



News Releases

Union Pacific Receives Compassionate Employer Award

Omaha, NE, July 21, 2003 – Union Pacific today was honored by The Compassionate Friends as a recipient of the 2003 Compassionate Employer Recognition award. Union Pacific was recognized for the support it provided an employee that experienced the loss of a child in an automobile accident.

The Compassionate Friends is the world's largest self-help bereavement organization, providing support and friendship to families that have experienced the death of a child. In 2003, 45 employers across the country are receiving the Compassionate Employer Recognition award for going above and beyond the normal policies of most companies in helping an employee after the death of a child.

"The well-being of Union Pacific employees is our top priority," said Barb Schaefer, senior vice president of Human Resources for Union Pacific. "We are honored to accept this award on behalf of our employees, and in recognition of the many efforts underway to support their needs."

Russ Lloyd, director of construction for Union Pacific's Engineering and Construction department, nominated Union Pacific for the award. Lloyd expressed gratitude for the support his manager and Union Pacific offered his family following the death of his daughter.

Union Pacific provides a number of counseling services to employees, including a Peer Support group, Employee Assistance Program and a Grief Group.

The criteria for Compassionate Employer Recognition are:

- Corporate policies that reflect a compassionate attitude toward bereaved parents and siblings
- Personal support extended by management toward bereaved parents and siblings on their staff
- Caring attitudes demonstrated by an employer's entire workforce
- Flexibility in work assignments and evaluation of job performance during the stress and personal pain associated with the death of a child
- All other acts of compassion that bereaved parents and siblings will forever remember

This is the third year for recognition of employers by The Compassionate Friends. Recipients of the recognition jumped from three the first year to 24 the second, and to 45 this year.

"For many newly bereaved parents, coping with a job is one of the harshest of their new realities," explained David Pellegrin, president of The Compassionate Friends board. "Employer sensitivity can have a tremendously positive impact on workers directly affected by the tragic loss of a child. So it's especially gratifying to see such an increase in the number of employers receiving recognition for their compassion."

The Compassionate Friends is an international support organization with nearly 600 chapters in the United States. There are Compassionate Friends organizations in an estimated 29 countries around the world. To contact The Compassionate Friends national organization, which has chapters in all 50 states plus Puerto Rico, call toll-free 877-969-0010, or visit www.compassionatefriends.org