



The Compassionate Friends

Honolulu Chapter

Supporting Family After a Child Dies

VOLUME 34, ISSUE 1 JULY - SEPTEMBER 2025 (THIRD QUARTER)

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Kaniaupio

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Treasurer: Tami Cox Martinez

Newsletter Editor: Georgiana Best

Parent Coordinator: Clara Makaipo

Fundraising Coordinator: Karen Cho

Website: www.compassionatefriendshawaii.org

Facilitator (Sibling): Jennifer Wall

Apprentice Helper: Ethan Won

Grandmother – Infant Loss: Pearl Stewart

HONOLULU CHAPTER

Grief Work is Hard Work

When I first began my journey of grief following the death my only child, Todd, I didn't comprehend that I would have to take an active role in what would come to be defined as "grief work." All I knew was the pain, the shock, the sorrow, the desire to go to sleep and never awaken. My child was dead, and I had no desire to live.

As the months and then the years passed, I began to realize that I was, albeit unconsciously, doing grief work. Once I realized I could not walk this road alone, I became involved in our Compassionate Friends Chapter. That was the beginning of my "grief work." A few months later I enrolled in a six week program for bereaved mothers. More grief work. I have since attended seminars, retreats and workshops. From each effort I gained something new, something insightful, something that eased my burden just a bit, something that helped me to cope with this, the worst, of all losses.

I consumed books. Some were about grief; others were about life. I watched movies, some about grief and some about life. I talked with friends.....sometimes about grief and sometimes about life.

Along the way I found that if I reached out to others, I was, once again, doing grief work. You see, I discovered that grief work is healing work. It doesn't dry my tears, nor does it mend my broken heart. Instead, it allows me to accept that I am in this place and living in this moment. That doesn't sound like much.....unless one has lost a child to death. Lost a child to death. What a horrifying thought. Yet now I can say it to others, talk with others who are raw and new in their grief and know that I have come to accept that my son is gone from this plane. My grief work will continue until I die.

When we attend workshops, seminars, special presentations, Compassionate Friends meetings and privately contemplate the depth of our loss and changes in our lives, we are doing grief work. Each of us travels this road differently, but we owe it to ourselves to do our grief work. Not easy work, not fun work, not immediately rewarding work, but this is work, just the same.



Annette Mennen Baldwin
In memory of my son,
Todd 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

Honolulu 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 Coordinator

Regional Coordinator: David Kaniaupio

Phone Number: (808)222-6556

Email: kaniaupiotcf@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 – kaniaupiotcf@gmail.com.



Candle Lighting Ceremony ~ The Honolulu Chapter will hold their Worldwide Candle Lighting Ceremony at Windward Community College (WCC) on December 14, 2025, 6:30-8:00 pm. More information to be posted soon at: <https://compassionatefriendshawaii.org/events>



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>

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 at kaniaupiotcf@gmail.com.



