This is Georgia Cockerham with Brookings Harbor Voices.

Many of you listening will tune out once I mention The Compassionate Friends, an organization that assists families after the death of a child. Losing a child is something that happens to other people—not me. Some of you will say to your - selves "I wouldn't want to continue living if my child died. "

We who are members of The Compassionate Friends know of these thoughts because there was a time that we had them too. Then came the moment of awareness that our child had died and life as we knew it came to an end. We, too, died in a way that is inconceivable to those who've not experienced the death of their child, and we will never again be the person we were before our child's death. But a broken heart does still beat and we spend the rest of our lives on Earth adapting to a world in which our child does not physically exist, learning to once again be active productive individuals.

Our local chapter of The Compassionate Friends is overseen by a group of volunteers who have each suffered the death of one or more children. If you've suffered the death of your child, grandchild or sibling, attending our monthly meetings may help. We know of the nightmare in which the newly bereaved lives.

If you are an employer or service group, a presentation on the Compassionate Friends may be helpful when a fellow employee loses their son, daughter, grandchild or sibling. We can help you to better understand what to say and what not to say at the time you want to be helpful.

For questions or to schedule a presentation call Georgia at 541-469-5814. That number again is 541-469-5814.