

The Dragonfly Buzzette



Newsletter for The Dragonfly Project

Board of Directors:

Anne Brooker,
Founder/Member at Large

Valerie Marquardt
Chairperson

John H. Adams
Vice Chair

Anna Bablitch
Secretary

Peter Bonde
Treasurer

Cheryl Seefeldt
Member at Large

Darolyn Gray
Executive Director

KARE 11 News to Honor Anne Brooker

We are very proud to announce that Anne Brooker, founder of the Dragonfly Project, has been chosen by KARE11 News to receive an Eleven Who Care Award on September 7, 2005 in a televised event. She was nominated by Julie Bonde with the help of Peter Bonde, John Adams, and Georgia Savat in January. Eleven Who Care is a live, televised program recognizing the contributions of grassroots volunteers and promoting the spirit of volunteerism in our communities. The eleven honorees are selected in May by the Board of Governors from nominations submitted by individuals and service organizations throughout KARE 11's viewing area. The program is televised in September and tells the story of each of the eleven outstanding volunteers. As part of the award Anne will receive \$1100 to donate to the charity of her choice. Congratulations Anne! Be sure to tune in to Channel 11 at 9pm, September 7th for the live telecast.

Anne Receives Maddie Paguyo Award



This year on June 9th at the 8th grade Completion ceremony at Susan B. Anthony Middle school in Minneapolis, Anne Brooker was the first recipient of the Maddie Paguyo award. Julie Dornish, Maddie's mom, presented the award which was set up in memory of Maddie Paguyo (pictured) who went to Anthony Middle School, which Anne attended. Maddie and Anne were in choir together and Anne remembers her smiling face and great attitude. Maddie died of a brain tumor on May 6, 2004, during her 8th grade year, about a year after being diagnosed. Maddie exemplified courage, perseverance, love and kindness during her life and will always be

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New Board of Directors Formed

Since last year's Star-Tribune article and two TV news reports, the Dragonfly Project is really taking off, growing past the walls of the Brooker-Marquardt home. In May of this year The Dragonfly Project formed it's first board of directors. They are Anne Brooker, Valerie Marquardt, John H. Adams, Peter Bonde, Anna Bablitch, Cheryl Seefeldt, and Darolyn Gray. Their first order of business was hiring Darolyn Gray as executive director. They have also been busy purchasing a computer and software, writing bylaws, setting up new systems for bookkeeping and for keeping track of donations and volunteers. The board members are all enthusiastic about helping The Dragonfly Project move into the next phase.



*A message of hope
for those who are grieving.*

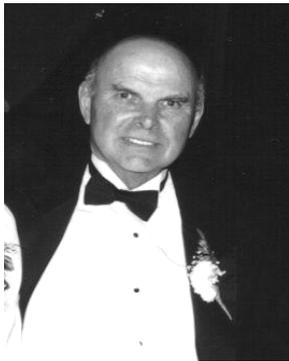
P.O. Box 19264, Minneapolis, MN 55419

dragonflyproject@yahoo.com — www.dragonflyproject.org

Remembering Past Supporters

We remember past donors and supporters who have died recently...

By Anne Brooker



WALLY MARQUARDT

Wally Marquardt was my grandpa. He loved nature and knew about all kinds of wildlife, birds and bugs, including dragonflies. He was proud of The Dragonfly Project and how it continued to grow. Grandpa was too sick to travel to Minneapolis for any of the speeches that I gave over the years so I gave him his own personal speech in his home in Wisconsin. He was touched by the responses from recipients of the dragonfly packets. He loved the dragonfly story and was always supportive of the project. Grandpa made his transformation on Oct. 27, 2004 after a long illness. We will always remember his kindness, his gentle manner and love of nature.



RACHEL SCHREINER

Rachel Schreiner was my friend. She was kind, courageous, compassionate and fun. Rachel supported The Dragonfly Project since the beginning. She would ask me what was new with The Dragonfly Project as well as support it financially. She recently attended The Dragonfly Project annual celebration in April of 2005. Rachel made her transformation on June 13th, 2005 at age 43 after a long battle with cancer. We miss her warm smile, her never ending support and her compassion for others.

Maddie Paguyo Award continued...

remembered. Anne's teachers and classmates picked her to receive this award because in addition to being a good student, she opened her heart to comfort people grieving over the death of loved ones by creating the Dragonfly Project. This award will remind students and staff at Susan B. Anthony every year of Maddie, as well as inspire them. Congratulations again Anne!

