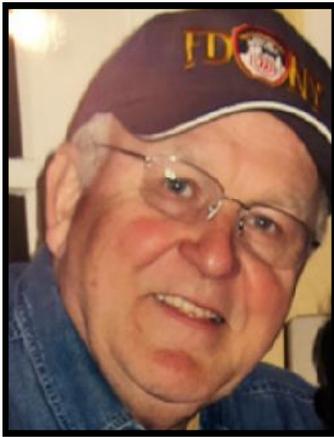


In Memory of Stan Liedman

by Valerie Marquardt



Stan Liedman

I clearly remember meeting Lynn and Stan Liedman at The Dragonfly Project Celebration and Remembrance event in 2005. During the reception, Stan and Lynn approached me and told me about their daughter, Michelle Franta, who had died in March 2004 at age 26 of a ruptured thoracic aneurysm. Stan handed me a business sized card that included information about a website regarding Michelle. I was very touched by what Stan said about Michelle so I looked up the website once I got home. At some later point in time, Stan wrote how he and his wife Lynn felt after receiving their dragonfly packet in the mail, “We lost our daughter Michelle and received a packet. We first couldn’t believe that somewhere there were loving people who cared about us and noticed our loss. We came to the annual celebration and found comfort and love and wanted to help spread the message of hope.”

I contacted Stan and Lynn at that time, and they quickly began to support the endeavors of The Dragonfly Project both by

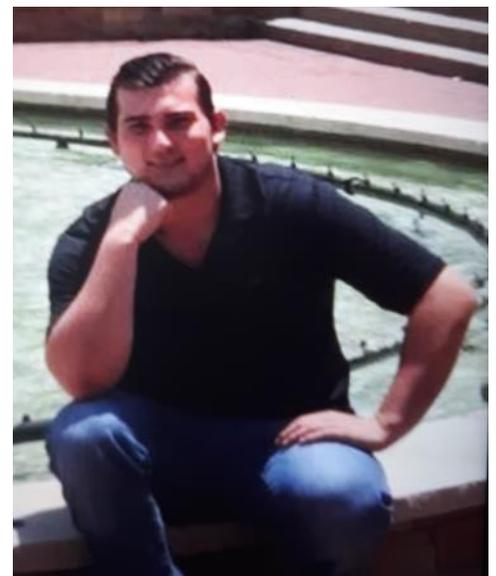
STORY CONTINUES ON PAGE 4

Thank You Just Isn’t Enough

By Nick Emmet

Thank you just isn't enough.

In the early morning of July 24th, 2018 my beautiful son Will died at age 20 of an enlarged heart. During the following six months, I spent most of my time curled up in a corner of my room. Sure, I would occasionally make an effort to be "brave," hoping not to worry my 11-year-old daughter, my 18-year-old son who was off to college, or make things worse for my wife. I even tried several therapists. These so called "experts" didn't help at all. I always felt worse after meeting with them.



Will



I needed to tell them that my William was an absolutely brilliant student, a four-star football recruit and an invaluable friend to countless people. I needed the world to know he was going to be an amazing environmental engineer and that his college professors and his coaches all thought the world of him; that the seven-hour surgery he underwent at age 16 was supposed to fix him. Nobody would listen. Mostly though, I needed someone to tell me that I **WOULD** see him again; that maybe, I could somehow live a life without him. For \$500 an hour, all I learned was that I was supposed to be in this stage of grief or that stage... whatever!

STORY CONTINUES ON PAGE 5

Executive Director's Corner: Supporting A Growing Dragonfly Project

By Pete Bonde

Next year will mark the 20th anniversary of The Dragonfly Project. We are excited to have our founder, Anne Brooker, to speak at our annual event on March 12, 2022. By the time of our annual event, we will have sent out over 140,000 condolence cards with a message of hope and a dragonfly keychain in each one. Look for the event announcement in this newsletter.

In July, I attended the annual Compassionate Friends virtual conference. I attended a few presentations and was able to share The Dragonfly Project (TDP) story at some of them. One speaker spoke about how to help those who have lost a loved one. I shared TDP story and she was going to plan to include The Dragonfly Project in her list of options to help those who are grieving. We plan to continue to reach out to The Compassionate Friends in the future in other ways.

Included in this biannual newsletter is an article about Stan Liedman. Stan and his wife Lynn took the Adopt-a-State program in its infancy and built it up to reach recipients in more than 30 states with this outreach. I

remember Stan as a very gentle man with a big heart. He wanted to reach out to those who needed a message of hope and help them through their grief journey. He and Lynn did this in honor of their daughter Michelle. Thanks for your leadership Stan in helping the Adopt-a-State program to be what it is today!

