

For 5/2

This is Florence Johnson with Brookings Harbor Voices

The death of a 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, Lee, 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 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. Our loved ones have died at different ages and from different causes, including 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 life.

There are no dues or fees and we are all volunteers who, after receiving help ourselves, want to help others. If you'd like more information about our chapter, call Georgia at 541-469-5814. That's 541-469-5814. Thank You