On October 1, 2005 the Inspired Women's Retreat will be holding a silent auction to benefit The Dragonfly Project. The Retreat will be held at the Carondolet Center in St. Paul (www.findingIT.com). It is open to all women. If you have a service or item to donate to the silent auction please contact The Dragonfly Project. The deadline for donations is August 25 if you want your name in the program but we accept items until September 29. Donations are tax-deductible. Our gratitude to Janae Bower, founder of findingIT.com, for graciously promoting this fundraiser. We invite you to attend this wonderful retreat.

A DRAGONFLY'S TALE

by John H. Adams
and Clea T. Adams

Near a rolling meadow lived a gentle old man,
who would often speak warmly of nature's kind plan.
While we sat beneath the leaves of a tree one day,
he pointed to a dragonfly that swooped and played.
With comfort in his voice, he slowly turned to say,
"Someone told me this story, when a friend passed away."

Once in a pond neither shallow nor deep,
lived a tiny nymph who would rarely sleep.
She played and swam beneath the reeds and grass,
until one bright day she left her watery past.
Up the reeds and stems the nymph was urged to climb,
looking back at her family left far behind.
Higher and higher the young nymph did go,
stopping only to rest and then suddenly grow.
Transform she did at a rapid pace,
into a dragonfly of beauty and grace.
As a soul she moved on to a much warmer place,
released from a body that was once embraced.
With new wings on her back, the dragonfly soared,
flying high in the wind to play even more.
Then, lightly her wings skimmed the top of the pond,
gently weaving the air between lily fronds.
It was here she glimpsed her family's nest,
a small world full of nymphs she once knew best.
There they were wondering

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where she had gone.
 Would this nymph return with
 news from beyond?
 But even as she thought to reach
 back through,
 into the pond that the dragonfly
 knew,
 a warm breeze forced her wings
 to touch the sky,
 lifting the dragonfly upward
 where birds often fly.
 Her eyes watched a meadow
 unfold into view,
 a new world so brilliant no nymph
 ever knew,
 of this beautiful place and so
 close to its nest,
 hidden only by the veil of the
 water's blue crest.
 So wish as she might to seek out
 family and friends,
 the dragonfly's new life remains
 high in the wind,
 full of color and light her next
 chapter begins.
 In this passage from life to what
 we know as death,
 does the dragonfly teach us what
 awaits us next?
 Like the damselfly, the moth, and
 butterfly too,
 could these playful creatures
 have a message for you?
 Is it nature's kind way of letting
 us know,
 in death we exist and continue to
 grow?
 There is much more to life than
 we possibly know.

 Many years went by and the old
 man passed away,
 so, I returned to the tree where
 we sat one day.
 I listened to the breeze as it
 swam through the leaves,
 and, I thought I heard the old man
 speaking to me.
 I felt the soft touch of something
 brush over Me.
 A dragonfly landed to rest on my
 knee.

Meet Darolyn Gray, Executive Director

As our new Executive Director, Darolyn Gray brings to The Dragonfly Project executive-level marketing and management experience with two Fortune 500 financial service firms as well as entrepreneurial skills as a marketing, grant writing and strategic planning consultant to several nonprofits. She also directs her passions to consulting as Director of Business Development for the Minnesota Oncology Hematology Foundation (the organization from which Anne received the Humanitarian Award from the foundation's 2005 Star Awards event), has been Director of Donor Relations for Elim Transitional Housing for those experiencing homelessness, and recently served as event planning consultant to Rebuild Resources, a nonprofit for those recovering from alcohol or chemical dependency. In addition, she voluntarily serves as Board Vice President of (and sings with) the Twin Cities Community Gospel Choir, and was the 2005 sponsorship chair for the Ann Bancroft Foundation which promotes the dreams and achievements of women and girls. Darolyn contacted The Dragonfly Project after reading the May 2005 article in the Minneapolis Star Tribune about Anne Brooker and has been an enthusiastic mentor to Anne ever since. Darolyn looks forward to helping The Dragonfly Project expand its important grief outreach.

Donor Spotlights

JOHN & CLEA "The Dragonfly Project reminded us that a simple act of kindness can mean so much to others." This is just one of the reasons that inspired John and Clea Adams to become a sponsor and volunteer for The Dragonfly Project. Almost fifteen months ago, the couple read the *Star Tribune* newspaper article which featured Anne Marquardt Brooker and the story about Hans Bonde and his family.

"We read the article and agreed that it was an incredibly touching story," said John. "I think we were amazed by Anne and her parents' generosity and the uplifting gift of hope that they offered to the Bonde family after the death of their son, Hans, through a simple act of kindness - a card, a short story about dragonflies and a necklace."

