

THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS



NORTHEAST BALTIMORE CHAPTER
WE NEED NOT WALK ALONE
VOLUME IX #3 SUMMER 2004

EDITORS, DAVID BISHAI, ELIZABETH BISHAI
TCF PHONE # 410-560-3358

WE NOW HAVE A WEBSITE !!!

BREAK OUT THE CHAMPAGNE!

WE ARE LAUNCHING OUR WEBSITE!

Northeast Baltimore Chapter of TCF will have it's own website:

www.baltimoretcf.com

As we go to press, the site is being tested and fine tuned for the launch. This is *your* website - please check it out and give us your feedback, suggestions, stories, pictures...poems? We encourage and welcome your input. In creating this site, our intention is add another dimension to our ability to reach other parents and families coping with the loss of their children.

We also wanted additional outlets for supporting our community - a place to post the picture of a beloved child, submit poems written about them or about your grief/hope process. Perhaps you have a story you'd like to share that gives life to your experience and offers hope to others. Within the site there are various means to reach out for support, offer assistance and submit your suggestions, pictures, stories and poems. Please note that for safety with identity purposes, we are recommending the use of our children's first names and life dates only if you chose to post a picture on the site. You may also submit a nature picture or other form of graphic (drawing) instead of posting a picture.

The resources for the creation of this site came as a gift in honor of the first anniversary of the death of Jim (James) Stallings, 1/16/68 - 3/19/2003. My husband, Tom (Jim's stepfather) and I (Mom) have been given a lot through our affiliation with this chapter. We chose to contribute both time and money as a means of saying "thank you" to this amazing community of souls. We hope it serves the needs of this community and those seeking refuge from the unthinkable in the future.

With strong hearts and gentle arms,
Barbara & Tom Allen

If you have something you would like to appear in the Newsletter, send it to me by the 1st of the month.

David Bishai
11118 Pool Rd.
Hunt Valley, MD
21030
dbishai@jhu.edu

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**

to help keep the group going
call Michelle Backe
410-486-8716 or
Michelle Pooner
410-526-5956



OUR CHILDREN REMEMBERED

Anniversaries and Birthdays are difficult times for bereaved parents, but... As long as we live, they too shall live for they are part of us in our memories. In the days ahead, we lovingly remember these children, and we send our love and support to their parents.

Kaylan Arnold 11/06/95-7/12/97
Mother— Demetria

Desiree Jenell Bailey Nichols 8/27/63-11/28/95
Parents-Joseph & Nancy

Elizabeth Jane Brodie 8/14/70
Sister— Kimberly Brodie-Hopkins

Jana Buck 8/11/96-4/18/97
Parents-Ivory & Janelle

John Campbell 9/21/66-8/17/93
Sister-Laura Williams

Jonathan Nicholas Carter 7/11/98-7/13/98
Mother-Nichole

Greg Daniels 10/29/47-7/19/97
Mother—Claudia

Diane Michelle Farrow 8/29/65-8/16/95
Mother-Christine Ashby

Jamshid M Ghannad 1/7/69-6/29/99
Parent: Heideh Shirazi

Dean Gregory Goutos 8/10/64-7/17/88
Parents-Athan & George

Aaron Christopher Grogan 6/29/96-9/22/96
Parents: Patrick & Michelle

Timothy Lee Hicks 10/12/72-8/24/90
Parents-Jimmie & Cynthia

Donna Ann Hussell 10/29/69-8/29/92
Parents-Connie & Eddie

Halley Alexandra Lambert 7/27/92-2/10/93
Parents-Christina Woodard & Robert

Baby Long 8/15/97
Parents-Ruthie & Hayes

Morgan Lotierzo 8/15/97-2/4/98
Parents-Anthony & Colleen

Angel Reamer Maio 7/5/81-8/2/97
Parents-Brenda Maio & Rodney Reamer

Barry L Marchio, Jr. 7/4/73-9/28/96
Parents-Barbara & Barry Sr.

