

# The Compassionate Friends Of Northeast Arkansas

## Healing Hearts Newsletter

Up on the hill at Southside Community Church, in the Conference Room.

2211 Jones Road, Paragould, AR.

tcfofnortheastarkansas@yahoo.com

### Inside This Issue

Special Guest, Alan Pederson	1
Alan Pederson Poster	2
Alan Pederson's bio	3
TFC National Conference	4
Telephone Friends	4
New Book by Dawn Kidd	5
Our Children Remembered	6
Love Gift Envelope	7

### Note From Toni Baker, Chapter Leader

Looking forward to a marvelous event by Alan Pedersen--Angels Across The USA Tour 2013 on Thursday, March 14th at 7pm. This is a free event and open to the public. **Not recommended for children.**

TCF of Northeast Arkansas is looking for volunteers who have been traveling their grief journey for more than 18 months. If you feel it is your time now to give back and help others travel journey--we need you! Or if you know someone who has been, please contact me 870-475-6025.

Hugs to You All!!

The Compassionate Friends of Northeast Arkansas has a

Facebook page!!

[www.facebook.com/groups/tcfofnea](http://www.facebook.com/groups/tcfofnea)



### Our next 3 Meetings

April 11, 2013

May 9, 2013

June 13, 2013

Mark Your Calendars!



### Advisory Board Members

David Lange, Executive Director of The Paragould Housing Authority

Associate Pastor Pat Graham, LMSW

Melissa Phillips, Owner of Bren's Flowers

Crystal Baldwin, MSNFP-BC

Mariah Bryson, General manager of Zaxby's

Thank you all for being on our board!

### Attention Board Members!

This month, our chapter plans to treat Alan Pederson to dinner at The Brick Oven at 5:00 P.M. before the program, and our board members are welcome to join us. The cost of dinner for everyone except our guest speaker will be Dutch treat.

If you would like to be included, please RSVP as soon as possible: Toni Baker, 870-476-6025

Or: tcfofnortheastarkansas@yahoo.com

Copyright The Compassionate Friends, Inc. All rights reserved.

TCF National Office: PO Box 3696, Oak Brook, IL 60522-3696. Phone: 630-990-0010. Fax: 630-990-0246.

Web address: [www.compassionatefriends.org](http://www.compassionatefriends.org). Toll free national office: 877-969-0010





### Alan's Pedersen's Bio

Alan Pedersen is an award winning songwriter and successful recording artist and performer playing more than 100 concerts each year across the United States. A former Nashville writer, Alan has turned the focus of his music and message toward helping the bereaved find hope and healing as they navigate the valley of grief. As a writer, Alan draws on his unique journey combining his own experience with the stories of thousands of bereaved families he has met and reached out to over the years. As a performer he draws on the experience gleaned from his work as a network radio reporter, stand-up comedian, and actor.

His own story was the catalyst for his shift in music and message. In 2001, Alan's only daughter Ashley was killed in an automobile accident in Colorado. This tragedy would take his life in a direction he never imagined and the pain and journey toward finding joy again have been the subject matter for three highly acclaimed CD's of original songs.

Alan's message is simple, **"we were put on this earth to love them for as long as we live, not for as long as they lived."** He believes that healing comes slow, but does come as we once again reach out to others who share this journey and offer our hand to help. His gentle mix of humor and straight from the heart talk wrapped around powerful songs about love, loss, and healing make for a unique concert experience.

Alan has performed or been a keynote speaker and workshop presenter at many international, national, and regional conferences including The World Gathering on Bereavement, The Compassionate Friends National Conference, and The National Gathering of Bereaved Parents of the USA. His music is popular with bereaved people around the world and is used at candle lighting services, balloon and butterfly releases, and by hundreds of professionals and organizations as a healing tool for the bereaved.

"An evening with Alan Pedersen is an experience like none other. He WILL make you laugh, he MAY make you cry, he will surely give you some things to think about, but most of all you will be gently guided to that most sacred and healing place of sweet remembrance."

