

# The Compassionate Friends Of Northeast Arkansas Healing Hearts Newsletter

2211 Jones Road, Paragould, AR.

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

Email: [tcfofnortheastarkansas@yahoo.com](mailto:tcfofnortheastarkansas@yahoo.com) Webpage: [tcfofnortheastarkansas.weebly.com](http://tcfofnortheastarkansas.weebly.com)

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/tcfofnea/>

Our next meeting is June 12th, 2014 at 7:00 P.M. — 9:00 P.M.



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The Compassionate  
Friends  
State of Arkansas  
Regional Coordinators  
David and Dana Penn  
870-759-1299  
[www.djdp32@hotmail.com](http://www.djdp32@hotmail.com)



## Father's Day

A thought crosses my mind every year on Father's Day  
Is a father still a father if his child has gone away  
If there is no one here to give a gift or send a card  
If there is no one here to barbeque with in the yard

Is a father still a father if he wakes up on that day  
With a longing for what's missing that will never go away  
While others smile and celebrate and share a warm embrace  
This special day for others makes me feel so out of place

Every year I wonder but the answer comes to me  
Indeed I am a father and forever I will be  
I pray to God every night my child is in his care  
That he will keep watch over till the day that I am there

So once again on this day my child will not be here  
But soon there'll be another Father's Day without a tear  
When I can celebrate and no longer will be sad  
When I hear my child in heaven say to me....I love you dad

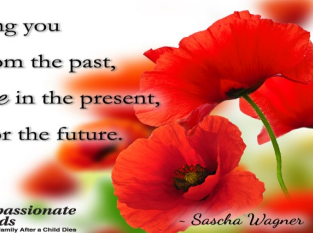
Written by Alan Pedersen  
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[www.angelsacrosstheusa.com](http://www.angelsacrosstheusa.com)

## Memories

will bring you  
*love* from the past,  
*courage* in the present,  
*hope* for the future.



The  
Compassionate  
Friends  
Supporting Family After a Child Dies



- Sascha Wagner

## Advisory Board Members

Associate Pastor Pat Graham, LMSW  
Melissa Phillips, Owner of Bren's Flowers  
Crystal Baldwin, MSNFP-BC  
Mariah Bryson, General manager of Zaxby's

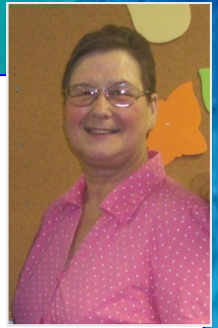
Thank you all for being on our board!

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Web address: [www.compassionatefriends.org](http://www.compassionatefriends.org). Facebook: Compassionate Friends/USA



# Healing Hearts Newsletter of The Compassionate Friends of Northeast Arkansas

## *Note from our Chapter Leader, Toni Baker*



First of all my sincere sympathies goes out to the four families whose child died in the tragic car accident this past week. My heart breaks for these families. Also to another family in Marmaduke in the loss of their son. These are very heartbreaking as we all know. Take time and reach out to these families, send a card and let them know TCF of NEA is here to give them hope.

On a brighter note – June is an exciting month as we will have a speaker on Thursday, June 12<sup>th</sup> for the first half hour of our meeting – Cherrie who lost her son in a car accident and has now released her first book. Please invite others to join us. After Cherrie speaks we will continue with our regular meeting. **ALSO** June is our month to have our **“ANNUAL BOSTON BUTT/RIBS FUNDRAISER”**. I hope all of you will participate in trying to sell a few of them – these funds help purchase brochures, print and send out newsletters, helps with expenses for events, etc. People will also be able to make a purchase online if they wish at [www.tcfofnortheastarkansas.weebly.com](http://www.tcfofnortheastarkansas.weebly.com) or by placing an order with an individual member. Everyone who makes a purchase must receive a receipt and take it into Payne’s Meats on July 3<sup>rd</sup> after 3pm (hot) or July 4<sup>th</sup> 8am-4pm (cold). All orders with payments need to be turned into me by June 26<sup>th</sup>. I appreciate all your help in OUR FUNDRAISER!! You’re a great group with hugs and lots of thanks to each of you.