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



OUR CHILDREN REMEMBERED

FOREVER LOVED, MISSED, REMEMBERED

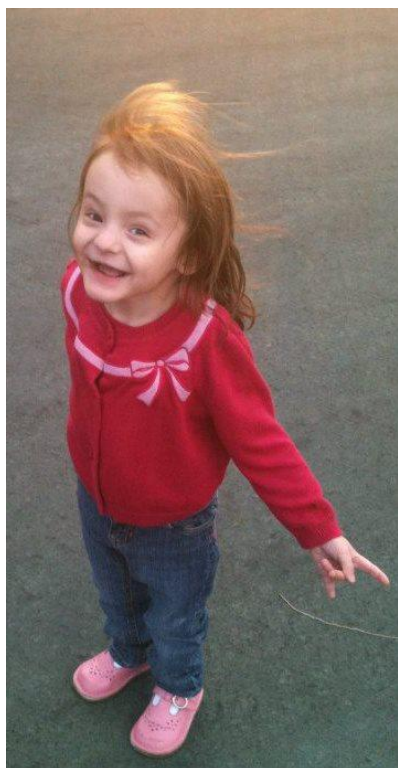
JULY

Our Children Born in July

Ezra Mailani Bethea, Jul 2013 - Jul 2013
Paul Gabriel DeJesus, Jul 1991 - Sep 2015
Kyle Spencer Iaukea Ennis, Jul 1991 - Apr 1994
Betteanne Momilani Aldrich Pang Kaaa, Jul 1964 - Nov 1992
Joshua Michael Linogon, Jul 1983 - Sep 2022
Jeffrey Mitchel Massie, Jul 1967 - Aug 1984
Jason May, Jul 1974 - Jun 1988
Laurie McNeil, Jul 1960 - Jan 1994
Noe Michel Melvin, Jul 1976 - Dec 1996
Ruby Miller, Jul 2007 - May 2013
Keene Kainoa Nagaishi, Jul 1997 - Dec 2015
Wyatt Nguyen, Jul 2016 - Jul 2016
Elston Pang, Jul 1990 - Jun 2014
Tommy Polmal, Jul 2013 - Sep 2013
Peter Quintanilla, Jul 1967 - Aug 2016
Marika Akesa Melelina Quirit, Jul 1992 - Aug 2004
Reid Richards, Jul 1965 - Sep 1998
Tabatha Schoenfelt, Jul 1985 - Jun 2016
Lindsey Shinsato, Jul 1991 - Oct 1993
Kaedyn Benjamin Kaimiloa AhMook Sang Stewart, Jul 2015 - Aug 2015
Jared Makana Isumu Teruya, Jul 2000 - Apr 2013
Jason Matthew Wegger, Jul 1972 - Feb 2006
Kecia M.U. Wong, Jul 1982 - Mar 2002

Our Children Who Left Us in July

Keisha Agena, Apr 1989 - Jul 2015
Anais Atherton, Jan 1980 - Jul 2016
Ezra Mailani Bethea, Jul 2013 - Jul 2013
Michael Andrew Bignami, Mar 1988 - Jul 2013
Clay Chung, Apr 1976 - Jul 2008
Cameron W. Deal, Mar 1969 - Jul 1996
Inde Elgersma, Feb 2015 - Jul 2016
Melissa Jo Elmore, Jun 1971 - Jul 1992
David Higginbotham, Feb 1992 - Jul 2000
Mina Piilani Hornor, Jan 2009 - Jul 2016
Gregory Bruce Johanos, Sep 1958 - Jul 1960
Danica Darnell Alohikeyalaniikawana'ao Kimura, Aug 1986 - Jul 1993
Charlie Lilinoepahola Kimura, Apr 2014 - Jul 2016
Joshua Levine, Nov 1988 - Jul 2016
Jing Li, Jun 1967 - Jul 1990
Charles "Keoki" Malott, Dec 1971 - Jul 2011
Michael Mannheimer, Jun 1962 - Jul 2019
Robert Jason Morales Jr, Sep 1986 - Jul 2007
Jolene Morizono, Mar 1980 - Jul 2009
Kristofer Nedorolik, Nov 1997 - Jul 2015
Wyatt Nguyen, Jul 2016 - Jul 2016
Michelle Shusterich, Feb 1977 - Jul 1998
Kaipo Vierra, Oct 1982 - Jul 2009
Laura Weldon Hogue, Apr 1965 - Jul 2009
Brandi Ann Malia Whitt, Dec 1984 - Jul 2004



