



The Compassionate Friends of Canada

When A Child Dies...

National Newsletter - July 3, 2016

National Office

The Compassionate Friends of Canada
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National Executive:

Donna Rodin (Medicine Hat, AB)—President
Susan Doyle Lawrence (Victoria, BC)—Vice-
President and International Liaison
Barbara Kachur (Saskatoon, SK)—Secretary
Judy Dowd (Campbell River, BC)—Treasurer
Eileen and Andy Bond (Ottawa, ON)—
Chapter Development Committee



Transforming the pain of grief into the elixir of hope.

- Reverend Simon Stephens, Founder, TCF

Our thanks go out to all of our Member Chapters who voted in the election last month of representatives to serve on your National Board of Directors of TCF Canada. At the Annual Board Meeting on June 10, 2016, after final calls for nominations, the slate of candidates below was elected, and at the following regular board meeting they accepted the positions indicated:

Donna Rodin (Medicine Hat, AB)—President

Susan Doyle Lawrence (Victoria, BC)—Vice-
President and International Liaison

Barbara Kachur (Saskatoon, SK)—Secretary

Judy Dowd (Campbell River, BC)—Treasurer

Eileen and Andy Bond (Ottawa, ON)—Chapter
Development Committee

**Introducing our newest board member, our new
Secretary, Barb Kachur:**

We welcome Barb overleaf, and in so doing, we also welcome her husband, Gary Kachur, who has volunteered to format this newsletter, giving it a more attractive presentation, including a new masthead. Thank you, Gary.

Barb Kachur — Secretary

My husband Gary and I became involved with TCF Saskatoon following the death of our son Ryan in 1999. Ryan was 16 years old when he died of a heart attack, due to an undetected heart defect. He was preparing for the upcoming high school football season. We have a surviving daughter, Andrea, a son-in-law, Jason, and two granddaughters, Ryn and River. We attended our first TCF Saskatoon Chapter meeting in August of 1999 and made phone calls and e-mail connections with TCF Winnipeg as well as with Andy Bond from TCF Ottawa Chapter. We had the honour of speaking with Pat Pinch of TCF Canada National, and she was very helpful.

I'm a retired nurse, having specialized in Neonatal Intensive Care Nursing since 1979. After Ryan's death, I achieved my BScN and furthered my career in the areas of forensic nursing, occupational health and safety nursing, and public health nursing. I developed an NICU classroom teaching model for nurses, and a Grief Resource Manual for the Public Health Department in Saskatoon. I've always volunteered, including in the areas of preschool education, the local community association, the German pavilion at Folkfest, the Heart and Stroke Foundation, the Narrows Campground committee, and the Solar Project in Prince Albert National Park. This commitment has continued into involvement with the TCF Saskatoon Chapter, and with the Edwards Family Centre, for which I developed a Grief Resource Manual and a Perinatal Loss Support Booklet, which is distributed to all families who lose babies to miscarriage, stillbirth, or neonatal death.

I love to spend time with our grandchildren, teaching them the German language and culture. I also love walking our dogs, camping with Gary and our family, and travelling. In my spare time I enjoy creating lovely cards for friends and family. I feel honoured to be serving on the National Board of Directors of The Compassionate Friends of Canada, and to be working with such kind, honest and caring directors. I am delighted to be involved with the planning of the TCF Canada National Conference, *Sharing Hope*, to be held in Medicine Hat, AB, in August 2017.



Barb and Gary Kachur



Ryan Daniel Kachur
September 3, 1982 - July 19, 1999