



The Dragonfly Buzzette

Newsletter for The Dragonfly Project

Volume 18

Fall 2014

Not Forgotten

By Tchad Wiley

The people that I lost were my sister Rosey, brother-in-law Allen, nephews Trevor and Zachary Dean, and one of Zachary Dean's friends that was staying the night for Zachary Dean's birthday.

That event is to date the most traumatic event in my life. Losing a whole branch of one's family tree is no easy thing to handle. They were all lost due to a house fire that started by an electrical short.

These people were at their happiest time in their lives. Rosey had just recently got married to Allen, and she felt as if they were all complete. Trevor was a quiet person that rarely spoke more than a couple words, but very intelligent and mature for his young age. Zachary Dean was just beginning to come into his own, and was a person full of energy and life. Allen was a person that was completely dedicated to his new family, and shared the responsibility of raising two boys that weren't his by nature.

STORY CONTINUES ON PAGE 3

Adopt-a-State Update

By Stan Liedman

The Adopt-a-State program's continued success is a result of all the hard work of our dedicated volunteers that has allowed us to reach families who have lost loved ones across the country. They faithfully watch for obituaries in newspapers from the area they have agreed to cover and address condolence cards to those grieving families. I recently received the following message from Peggy Mills, Billings MT.

"Our son Alex was an amazing 17-year-old boy. He had many friends and people who really enjoyed his personality. He grew up in Big Timber, MT and that summer, at 17, he got a job working on a ranch. On July 27, 2012 there was a terrible ATV accident and our wonderful son Alex was gone.

STORY CONTINUES ON PAGE 5



Alex Mills

The Dragonfly Project Through the Eyes of a Volunteer

By Jeanne Bartlett



I started volunteering for The Dragonfly Project in 2005. At the time my employer was looking for a volunteer opportunity that we could adopt on a company-wide basis. I worked for a small company—only 10 employees. Our involvement began by doing administrative things such as creating forms and having packet-making parties where we assembled keychains.

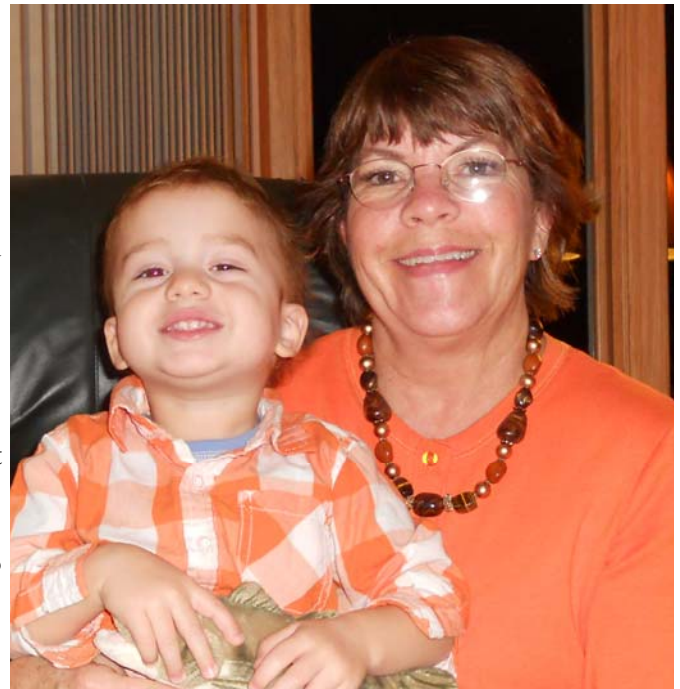
I have since retired from the company but I continue to volunteer for The Dragonfly Project. I like it because it fits my lifestyle. I can do my volunteer work at home on my schedule. I typically work 2-4 hours a week on tasks related to The Dragonfly Project.

I am involved in the Adopt-a-State program where I search the online newspapers in Montana, my birth state, looking for obituaries of individuals 40-years old or younger. The tricky part is locating an address for the survivors. As more people abandon their landlines in favor of cell phones, it is becoming more difficult to find an address for the survivors because I use whitepages.com or 411.com to find them. Since cell phones are not associated with a physical address, they are not listed on those websites.