Ruby Miller



Charlie Lilinoepahola Kimura



Paul Gabriel DeJesus



Anais Atherton



Robert Jason Morales Jr



Kristofer Nedorolik



Joshua Levine



Jared Makana Isamu Teruya



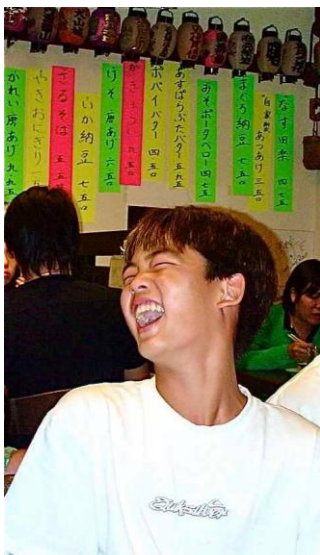
Peter Quintanilla



Michael Mannheimer



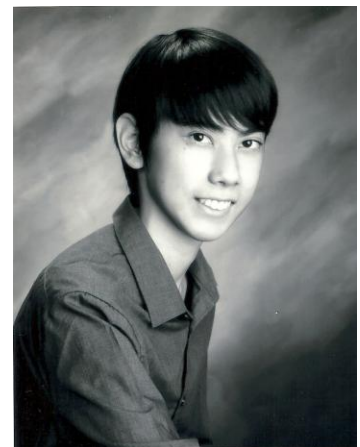
Marika Akesa Melelina Quirit



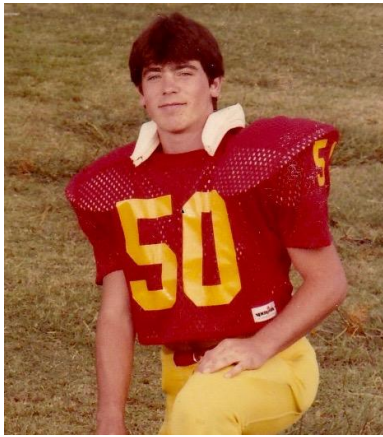
Elston Pang



Jason May



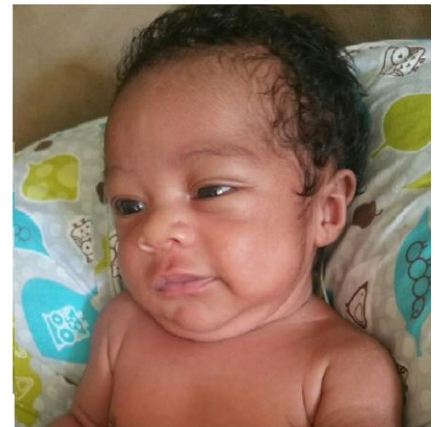
Keene Kainoa Nagaishi



Jeffrey Mitchel Massie



Joshua Michael Linogon



Kaedyn Benjamin Kaimiloa
AhMook Sang Stewart



Charles "Keoki" Malott



Tabatha Schoenfelt




Our Unborn Children

I would tell anybody in grief to
be kind and gentle to themselves
 and to NOT COMPARE their journey
 to the time and distance traveled
 by others grieving the same loss.

There is hope, it may come as the
 slightest pin hole of light in the darkest of places,
 but *hope is there and it will find you.*

~ Kris Munsch, Blake's dad

 **The Compassionate Friends**
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OUR CHILDREN REMEMBERED

FOREVER LOVED, MISSED, REMEMBERED

AUGUST

Our Children Born in August

Patrina Sharmaine Best, Aug 1985 – Feb 2024
Waika Wiia Carvalho, Aug 1986 - Nov 2009
Ian Tyler Coronas, Aug 1993 - Oct 2016
Anthony James Makaio Edrada, Aug 1993 - Mar 2007
Lindsey Aiko Fujimoto, Aug 1984 - Sep 2015
Nainoa Kealihokuhelelani Hoe, Aug 1977 - Jan 2005
Alaina Marie Jenkins, Aug 1967 - Nov 1992
Helen Sayako Kaneshiro, Aug 2000 - Oct 2000
Darryl Kahoeikaika Kaniaupio, Aug 1981 - Nov 1999
Danica Darnell Alohihealaniikawana'ao Kimura, Aug 1986 - Jul 1993
Yoshiro E. K. Lamansky, Aug 1976 - Apr 1996
James Lantrip III, Aug 1962 - Sep 1990
Cora Myers, Aug 1988 - Aug 1988
Josiah Ramos, Aug 1997 - Oct 2016
Emma Grace Smith, Aug 2003 – Jun 2016
Matthew Trinkle, Aug 1992 - Jun 2012
Kevin Wolfley, Aug 1964 - Mar 2008
Evan Jonah Won, Aug 2002 - Jun 2017

