



The Compassionate Friends

Honolulu Chapter

Supporting Family After a Child Dies

VOLUME 38, ISSUE 1 JULY - SEPTEMBER 2026 (THIRD QUARTER)

Chapter leaders: David and Terry
Kaniaupio
David: (808)222-6556
Terry: (808)222-2729
Email: kaniaupiotcf@gmail.com

Treasurer: Tami Cox Martinez
Newsletter Editor: David Kaniaupio
Parent Coordinator: Clara Makaipo
Fundraising Coordinator: Karen Cho
Website: www.compassionatefriendshawaii.org

Apprentice Helper: Ethan Won
Sibling Coordinator: Holly Bostwick
Sibling Coordinator: Sandee Moon
Sibling Coordinator: Darrin Moon

HONOLULU CHAPTER

Transforming Grief

Posted on April 2nd, 2026 on the TCF National Website

As I write, grief blankets Maui in the aftermath of the unimaginable devastation wrought by the August 8, 2023, fires in Lahaina and Upcountry Maui. I still cannot wrap my mind around the enormity of what transpired—thousands of residents have lost loved ones, homes, jobs, and pets and are facing an unknown future. Recreating lives without financial resources and social support is daunting, and reconnecting with a sense of purpose may seem unimaginable.

This I know because 11 years ago, a colorectal cancer diagnosis blindsided my 41-year-old daughter, Emalia, and turned our world upside down. The cancer—an insatiable enemy—caused her demise 17 months later, and my life changed irrevocably that February of 2014.

Grief flattened me for several months. I didn't care if I lived or died and lacked the energy or desire to interact with others, even close friends. I was most concerned about Emalia's son, barely three years old, but didn't have the energy or will to take on much caregiving. Ultimately, I knew that he and my son-in-law would be cared for by other family members and our many friends and that my son and his family would also be alright if I died. I felt that my life no longer mattered: I was without purpose.

What I felt most acutely besides the pain of Emalia's absence was guilt. I felt guilty as I lay on my bed because I felt I was wasting my time on earth, especially after having seen how Emalia fought so valiantly to live. Yet, I couldn't care enough to mobilize. I grieved the loss of my beloved child, as well as my best friend. I acutely missed being able to touch her, hug her, give her a foot rub, brush her hair, or feel her hugs. Although she was no longer in her physical body, I felt her presence continually and talked to her often, telling her how much I missed her and wanting answers to my many questions—and could only trust that her responses were not my mind's fabrications. Weeks and months passed, and I moved slowly through the days.

I lay on my bed and napped a lot, and memories of the most painful times of Emalia's journey arose. Lying abed without distraction, I allowed myself to fully receive these memory moments and cried often and deeply. I realized that I had been unable to fully experience these moments in real time when Emalia was alive because I kept my attention focused on her; allowing myself to fully experience the moments then would have kept me from being fully present for her, from not breaking down as I watched my child suffer.

However, my crying jags rarely lasted even a couple of minutes, and during the weeks, their frequency dropped markedly. Finally, the slide show stopped. I could then recall those memories without feeling the energetic charge they'd carried previously. And, some of my energy began to return.

Grief transformed me: my life is now richer, and my capacity for empathy and compassion is greater. I believe the key is engaging with our grief: letting it work us, not avoiding it. Working with grief is not easy, but, ultimately, can be rich and

Monthly Meeting

Hybrid Meeting

Meeting Place: Kaneohe Bay Plaza
Address: 45-955 Kamehameha Hwy
City: Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

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

Parking: Behind the Bldg. First two entrances on the right

Virtual Zoom Meeting

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

See the Announcements

Upcoming Events

49th TCF National Conference – Jul 2 to 5,
Baltimore, Maryland

Regional Coordinator

Regional Coordinator: David Kaniaupio

Phone Number: (808)222-6556

Email: hontcf@gmail.com

National Office

The Compassionate Friends

48660 Pontiac Trail, #930808

Wixom, MI 48393

(877) 969-0010

Email:

nationaloffice@compassionatefriends.org

Website: www.compassionatefriends.org



rewarding. During my career as a clinical psychologist in northern California some years ago, I often saw this happen with my clients. Once they stopped avoiding their grief and chose rather to engage with it, sunshine would find its way in between the cracks and bring light to the dark places. As light returned, a sense of purpose a meaning would return to their lives.

