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# Listening Hearts

A Gathering of  
Bereaved Moms...

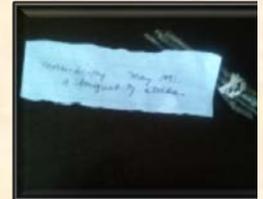
## Mother's Day Memories

### Mother's Day is Every Day

I went for a walk in the park on a Mother's Day in 1991 with three-year-old Tony. I received my first gift from him that day, a bouquet of twigs. The simplicity and innocence of his gift would forever define the bond of love between us, even now. As bereaved mothers, facing another Mother's Day without our babies, let us remember this:

Love never dies; the spirits of our babies continue on in our hearts. We acknowledge our bonds everyday; we never forget; we never stop loving. While many moms have the good fortune to receive cards and gifts from their children on Mother's Day, let us not be sad on this day. Let us hold on to our perpetual bonds and acknowledge our love not only on this day, but every day.

*Continued, page 3*



## Meetings and Events

Since we cannot change that which is out of our control, we work to help ourselves and each other to process this devastating and life-altering loss by gathering together. We meet monthly at alternating locations, in Knoxville and Morristown. You can join us at both locations, or choose one that is most convenient for you.

### Knoxville

The Eye Institute  
Conference Room  
2020 Kay St.  
Saturdays  
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

- ♥ April 6
- ♥ June 1
- ♥ August 3
- ♥ October 5
- ♥ December 7

### Morristown

Walters State Community College  
Humanities Complex, Room 105  
500 S. Davy Crockett Parkway  
Saturdays  
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

- ♥ March 2
- ♥ May 4
- ♥ July 6
- ♥ September 7
- ♥ November 2

## In Remembrance

**These adored children have birthdays in May and June.**



### ***May Dates***

- ♥ Heather Lane  
(5/6)
- ♥ Byron Clay, Jr.  
(5/14)
- ♥ Clint Reagan  
(5/15)

### ***June Dates***

- ♥ Joshua Humphreys  
(6/7)
- ♥ Kelby Akins  
(6/14)

**These cherished children have anniversaries in May and June.**



### ***May Dates***

- ♥ Lana Hopkins  
(5/9)
- ♥ Zach Griffin  
(5/26)

### ***June Dates***

- ♥ Colt Porterfield  
(6/20)
- ♥ Condrige Willis  
(6/21)

## Compassionate Friends Walk

Amparo Atencio

cont. from cover page

I will display the love bond between mother and child on July 7, during the Compassionate Friends Walk to Remember, in Boston, Massachusetts. I will be walking in memory and honor of *Tony James Phillips*, my forever-22 baby. If you are planning to attend this national conference, I hope that you will walk too. If not, please allow me to honor your baby also by letting me walk with a button of your child pinned to my back.

I will bring my t-shirt to all Listening Hearts meetings in Morristown and Knoxville between now and July, and I invite you to add your button. If you do not have a button, bring a picture. Debra, *Clint's mom*, will make a button for you! If you can't attend a meeting and would like to participate, you can email a picture to Debra or send me your button by regular mail. Contact either one of us for contact information.

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Amparo Atencio and her son, Tony Phillips on Mother's Day, 2011

### Workshops and Conferences

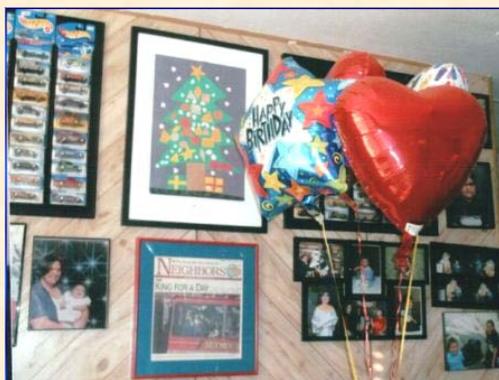
#### The Compassionate Friends (TCF)

The annual national conference will be held in Boston, MA, July 5-7, at the Boston Sheraton Hotel. The theme is "Beacon of Love; Rays of Hope." Hotel reservations can now be made.

