



# The Compassionate Friends

## Greater Omaha Chapter

P.O. Box 540852, Omaha, NE 68154

mail@tcfomaha.org (English) or correo@tcfomaha.org (Spanish)

402-571-4011

www.tcfomaha.org

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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.

**Jul/Aug 2009**

Información en Español en pagina 6 / Information in Spanish on Page 6.

### MEETINGS/REUNIONES

#### PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS & ADULT SIBLINGS

7:00 p.m. — 1st Thursday of the month

**New Cassel Retirement Center**

**900 N. 90th Street —Auditorium Level 2, Omaha, NE**

#### THURS AUG 6 FORGIVENESS

**Guest Leonard Eberle, father of Danny Joe Eberle 1970-1983**

Excerpts from Michael Kelly, Omaha World-Herald columnist 7/9/06:

*"The slayings of his son and another boy once draped the entire community in prolonged fear. Now, Leonard Eberle reveals, he forgave the killer just before his execution....Eberle has traveled an emotional and spiritual journey since the 1983 death of his son, Danny Joe. He said he experienced anger, bitterness and a desire for revenge - before concluding that he must forgive a terrible sinner. "It didn't happen overnight," he said. "It was a long time coming. God didn't push me."....."*

#### THURS SEP 3 WHERE WE ARE NOW

We are looking for panelists to help with this. Please contact us if you are 10 or more years beyond your loss and would like to contribute to this program. For everyone—Read "Beyond Tears" Chapter 9

#### REUNION EN ESPAÑOL/MEETING IN SPANISH

7:00 pm-3er miércoles de cada mes/3rd Wed. of every month

**One World Community Health Center Conference Room**

**4920 S. 30th Street, Omaha NE**

**Kelly 712-326-4308**

Mier/Wed. 19 Ago/Aug

Mier/Wed. 16 September

#### DAYTIME MEETING

Noon — 3rd Tuesday of the month

Tish's —1115 S 35 Street, Council Bluffs

Address Service Requested

Please send stories, poems or love gifts by  
Aug 15, 2009  
for the Sep/Oct Newsletter

#### **IN THIS ISSUE:**

The Angel of Hope statue has arrived—Page 7

Scrapbook Night—page 5



**Love Gifts · Address Change · Authorization To Print Name & Dates**

Mail to: The Compassionate Friends , PO Box 540852, Omaha, NE 68154

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Love Gift Donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

DIRECT MY GIFT TOWARD:

- Memorial Programs
- Outreach (Printing, postage, phone, web)
- Angel of Hope Project
- General Fund (90% local/10% national)

Message: \_\_\_\_\_

**I GIVE MY PERMISSION TO PRINT MY CHILD'S NAME, BIRTH & DEATH DATES IN THE NEWSLETTER**

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_ Death Date \_\_\_\_\_ Your Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNATURE REQUIRED**

You will no longer receive the newsletter if 2 years have passed since our last contact with you. You may be added back to our list at your request. 2009

## Steering Committee

The chapter business is handled by a steering committee. We enjoy working together and getting to know each other beyond the meeting. This group is dedicated to helping you and giving back to the chapter. They are at the meeting to listen to you, and support you in your journey: Joyce Schlosser, Kate & John Spinks, Nicole Winton, Chris Villarreal, Shirley Ashcraft, Jennie Thompson, Kirsten Tay, Kelly Kleckner-Silva, Kelly Pelster, Sandra Massie and Barbara Falk-Schwede. We welcome back Daryl & Audrey Malena as professional advisors to the committee. If The next steering committee meeting is July 11.

