

for 1/10

This is Georgia Cockerham with Brookings Harbor Voices

The death of ones son, daughter, grandchild or sibling is not a life event from which we quickly recover. Those of us who suffer such a loss will never be the same nor will the world in which we live. For most of us it takes years of hard work to learn how to again find joy and purpose in life as we adapt to the new world in which we live; a world without our loved one.

The Compassionate Friends is an organization made up of bereaved parents, grandparents, brothers and sisters. I know first hand how the death of ones child impacts the mind and ability to function. When my son, Zach, died it was other bereaved parents I met at Compassionate Friends meetings who understood what I could not put into words, and gave me hope that I would survive my son's death. I am one of several bereaved volunteers who remain involved in our local chapter giving hope to others who cannot imagine ever again finding joy in the process of living.

A Compassionate Friends' meeting is a safe place for the bereaved to express their thoughts and listen to others. We do not judge nor do we gauge one loss against another. Our bereaved members have lost loved ones to premature births, SIDS, accidents, homicide, suicide, addictions and long-term illness. We have in common the fact that we've each suffered the greatest tragedy of our lives.

There are no dues or fees and we are all volunteers who have suffered great loss and want to help others. If you are bereaved and would like more information, or if you're a service group interested in a presentation on what you can do to help when someone you know is suffering, call Georgia at 541-469-5814. That number, again, is 541-469-5814. Thank You

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