



22nd Annual



The Dragonfly Project

Celebration & Remembrance Event
Saturday, May 4, 2024 1:00 pm



The Program

Prelude

"Arms of Love" by Alexa Sunshine Rose &
"Be Still" by Simon DeVoi, performed by Geralyn Sorensen &
Julie Bonde

Welcome

Pete Bonde, Hans' Dad and Executive Director

Reading of "The Dragonfly Story"

Emma De Bruin, Board Member

Dragonfly Project Update

Karen Bonde, Chair

My Dragonfly Story #1

John Rivett

Special Music

"If I Leave" by Maro
Performed by Luke Bonde & Annie Schlaefer

Challenge Match

Monica Kleve

My Dragonfly Story #2

Maggie Bauer

Memorial Montage

Julie Bonde, Hans' Mom

Candle Lighting Ceremony and Music

Rev. Angela LaMoore leading ceremony
"I Wish Tonight" & "So Many Colors" by James Schättauer
Performed by Geralyn Sorensen

Closing Auction

Pete Bonde

Postlude

"Holding Song" by Ian Carrick
Performed by Luke Bonde & Annie Schlaefer

Recipient Responses

Thank you for your organization! I have been sharing your card with friends and family in their difficult times. I received a card from a stranger across the country and it brought me so much comfort. My brother-in-law just passed, and I want to share these with my sis and her kids. Thank you so very much! -Linda

My niece received a card and keychain from you today and she shared it on Facebook. 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 lemme 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 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. -Lisa

I received a dragonfly card from someone when my mom died 6 years ago. I believe I've now given over 100 cards since then. This organization makes a difference. Thank you. -Donna

I just wanted you to know that I was a recipient of a dragonfly card and I wanted to let you know how uplifted I was! Losing my daughter in a plane crash was no easy thing, but the outpouring of support keeps me in gratitude. Thank you! -Carol

Thank you again! This is such a beautiful way to send comfort and love to those who are grieving. This is so special to us as we have our own wonderful experiences with dragonflies after the loss of our beautiful, Kaylen. -Betsy

I received a card after my son passed in March. I have no idea who sent it, but it really blessed my heart! A few days before several dragonflies appeared around me and it was almost magical! That night someone I barely knew, who had also lost his son 10 years before and his son was a friend of mine, sent me the story of the Dragonfly. Oh, what a beautiful story. I cried for hours but I know it was....Only God!!! -Tina

Our daughter left this earth too early. She loved her butterflies and dragonflies even at a young age. The day she passed, her dad and I had a dragonfly land on a railing of the deck. We knew that was Felisha that was letting us know that she was ok and with us. -Wendy

Thank you so much for taking the time to send your care and encouragements! It is indeed such a comfort to feel the warmth of others during these difficult times. Thanks for the sweet cards and keychains and for the Dragonfly Door books. -Covenant School

Today after out looking for a new car I received this card and keychain in the mail! All I can think is this has to be a sign! This is appreciated more than you guys will ever know. Thank you so much! - Kim





Board of Directors

Karen Bonde - Chair
Janelle Stanton Soderberg - Vice Chair
Winda Roets - Treasurer
Briana Walvoort - Secretary
Jennifer DeBruin - Member at Large
Emma DeBruin - Member at Large

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR | PETE BONDE
FOUNDER | ANNE MARQUARDT BROOKER

Thank you, Assembly Groups

Did you know, about 10 people touch a card packet with their hands and heart before it's sent to the final recipient?

Keychains are assembled, cards folded, envelopes stamped and stuffed, obituaries searched, addresses found, cards get addressed, and finally cards are sorted by zip code and delivered to post office.

Thrivent Action Teams

- **Emma DeBruin & UW-Madison Students (2 events)**
- **Julie & Pete Bonde w/members of Nativity Lutheran Church, MN (2 events)**

Thrivent Champions Events

- **Appleton, WI (Ballard, Bank, Meade)**
- **Minneapolis, MN (Corporate, Investments, Customer Service)**

Group Events

- **Lutheran Social Service Circle, Nativity Lutheran Church, St. Anthony, MN**
- **WoMN Strong, Anoka, MN**
- **Mental Health Month, Nativity Lutheran Church, St. Anthony, MN**
- **Dragonfly Project Board of Directors, Nativity Lutheran Church, St. Anthony, MN**
- **Attendees at The Compassionate Friends Annual Conference, Denver, CO**
- **Residents at Applewood Point, Roseville, MN**
- **St. Joan of Arc Confirmation Students, St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, Minneapolis, MN**
- **Julie & Pete & friends at Bonde home, Minneapolis, MN**
- **God's Work, Our Hands Event, General Volunteers, Nativity Lutheran Church, St. Anthony, MN**
- **Cooper High school IB Students, Robinsdale, MN (2-day event)**

Extra Keychain Makers

- **Jennifer DeBruin & Thrivent Call Center employees**
- **Joan Schneider**
- **Diane Tapper**

Business Update

By Pete Bonde

The Dragonfly Project (TDP) is celebrating its 22nd anniversary this year. Since we started in 2002, we have sent out over 168,000 dragonfly packets, each representing an individual or family touched by our mission. In 2023, we sent out over 12,800 packets. 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 60 Adopt-a-State volunteers at the end of 2022 covering 47 states as well as outreach to Canada. We could use some more Adopt-a-State volunteers! If you are interested, email TinaL@dragonflyproject.org or visit our website.

In 2023, we sent out 210 packets and 23 Dragonfly Door books to 2 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. An additional 89 books were also provided as part of this outreach program.

Financially, donations were down for TDP and for other nonprofits. Our Gross Profit was nearly \$72,200, a 5% decrease from the previous year. Our expenses were up about 45% at about \$79,000, partially due to some 2022 adjustments. Yet our Net Income was approximately \$1,000, down \$3,600 from last year. We continue to have a very strong balance sheet.

