



A Simple Smile: Sharing our story of Matt Orth by Roxanne Orth



It is the simplest things that made him smile: A cool fall dreary day on the golf course, a frigid day with out on Rice Lake ice fishing for crappies, the first round of spring time golf, a summer day standing in the Mississippi River kicking bass. It is quite simple, he just lived life. He did not lose a day because he did what he loved. Matthew Orth chose to live every minute of his short 28 years of life.

He loved his family, cherished fishing and golfing with his brother and father. He enjoyed homemade cookies and lasagna with his mother. But the one and most important person in Matt's life was his bride of less than one year when he passed. Rachel and Matt were two combined as one, bringing out the best in each other. Matt loved her dearly and was so proud of her.

Rachel and Matt both shared a love for children. Matt worked as the Junior Golf Program Director at Des Moines Golf and Country Club, growing it to a group of more than 200 kids. All the kids enjoyed having Matt as their teacher and role model. The kids even started wearing white belts, as Matt did, in honor of him. He also took pride in leading crews of high school boys into the Canadian Wilderness during college. Le Voyageurs gave many high school aged kids an opportunity to work together as a team for the summer, Matt loved to be their guide. He loved teaching, sharing, and showing these youngsters how to be better

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Transformation of Erika Mozagnue Drayton by Valerie Marquardt

Editor's Note: Erika was a Dragonfly Project Board Member from 2007-2009

Many years ago, my good friend Erika never anticipated how much the dragonfly story would comfort her friends and family after her death on August 18 of this year.

Back in the summer of 2007, when a position on the TDP's board of directors opened up, I recalled Erika's interest in helping others who were grieving. Erika believed that the dragonfly story offered such a hopeful message and brought comfort to those who were grieving. She joined us on the board of directors in August of that year and made many contributions over the years, including designing our first annual report and serving as board chair for a year. Erika's ease and joy helped the board work smoothly and efficiently. However, when Erika received a diagnosis of cancer in the summer of 2009, it was necessary for her to

Erika Mozagnue Drayton continues on Page 5



We're Working Together **to Bring Hope by Julie A. Bonde**

It's been an exciting year with packet assembly events. These are the events where anywhere from 2 to 40 volunteers gather together to learn about The Dragonfly Project, assemble key chains, and stuff cards into envelopes. My name is Julie Bonde. I am the coordinator and usually leader/presenter at these events. In 2013 we have had 26 of these volunteer events so far (January through October). Wow! In previous years our average has been about 19 events per year.

On July 17, we had our very first remote packet event at Thrivent in Appleton, Wis. This was made possible by the team efforts of Amy Hennen, Jack and Germaine Lechler, Jennifer De Bruin, and my husband Pete and I. I put together a packet assembly instructional video on YouTube and a PowerPoint presentation about The Dragonfly Project, as well as written instruction for Jack and Jennifer to use at their event. Jack went to Appleton and shared his dragonfly story and Jennifer coordinated volunteers and presented the PowerPoint at Thrivent in Appleton. Amy Hennen ordered supplies and shipped them while Pete kept communication flowing between all the parties and made sure that everyone had what they needed. What an event it was! Seventy-five Thrivent volunteers in Appleton assembled 1400 packets on that day. Wow!

Simultaneously on July 17, I had an event with 14 teenagers at a church here in Northeast Minneapolis. They heard the story and then made 200+ packets for our school program and 200+ Adopt a State packets for mailing. Wow!

During October we had a Packet Event Marathon, in which we had eight events, six led by me. One of the other two was led by Jennifer De Bruin in Appleton. The other was held at Thrivent both in Appleton and Minneapolis at the same time through the magic of closed-circuit television. It was led by Pete Bonde in Minneapolis and Linda Kappell in Appleton, WI. Other organizations that contributed volunteers in October were Prudential, 3M, and United Heart and Vascular Clinic of St. Paul. One event was held in a home by a mother in honor of her son's death. Our grand total for finished packets in October is 3,788! Wow! We are fully caught up on Adopt-a-State Packets and doing well on the others. This also means that Jeanne Bartlett has been busy running to the bulk mail center with our finished product. There will be many people receiving hope this fall.

