



The Compassionate Friends of Canada

When A Child Dies...

National Newsletter - July/August 2018

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Andy Bond (Ottawa, ON) - President
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Cathy Sosnowsky (Vancouver, BC) - Secretary
Kathy Brooks (Victoria, BC) - Treasurer
Eileen Bond (Ottawa, ON) - Chapter
Development Committee
Directors-at-Large
Barbara Kachur (Saskatoon, SK)
Gary Kachur (Saskatoon, SK)
Judy Dowd (Campbell River, BC)

Transforming the pain of grief into the elixir of hope.

- Reverend Simon Stephens, Founder, TCF

From the President ...

As the newest President of TCF Canada, I must state that it was an unexpected honour to be nominated and elected to the position. Eileen and I have been strong advocates and believers in the benefits of the mission of TCF since our 20-year-old son Kevin died suddenly in 1994. At that time, the newsletters from Winnipeg were a lifeline and our work with the Ottawa Chapter since 1999 has only reinforced our view. It is indeed an honour to follow in the footsteps of the founders and to be entrusted with the leadership of the organization.

I would like to acknowledge the work of the Board, and in particular, outgoing President Donna Rodin, in steering us through a significant rebuilding over the last four years, including hosting the 2017 National Gathering in Medicine Hat. With a new Strategic Plan, TCF Canada is firmly focused on supporting local Chapters. We have established several new Chapters from coast-to-coast and continue to receive enquiries. We are in a stable financial situation thanks to ongoing

donations from both Chapters and individuals, and a one-time contribution from the National Gathering. We have a dedicated, motivated and experienced Board of Directors who continue to donate their time and talents to the TCF mission.

My priority as President is to continue to expand and strengthen the role of TCF Canada by supporting and encouraging Chapters across the country. However, I do not have all the answers and would greatly appreciate your thoughts as to how the national organization can help you provide critical support services to parents in need. Please feel free to contact me on our toll-free line 1-866-823-0141 or by e-mail at NationalOffice@TCFCanada.net.

Together, we will not walk alone in spreading the message of understanding and support to parents who have experienced the death of a child. I look forward to working with you to achieve that goal.

Andy Bond

Ottawa

TCF National Financial Summary

The Compassionate Friends of Canada National Board has continued to build the organization with limited financial means. We reduce operating costs wherever possible and closely watch our expenditures to ensure they are directed to providing the best support for our Chapters across the country.

In the fiscal year ending March 31, 2018, our revenues were \$4,893, comprising individual and chapter donations, income from the Gathering in Medicine Hat in August 2017 and interest from the Gwen Brown Endowment Fund. Our expenses were \$1,707 comprising telecommunications (1-800 line and Board teleconferences), website support and administration costs. Since future revenues are not guaranteed, we continue to look for ways to contain our costs, but recognize that certain expenditures are necessary in order to provide a basic level of service. Please consider whether you or your Chapter would be able to contribute to the work of the national organization, either directly or in-kind. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

Any Chapter that wishes to receive a detailed financial statement can send a message to President@TCFCanada.net and we will fulfill your request.

Kathy Brooks, Treasurer

Appreciation for Donations

Following on our Treasurer's report above, in this issue we recognize the North Shore (Vancouver) Chapter in BC and the Regina and Saskatoon chapters in Saskatchewan for their recent donations. Thank you.

Fund Raising: a Yard Sale

Keeping to the topic of finances, just how do chapters raise the funds that they need to support their local initiatives? Recently, the Victoria, BC, Chapter fell back on the tried-and-true yard sale. Louise Mackay offered her garage for storage of items, and her front yard as the venue. She's on a corner lot just a couple of blocks off a main road, near a shopping centre. Location, location, location! Chapter members and other supporters could drop things off at Louise's place, or they could bring them to the monthly sharing meeting the week before the sale. It took just a few dedicated helpers to set up early on the day, monitor the tables, and then take down in the afternoon. The take? Substantial. Thanks from the Victoria Chapter to Louise and her crew.

The Morgoch Family, Generous Winnipeg Benefactors

Johnny and Sharon Morgoch are bereaved parents, although they never came out to TCF meetings. They approached TCF Winnipeg in December 2003, wanting to do a fundraiser for TCF in memory of their daughter Candace. As they had been involved with car shows, they would do a Show and Shine. The first event had about 76 vehicles, was held on their acreage and raised \$5000. (The most successful fundraiser TCF Winnipeg had, to that date, was a garage sale that raised \$1200.) Last year's show had over 500 vehicles, was held on the Selkirk waterfront and docks and raised \$14,000 for TCF Winnipeg. In the beginning, ALL the volunteers were their friends and family. Maurice and Dolores Belot were the only TCF volunteers at the first one, staffing a display table with TCF information. It took quite a few years before other members got involved with the work or even came out to the event, but now Maurice and Dolores are there at 5:30 a.m. helping to set up tents, tables, etc., with probably another 15 or 20 TCF members. The event now includes a live band, Tribute to Patsy Cline, fantastic silent auction, engine blow-up (50/50), commemorative T-shirts, hot dogs from Skinner's, root beer floats from A&W and ice cream treats from Dairy Queen. But the Morgoch family and friends do ALL of the planning and preparation. A few TCF volunteers do some work prior to the event, but very little. What a tremendous gift to the community from this generous family. (Maybe the Rolling Stones were correct that sometimes "you get what you need".)

Dolores Belot , TCF Winnipeg

A Request: Loss of Twins

We have received a request for resources for families who have experienced the death of unborn twins or the death of infant twins. Does your chapter have any materials or suggestions that we could pass along? We would like to facilitate a sharing of resources among our member chapters.

Communication

In the interest of promoting closer communication between the national board and the chapters, members of the board will be making personal phone calls to chapter leaders over the next couple of months. No, we are not "checking up" on you. We are "checking in" with you, to listen if you have any concerns and to offer support. It will be good for all of us to have voices to put with the familiar names.

