

MEETING SCHEDULE

Last Sunday of every month (with exceptions for holidays/special events)

2:30—5:30 p.m.

First-time attendees: Please arrive by 1:30 p.m.

**Bower Hill Community Church
70 Moffett St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15243**

Meetings are open to parents, adult siblings, and grandparents of children who have died at any age, from any cause.

Visit our website (www.tcfpittsburgh.org) or call us at (412) 835-1105 to find out more about our programs, meetings, and special events.

MEMORIAL EVENTS

Special memorial events are held every year during the months of August (Butterfly Release) and December (Candlelight Remembrance Service). Details will be available on our website and in the quarterly newsletters sent to our members. *(Events are subject to change or cancellation)*

OUR MISSION

The mission of The Compassionate Friends: When a child dies, at any age, the family suffers intense pain and may feel hopeless and isolated. The Compassionate Friends 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. The Compassionate Friends (TCF) touches hundreds of people in the greater Pittsburgh area each year.



**The
Compassionate
Friends**
Pittsburgh Chapter
Supporting Family After a Child Dies

The Compassionate Friends
Pittsburgh Chapter
P.O. Box 15495
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

(412) 835-1105
compassion@tcfpittsburgh.org
www.tcfpittsburgh.org

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(877) 969-0010 • www.compassionatefriends.org



**The
Compassionate
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Pittsburgh Chapter
Supporting Family After a Child Dies

*A self-help support organization
for families who have experienced
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 1978, the Pittsburgh Chapter of The Compassionate Friends has been actively helping families toward the positive resolution of their grief following the death of a child.

ABOUT THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

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 Pittsburgh Chapter is one of more than 630 chapters in the United States; the National Office is in Oak Brook, Illinois. The Compassionate Friends has no religious affiliation. The chapter has no employees; leadership roles are filled by member volunteers who work in honor of their children, siblings, or grandchildren who have died.

NEWSLETTER

Our quarterly newsletter announces upcoming programs and events and includes articles that are helpful to families grieving the death of a loved one. Special "Remembrance Pages" list the names of our loved ones in their birthday and anniversary months. The newsletter includes original writings by bereaved parents,

siblings, and grandparents from the Pittsburgh Chapter, as well as throughout The Compassionate Friends' nationwide "family." Our newsletter is mailed to all of our chapter members free of charge.



SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS

Our monthly support group meetings are the heart of TCF. These gatherings provide a caring environment in which bereaved parents, adult siblings, and grandparents can talk freely about the emotions and experiences they are going through and receive the understanding and 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.

DEDICATED PHONE LINE AND LOVING LISTENERS

A dedicated telephone line is maintained by TCF - Pittsburgh Chapter. Every year approximately 500 telephone inquiries are received from bereaved parents, grandparents, siblings, referring agencies and individuals, or the general public.



Some of these calls are the result of TCF members in other cities referring bereaved Pittsburgh-area friends to us. The chapter also

maintains a list of "loving listeners," members who have "been there" and can be called at any time a bereaved family member needs to talk.

LENDING LIBRARY

A lending library of grief-related books and DVDs is available at each meeting. Members may browse the library and check out materials for home reading or viewing between meetings.

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

Part of our mission is to promote better understanding of parental and family grief. Examples of this effort have included:

- Providing speakers to groups interested in learning how to be more supportive of families that have experienced the death of a child.
- Distributing informational material to professionals in hospitals, hospices, funeral homes, and churches, as well as to other interested individuals.

FUNDING

TCF members are never charged individual dues or fees of any kind. The Compassionate Friends - Pittsburgh Chapter depends entirely on voluntary contributions from individuals, businesses, and philanthropic community organizations. The Compassionate Friends is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization; all donations are tax-deductible.