"You think about all the things we choose to do or don't do during our life," added Clea. "We get caught up in our jobs and the everyday pressures of paying bills and dealing with personal issues. Then, all of a sudden, someone like Anne comes along who not only shows us how easy it is to help

others but she does it at the young age of 11. How many people do you know who will go out of their way to truly help others in need?"

Since first contacting Anne and her family, the couple has looked for ways to provide behind-the-scenes support by leveraging their business backgrounds.

"We knew from our own experience that there were some basic things that could help The Dragonfly Project grow," said John. "So, we designed a website to increase visibility and then donated it. We also helped obtain legal advice on pertinent business items, found artists to help design additional sympathy cards and tracked down some of the original books by Walter D. Cavert, the author of the dragonfly story."

"I think it all boils down to simple acts of kindness and an inspiring message of hope," said Clea. "There are so many people that The Dragonfly Project can reach out to and comfort. We just want to help them reach as many as possible."

The staff of The Dragonfly Project are so grateful for their expertise, their unending support and for their creative ideas.

Volunteer Update

In July, Julie Bonde took on the position of Volunteer Coordinator for The Dragonfly Project. Many people have already volunteered and we are thankful. More volunteers will be needed as our outreach grows. Regular volunteers are needed to make the packets that we send out. Making packets involves assembling the dragonfly key chains, folding the pre-printed cards and then stuffing the envelopes. To make packets, we are planning on meeting regularly at Julie Bonde's house for packet-making events beginning in September 2005. Volunteers are also needed to translate the Dragonfly story into other languages. If you would like to help make packets or help out in some other capacity, please contact Julie Bonde.

If more meetings are needed volunteers will be notified by email or phone.

Julie Bonde

madjules6@yahoo.com



Volunteer Spotlight

Sara Weingartner

Anne met Sara Weingartner at The Inspired Women's Retreat in October of 2004 where Anne gave a speech about The Dragonfly Project. She offered to help The Dragonfly Project after hearing Anne's speech. Sara is a graphic designer and has her own business "Creative Soul Design." She has put in many, many hours making a logo for The Dragonfly Project, designing letterhead, envelopes, business cards and the layout of condolence cards. After volunteering for The Dragonfly Project, Sara was inspired to create a dragonfly painting which is now used for one of the condolence card designs. Prints of her painting are for sale at www.creativesoul.com. We are so grateful for Sara's artistic talent. She has given The Dragonfly Project a whole new look!

Anna Bablitch

Anna Bablitch is 14 years old and will be attending Southwest High School, in Minneapolis, in the fall. Anna has been a volunteer for the past two years. She started volunteering in the "early days", stamping condolence cards, making key chains and assembling packets. For the past year, she has been the main volunteer who looks up addresses from obituaries of families who will receive a dragonfly packet. On average, she addresses about 40 envelopes per month. Anna is also currently on the board of directors. Anna says, "I volunteer for The Dragonfly Project because I know how much a Dragonfly packet means to someone. When my grandma died I got a packet from my math teacher, and I would just read it over and over again. It makes me feel good when I know that I am helping other people." We are so

Notice to all volunteers: Please keep track of your hours and report them monthly by email to Nicole Maves at nmaves@alpine-capital.com.

Ten Thousand Villages Holiday Benefit

Each year, Ten Thousand Villages partners with several local non-profits that serve a Twin Cities population in Holiday Benefit Night. The Dragonfly Project was chosen as one of the non-profits. On a designated evening in November or December (to be determined in October) 20% of the evening's sales will go to benefit The Dragonfly Project. Ten Thousand Villages (www.tenthousandvillages.com) is located in St. Paul. It provides vital, fair income to Third World People by marketing their handicrafts and telling their stories. Ten Thousand Villages works with artisans who would otherwise be unemployed or underemployed. The income helps pay for food, education, health care and housing. A postcard will be mailed out in October, notifying you of the date of the Holiday Benefit Night. We are happy that Ten Thousand Villages has chosen The Dragonfly Project as one of the nonprofits to help in their mission.

THOUSANDS OF DRAGONFLIES

Total numbers of dragonfly packets sent by year:

Year #1 (Feb 2001—Feb 2002)	233 packets
Year #2 (Mar 2002—March 2003)	433 packets
Year #3 (Apr 2004—Apr 2005)	1,444 packets

Your support has made this possible.

Thanks!