The process is becoming more challenging as online newspapers are requiring paid subscriptions in order to view the full obituary or any article, for that matter. I'm getting pretty good at finding ways to research the deceased and find survivors, however. Another recent challenge occurred when my bookmark for the list of Montana newspapers changed. Instead of the list I've always used, I was redirected to several sites that are used in ancestry research. I'm sure those sites are very useful for that type of research but I don't know who I'm looking for so that makes it especially difficult. It has taken some creativity to find a list of the newspapers again and get back on task.

I am also in charge of taking the completed condolence card packets to the post office. The volunteers send their addressed and signed condolence cards to Julie & Pete Bonde where a key chain is put together and affixed to the cards and the envelopes are sealed in a packet party event coordinated by Julie. When Pete & Julie have accumulated at least 200 complete packets, the minimum required by the post office for bulk mailing, they contact me to pick up the packets and make a bulk mail run. The Dragonfly Project has a non-profit bulk mail permit that allows the organization to take advantage of reduced postage through bulk mailing. The condolence card and key chain are mailed months after the obituary appears in the paper—well after the immediate out-pouring of sympathy.

I have received hand-written thank you notes from survivors. I even received a couple Facebook posts asking if I'd sent a condolence card and key chain but those are just icing on the cake for me. I'm very happy to be part of an organization that brings a message of hope to grieving families. The heartbreak for me comes when I am unable to locate an address for a survivor so the sting of a premature death can be momentarily relieved. This is a very worthy organization and I'm honored to do my part in support of its mission.



Jeanne with her grandson

Not Forgotten *CONTINUED*

As time went by, I began to feel like this whole ordeal was being swept under the rug, and that people had forgotten about that tragic night. I checked my mail some time later to find a package from this organization called The Dragonfly Project.

I had no clue as to what this was until I opened it up at home with my partner in life, Tracy. I discovered in tears of wonder that this organization took the time and energy to send me a card letting me know that they were not forgotten.

The timing could not have been more perfect in my life! Along with the card was a dragonfly key chain that I still have to this day. Thanks to everyone at The Dragonfly Project; your organization has helped me begin to heal.



Rosey & Allen (back) with Trevor & Zachary Dean (front)

Support The Dragonfly Project Using Amazon Smile

Do you shop on Amazon? If so, Amazon has a program called Amazon Smile in which they will donate 0.5% of the price of your Amazon purchase to a charitable organization of your choice, including The Dragonfly Project.

You can sign up by visiting www.smile.amazon.com and designating the charity of your choice. You will be able to use your current Amazon account.

It is important to make sure that you visit the page www.smile.amazon.com, instead of the regular Amazon homepage, when making your purchases so the donation will go through.



Volunteer Update

By Katie Schmaltz

This is a time of year known for reflection and giving thanks. The Board of Directors and I especially want to give thanks to our volunteers. Each address you find or update, each person you talk to, each packet you make, changes the life of someone who is grieving. Thanks to our volunteers we have been able to give away over 62,000 packets over the past 12 years, each representing an individual who was touched by our mission.

We are always looking for more volunteers to help us carry out our mission. Our volunteer positions range in skill set and time commitment.

Currently we are looking for someone who is interested in editing and/or writing for our newsletter. For more information on how to get involved, check out our website or email Katie Schmalz at volunteer@dragonflyproject.org.