This year we have a goal of sending out 13,000 dragonfly packets to those who are grieving. This is an ambitious goal. We are currently at about 8,700 packets. You can help us by getting some packets (cards with keychains and dragonfly story) from our website (dragonflyproject.org/online-store) and sending to someone in need. To provide more impact, sign up to be an Adopt-a-State volunteer (dragonflyproject.org/get-involved) or recruit someone else. We are especially looking for people to find recipients to send a message of hope to in these states [IN, MT, ND, and NV].

If you would like to give a donation to The Dragonfly Project, you can use the included envelope (if you received the hardcopy of this newsletter), or use this link to make an online donation: dragonflyproject.org/make-a-donation

Please contact me at execdirector@dragonflyproject.org if you have any questions or comments about The Dragonfly Project.

~ Pete



**We are grateful to get our dragonfly pendants from:
Contemporary Beads & Castings**

Website: <https://www.contempbeads.com/>

Contact: info@contempbeads.com

Address: 82 Park Ln. Unit 2, West Harrison, NY 10604

The Dragonfly Buzzette is the official newsletter of The Dragonfly Project and is published twice a year, in the Spring and the Fall. The next issue will be published in Spring 2022. The Dragonfly Buzzette team consists of Julie Bonde, Karen Bonde, Peter Bonde, Valerie Marquardt, Patsy Kahmann and P.J. Tombarge.

If you would like to share your dragonfly story with us, please fill out the form by clicking the link on this web page: dragonflyproject.org/share-your-story . If you would like to volunteer to help us with the newsletter, please fill out the form on this web page: dragonflyproject.org/get-involved



Celebrating 20 Years!

1:00 pm
Saturday
March 12, 2022

Save the Date! ~ You Are Invited!

20th ANNUAL DRAGONFLY PROJECT CELEBRATION & REMEMBRANCE EVENT

Join us in honoring loved ones and celebrating The Dragonfly Project
with Music, Stories, a Silent Auction, and Candle-Lighting Memorial
at

NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
3312 SILVER LAKE ROAD
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55418

We are excited to see you!
Please fill out the RSVP form
At: <https://forms.gle/4AHejgepXty7qs4w7>



If you are unable to attend in person, we will be streaming the
program live on our website:

<https://www.dragonflyproject.org/2022-annual-celebration>

If you have a photo of a loved one that you would like included in our
celebration photo montage, send a digital copy to
julieb@dragonflyproject.org with “photo montage” in the subject line.
Please include the name and date. You may also include a comment or
some words to honor them (up to 10 words)—due by February 20, 2022.

In Memory of Stan Liedman continued

volunteering and through financial support. Since the dragonfly story meant so much to them, I asked Stan and Lynn in September 2009 if they would be willing to be coordinators for the newly established Adopt-a-State Program. (The Adopt-a-State volunteers find death notices of persons ages 40 to 50 and younger who have died. Then they distribute condolence cards containing a dragonfly key chain to grieving families.)

Stan and Lynn immediately agreed to fill this important and time-consuming position. Within a very short period of time, they started to send “starter kits” for the new non-metro volunteers which included a detailed training manual.

One of the Adopt-a-State volunteers, Jack Lechler of WI, wrote, “We met Stan and Lynn on our first visit to the Celebration event in 2013. Jermaine (Jack’s wife) and I sat with them at the reception. Stan and Lynn made such a great impression on us that we decided to become volunteers in Wisconsin. Over the years they were always available to us and more than willing to offer support and guidance. The loss of our children, of course, was a bond we shared, but we were blessed to have gotten to know such a kind and loving couple.” [Note: Jack and Jermaine continue to volunteer and have made thousands of dragonfly keychains for us.]

Over the 9 years that Stan and Lynn served as Adopt-a-State coordinators, the program quickly grew from 4 volunteers in 2 states (Iowa and Ohio) to at least 30 volunteers in 30 states. In February of 2018 when Stan and Lynn resigned as Adopt-a-State Coordinators, Stan graciously wrote, “We have very much enjoyed working with you all these years. The Dragonfly Project works because of you, our dedicated volunteers. Thank you for all your continued hard work.”



Stan & Lynn Liedman

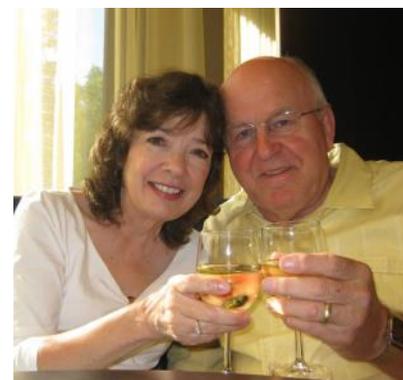


Daughter Michelle

Sadly, on June 11, 2021, Stan died of complications from dementia. After hearing of Stan's death, Anne Brooker, founder of TDP wrote, “I remember the warmth I felt when I would see Stan at the Celebrations. He contributed so much to help others during their time of grief as a way to remember and honor his daughter Michelle and we are so grateful for his generosity. He will be missed.”

