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(Neb.)-Candlelighting Ceremony To Honor Lost Loved Ones

By: Chris Fankhauser Posted at: 11/26/2012 08:10 AM

(Chadron)-A candlelighting ceremony will be held in Chadron in honor of loved ones who have passed on. The local ceremony of the Compassionate Friends of Northwest Nebraska will be held Sunday, Dec 9, at 2:30 PM at the Ridgeview Bible Church, 10th & Ridgeview, Chadron. The ceremony gives grieving persons an opportunity to honor the memory of their dead loved ones by lighting a candle as part of The Compassionate Friends Worldwide Candle Lighting.

This event unites family and friends around the globe in lighting candles to honor and remember children who have died at any age from any cause. As candles are lit around the world in each time zone and stay lighted for one hour, they will create a virtual wave of light as hundreds of thousands of persons commemorate their children in a way that transcends all cultural, religious and political boundaries.

The Compassionate Friends is an international, nonprofit, self help support organization that offers friendship, understanding, and hope to bereaved parents, grandparents and siblings. When a child dies, at any age, the family suffers intense pain and may feel hopeless and isolated. The Compassionate Friends provides highly personal comfort, hope, and support to every family experiencing the death of a son or a daughter, a brother or a sister, or a grandchild, and helps others better assist the grieving family. There is no religious affiliation and there are no membership dues or fees.

The local ceremony is sponsored by The Compassionate Friends of Northwest Nebraska. This group, which began in 2006, holds regular meetings with varied activities and reaches out to parents whose child has died at any age from any cause. Their vision is that everyone who needs them will find them and everyone who finds the group will be helped

While the national organization is for parents, grandparents, & siblings only, this ceremony is open to those wanting to celebrate the lives and honor the memory of any person of any age or relationship. Organizers are asking that people who wish to share the life of their loved one, to please bring a picture of them and light a candle in their honor. There will be a slide show of those being honored in this area. To include your loved one, send their information and a picture or jpeg file to mitchellchadron@gmail.com or Evelyn Mitchell, 238 Goffena Rd, Chadron 69337

As candles are lit to honor the memory of our children, we also remember those less fortunate by giving to other children in need by bringing a new, unwrapped item for a child to the candle lighting ceremony. It will be taken to Chadron Caring and Sharing for local distribution. Because this ceremony is a tribute to the memory of loved ones, friends and extended families are welcome. For more information, contact Pat Mracek at 308-207-5341, or Evelyn Mitchell at 432-3051.

(Story courtesy of Compassionate Friends)