

*The Dragonfly  
Project*

CELEBRATION & REMEMBRANCE EVENT

# *The Program*

23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Celebration



## *Prelude*

"Wild Roses" words & music written and performed by  
Jeanne Cotter ©1998 by Mythic Rain, LLC

## *Welcome*

By Julie Bonde, Hans' Mom

## *Reading of "The Dragonfly Story"*

By Rev. Jerry Hoffman

## *Dragonfly Project Update*

By Janell Stanton-Soderberg, Board Member

## *My Dragonfly Story #1*

Chris Sonnek and St. Joan of Arc Youth

## *Special Music*

"After the Rain" words & music written and performed by  
Jeanne Cotter  
©1998 by Mythic Rain, LLC

## *My Dragonfly Story #2*

Marilyn Kausner

## *Memorial Montage*

By Julie Bonde

## *Candlelight Ceremony and Music*

By Rev. Jerry Hoffman

"God's Eye is on the Sparrow" Words and Music by Bob Hurd  
©1990 by Oregon Catholic Press  
Performed by Jeanne Cotter with Pastel Hein

## *Closing*

By Julie Bonde

## *Postlude*

"The King of Love My Shepherd Is" Arranged & performed by  
Jeanne Cotter ©1994 by GIA Publications, Inc.



*Program artwork created by  
Emma De Bruin*

## Recipient Responses

I lost my son June 23, 2022, and a short bit after his death I received the most beautiful card and Dragonfly keychain, this made my entire day. My son was 32 and died in a tragic motorcycle accident he left behind 2 children and a list of grieving family members and friends. The impact this gift made is amazing and I can't even explain how I felt, because I don't even know who sent it to me, but I felt like someone knew I needed this and sent it. I have carried the keychain with me every day since. I hold on to it like a glimmer of hope that he is with me and sees the true meaning of his life to me. As a mother losing her child, I have to say this is one of the most amazing projects I've ever seen. Now I have the chance to do this for a friend who just lost their child. That will make my life complete knowing I gave someone the gift I received when I needed it most. Teresa

I received my Dragonfly Card 'out of the blue' with no prior knowledge of its coming. I was touched! It is so rare to have something happen like this without any expectations on me that it warms my heart that there is an organization like the Dragonfly Project. Thank you for thinking of my family. Sharlene

My brother passed away in November 2014. A few months later, I received the card in the mail. It was so moving that I couldn't stop crying. That someone would send me something so heartfelt and beautiful that didn't even know me. Since then, I've been collecting dragonflies. When I see one, I smile knowing it's a sign he's still around. Thanks for all you do! It matters more than you know. Megann

My name is Judy, and I am Nick's mother. He passed away unexpectedly at home on 10/30/24 and I am the one who found him. He was my only child and the love of my life. I got your card just after returning home from canceling his gym membership, so I had been very sad and in tears. Getting your card was perfect timing. Judy

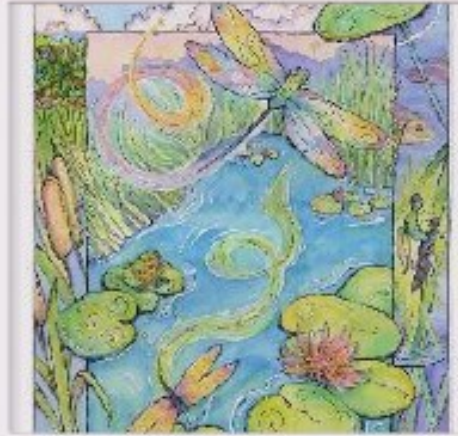
I'm not sure how you found out about my one and only 27-year-old son passing but thank you for the card I received today. My Austin was instantly killed by a wrong way driver on November 5th of 2024. I only had one child. We were close.. I don't know how to live without my son... my best friend... thank you for caring... Christina

From the very bottom of my heart, thank you so much for reaching out to me from the dragonfly project. I tragically lost my brother to a drug overdose in October. As a sibling you don't often get people that reach out to you offering support. We are grieving just as much as the parents are. This kind gesture has meant so much to me that I keep the dragonfly in my car on my rearview mirror along with a keepsake from my grandmother who passed away. Keep doing what you're doing and keep sharing the message of love and compassion for those that have experienced loss. Shelby

For weeks I have wanted to send this thank you. There seems no correct words that can express our gratitude. Our only son has sent us signs. Your card, your gift re-enforced that those signs are true. Brian is now at true peace, true contentment in God's love. Thank you from our family. I read your card daily and will hold the keychain close to my heart. Absolutely beautiful project. Kevin/Luann



