

DECEMBER



**The
Compassionate
Friends**
Mercer Area Chapter
Supporting Family After a Child Dies

Local Chapter Notes



❖ **Candlelight Vigil 12/8/13**

Consider joining us for this international event at the RWJ Wellness Center from 6-9pm. Please RSVP by December 1st by calling 609-516-8047 or info@tcfmercer.org. Seating is limited to ten people per family. See page 2 for complete details.

DECEMBER MEETING

We will be making ornaments. *Be sure to bring photos of your child/grandchild/sibling that will be placed inside the ornament.* Wallet size would be perfect.

TCF MERCER WEBSITE

We are excited to announce the launch of our new website. It is still located at tcfmercer.org but it looks completely new and updated. We would like to extend our gratitude and thanks to Wil Hitchmann who has been our WebMaster since March 2009. This new site was developed by a group called Charity Advantage. They are working on TCF sites across the country and making them look more uniform and clean. We are looking for someone to maintain it – the instructions for how to do updates are right on the back end and it is very simple. Please email us at info@tcfmercer.org if you are interested!

❖ **NEWSLETTER EDITOR UPDATE.**

Just a reminder that the newsletter will turn into a one page formatted letter with details for the upcoming meeting starting in January. Please email info@tcfmercer.org if you are interested in taking over this critical position. It is important to be an active member and attend meetings. Thanks!!

MEETING INFORMATION

WHEN:

December 2, 2013
The first Monday of each



MEETING TOPIC:

Holidays – bring wallet size photo to make ornament

FACILITATORS

Shannon Pope /
Rich Narcini

WHERE:

Capitol Health Systems in
Hamilton



Newsletter Mailings

Thanks to **Barbara Chiste** for mailing out the **December** newsletters.

Refreshments

Thanks to all of our members that bring refreshments to the meetings each month.

Inclement Weather

In the event of bad weather – please call the hotline at 609-516-8047 or visit the website at tcfmercer.org about the cancellation of upcoming meetings.

Important Notes About the Candlelight Vigil

- Approximately 190 children's names will be read (which represents the entire TCF Mercer Chapter) and a candle will be lit in their memory – even if you are unable to attend this event.
- A photo montage of our kids will be played during the vigil if you sent in the form.
- Candles will be provided at the vigil; however, please feel free to bring a candle that is special to you. In addition, you can bring poems, letters or special mementos to place by the candle. Please make sure your name is marked on all items in case they are misplaced during the vigil. **Please do not bring live plants!**

You and your family are respectfully invited to attend the TCF Mercer Chapter Candle Lighting Ceremony.

Please consider joining us for the TCF Worldwide Candle Lighting Ceremony, which will be held Sunday, December 8th. In addition, there will be a non-denominational service performed as we say each name of our chapter's children who are no longer with us. Children of all ages are welcome! If you have not attended a meeting in awhile this is a great chance to catch up with other members and take part in a beautiful event during a very difficult holiday season.

WHEN: Sunday, December 8th, 2013

WHERE: RWJ WELLNESS CENTER
<http://www.rwjhamilton.org/wellness/>
3100 Quakerbridge Road, Mercerville, NJ

AUDITORIUM A & B

TIME: 6 – 9 pm
The vigil will start promptly at 7pm

R.S.V.P: December 1st, 2013 609-516-8047 or email info@tcfmercer.org

Due to limited space please limit the number of guests to this event to ten. Please indicate how many people from your family will be attending.

Light refreshments will be served. We hope to see you and your family at this annual event.

*We want to thank and acknowledge the following
for their generous support of our chapter and especially, our newsletter:*

In Memoriam

David A. Hunt

December 9, 1982 – November 11, 2005

Happy “31st” Birthday

“Our Beloved Son, Brother,
Grandson, Nephew,
Cousin and Friend”

If tears could wash away our pain,
We would not feel such hurt again,
The heartbreak felt since you've been gone,
We wouldn't wish on anyone,
But today is your birthday,
So we'll have to be brave
And accept God's taken what first He gave.

**NATIONAL CHAPTER
INFORMATION**

The Compassionate Friends, Inc.

P. O. Box 3696

Oak Brook, IL 60522-3696

TEL: 877-969-0010

FAX: 630-990-0246

Regional Coordinator: Camille Williams

cewilliams33@hotmail.com

Website: www.compassionatefriends.org

Email:

nationaloffice@compassionatefriends.org

**Submit a Message to Remembrance Book December 9th
During the Worldwide Candle Lighting**

Every year tens of thousands of families participate in some way in The Compassionate Friends Worldwide Candle Lighting, whether by attending a formal service or simply lighting a candle informally in their homes with family and friends. An additional way that you can be a part of this meaningful event is by submitting a message that day to be posted to the TCF's online Remembrance Book at www.compassionatefriends.org. The message can be about a special child you are remembering, a Worldwide Candle Lighting event you've attended, or anything you wish to share relating to the death of a child. You can include a favorite poem, if you wish. Last year more than 5000 messages were posted from every U.S. state and Washington D.C., every territory, as well as dozens of other countries, with some posts in foreign languages. **member, messages can only be placed in the Remembrance Book on December 8th.**

With loving remembrance of our children not here but always in our hearts

December Birthdays

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| C. Jordan Babayan | Son of Kate |
| Robert A. Lewis | Son of Sandy |
| Michael James Doolan | Son of Cathe and Peter |
| Mark Grignon | Son of Denise and Charlie |
| Jennifer Lynn Hentosh | Daughter of Barbara and David |
| David A. Hunt | Son of Katherine & Arthur |
| Carleigh Marie Jones | Daughter of Brian and Stepdaughter of Rhea |
| Douglas Edward Lane | Son of Freda and Peter |
| Qasim M. Muzaffar | Son of Abroo and Basit |
| Thomas Beckett Hensley III | Son of Rose and Matthew |
| Francis William Chaney Turton | Son of Sandy & Pastor Bob |
| Stephanie Van Hise | Daughter of Joann and Carl |
| James Whitehouse | Son of Linda and Jim |
| Franklin W. Wilson, Jr. | Son of Stevonne Wilson |



REMEMBRANCE TABLE

Be sure to bring in a photo or special memento each month so that we can celebrate the memory of your son or daughter together!

