



THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

PIKES PEAK CHAPTER
Supporting Family After a Child Dies



OCTOBER 2014

Upcoming Events

October 16th - General Meeting - 7:00 p.m. - First Baptist Church
November 20th - General Meeting - 7:00 p.m. - First Baptist Church

STEERING COMMITTEE

CHAPTER LEADER - ACTING
LARAINÉ ASARO-ANDERSON
Son, Michael Edward Anderson

MAILINGS & DATABASE
JANE & STEVE GABRIEL
Son, Jonathan Steven Gabriel

SECRETARY
LEONIE CRAMER
Son, Julian Anthony King

TREASURER
YVETTE THOMPSON
Son, Ryan Barry Thompson

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR &
EMAILINGS**
STEWART LEVETT
Son, Aaron Paul Levett

SC MEMBER/FACILITATOR
BOB THOMPSON
Son, Ryan Barry Thompson

SC MEMBER/LIBRARIAN
CHAELE CHRISTIANSON
Son, Damon Vincent Christianson

SC MEMBER/WELCOME PACKETS
LETA LEVETT
Son, Aaron Paul Levett

TELEPHONE FRIENDS

Any of these members may be contacted to talk about your loss:

CHAPTER LEADER - ACTING

LARAINÉ ASARO-ANDERSON * 351-7653

DRUG / ALCOHOL LOSS
STEWART & LETA LEVETT * 531-5488

TODDLER / YOUNG CHILD LOSS

BOB & YVETTE THOMPSON * 573-2743

LEUKEMIA
JANE & STEVE GABRIEL * 282-1924

ADULT CHILD / SUDDEN DEATH

CHAELE CHRISTIANSON * 687-6688

SUICIDE
LARITA ARCHIBALD 596-2575

SKATEBOARD / AUTO ACCIDENT
RAYE WILSON (303) 814-9478

*Please feel free to contact any of these Steering Committee members if you can not reach our Chapter Leader. **





THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

PIKES PEAK CHAPTER
Supporting Family After a Child Dies



OCTOBER 2014
Page 2

Welcome

Our support group meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. Meetings are open to the parents, grandparents and older siblings of your loved one. We meet at the **First Baptist Church** downtown at 317 E. Kiowa. We understand your pain; won't you let us help you through your grief?

Our next meeting will be on October 16, 2014.

The death of your child is probably the most traumatic, life-changing event that you will ever experience. The Compassionate Friends is an organization of parents who have also lost a child to death. Each of us has experienced the deep, searing pain that you are feeling now. Each of us has turned to other parents who were farther into their grief journey for guidance, support and understanding. This is done through our monthly meetings, our newsletter, our website, our Telephone Friend program, our library and our e-mail program. Each month parents find our meeting to be a safe place where they can talk about their pain and problems with others who are uniquely qualified to understand; bereaved parents offer gentle suggestions or often simply listen. We invite you to bring a friend to your first few meetings until you feel a level of comfort with the group. Do not be surprised if we talk about the happy times with our children, the wonderful memories and the various methods we have created to keep our children close to us. It is here that many bereaved parents find hope as those who are more seasoned in their grief shine the light of experience to help illuminate each grief path. We have no dues. We are self-sustaining through donations and the generosity of so many in our community.

You Need Not Walk Alone.

PIKES PEAK TCF CANDLELIGHT MEMORIAL SERVICE

Once again we request that you contact us to have your child's slide included in our memorial. Slides from previous years may be used again this year or you may submit new photos. Please limit your photos to (2) two along with a short dedication so everything will be viewable on the slide. Please remember, the better the photo you submit, the better your dedication will look.

Prior years' submissions will be read as a dedication if we don't hear back from you.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS SAT., DEC. 6th.

To see a short sample of our Candlelight Service, go to this YouTube link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8g4uTWPbGCI>



We are quickly approaching December and with it our annual Worldwide Candle Lighting.

The date this year is December 8th and once again will be held in the sanctuary of the First Baptist Church at 7:00 p.m.

Now is a good time to look through your photos to submit for our slide show. Old slides may be updated or a new one created for your child. More information about this special event will be forthcoming in next months newsletter or you may write to me should you have any questions at PikesPeakTCF@gmail.com.

