

MEETING SCHEDULE

7-8:30 p.m. on the
Last Tuesday of the month (except
for December)
at
St. Matthias' Episcopal Church
11300 West Huguenot Road
Midlothian, VA 23113

TCF'S MISSION

When a child dies, at any age, the family suffers intense pain and may feel hopeless and isolated. The Compassionate Friends (TCF) provides highly personal comfort, hope, and support to families experiencing the death of a child, a sibling, or grandchild, and helps others better assist the grieving family. TCF touches hundreds of people in the RVA community every year.

MEMORIAL EVENT

On the second Sunday in December, TCF-RVA observes an annual remembrance service in conjunction with the Worldwide Candle Lighting of The Compassionate Friends. At 7 p.m. in every time zone, candles are lit in honor of all children who have died, creating a virtual wave of light encircling the globe. The public is invited to this ceremony.



*The
Compassionate
Friends
RVA Chapter
Supporting Family After a Child Dies*

Chapter Mailing Address:
The Compassionate Friends RVA
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tcfrva@hotmail.com
www.compassionatefriendsRVA.org

TCF National Office
PO Box 3696
Oak Park, IL 60522
(807) 969-0010

www.compassionatefriends.org

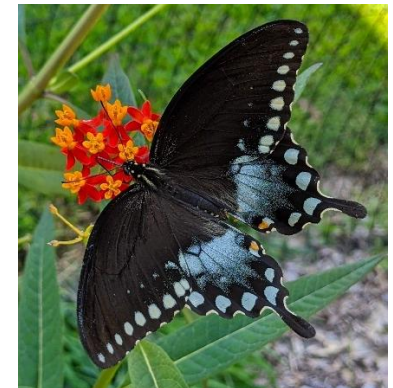


The Compassionate Friends

RVA Chapter

Supporting Family After a Child Dies

***A self-help support
organization for families
that have experienced
the death of a child,
at any age,
from any cause.***



**We need not walk alone ~
We are The Compassionate Friends**

WE NEED NOT WALK ALONE

The death of a child of any age, from any cause, is a shattering experience for a family. When a child dies, a family needs emotional support for their long grief journey. Since 1981, the Richmond Chapter of The Compassionate Friends (TCF) has been actively helping families toward the positive resolution of their grief following the death of a child, sibling, or grandchild.

ABOUT TCF

TCF is a national self-help, mutual assistance organization offering friendship, understanding, and hope to bereaved parents and their families. The mission is to assist families toward the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child and to provide information to help others be supportive. The RVA chapter is one of more than 600 chapters in the United States. TCF has no religious affiliation. The chapter is run by volunteers, who serve in honor of their children, siblings, or grandchildren who have died.

CHAPTER NEWS

TCF RVA activities are communicated through email. The communications may include articles that are helpful to families

grieving the death of a child, as well as original writings by bereaved parents, siblings, and grandparents from the national TCF “family.” To be added to the email list, send a message to tcfrva@hotmail.com

CHAPTER WEBSITE

For information and resources, visit the TCF RVA website at: www.compassionatefriendsRVA.org

SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS

Monthly support group meetings are the heart of TCF. These gatherings provide a safe environment where bereaved parents, adult siblings, and grandparents can talk freely about the emotions and experiences they are going through and receive the understanding support of others who have “been there.” Often, members say that the hope provided through these sharing sessions has been more helpful than other types of support in resolving grief within their family following the death of a child.

CHAPTER PHONE

The chapter has a dedicated phone line to receive calls and inquiries from bereaved parents, siblings and grandparents, referring agencies and individuals, and the

general public. Some calls are the result of TCF members in other cities referring bereaved RVA friends to us.

INFORMATION & EDUCATION

Part of TCF’s mission is to promote better understanding of parental and family grief. Examples of this effort include:

- A chapter website to provide information and links to local and national grief resources.
- A network with the Central Virginia Bereavement Coalition for chapter leaders to learn about local resources, local grief programs and to learn from bereavement professionals.
- Distributing informational materials to professionals in hospitals, hospices, funeral homes, and churches, as well as to other interested individuals.

FUNDING

There are no dues or fees to participate in local chapter meetings. TCF exists on voluntary contributions from individuals and businesses. The Compassionate Friends is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization; all donations are tax-exempt. The EIN is 54-1258489.