

A Dragonfly Dream

By Eleanor Masin

When I received your card and charm, after my beloved son was murdered, I was so touched that strangers would care, and especially by the story, which brought me some comfort.

Some weeks ago, I had a dream that I had to go into this particular jewelry store. I could see it so clearly in my dream. I had never been there before. That same week, we were in Fredericksburg, TX, walking down the street, and there was the exact store! Of course I went in. They were playing my son's favorite song! (the one I chose for his service!) And there, in that store, I saw the most beautiful dragonfly necklace you could imagine! Of course, it is mine now! They told me the dragonfly was a Native American messenger of peace.

I have a donation online in memory of my son Jonathan, and his girlfriend Amy (who was murdered with him). What a wonderful project you have! Thank you!



Taking Hope on the Road

By Julie & Pete Bonde

Thanks to a Mission Partner Grant from Nativity Lutheran Church, we were able to take The Dragonfly Project on the road in July of 2015! We called this "Taking Hope on the Road" because we were able to share the hopeful story of how life does not end when someone dies, for either the deceased or their loved ones. Our focus for this very first trip was South Dakota.

Our first stop was **Brandon, South Dakota** where one of our very dedicated volunteers, Amy Hennen, lives. Amy orders most of our supplies and is an Adopt-a-State volunteer. Amy hosted an event at Brandon Lutheran Church where an intergenerational group assembled dragonfly packets together, some of which were handed out at church the next day. Julie presented her Powerpoint along with her story. In addition to other connections, two women came from the Sioux Falls area, Donna Olson, another Adopt-a-State volunteer and Karri Allen from the Compassionate Friends chapter there. Both women had received cards from Amy and this was their first time meeting.

STORY CONTINUES ON PAGE 3



Remembering JoAnn Bablitch

By Valerie Marquardt



The Dragonfly Project would like to remember and honor JoAnn Bablitch, a long-time volunteer and active supporter who died on May 25 as a result of a stroke. We will miss JoAnn's welcoming smile at future Dragonfly Project Celebration and Remembrance events, where she often was found handing out programs, selling merchandise, or serving someone a delicious piece of cake. Her genuine sympathy brought comfort to the many people who shared their stories with her. The Dragonfly Project family wishes to extend our sympathies to JoAnn's husband, John, and to her daughter, Anna. JoAnn was an exceedingly kind and generous person, who will be deeply missed.

Introducing New Board Member James Smith

By Stephanie VanWyck

When Pete Bonde stepped down as Treasurer for the Dragonfly Project, James Smith stepped up to take his place. His qualifications? An Accounting Degree from Augsburg College and 21 years as a mutual fund accountant for Thrivent Financial. He also has experience as a Member at Large in Nativity Lutheran Church Council and is Chair of the Employee Volunteer Committee. He has also taken part in numerous volunteer opportunities. He has been active in People Serving People, Habitat for Humanity, Twin Cities Paint-a-Thon, Prepare and Prosper (formerly AccountAbility Minnesota), and Den Leader in his son's scout pack. Has also been a participant in various activities and events through Nativity Lutheran Church.

On a more personal note, James Smith has been married to his wife, Michon, for 10 years. They have two children, a boy and a girl. Their son, Carsten, is 6 and their daughter, Ani, is 3. He has lived in St. Anthony for almost 4 years now, and expresses interest in just about anything his kids are into. With such a long list of qualifications, and his emphasis on family, the Dragonfly Project is in good hands.



The Dragonfly Buzzette is the official newsletter of The Dragonfly Project and is published twice a year. The next issue comes out in Spring 2016. The Dragonfly Buzzette team consists of Julie Bonde, Peter Bonde, Patsy Kahmann, Valerie Marquardt, Stefanie VanWyck and Sara Weingartner.

If you would like to share your dragonfly story with us, please email us mystory@dragonflyproject.org. We'd love to hear how The Dragonfly Story has touched your life.





Taking Hope on the Road *CONTINUED*



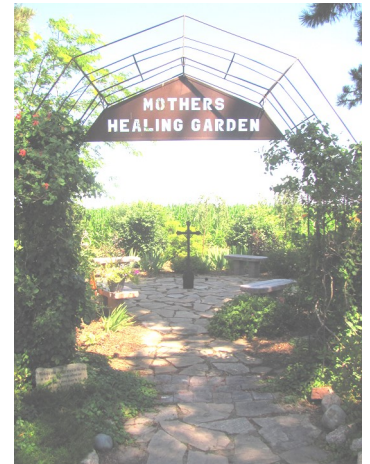
Julie Bonde, Amy Hennen, Pete Bonde



Members of Brandon Lutheran Church, including children, helped us assemble Dragonfly Packets.



