



Bringing You a Message of Hope

**20th Annual
Dragonfly Project
Celebration and Remembrance
Event**

Saturday, March 12, 2022



The Program



Prelude

"Long Time Sun" by Snatam Kaur
"Lullabye" by Cris Williamson

Heartfelt*

Welcome

Valerie Marquardt
School & The Dragonfly Door Outreach

Reading of The Dragonfly Story

Jacob Bonde
Hans' brother

Dragonfly Project Update

Janell Stanton Soderberg
Board Member

My Dragonfly Story

Gary Nereson
Recipient Response

Special Music

Heartfelt*
"Hallelujah" by Sarah Nutting and Karisha Longaker (MaMuse)

My Dragonfly Story

Anne Marquardt Brooker
Founder

Memorial Montage

Julie Bonde
Music during Montage: composed & performed by Luke Bonde

Candle Lighting Ceremony

Kyle Soderberg
Nativity Staff

Music during Candle Lighting

"Home Again" by Luke Bonde
Luke Bonde
Hans' Brother

Challenge Match

Pete Bonde
Executive Director

Closing Remarks

Valerie Marquardt

Postlude

Heartfelt*
"Kinder" by Copper Wimmin'

**Heartfelt singers today are Diana van Deusen,
Emily Hager-Garman, Mara Hennen, and Katie Larson.*



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



Thank you for being here today!

Welcome to the 20th Annual Dragonfly Project Celebration & Remembrance Event! Can you believe that it's been 20 amazing years already! We are excited to have you join us in person for an afternoon of profound stories, celebrating, music, remembering loved ones, and reconnecting with other Dragonfly Project supporters. It has been three years since we have gathered in person for this event! Welcome all those who could attend!

Today we are excited to welcome our founder, Anne Brooker, who will talk about the last 20 years of the Dragonfly Project. Thank you, Anne, for being able to share with us today! Also thank you to her mother, Valerie Marquardt for being our emcee! A very special thanks to Andy Birkey for his artistic efforts, designing this year's invitation and program. Also thank you to Gary Nereson for sharing his dragonfly story with us today! We are honored to have acoustic music provided by Heartfelt. We'd also like to thank Bill Bonde for his professional photography today. A special thanks to Jacob Bonde for reading and Luke Bonde for his music. Thank you to Brianna Walvoort for coming up with a special gift for those attending today. Furthermore, thank you to Julie Bonde for creating the Memorial Montage, Kyle Soderberg for the Candle Lighting Ceremony, Pete Bonde for gathering date and Bob Parrott and others 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!

Event Committee:

Karen Bonde, Pete Bonde, Julie Bonde,
Janell Stanton Soderberg, Valerie Marquardt

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR..... Pete Bonde
FOUNDERAnne Marquardt Brooker

BUSINESS UPDATE

The Dragonfly Project (TDP) is now 20 years old! Since we started in 2002, we have sent out over 140,500 dragonfly packets, each representing an individual or family touched by our mission. In 2021, we sent out over 10,000 packets. More than half of these were from our website. Almost a third of these was 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. Our Adopt-a-State volunteers grew from 50 to 62 at the end of 2021. The number of states impacted by this program increased from 37 to 48. We also have an outreach to Canada. We could use some more Adopt-a-State volunteers! To volunteer, check our website or email TinaL@dragonflyproject.org.

In March of 2021, we sent out 180 packets and 15 Dragonfly Door books to 3 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. This outreach continues to be impacted by COVID-19, which closed schools and limited volunteer gatherings.

We gave an additional 110 books as part of our *Dragonfly Door* outreach. This included 80 books distributed to Little Libraries in Southwest Minneapolis in memory of Tod Boll, who started the libraries. We also distributed 30 books at a funeral for a woman who dedicated her life to helping children.

Financially, TDP continues to do well. Since our numbers were down last year (compared to 2019), they are quite a bit higher this year. Our Gross Profit was a little more than \$71,000, a 26% increase from the previous year. Our expenses were up about 7% at about \$48,000. Our Net Income was approximately \$26,500, a 35% increase from 2020. We continue to have a very strong balance sheet.

Here are some other highlights from 2021:

Due to the pandemic, instead of traveling to locations around the Twin Cities for volunteer help in assembling our packets (a condolence card with the dragonfly story and a dragonfly keychain), we needed to make boxes of supplies for local volunteers to pick up and assemble in their own homes. This was a challenge and we miss forming relationships with the people who volunteer with us. We did however have one outdoor keychain making event in September and one indoor event with eleven people in December. There is hope!