Recipient Comments from our Facebook Page



Love what you do. We now have dragonflies everywhere. Love sharing the story! ~Sandy

Thank you to those that volunteer and dedicate their time to this project. I received this in the mail after my husband passed and it has meant the world to me. What a beautiful message! I actually put the dragonfly on a charm bracelet and I wear it every day. Thanks so much! You are a blessing! ~Meike

We received a card and key chain after our Jacob passed away. It was uplifting. We receive a monthly newsletter and I look forward to it. It reminds us we are not alone. ~ Connie

We received a card and dragonfly key chain after our son passed, out of nowhere, it was much needed at that time and has given me a new appreciation for dragonflies...and their meaning! Thank you dragonfly project!!!! ~ Rene

I received this a couple years ago, and it brought me to tears. Such a wonderful surprise in the mail. ~Jenna

We received this last year, was so thoughtful. ~ Kandy

I received a card today, very unexpected. It has been six months and two days since the loss of my son. There are no words to describe what I feel right now. Thank you so much, the story of the dragonfly is one I have heard before but I had not thought about it during my grief. I will keep my key chain forever, thank you so much for caring about our family! ~ Deidre

Thank you for the card...it brought tears to my eyes! We lost our daughter and granddaughter in May...Thank you for thinking of us! ~ Jill



I just received my key chain today for my daughter who passed away in May. I had to move twice since then and somehow it made it to my sister's house. This was so much needed today as I have had a bad day. I will treasure it forever. Thank you so much I am in tears now. ~ Jane Marie

We are grateful to be able to reach so many who are grieving. We do appreciate hearing from you. You can find us on our Facebook page. If you have a longer story to share with us please email your story to us at mystory@dragonflyproject.org. We'd love to hear from you!

Adopt a State *CONTINUED*

It was around October that I received a bright orange envelope in the mail. Orange was Alex's favorite color; it was addressed to The Family of Alexander Mills. By this time all of the sympathy cards had disappeared from our mailbox, and life was moving on for everyone but my husband, Alex's two sisters and myself.

I read the dragonfly card and was so moved that I knew I had to try to get involved with this organization. I saw that on their website you could "Adopt-a-State." I contacted them and was given the state of North Dakota. As I went through the obituaries for this state I soon realized I was not alone in my sadness or the journey of grief I was given. I had such empathy for the parents who lost their child that it made me want to help more. So I contacted Stan Liedman and asked if I could have more states, I was then given Nebraska and Kansas. As I go through the obituaries now I feel that the people that I am able to locate are the ones that are in most need of receiving the beautiful dragonfly poem. I feel as though Alex is telling the newly departed young people that they don't need to worry because his Mom is going to find the family member that needs the message of hope.

I am so moved by this dragonfly journey I am on. I have just recently taken on the responsibility of yet another state, Oklahoma.

The Dragonfly cards, I feel, are a gift from my son to help move through the most difficult loss I have been given in this life. I feel Alex's spirit is with me each day when I sit and find more people to touch with this wonderful gesture of love and hope. Each week I send out a minimum of 32 cards. Each card I send is sent with the support of someone who shares a place in a new angel's heart."

Peggy Mills, Billings, MT.

Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers! If you are interested in volunteering please contact Stan Liedman at StanL@dragonflyproject.org or visit our website at www.dragonflyproject.org and select "Contact us."



DRAGONFLY CELEBRATION MEMORIAL MONTAGE PHOTO SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS MARCH 15, 2015.

Email photo requests to: julieb@dragonflyproject.org


Please write "photo montage" in the subject line of the email. Send a jpeg (at least 200 dpi) along with the name and brief description. If you submitted a photo last year and would like to use the same one, please use the email address above to communicate that request and provide reference information about your prior photo.

Donations—March thru August 2014

A huge **THANK YOU** to all our faithful supporters. We are so grateful for your generosity with both financial and volunteer support. Memorials and honorariums are listed on the next two pages.

Group/Business Support

Amazon Smile Foundation
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Memorials—March through August 2014