An extra benefit of meeting Donna Olson was that she told us about the “Mother’s Healing Garden” in Dell Rapids, SD. She told us how two mothers had started this lovely garden after their sons died. We were able to stop and visit this inspiring garden on the edge of the Dell Rapids cemetery the next day. We left some cards behind in the mailbox there and were able to call and speak with one of the founders, Jeannie, of this special place. We discovered that Jeannie had also received a Dragonfly packet.



Mothers Healing Garden entrance.



Rhonda Wellsandt (seated left) & friends helped us in Huron, SD.

Our second stop was **Huron, South Dakota** where an old college friend of ours, Rhonda Wellsandt, is pastor of one of the local parishes. We gathered with people in her home to share our story and assemble packets. Most of them had never heard of our organization before. Toward the end we discovered a surprise connection: Rhonda’s husband had grown up in the same town as Amy Hennen’s mom, a town we drove through on our way there.

We are so grateful to Nativity for giving us this opportunity to bring this message of hope beyond Minnesota, and for continuing to support The Dragonfly Project here at home. The connections we made with people were amazing. In the summer of 2016 we look forward to covering more miles of road with hope in our pockets.

A Dragonfly Prince

By Vickie Fineran

I lost my husband seven month's ago while he was in Afghanistan, he was shot by an insurgent. He had been working there and in Iraq for 11 years. Our love story is a magical one! He even proposed to me in Disney world with the other Princesses. (He made me feel like his princess.)

I have been diagnosed with PTSD (post traumatic stress disorder) so I've been seeing a counselor. Our birthdays just went by recently; his on the first and mine on the sixth of August. I wanted to do something in remembrance of him on his birthday. My counselor suggested I write him a letter. So I decided to send him an email to his email address. This may seem strange to some people but when in my position you'll do

anything to feel close to that person. I told him how much I loved and missed him and how my life had been changed because of him and his love for me. I also asked him to give me some sort of sign that he was ok and to help me find some peace with all that has happened. Just three weeks after his birthday and a few days before the seventh month after his death, I received this wonderful card with the story of the Dragonfly.

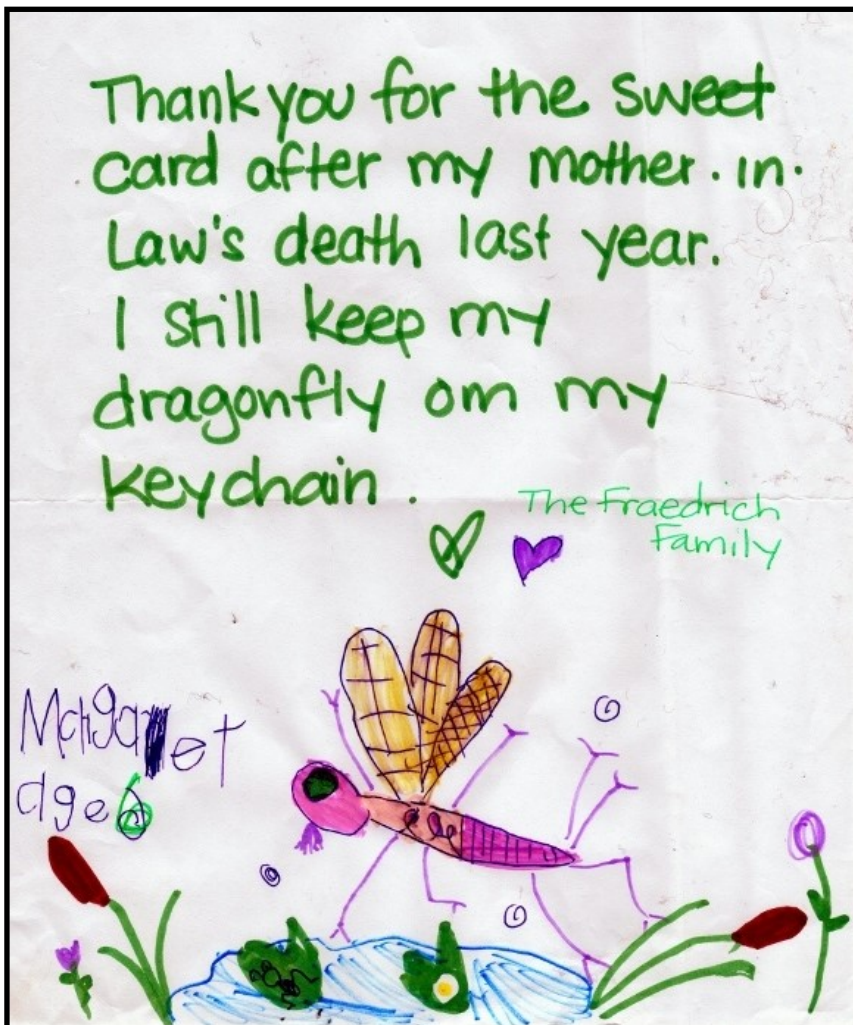
See, to some people a dragonfly is just that but to me the dragonfly means so much more. Matt called me his "little dragonfly" and I just adore them. To me this was the sign that I needed. I thank you for your organization and to the person who sent this to me, there are no words to describe how wonderful you made me feel and how grateful I am to you! Thank you!

