



# The Compassionate Friends of Canada

National newsletter, May 11, 2016

This issue presents you with three opportunities, one in Germany, one in Arizona, and one here in Canada. Let's look at the geographically remote one first, as its deadline is closer, now extended to May 31, with about 40 spaces left.



6th International TCF Gathering and the 20th National Conference VEID (Bereaved Parents and Siblings in Germany e.V.)

Welcome to the International Gathering of Bereaved Parents and Siblings in Frankfurt/Main from 28<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2016.

<http://mourninginmotion.org/en/>

I so clearly remember the first International Gathering that I attended, in Vancouver, BC, in 2005. It was just wonderful to connect with new Friends from other countries. During the Walk to Remember I fell into step with a delightful woman from South Africa. That was Myrtle Fleming, who is now the Chair of the TCF International board. She'll be there in Frankfurt, along with so many others who will become new friends. Please do consider joining us. So far I know of four Canadians who will attend.

*Susan Doyle Lawrence,*

Victoria, BC



## TCF USA 39<sup>th</sup> Annual National Conference

July 8—10, 2016 Scottsdale, Arizona

**[www.compassionatefriends.org](http://www.compassionatefriends.org)**

Though it is more than a dozen years ago, I also clearly remember the first US conference I ever attended. We drove across Washington State and the Idaho panhandle into Montana—where I saw the most beautiful sunset of my life—then headed south to Salt Lake City, Utah.

When we got there I was overwhelmed by the immensity of it all: the wide city streets, the huge conference centre, and then the room full of photos of children who had died. I have never forgotten that room. But neither have I forgotten how much better I felt after being surrounded by people who truly understood. At that time, I could not ever have imagined that one day I would actually be among the presenters, but here I am, all these years later, ready for Scottsdale to share insights through two topics: *The Second Year—Why So Difficult?* and *Daughterless Mothers*. It would be great to meet up with other Canadians there.

### **Parents' Anthology**

Ottawa parent Donna Sharkey is compiling an anthology of bereaved parents' stories to be used as resource for other parents, support groups and social workers. The stories will focus on the impact of the death of a child on the family, whether it be a positive message of surviving the grief journey or a description of more negative experiences. The attached Request for Submissions contains more information.

If you are interested in sharing your family's story, please contact Donna at [dsharkey@sympatico.ca](mailto:dsharkey@sympatico.ca). The deadline for submissions is 30 September 2016.

**The Compassionate Friends of Canada**

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***Transforming the pain of grief into the elixir of hope.* — Reverend Simon Stephens, Founder, TCF**