



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.

### ORGANIZATION

- The Compassionate Friends has a 13-member national volunteer board of directors consisting of bereaved parents, siblings, and grandparents.
- In the 35 years following its incorporation, TCF/USA has grown from 40 chapters to more than 650, with locations in all 50 states plus Washington D.C., Guam, and Puerto Rico. All chapter leaders are volunteers and are bereaved parents, siblings, or grandparents, as are the 53 regional coordinators who serve as liaisons between chapters and the national organization.
- The Compassionate Friends National Office is located in Oak Brook, Illinois. The executive director is supported by five full time and three part time staff members.

### ROLE OF LOCAL CHAPTERS

- Regular meetings of local chapters provide a caring environment in which bereaved parents, siblings, and grandparents can work through their grief with the help of others who have “been there.” Monthly, more than 18,000 attend chapter meetings.
- Outreach is provided to more than 115,000 bereaved family members and professionals each month through chapter newsletters, websites, Facebook Pages, special programs including regional conferences, walks to remember, phone calls, letters, e-mails, and personal visits.
- Educational information on grief following the death of a child and the work of TCF is provided to the community through publicity, speaking engagements, and the distribution of materials.

### EXAMPLES OF SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

- *We Need Not Walk Alone*, TCF’s award-winning national magazine is published three times a year for bereaved families, as well as professionals and chapter leadership, addressing grief issues from a variety of sources and viewpoints. The magazine is available in printed form and now is offered free to online subscribers.
- TCF’s national website ([www.compassionatefriends.org](http://www.compassionatefriends.org)), where information and resources can be viewed, also provides Spanish language support. In 2012, the website was visited almost 1/2 million times with the largest day more than more than 18,000 on the day of the Worldwide Candle Lighting. TCF’s national website was named first by GoodTherapy.org in its Top Ten for 2012 listing of grief and loss websites on the Internet.
- A free monthly e-newsletter is sent to more than 16,000 interested persons.
- TCF’s National Facebook Page communicates every day with its more than 45,000 members and continues to grow daily. A Spanish language Facebook Page has been added, and TCF has a Twitter and LinkedIn presence.

The Compassionate Friends (TCF) is a national nonprofit, self-help support organization offering friendship, understanding, and hope to families grieving the death of a child of any age, from any cause. There is no religious affiliation and no individual membership fees or dues are charged. All bereaved family members are welcome. Founded in England in 1969, TCF was established in the United States in 1972, with 501(c)(3) not-for-profit incorporation in 1978, under which provision the organization’s more than 650 local chapters also operate. TCF operates as separate entities in at least 30 countries around the world.