Dr. Gloria Horsley, PHD, President of the Open to Hope Foundation, National Board Member of The Compassionate Friends, and co-host of Healing the Grieving Heart radio program on the Health and Wellness Network is a fan of Alan's music and message as well. Alan Has been a guest on her radio program on multiple occasions and has performed music as part of her workshops and for her local TCF Chapter. She offers these words:

"Alan Pedersen is a philosopher who sings. Few songwriters or singers have impacted the grief world with the magnitude Alan has. His music and words of wisdom say it all. He takes us on the journey from grief and loss to hope and recovery"

**Our March meeting will be held in the church building to see and hear Alan Pederson. The address is: Southside Community Church, 2211 Jones Road, Paragould Arkansas at 7:00**

**This program is not appropriate for children because of the subject matter**



# The Compassionate Friends of Northeast Arkansas



## Healing Hearts Newsletter

### In Loving Memory...

There are no dues or fees to belong to The Compassionate Friends. We have all paid the ultimate price; the loss of our loved ones. Through "Love Gifts," parents and others who wish to, may provide financial help to support our chapter.

We appreciate these gifts and use them in our chapter's work to be there to help other people who have lost a precious child, or grandchild, brother or sister.

### Telephone or email Friends

#### If you need someone to talk to.....

Toni Baker, 870-476-6025 or baker2205@msncom

Toni's son Jayson died in a motorcycle accident.

Linda Lenox 870-573-6920 or linda@thelenoxfamily.com

Linda's daughter Melissa died in a flooded creek.



## National TCF Conference Boston July 5-7 Update; Keynote Speakers Named!

### Reserve Your Conference Hotel Rooms Now!

You can now make reservations for the 36th TCF National Conference host hotel, the Boston Sheraton, 39 Dalton St., Boston MA 02199. Reservations can be made through the Online Reservation Form or by calling the hotel at 888-627-7054. Plan to attend this year and hear some great speakers and participate in other activities.

**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING REGISTRATION:** We are now anticipating that online registration for the national conference will begin within 2-4 weeks from today, Tuesday, February 5, 2013. Watch here for details as they become available!

### Conference Keynoters Named!

TCF is always known for having great keynoters and many have been waiting anxiously to find out who they will hear speak at the conference. We now have that information! They are:

- Dr. Heidi Horsley, Dr. Gloria Horsley, founders of "Open to Hope" Foundation and Phil Horsley (Chair of TCF Foundation's Board of Trustees,) a family united after the loss of sibling and son Scott, will combine to welcome you as Opening keynoters at the National Conference.
- Tina Chery who, after the murder of her son Louis, created the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute with a mission to create and support an environment where families can live in peace and unity.
- Ken Druck, bereaved parent, founder of the Jenna Druck Foundation, and one of the nation's pioneers in personal transformation including healing after loss.
- Bill Hancock, director of the Bowl Championship Series (college football), author of *Riding with the Blue Moth*, and father of Will, who was killed during the January 27, 2001 crash of an airplane carrying members of the Oklahoma State University men's basket team.

The Compassionate Friends does not espouse any religious ideologies.

Southside Community Church has graciously offered the use of it's conference room as a place to hold our meetings.

Thank You Southside Community Church !



# The Compassionate Friends of Northeast Arkansas



## Healing Hearts Newsletter



You can buy Dawn's book on

[amazon.com](http://amazon.com) for kindle or iPad

and from:

[thebookpatch.com](http://thebookpatch.com) for hard copy.

### Biography

Dawn is the author of *You Are Not Alone* which chronicles the loss of her two infant children. As a result of her painful journey, she actively seeks out families that have experienced a loss in their life to let them know their pain is normal and they are not alone. Her passion and compassion for hurting people is contagious, and readers will immediately connect with her through challenges in their lives.

She authors a column for *The Wordsmith Journal Magazine*, *The Paragould Daily Press* and for the *Jonesboro Area Home Educators*.

In her spare time, she enjoys cooking, reading and spending quality time with her husband and two children.

