




<p>What is</p>  <p>THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS Supporting Family After a Child Dies</p> <p>?</p>	<p>The mission of The Compassionate Friends: <i>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.</i></p> <p>In the 40 years since its founding, TCF has grown to more than 640 chapters serving all 50 states. More than 30 countries have a Compassionate Friends presence, encircling the globe with support so desperately needed when the worse happens. All peer-to-peer run chapters are led by volunteers committed to helping every bereaved parent, sibling or grandparent who may walk through the doors. TCF offers hope, validation, caring and compassion during the natural grieving process after a child, of any age from pre-birth to full maturity, has died from any cause. The Compassionate Friends brings light to the darkest time of families' lives.</p>
<p>Nationally, what is</p>  <p>?</p> <p>Together Understanding Compassion Remembrance Community</p> <p>Fund-Raising</p>	<p>In 2002, The Walk To Remember was created by THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS, nationally, as symbolic way to show the love that bereaved families carry for the children they mourn. Annually, held at 8 a.m. Sunday on the final day of the national conference, there is an air of anticipation, excitement mixed with solemnness, as everyone gathers. Finally the Walk begins and, figuratively and often literally, hand-in-hand everyone walks, meditating on a much different time in their lives before the death of their loved one changed their lives forever. There is laughter and tears, conversation and remembrances. Upwards of 1,400 have participated during A Walk, some carrying posters, signs or wearing T-Shirts and Buttons with their loved ones' faces. Entire Chapters walk with banners listing the names of children "gone too soon". In conjunction with The Walk, those who are not able to attend are encouraged to send the names of their loved ones to be carried and remembered by volunteers who are walking. In 2011, during The Walk hosted in St. Paul Minnesota, over 15,000 names of deceased children, siblings and grandchild were carried in The Walk To Remember.</p> <p>The Walk to Remember is also used as a major fundraiser to help support the work of The Compassionate Friends, both nationally and in individual local community chapters. Many participants seek pledges from relatives, friends, neighbors, and business acquaintances. Many of the over 640 local chapters, nationwide, will host their own 'concurrent' Walks to honor the 'children' of their members, as well as take part in the FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS® On-Line Virtual Walk Fund-Raising.</p>
<p>How is THE SECOND ANNUAL STATEWIDE WALK TO REMEMBER</p> <p>As hosted by</p>  <p>THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS EAST OF THE RIVER</p> <p>different from other community, charity and The Compassionate Friends walks?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♥ While there are many concurrent walks held in conjunction with the National WALK TO REMEMBER, Connecticut is the <i>only state</i> hosting a Statewide Walk to involve its entire 10 TCF Chapters, their families and friends. ♥ Most walks strive to raise funds to cure illnesses of the living. This is the Only known Walk that honors and celebrates the lives of those loved ones who have passed before us and gives care, compassion and support to their bereaved families and friends. ♥ Our primary purpose is to Provide a Day of Community and Caring ~ a day of Remembrance ~ A Safe, Compassionate Gathering where we can shout out the names of our deceased loved ones, tell their stories and hold them not only in our own hearts, but share them with others. ♥ The secondary purpose is to RAISE COMMUNITY AWARENESS that The Compassionate Friends is a free support group, existing to help and support bereaved families who have experienced the death of a child, grandchild or sibling of any age, from pre-birth to full maturity, from any cause. ♥ Though we hope to raise funds to continue our free community service provided by our TCF East Of the River CT Chapter, we are doing so primarily through participation in FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS® On-Line Virtual Fund-Raising Walk (donation site). We will accept donations and are looking for business and corporate sponsorships and grants to fund the day's activities, as well as future outreach and programs.

NO FEES	There are no fees to partake in any of our DAY TO REMEMBER events. There is no charge to join the WALK TO REMEMBER. We are supplying free bottles of water, hotdogs and burgers. Even the butterflies and T-Shirts that we offer for purchase are done so at our cost. No one understands better than us that often bereaved families experience financial hardship. We want everyone who <i>wants to</i> , to be able to take part.
Who May Attend	EVERYONE is invited! ♥ Any one who would like to attend the National WALK TO REMEMBER but won't be able to make it to Costa Mesa this year ♥ All Ten Connecticut TCF Chapters - Their Leaders, Members, Family and Friends ♥ TCF Chapters in all surrounding states ♥ Bereaved Families, their friends and support. ♥ Community Leaders. ♥ Social, Medical, Religious Personnel. ♥ Anyone who has ever lost a loved one.
Date Location Agenda	July 15, 2012 Rain or Shine <i>(butterfly release will be postponed in case of inclement weather)</i> Center Springs Park –Manchester, Connecticut Pre-registration requested at TCFEastOfTheRiverCT.org Check in and on-site late registration 10:00 am Walk 11:00 am Cookout begins about 12:30 Remembrance Ceremony and Butterfly Release about 2:00 / 2:30 Park reserved for fishing, conversation and more until 4:00.
Length of Walk	A gentle walk. Take 1 step or walk the two miles. Various lengths and surfaces will be available, including trail surfaces, as well as a portion of the walk on the Main Street Sidewalk. Bikes, dogs on leash, sneakers and sandals welcome!
Who is Hosting	Hosted by The Compassionate Friends East Of The River Chapter FAQs and Details at: TCFEastOfTheRiverCT.org under the Walk 2012 Tab contact info: TCFWalkToRemember@gmail.com 860-578-HUG2 (4842) Chapter Leader, Leader Bettie-Jeanne 860-870-7581 Walk Chairperson, Gayle Clark 860-454-4809-
FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS Virtual Walk and Chapter Fund Raising	Donate Safely on-line at: http://tinyurl.com/GeneralDonation2012 Join Virtual Walk Team: HOLDING HANDS, HUGGING HEARTS at TCFWalkToRemember.org Checks to: TCF East Of The River WTR P.O. BOX 126 Manchester, CT 06045-0126
EXTRAS	
Custom T Shirts	WALK TO REMEMBER T-Shirts are available through pre-order. Those wishing a personalized T Shirt with a Photograph of their loved one may order Custom Photo T-Shirts. Information available by email or on the website TCFWalkToRemember@gmail.com or at TCFEastOfTheRiverCT.org
Cook Out and Potluck	The East Of the River Chapter will be supplying free hot dogs, hamburgers, soda, condiments, and paper goods. We will be asking everyone who is able to bring something that they might share with others – desserts, treats, salads, entrees Beginning about 12:30 till 2:00
The Butterfly Release	The Walk To Remember Event will end with both individual and a mass Butterfly Release. To order individual butterflies visit the website or email: TCFEastOfTheRiverCT.org or TCFWalkToRemember@gmail.com BUTTERFLIES - MUST BE PRE-ORDERED Time of Release about: 2:00 pm
Support Needed	We are still looking toward area businesses for donations and grants. Sponsors, for the day, are needed for The Butterfly Release, the cookout, water, printing, a photo button maker. We are happy to have one-time donations and extremely thankful for on-going chapter sponsorship.
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