



# THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

*Parents Caring & Sharing  
Racine/Kenosha Chapter*

October 19, 2006

Dear Finance Committee,

I understand that policy has changed concerning the usage of the Mound Cemetery Chapel since last year and we are hoping you will consider waiving the fees for our nonprofit group. We are the Racine/Kenosha Chapter of The Compassionate Friends – our group is open to grieving parents in the Southeastern Wisconsin area. All parents are welcome at our group, no matter their religious affiliation, ethnicity, political boundaries, or their child's cause of death. We are volunteer run and led, and all our services are offered free of charge.

The Worldwide CandleLighting became a Compassionate Friends event in December of 1997 – our group honored our children by six of us lighting candles outdoors that evening. Since then, it's grown to a community event open to *all* families grieving the loss of a child – not just our members. Last year, we had nearly one hundred parents, grandparents and siblings attend. We have also had families drive from the Milwaukee area and Illinois.

Held annually the second Sunday in December, the Worldwide CandleLighting unites grieving parents around the globe as we light candles for one hour to honor and remember our children. Candles are lit at 7 p.m. local time, creating a wave of light as it moves from time zone to time zone. This allows us to support each other, but also to include our children in the difficult holidays ahead.

Mound Cemetery Chapel fits our needs. It is the perfect size, the perfect central location, and the perfect place to take our grief. As a grieving parent, myself, I can tell you that it is sacred space – it is warm and inviting, and offers the safe space I like to provide for parents.

As a volunteer for The Compassionate Friends, (I am their newsletter editor and also a member of their founding board) and organizer of the Worldwide CandleLighting from the beginning, I am honored to provide this event to our community, and to do so in memory of my son, Ross, who died twelve years ago this December. With your help, I hope to be able to provide this event for many more years to come.

Thank you,

Peg Rousar-Thompson  
TCF Racine/Kenosha  
Ross' mom...

Sharon Baldukas  
729 Arthur Avenue  
Racine, WI 53405  
637-6637

Hi, Sharon!

Enclosed are two letters – one is a copy of what was presented to the Cemetery Commission by Steve. The other is one for the finance committee. I spoke with Donnic Snow (636-9451) last week and he also suggested I attend the finance committee meeting at 5 p.m. on Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. As much as I hate to public-speak, the candlelighting is terribly important to me.

I'll touch base with you the week beforehand to see if there is anything further I should bring and to double-check the time – oh! and I have no clue as to where you meet!

Peg...  
[gravewords@yahoo.com](mailto:gravewords@yahoo.com)



**THE  
COMPASSIONATE  
FRIENDS**

*Parents Caring & Sharing  
Racine/Kenosha Chapter*

September 26, 2006

Dear Friends at the Racine Cemetery Commission,

We are requesting the use of Mound Cemetery Chapel for Sunday evening, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2006, at 6:30 p.m. Each year, on the second Sunday in December, we gather to remember our children who have died in a Worldwide CandleLighting ceremony. This event is hosted by the Compassionate Friends and is open to all who have experienced the loss of a child.

We would also need a three hour block of time during the week prior to the event to set up decorations and audio equipment, and an hour the following Monday morning to remove everything and clean up. It's also helpful for me to be able to get into the chapel at 5 p.m. the evening of the CandleLighting to make any last minute adjustments.

I cannot begin to tell you how much we enjoy the chapel, and what this event means to grieving parents. The holidays are very difficult for us, and this gives us a heartfelt way to include our children.

Thank you,

Peg Rousar-Thompson  
Ross' mom...