The Miracle Continues By Julie Bonde



Hans Bonde, age 10

Since the arrival of a simple card in the mail on March 24, 2001 the life of our family has not been the same. Our son, Hans, had died of brain cancer six months prior to that day at eleven and a half years of age. March 24 is his birthday. That card containing a simple greeting, a homemade bead bracelet with a dragonfly pendant and the dragonfly story came from Anne and her mother, Valerie. Valerie and Anne's simple gift was the miracle that was the turning point in my grieving and therefore had a positive effect on my husband and other children. Although I had many rough days in the years since, none has been so dark or so desperate. I have known from that day on that God is with me every step of the way working through the people around me including my family. Hans is always there too. As an added bonus, the dragonflies are always around us as well and continue to appear in miraculous ways wherever we go, even five years later.

Recently my husband, Pete, our son, Luke, and I took a road trip to California to attend a nephew's wedding. Three amazing dragonfly things happened on the trip. The first one occurred in a swimming pool. We were swimming in my brother's neighbor's swimming pool as he does not

have one. We visited that pool on three different days and each time there was a small lavender-colored dragonfly sitting on a branch hanging over the water. Then the dragonfly would take off and fly up to each of the three of us and around our heads as we swam in the water and then return to the branch. Purple is Hans' favorite color and this dragonfly did not bother to greet my brother who swam with us. We started calling him Hans right away. The second dragonfly event happened at the wedding. At my brother's table was seated a lady with a lavender dress and a dragonfly necklace and earrings. She turned out to be one of the great-aunts of the bride and had not heard of the dragonfly story. It did turn out, however, that the bride's brother had died just a year ago very close to our son's birthday. We were able to share the story with this family who were still grieving the loss of Matthew who died at age 18. The third event happened while Pete was swimming in a lake in Nebraska. A dragonfly landed on his nose as swam on his back and stayed there as long as he stayed on his back.

For us, the miracle of God's love keeps coming to us through the dragonflies and through other people. It was our story and our experience that inspired Anne to do this for other people. We give thanks that through her project many, many more people are seeing dragonflies wherever they go and being healed in the process.

[Peter and Julie Bonde are the parents of four boys, Jacob, 21, Karl, 18, Luke, 13 and Hans who would be 16 now if not for his transformation at age 11. Peter serves on the board and Julie volunteers for The Dragonfly Project]

A Word from Anne

Hello! I am so excited about our first newsletter! It has been so much fun to work on it with Julie! It is a really good step for The Dragonfly Project's growth! I am also excited about our new board of directors. Each member brings unique ideas to The Dragonfly Project which helps us reach out to more people and find other opportunities to get the word out about The Dragonfly Project. All of our wonderful volunteers have also brought so much to The Dragonfly Project and made it possible for us to send out so many packets to grieving families.

My most recent speech was to the BeFrienders group in Hopkins. They were very kind and excited about having me speak there. They were having a "Remembrance Night". They posted a sheet of paper and had everyone at the group write the name of someone they had lost.

When they finished writing, each person received a dragonfly packet. It was such a nice meeting and I met so many nice people!

Thank you to everyone who has been part of The Dragonfly Project!

Sincerely,

Anne Brooker



The Dragonfly Buzzette is the official newsletter of The Dragonfly Project. Julie Bonde is editor/designer. Contributing writers in this issue are Clea & John Adams, Julie Bonde, Anne Brooker, Darolyn Gray, and Valerie Marquardt.