BUSINESS UPDATE CONTINUED

Nativity Lutheran Church and its members were involved in packet events where volunteers assembled 4,358 packets. Because Nativity has local volunteers for our new packet process, this helped us a lot. Nativity supports The Dragonfly Project in many ways including lending space for events and board meetings, and promoting our mission.

Thrivent employees assembled more than 2,500 extra keychains for us. Thrivent is our number one financial supporter through their many different programs that totaled over \$10,000 last year.

TDP continues forming a relationship with The Compassionate Friends organization. We sponsored four of their sessions at their virtual annual meeting this year. The pandemic has restricted our other collaboration projects.

We did a packet outreach to the Allina Health Clinic in Buffalo where their employee, Lindsay Overbay, was shot and killed.

We also did packet outreaches to the Center for Leadership and Neighborhood Engagement (CLNE) and The Grief Club of MN.

2022 CHALLENGE MATCH

Ann and Skip Bromstedt have graciously agreed to provide a challenge match for our event today. Ann and Skip are generous supporters of The Dragonfly Project from Missouri. They will match up to \$4,000 raised today and through March 19th. You can watch our match thermometer on our website at dragonflyproject.org/challengematch. For more about Ann's story, see our Fall 2020 newsletter at dragonflyproject.org/newsletter.

Heartfelt
HeartfeltSings

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

Other Heartfelt members are Denise and Frank.
If your group is interested in having Heartfelt sing,
you may contact them at

HARMONY@HEARTFELTSINGS.COM



Adopt-a-State Volunteers for 2021

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

Debbie Ansin	Cindy Glover	Nicole Kunza	Dawn Roggenkamp
Jeanne Bartlett	Judi Good	Sue Lamprich	Jeanne Rosdahl
Leanne Burkman	Brenna Grund	Becky Laney	Alura Rose
Josi Burkhart	Lisa Hanneman	Brenda Leigh	Holly Schott
Donna Campbell	Lori Harmer	Erika Leraaen	Joanne Schneider
Mara Christensen	Michelle Haygood	Susan Lewis	June Shashura
Natasha Cronsell	Amy Hennen	Amy Lindgren	Mary Shaw
Jennifer DeBruin	Kim Karsnia	Valerie Loutsch	Kimberly Sitko
Alyssa Dodds	Gloria Keller	Regina Medina	Bertha Steele
Diane Feeney	Julie Kimball	Vera Miller	Katy Swimelar
Eileen Fink	Joanne Kintop	Callie Ogburn	Meg Swimelar
Caitlyn Fitzchowen	Teresa Kohman	Michaela Ohlemann	Linda Tygar
Kathy Floresch	Sally Kramer	Pam Olson	Sonja Yadon
Rebecca Gentry	Lisa Kretsch	Tanya Renner	Kristin Zigan
Shirley Gilliam	Natalie Kritenbrink	JoAnne Roberts	
Sheri Gittinger	Michelle Kubiak	Winda Roets	

Packet Assembly Groups in 2021

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.

- Cooper High School Students
- Julie Bonde & friends, Thrivent Action Team
- Kim Verrechia, New Hampshire
- Melissa Sandry & friends, Thrivent Action team
- Mike & Judi Salkas
- Nativity Lutheran Church
 - ◇ General Volunteers—God's Work, Our Hands Event
 - ◇ Women in Action
- Thrivent Volunteers in Appleton, Wisconsin
- Winda Roets, Minnesota
- WoMN Strong, Anoka, MN

A special thanks to the following people for the hundreds of keychains they made for us in 2021.

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

Thanks to all our Volunteers!