A Very Special Thank You!

By Julie Bonde

It was a warm late summer day. Pete and I had been visiting family in south Minneapolis. We were preparing for our "Taking Hope on the Road" trip so we had our Dragonfly Project car magnets on our car doors and were parked out front. As we got in the car to leave, we noticed a piece of paper stuffed under our windshield wiper. Imagine our surprise when we opened it up and discovered this lovely drawing and thank you. After we figured out it was our son's neighbor, we called and found out more.

Following the death of Jackie Fraedrich in March of 2014, someone had sent her son and family a dragonfly card and key chain. They had never known who it had come from, so when they saw our car parked out front with the sign, Cindy and her daughter Margaret, age 6, set to composing this thank you note and then placed it on our car. What a special thank you and a wonderful connection to a neighbor!





14th ANNUAL Dragonfly Project Celebration & Remembrance Event

APRIL 16, 2016

You are Invited! Join us as we take time to celebrate dragonflies and honor loved ones.

Saturday, April 16, 2016, 1:00 p.m.

At Nativity Lutheran Church

3312 Silver Lake Road, Minneapolis, MN 55418

All are welcome! We'd like know if you are coming.

You can RSVP to rsvp@dragonflyproject.org

We need help with this year's event!

Contact celebration@dragonflyproject.org to let find out how you can help.

If you have a photo of a loved one that you would like included in our photo montage, send a digital copy to julie@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).

Photos are due by March 1, 2016.



Volunteers Needed!

As we gradually grow into a nationwide organization, our need for volunteers and support continues to grow. The Dragonfly Project still needs you to add your heart, your time and your financial support to this community effort.

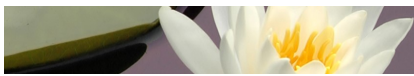
What we need most right now are people who can give time to running the business part of The Dragonfly Project. We are specifically looking for these positions:

- Newsletter staff: one or two people—organization skills as well as writing and desktop publishing skills would be helpful. Our newsletter goes out twice a year.
- Packet Event Facilitator: organization skills & some comfort with speaking to groups. Sharing this responsibility with another person, you would need to be available at various times, 6 to 10 times per year, and live in the Minneapolis/St. Paul metro area.
- Bulk Mail Preparation: sort and deliver our bulk mail packets, 3 to 5 times a year, in Minneapolis/St. Paul metro area. This is how we get our dragonfly cards sent after our other volunteers have looked up obituaries and signed the cards.
- Board Member: one or two people willing to serve monthly on a working board.
- Annual Celebration Planning and Hosting Team: people willing to plan the annual event, as well as volunteers willing to set up and provide hospitality on the day of the event. The event happens in late March/early April in Minneapolis, MN.

"You're never too young or too old make a difference. You don't have to be rich, you don't have to have it "all figured out," you don't have to know it all. All you need is a heart and the will to share love and joy! All you need is to do what you can and ask for help with the rest. It takes a whole lot of community to make the world work."

Julie Bonde

If interested in volunteering, please fill out the volunteer form on our website (dragonflyproject.org) or email Katie Schmalz at volunteer@dragonflyproject.org to learn more.



