



# THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

## *Parents Caring & Sharing Racine/Kenosha Chapter*

November 8, 2011

Dear Council Members,

I am requesting to have the fees waived for the use of Mound Cemetery Chapel on the evening of Sunday, December 11th from 5pm. until 9pm., on behalf of my organization, The Compassionate Friends – Racine/Kenosha Chapter.

We have hosted The Worldwide CandleLighting event since its inception in 1999 and are a non-profit 501c3, under the umbrella of our national parent organization, The Compassionate Friends. We are also covered under their liability insurance for this event.

On this evening, parents, grandparents, siblings and extended friends and family are invited to light a candle at 7pm. to remember a child who has died. This is done on a worldwide level, beginning with New Zealand's time zone, creating a wave of candlelight throughout the world. Our community event is open to *all* who have experienced this incredible loss – not just the members of our group. We have a mailing list of over five hundred families in the Racine/Kenosha area and this event continues to be well-attended. We've had from 100-120 attendees, both familiar faces and new families unfamiliar with The Compassionate Friends. Last December, 65 grieving people braved our snowstorm to light a candle in the dark for their child.

The event itself is a short, secular program with music and poetry designed to help our grieving families cope with the holidays and remember their child, no matter what their religious tradition. We are open to parents of all walks of life, whose child/children have died from any cause and at any age.

All of our meetings, our monthly newsletter, and our two public events each year (the CandleLighting and our Annual Balloon Launch) are free and open to the public. As a chapter, we do not fundraise, preferring to use our energy instead for reaching out to the grieving community. We do accept donations, but the small amount of money we receive goes for purchasing books on grief to share with our members or to provide coffee at our monthly meetings. Most of the expenses incurred by our CandleLighting come out of my pocket.

I hope you will approve the waiving of our fees so we may continue providing this support to our community.

Sincerely,

Peg Rousar-Thompson  
The Compassionate Friends Charter Board Member  
and Ross' mom...