Having just buried our second child within two years, I clutched the carpet of the bedroom closet floor. I screamed. I moaned in pain and placed my tear stained face against it's very fibers. Crying out to God, I was not met with pity. I was given the most peaceful and profound love I have ever felt. I did not immediately raise up and run. My journey was filled with more pain. I have learned that sometimes, God does not change our circumstances, instead he changes us.

Join me on my journey from tragedy to triumph. *You Are Not Alone!*

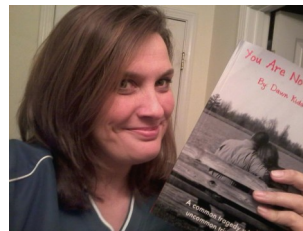
From the beginning, time will unfold from when I met my beloved husband through the difficult loss of each of our two infants. Included are notes from family and friends conveying their thoughts and expressing how they grieved from a distance. There is a small section taken from the columns that I write from various publications that can be read as devotions.

This book was written in hopes of helping those that are hurting through a tragedy, those that have watched family or dear friends grieve and for those who want to strengthen their personal relationship with God. *You Are Not Alone!*

**Angel Kiss**

An Angel kissed my tears away today when I was sad. I wasn't feeling quite myself my day had been so bad. I felt a warmth brush by me that quickly dried my tears. A gentle, kind, and loving touch that seemed to hold me near. Immediately, I felt so much better and the day seemed brighter too. I guess that's just the way you feel when an Angel comforts you.  
~ Author Unknown ~

Angel Huggs —j—



**The Compassionate Friends**

**Regional Coordinators for the state of Arkansas**

**David and Dana Penn**

**870-759-1299**

**[www.djdp32@hotmail.com](mailto:www.djdp32@hotmail.com)**

"Perhaps they are not stars, but rather openings in heaven where the love of our lost ones pours through and shines down upon us to let us know they are happy." ~ Eskimo Proverb

Suzie's Daily Quotes



**Our Children Remembered**

**Melissa Wilkinson**

**Jayson Baker**

**Cooper Catharine Porter**

**Nathan Kidd**

**Haylee Kidd**

**Timothy Lee Fitzwater**

**Shane Mathew Fitzwater**

**Aaron Scott Boyer**

**Jennifer Cook**

**Samantha Cook**

**Tyler James Tritch**

**Nicholas Zurosky**

**Ashlyn Dunn**

**Carter Smith**

**Jayden Wilkinson**

**Shane Palmer**

**Terry Brown**

**Stephanie Sluder**

**Caiden Billups**

**Timothy House**

Contact me if you'd like your children added

Linda Lenox: [linda@thelenoxfamily.com](mailto:linda@thelenoxfamily.com)

## In Loving Memory...

There are no dues or fees to belong to The Compassionate Friends. We have all paid the ultimate price; the loss of our loved ones. Through "Love Gifts," parents and others who wish to help, may provide financial to support our chapter.

We appreciate these gifts and use them in our chapter's work to be there to help other people who have lost a precious a child, or grandchild, or brother or sister.

## The Compassionate Friends of Northeast Arkansas

We ask for donations in memory of our children who have died. Our activities support the grief work of many families. Our work also goes to educate the community about the grief process and how everyone can help and give emotional support to bereaved families.

Please help us help others by making a "love gift"

Tax deductible love gifts may be sent to:

TCF of Northeast Arkansas, c/o Toni Baker, chapter leader

2703 Stonegate Drive, Paragould, AR 72450

This page can be printed to form an envelope for your love gift. Fold as directed, insert your check. and tape the ends closed

I would like to give a love gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

If you choose to give a love gift, please add your return address to receive your tax deduction receipt

May we acknowledge your love gift in our newsletter: Please Circle YES NO

If you would like your loved one's name added to our memorial page,

"Our Children Remembered" in our newsletter, Please submit the following information:

Child's full name \_\_\_\_\_

Birth date month and year \_\_\_\_\_ Death date, month and year \_\_\_\_\_

The Compassionate Friends of Northeast Arkansas

Toni Baker

2703 Stonegate Drive

Paragould, Arkansas 72450