December Anniversaries

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Gianni Sodaro | Son of Desiree and Albert |
| Alexander Michael Dodson | Son of Michelle and Daniel |
| Matthew James Blanchard | Son of Nancy |
| Marc Tristan Hobbs | Son of Ginny and Leon |
| Gracie Linkowsky | Daughter of John and Lisa |
| Gary M. Riley | Son of Sharon and Barry |
| Anthony Michael Stathis | Son of Dawn and Michael; sister to Barbara |

LOVE GIFT DONATION FORM

A **LOVE GIFT** is a donation given in memory of a child who has died. It can also be in honor of a happy event that you would like to acknowledge. Your contributions can be in any amount, are tax deductible and are a source of income for our non-profit chapter. **Checks can be made out to**

TCF Mercer and sent to: The Compassionate Friends, PO Box 3203, Mercerville, NJ 08619.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Child's Name _____ Relationship to child _____

Birthdate _____ Anniversary Date _____

Amount \$ _____ Dedicate the newsletter in the month of _____

If you would like a picture of your child in the newsletter please email it to info@tcfmercer.org
Please fill out the following for a two-line message that will be printed in the newsletter:

Every effort will be made to include your dedication in the month that you specify - please be sure to mail your information before the newsletter mailing. The newsletter is typically mailed one week prior to the monthly meeting. If your poem or message is lengthy please email to info@tcfmercer.org.

| STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Chapter Leader: | OPEN | |
| Meeting Facilitators: | Various | |
| Remembrance CardCoordinator: | Gwendolyn Karro | Since April 2013 |
| Correspondence Secretary | Toni Nowalinski | Since April 2012 |
| Newsletter Editor: | OPEN | |
| Treasurer: | Shannon Pope | Since May 2013 |
| Event Coordinator | Shannon Pope | Since February 2012 |
| Librarian: | Michael Stathis | Since January 2013 |
| New Member Coordinator | Linda Silverstein | Since October 2012 |
| Chapter Delegate: | Toni Nowalinski | Since January 2013 |
| SCM Minutes: | Rich Narcini | Since February 2008 |
| Web Master/Editor | OPEN | |
| Media Coordinator | Toni Nowalinski | Since December 2012 |

TCF Mercer Chapter Address:
 PO Box 3203, Mercerville, NJ 08619 **609-516-8047** info@tcfmercer.org or visit us online at
www.tcfmercer.org

Capital Health System of Hamilton, 1445 Whitehorse-Mercerville Road, Hamilton, NJ

From the North (New Brunswick and Princeton):

Follow Route 1 South to Quakerbridge Rd. Take the Quakerbridge Rd. Exit East. Go through approximately seven lights before you come to Route 33. Go through the intersection of Route 33 (Applebee's Restaurant will be on left corner). Street name changes to Whitehorse-Mercerville Rd. Go through three lights. CHS in Hamilton is on the left, immediately following third light.

From South Jersey:

Take Route 295 North to Exit 61 (Arena Drive). At the third light, make a left onto Whitehorse Avenue. Whitehorse Avenue changes to Whitehorse-Mercerville Road. Proceed on road for three lights. CHS in Hamilton is located on the right after the fourth light (#1445).

From the East (Freehold/Jackson):

Take Route 195 West towards Trenton. Exit at Hamilton Square. At the traffic light, make a left onto Kuser Rd. Follow Kuser Rd. for approximately two miles. The K-Mart Shopping Center will be on your left. Make a right onto Whitehorse-Mercerville Road. Proceed on Whitehorse-Mercerville Rd. through one more traffic light. CHS in Hamilton is on the right.

From the West (Ewing/Trenton):

Follow Olden Ave. East to Whitehorse Ave. Make a left onto Whitehorse Ave. Proceed on Whitehorse Ave. to Kuser Rd. (K-Mart Shopping Center). Go through the intersection of Whitehorse Ave. and Kuser Rd. The name of the road will change to Whitehorse-Mercerville Rd. Proceed on Whitehorse-Mercerville Rd. through one more traffic light. CHS in Hamilton is on the right.

From Pennsylvania (Route 95):

Take Route 95 North to Route 295 South to Route 33 East (Mercerville Exit). Follow to traffic light. Make a left onto Nottingham Way. You will need to be in right lane on Nottingham Way Make a right onto Quakerbridge Rd. Go through traffic light at Route 33 (Applebee's Restaurant will be on left corner). Street name changes to Whitehorse-Mercerville Rd. Go through three lights. CHS in Hamilton is on the left, immediately following third light.

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

Mercer Area Chapter

Supporting Family After a Child Dies

PO Box 3203 Mercerville, NJ 08619



Upcoming Meeting Dates

12/2 1/6 2/3 3/3

Meetings start at 7pm!