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 through August 2015

In Memory of John Given by Penny Amrani	In Memory of Erik Guinn Given by Anna Parker	In Memory of Larry Orth Given by Jerome Hess
In Memory of Michael Given by Joseph & Carol Dowdle	In Memory of Rick Heinlen Given by Judy Resler	In Memory of Virginia Pearl Given by Margaret Johnson
In Memory of Mom & Dad Given by Rober & Marcia Kurtz	In Memory of Kimberly Johnson Given by Valreen Mude	In Memory of Johnathon Perry Given by Denise Perry
In Memory of Ashley Anderson Given by Dennis Orth	In Memory of Betty Johnson Given by Terry Naugle	In Memory of Oliver Peterson Given by Gretchen Peterson
In Memory of Jordan N Ayres, Regina M Ayres & Zarissa C Ayres Given by Zanetta Ayres	In Memory of Donna Mae Kadrlík Given by Sue & Tom Trnka	In Memory of Jeanne Phillips Given by Sharon Thielke
In Memory of Benjamin & Jacob Baalson Given by Kay & Roger Baalson	In Memory of Paul Christian Keller Given by Gloria Keller	In Memory of Herb & Lena Pieper Given by Gretchen Peterson
In Memory of JoAnn Bablitch Given by Greg, Valerie, & Anne Brooker	In Memory of Carolyn Kotval Given by Teresa Berger	In Memory of Office Joseph Plant Given by Vicki Plant
In Memory of Trevor Ball Given by Eric Ball	In Memory of Jason Kraycer Given by Susan Kraycer	In Memory of Jane Puza Given by Karen & Vince Noggle
In Memory of Vicki Beckler Given by Ginger Collyard	In Memory of Genevieve Lange Given by Heidi Bartz	In Memory of Bruce Reimann Given by Kathy W Reimann
In Memory of Hans Peter Bonde Given by Charlotte Bonde	In Memory of Jay Lechler Given by Jack & Jermaine Lechler	In Memory of Amanda Rohlman Given by Linda Rohlman
In Memory of Pete & Julie Bonde	In Memory of Bob Lee Given by Charlotte Brooker & Gene Mamenga	In Memory of Chuck Routhe Given by Kathy W Reimann
In Memory of Nancy Bonde Given by Sue & Tom Trnka	In Memory of MaryJane Manahan Given by Thomas Simonet	In Memory of Kaye Rudser Given by Nora Lehti
In Memory of Dan Bourdman Given by Theresa Schlenker	In Memory of Dennis "Joe" Marquette Given by Roxanne Orth	In Memory of Fred Sander Given by Beda Sander
In Memory of John Carlson Given by Jody Carlson	In Memory of Jonathon Masin & Amy Picchiotti	In Memory of Gramma Sandy Given by Diane Christensen
In Memory of Robert Caton Given by Karen & Vince Noggle	In Memory of Eleanor Masin	In Memory of Jeff Sasa Given by Diane Lund
In Memory of Arlyn Cope Given by JoAnne Cope	In Memory of Joe, David, Ann McIntire Given by Sherri Reed	In Memory of Rachel Ruschke Schreiner Given by Palmer & Lois Ruschke
In Memory of Joshua Thomas Cornerford Given by Tammy Keniston	In Memory of Sean McQuillen Given by Paula & Dan McQuillen	In Memory of Kristin Seefeldt Given by Cheryl & Glenn Seefeldt
In Memory of Ryan Deitrich Given by Charles Deitrich	In Memory of Elmer & Evelyn Mees Given by Teresa Smith	In Memory of Bob Sherman Given by Josephine Strong
In Memory of Robert & Marcolene Dieteman Given by Vanessa Rejsa	In Memory of Cheryl (Mickey) Miklos Given by Kathy W Reimann	In Memory of Richard Smith Given by Curtis Grove
In Memory of Joshua Dupler Given by Wendy Diffendall	In Memory of Phillip M Miller Given by Marlene Miller	In Memory of Jason Smolken Given by Katherine Bacalis
In Memory of Michelle Franta Given by Stan & Lynn Liedman	In Memory of Grant Mitchell Given by Karen & Vince Noggle	In Memory of Garret & Norma Jean Strating Given by Karli Knox
In Memory of Jeremy Michael Funston Given by Kimberly Vuckovich	In Memory of Elevin Musser Given by Charlotte & Paul Englund	In Memory of Miles M. Sudbeck Given by Nancee Sudbeck
In Memory of Matthew Patrick Grimes Given by Benerval Grimes	In Memory of Jacob Nelson Given by Kay Cafferty	In Memory of Dusty Lindell Taber Given by James Taber
In Memory of Jim Grimm Given by Esther Grimm	In Memory of Curtis Nutter Given by Gretchen Peterson	In Memory of Nicole Thing Given by Julia Anderson