## Dear Friends,

I wanted to let you know I wrote my own cookbook and it's at the publisher right now, I dedicated it to my Sandy and also recognized The Compassionate Friends as a lifesaver for me at that terrible time in my life. Hopefully, people who get a copy will use it as a tool to tell other people about this wonderful grief support. Have a great summer. Norma Hanrahan, Sandy 1965-1991, TCF Omaha

## ♥ Gifts of Love ♥

Our activities support the grief work of many families. We also work to educate members of our community about the grief process and how they can support bereaved parents. Please help us help others by making a LOVE GIFT today. TCF is a 501c3 organization and funded only by donations. Monetary gifts in any amount are deeply appreciated and we gratefully accept these gifts knowing our children are warmly remembered. Chapter expenses include printing, postage, library, yellow pages, and memorial programs. Use the form above to send a tax deductible gift.



Donations of every amount are needed, appreciated and make a difference! For example:

\$ 25 allows us to reach out to one bereaved family for a year

- \$ 50 pays for one month of voicemail and yellow pages
- \$125 or \$250 to memorialize your child on an engraved brick at the Angel of Hope Memorial at Boys Town
- \$ 5,000 pays for the local observance of the annual Worldwide Candle Lighting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in December Directing your gift toward a specific fund keeps 100% at the local level. Use the form above.

Gifts received April 15 through June 15:

In memory of Lisa (Drews) Barton by Betty & Leo Drews A quote from a very "special lady" ~"If you love someone, tell them everyday."

In memory of Jack Meyer by Darin & Rhonda Meyer "We love and miss you always."

In memory of Michael Andrew Epstein by Tuffy & Helen Epstein "You are missed every day."

In memory of Steve Burhenne by his parents Elmer & Carol Burhenne "Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday – Mom and Dad"

In memory of Ross Jonathan Mlnarik by his parents Robert & Elaine Mlnarik

In Memory of Kevin Lee Schafer by Don & Lila Schafer "Happy Birthday Son"

In memory of David Charles Arenz by his parents Chuck & Kathy "In loving memory from Mom, Dad and Susan"

In Memory of Kelly Deann Zarestky by her parents Gary & Sally Paulsen

In memory of Michael James Tilson by Pam Bulthuis "Love and miss you " - Mom

In memory of Kale Thomas Simon by Terry & Barbara Lindsley

In memory of Amy Lynne Doty by Deb & Steve Doty "Forever in our Hearts"

**Thank you to the following businesses and professionals who have generously assisted us in our mission**

New Cassel Retirement Center · One World Community Health Center · Omaha State Bank · The Hawks Foundation · Gleoma Arbor/Gleaner Life Insurance · American National Bank & Steve Ritzman · Robertson Family Foundation · Addicus Books · Heafey-Heafey-Hoffman-Dworak-Cutler Funeral Chapels · HyVee 52nd & Center · Security National Bank · Western State Bank · Woodmen of the World Insurance · Kracl Funeral Chapel · Tax Help Inc · St Leo Catholic Church · First Data Corporation Gift Match · Union Pacific Fund for Effective Government Gift Match

# Shared Experience: A Two-fold Look at Grief

## Question: Support Groups—How Long is TOO Long?

### Bill's Answer—

We live in a quick-fix society. Books and talk shows promote nearly set out steps to achieve goals from losing weight to quitting smoking. These programs often have time frames a person moves through with expected levels of achievement and rewards. In a land where winning is everything, the winner's crown goes to those who work through their problems in a cool, calculating manner and walk away from tragedy with a smile and a victory lap around the track.

My daughter, Rachel, died over seven years ago and yet once a month Diana and I still attend a Compassionate Friends meeting. We sit on our chapter board, run the chapter library and this past summer attended our first National TCF convention.

People who don't know us might see us as "stuck." They'd wonder why we haven't worked through our grief and moved on. People who do know us probably scratch their heads as well because, as far as they're concerned, we "have" moved on. We enjoy life, belong to other organizations, see friends and participate in the world around us. We are not that shell-shocked couple who groped through each day trying to find some meaning to life any more. Why go to TCF?

Years later I show up at TCF meetings because I still need that touchstone. I need to remember why every now and then I still get knocked down by a song on the radio, a little girl riding by on her bike or the wind blowing through a Kansas field.