Stew Levett - Editor

Send to: Stew Levett
160 El Dorado Lane
Colorado Springs, CO 80919

Your Name _____
Your Address _____
Your Phone _____ Email _____
Child's Name As You'd Like it to Appear _____

Cause of Death (Optional) _____
Child's Birthdate _____
Child's Memorial Date _____
Number of Pictures Included _____
Dedication _____

Please create my slide with information and pictures provided.
Please use last year's slide. _____ Please return pictures when finished. _____



THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

PIKES PEAK CHAPTER
Supporting Family After a Child Dies



OCTOBER 2014
Page 3



"Dead Where It Stands" by Kelly Farley by [GrievingDads](#)

As many of you know, we (me, Barry Kluger and Jim Boyle) have been working for 3.5 years on Federal legislation to change the Family Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA) to add bereaved parents to the list of recipients that could qualify for the benefits set forth in this legislation. What that means is a bereaved parent would be allowed up to 12 weeks of unpaid time (in a 12 month period) without the fear of their employer firing them.

We have had a lot of support from large National Organizations and the many people that have signed our petition (83,000 letters sent to Washington) at www.FarleyKluger.com. We have been to Washington DC on three different occasions to meet with legislators. As a result of our efforts, Senator Jon Tester (MT) had introduced S. 226 - The Parental Bereavement Act of 2013 in the U.S. Senate and Congressman Steve Israel (NY) had introduced H.R. 515 - The Parental Bereavement Act of 2013 (aka Sarah Grace-Farley-Kluger Act) in the U.S. House of Representatives. H.R. 515 has had 43 cosponsors (Congressman) and S.226 has had 13 cosponsors (Senators). Both Bills have been sent to the appropriate committee to be considered for a hearing. At first glance, you would say we have been successful at getting this initiative pushed along and we would agree, to a point.

The reason I am writing this posting is twofold, one is to let you know that we were informed this past summer that these Bills would not be considered for a hearing, basically, they die where they stand. It is unclear at this time if we will pursue this legislation in the next congress. We didn't exactly have bi-partisan support for this Bill. Almost everyone agreed (when we spoke) that these changes to the original FMLA make a lot of sense. After all, I don't know too many people that can bury their child on day 3 and then expect to get back to work on day 4 because the company's 3 day bereavement leave policy has been exhausted. Some of the reasons it didn't get support are "causing undue stress on American businesses" and "concerns for abuse of existing FMLA". As far as the abuse goes, you need to produce a death certificate in order to qualify, hard to fake that one.

The second reason I am writing this post is to inform past and future grieving parents how to still receive the benefits allotted by the original FMLA without the fear of losing their job. It's not an easy process but certainly one that most bereaved parents should have knowledge of in case they need additional time. First and foremost, you have to comply with the FMLA requirements. That means you must work for a company with at least 50 employees within a 75 mile radius. If you meet these requirements, then you have to meet at least one of the following:

- for the birth and care of a newborn child
- for placement with the employee of a child for adoption or foster care
- to care for an immediate family member with a serious health condition
- to take medical leave because of a serious health condition
- to care for an injured service member in the family If you lose a child, you could use either "to care for an immediate family member with a serious health condition" (ie: distressed spouse) or "to take medical leave because of a serious health condition". The key to this is to have your doctor diagnosis you with PTSD, depression and/or anxiety condition. These are all issues that bereaved parents experience and they are a serious health condition. Just because you don't see the "injury" doesn't mean it doesn't exist. Once the doctor has diagnosed you, they then must be willing to sign the paper work that allows for you to utilize FMLA benefits. Like I tell all of the people that show up to my workshops, if your doctor will not sign off on it, then fire them and find a doctor that will.

I was recently speaking on this topic at a workshop I presented at for The Compassionate Friends National Meeting in Chicago and a grieving dad raised his hand and informed the room that his doctor writes him a letter at the beginning of every year so he can use his 12 weeks sporadically throughout the year as needed without fear of being fired for taking too much time off. I was lucky, my employer allowed me to go part time for almost 3 years in order to deal with the "health conditions" I was dealing with.

There is one thing that you should be aware of, is that when you are diagnosed and treated for one of these conditions, you now have to disclose it on your application for health insurance, life insurance and disability insurance. Many will not cover you and if they do, it will cost you. This is why we were pushing to have the "death of a child" included into the existing FMLA. We should not be penalized for trying to survive the death of child. We just need time to catch our breath and to figure out what has happened to our world.