MEMORIALS

February through July 2005

In memory of Jayne and Steve

-given by Cindi Quehl

-given by Earl and Mary Jo Quehl

Memorial for Patrick Bombard

-given by Jean and Jerry Bombard

In memory of Hans Bonde

-given by Julie, Pete, Luke, Jacob and Karl Bonde

-given by Barry Sweeny

In memory of Justin Blomquist

-given Mike and Joan Blomquist

In memory of Don Brooker

-given by Margarette Brooker

-given by Greg, Valerie and Anne

-given by Tom and Lisa Kajer

In memory of Laretta Gagnon

-given my Becky Fillmore and Jim Gagnon

In memory of Elsa Kajer

-given by Tom and Lisa Kajer

In memory of Christina Ann Kern

-given by The Kern family

In memory of Wally Marquardt

-given by Marcy Marquardt

-given by Valerie, Grey and Anne

-given by Beth Marquardt

-given by Gail Marquardt and Steve Wolniakowski

In memory of Roger Nelson

-given by Eve and Duane Addison

In memory of Erin Rooney

-given by Kathleen and Thomas Rooney

In memory of Kristin Seefeldt

-given by Valerie Marquardt, Greg Brooker and Anne Brooker

-given by Duane and Eva Addison

In memory of Rachel Schreiner

-given by Valerie Marquardt and Greg Brooker

-given by Anne Brooker

-given by Marcy Marquardt

-given by Palmer and Lois Ruschke

In memory of Owen Sever Schroeder

-given by Jackie and Steve Hanson

In memory of Bill Tombarge

-given by PJ Tombarge

In memory of Adam Vant Hof

-given by Gene, Becky and Emily Vant Hof

In memory of Matthew Wallace

-given by Jack, Sandy and Jackie Wallace

In memory of Chad Edward Wilson

-given by the Chad Edward Wilson Family

-given by Mary Wilson

In honor of Kate and Jonathon Schroeder

-given by Jackie and Steve Hanson

In honor of several high school seniors and a young lady who made her Bat mitzvah

-given by Cindi Quehl

In May of 2005, The Dragonfly Project also sent out 350 cards with stories to students and staff at Red Lake High School in Red Lake, MN.

DONORS

May through July 2005

John and Clea Adams

Gordon and Barbara Barr

Mary Beckering

Arthur and Patricia Bell

Doris Bohling

Pete and Julie Bonde

Jacqueline Brannan

Pamela and Thomas Brophy

Anne Brooker

Valerie Marquardt and Greg Brooker

Steve and Annie Bullert

Carol and Michael Butchert

Mary Bydlon

Anna Donnay

Paul and Jan Frederickson

Hannah Frey

Cameron Frey

Darolyn Gray

Jackie Hanson

Julie Henderson

John and Barbara Holden

M. Kay Kirwine

Christine Liebel

Hazel and Steven Longren

Cynthia and Gerald Lorsung

Marcy Marquardt

Bettie and John Merrick

Kimberly Mielke

Judith Monchamp

Clinton and Carol Odell

Teresa Plasek

Cynthia Polmny

Geri Power

Earl and Mary Jo Quehl

Palmer and Lois Ruschke

Mary Schneider

Barry Sweeny

Roger and Jennifer Toutloff

Sandy Wallace

Kathryn Weston

Marcia Willett

Mary Wilson

Bonde Family Reunion

Chad Edward Wilson Memorial Fund

Church of St. Joseph of Hopkins

BeFriends Group

Keystone Communities of Prior Lake

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

Donor Spotlights, continued...

HANNAH & CAMERON FREY A sister and brother team, Hannah, age 14, and Cameron Frey, age 11 saved a portion of their allowances each week for an entire year. Their parents encourage them to divide their allowances between saving, spending, and sharing so they are in the habit of thinking of others. Hannah has been friends with Anne since they were three and knew about the work she was doing on The Dragonfly Project. So this time Hannah and Cameron chose to give their savings to The Dragonfly Project. Hannah says, "I like how [Anne] sends [the cards] to random people. She deserves all the credit she's been getting." Hannah will be a 9th grader at Washburn High School in Minneapolis and Cameron will be a 6th grader at Susan B. Anthony Middle School in Minneapolis this fall. They are good examples for the rest of us to follow. Due to

The Dragonfly Project
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

We are converting to a new computer system. Please contact us if your name or address is incorrect.

What is The Dragonfly Project?

In 2000, when I was 10 years old, our friends' 11-year-old son, Hans Bonde, died of a brain tumor. Shortly thereafter, I decided to send the family a story about dragonflies and their significance in the cycle of life and death. The story, written by Walter Cavert, ended with the comforting message: "The fact that we cannot see our loved ones or communicate with them after the transformation, which we call death, is no proof that they cease to exist."

This small gesture so moved the grieving family that, in 2001 at age 11, I decided to create my own nonprofit corporation that would reach out to people who were grieving. I decided to send people who had lost a loved one a condolence card, a copy of the dragonfly story and a dragonfly key chain. I incorporated the organization and named it "The Dragonfly Project."

Anne Marquardt Brooker
Founder

Each year, hundreds of dragonfly packets are sent out to individuals throughout Minnesota and beyond who are grieving the loss of a loved one.

To make a tax deductible donation to The Dragonfly Project or to request a dragonfly packet be sent to someone you know, please contact us. Each packet containing a condolence card, the dragonfly story and a dragonfly keychain, costs \$3.00 to make and send. Donations are welcome. The Dragonfly Project is a registered 501 (c) (3) non-profit. Your donations are tax-deductible.

For further information and to read the dragonfly story, visit our website at www.dragonflyproject.org.