Our Children Who Left Us in August

Dave Adams, Nov 1982 - Aug 1998
Kaedy Benjamin Kaimiloo AhMook Sang Stewart, Jul 2015 - Aug 2015
John Charles Bromke III, Nov 1982 - Aug 2006
Keokalani Snyder Elizares, Feb 1976 - Aug 1998
Nikolas Taro Emerson, Feb 1992 – Aug 2021
Brandon Keola Fong, Apr 1975 - Aug 1995
Leah Marie Goldberg, Apr 1996 - Aug 2014
Michael Hallenbeck, Apr 1994 - Aug 2015
David Joshua, Jun 1983 - Aug 2006
Ikaika Kale Kelepine Lopes, Oct 1987 - Aug 2013
Richard Mannheimer, Jun 1961 - Aug 2010
Jeffrey Mitchel Massie, Jul 1967 - Aug 1984
Michael McNeil, Oct 1956 - Aug 1981
Cora Myers, Aug 1988 - Aug 1988
Rhianon Bliss Poitras, Sep 1979 - Aug 2006
Peter Quintanilla, Jul 1967 - Aug 2016
Marika Akesa Melelina Quirit, Jul 1992 - Aug 2004
Allan Gordon Sanford, Apr 1960 - Aug 1990
Kaikupa'aokalani Seto, Feb 1985 - Aug 2004



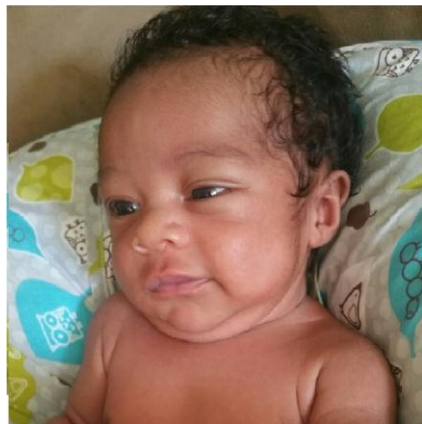
Richard Mannheimer



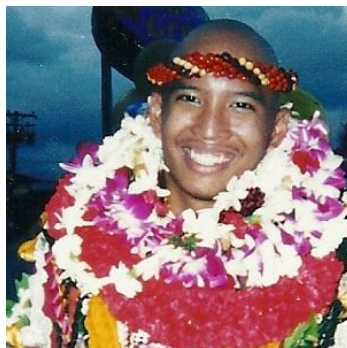
Ikaika Kale Kelepine Lopes



John Charles Bomke III



Kaedy Benjamin Kaimiloo
AhMook Sang Stewart



Darryl Kahoeikaika Kaniaupio



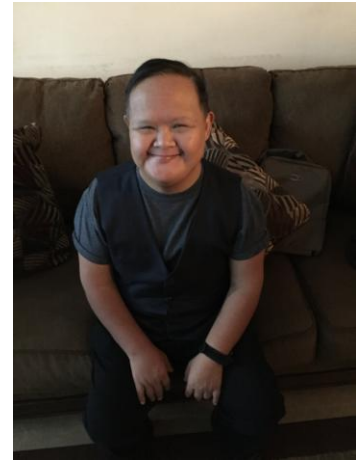
Marika Akesa Melelina Quirit



Matthew Trinkle



Josiah Ramos



Peter Quintanilla



Leah Marie Goldberg



Nainoa Kealiihokuhelelani Hoe



Michael Hallenbeck



Patrina Sharmaine Best



Helen Sayako Kaneshiro



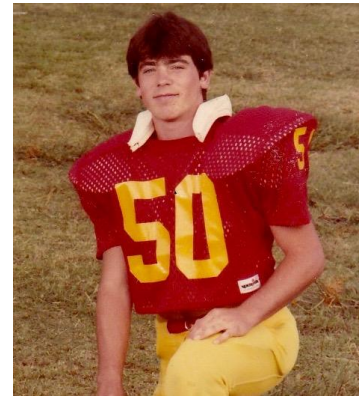
Alaina Marie Jenkins



Rhianon Bliss Poitras



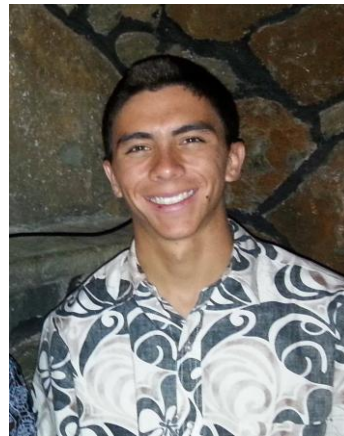
Emma Grace Smith



Jeffrey Mitchel Massie



Nikolas Taro Emerson



Ian Tyler Coronas



Evan Jonah Won

The friend who can be silent with us
in a moment of confusion or despair,
who can stay with us
in an hour of grief and bereavement,
who can tolerate NOT KNOWING...