In late fall of October 2014, I was describing the Dougy Center, the gold standard of children's grief organizations which is in Oregon, to a close friend, and he suggested that I might create such a nonprofit on Maui. His suggestion shot straight to my heart: in that instant, purpose and meaning returned to my life, and I felt fully energized once again. In 2015, I founded Nā Keiki O Emalia and served as its executive director for five years before resigning to move onto other interests that called to me. I have since written *Emalia: A Mother-Daughter Journey from Here to Beyond* and been studying and practicing evidential mediumship.

My path was not unusual. While some individuals find meaning in founding a nonprofit that in some way relates to the issue that caused their beloved's death or helps people, such is not the path for everyone. Routes that serve as springboards forward into life vary from person to person. The commonality, however, appears to be engaging in an activity that helps others. And, helping others is not about scale: it can be as simple as helping a neighbor or volunteering for a local organization. Ultimately, we only grieve whom or what we care about and by attending to our grief we can reconnect with love and joy in our lives.

Brook Brown
Retired clinical psychologist
Emalia's Mom

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Monthly Meetings Update ~ Meetings on the morning of the first Saturday of the month are Hybrid, the meetings are in person and virtual via Zoom. In person meetings are held in Room 401 in the Kaneohe Bay Plaza building. The evening meetings on the third Tuesday of the month are virtual 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 reminder (sent by Clara) will contain the link to join the meeting. 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.

Walk to Remember ~ Thank you all who volunteered and participated in the Walk to Remember last month.

Sibling Group ~ TCF siblings walking together with our brother's and sister's love beside us forever. We are working on creating a sibling support group. For more information contact Holly Bostwick (honolulu.sibling.tcf@gmail.com) or Sandee Moon (sandeemoon@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 the Aloha United Way (under "The Compassionate Friends" #72860). If your employer participates in this Giving Campaign, 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.



LOVING LISTENERS

DAVID KANIAUPIO (808)222-6556

TERRY KANIAUPIO (808)222-2729



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

JULY

Our Children Born in July

Kaedyn Benjamin Kaimiloa AhMook Sang Stewart,
Jul 2015 - Aug 2015

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

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 Alohikealaniikawana’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