See you on Thursday, June 12<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at 2211 Jones Road, Paragould. Everyone who has lost a child, grandchild or sibling are welcome. This is a group none of us asked to belong to –**WE NEED NOT WALK ALONE!!!**  
Love and Hugs, Toni Baker, Chapter Leader 870-476-6025

**Join Us on the Web!**  
[tcfofnortheastarkansas.weebly.com](http://tcfofnortheastarkansas.weebly.com)

**Join Us on Facebook!**  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/tcfofnea/>

*We’d love to have your feedback!*

**Our next 3 Meetings!**

June 12, 2014  
July 10, 2014  
August 14, 2014

The Compassionate Friends does not espouse any religious ideologies. Southside Community Church has graciously offered the use of it’s conference room as a meeting place for our chapter.  
**Thank You Southside Community Church!**

If you wish to stop receiving this newsletter, or if you would like to contribute to the newsletter with an original poem or story you wrote, please contact me at:  
[linda@thelenoxfamily.com](mailto:linda@thelenoxfamily.com)



# Healing Hearts Newsletter of The Compassionate Friends of Northeast Arkansas



## Telephone or email Friends

**Toni Baker, 870-476-6025 or baker2205@msn.com**

Toni's son Jayson died in a motorcycle accident.

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

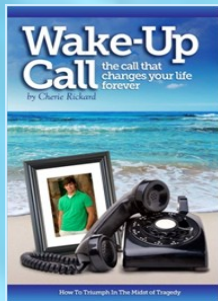
Linda's daughter Melissa died in a flooded creek.

**Jo Cook, 870-249-1290**

Jo's daughter, Jennifer died in an accident with a train.

## Upcoming Events:

### June



### Fundraiser

Between June 10th and 27th, we will have our 3rd annual fund raiser selling Boston Butts, and Ribs from Payne's Meat. The meats will be ready for 4 of July Celebrations! We really need volunteers to help us sell these wonderful meats and raise money for our chapter! This is our largest yearly fundraiser!

Customers who buy Smoker Boston Butts for \$30.00 or Smoker Ribs for \$20.00 can pick up their orders on July 3rd, between 3:00 and 6:00. Meat will be hot, and ready to eat. If you prefer, pick up your orders on July 4th, between 8:00- 4:00, Meat can be reheated. Payne's Meat is located at 817 Greene 721 Road, Paragould. Phone # is 236-3605. You can order your meats from any CF member. Simply pay for your order and get your receipt to take to Payne's on July 3rd or 4th. You and also order your meats online at our website: [tcfofnortheastarkansas.weebly.com](http://tcfofnortheastarkansas.weebly.com) and make payment through Pay Pal. For more information, call or email Toni Baker, Chapter Leader at: [tcfofnortheastarkansas@yahoo.com](mailto:tcfofnortheastarkansas@yahoo.com) or call: 870-476-6025

Customers must have the receipt from Compassionate Friends to pick up their orders

### July



Also at our June meeting, we will have a guest speaker: Author Cherie Rickard. Cherie lost her son to an auto accident and has written a book about the how she learned to cope entitled 'Wake-Up Call.' We can buy the book for \$13.95 and it will be signed by the author. Read more about Cherie Rickard on page 4

## Sibling Dance and Dine at the 37th National Conference

*Don't miss out on this great evening of fun!*

Join your fellow siblings for a night of great food, good music, and dancing to your favorite tunes. This event is for siblings only and a separate registration is required. *So make sure you sign up today!*

If you have already registered for the Conference, please click the [Donate button](#) to sign up for the Sibling Dance and Dine. Enter the registration cost of \$35.00 for the Sibling Dance and Dine. Please note when making the donation that this is for the Sibling Dance and Dine Event.

If you have any questions, please call the National Office at 877.969.0010.

The Compassionate Friends is pleased to announce that:  
**Chicago, IL will be the site of the 37th TCF National Conference July 11-13, 2014.**

"Miles of Compassion through The Winds of Hope" The 2014 conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare right near the airport. We'll keep you updated with details here, on the national website, as well as on our [TCF/USA Facebook Page](#) and elsewhere as they become available. Plan to come and be a part of this heartwarming experience!

**The agenda for the conference: [www.compassionatefriends.org](http://www.compassionatefriends.org)  
[http://www.compassionatefriends.org/Libraries/PDF/37th National Conference Workshops.sflb.ashx](http://www.compassionatefriends.org/Libraries/PDF/37th%20National%20Conference%20Workshops.sflb.ashx)**

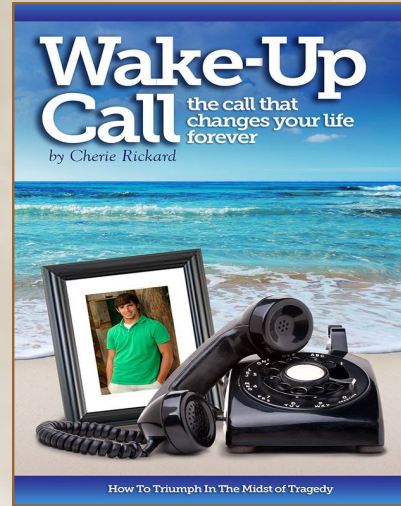
Chapter Leader, Toni Baker is looking into transportation, conference, and hotel costs. Please let her know if any of are interested in attending. This is one of the closest conferences to us and they are amazing!