NOT HEALING...

NOT CURING...

that is a friend indeed.

~ Henri Nouwen



**The
Compassionate
Friends**
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OUR CHILDREN REMEMBERED

FOREVER LOVED, MISSED, REMEMBERED

SEPTEMBER

Our Children Born in September

Elizabeth Cook Allen, Sep 1967 - Feb 2013
Amanda Raeanne Beaty, Sep 1994 - Mar 2016
Alissa Rone' Bennett, Sep 1989 - May 2012
Ichigo Ann Brunner, Sep 1982 - Sep 2007
Augusto Camara, Sep 1978 - Mar 2006
Sara Cosson, Sep 1968 - Nov 2012
Jeremy Patrick Dias, Sep 1971 - Oct 1987
Brian Gene Ellis, Sep 1985 - Oct 2014
Jesse Garcia, Sep 1981 - Oct 2005
Mark Patrick Goldberg, Sep 1984 - Dec 2013
Arya Marika Alexandratos Hixson, Sep 2017 - Oct 2017
Emilia Hung, Sep 1988 - Mar 2013
Gregory Bruce Johanos, Sep 1958 - Jul 1960
Jeffery Michael Kiyan, Sep 1987 - May 2010
Bert Kenalio Malott, Sep 1961 - May 2014
Dwayne George Mattos, Sep 1970 - May 2013
Robert Jason Morales Jr, Sep 1986 - Jul 2007
Kalen Nakasato, Sep 1975 - Feb 2003
Frank Panelli, Sep 1958 - Sep 1976
Rhianon Bliss Poitras, Sep 1979 - Aug 2006
Sonny Dee Vesper Santiago, Sep 1962 - Jun 1990
Christopher Scott Staackmann, Sep 1960 - Oct 2010
Charles "Chuck" Tanaka, Sep 1973 - Sep 1989
Grant Uyeshiro, Sep 1976 - May 2006
Jaime Wong, Sep 1965 - Nov 1998

Our Children Who Left Us in September

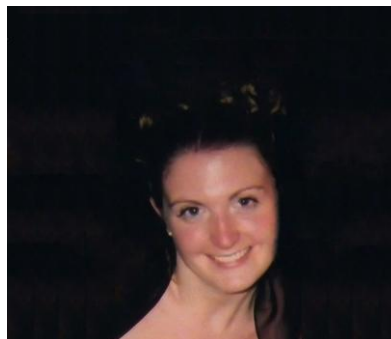
Royce Henry Baginski, Mar 1995 - Sep 2016
Ichigo Ann Brunner, Sep 1982 - Sep 2007
Robert S. M. Chun, Oct 1960 - Sep 2005
Paul Gabriel DeJesus, Jul 1991 - Sep 2015
McKenna Fuglie, Dec 1991 - Sep 2014
Lindsey Aiko Fujimoto, Aug 1984 - Sep 2015
Daniel Jezek, Jun 1977 - Sep 2010
James Lantrip III, Aug 1962 - Sep 1990
Jaime Avelina Leonen, May 1986 - Sep 2015
Andrew Madrid, Apr 2000 - Sep 2014
Rudy Chung Murakami, Oct 1981 - Sep 2012
Frank Panelli, Sep 1958 - Sep 1976
Tommy Polmal, Jul 2013 - Sep 2013
Reid Richards, Jul 1965 - Sep 1998
Scott Rush, Dec 1963 - Sep 1980
Kapena Lou Kalanikaioke'ie'ie Smith, Mar 1980 - Sep 2003
Peter Soileau, Mar 1959 - Sep 1993
Charles "Chuck" Tanaka, Sep 1973 - Sep 1989
Princess Zuna Ilacad Yadao, Nov 2014 - Sep 2016



Bert Kenalio Malott



Jaime Avelina Leonen



Rhianon Bliss Poitras



Alissa Rone' Bennett



Rudy Chung Murakami



Princess Zuna Ilacad Yadao



Paul Gabriel DeJesus



McKenna Fuglie



Daniel Jezek



Mark Patrick Goldberg



Arya Mariko Alexandratos Hixson



Andrew Madrid



Sara Cosson



Amanda Raeanne Beaty



Dwayne George Mattos



Brian Gene Ellis



Robert Jason Morales Jr

Gifts of Love

Mahalo to all who participated in our “Walk to Remember 2025” at Kapi’olani Park in Loving Memory of our Children.