I need to say her name aloud in front of others, I need to tell them that I loved her and I need to tell them that she died and in doing so, remind myself that she lived and touched me in ways that still reverberate through my life. I was changed and am still changing because Rachel Sowers lived and once a month I announce to this world, almost a ritualistic "holy Communion" with that person who changed me and those around me who understand that connection.

I also attend these meetings because I know that my presence is a help to others, especially the newly bereaved. I first came to TCF so utterly wounded and angry. One of my earliest memories was listening to a smiling face telling me that I would never "get over it" but would eventually find some peace and yes, even joy. As much as I resented hearing this at the time I have come to appreciate that face and am glad that person was there to listen to me and let me cry.

The world cannot understand why I still show up at these meetings because a grief journey does not fit into a time frame of months or even years. It is a life time of tears, laughter, good and bad memories and hands held out to support others on a similar journey. It is where I say her name aloud and know that she lived and I am changed because of her. For me, it ain't over 'til it's over. ~ Bill Sowers dad to Rachel 1992-2000~ Topeka TCF Chapter

### Peg's Answer –

I vividly remember my very first support group—it was my husband's one-and-only. He commented afterward on the facilitator's tears and the fact that she was four years out from the death of her son. He expected us to be better by then.

We weren't. Well, we *were* certainly in a different place, but we'll never be better. We know things now that we didn't know that first month. We know there's a timetable to grief and that each one of us has a different one. WE know there isn't a manual for coping with pain and loss. We know our son has left an indelible mark on each side of us that moving on and forgetting just isn't an option.

Since my son's diagnosis in 1992, I have found information and understanding in support groups. I know they need to be a healthy mix of old, mostly rational individuals and new, questioning parents. That calm voice that says "Yes, that happened to me, too-" helps me get out of bed in the morning. The fresh WHYs help me to analyze and digest more of my own story.

The people in my support groups have become supportive *family*—they may not always have the answers, but they sure understand where I'm coming from. I joke each year about returning to the TCF National and how it's like a trip to my home plant—everyone is like me, everyone gets it. I'm just not convinced that moving away from this tremendous thing that has grown out of my grief is a good thing.

So, I stay. I may scare parents when I say it's been thirteen years and I am still sublimely unhappy with my son getting the fuzzy end of the stick. But I also may reassure them that they, too, will survive.

So, how long is too long? I haven't a clue. I know a doctor once told me that Ross had a normal life expectancy of 72 years, and maybe that's a good number to shoot for. I'll be 104 by then, and sadly, I know there will be plenty of young parents to push my wheelchair into our monthly meeting...

~ Peg Rousar-Thompson mom to Ross 1990-1994

## Bereavement Support Providers

Omaha Compassionate Friends was one of several bereavement providers who met recently to establish a network of communication between all health care systems and community-based bereavement support providers in the area, in an effort to increase awareness of bereavement support options for families, and educate and connect health care providers and bereavement care providers in available bereavement services, resources and professional trainings locally.



**Resilience.....** I recently read another book that I have put in my new top ten. Elizabeth Edwards has written a book entitled "Resilience". If anyone has a reason to write such a book, I suspect she certainly does. Her son Wade died at the young age of 16 in a car accident that makes no sense to anyone who has lost a child. It was simply the North Carolina wind that blew his car off the road where it rolled numerous times. He was not speeding. He had not been drinking. He had not been using drugs. He was not talking on a cell phone. He was not texting. He was going to the family's beach home for an Easter celebration.

She defined grief this way. 'Grief is a long process of untangling ourselves from the physical reality of the person and from our expectations of our future with them.' I am sure you would all agree with me when I say that it is a lifelong process which will only end upon our death. She had many surprising ideas of which I had never considered. For a long time she was expecting the clock to be turned back and therefore bring Wade back. I have a hunch that we all have hoped that would be the case...probably a part of denial that I am not sure ever really leaves us. The loss of a child makes no sense! And, trying to make sense of it seems to be pointless. So, instead we search for comfort, solace and peace anywhere we can find it.