- In Memory of Theresa May Aldridge
Given by William Aldridge
- In Memory of Helen Johnson
Given by Penny Amrani
- In Memory of Benjamin & Jacob Baalson
Given by Kay & Roger Baalson
- In Memory of Jason Smolken
Given by Katherine Bacalis
- In Memory of Leslie Hagemeyer
Given by Lola Backlund
- In Memory of "Missy"
Given by Marlys Bishman
- In Memory of Hans Bonde
Given by Bill & Barb Bonde
Given by Charlotte Bonde
Given by Karen Bonde
Given by Pete & Julie Bonde
- In Memory of Earl & Hans Bonde
Given by Gerald & Denise Bonde
- In Memory of Earl Bonde
Given by Pete & Julie Bonde
- In Memory of Nancy Bonde
Given by Pete & Julie Bonde
- In Memory of Sandy Hook
Given by Betty Bordwell
- In Memory of Sheridan O'Keefe
Given by Mary Braucht
- In Memory of Erika Mozagnue Drayton
Given by Greg Brooker & Valerie Marquardt
- In Memory of Wally Marquardt
Given by Greg Brooker & Valerie Marquardt
- In Memory of Tessa
Given by Cindy Brueni
- In Memory of Michael Buck
Given by Patricia Buck
- In Memory of Ryan & Ron Nolte
Given by Linda Berkowitz
- In Memory of the life of Jacob Nelson
Given by Kay Cafferty
- In Memory of Brother & Son
Given by Sharon Cardwell
- In Memory of John Carlson
Given by Jody Carlson
- In Memory of Jake Sargent
Given by Stephanie Carlson
- In Memory of Tom McKenna
Given by Stephanie Carlson
- In Memory of Holly
Given by Diane Christensen
- In Memory of Tara Christensen
Given by Diane Christensen
- In Memory of Sandy Hook
Given by Julie Christiansen
- In Memory of Jesse Gray Smith
Given by Helen Cleath
- In Memory of Shauntae
Given by L. R. Cochrane
- In Memory of Dolores Duos
Given by Ginger Collyard
- In Memory of Albin & Carol Walz
Given by Morgan Stanley CSA
- In Memory of Leonare & Hannah Dilcher
Given by S. M. Dilcher
- In Memory of Dolores Blesi
Given by Carol Dmytryszyn
- In Memory of Cody Duncan
Given by Connie Duncan
- In Memory of Hans Bonde
Given by Dwight Dyrud
- In Memory of Bob Alberg
Given by Kay Eidem
- In Memory of Grandson, Parker
Given by Maudell Eisenbarth
- In Memory of Helmut Eric Nimhe
Given by Robin Eggert
- In Memory of Bob Schachtschneider
Given by Charlotte & Paul Englund
- In Memory of Matt Englund
Given by Jill Englund
- In Memory of Elliot Campbell
Given by Ellyn Erickson
- In Memory of Alex Reeves
Given by Nancy Etherington
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Given by Jean Ferdinande
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Given by Denise Fischer
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Given by Joan Ganley
- In Memory of Keith
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Given by Helen Gleason
- In Memory of Patricia H Schaefer
Given by Sherilyn Goldammer
- In Memory of Robert J Schaich
Given by Sherilyn Goldammer
- In Memory of Jonathan Moody
Given by Brenda Gramling
- In Memory of Conrad Grove
Given by Curtis Grove
- In Memory of John S Chapman
Given by Beth Hanlon
- In Memory of Tiffany Lane Harmon
Given by Rebecca Harmon
- In Memory of Karen Rindy
Given by Corinne Haas
- In Memory of Bill Pohlman
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Given by Elizabeth Hill
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Given by Steve Jensen
- In Memory of Hans Bonde
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- In Memory of Sandy Hook
Given by Jan Johnson
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Given by Renee Jordan
- In Memory of Jeanie Jackson
Given by Judy & Patrick Kearin
- In Memory of Paul Christian Keller
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Given by Ladonna Kiefat
- In Memory of John R. Lindquist
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- In Memory of Marian Goebel
Given by Ladonna Kiefat
- In Memory of Renee Switzjewski
Given by Ladonna Kiefat
- In Memory of Dawn Massmann
Given by Colleen Kiffmeyer
- In Memory of Richard J. Kinney
Given by Dennis Kinney
- In Memory of Amanda Roos
Given by Joyce Kirchner
- In Memory of Lawrence "Larry" Breunig
Given by Karli Knox
- In Memory of Tanner Pap
Given by Chris Koch
- In Memory of Char Lamson
Given by Sue Kovarik
- In Memory of Laura Kintz
Given by Sue Kovarik
- In Memory of Jason Kraycer
Given by Susan Kraycer
- In Memory of Lorne Dean Krieg
Given by Debra Krieg
- In Memory of Daniel Salerno
Given by Karen Kuwik
- In Memory of Lynn Deren
Given by Karen Kuwik
- In Memory of Matthew Comerford
Given by Karen Kuwik
- In Memory of Mike McCabe
Given by Karen Kuwik
- In Memory of Shawn Laudenbach
Given by Judith Laudenbach
- In Memory of Dean Larson
Given by Nola Lee
- In Memory of Michelle Franta
Given by Stan & Lynn Liedman
- In Memory of Jan Wareberg
Given by Joyce Loftus
- In Memory of Mary C. Loutsch
Given by Valerie Loutsch
- In Memory of Dale Whiteis Jr.
Given by Richard Love
- In Memory of Lauri Centa & Peggy Olson
Given by Judith Lutz
- In Memory of Rachel Schreiner, My Sister
Given by Ruth & Leonard Lye
- In Memory of Don & Shelly Mahoney
Given by Beverly Mahoney
- In Memory of Dorothy Karsky
Given by Charlotte Brooker & Gene Mammenga
- In Memory of Ron Proulx
Given by Charlotte Brooker & Gene Mammenga
- In Memory of Ruth Mammenga
Given by Charlotte Brooker & Gene Mammenga



