr 2013
Maya Eve Tacadena Perdido, Dec 2002 - Apr 2004
Dustin Phillips, Apr 1986 - Apr 1986
Dalzell Johns Potter, Dec 1961 - Apr 2005
Jared Makana Isamu Teruya, Jul 2000 - Apr 2013
Jeremy Tolentino, Apr 1983 - Apr 2001



Andrew Madrid



Linden Jordan Radona Quintal



Our Unborn Children



Arianna Lei Müller



Scott Hoover



Darius "Ikaika" Puni Mau



Leah Marie Goldberg



Jared Makana Isamu Teruya



Nicole Siegrist



Mark Gatanis



Michael Hallenbeck



Charlie Lilinoepahola Kimura



Victoria Kanani Augugliaro

Our Children Remembered

Forever Loved, Missed, Remembered

MAY

Our Children Born in May

Jasonims Amora, May 1981 - Oct 2013
Brandon Aurand-Stephens, May 1989 - Oct 2010
Diana Mei Barthel, May 2019 – May 2019
Poppy Elizabeth Baxter, May 2013 - Jun 2013
Quintin Masao Cho, May 1994 - Feb 2016
James Brennan Cohen, May 1966 - Mar 2009
Daniel John Collette, May 1976 - Mar 2005
Danielle Reiko Cox, May 1991 - Mar 2016
Melissa Hauser, May 1982 - May 2007
Devin Johnson, May 1986 - Nov 2009
Jaime Avelina Leonen, May 1986 - Sep 2015
Michael Joseph Maneha, May 1986 - Nov 2008
Eric Bradford Rohlfing, May 1961 - Mar 1986
Jason Ang Shuster, May 1979 – Mar 2024
Diane Marie Taylor, May 1973 - Oct 1996
Leif Timothy Umphrey, May 2008 - Oct 2008
Simon Chung Yuen, May 1974 - Nov 2009

Our Children Who Left Us in May

Victoria Kanani Augugliaro, Apr 2003 - May 2007
Diana Mei Barthel, May 2019 – May 2019
Alissa Rone' Bennett, Sep 1989 - May 2012
Marcia Chu, Dec 1980 - May 2009
Kristin Akemi Claudi, Nov 1980 - May 2009
Kaelyn Cullender, Jan 2009 - May 2010
Christina Fang, - May 2012
Evan Robert Kai Gleason, Nov 1992 - May 2009
Franklin Waikilo Goldwire, Feb 2018 – May 2019
Melissa Hauser, May 1982 - May 2007
Elia Puahone Heder, Oct 1982 - May 1991
Shaun Makena Kailikea, Oct 1982 - May 2017
Maile Christina King, Oct 1989 - May 1998
Destiny King, Mar 2002 – May 2008
Jeffrey Michael Kiyan, Sep 1987 - May 2010
Bert Kenalio Malott, Sep 1961 - May 2014
Dwayne George Mattos, Sep 1970 - May 2013
Julie Anne McHale-Reti, Dec 1965 - May 1995
Kyla Mariko Meaney, Oct 2010 - May 2015
Ruby Miller, Jul 2007 - May 2013
Barbara Alice Mower, Jun 1959 - May 1980
Manuel Reza, Oct 1980 - May 1996
Christopher James Tamao, Sep 1992 - May 1994
Grant Uyeshiro, Sep 1976 - May 2006
Ross Yokoyama, Apr 1965 - May 2007



Diane Marie Taylor



Christina Fang



Victoria Kanani Augugliaro



Evan Robert Kai Gleason



Poppy Elizabeth Baxter



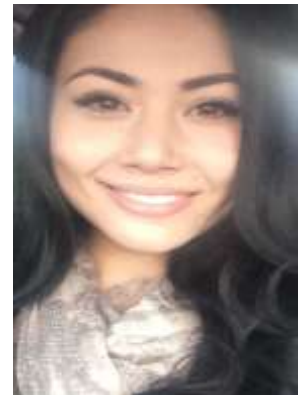
Brandon Aurand-Stephens



Ruby Miller



Jaime Avelina Leonen



Danielle Reiko Cox



Alissa Rone' Bennett



Quintin Masao Cho



Dwayne George Mattos



Manuel Reza



Diana Mei Barthel



Franklin Waikilo Goldwire



Jason Ang Shuster



Bert Kenalio Malott

Our Children Remembered

Forever Loved, Missed, Remembered

JUNE

Our Children Born in June

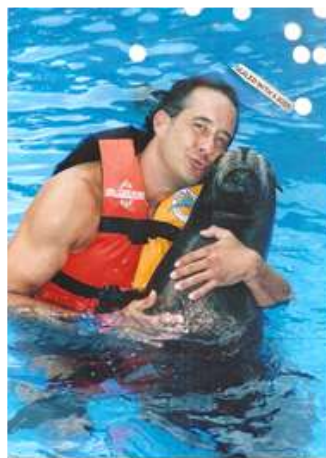
Anthony "Tony" Almeida, Jun 1989 - Mar 2014
Harper Posey Bennetts, Jun 2015 - Jun 2015
Erika Byrd, Jun 1968 - Apr 2013
Jaime Akamie Coelho, Jun 1991 - Dec 2004
Irene Free Devine, Jun 1999 - Oct 2022
Melissa Jo Elmore, Jun 1971 - Jul 1992
Amy Elizabeth Heitz, Jun 1969 - Jun 1989
Daniel Jezek, Jun 1977 - Sep 2010
David Joshua, Jun 1983 - Aug 2006
Ronald Kaneta Jr., Jun 1959 - Jun 1999
Noel Christopher Lagat, Jun 1989 - Feb 2009
Jing Li, Jun 1967 - Jul 1990
Richard Mannheimer, Jun 1961 - Aug 2010
Michael Mannheimer, Jun 1962 - Jul 2019
Peter Miller, Jun 1973 - May 2006
Barbara Alice Mower, Jun 1959 - May 1980
Broch Nall, Jun 1978 - Apr 2013
Lisa Marie Ortiz, Jun 1978 - Oct 1998
Steven M. Oshiro, Jun 1963 - Jan 2000
Shaun Shinjiro Tokumura, Jun 1979 - Jun 1989