I should say "I am not an attorney" or "expert" on this subject. I am just sharing with you what I have learned. Please consult an attorney or your HR manager (careful with this one, they still work for the company).

Please let me know if you have any questions or comments.



Remembering Our Children On Their Birthdays

| Child's Name | Date of Birth | Compassionate Friend |
|----------------------------|---------------|---|
| Jaden Alexander Founds | Oct 3 | Kimberly Founds |
| Jim Agnew | Oct 4 | Tom Agnew |
| Adam Herzog | Oct 5 | Nancy Saltzman |
| Andy Cope | Oct 7 | Debbie & Kurt Adelbush |
| Jack C. Jefferson | Oct 8 | John & Dena Jefferson |
| Eric Sutton Skinner | Oct 9 | David & Gail Skinner |
| Isaac Sartain | Oct 10 | Gregory Sartain |
| Tucker Ray Graef | Oct 10 | Kathy Graef |
| Anthony Lopez | Oct 14 | Paul & Trudy Lopez |
| David Scott Mueller | Oct 16 | Sandy Eversole |
| Mandi Eads | Oct 17 | Lucy Butcher |
| Jacob Sanchez | Oct 18 | Janine McDonough |
| Margaret McKean | Oct 18 | Lilo McKean |
| Brian Hartzell | Oct 18 | Fawn Batista |
| Brent Eads | Oct 18 | Lucy Butcher |
| Richard Joseph Armstrong | Oct 19 | Chuck & Helen Armstrong |
| Michael Edward Anderson | Oct 20 | Laraine Anderson |
| Kimberly Benson | Oct 22 | Debbie Diekman |
| Cody Austin Wilson | Oct 23 | Elizabeth & Lance Wilson |
| Wyatt Travis Wilson | Oct 23 | Elizabeth & Lance Wilson |
| Tyler Joseph Budfuloski | Oct 23 | Rob & Alice Budfuloski |
| Dawn Michelle Wiley | Oct 24 | Luanne Wiley |
| Stephen James Benjamin | Oct 24 | Kathy Benjamin |
| Matthew Alan Haywood | Oct 26 | Roger Haywood |
| Christopher Clayton Hodson | Oct 27 | Eric & Janice Hodson |
| Christopher Skaggs | Oct 28 | Ernest & Tanya Skaggs, Carl, Annette & Felicia Cordova |
| Christopher Russell Tyson | Oct 30 | Cory Lynn Tyson |



Chaela Christianson
in loving memory of her son
Damon Vincent Christianson
5/30/1977 ~ 7/3/2010



Chaplain
Gene Steinkirchner



Remembering Our Children On Their Anniversaries

| Child's Name | Age | Date of Death | Compassionate Friend |
|---------------------------|----------|---------------|------------------------------------|
| John Walther | 31 years | Oct 1 | Joseph Walther |
| Joshua C. Attardi | 12 years | Oct 2 | Paula Attardi |
| Suzanne Bethany Thomas | 4 years | Oct 3 | Arnie & Mary Thomas |
| Michael Edward Anderson | 20 years | Oct 4 | Laraine Anderson |
| Casey Olivia-Dyan Siegel | 5 days | Oct 4 | Lawrence & Shonda Siegel |
| Chris Hatfield | 28 years | Oct 6 | Cathy Hatfield, Catherine Thompson |
| Fermin A. Vialpando | 17 years | Oct 6 | Sundae F. Vialpando |
| Sheri Cavin | 21 years | Oct 9 | Susan & Alan Cavin |
| Jessica Stockwell | 24 years | Oct 12 | Mark & Sally Stockwell |
| Cody Austin Wilson | 5 years | Oct 13 | Elizabeth & Lance Wilson |
| Emma Riley | 0 years | Oct 16 | Heather Claypool |
| Rebecca Ann Reynolds | 17 years | Oct 16 | Ken & Barbara Reynolds |
| Melissa Sue Micke | 19 years | Oct 17 | Alice Micke |
| Aaron Paul Levett | 26 years | Oct 18 | Stewart & Leta Levett |
| Carlos Martinez | 20 years | Oct 21 | Marilyn Martinez, Vicki Struckle |
| Mandi Eads | 6 days | Oct 22 | Lucy Butcher |
| Denise Elaine Bear | 20 years | Oct 24 | Dona & Tanya Flores |
| Trevor "T.J." Franks | 17 years | Oct 24 | Penny Franks |
| Owen William Howard | 34 years | Oct 25 | Mike & Carol Parker |
| Cody Darby | 20 years | Oct 27 | Lori & Steve Darby |
| Daniel Stafford Gettman | 31 years | Oct 28 | Louise Gettman |
| Matthew Dale Wilson | 14 years | Oct 28 | Raye & Rick Wilson |
| Cris Cruz | 23 years | Oct 29 | Henrietta Madrid |
| Michael Christopher | 29 years | Oct 29 | Bob & Carol Rushmore |
| Kimberly Denise Patterson | 16 years | Oct 30 | Sigrid Patterson |