Here are some other highlights from 2023:

- Nativity Lutheran Church and its members were involved in packet events where volunteers assembled 3,387 packets. 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 3,197 packets and over 3,074 extra keychains. Thrivent is our number one financial supporter through their various programs totaling over \$11,500 last year.
- We provided over 1,200 packets to The Compassionate Friends' annual conference in July and made some connections at the event.
- We raised \$6,413 at our annual celebration and \$2,893 at GiveMN event.
- We partnered with Seasons Hospice in Rochester and provided them with hundreds of packets which to give to attendees at their gala fundraiser.
- University of Wisconsin-Madison students assembled over 2,000 packets and keychains.
- Staff at VA hospitals were asked to do some type of outreach to clients. Some suggested The Dragonfly Project. As a result, 410 packets were distributed to four different VA hospitals.

The Dragonfly Story



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

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2024 Challenge Grant




Thank you for your gifts to the Dragonfly Project so that thousands of grieving hearts can feel loved in the years to come.

Over the last 20+ years, Dragonfly cards and the story have been important to me. I have assembled, purchased, and given cards numerous times. I continue to be amazed at the love shared through the card with a keychain and message. It's a big deal!

While The Dragonfly Project has been part of my giving for several years, I am honored to give the matching gift this year as a way to inspire giving to this worthy organization. Thank you for joining the challenge.

We all face loss in our lives. We know that community helps us through...and dragonflies. Help The Dragonfly Project meet their goal for this event and unlock the matching grant. Each dollar you give becomes \$2.

Blessings to each of you!
Monica Kleve



Volunteer Opportunities Available:

- Adopt-A-State
- Annual Celebration planning or volunteer
- Social media and communications
- Packet assembly
- Data entry
- Board of Directors positions

Visit the volunteer section on dragonflyproject.org to complete interest form for these opportunities.

Thank you 2023 Volunteers

2023 General & 2024 Celebration

Jeanne Bartlett
Julie Bonde
Karen Bonde
Luke Bonde
Pete Bonde
Donna Brandell
Ann Danko
Cole DeBruin
Emma DeBruin
Jennifer DeBruin
Beth Fischer
Sharon Foss
Amy Hennen
Arlaine Higgins
Patsy Kahmann
Marcia Kurtz
Sue Lamprich
Tina Langhans
Michelle Lease
Valerie Marquardt
Isaac Mensink
Kristen Nold
Bob Parrott
Lisa Roers
Winda Roets
Melissa Sandry
Georgia Savat
Jan Savat-Lynch
Janell Stanton Soderberg
Denise Sodergren
PJ Tombarge
Brianna Walvoort
Annie Young

Mercy Hospital Courage
Kenny Rehab Group

Adopt-A-State Volunteers

Debbie Ansin	Becky Laney
Jeanne Bartlett	Tina Langhans
Lisa Bopf	Brenda Leigh
Josi Burkhart	Erika Leraaen
Christine Burke	Susan Lewis
Makayla Casselman	Amy Lindgren
Mara Christiansen	Valerie Loutsch
Darlene	Paula McQuillen
Dalessandro	Regina Medina
Jennifer DeBruin	Vera Miller
Anne De Namur	Michaela Ohlemann
Diane Feeney	Pam Olson
Eileen Fink	JoAnne Roberts
Kathy Floresch	Winda Roets
Rebecca Gentry	Jeanne Rosdahl
Shirley Gilliam	Alura Rose
Cindy Glover	Sharon Said
Judi Good	Joan Schneider
Anne Greigo	June Shashura
Brenna Grund	Yvonne Shashura
Lisa Hanneman	Mary Shaw
Lori Harmer	Kimberly Sitko
Emmy Husfloer	Wendy Smith
Michelle Haygood	Bertha Steele
Kim Karsnia	Katy Swimelar
Gloria Keller	Meg Swimelar
Juli Kimball	Wanda Taylor
Joanne Kintop	Linda Tygar
Teresa Kohman	Tammy Weber
Lisa Kretsch	Kristin Wehrman
Natalie Kritenbrink	Jackie Wilson
Michelle Kubiak	Sonja Yadon
Nicole Kunza	Kristin Zigan
Sue Lamprich	

We ♥ our
Volunteers

At Our Reception

Support The Dragonfly Project's mission of spreading hope to those who are grieving. Visit our silent auction and table with sympathy cards, books and CDs available for purchase.



Thank you for being here today!

Welcome to the 22nd Annual Dragonfly Project Celebration & Remembrance Event! We are excited to have you join us in person for an afternoon of profound stories, celebrating this year's accomplishments, music, remembering loved ones, and reconnecting with other Dragonfly Project supporters.

A very special thanks to Emma De Bruin for her artistic efforts, painting this year's dragonfly illustration and Andy Birkey for incorporating it into the design of the invitation. A big thank you to Jennifer De Bruin for creating today's program. Also thank you to Maggie Bauer and John Rivett for sharing their dragonfly story with us today! We are honored to have music provided by Julie and Luke Bonde, Annie Schlaefer, and Geralyn Sorensen. A big thank you to Donna Brandell and Brianna Walvoort for designing the table decorations and a special gift for those attending the reception today. Furthermore, thank you to Julie Bonde for creating the Memorial Montage, Rev. Angela LaMoore for the Candle Lighting Ceremony, and Bob Parrott and Spencer Heller for their AV work.

Like all things at The Dragonfly Project, this year's Celebration would not have been possible without our wonderful volunteers and donors. A full list of volunteers is included in this program. We are grateful to everyone who helped make this program a success!

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, send checks payable to:
The Dragonfly Project
PO Box 19264
Minneapolis, MN 55419

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