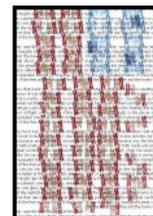
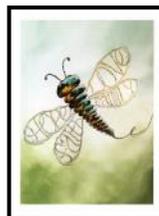
We will be forever grateful to Stan for his excellent work, and we remember him fondly as the man who genuinely cared about persons who were grieving the loss of a loved one. We take comfort in the last sentence of the dragonfly story. “The

fact that we cannot see our friends or communicate with them after the transformation, which we call death, is no proof that they cease to exist.”



Go to our website and consider making a donation and/or ordering cards to give to your grieving loved ones. These are the current card designs available.

Go to dragonflyproject.org/online-store



Thank You Isn't Enough continued

In a final attempt to appease my now very worried family, I made an appointment with Rhonda, a practitioner of the Grief Recovery Method. We would meet at my house. Just as I was about to cancel the appointment, my wife brought in the mail and with it, a beautiful letter. As I read about that little grub, I fell to my knees in tears. I screamed, "I miss you Will!" I think that was the first time I actually said his name!

I kept my appointment, and after several months of sometimes very difficult work, I do have a life again. It is not what I planned on, not what I would have chosen, but a life. And I am convinced beyond any doubt that, yes, I will see Will again.

It is because so many people love me. And love Will. It is because his amazing spirit somehow guides me now that I let it. It is because an amazing counselor wouldn't give up on me.

But mostly, I think it's because I read about a little grub that became a dragonfly. So again, thank you just isn't enough. ~ Nick Emmet



Will, his brother Jackson, Margie, his mom and little sister Maddie.



Dragonfly at Lighthouse, Peggy's Cove, Canada
Photo by Virginia A. East

*THIS BLENDED TEAR
This blended tear
Combines all my sorrow and strength
Expressing how deeply my heart has been cut
Bleeding from my core this blended tear
Carries with it joy and profound contentment
Struggles with guilt and forgiveness
My desire to be and do my best
To create beauty and love
My pain of loss and
My gratefulness to be here
All come together in this little drop of water
Baptizing my face
No longer able to hold the emotions in
I cannot hide what I feel
I release it all to you in
This blended tear*

©2004 Julie A. Bonde

Thank for your generosity on Give to the Max Day! We received \$2,418.00! Thank you so much! Give to the Max Day 2021 was Thursday, November 18! If you missed it, you can still give via our website.

Click on this link:

<https://www.dragonflyproject.org/make-a-donation>



Recipient Comments from our Facebook Page



Love this! I think of my mom every time I see a dragonfly! ~ Michelle

I just received this today and I feel blessed that my son Dallas forever 21 is still being remembered. Thank you from my Heart! It's beautiful. ~ Lynette

My niece received a card and keychain from you today and she shared it on FB. I can't begin to tell you how perfect the timing of it was not only for her ... but for me. Losing my brother has been the single most difficult thing I've experienced, and let me tell you, I know grief and loss. It wasn't sent to me ... but it impacted me as if it was. I needed that poem. It prompted a conversation that might not have been had otherwise. Until now I've felt so isolated in my grief, especially the last couple of months. Your timing, this project, and its message is everything. Thank you! ~ Lisa, sister of Ted.

I received a card and a dragonfly after my daughter passed and it was so comforting. Thank you so much for what you do, it is so much appreciated. ~Doreen

OMG, I love this so much! I have just lost my mum. I'm sitting by the Murray River in Echuca, Victoria, Australia and I already have a dragonfly tattoo on my arm, as it's on the wall of children's hospital where my 9-year-old nephew goes to often. Reading this has given me some peace. Thank you! ~ Irene

I just received a card after the loss of my wife. Thank you for being so thoughtful. I appreciate all of you. ~ Michael



I also received one when my daughter passed away. It touched my heart at a time when I needed comfort. I put it on a chain & still wear it as a necklace & the dragonfly hangs over my heart. Thank you! You are doing God's work. ~ Kathleen

We are grateful to be able to reach so many who are grieving. We do appreciate hearing from you. You can find us on our Facebook page. If you have a longer story to share with us please fill out the form on this web page: dragonflyproject.org/share-your-story We'd love to hear from you!