Grief is Like a Bucket of Water

Author Unknown

You can start out with a full bucket, but when you find it too heavy to carry, you can bump it a little, so that some spills, and carry it a little farther. As you continue, you bump it again so that it becomes lighter to carry for the longer distance. You must do the same with grief. To keep the burden from becoming intolerable, you must "bump the bucket" a little and let a little of your grief spill out from time to time, so that you can continue.





THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

PIKES PEAK CHAPTER
Supporting Family After a Child Dies



OCTOBER 2014
Page 6

ORGANIZATIONAL CONTACTS

TCF National Office

P.O. Box 3656

Oak Brook, IL 60522

630-990-0010 or toll free 877-969-0010



EMAIL: nationaloffice@compassionatefriends.org

WEBSITES:

Pikes Peak - www.TCFPikesPeakChapter.org

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/TCFPikesPeak>

National - www.compassionatefriends.org

Online Support

The Compassionate Friends 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. Please check the schedule for dates and times of the sessions.

Note: Times posted on the schedule are based upon Eastern Time.

www.compassionatefriends.org

Love Gift Donations

A "Love Gift" is a wonderful way to remember your child, while also helping our TCF chapter "reach out" to bereaved families. There is no charge to attend meetings, use the library, or receive the newsletter. We depend solely upon these gifts, monetary or gifts-in-kind, to support our chapter. You may choose to donate a tax deductible "Love Gift" at any time. Let us be here for the families who do not know today that they will need us tomorrow.

Our chapter exists entirely through your donations which are tax deductible. A Love Gift is money donated to the chapter in memory of your child who has died. If you feel a Love Gift is an appropriate way to honor the memory of your child, please consider a donation, large or small. Please fill out the form located in this newsletter and mail it to the address listed. All pictures submitted will be returned unless you specify for us to keep them and place them on our Child Remembered board displayed at monthly meetings.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

\$50 or more - Newsletter Sponsor. May include a full page for printing. Please remember to send your page "Copy Ready" as you would like to see it printed in the newsletter.

\$0 to \$50 - A picture, if available, and dedication to be listed in the newsletter. Love Gift donations should be sent directly to our treasurer, Yvette Thompson whose address is listed on the Love Gift Donation Form. *Wouldn't you like to make a dedication to your child and help our chapter?*

⇒ **Send Love Gifts to Yvette Thompson, 5012 Rocking R Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80915** ⇒

Thank you for contributing and supporting the work of our local chapter!

LOVE GIFT DONATION



Costs are rising. We need your Love Gift to support our chapter & newsletter! If you can, please help.

I would like to make a donation ☐ in Memory of

☐ a Chapter Gift

In loving memory of: _____

Love Gift Donation: \$ _____ Please make check payable to: The Compassionate Friends

Cut and mail this form with your Love Gift to: Yvette Thompson – 5012 Rocking R Dr. – Colorado Springs, CO 80915

Contributor Name & Address: _____

Relationship: ☐ Son ☐ Daughter ☐ Grandson ☐ Granddaughter ☐ Friend ☐ Other

Photo Enclosed: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Photo To Be Returned: ☐ Yes ☐ No



Support Resources

TCF Online Chat Groups:

www.compassionatefriends.org/resources/online_Support.aspx

- For questions, please contact Diana Jorden, 925-432-3854, who moderates the general grief and suicide loss rooms on Friday nights and Sunday. TCF online offers several specialized chat rooms, all moderated by moms who have been in chat for at least 2 years or more. We offer a sibling-only chat, loss under 1 year, loss over 2 years, loss of only child, suicide survivor, infant/pregnancy loss, and every night (and Monday mornings) there is a general loss room open to parents, step and grand, and siblings.
- You can sign up for the online TCF National newsletter at www.compassionatefriends.org
- You can reach our TCF National Facebook page through the link on the same home page of our national website. You will be asked to join Facebook if you are not already a member, and we hope you'll find our Facebook page as interesting as do the more than 11,000 fans who have already found us!