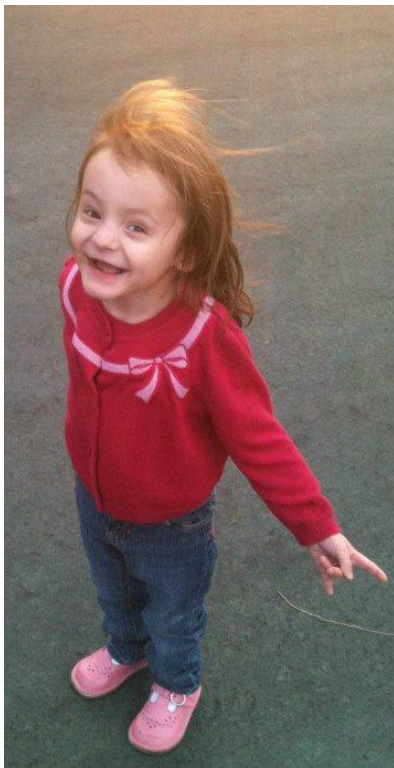
Wyatt Nguyen, Jul 2016 - Jul 2016

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



Anais Atherton



Paul Gabriel DeJesus



Robert Jason Morales Jr



Kristofer Nedorolik



Joshua Levine



Jared Makana Isamu Teruya



Michael Mannheimer



Peter Quintanilla



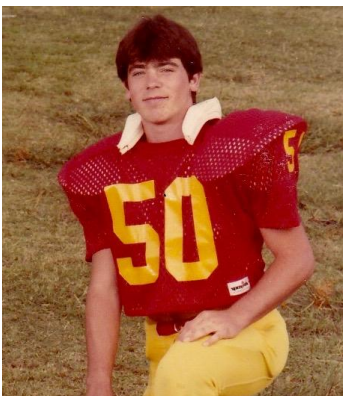
Jason May



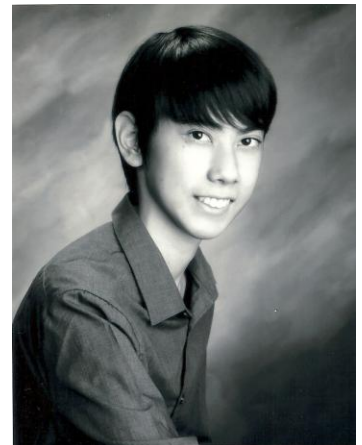
Marika Akesa Melelina Quirit



Elston Pang



Jeffrey Mitchel Massie



Keene Kainoa Nagaishi



Charles "Keoki" Malott



Tabatha Schoenfelt



Joshua Michael Linogon



Kaedyn Benjamin Kaimiloa
AhMook Sang Stewart

*Someone once said that grief lacks a language.
It is difficult to give words to this life altering,
devastating, and complex experience.
To further complicate things, many of
the societal constructs for understanding grief
do not adequately reflect the experience
of people grieving a profound loss.
This can leave many of us feeling isolated,
vulnerable, and misunderstood.*

- Andy McNiel, CEO, *The Compassionate Friends*



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

compassionatefriends.org

OUR CHILDREN REMEMBERED

FOREVER LOVED, MISSED, REMEMBERED

AUGUST

Our Children Born in August

Patrina Sharmaine Best, Aug 1985 - Feb 2024
Waikoa 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 Kealihakuhelani 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 Alohikealaniikawana'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
Kaedyn Benjamin Kaimiloa 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