DONATIONS

A huge **THANK YOU** to all our faithful supporters. We are so grateful for your generosity with both financial and volunteer support. The Dragonfly Project is able to continue bringing our message of hope only because of your generosity! Memorials and honorariums are listed below and on the next page.

Memorials—March thru August 2021

In Memory of Benjamen Baalson
Given by Kay Baalson

In Memory of Jacob Baalson
Given by Kay Baalson

In Memory of Roger Baalson
Given by Kay Baalson

In Memory of Earl Bonde
Given by Helen & Dick Lodmill
Given by Charlotte Bonde

In Memory of Hans Bonde
Given by Helen & Dick Lodmill
Given by Julie & Pete Bonde
Given by Charlotte Bonde

In Memory of Attesa Brueni
Given by Cindy Brueni

In Memory of Tara Christensen
Given by Diane Christensen

In Memory of Edward Dorn
Given by Ladonna Kiefat

In Memory of Mom, Cheryl Egkers
Given by Shelly Debaker

In Memory of Edward James Fitzsimons
Given by Raymond Fitzsimons

In Memory of Michelle Franta
Given by Valerie Marquardt
& Greg Brooker

In Memory of Teresa Greenway
Given by Janet Otten

In Memory of our parents
Given by Christine Grui

In Memory of Bob Hallack
Given by Ginger Collyard

In Memory of Our Son, Cole
Given by Gayle Hammond

In Memory of Jake Harris
Given by Brian Reniker

In Memory of Loren Hedin
Given by Elaine Hedin

In Memory of Kate Hines
Given by Marie Doering

In Memory of Jason Jaynes
Given by Brenda J Renzaglia

In Memory of Evan Kanner
Given by Jessica James

In Memory of Brin Kessinger
Given by Angie Riedel

In Memory of Louie Kunas
Given by Charlotte Brooker
& Gene Mammenga

In Memory of Katie Larson
Given by Ladonna Kiefat

In Memory of Stan Liedman
Given by Valerie Marquardt
& Greg Brooker

In Memory of Maxine Lindquist
Given by Ladonna Kiefat

In Memory of Zachary Scott Matschiner
Given by Kathy Matschiner

In Memory of Mike
Given by Judy Kornder

In Memory of Kristin Seefeldt
Given by Cheryl & Glenn Seefeldt

In Memory of Miles M. Sudbeck
Given by Nancee Sudbeck

In Memory of Teddy Turay, Jr
Given by Catherine Turay

In Memory of Leora Warren
Given by Gail Zinzer

In Memory of Alberta Whitaker
Given by Norman Whitaker

In Memory of Patti White
Given by Cassie White
Given by Judith Magnuson
Given by Patricia Reimann

In Memory of Daughter of Shannon
Williams
Given by Cary Tate

Honorariums—March thru August 2021

In Honor of Laura Adams
Given by Ladonna Kiefat

In Honor of Julie Bonde
Given by Kristine Braaten-Lee

In Honor of Edward James Fitzsimons
Given by Raymond Fitzsimons

In Honor of Dolly & Howie Theis
Given by Milly Theis

The Dragonfly Project Board of Directors

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

A message
of hope
to those who
are grieving.



What is The Dragonfly Project?

The Dragonfly Project is a registered 501 (c) (3) non-profit that sends condolence cards carrying a message of hope to people who are grieving. Our organization consists of volunteers who look up names in obituaries and help put together and mail packets out to people who are grieving; usually 3 to 6 months after the death has occurred. Each packet contains a condolence card, a copy of the dragonfly story printed on the inside cover and a dragonfly key chain.

Each year, thousands of dragonfly packets are sent throughout the United States and other countries to individuals who are grieving the loss of a loved one. Each dragonfly packet costs \$4.00 to make. The Dragonfly Project is operated by volunteers and a board of directors. Donations are welcome. Your donations are tax deductible.

OUR BEGINNINGS

In 2000, when 11-year-old, Hans Bonde, died from a brain tumor, Anne Marquardt Brooker and her mother later sent his family a story about dragonflies and their significance in the cycle of life and death (written by Walter Dudley Cavert). The small gesture so moved the grieving family with its "message of hope" that it inspired Anne to create a nonprofit corporation that would reach out to others who were grieving the loss of a family member or friend. In 2002, when Anne was 11, she founded The Dragonfly Project to share this message of hope with others.

HOW CAN I GET A PACKET TO SEND TO SOMEONE?

To get a packet sent to you, please go to our website store (dragonflyproject.org/online-store) and order a card to be shipped to you. Then you can sign and send the card to whomever you wish. The cards in our store have room for you to insert your own message. Please allow 2 to 3 weeks to receive your order. It is never too late to tell someone you care about their loss.