Memorials—March through August 2014, *continued*

In Memory of Wally Marquardt
Given by Marcy Marquardt

In Memory of Zachery Scott Matschiner
Given by Kathy Matschiner

In Memory of Tony Seery
Given by Heather McCartan

In Memory of Sean McQuillen
Given by Paula McQuillen

In Memory of Brian Meisner
on his birthday - 2/22/1988
Given by Sue Meisner

In Memory of Patrice Anderson
Given by Jeanne Michaud

In Memory of Colleen
Given by Kathryn Miller

In Memory of Sully Ustruck
Given by Susan Mischock

In Memory of Alice Allyn
Given by Michele Moskwa

In Memory of Jim Lohmann
Given by Michele Moskwa

In Memory of Joann Booth
Given by Michele Moskwa

In Memory of John Chitty
Given by Michele Moskwa

In Memory of Rhonda Schultz
Given by Michele Moskwa

In Memory of Ryan David Gustafson
Given by Vicki Mussatti

In Memory of Gary Lien
Given by Sarah Nisbet

In Memory of Michael Thomas Manning
Given by Carol Norby

In Memory of Pam Buchman
Given by Gayle O'Reilly

In Memory of Austin Wayne Wagar
Given by Jamie Olson

In Memory of Kristy Dullinger
Given by Roxanne Orth

In Memory of Matt Orth
Given by Roxanne Orth

In Memory of Odelia A. Hess
Given by Roxanne Orth

In Memory of Charlotte & Paul Klenzendorf
Given by Sue Ortman

In Memory of Anne Kreul's husband Philip
Given by Janet Otten

In Memory of Betty J. Cavender
Given by Janet Otten

In Memory of Eric Swider
Given by Janet Otten

In Memory of Mary Beyer
Given by Janet Otten

In Memory of Mary O'Halloran
Given by Janet Otten

In Memory of Darren Wools
Given by Judy Ottoson

In Memory of John Rhodes Paul
Given by Audrey Paul

In Memory of Amber Pick
Given by Allan & Jacki Paul

In Memory of Officer Joseph Plant
Given by Vicki Plant

In Memory of Steven D. Platte
Given by Janet Platte

In Memory of Pearl Jarvi
Given by Pauline Popko

In Memory of Mark Zahn
Given by Michael Porter

In Memory of Jake Rebecsek
Given by Sandi Rebecsek

In Memory of Bruce Reimann
Given by Kathy W Reimann

In Memory of Russell Nelson &
Given by Karen Reynolds

In Memory of Paul Roche
Given by Barbara K Roche Trust

In Memory of Cole Boushee'
Given by Diane Roeber

In Memory of Luke
Given by Diane Roeber

In Memory of Teddy
Given by Diane Roeber

In Memory of John M Roll
Given by Leona Roll

In Memory of Rachel Schreiner
Given by Palmer & Lois Ruschke

In Memory of Hans Bonde
Given by Mike & Judy Salkas

In Memory of Catherine Weis
Given by Georgia Savat

In Memory of Deland Ferrand
Given by Georgia Savat

In Memory of Mitchel Scheitler
Given by Jeannie Scheitler

In Memory of Sara Schewe
Given by Ruth Schewe

In Memory of Alex David Schlieff
Given by Judith Schlieff

In Memory of Casey Schluessler
Given by Barbara & Randy Schluessler

In Memory of Joey Celani
Given by Connie Sell

In Memory of Tom Tonn
Given by Gayle Selsback

In Memory of Jeremy Septka, Brother
Given by Fred Septka

In Memory of Rick Koch
Given by Kathleen Severson

In Memory of Nathan Shupien
Given by Tonia Shupien

In Memory of Melissa Moore
