



THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

Supporting Family After a Child Dies

Who We Are

In more than 500 large and small communities across the country, there are groups of mothers and fathers who meet together every month. They are unique. They have all experienced the death of a child and they survived that terrible grief because there is an organization dedicated to healing them. Every family who becomes able to function again in their daily life following the death of their child has achieved a major accomplishment. Helping thousands of bereaved families every year toward that achievement is the purpose of *The Compassionate Friends*.

The Compassionate Friends, Inc. (TCF) is a national mutual assistance, self-help organization offering support and understanding to bereaved families through the work of local chapters such as ours here in Boca Raton, Florida. Our two-fold mission is to promote the positive resolution of families following the death of a child, and to foster better understanding of bereaved families' grief among their friends, co-workers and the community.

TCF has been active in the Boca Raton area for 25 years. We conduct twice-a-month support group meetings, which provide a caring environment in which bereaved families can talk freely about their emotions as well as the experience they are going through. During our meetings and telephone calls they receive the understanding support of others who have "been there." We publish a monthly newsletter, featuring writings aimed at helping our readers understand and manage their grief. Our Chapter's lending library provides books and brochures on subjects helpful to families grieving the death of a child.

TCF charges no individual dues nor fees of any kind; we have no religious affiliation. Our meetings, lending library and newsletters are available to any bereaved family at no charge. The Boca Raton Chapter is one of nearly 600 local chapters throughout the United States, each one

of which is entirely self-supporting. We depend upon the voluntary donations of our members and the generosity of businesses and individuals in the community. TCF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible.

Our Boca Raton Chapter provides monthly newsletters to over 300 members, some of whom are not able nor strong enough to attend meetings, so our newsletter and website are the only sources of support from us. Our expenses keep rising each month due to the increasing number of newly bereaved families who call all the time. In addition, a national convention is held each year, where families of any age, creed or background can attend to join the thousands of other bereaved families for support.

How You Can Help

In order for us to continue operating our Chapter and offer our services, we are holding our annual fundraiser on April 29, 2011. The fundraiser is our major source of funding.

The funds raised will go towards a Memorial Garden, the 24-hour emergency phone line, a grief lending library, a monthly newsletter and many other services to help the bereaved in our community.

Please help us to continue to reach out and help support families who have suffered so much already by the death of their child.

The Compassionate Friends

An organization dedicated to the Healing of Bereaved Parents

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Tax ID #59-2125976 Group Exemp. #36-2968329