The Dragonfly Project truly is a community project. Each card and keychain that arrives at someone's house is the result of 10 to 15 volunteers giving their time and love. I am so grateful to all of you for your efforts to help, to bring hope to those who are grieving. Thank you!



The photo above and the one below here are
by Laura D'Ambrosio.
<http://www.lauradambrosio.com>



DRAGONFLY MOMENTS



The photo above and the two on opposite page
are by J Marion Brown
<http://julesofnature.tumblr.com>

How Hurricane Sandy Forever Changed My Life

by Patricia Dresch

[Editor's Note: Patricia received a Dragonfly Packet after the devastating loss of her husband and daughter during Hurricane Sandy and this is her story.]

They said the Hurricane Sandy was going to be the “Storm of the Century.” They said the same thing about Tropical Storm Irene. My name is Patricia Dresch. And this is my story.

George, Angela, and I had been through this before. “The Storm of the Century” was coming. Again. Last time, we evacuated. The storm turned out to be nothing, and our garage was looted by a common thief. The morning of October 29, 2012, when the National Guard came around to shut off the gas to the homes in the neighborhood, they told me not to worry because the water would never reach my meter. We decided to stay in the house this time. We didn't want to get robbed again, but we moved the car, just in case the ocean came up to street level. In the afternoon, the wind started to pick up and gust, and trees started to come down, but it was nothing we didn't expect.

We ate dinner with the 5 o'clock news on, watching the storm get closer. By 6, the winds picked up and the water started to rise. From the window, we could see the water coming up the street. My dining room, which was an addition to the house, began to rise and fall with the rising water, and by 7:30 it had been torn from the house completely. My brother, Gerard, had called and I told him what was going on. Gerard was able to call 911, and told them we were trapped in the house, with it coming down around us. The water began to flood the first floor, and we scrambled up to the second floor for safety. Thinking it would be safer, Angela and I huddled in my bedroom closet. George was ready to join us when he noticed the water coming in through the sliding glass doors in the room. We left the bedroom and proceeded to the hallway bathroom clutching on to each other. The water continued



to rise until, eventually we went under. I was able to lift Angela up into the air at the top of the room, when the walls opened up and we were thrown out. The water had reached the second floor and was up to my chin. Angela had been clutching my arm, when a piece of the roof came down, and struck us both in the head. I lost my grip on her, and felt myself falling into unconsciousness. Refusing to die, I forced myself up from the water, and reaching out, was able to grab onto the cable lines at the top of the telephone poles. I was able to hold on to what was a piece of my bathroom wall grabbing the soap dish. I held on to the floating piece of wall for as long as I could, until a large wave washed me away from the debris that once was my house.

I was sitting. I am not sure how long it was before the members of the Fire Department heard my faint cries, but hours had passed. When I was brought in to the hospital, my body temperature registered 81°. They immediately took steps to raise it back to normal. Angela was found the next day, and George was recovered two days later. We laid them to rest on November 12.

I was found a block away amongst the rubble. It was the dim glow from a penlight that guided my rescuers to where

As of today, one year later, I am still waiting for city and state government approval for the buyout of my unrecoverable property. If it were not for the support of my friends and the community to get me through this horrific tragedy, I am not sure where I would be today. My deep faith has carried me through this trial thus far, and my parish family has provided me with a temporary residence. Every day, I see signs in the simplest things that remind me that I am being watched over from above and I know that one day, I will be reunited with George and Angela.

A Simple Smile: Sharing our story of Matt Orth (continued from page 1)



individuals in our society. Matt surely left a huge impact on the people left behind.

Matthew's personality was quietly, charming waiting only until the perfect moment to share his opinion—Always with a smile and a laugh. It is this calm, happy, smiling current that we miss so much in our lives. His spirit follows us and watches us but it isn't as good as the real stuff. Please don't take a moment for granted, tomorrow may not come.

We thank the Dragonfly Project for coming into our lives at a time when we have lost so much. We see the dragonflies that dart throughout our days. We pause, say "hello, Matt." He is close. We love you Matt. We long for the day we can see you smile and hear your laugh again but until then we will dance with the dragonflies.

Love you, Matt, with all our hearts.