She found solace on the internet where she found a community of friends who had also experienced the loss of a loved one. There she felt safe with no expectations from those she was in contact with. Unlike friends and family who are expecting you to "get over it", those she was chatting with allowed her to be her. She had some profound thought regarding the dynamics of the family now without Wade. She also commented on 'parenting a lost child'.....this I had never thought of.

She like many of us has experienced many milestones through family and friends of our children which they will never enjoy. For many of you June brought graduations....possibly your child would have graduated this year; or, maybe a wedding which your child will not experience. Perhaps a gathering on the Fourth of July, but now it is without your child. We take a moment to reflect and enjoy a memory because that's all we have left.

Lisa, a friend of mine lost her son DJ in a tragic skateboard accident. She has done some marvelous things since then and DJ must be so proud of his Mom. She is writing a book about the nuts and bolts of what to do after losing a child and how things are changed and affected such as marriage, siblings, what to do with their room, their clothes, their friends. It is her hope that by writing this book other parents who loose children will see that you can survive but will also know the hardships that can come and how people have dealt with them. If you have suggestions for Lisa, please send her an email at: [epvfam@cox.net](mailto:epvfam@cox.net).

Diana Bodnar, David's Mom, TCF Omaha

## The National Conference

To register, call 877-969-0010 or <http://www.compassionatefriends-register.org>

Friendship, understanding, and hope in everything that makes up the national conference from workshops and banquets, to sharing sessions and the Walk to Remember. There are nearly 100 workshops for parents, siblings, grandparents, and other family members covering most topics related to the death of a child. This includes many workshops for parents with no surviving children. There are sharing sessions on different topics every evening. The Tenth Walk to Remember® will close the conference on Sunday, August 9, and encompasses a scenic route. This symbolic two-mile walk shows, as members and supporters of The Compassionate Friends understand, We Need Not Walk Alone. The Nebraska banner will be carried in the walk by members of our chapter.



Keynote speakers: (if you cannot attend the conference, you might want to read their books)

- Candy Lightner is well-known as the dynamic founder of Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD). "Giving Sorrow Words"
- Reg and Maggie are the parents of Nicholas Green, the seven-year-old American boy who was shot and killed by highway bandits in Italy in 1994, spawning organ donations that have saved thousands of lives. "The Nicholas Effect" and "The Gift That Heals"
- Darcie Sims is a bereaved parent, nationally certified grief management specialist, a psychotherapist, and a board certified hypnotherapist whose unique brand of humor is a special type of grief therapy. "Footsteps Through the Valley" and "Why Are The Casseroles Always Tuna?" and more.
- Michele Longo Eder, author and accomplished lawyer who journaled about what daily life was like for her husband and sons commercial fishing business never dreamt it would include personal heartache as tragedy struck just before Christmas, 2001. "Salt in Our Blood"

## Summer-Rainbows and Rain

Summer can be a time of sudden, violent storms, followed by beautiful skies and rainbows. Sometimes it is hard to believe that such beauty can be found after a terrifying rainstorm or tornado has just ripped our world apart. I think this is true of our grief as well. Sometimes in the midst of our emotional storms, it seems as though nothing will be beautiful again. Reality hits us full force & lets us know that death is real. But as we deal with the turmoil, beauty can come back, if we allow it to do so.

In her book, *Rainbows and Rain*, by Peggy Waterfall, the author explains how losing some of her closest family members within a short period of time led her to attempt to explain her feelings to others. She wanted others to know HOW she felt, but wasn't quite sure how to go about explaining all the feelings she was experiencing.

