

The Fox Valley Illinois Chapter of

**THE COMPASSIONATE
FRIENDS**



A self-help support organization for families that have experience the death of a child, at any age, from any cause.

We Need Not Walk Alone –

We are The Compassionate Friends

We need not walk alone...

The death of a child of any age, from any cause, is a shattering experience for a family. When a child dies, a family needs emotional support for the long grief journey that lies ahead.

Since 1977, The Fox Valley Chapter of The Compassionate Friends (TCF) has been actively helping families toward the positive resolution of their grief following the death of a child.

Our Mission

When a child dies, at any age, the family suffers intense pain and may feel hopeless and isolated. TCF 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. TCF touches hundreds of people in the Fox Valley community each year.

Bimonthly Newsletter

Our newsletter announces TCF activities and includes articles which are helpful to families grieving the death of a child. The newsletter includes original writings by bereaved parents, siblings and relatives from throughout

Support Group Meetings

Our monthly support group meetings are the heart of TCF. They are open to parents, adult siblings, and relatives of children who have died at any age, from any cause. These gatherings provide a caring environment in which bereaved family members can talk freely about the emotions and experiences they are going through and receive the understanding support of others who have "been there." Often, members say that the hope provided through these sharing sessions has been more helpful than other types of support in resolving grief within their family following the death of a child.

Telephone Line and E-mail

The Fox Valley Chapter of the Compassionate Friends maintains a dedicated telephone line and e-mail address. Telephone inquiries are frequently received from bereaved parents, referring agencies and individuals, or the general public. Some of these calls are the result of TCF members in other cities referring bereaved Fox Valley friends to us. The chapter also maintains a list of "phone friends," members who have "been there" and can be called at any time a bereaved parent needs to talk.

Information and Education

Part of our mission is to promote better understanding of parental and family grief. Examples of this effort have included a robust resource of reading material and informational brochures covering many topics.

The Compassionate Friends also offers a large variety of private Facebook Groups. These pages are moderated by bereaved parents, siblings, or grandparents, and may not be accessed unless a request to join is approved by a moderator.

-- The Compassionate Friends also offers "virtual chapters" through an Online Support Community (live chats). This program was established to encourage connecting and sharing among parents, grandparents, and siblings (over the age of 18) grieving the death of a child. The rooms supply support, encouragement, and friendship. The friendly atmosphere encourages conversation among friends; friends who understand the emotions you're experiencing. There are general bereavement sessions as well as more specific sessions.

Memorial Events

TCF members gather for a Flower Ceremony in the spring and a holiday candle lighting ceremony in December. Our children are remembered with music, poems, flowers and refreshments.

About TCF

The Compassionate Friends is a national self-help, mutual assistance organization offering friendship, understanding, and hope to bereaved parents and their families. Our twofold mission is to assist families toward the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child and to provide information to help others be supportive.

The Fox Valley, Illinois Chapter is one of over 600 chapters of The Compassionate Friends in the United States. TCF has no religious or governmental affiliation.

Funding

There are no individual dues or fees of any kind. The Compassionate Friends depends entirely on voluntary contributions from individuals, businesses and the philanthropic community. The Compassionate Friends is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization; all donations are tax-exempt.

Meeting Schedule

The 2nd Friday of each month at 7:30 pm

At Presence Mercy Center Hospital

Dunleavy/ Walsh Conference Room

1325 N. Highland Avenue, Aurora

Park in the east parking lot and enter though the three story Behavioral Health Building facing Lake Street.

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