Adopt-A-State Update by Stan and Lynn Liedman

The Adopt-A-State program's continued success is a result of the effort of our devoted volunteers who have allowed us to reach many families who have lost loved ones across the country. They faithfully watch for obituaries in newspapers from the area of their choice and address condolence cards, containing a dragonfly keychain for the grieving families. This year we will send cards to over 2,500 grieving families, which again is an increase over last year. Thanks to our volunteers the program continues to grow.

We have been coordinators for the Adopt-a-State program since it was established in 2009 with the first packets being shipped in early 2010. Since then, Adopt-a-State has continued to grow and allowed The Dragonfly Project to reach far and wide. We always welcome new volunteers as despite our best efforts many families with tragic losses do not get packets since we do not cover all areas. Most of our volunteers are from families who have received packets. They realized the positive impact that the dragonfly message had on them and felt compelled to become part of the Dragonfly Project. That is also what led us to volunteer. We lost

our daughter Michelle in March 2004 and received a packet. We first couldn't believe that somewhere there were loving people who cared about us and noticed our loss. We came to the annual celebration that first year and found comfort and love, and wanted to help spread the message of hope. We love the experience of volunteering and would encourage anybody who would be interested to join us.

Volunteering for Adopt-a-State is a very easy volunteering opportunity and is something that makes one's heart feel close to those who are grieving. If you are interested, please contact us at StanL@dragonflyproject.org or visit our website at <http://www.dragonflyproject.org/volunteers.html>

We will be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

...Now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:13

Transformation of Erika Mozagnue Drayton (continued from page 1)

focus on her medical care which resulted in her resigning from the board. We were sad to see her leave the board but she continued to volunteer in a different capacity when able.

Erika and I became closer friends during the two years that I went to chemo with her. When I drove her to the appointments for the day, we started talking even before she slid into the seat in my car. We didn't stop chatting until I dropped her off at the end of the day. Some days, she would pile into my car and exclaim, "I've got big news!" This was the signal that she would not tell me about the news right then. Instead we would wait in anticipation until we were all settled in for her chemo treatment before she would convey the news.

We had our serious talks but we also had many good laughs during the several hours that we spent together at the infusion clinic on Friday afternoons. While we were at the clinic we enjoyed planning her wedding (August 4, 2012), laughing loudly about the tacky decorations that were up for the holidays, talking about our plans and hopes for the future and sharing stories about friends and family. Erika was one of the best listeners I have ever met. She consistently inquired about my husband Greg and daughter Anne and always listened attentively to what I had to say.

When Erika was a patient in ICU this past summer, one of our favorite nurses, Theresa, asked me how I knew Erika. So I told Theresa about serving on TDP board with Erika and gave her some of the dragonfly packets. After Erika's death on August 18, Theresa emailed me, expressing her condolences.

Theresa went on to say that she shared the dragonfly packets with her coworkers. And then she wrote:

"I am currently working with the members of the transforming care at the bedside committee, and everyone has suggested that we attempt to implement this into Abbott Northwestern's end of life care.

I think this project would be a wonderful way to commemorate Erika's courageous spirit and offer comfort to grieving families in their time of need."

It is comforting for me to know that because of Erika, others who are grieving will be given the hopeful message of the dragonfly story.

Although I have a large hole in my heart since Erika's death, I take solace in the last sentence of the dragonfly story. "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."



Erika Mozagnue (left) with Greg & Valerie

Share Your Dragonfly Story

Your stories are important. Through this newsletter, your wonderful stories about your loved ones and your experiences with dragonflies have helped countless people in their time of grieving. We thank you for sharing them and would encourage you to continue to share your stories. Each time we share our stories, hope spreads.

If you would like to share your story, send an e-mail to: BuzzetteEditor@dragonflyproject.org.

SAVE THE DATE!



12th Annual Dragonfly Project Celebration & Remembrance Event

1:00 PM, Saturday, April 5, 2014

Nativity Lutheran Church, 3312 Silver Lake Road, St. Anthony, MN 55418

Photo Request for Celebration

During the program, TDP will again show a photo montage of loved ones who have died in years past. If you are attending this event and would like to send a photo of your loved one to be shown via e-mail or regular mail along with your loved one's name and a short description of what your loved one liked to do. (Please keep description to 15 words or less.)