Halloween - The Start of the Holiday Season - By Erin Silva TCF, San Diego, CA

We seem to spend so much of our energy as bereaved parents measuring everything by the death of our children. October is no different. Halloween is one of a child's favorite holidays. It is a time of dressing up, going onto the neighborhood for treats and having fun with tricks at the school or in the neighborhood. This Halloween, those of us who have lost children are left with reminders that our children are gone, of old costumes photographs, and memories of Halloweens past, of ghosts, goblins, witches, dragons and famous personalities. Many of us who are in the first year or two of our grief will keep our porch light off and not answer the door to happy trick-or-treaters. We will perhaps sit quietly, watch TV, read a book, or go out for the evening away from the house because those knocks at the door will only remind us that our children are gone and will never dress up again.

Halloween is a reminder to us that the holiday season is now upon us, as harvest time turns toward Thanksgiving and the holiday season of Chanukah, Christmas and New Years. To make matters worse, many will have these difficult times compounded with birthdays or even death anniversaries. No matter how much time has passed since our child's death, no matter how remotely connected the holidays may or may not have been in our children's death, this, the holiday season, is our most difficult time of the year.

So what do we do? Will these holidays always be a tortuous reminder of how much we have lost? Will we always want to escape to another time or place to avoid the pain of separation? How will the holiday season ever be the same without our children? Perhaps those who are much further along in their grieving process may have some answers — perhaps with our children's death date. For me, I will seek them out and ask questions, probe for feelings, seek for encouragement and advice, perhaps read about those who have developed coping skills to get through these times. Whatever I do though, I will pay attention to the feelings I have inside as I think about the holidays, refer back to holiday seasons past without my Jacob, and find the best way

to get through in a way that will help me to heal, help me remember some of those wonderful holiday memories while he was still alive, and well and with us. I will pay attention to those things that help me heal, the celebrations that will not hurt but will help, those friends with whom I can feel comfortable, those parties I will attend or politely decline. Above all, I will do what is best for me and for my personal journey of grief. I will try to be strong and have courage to tell people what I want or need or expect this holiday season to help me get through, help me cope, help me heal.

Yes, of course, Halloween will never be the same — it was Jacob's favorite time of the year and I miss him with every fiber of my being, miss his smile, his laugh, his enjoyment of bags of candy and dressing, up and having fun. But the only way for me, for all of us, is through - Halloween, Thanksgiving, Chanukah, Christmas, and New Years - not around or above or under, but through. I know it is difficult. I share my loss and tears and heartache with you, my compassionate friends.

May you find your way through this holiday season in such a way that you will be able to look back and say, I made it through, I will make it through again. I know how much I have lost, but memories instruct my soul with how much I have gained in my life with my child and I will be less afraid of not the answers we want — but they will be able to share their experience as they understand it for themselves. More than likely they will have much insight of great value for us who are still closely connected tomorrow. God Bless us all with healing that brings peace, encouragement, and the will to live the rest of our lives in a way that will be tribute to our lost child.



HEALING WORDS

In Search of Lost Joy

By DARCIE D. SIMS Ph.D., CGC, CHT

I can't think of anything else I'd rather be doing right now than living.

That wasn't always true. After my son's death there were days when all I could think about was dying, to join my son or just to relieve my pain. Now there is freshness about each day that I never understood before. I got to where I am today because of time and a commitment to rediscovering the joy of life.

Time does help fade the fabric of our grief. As time stretches away from the moment of our child's death, we may begin to grow away from our child. And we cling to that which we know, even though it tears our heart again & again. Is it not possible that one day some-time in the future, we will begin to understand that joy can return as we remember our child's life, not his death?