Our Children Who Left Us in June

Poppy Elizabeth Baxter, May 2013 - Jun 2013
Harper Posey Bennetts, Jun 2015 - Jun 2015
Frank Joseph-James Cleboski, Oct 1989 - Jun 2015
Jack Cone, Dec 1984 - Jun 2006
Stephen Dinnan, Apr 1978 - Jun 2013
Danielle Eiko Fletcher, Feb 1997 - Jun 2016
Amy Elizabeth Heitz, Jun 1969 - Jun 1989
Ronald Kaneta Jr., Jun 1959 - Jun 1999
Alex Mambo, Mar 1979 - Jun 2011
Jason May, Jul 1974 - Jun 1988
Kourtnee Otsuka, Mar 1990 - Jun 2016
Elston Pang, Jul 1990 - Jun 2014
Ameliya Ridgeway, Feb 2015 - Jun 2015
Sonny Dee Vesper Santiago, Sep 1962 - Jun 1990
Tabatha Schoenfelt, Jul 1985 - Jun 2016
Emma Grace Smith, Aug 2003 - Jun 2016
Aaron Carter Steffens, Feb 1974 - Jun 2010
Shaun Shinjiro Tokumura, Jun 1979 - Jun 1989
Matthew Trinkle, Aug 1992 - Jun 2012
Matthew Jee Yul Williams, Jul 2000 - Jun 2013
Evan Jonah Won, Aug 2002 - Jun 2017



Tabatha Schoenfelt



Alex Mambo



Daniel Jezek



Richard Mannheimer



Michael Mannheimer



Poppy Elizabeth Baxter



Elston Pang



Matthew Jee Yul Williams



Danielle Eiko Fletcher



Jason May



Evan Jonah Won



Peter Miller



Aaron Carter Steffens



Anthony "Tony" Almeida



Frank Joseph-James Cleboski



Our Unborn Children



Emma Grace Smith



Irene Free Devine



Kourtnee Otsuka



Matthew Trinkle



The Compassionate Friends Honolulu Walk to Remember on June 2024

Honor and remember your child at TCF 2025 Honolulu Walk to Remember on Saturday, June 21, 2025, 9:00am-12:00pm, at Kapi'olani Park Bandstand Oceanside. Registration forms are available at event.

GIFTS OF LOVE

Margaret Mirsky

Mahalo for your monetary gift in Honor and Loving memory of your daughter Lauren.

Charlie and Tane Skultka

Mahalo for your monetary gift in Honor and Loving memory of your son Justin.

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 Wailele Road, Kaneohe, HI 96744 Mahalo!

In This Place

Brave hearts, you are here. You have traveled a dreadful distance. You have come, seeking solace, understanding, hope, threads to patch what death's so cruelly undone.

In this place you can relax and breathe . . . the coats of others' expectations taken off. Walk into these few days as into an oasis where draughts of love and memories can be quaffed.

In this place all names can be spoken;
in this place each one's story can be told.
We will not be discouraged by your sorrow;
in this place ALL feelings, we enfold.

Here laughter does not mean we are forgetting;
we do not count how many tears are shed.
Both fuel us, fellow travelers, give us courage,
for the long and winding road we see ahead.

And those we love are pleased we are together,
smile down on us, and bless these days,
glad for every tiny step we are taking
as they send their light to guide us on our ways.

Traveling with us as we journey onward,
sending strength for what the miles may bring,
they are a part of everything we do that matters -
in every dance we dance, and every song we sing.

Genesse Bourdeau Gentry

**The 2004 Compassionate Friends National Conference
written 23 July 2004 for the First Timers**



47th National TCF Conference Walk New Orleans



National Conference Registration Now Open

We are very pleased to announce The Compassionate Friends (TCF) 48th Annual National Conference in Bellevue, WA, July 11-13, 2025! TCF's National Conference is an enriching and supportive event for many newer and long-time bereaved parents, grandparents, and siblings. Attendees come and find renewed hope and support, as well as strategies for coping with grief, all while making friendships with other bereaved people who truly understand the heartbreaking loss of a child, sibling, or grandchild. Lifelong friendships are often formed and rekindled each year at TCF conferences.

Unique and cherished highlights of our conference include our heartfelt Saturday evening Candle Lighting Program, Sharing Sessions, Keynote Addresses, Healing Haven, Butterfly Boutique, Crafty Corner, and Silent Auction. Our weekend of inspiration, sharing, and learning is followed by the Walk to Remember on Sunday morning.

This year's conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency Bellevue, WA. Reservations can now be made online at TCF's dedicated [reservation link](#). Our discounted room rate with the Hyatt is \$165 per night plus applicable taxes and fees. Many attendees arrive on Thursday since the conference begins early on Friday morning. We also have pre-conference activities that are offered on Thursday evening, that attendees find beneficial. We look forward to seeing you in Bellevue!

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.