A. E-mail photos to: julieb@dragonflyproject.org

Please write "photo montage" in the subject line of the e-mail. 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 e-mail address above to communicate that request

and provide reference information about your prior photo.

B. Mail the photo via US Postal Service along with the name and brief description. In addition to attaching the information above, please label the back of the photo with the deceased person's name and also the sender's address, then mail to:

The Dragonfly Project
c/o Julie A. Bonde
2632 Brighton Avenue NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418

If you want your photo returned, please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Photos must be received by March 15, 2013

Want to Donate?

A. Go to www.dragonflyproject.org

- Click on our **Make a Donation** page and follow instructions there.
- You will be able to click on PayPal or mail in a donation.

B. Go to your PayPal account:

- Click on the tab **Send Money**.
- Enter treasurer@dragonflyproject.org as the e-mail address.
- Follow the PayPal instructions to complete.

C. Go to our GiveMN website:

- Enter givemn.razoo.com/story/The-Dragonfly-Project
- Follow the directions on the website to donate with your credit card.

April through August 2013 **MEMORIALS:**

In Memory of Jacob & Benjamin Baalson
Given by Kay Baalson
In Memory of "Missy"
Given by Marlys Bishman
In Memory of Hans Bonde
Given by Charlotte Bonde
Given by Karen Bonde
In Memory of Ruth Mammenga
Given by Charlotte Brooker
In Memory of the life of Jacob Nelson
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In Memory of John Carlson
Given by Jody Carlson
In Memory of Holly
Given by Diane Christensen
In Memory of Dolores Duoos
Given by Ginger Collyard
In Memory of Leonare & Hannah Dilcher
Given by S. M. Dilcher
In Memory of Bob Alberg
Given by Kay Eidem
In Memory of Helmut Eric Nimhe
Given by Robin Elm
In Memory of Matt Englund
Given by Jill Englund
In Memory of Margaret Willems
Given by Janet Fahey
In Memory of Sarah Richardson
Given by Diane Feeney
In Memory of Angela & Mary Ganley
Given by Joan Ganley
In Memory of Francis Cassady
Given by Helen Gleason
In Memory of Jonathan Moody
Given by Brenda Gramling
In Memory of Tammy Geist
Given by Renee Jordan
In Memory of Jeanie Jackson
Given by Judy and Patrick Kearin
In Memory of Jason Kraycer
Given by Susan Kraycer
In Memory of Mike McCabe
Given by Karen Kuwik
In Memory of Michelle Franta
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In Memory of Mary C. Loutsch
Given by Valerie Loutsch
In Memory of Zachery Scott Matschiner
Given by Kathy Matschiner
In Memory of Tony Seery
Given by Heather McCartan
In Memory of Patrice Anderson
Given by Jeanne Michaud
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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 Austin Wayne Wagar
Given by Jamie Olson
In Memory of Matt Orth and Kristy Dullinger
Given by Roxanne Orth
In Memory of Matthew Orth
Given by Carole Orth
In Memory of Odelia A. Hess
Given by Roxanne Orth
In Memory of Charlotte & Paul Klenzendorf
Given by Sue Ortman
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Given by Janet Otten
In Memory of Officer Joseph Plant
Given by Vicki Plant
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 Catherine Weis
Given by Georgia Savat
In Memory of Mitchel Scheitler
Given by Jeannie Scheitler
In Memory of Joey Celani
Given by Connie Sell
In Memory of James Louis Shockency
Given by Michael Subialka

In Memory of Miles Sudbeck
Given by Nancee Sudbeck
In Memory of Sarah Tilman
Given by Catherine Tilman
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Given by Teresa Valentine
In Memory of Eliz "Betty" & Anthony "Tony"
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The Dragonfly Buzzette is the official newsletter of The Dragonfly Project and is published twice a year. The next issue will be published in Spring 2014. The Dragonfly Buzzette committee consists of Julie Bonde, Peter Bonde, Sharon Foss, Valerie Marquardt, and Jan Stanton.

CHANGES? Have you moved or do you no longer want to receive the Dragonfly Buzzette?
Please send these changes to Marcia Kurtz at marciak@dragonflyproject.org (put "address changes" as the subject)
Or The Dragonfly Project, c/o Marcia Kurtz, 46 North 16th Avenue, Hopkins, MN55343



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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.