**Weingartner #1**



**Weingartner #2**



**Brooker Stamp Card**



**Leppala Card**



**Mitchell-Young Card**



**Lasley Card**

# Assembly Groups

## Packet Assembly Volunteer Groups

- WoMN Strong, Anoka, MN
- Cooper High School High School IB Students, Robinsdale, MN
- TruMix Advisors Employees, Minneapolis, MN
- Lent Activity on Wednesday night, Nativity Lutheran Church, St. Anthony Village, MN
- Confirmation Students, St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, Minneapolis, MN
- Victoria Women's Circle, Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church West Campus, Victoria, MN

## Thrivent Action Teams Packet Assembly

- Vera Miller & Friends @ The Villages, FL
- Pete Bonde @ Nativity Lutheran Church, St. Anthony Village, MN
- Julie Bonde @ WELCA women, Nativity Lutheran Church, St. Anthony Village, MN

## Extra Keychain Makers

- Jack Lechler
- Kim Verrecchia
- Mike Salkas
- Pat Truchinski

## Packet Assembly Volunteer Individuals

- Anne Danko
- Annie Young
- Diane Parker
- Jacqueline Geisler
- Karen Lundahl
- Lori Harmer ( Adopt-a-State)
- Moira Heffron
- Nancy Karkula
- Pat Carley & Dave Olsen

## Thrivent Champion Keychain Makers

- Thrivent Contact Center employees (Appleton, WI)

*Together,  
we make a  
Difference*

## BUSINESS UPDATE

The Dragonfly Project (TDP) is celebrating its 23rd anniversary this year. Since we started in 2002, we have sent out over 176,000 dragonfly packets, each representing an individual or family touched by our mission. In 2024, we sent out over 9,600 packets. More than half of these were sent from our website.

More than a quarter of these were sent as part of the Adopt-a-State program. In this program, volunteers find people to send a packet to by searching obituaries in newspapers or other sources. We had 54 Adopt-a-State volunteers at the end of 2024. The number of states impacted by this program was steady at 45 at the end of the year. We also have an outreach to Canada. We could use some more Adopt-a-State volunteers! To volunteer for the Adopt-a-State program, fill out our form on our website at [dragonflyproject.org/get\\_involved](https://dragonflyproject.org/get_involved).

In 2024, we sent out 190 packets and 40 Dragonfly Door books to 3 different schools, as part of our School Outreach program. In this type of outreach, we send out packets to families and staff after the loss of a student, and provide copies of The Dragonfly Door book.

Financially, donations were down for TDP. Our Gross Profit was nearly \$69,700, a 3.6% decrease from the previous year. Our expenses were down about 18% at about \$65,000. Yet our Net Income was approximately \$13,000, up \$12,000 from last year. We continue to have a very strong balance sheet.

### Additional Highlights

- Nativity Lutheran Church and its members were involved in packet events where volunteers assembled 4,014 packets. They also assembled 2,443 extra keychains for us. Nativity supports The Dragonfly Project in many ways including lending space for events and board meetings, providing volunteers, and promoting our mission.
- Thrivent employees assembled 1,725 extra keychains for us. Thrivent is our number one financial supporter through their many different programs that totaled over \$7,880 last year.
- We distributed 404 packets in honor of the Burnsville police officers and firefighters. These were given to employees and volunteers at the Burnsville city hall, police station, and two firehouses.
- We raised \$2,365 at our GiveMN event.
- We raised \$8,721 at our annual celebration last year.

# GENERAL VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to all our 2024 and current volunteers!

Jeanne Bartlett  
Julie Bonde  
Karen Bonde  
Kris Bonde  
Pete Bonde  
Donna Brandell  
Ann Danko  
Cole De Bruin  
Emma De Bruin  
Jennifer De Bruin  
Beth Fischer  
Sharon Foss  
Kelly Gleonde  
Amy Hennen  
Patsy Kahmann  
Sue Lamprich

Tina Langhans  
Michelle Lease  
Valerie Marquardt  
Isaac Mensink  
Bob Parrott  
Paula Raper  
Lisa Roers  
Winda Roets  
Georgia Savat  
Jan Savat-Lynch  
Janell Stanton Soderberg  
Denise Sodergren  
PJ Tombarge  
Brianna Walvoort  
Annie Young

A special thank you to long-time volunteer, Michelle Dehn, who passed away in July 2024. You will always be remembered for the genericity you gave to the program for over 20 years.





