



Bringing You a Message of Hope

The 18th Annual
Dragonfly Project
Celebration and Remembrance Event
Saturday, March 14, 2020



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

Permission to print





Recipient Responses



Thank you for the card and keychain after my brother's passing. I recognized the card as it brought many tears when you remembered us when our son passed away. God bless you for your kindness and comfort you bring to so many.

~ Lisa

Thank you for the card we received today. Made my husband tear up a bit. We lost our son back in September just days before his 22nd birthday to an accidental drug overdose. The grief has been agonizing, but we are hanging in there. Just wanted to let you know this card really made our day! You're all amazing for taking the time to fill these out and send to people in their time of grief.
THANK YOU.

~ Rachel & Pete

What a day brightener it was to receive your card and dragonfly! Our daughter was and is still a very special sister, wife and mom. Coincidentally, dragonflies were her signature and she had a beautiful scene with them tattooed on her entire back. Sunflowers were also very special to her, and our garden is filled with them in her honor. She would have loved your mission and I will spread the word about your organization. Thank you so much for your card, the dragonfly and the message it brings will be cherished.

~ Nancy

Thank you so much for the beautiful card and message. I too believe there's an afterlife which no one can explain. My son was a brilliant medical physicist who worked with oncology teams to treat cancer patients. Above all, he was humble, loving, giving, and kind. Thank you again and bless you all.

~ Jeanie

I am 6 years out from receiving my dragonfly card and have never forgotten it. It has been a constant afterthought throughout my grief process after losing my young husband and father of three. Thank you so much for doing this! It has been a part of my dedication and purpose to help others who have physically lost loved ones.

~ Kelly

I lost my 27-year-old son a little over a year ago. A Dragonfly card came to my mother's address and she waited about six months to give it to me. It brought me so much comfort. I leave work and there is a dragonfly flying around my car almost every day. There was one in my kitchen as well. No idea how it got in, but I believe in signs. This has helped bring peace and comfort, which I'll carry with me in the future. I cannot express my gratitude enough to the one that sent this to me.

~ Sandy

BUSINESS UPDATE

The Dragonfly Project (TDP) is now 18 years old. Since we started in 2002, we have sent out over 118,000 dragonfly packets, each representing an individual or family touched by our mission. In 2019, we sent out over 9,000 packets. More than half of these went through our online store, and almost a third of these were sent from obituaries taken from newspapers by our volunteers as part of the Adopt-a-State program. Our Adopt-a-State volunteers grew from 41 to 57 in 2019. The number of states impacted by this program increased from 35 to 39.

We sent out 430 packets and 240 Dragonfly Door books to 6 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.

We gave an additional 269 books as part of our *Dragonfly Door* outreach. This included 80 books distributed to Acoustics for Angels, an event in South Dakota that focuses on supporting those who have lost newborns. We also sent 29 books to the Twin Cities' chapters of The Compassionate Friends, a national organization that supports families experiencing the death of a son or a daughter, a brother or a sister, or a grandchild.

Financially, TDP continues to do well. Our Gross Profit was around \$59,000, a 4% decrease from the previous year. Our expenses remained about the same at about \$37,500. Our Net Income was approximately \$21,500, a 3% increase from 2018.

HERE ARE SOME OTHER HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2019:

- Nativity Lutheran Church and its members were involved in six packet events where volunteers assembled 2,325 packets. Nativity supports The Dragonfly Project in many ways including lending space for events and board meetings, and promoting our mission.
- Thrivent Financial and its members were involved in six events where they assembled 1,287 packets and many extra keychains. Thrivent Financial is our number one financial supporter through their many different programs.
- TDP is working on forming a relationship with The Compassionate Friends organization. We visited its three chapters in the Twin Cities and provided them with packets and The Dragonfly Door books.

BUSINESS UPDATE CONTINUED

- TDP is now doing payroll! Pete Bonde is our first official employee for The Dragonfly Project. He works part-time as Executive Director, computer support, and grant support.
- TDP collaborated with the National Funeral Directors Association on a project to create a Remembering A Life Self-Care Box. The dragonfly story with a dragonfly keychain is one of eight items in a box to help provide comfort for a family during a difficult time of grieving after the death of a loved one.
- We welcomed Janell Stanton Soderberg as a new Dragonfly Project board member. Janell came to us with a wealth of experience, including her work in the legal field.
- Julie and Pete Bonde went to Hastings MN and participated in a 'Grief Chat' radio talk show on KDWA. We shared our personal story and told the Dragonfly Project story. We also gave suggestions for how to help those in grief to make it through the holidays.



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Thanks to our Sponsors!

Adopt-a-State Volunteers for 2019

These volunteers pick a city or state and look up obituaries and addresses to send our cards to. To learn more, contact our Adopt a State Coordinator, Tina Langhans at tinal@dragonflyproject.org.