She decided that the best way for her to clarify them was to use analogies to get the idea across. These analogies are put into stories or pictures that correlate to the emotions felt by every grieving person. They are used to support our grief and the responses associated with that grief. Some are very clear cut and obvious explanations; others are creative and new. These stories put in plain language the feelings we have all felt as we move through grief.

Since much of the book is devoted to these analogies, it is something that you can read and then put down and ponder their meaning, coming back for another round when you have gathered enough strength to do so. I find analogies to be helpful to me because they convert complex emotional feelings into real life physical situations that speak volumes in a clear manner. This is not always easy for us to see when grieving.

I hope that as the emotional storms of your grief begin to pass, you are able to see the beautiful rainbow emerging. This takes a great deal of time and effort on our part, as we work through complex emotions associated with death. If you do not see the rainbow, have faith; rainbows usually follow the incessant storms. And, they add a brief reprieve to a world torn apart by the death of your child. Submitted by Janet Todd, mother of Brian Todd, TCF Omaha

## My Child's Pictures

I set them out. I put them away. I get them out and start to go through them. I am filled with bleak wonder that the daughter pictured there is no longer going to call, or walk in the door, or send a card filled with love and humor. Cards that brightened my day, made me laugh, and always prompted me to call her and give her a big hug when she walked in the door.

Pictures. I get them out. I run my hand over her face, lingering on her lips, remembering. And suddenly, overcome with grief, I pull that picture to me, and I kiss her and tell her how much I love her, and how very much I miss her. Then I look again and see her eyes that sparkled and twinkled with mischief.

Pictures. At times I hate them. They show me what I don't have. They bring back memories of a time when she was healthy and happy—a time when life with her was a joy. I am not yet at a place in my healing where I can remember those times very well. I am still filled with memories of her pain, illness and death. I'm still at the place that I want all of those horrible memories to be a bad dream, a dream from which I will awake and hear her voice calling me to come outside to take some pictures. ~ Patty Fallen, TCF, Central OR

MOVING? It costs the chapter \$1.51 for each undeliverable newsletter. Drop us a note.

We have gone GREEN & DIGITAL.

Send your email address to [mail@tcfomaha.org](mailto:mail@tcfomaha.org)



## Come create a Scrapbook of your loved one!

This is the place to bring your pictures and tell about your memories while you work, tears are okay too. The chapter has organized a FREE scrapbooking session for those interested in creating a scrapbook of their loved one on Wednesday July 29th from 7 -10 p.m. at the Steinhausen Center 224 East 5th Street Papillion (One block east of 84th and Cornhusker, just south of St. Columbkille Church). Novice and experienced scrapbookers alike are encouraged to attend. All it takes is a desire to create a wonderful memorial of your loved one and some photographs [please try to bring copies of photographs so the originals are not damaged]. Those who have their own supplies are welcome to bring them. We will have a Creative Memories consultant on hand so you can purchase some basic supplies. Please bring your own refreshments and a snack to share if you'd like. If you have questions concerning this event please contact Kate or John Spinks at [kate.spinks@cox.net](mailto:kate.spinks@cox.net) or 677-9341 / 677-5984.

# Sibling Resources

The online support community OSC is a place where siblings from all over can share and help each other cope with the unique grief of losing a brother or a sister. Sessions are moderated by bereaved siblings who are specially trained for the OSC. To register to participate, go to the OSC at [www.compassionatefriends.org](http://www.compassionatefriends.org)

Chris Villarreal is the adult sibling representative for our chapter. We encourage adult siblings to form a sibling discussion group at the meetings.

## Español/Spanish

Esta hoja informativa es para todos nosotros.

Si, Ud. tiene un niño o conoce a un niño que falleció y quiere 'compartir un poema o algo que escribio.