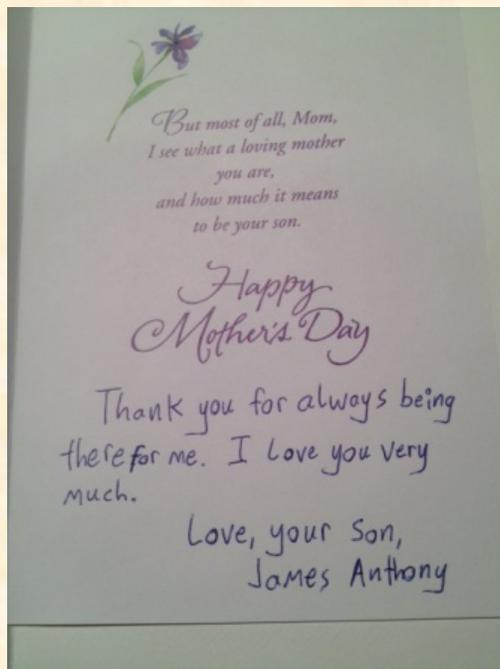
[http://www.compassionatefriends.org/News\\_Events/Conferences/TCF\\_2013\\_National\\_Conference\\_Boston.aspx](http://www.compassionatefriends.org/News_Events/Conferences/TCF_2013_National_Conference_Boston.aspx)

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Memories



Sandy's wall of Danny's memories.



**Save The Date:**

We hope you will mark your calendar now for the 2013 Listening Hearts' picnic. Save the date of Sunday, September 8, 2013.

More details will follow later.



Lori's Mother's Day memories from son, Jim.

## Heartwarming Signs

### My Heartwarming Sign of Life After Death

Terri Gookenbarger

Easter 2002, I was so heartbroken after losing my son, Eric. It was a most difficult time. A friend commented how beautiful the cemetery is and I said, "How can there be any beauty here...there is no life"! Later she called crying and shared... there is life in the cemetery...at Eric's grave. I drove back

to the cemetery and right in the center of his grave, hiding under grass was this precious nest of baby bunnies. On Easter Sunday, baby bunnies hopped all around and over his grave. It was a much needed message of HOPE from Heaven for Eric's family. We miss you Eric each and every day. ♥

In the company of angels, HOPE is necessary with the walk of faith.



## Listening Sisters Are Available

This new feature offers a listening ear for moms who need to talk or reach out during a particularly difficult time. If you would like to be available to provide support and a listening heart to another mom, let us know. Different moms will be featured in each issue.

Mom	Contact Info	Child's Life Stage	Nature of Loss
Mitzi Akins	423-581-1502	Infant	Heart Defect
Sue Anderson	865-773-9443	Adult	Leukemia
Melissa Price	865-696-7039	Adult	Cardiac Arrest
Karen Archer	865-679-3005	Adult	Drug Interaction r/t methadone
Deb Griffin	865-938-3664	Adult	Motorcycle Accident

## Listening Hearts

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WE'RE CONNECTED!

Visit us at:  
[www.listeninghearts.net](http://www.listeninghearts.net)

Join the conversation on:

**facebook**

Closed group for private posts;  
email us for access.

### LOVE GIFTS

Your tax deductible donations make it possible to reach out to other grieving mothers through this newsletter, group sessions, and website.

Love gifts can be made at all group meetings or mailed. Make checks payable to Listening Hearts.

Thank you for your generous support!

Carol Reagan, in memory of her husband, Greg

Janice and Marty Short in memory of their son, Marty Ray

### ANONYMOUS DONATIONS

Thank you for your contributions.

## We Need You for the Next Issue

As always, we welcome your blog posts, poetry, or interesting pictures. One mom's precious memories, favorite quotes, random thoughts, or photographs may uplift another mom in her time of sorrow. Share your cards, photos, or love notes from your child.

Hard copies as well as electronic files will be accepted. We will try to include all entries received in the next edition, although we may hold your submission for a future newsletter, based on space limitations.

For your convenience, we will have a scanner available at all meetings, at both our Morristown and Knoxville locations. Your items will be returned as soon as we get them scanned! If you can't attend, you can still submit! Simply send your content by regular mail or e-mail.

Please include the following information for any items submitted:

- Name of your child
- Approximate age of the child when the photo was taken

- Relation to the child of any other people in the photo
- A brief memory of what was happening in the photo
- Any other background information you'd like to share for any writings, drawings, etc. your child may have done

## About Us...

Listening Hearts is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization. It is a self-help gathering of bereaved mothers from all walks of life. We wish every day that there was not a need for such a group.

It does not matter the age of the child or the cause of death. Nor does it matter the length of time since the child's death. All bereaved mothers are welcome.

No one should travel this journey alone. Join us, as we help each other find ways to carry the pain of this loss and the joy of the love for our child in the same heart.

Thank you to all who have contributed to the making of this newsletter. We are honored to share the love and memories of your precious child. Photographs and articles submitted may be used on the website, unless otherwise noted.