Misty Allmond	Caitlyn Fitzchowen	Lisa Kretsch	Michele Plower
Carol Andersen	Shirley Gilliam	Michelle Kubiak	Kristin Ratliff
Kristen Andrick	Sheri Gittinger	Nicole Kunza	Tanya Renner
Tracy Andriski	Cindy Glover	Becky Laney	Winda Roets
Rachel Beliveau	Judi Good	Erika Leraaen	Dawn Roggenkamp
Beverly Brennan	Lisa Hanneman	Jack Lechler	Julie Rolfsen
Julie Briggs	Faith Haesy	Susan Lewis	Holly Schott
Sue Camilleri	Michelle Haygood	Amy Lindgren	Denise Sodergren
Donna Campbell	Amy Hennen	Jill Lorber	Cher Starkel
Mara Christiansen	Laura Hulback	Valerie Loutsch	Bertha Steele
Natasha Cronsell	Brianna Jones	Patricia McLain	Katy Swimelar
Jennifer De Bruin	Gloria Keller	Vera Miller	Meg Swimelar
Carmella Deilke	Julie Kimball	Peggy Mills	Roxanne Topham
Diane Feeney	Joanne Kintop	Angela Moss	Michelle Vomund
Pamela Fields	Teresa Kohman	Michaela Ohlemann	Judy Wilson
Eileen Fink	Sally Kramer	Alison Overstreet	Kristin Zigan

Packet Assembly Groups in 2019

Keychains are assembled, and envelopes are stuffed. People share their stories and have a good time. By the time any given card has reached its destination, 10 to 15 people have touched it with their hands and their hearts. To learn more, contact our Packet Assembly Coordinator, Julie Bonde at julieb@dragonflyproject.org.

- 2019 Dragonfly Project Celebration Volunteers
- EmpowerME Conference, University of Minnesota
- Intertwine Northeast Group
- Nativity Lutheran Church
 - ◇ General Volunteers—Mission Partner Weekend
 - ◇ Thrivent Action Teams—Thanks to Freda Myhrwold, Beth Schumann
 - ◇ Women in Action
- The Dragonfly Project Board of Directors
- Thrivent Financial in Minneapolis, MN
- Winda Roets & friends, Thrivent Action Team
- Women of the ELCA (WELCA) Convention
- Women on Wednesday, Grace Lutheran Church, Anoka
- WoMN Strong, Anoka, MN

A special thanks to the following people for the thousands of keychains they made for us in 2019.

- Jennifer DeBruin & The Call Center at Thrivent Financial in Appleton, WI
- Emma DeBruin in Appleton, WI
- Jack & Germaine Lechler in Kiel, WI

Thanks to all our Volunteers!

Jeanne Bartlett

Bill Bonde

Julie Bonde

Karen Bonde

Luke Bonde

Pete Bonde

Brian Buck

Donna Brandell

Anne Brooker

Greg Brooker

Margarette Brooker

Donna Campbell

Dawn Dahlberg

Ann Danko

Jennifer DeBruin

Michelle Dehn

Carmella Deilke

Gena Doyscher

Denise Finley

Sharon Foss

Sue Fritz

Kelly Gleonde

Kim Goodsell

Shara Hanley

Patsy Kahmann

Sally Kramer

Marcia Kurtz

Tina Langhans

Duncan Lasley

Michelle Lease

Jack Lechler

Jermaine Lechler

Kate Lemke

Heidi Leppala

Erika Leraaen

Megan MacLeod

Sharee Marcus

Marcy Marquardt

Valerie Marquardt

Paula McQuillen

Tammy Messina

Kristen Nold

Judy Parizek

Amy Parnell

Bob Parrott

Kris Petersen

Winda Roets

Melissa Sandry

Georgia Savat

Katie Schmalz

Jamie Scovronski

Cheryl Seefeldt

James Smith

Michon Smith

Stacy Smith

Jan Stanton

Janell Stanton Soderberg

Cher Starkel

Katy Swimelar

PJ Tombarge

Brianna Walvoort

Karen Weiberg

Sara Weingartner

Tina Wyffels

Annie Young

Courage Kenny Rehab Group
St. Joan of Arc Youth



Heartfelt

HeartfeltSings

A special thank you to Heartfelt (Diana, Emily, Frank, and Katie) for sharing their voices and hearts with us today. Heartfelt enjoys sharing songs that are uplifting and soothing.

Other Heartfelt members are Denise and Mara.

If your group is interested in having Heartfelt sing, you may contact them at

HARMONY@HEARTFELTSINGS.COM

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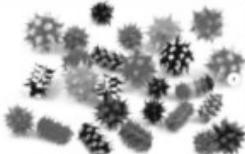
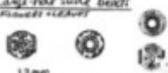
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR..... Pete Bonde

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; 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 make a donation,
send checks payable to:

The Dragonfly Project
PO Box 19264