Porfavor enviarlo a la direccion:

[correo@tcfomaha.org](mailto:correo@tcfomaha.org)

### **Credo de Los Amigos Compasivos**

No tenemos que caminar solos. Somos Los Amigos Compasivos. Nosotros tendemos las manos mutuamente con amor, con comprensión y con esperanza. Nuestros hijos han fallecido de todas las edades y por distintas causas, pero el amor por nuestros hijos nos une. Tu dolor es mi dolor, igual que tu esperanza se convierte en mi esperanza.

Venimos de todos los caminos de la vida y desde distintas circunstancias. Somos una familia única porque representamos muchas razas y credos. Somos de todas las edades. Algunos de nosotros han procesado su pena, pero otros todavía sienten el dolor tan reciente e intensamente fuerte que nos sentimos desvalidos y sin esperanzas.

Algunos de nosotros estamos luchando por conseguir contestaciones. Algunos sentimos coraje, culpa o depresión intensa; otros irradian una paz interna, pero cualquier dolor que traemos a esta actividad de Los Amigos Compasivos, es el dolor que compartimos según compartimos el amor por nuestros hijos con cada uno de nosotros.

Estamos buscando y luchando para divisar un futuro para nosotros, pero estamos comprometidos a edificar un futuro juntos, según tendemos las manos a cada uno con amor y compartimos el dolor al igual que las alegrías, compartimos el coraje al igual que la paz, compartimos la fe al igual que las dudas y nos ayudamos mutuamente a compartir la Pena y Crecer.

No tenemos que Caminar Solos, Somos Los Amigos Compasivos.



Our son, Matt, died last summer, on July 4th. At the time of his death, he was planning a trip to New Zealand with his very good friend, Nate. Matt & Nate had been friends since grade school, and had maintained their friendship all through high school and college, even though they were thousands of miles apart. This poem was written by Nate's sister, Kristina early last fall. (a link to Kristina's original poem is

<http://alisvolatpropiis85.wordpress.com/2008/10/02/mateo/>)

Doug & Kathy Hartmann, TCF Omaha

## Matteo

2008 October 2

I wonder what you're up to...  
how's the view from heaven's gate?  
can you see and hear us?  
could you please watch over Nate?

do you hug us when we cry?  
are you happy? are you sad?  
do you miss your mom?  
do you miss your dad?

what is it you do now?  
do you leave this world of ours  
to go visit the galaxies  
and hike among the stars?

is it all we ever dreamed of?  
are there halos, robes or wings?  
is it God and love and family?  
is it any of those things?

well, wherever you reside now  
whether with us or up above  
just know that we miss you  
and always think of you with love

~Kristina Johnson





## 100 Angels Celebration

In May I attended the “100 Angels Celebration in Salt Lake City. New Angel of Hope dedications across the country will bring the total Angels in place to 100 this year. Committees came together to share their projects and stories, and new friendships were formed. We enjoyed presentations and visiting with Ortho & Jared Fairbanks, sculptors of the Angel of Hope, Richard Paul Evans, author of *The Christmas Box*, and Lisa Johnson, the Angel Coordinator. A flower ceremony was held at the first Angel of Hope in the Salt Lake City Cemetery. We toured and sorted pajamas at The Christmas Box House, one of four abused children’s shelters founded by Mr. Evans. The next stop was the foundry where the bronze angels are made. This statue has been made more times than other piece in the foundry! At the end of the foundry tour, we came to a finished angel that was going to Omaha! It was a surprise for everyone and I was asked to tell about our daughter. The day also marked the 15th anniversary of Erin’s death, May 30, 1994. Kelly Pelster, TCF Omaha

Kelly Pelster, with  
Omaha’s Angel of Hope and  
sculptor Ortho Fairbanks

## Outreach Project Update

Omaha’s Angel of Hope bronze statue (#91) has arrived! It seemed such a waste to keep it crated up in storage, so it will be on display in the narthex at St Robert Bellarmine Church, 119 & Pacific, until the site at Boys Town is ready. You are welcome to come in to see it. We are only \$6000 short of our goal, and a few more brick orders will help complete the project. Please contact us if you can help with the construction.