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### Wake-Up Call by Cherie Rickard

Wake-Up Call by Cherie Rickard is a moving, inspirational voyage inside the shattered life and broken heart of a mother who tragically and unexpectedly loses her teenage son in a one-car accident. In ways unexpected, practical and real, Cherie gives anyone who has ever experienced the devastating loss of a loved one, real-life, hard-core, often tough spoken but love-laden and extremely practical advice on how to turn life's most tragic blows into triumph by trusting in God and His Word. This is a must-read for anyone who loves someone else . . . Wake-Up Call by Cherie Rickard, published by DerDiZ Media, Inc., goes on sale April 25, 2014.



### Special Guest Speaker

Cherie Rickard will be in Paragould to speak at the June 12, 2014 Compassionate Friends of Northeast Arkansas meeting. Meetings are held at 2211 Jones Road, Paragould AR. at the conference room, up the hill from Southside Community Church. Our meeting starts at 7:00 P.M. If you, or someone you know have lost a child, a grandchild or sibling, please join us to hear this inspirational speaker. Cherie Rickard will bring copies of her book, "Wake-Up Call, the call that changes your life forever," which will be available for sell at the price of \$13.95, and will be signed by the author. You can see Cherie Rickard's website at: [www.wake-upcallbook.com/](http://www.wake-upcallbook.com/)

### The Compassionate Friends Names New Executive Director

The Compassionate Friends Board of Directors President Patrick O'Donnell announced the National Board of Directors' decision to select Alan Pedersen as TCF's next Executive Director. The board's decision represents the culmination of an exhaustive selection process that began in January of 2014. Alan is a bereaved father whose beloved 18-year-old daughter Ashley died in an automobile accident on August 15, 2001. He is a nationally recognized voice in the grief community. Over the last decade, Alan has appeared in nearly 900 grief forums across the United States and Canada.

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.

Today TCF has more than 650 chapters serving all 50 states plus Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, and Guam offer friendship, understanding, and hope to bereaved parents, siblings, grandparents, and other family members during the natural grieving process after a child has died. Around the world more than 30 countries have a Compassionate Friends presence, encircling the globe with support so desperately needed when the worst has happened.



Alan Pedersen and his wife Denise with our chapter leader, Toni Baker in front of the Angel Van. Alan came to perform and speak for our chapter on March 14, 2013



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### *Our Children Remembered*

**Melissa Wilkinson**

**Jayson Baker**

**Cooper Catharine Porter**

**Nathan Kidd**

**Haylee Kidd**

**Nicholas Zurosky**

**Jennifer Cook**

**Timothy Lee Fitzwater**

**Samantha Cook**

**Shane Mathew Fitzwater**

**Jennifer Lee Hancock**

**Aaron Scott Boyer**

**Ashlyn Dunn**

**Aidyn Isaiah Queen**

**Annaya Marie Edwards**

**Shane Palmer**

**Tabitha Marsh**

**Steven Charles Garland**

**Stephanie Sluder**

**Timothy House**

**Julie Ellen Amick**

**Carter Smith**

**Olivia Jurkin**

**Tyler James Tritch**

**Terry Brown**

**Jayden Wilkinson**

**Caiden Billups**

**Blake Howerton**

**Andrew Wayne Myers**

**Jon David Penn**

**Joseph "Chase" Jackson**

**Tyler James Troutt**

**Matthew Russo**

*If you would like your child  
added to this list, contact me:  
[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 aid 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 grand-child, 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 families in our area. Our work is also used 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

Donations can also be made through our web page  
or through our online store:

[tcfofnortheastarkansas.weebly.com](http://tcfofnortheastarkansas.weebly.com)

**This page can be printed and folded 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

\_\_\_\_\_

From (relationship) \_\_\_\_\_

If you choose to give a love gift, please add your return address to receive your tax deductible 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Your relationship \_\_\_\_\_

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please email: [linda@thelenoxfamily.com](mailto:linda@thelenoxfamily.com)



**The Compassionate Friends of Northeast Arkansas  
2703 Stonegate Drive  
Paragould, Arkansas 72450**

**Address Service Requested**