Memorials, *continued*

In Memory of Joe & David Timperly
Given by Sherri Reed
In Memory of Grace Timperly
Given by Sherri Reed
In Memory of Dale Ward
Given by Sharon Thielke
In Memory of Frank Weber (son)
Given by Mary Weber
In Memory of Johnathan Weivoda
Given by Gerald & Denise Bonde
In Memory of Alberta Whitaker
Given by Amy Hennen
Given by Norman Whitaker
In Memory of Suzanne Wiemeier
Given by Darolyn Gray
In Memory of Julie Woltzen
Given by Joyce Woltzen

Honorariums

In Honor of the Ken Martinez Family
Given by Trudy Simonson
In Honor of Matt Becker
Given by Anne Spangler

Group/Business Support

Allina Medical Clinic - Coon Rapids
Amazon Smile Foundation
Care Therapeutic Massage
Champlin United Methodist Church
Creative Soul Design
Hess Insurance Agency
Medtronic, YourCause, Vol. Grant Program
Mercy Hospital
Morgan Stanley CSA

Morgan's
Nativity Lutheran Church
Prudential Financial, Inc.
Santema Family Trust
Schwab Charitable
Thrivent Choice
Thrivent Financial Foundation
US Bankcorp Foundation
W. K. Kellogg Foundation
West Suburban Grief Coalition – Benson
Whispers of Wisdom

Support The Dragonfly Project with Thrivent Choice

Thrivent Choice is a member-advised charitable grant program of Thrivent Financial in which members of Thrivent Financial help Thrivent Financial effectively distribute program funds among eligible organizations. The Dragonfly Project is one such organization and from June of 2014 through October of 2015 we have received \$1,617. These following customers have designated dollars to The Dragonfly Project:

Julie Bonde	Rory Meisner
Pete Bonde	Susan Meisner
Jennifer De Bruin	John Overby
Cynthia Kaske	Greg Retzlaff
Joyce Kirchner	Joan Ruetten
Bonnie Kranzusch	Cheryl Seefeldt
Michael Kranzusch	Ruth Schewe
Amy Lindgren	



Thanks to everyone above who has made it possible for The Dragonfly Project to receive additional donations through the Thrivent Choice program. If you are a Thrivent Financial member, please visit <https://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice> to find out how you can donate Choice Dollars to The Dragonfly Project.

Thrivent Financial is a financial services organization that helps Christians be wise with money and live generously. We offer a broad range of products and services—including life insurance, annuities and mutual funds—along with guidance from financial representatives nationwide. For more than a century we've helped our nearly 2.4 million member-owners make wise money choices that reflect their values. And we provide opportunities for them to be even more generous where they live, work and worship.

HOW TO ORDER DRAGONFLY PACKETS:

1. Go to our website: www.dragonflyproject.org
2. Click on the “Order Cards” tab.
3. Click on “Dragonfly Cards with Key Chains”
4. When you are finished picking which cards you want, continue to Checkout. Your shopping bag will show your order. Continue to “Payment Details.”

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- ⇒ When you get to “Payment Details” you will be able to choose to pay by **credit card or check**.
- ⇒ If you choose to pay by check:
 1. Please print the order number in the note section of your check.
 2. please print out a copy of your order and send it in with your check to:
The Dragonfly Project
P.O. Box 19264
Minneapolis, MN 55419
- ⇒ Please allow 3 to 6 weeks for your order to arrive. Our volunteers are doing their best to help you and it is never too late to offer your sympathy.



P.O. Box 19264
Minneapolis, MN 55419
www.dragonflyproject.org

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PAID
Twin Cities, MN
Permit# 31777

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 keychain.

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 an 11-year old, Hans Bonde, died from a brain tumor, Anne Marquardt Brooker and her mother 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 and order a card to be shipped to you. Then you can sign and send the card on to whomever you wish. The cards in our store have room for you to insert your own message. Please allow 3 to 6 weeks to receive your order.