### Gifts received April 10—June 17

Alyson Mumm —**Jaye Alton Mumm** • Beverly Schroder—**Kelly Falk** • Charles & Vicki Barr—**Bradley Barr** • David & Irene Purchase—**Matthew Allen Purchase** • Harold & Sandra Nichols—**Chad C. Nichols** • Jennifer & Bob Thompson—**Gavin Thompson** • Joyce E Sporhase—**Carrie Sue Sporhase & Hayden Russel Lade** • Kathleen Brady—**Son** • Kathleen Johnson—**David John Reisberg Jr** • Mary Ann Petratis—**Ashley Nichole Petratis** • Pam Nothwehr—**Evan Nothwehr** • Pete & Amy Mullenberg—**Hadleigh Faith Mullenberg** • Renee Cesarez—**Michael Hawes** • Sharon & Pat Paterson—**Brian Paterson** • Thomas & Sandra Massie—**Mark Massie** • Tony & Dawn Larsen—**Iggy Larsen** • Wayne Petersen—**Brody Petersen** • William Kosch—**Whitney Mae Kosch** • Tom & Mary Nastase—**Ray Nastase** • Daryl & Audrey Malena—**Rachel Malena Donahue** • Mark & Dana Appelgate —**Matt Appelgate** • Fred & Judy Kudym—**Joel Kudym** • Shauna & Kevin Stanzel—**Jessica O’Grady** • Marcus & Tammy Noble—**Jeremy Barowsky** • John & Rosella Meuret—**Elizabeth Meuret** • Morton & Iris November—**Daniel Robert Stepanek** • Ed & Janice Stepanek—**Daniel Robert Stepanek** • Frank & Mary Jo Klusmire/First Data Corporation Gift Match—**Corey Kruse** • Bev Hambright—**Chad Edward Hambright** • **Charles & Vicki Barr—Bradley Barr** • Bryan & Arnell Petrzilka—**Ben Petrzilka** • Rogene Welding—**Amber Olberding** • Brian & Monica McKeivitt—**Anna McKeivitt** • Mary Morrow—**Babies of Koch-Farrell-Daly Families** • Robert & Theresa Keefe

Donation levels are \$125, \$250, \$1000 and \$3000. For updates, order form, or map of the site, [www.tcfomaha.org](http://www.tcfomaha.org). Email: [Angelofhope@tcfomaha.org](mailto:Angelofhope@tcfomaha.org) 571-4011. A temporary sign marks the location of the memorial. Coming from the Boys Town Post office toward Boys Town, turn right across from McBreen Circle, on a gravel road to the lake. This ends in a parking area. Beyond the picnic area, walk 500 yards on the service road or along the lake. This area was chosen because it is private and quiet, away from activities. More signs will be placed when the project is completed. Pick up a free copy of **The Christmas Box** at the monthly meeting.

## Parable of Immorality

I am standing upon a seashore. A ship at my side spreads her white sails to the morning breeze and starts for the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength, and I stand and watch until at last she hangs like a speck of white cloud where the sea and sky come down to mingle with each other. Then someone at my side says “There she goes.”

Gone where? Gone from my sight—that is all. She is just as large in mast and hull and spar as she was when she left my side, and just as able to bear her load of living freight to the place of destination. Her diminished size is in me, not in her. And just at the moment when someone at my side says, “There she goes” there are other eyes watching her coming and other voices ready to take up the glad shout, “Here she come!” —Henry Van Dyke

## ♥ Our Children Remembered ♥

In the days ahead, especially remember these children and their families...on the day of their birth and on the anniversary of their death. If your child has a birthday this month, bring a photo or memorabilia for the birthday table, and a treat to share at the meeting. We need your authorization to list your child here. Your child is not automatically listed just because you receive this newsletter. Sign & submit the form on Page 2.