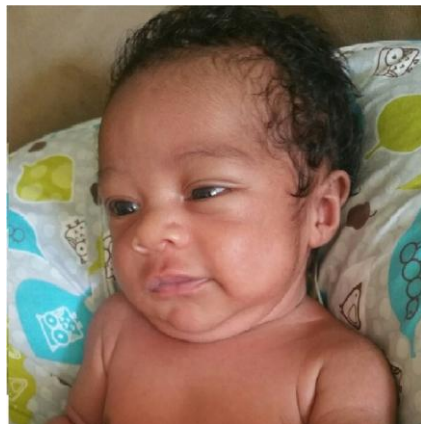
Richard Mannheimer



Ikaika Kale Kelepine Lopes



John Charles Bomke III



Kaedyn Benjamin Kaimiloa
AhMook Sang Stewart



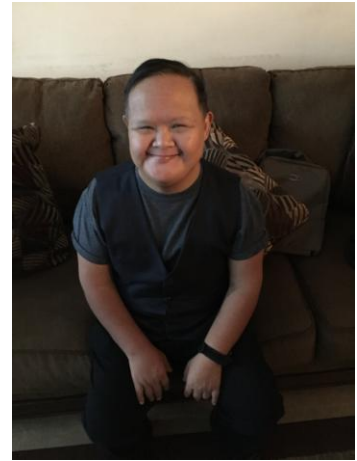
Marika Akesa Melelina Quirit



Matthew Trinkle



Josiah Ramos



Peter Quintanilla



Leah Marie Goldberg



Nainoa Kealiihokuhelelani Hoe



Michael Hallenbeck



Helen Sayako Kaneshiro



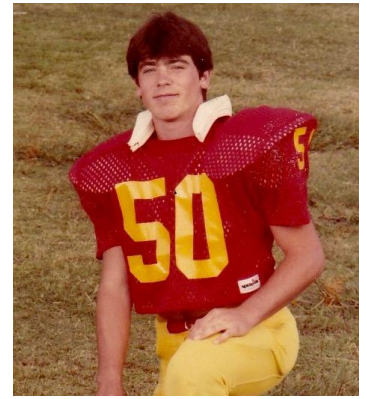
Alaina Marie Jenkins



Rhianon Bliss Poitras



Emma Grace Smith



Jeffrey Mitchel Massie



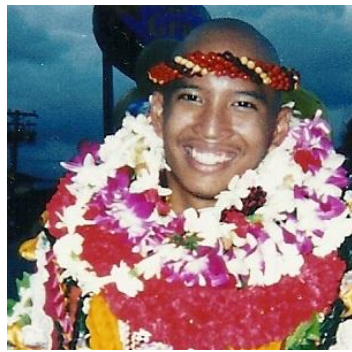
Ian Tyler Coronas



Nikolas Taro Emerson



Jonah Won



Darryl Kahoeikaika Kaniaupio



Patrina Sharmaine Best

But in all the sadness,
When you are feeling that your heart is empty,
And lacking;
You've got to **Remember** that *Grief* isn't the **Absence** of *Love*.
Grief is the **Proof** that Love is **Still** there.

Tessa Shaffer

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 Rona Bennett, Sep 1989 - May 2014
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

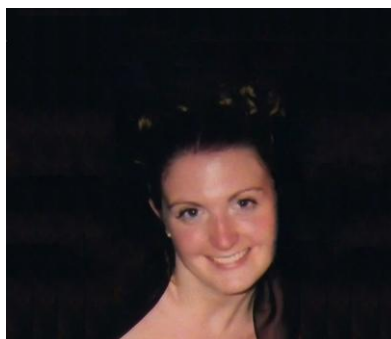
Royce Henry Baginski, Mar 1995 - Sep 2016
Ichigo Ann Brunner, Sep 1982 - Sep 2007
Robert S. M. Chun, Oct 1960 - Sep 2005
Paul Gabriel DeJesus, Jul 1991 - Sep 2015
McKenna Fuglie, Dec 1991 - Sep 2014
Lindsey Aiko Fujimoto, Aug 1984 - Sep 2015
Daniel Jezek, Jun 1977 - Sep 2010
James Lantrip III, Aug 1962 - Sep 1990
Jaime Avelina Leonen, May 1986 - Sep 2015
Joshua Michael Linogon, Jul 1983 - Sep 2022
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 Kalanikaioka'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 Rona Bennett



Rudy Chung Murakami



Princess Zuna Ilacad Yadao



Paul Gabriel DeJesus



Arya Mariko Alexandratos Hixson



Mark Patrick Goldberg



Andrew Madrid



Daniel Jezek



Amanda Raeanne Beaty



Dwayne George Mattos



McKenna Fuglie



Robert Jason Morales Jr



Brian Gene Ellis



Joshua Michael Linogon



Sara Cosson

Voices of Parents, Grandparents, and Siblings

A Walk to Remember: Honoring our Children and Siblings

This morning, under clear warm skies, members of our support group gathered for a meaningful Walk to Remember at Kapi'olani Regional Park, coming together to honor the precious memories of the children and siblings we hold forever in our hearts. For 2.5 miles, we walked carrying with us the love, memories, and enduring connections we share with our loved ones. While all our grief journeys are unique, the walk serves as a powerful reminder that no one walks alone.

As we made our way around the park, conversations flowed naturally as we shared stories, memories, and cherished moments of the children and siblings who continue to hold a special place in our hearts. New friendships were formed, and existing bonds strengthened, and we found comfort in the understanding and compassion of others who have experienced shared loss.

Events like the Walk to Remember, remind us of the importance of coming together to support one another. Through these shared experiences, we find strength, hope and continued healing.

Thank you to everyone who participated and helped make this morning's walk such a special tribute! As we completed our walk, we were reminded that although our loved ones are not physically beside us, their presence remains with us every step of the way.

Joanne Imada
"Madi's" Mom
Honolulu Chapter

Walk to Remember 2026



Gifts of Love

Mahalo to Darrin and Sandee Moon for bringing the juice and soda's to the Walk to Remember 2026.

Special Mahalo to our volunteers: Jeff and Angie Digsby, Joanne and Neal Imada, and Karen Cho who helped set up the tent and tables; Karen Cho and Angie Digsby for manning the registration table; Joanne and Neal Imada, Holly Bostwick, Karen Cho, Amy Koren who helped breakdown everything; their help made our "Walk to Remember 2026" in "Loving Memory of our Children" a very special event.

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.