Oyasato and Arakaki Families

Special Mahalo for your generous refreshments and helping hands during our “Walk to Remember 2025” in memory of your son, nephew, grandson and cousin, Keene Kainoa Nagaishi.

Lorna Oyasato (Mother), Dixie Oyasato (Grandmother), Kyle and Charlene Oyasato (Uncle and Auntie), Garret and Candace Arakaki (Uncle and Auntie), and Ashley Arakaki (Cousin).



Mahalo to all who traveled far and participated in the 48th Compassionate Friends National Conference at Bellevue, Washington, in Loving Memory of our Children.

Special Mahalo to volunteers for assembling the Conference Memory Board:
Pearson and Georgiana Best in loving memory of their daughter Patrina Sharmaine Best
Daniel and Charlene Mersburgh in loving memory of their daughter Ruth Mersburgh

Special Mahalo to volunteers for assembling and carrying the Walk to Remember Banner:
Charlie and Tane Stultka in loving memory of their son Justin Stultka
Pearson Best in loving memory of his daughter Patrina Sharmaine Best
Philip Benjamin in loving memory of his daughter Victoria Benjamin

We Travel

Our individual path has lead us on a collective journey
traveling the winding road of grief---with hearts searching
for a street called "Comfort." We pause at intersections with
landmarks of love, pain, sorrow, reflection, and remembrance.
Carefully we navigate through the busy traffic of sincere condolences,
tender moments, awkward moments, displaced comments, stronger
friendships, new friendships, strained family gatherings, and surprising
wonderful encounters. Some of us, many of us navigate through
major road construction wearing hard hats of anger, guilt, denial,
regrets, what ifs, and if I had only known. We fuel up on various
helps, many requiring that we walk in faith. We find ourselves better
equipped to gently hear others as they travel on their personal road of difficulty.
In our grief we are directed, pulled, air lift to a new place expecting to arrive at a
specific, individual destination of purpose and peace. But as we travel on the road, there
will be times that the tears will come like a hard rain but Love will cover us,
Love will shelter us. There will be times when we are shipwrecked in sorrow and
The Angel of Light will provide a life jacket to keep us afloat.
Yes, THE SUN HAS SET ON THE ONE WE LOVE
but He will be a Candle of Light to guide---to comfort,
He Is The Sunrise of HOPE, He will preserve us, He will sustain us.
Our waterfall of tears will render sweet mist rising, Spring flowers blooming.
So we remember the ones we love, we talk about the ones we love,
we hold onto them---every sweet thought, every beautiful memory
We encourage one another to find That Secret Place, spend time there,
find rest there, find love, healing, forgiveness, peace,
and so much more than we ever knew---ever imagined
And TOGETHER, HEARTS CONNECTED we trust The Sunrise of HOPE----
The Light at midnight, The Crisp Air of a new dawn HE IS THE SUNRISE OF HOPE.

Honoring all those who have touched our life and will forever occupy beautiful heart space.

Pamela Graves Hagens
In Memory of Samuel Christopher Hagens



48th National Conference in Bellevue, WA



We traveled along with hundreds to the Compassionate Friends 48th National Conference in Bellevue, WA, to learn, reflect, and exchange with others the lives, joys, and deaths of our child, sibling, or grandchild. We shed tears, laughed, sang and danced.

We found hope, support, compassion, friendship, and encouragement from a community who understand the depth of our loss, the pain in our hearts, and the challenges of life without our beloved child. We travel onward, with new strength, skills and hope for honoring and remembering our loved ones forever.



Walk to Remember

TCF Honolulu Annual Walk to Remember

The Honolulu Compassionate Friends Walk to Remember was a highlight for June 2025. It was created as a symbolic way to show the love we carry for the children we mourn. Held on Saturday, June 21, 2025 at 9:00 am. The warmth of the Hawaiian sun, the splashing of the ocean waves, and the anticipation of the start of the walk, filled the air with love. Finally the Walk begins and, in love, everyone walks, meditating, sharing and grieving on a much different time in their lives. We help each other to grieve as well as to grow with our beloved child forever in our hearts.



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.