Julie Bonde	Amy Hennen	Bob Parrott
Karen Bonde	Arlaine Higgins	Winda Roets
Luke Bonde	Patsy Kahmann	Melissa Sandry
Pete Bonde	Marcia Kurtz	Geralyn Sorensen
Donna Brandell	Tina Langhans	James Smith
Dawn Dahlberg	Michelle Lease	Janell Stanton Soderberg
Ann Danko	Jack Lechler	Kyle Soderberg
Emma DeBruin	Jermaine Lechler	Bertha Steele
Jennifer DeBruin	Katie Lusty	PJ Tombarge
Michelle Dehn	Valerie Marquardt	Brianna Walvoort
Sharon Foss	Paula McQuillen	Annie Young
Kelly Gleonde	Dan McQuillen	
Lisa Hanneman	Kristen Nold	Courage Kenny Rehab Group



HOW TO REGISTER FOR THE AUCTION

*If you register for the bidding site with your phone number (via text), you will get bidding notifications via text. If you register via a browser, you will get your notifications via email. **We recommend the text registration.***

To Register to be a bidder via SMS (texting)

Text: [tdpauction](https://app.galabid.com/tdpauction) followed by your full name
 To: 1-541-583-4642 (this is our permanent number for our auctions)
 Example: [tdpauction](https://app.galabid.com/tdpauction) John Smith
 Follow the registration link you are sent from GalaBid to log in and take part in the campaign.

To Register to be a bidder via browser

Visit: <https://app.galabid.com/tdpauction>
 Click on the 'Register' button
 Enter your details and click 'Register'
 You will then receive a text to your mobile phone with a verification link.
 Clicking the link will take you to the auction where you can log in with the password you entered during registration. You are now ready to take part in the campaign.

Recipient Responses

Thank you so much for the wonderful card and dragonfly keychain. I was having a rough afternoon when this arrived in the mail. Throughout this difficult journey the kindness and support we have received has been absolutely amazing! Thank you so very much for thinking of us.

~Meggan, Matt, Kaleb and Kora

My mom passed away peacefully surrounded by her family after a 4-year battle with brain cancer. A friend sent me one of your cards with the story of the dragonfly. It brought me great comfort and a new symbol to remember my mom by. Thank you for the work that you do helping those remember the ones we've lost are not forgotten.

~Catherine

I was surprised and touched at receiving a condolences card. My daughter Alishia passed away suddenly March 18th from heart failure. She was only 35. Her totem animal was the Dragonfly. In the days and weeks that have passed since her transition I have to come to know that the veil between this world and the next is very thin. Grief has led me to a place where all there is left is gratitude and joy for having had her in our lives. She taught us so many lessons and continues to do so. Thanks for this reaching out work. It helps.

~Maggie

My son Jason lost his battle with heroin on September 12, 2020. When Jason was sober, he was sensitive, funny, smart and loving. Being a grieving mother during a pandemic has been difficult. We were not able to have a funeral, only a small gathering at the cemetery. It's been a lonely process. I received the Dragonfly Project keychain in the mail. I love it so much I wear it as a necklace...it gives me comfort that out of the blue someone thought of me. People forget, but I never will.

~Judy

Thank You for providing this lovely service! My mother passed away a few months ago and she loved dragonflies! I am so very grateful to your organization and volunteers that have made it possible for me to share these amazing cards of comfort with my father and siblings. Truly awe inspiring and so needed at this difficult time of loss. God Bless each of you!

~Joni

We received one of these thoughtful cards and dragonflies. It was the absolute perfect timing for us to receive it. Times were tough and we were missing Joshua (my husbands son). This brought a Ray of sunshine to our lives and we have never forgotten it! I now wish to be able to share this wonderful service with others and hope that it will do the same for these grieving families. Thank you very much for thinking of us. We will be sure to pay it forward many times over.

~Dawn



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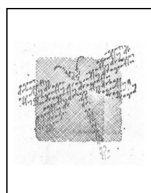
Available for Purchase

6 Dragonfly Sympathy Card Designs

Packets Available
Each packet includes
A Card,
The Dragonfly Story,
and a Keychain



**20th Anniversary Card
NOW AVAILABLE !**



*This new card is a copy of
the original hand-stamped
card made by Anne Brooker
and her family/friends.*



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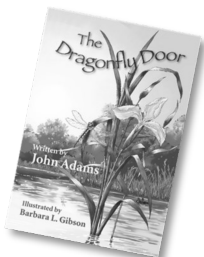
Children's Books

"The Dragonfly Door"
by John Adams (Paperback)



And

"The Dragonfly Secret"
by Clea & John Adams
(Hardcover)



Both Illustrated by Barbara Gibson

...



"Dragonfly Moments" CD
By Darolyn Gray & Friends

...

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 make a donation,
send checks payable to:

The Dragonfly Project
PO Box 19264