### BIRTHDAYS

7/3 LISA RODGERS  
7/5 DANA RAY HERREN  
7/6 LISA BARTON  
7/7 CHRIS COOK  
7/7 SCOTT WOODRICH  
7/10 BRITTNE RANEE LUDWIG  
7/11 KEVIN LEE SCHAFER  
7/12 EMMA JULIANA OCANTO-SECOLA  
7/13 BRIAN M. TODD  
7/18 MARK THOMAS MASSIE  
7/18 TODD NEWILL  
7/19 W. DWIGHT WRICH  
7/22 JEFFREY RAY POTTER  
7/23 XAVIER E. BEVAN  
7/26 DAVID CHARLES ARENZ  
7/27 JOEL D. KUDYM  
7/28 RODNEY WAYNE JOHNSON  
7/30 JACKSON WILLIAM JOHNSON  
7/30 JEFFERY MALL  
7/30 MARK HARDING EPSTEIN  
7/31 ROSS JONATHAN MLNARIK  
8/2 MICHAEL JAMES TILSON  
8/6 SHELDON WAYNE JOHNSON  
8/9 BRENT BLANCHARD  
8/10 STEVE W. BURHENNE  
8/12 JONATHON (SCOOB) NIELSON  
8/13 ERIK MATTHEW BALKUS  
8/13 JIM LEHMAN  
8/14 ANGELA SHAWN MCCUMBER  
8/18 BRAD HANSON  
8/19 KATRINA HESS  
8/23 LUANN MILLER  
8/31 ROBBIE FRY

### ANGEL DATES

7/2 EMMA JULIANA OCANTO-SECOLA  
7/2 CATHY JO THIBAULT  
7/4 MATTHEW HARTMANN  
7/5 LISA RODGERS  
7/9 ANGELA SHAWN MCCUMBER  
7/11 LYNETTE SCHLOSSER ANGERS  
7/14 ASHLEY PETERSON  
7/15 REBECCA ANN SULLIVAN  
7/17 DAVID CHARLES ARENZ  
7/20 BRYAN MICHAEL RYDER  
7/22 ROSS JONATHAN MLNARIK  
7/23 CHAD NICHOLS  
7/25 JEFFREY RAY POTTER  
7/25 ANDY POWLES  
7/26 MIKE B. ANTRIM  
7/28 XAVIER E. BEVAN  
7/28 DARYL L. CATLIN  
7/31 JAYME ROBERT ROSE  
7/31 JACKSON WILLIAM JOHNSON  
8/2 RACHEL SARAH TALBOTT  
8/10 SHELDON WAYNE JOHNSON  
8/10 RODNEY WAYNE JOHNSON  
8/10 MARIAH JO JOHNSON  
8/10 ALLYSSA COLLEEN JOHNSON  
8/10 AMY JO (MUELLER) JOHNSON  
8/14 RYAN ECKSTROM  
8/15 ASHLEY MARIE PEDERSEN  
8/16 ELLEN GLORIA CERRA  
8/19 MARK JOHNSON  
8/21 MATHEW SCOTT ELLIOTT  
8/24 JACOB GARREN COATES  
8/28 DAVID RIESBERG JR



## The meaning of The Leaf and Tear Drop

You might have seen this on cards, framed prints, jewelry. The leaf and teardrop symbolize the love and grief that families and loved ones feel when someone dies.

They reflect both the intense suffering of loss and hope for the future. The leaf, though fallen, is green with upturned edges, symbolizing hope. It floats in a pool of moving water, symbolizing there is movement in grief and hope for the future.

Colors range from a very deep purple, which represents intense sadness, to a much lighter and paler shade, symbolizing light and hope for the future. The drop on the leaf may be either a dew drop or a tear drop--meant to be whatever the person looking at the picture wants it to be.

The overall theme is that grief, as in nature, there are cycles and movement. As seasons change, so do feelings. There is water and there are tears, there is winter and there is spring, there is sadness...and there is hope.