This is Florence Johnson for Brookings Harbor Voices.

The Compassionate Friends (TCF), a national self-help bereavement group has had a chapter in Brookings since 2004. In addition to overseeing the chapter we also give talks to local service organizations, educating attendees about TCF, providing information on how they can help others, and answering questions. One of the questions we're periodically asked is why TCF serves only bereaved parents, grandparents and siblings. Why not also serve those who have lost a spouse or parent? Our response is simple. The grief experienced with the death of one's child is far different than that experienced when a parent or spouse dies. In other words, all grief is not the same, and grieving individuals want to hear from others who understand. Just as those who have lost a son or daughter need to hear from other bereaved parents, those seeking help after losing a spouse or parent need to hear from others grieving similar losses. And when a bereaved mom or dad is put into a group with others who are grieving the loss of a spouse or parent, the conversation often tends to focus on he or she who's child has died, leaving unattended the grief of those who've lost other loved ones.

We at TCF assist bereaved parents, grandparents and siblings. We have information about other local grief resources if our organization does not serve your need. For more information about TCF please call Georgia Cockerham at 541-469-5814. That number again is 541-469-5814.