## Adopt-a-State Volunteers

Debbie Ansin  
Jeanne Bartlett  
Lisa Bopf  
Josi Burkhart  
Leanne Burkman  
Makayla Casselman  
Peggy Chagnon  
Mara Christiansen  
Cathy Cloucher  
Jody Dobosenski  
Kimberly Donovan  
Jennifer De Bruin  
Eileen Fink  
Diane Feeney  
Roberta Florence  
Kathy Floresch  
Joanne Frey  
Rebecca Gentry  
Shirley Gilliam  
Judi Good  
Cindy Glover  
Anne Greigo

Brenna Grud  
Lisa Hanneman  
Lori Harmer  
Michelle Haygood  
Emmy Husfloer  
Tina Jones  
Kim Karsnia  
Gloria Keller  
Juli Kimball  
Joanne Kintop  
Terea Kohman  
Lisa Kretsch  
Natalie Krittenbrink  
Michelle Kubiak  
Nicole Kunza  
Becky Laney  
Tina Langhans  
Brenda Leigh  
Erika Leraaen  
Amy Lindgren  
Valerie Loutsch  
Regina Medina

Vera Miller  
Kelly Mundhenke  
Callie Ogburn  
Michaela Ohlemann  
Pam Olson  
Alison Overstreet  
Winda Roets  
Jeanne Rosdahl  
Briana Romo  
Alura Rose  
Sharon Said  
Ann Sarkis  
Joan Schneider  
Yvonne Shashura  
Mary Shaw  
Bertha Shaw  
Wendy Smith  
Katy Swimelar  
Meg Swimelar  
Kristin Wehrman  
Jackie Wilson  
Kristin Zigan



# At Our Reception

**Support The Dragonfly Project's mission of spreading hope to those who are grieving.**

**Visit our table with sympathy cards, books and CDs available for purchase.**





## THE DRAGONFLY STORY

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"In the bottom of an old pond lived some grubs who could not understand why none of their group ever came back after crawling up the stems of the lilies to the top of the water. They promised each other that the next one who was called to make the upward climb would return and tell what happened to him. Soon one of them felt an urgent impulse to seek the surface; he rested himself on the top of a lily pad and went through a glorious transformation, which made him a dragonfly with beautiful wings. In vain he tried to keep his promise. Flying back and forth over the pond, he peered down at his friends below. Then he realized that even if they could see him they would not recognize such a radiant creature as one of their number.

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."

Walter Dudley Cavert

## Volunteer Opportunities

Visit [dragonflyproject.org](http://dragonflyproject.org) to complete the interest form under the volunteer section.

- Adopt-A-State
- Data entry
- Social media
- Packet Assembly
- Annual Celebration
- Fundraising/Grant Writing

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tara Morrison - Executive Director  
Emma De Bruin - Chair  
Karen Bonde - Vice Chair  
Winda Roets - Treasurer  
Jennifer De Bruin - Secretary  
Janelle Stanton Soderberg - Member at Large  
Pete Bonde - Member at Large  
Sherie Wagner - Member at Large  
Jorgen Lervick - Member at Large  
Joy Coker - Member at Large



**FOUNDER ANNE MARQUARDT BROOKER**

The Dragonfly Project, an official nonprofit corporation with 501(c)(3) status, was established in 2002 by 11-year-old Anne Marquardt Brooker, who wanted to reach out to others who were grieving the loss of a family member or friend. This simple act of kindness fostered an organization that now has hundreds of volunteers who are touching thousands of lives each year. Your generous support will help The Dragonfly Project "bring a message of hope to those who are grieving."

To support TDP through a donation visit our website or send checks payable to:

The Dragonfly Project  
PO Box 19264  
Minneapolis, MN 55419





## *Thank you for being here!*

Welcome to the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Celebration Event. We are so glad you could join us for an afternoon reflecting on those we lost and keeping their memory alive.

This organization wouldn't be possible without our amazing volunteers and donors. A special thank you to Marilyn Kausner as well as Chris Sonnek and St. Joan of Arc Youth for sharing their inspiring stories with us. We're delighted to have Jeanne Cotter sharing her beautiful music today. Additionally, we are truly grateful to have Rev. Hoffman with us to deliver the Dragonfly Story and Candlelight Ceremony. Thanks to Andy Birkey for creating the beautiful invitation and Jen De Bruin for this program.

Finally, this celebration wouldn't be possible without our wonderful volunteers. A full list of volunteers is included in this program. We appreciate your support of The Dragonfly Project.

Thank you to our sponsors