We once feared we would never be happy again, that only helplessness and darkness would prevail in our lives. But now ten years later, I can share with you the wonderful discovery that we can do more than survive. Survival is not enough, I want to live. We cannot find words to soothe the hurt; there simply aren't any.

We can, however build supports and safety nets. Recovery from death of a child is a matter of choice. Time does help heal over open wounds. Scars form and serve as reminders. Gradually, however we must learn to live with those scars and slowly, let them sink in place. Recovery begins to occur when we can learn to invest our energies, emotions and love rather than seek to replace it. When we completely understand we did not lose our child, recovery is possible. Our child died, but the love we shared between us can never be destroyed.

I cannot reach out alone. I need the love and strength of my new-found family to be a cheering section and a safety network of caring individuals who will support me if I fall, and who believe strongly enough in me to put me back on track to go on again.

The human spirit has an infinite capacity to survive, endure, and grow. It requires both love and faith, strength and support as well. Hurt and pain have their lessons too, and we cannot rob ourselves of the richness of the tapestry that hurt & love weave together. To eliminate one from the loom is to break the thread & steal away the fabric.

For those of you who are hurting too deeply, whose pain is too fresh, whose child's death is still too close to hear me, I want to give you the message, "HOLD ON, HOLD ON TIGHT." Right now for you, there seems to be little sunshine, little hope and no energy to choose life. So hang on tight.

And if you know parents, who are struggling just to hang on, reach out to them right now. Loan them some of your strength, knowing they will loan you some of theirs when you need it. That's what support groups are all about: helping each other through the valley of the shadow helping each other through the hurt,, helping each other through the anger, the pain, the emptiness, the silence, helping each other rediscover life.

We have to learn to dream new dreams and hope new hopes, and it is here with the love and support of our new family of friends, that our new journey begins. We come here because our children died because we hurt and grieve and ache with a loneliness that at times seems endless. I hope each of you will want to do more than survive the death of our children, and that is to want to live.



THOUGHTFUL POEMS

A Season of Many Feelings

By Cinda Schake Butler, PA TCF

Fall is a season of many feelings,
Autumn is here once again as it comes every year.
And with the leaves, my falling tears.
This time of year is the hardest of all.
My heart is still breaking, once again it is fall.
Memories once so vivid are seeming to fade.
My time spent with you seems some other age.
This season reminds me of grief and of pain.
But yet teaches hope and joy once again.
For the trees are still living beneath their gray bark,
And you, my sweet child, are alive in my heart!

Memories

Tonight I saw
your silhouette Against a harvest moon...
Tonight I heard
a sweet refrain
Of some long remembered tune.
Could it be
you know somehow
How my heart remembers you?
In harvest moons and heartfelt tunes
The memories ever true.
Where do they go
when the moon fades away
And the music can no longer be?
Far, far away to a wandering star
That only the heart can see.

Kelly Marston TCF Grand Junction, CO



October's Memories

October's here, the air is bright,
the leaves decked out in fancy dress,
The clouds in shapes of animals
hang in the sky so blue.
This was our time of year, your favorite.
How many times did you come in,
cheeks glowing, eyes sparkling, smelling
of the leaves you jumped through as a
child and even after you grew up.
How many times did you say
"Just smell, just feel the air. I love it, crisp,
with a hint of winter coming."
Our time, but now only my time.
Time to dream dreams that won't be.
Time to wish wishes that can't come true.
Time to remember and treasure each day
we had together.
Time for October's memories.

Arden Lansing TCF Northfield NJ

We Made It Through the Summer

Pam Duke, TCF, Dallas, TX

We made it through the summer;
Another season has passed.
When I look back now,
I did not think I had the courage
To reach this point in time.
The worst may not yet be over,
But things seem better than yesterday.
I've realized it's all right to wish for you
Daily... and nightly...
It's my prerogative as your parent.
I do not have to look forward to the seasons coming
soon,
but I will... because I know it's what you would want me
to do.
Just please know, I still love you
As though you were in our home.
That love will never die.



The Compassionate Friends
Pikes Peak Chapter
PO Box 51345
Colorado Springs, CO 80949-1345

October 2014

Copyright © 2014 - All Rights Reserved
The Compassionate Friends, Inc.

Dated Material - Please Deliver Promptly - Return Service Requested