Given by Mary Sneide

In Memory of Sandy Hook
Given by Linnea Solem

In Memory of Thomas
Given by Tamara Sondrol

In Memory of Doris Lindberg, Mom
Given by Earl & Sue Sorenson

In Memory of Dale Barto
Given by Janice Steadland

In Memory of James Louis Shockency
Given by Michael Subialka

In Memory of Miles Sudbeck
Given by Nancee Sudbeck

In Memory of Dusty
Given by James Taber

In Memory of Doyle Klein
Given by Sharon Thielke

In Memory of Mike Glouser
Given by Diane Thomas

In Memory of Sarah Tilman
Given by Catherine Tilman

In Memory of Greg Tipton
Given by Jill & Michael Jahraus Tipton

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Given by Debra Tokheim

In Memory of Bill Tombarge
Given by P.J. Tombarge

In Memory of Beth Brekke
Given by Sher Unruh-Friesen

In Memory of Shauna
Given by Teresa Valentine

In Memory of Adam Vant Hof
Given by Barbara K Roche Trust

In Memory of Eliz "Betty" & Anthony "Tony"
Given by Michelle Vomund

In Memory of Jeremy Michael Funston
Given by Kimberly Vuckovich

In Memory of Lauri Centa
Given by Sara Vukich

In Memory of Peggy Olson
Given by Sara Vukich

In Memory of Jeffrey C. Wagenlander
Given by Margaret Wagenlander

In Memory of Mary McDonough
Given by Margaret Diane Wally

In Memory of John C Waters
Given by Elizabeth Waters

In Memory of Frank Weber
Given by Mary Weber

In Memory of My Son
Given by Mary Weber

In Memory of William Welch
Given by Shannon Welch

In Memory of Alberta Whitaker
Given by Norman Whitaker

In Memory of Nicholas Wieme
Given by Kathleen Wieme

In Memory of Casey Schluessler
Given by Marcia Willett

In Memory of Alexander Robert Willgress
Given by Christine Willgress

In Memory of Julie Woltzen
Given by Joyce Woltzen

In Memory of Karen J. Williamson
Given by Deborah Zahn

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A message
of hope
to those who
are grieving.



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 Dudley 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 2002 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, 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, which contains a condolence card, the dragonfly story and a dragonfly key chain, costs \$4.00 to make and send. The Dragonfly Project is operated by volunteers and a board of directors. Donations are welcome.

To make a tax deductible donation to The Dragonfly Project or to request a dragonfly packet be sent to you or someone you know, visit our web site at www.dragonflyproject.org. The Dragonfly Project is a registered 501 (c) (3) non-profit. Your donations are tax deductible. You can mail us your tax deductible donation or your request by downloading the forms on our web site. Donations can be made "in honor of" or "in memory of" a loved one. Check with your employer to see if they will match your donation.

For further information about The Dragonfly Project's current projects, upcoming events, or ways you can get involved, please visit our web site at www.dragonflyproject.org.