

## Alan's Bio

*For more than 15 years, Alan Pedersen has inspired and brought comfort to grieving individuals all over the world through his music, speaking engagements, workshops, television and radio appearances and published articles. Alan is nationally acclaimed and one of the most inspirational and recognized names in the field of grief and loss.*

*A former singer/songwriter and network radio reporter, Alan's career path changed course in August of 2001 when his 18-year-old daughter Ashley was killed in an automobile accident. After desperately seeking out and finding support and educating himself about grief and loss, Alan made the life changing decision. He began to devote his creative skills toward writing healing songs about the grieving experience accompanied by an inspirational message of hope to help others facing a loss.*

*The 2003 release of Alan's CD (Ashley's Songbook) became an instant hit with those who were grieving. He began touring the country playing concerts in nearly 100 cities each year. Three more successful CD's would follow with the release of "A Little Farther Down the Road" (2005) "More Songs From the Journey" (2007) and "Peace in the Mourning (2011). Many of Alan's songs such as "Tonight I Hold this Candle," "Celebrate the Children," "I Remember You," and "Thanks for the Little While," have become staples and anthems for support organizations who use his original songs as part of candlelight services, butterfly and balloon releases and other healing events.*

*In 2005 Alan decided to expand his outreach by creating inspirational and educational workshops. He consulted with many of the top grief professionals in the world including the late Dr. Darcie Sims, Dr. Heidi Horsley, Dr. Gloria Horsley and others to create highly impactful presentations beneficial to griever as well as professionals and volunteers who provide care and support to those in grief. Alan's workshop on "Healing Guilt and Regret" is often given to standing room only crowds due to it's relevant subject matter and the passion in which Alan shares his own personal story as part of the presentation.*

*Since 2004, Alan has given more than 1,600 impactful and inspirational presentations all across North America for those in grief as well as for professionals and volunteers who want to better serve the grieving. In 2010 Alan began headlining the Angels Across the USA Tour traveling to cities large and small in his decorated "Angel Van" presenting his music and message of hope as part of his mission to help organizations supporting the hurting regardless of their ability to pay him, or his cost of travel. Since then hundreds of families have sponsored butterfly decals that adorn his van with the names and hometowns on their loved one's in support of Alan's work.*

*In 2013 Alan was named the Executive Director of The Compassionate Friends, the largest grief organization in the world and served in that position for 4 years. In addition he served on the TCF national board of directors, and the prestigious Nationwide Insurance Make Safe Happen Advisory Council.*

*The winner of numerous awards throughout his career in songwriting, television and in grief, Alan was named the Humanitarian of the Year (2013) by The Healing Hearts Foundation and The Professional of the Year (2012) by The Compassionate Friends. Alan is currently living in Charlotte, North Carolina.*