Hunter Clayton McManus 7/5/95-12/25/97
Parents-Anna & Chris

Jason Oakes 10/7/96-7/8/97
Mother-Tammy McLaughlin

MIRACLE 7/23/03
Mother-Kahlilia Woodlon

Rachel Lynn Orr 7/11/80-12/3/95
Mother-Penny

Daniel Scott Pooner 8/13/95-1/2/96
Parents-Michelle & Alan

Brian Reuling 8/11/73-6/4/78
Mother-Lynette Reagan

Alex Shippee 11/15/91-7/17/95
Mother-Bonni

Rodney Douglas Smart 8/21/69-8/10/95

Jon Kyle Strauch 8/18/87-8/21/87
Parents-John & Paula

Kyree Streeter 2/5/98-8/7/98
Mother-Laticia

Ariel Dominique Swanson 11/28/90-7/17/95
Parents-Maureen Henry & Maurice

Jessica Sarah Weber 8/20/97
Parents-Stephen & Laura

MEETING SCHEDULE

Northeast Baltimore Chapter Meeting

First Wednesday 7:30 pm
Sept 1, 2004
Oct 6, 2004
Nov 3, 2004

Brown Memorial Church, 6200 N Charles Street Towson

Directions: Beltway to Exit #25 Charles Street; South on Charles St approximately 2 miles to church on the right, directly across from 7-11

For information on other area chapter meetings please call 410-560-3358 or visit The Compassionate Friends online.

An Uneventful Pregnancy

They said her birth defects were a surprise after an “uneventful” pregnancy. was it uneventful the day we knew she was there inside—growing? How about the day we saw her little body on the ultrasound screen and fell in love with her? Was it uneventful the first time I felt her kick? Or the second? What about the day we chose her name—Meg? All those days we dreamed and hoped and loved her. Those were the happiest days of our life with her. Don't tell me it was uneventful. Please.

Felise Freeley-O'Brien
Hingham TCF

A GRANDPARENT'S POINT OF VIEW

The death of a child is the most tragic thing that can happen to anyone. It affects so many lives—family, friends, and even strangers.

I lost my grandchild through death, and only a grandparent can understand the special love we have for our grandchildren and the loss we feel when the child dies. For grandparents, it is a double loss. Not only is your grandchild gone, but you also watch your child die each day.

The smile that was always on my daughter's face is no longer there. The hurt is so deep and there are so many questions. You feel helpless as a parent. You can't kiss the hurt away as you did when they were a child. You have no answers for their questions, for you can barely understand your own feelings.

Each day I hope and pray for a little ray of sunshine to show on my daughter's face. I search for a little something to say or do that will comfort her. It seems that there is no end to the suffering.

As time has slowly gone by, I have seen the healing process begin. In time a ray of hope will shine on my daughter's face and a smile will make her eyes light up again. She will turn to me for what little comfort I can give her. There will always be a part of me that is gone, but in time I will learn to live with the part that is still there.

--Ruth Eaton

TCF– Savannah, GA



DRIVING

You know how it is when you are driving:
suddenly you realize you've driven several miles,
but you don't remember getting there.
With grief the miles are years.
Driving is habit. The destination changes;
you are to turn left, but you still turn right.
When the child in the store calls, "Mom!"
I turn the way I always did.
We detour to avoid obstacles.
I drive blocks out of my way to bypass his playground.
If you are old enough, you will see
a car like one you owned when you were young, and you will
travel back through time.
Yesterday, I saw my child
in the passenger seat of a small car
approaching a red light. I changed lanes to get a better look.
His head was the same, his blue eyes familiar.
He was close,
but his mother drove him away.
I should have driven forward, but I couldn't.
Wiping my eyes, I could see in my rear-view mirror
the driver behind me honking his horn, screaming,
"What's the matter with you?" The question
I was asking myself.
--*Shelly Wagner, The Andrew Poems, 1994.*

PHONE FRIENDS— If you need someone to
talk to, we are here.

Michelle Backe 410-486-8716

Michelle Pooner 410-526-5956

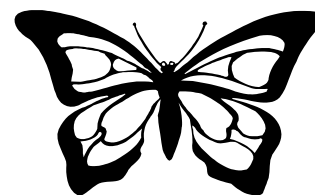
Kate Gehr 410-444-4998

LOVE GIFTS—

*a monetary donation to our chapter
lovingly given by family or friends in honor of a child who has died.
Love gifts help to maintain our newsletter and mailing.*

*Postage donated in loving memory of **Andrew Robert Ritchie**
grandparents—Margery and William*

*Website construction donated in memory of **James Stallings**
by parents—Barbara and Tom Allen*



Northeast Baltimore Chapter
The Compassionate Friends
PO Box 9753
Baltimore MD 21284