



Volume 15

Spring 2013

## **Remembering Patrick by Jennifer Hannold**

I wanted to thank you for the very touching card that I received from your organization!

My son, Patrick Papale, was killed in a car accident on October 10, 2012. My life has forever changed and will never be the same again.

Pat was 20 years old, he was my first born child. He was a fun-loving, outgoing, big teddy bear. Everyone loved him—he just had that way with people. I had Patrick two days before my 17th birthday, we basically grew up together. We were very close but fought a lot also. When I got married Pat was 17, he actually gave me away to my husband.

I can't put into words the kind of pain that my heart feels. The longing to see and hug my son is sometimes too much to bear.

When I read the story enclosed in the card, it made sense to me. It gave me hope that Pat is up there watching over me. He can see how much I love him and he knows that someday we will be reunited. I have attached my favorite picture of my son and me, for you to put a face to our names.

Thank again for your kindness and sympathy, it really did bring some peace to my heart.



## **Jay's Song by Jack Lechler**



*[Editor's Note: This was Jack Lechler's presentation at the 2013 Dragonfly Celebration.]*

We appreciate the Dragonfly Project.

We have come here today to thank and congratulate all of the people who have made the Dragonfly Project a success for 11 years. Success and longevity are only possible because of sense of purpose, a goal, and leadership. Obviously, a number of you have taken up that challenge and provided that leadership.

Your efforts had a great impact on us. We received an orange envelope in the mail one day with a card simply signed Roberta. We didn't know anyone named Roberta and we felt the need to say thank you. After some computer research and several phone calls to the Twin Cities, I was given the names of Julie and Pete Bonde. The next phone call was to them and we asked, "Who is Roberta?" We asked if we could get in contact with her and we were told that they would contact her and tell her of our desire. We heard from her and interestingly, Roberta and Jonathan Farris (formerly of Minnesota) now live in Verona, Wisconsin.

*Jay's Song continues on Page 5*

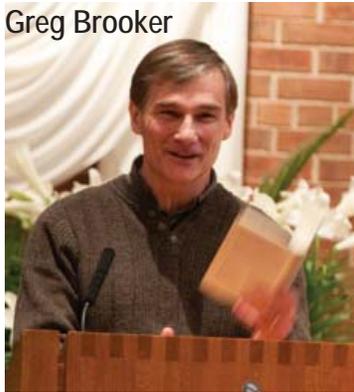
## Celebration and Rememberence--April 6, 2013



Luke



Anne



Greg Brooker

Greg Brooker read the original dragonfly story by Walter Dudley Cavert .



Julie

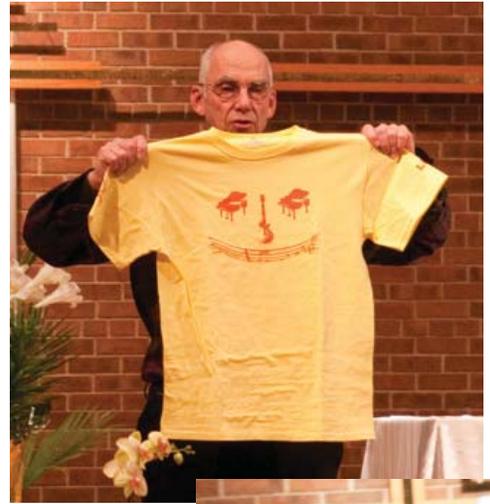
### by Anne Brooker, Founder

The Eleventh Annual Remembrance Celebration this year was a great success! Luke Bonde welcomed old and new friends alike with his piano prelude, and we all spent the next hour remembering our loved ones. The Morning Star Singers, an a cappella group, who sings mostly for those in hospice or palliative care, blessed us with their music.

Jack Lechler opened his heart to share with us the story of his and his wife Jermaine's, son, Jay. Jay was a gifted musician who taught 45 students guitar and piano lessons. They spoke of the dragonfly packet arriving months after their son's death, when everyone else had seemed to move on with their lives. They so appreciated being remembered by a stranger that they contacted Julie Bonde asking to help locate the volunteer who had signed their card. After making this connection, they were asked to speak about their experience. Jack's story of his son was very touching and we were blessed to have Jack and Jermaine present with us.

Julie Bonde then told her dragonfly story, and the origin of The Dragonfly Project. She spoke of her loving family, and her son Hans' brain tumor and death over 11 years ago. After Hans' death, my mom, Valerie, sent the family the dragonfly story and a dragonfly necklace in remembrance of Hans' birthday. Julie reiterated that it was the timing of the card, when it seemed everyone else had move on, that was so significant. I was inspired by the Bonde's story 11 years ago to start sending packets to others and was just as inspired today at the celebration as I was 11 years ago.

As these two speakers said, one of the unique parts of our mission is not only that we send these packets to strangers, but that we do so months after their loved ones' deaths, to remind them that they are still remembered. I want to thank all of you, our volunteers and supporters, for helping us continue our mission. Thank you for bringing a message of hope to those who are grieving.



Jack Lechler



During the Candle Lighting Ceremony everyone honors loved ones and we remember why we do this.



Ryan Behnke plays "Amazing Grace" on bagpipes.

## Celebration and Rememberence--April 6, 2013

Morning Star Singers  
bringing songs of  
healing and hope



With Stories  
With Music  
With Light  
We  
Remember  
We Celebrate  
We have Hope



### Dragonflies Provide Peace by Sally Thayer

I was driving down country roads in southern Minnesota in June of 2003. The day was warm and bright. I was thinking about my mom, who had died earlier that year in May. The farmers had planted corn in their fields that year and it looked like it was a good crop coming. All of a sudden, I came across a field that had thousands of dragonflies rising up from the warm soil into the late afternoon sun. I was astonished to see their glistening wings carry them higher and higher into the air and the group of them swirled around on the light wind that was going through the field. It almost seemed like they were dancing in the sun. I am not sure to this day that I have ever seen such a beautiful sight.

Later that year my husband and I moved to St. Cloud, Minnesota—Halloween to be exact. The next day winter showed up with all of its fury. It was a long winter without my friends and my job that I had loved.

Spring came and then the anniversary of my mom's passing in May. I was feeling sorry for myself and I suddenly burst into tears because I thought my mom didn't know where I was. I don't know why that bothered me so much. So I decided to take my dog, Skippy, for a walk to clear my head. We walked around the garage to the south side and I was just awestruck by what I saw. There in front of me were hundreds of dragonflies. They were playing in the sunbeams of this beautiful May day. The dragonflies were everywhere

and soon they were swarming all over Skippy and me. Quite a few landed on me and I stood there for the longest time watching their wings go up and down and amazed at how beautiful their colors were. It almost seemed like these beautiful insects were giving me a hug. I then thought of my mom and I knew that she was still around, that she loved me and that she was all right.

The dragonflies had delivered my mom's message and I felt much, much better. I finally felt at peace.



## **Thank-You Volunteers!**

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to The Dragonfly Project. We recognize that there are many organizations that you could choose to give your time and energy to, so we are especially pleased that you continue to volunteer for The Dragonfly Project and to support us!

Due to your work and support, in the past four months alone, The Dragonfly Project has sent out 2,304 dragonfly packets to families who are grieving. We could not have accomplished this without your help. We thank you for making it possible to send a message of hope to so many people who have recently lost a loved one.

For those of you in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area: We need your help! Due to the large amounts of packets that we have sent out already this year, our supplies are getting depleted quickly. We need more packets to be made. Would you be willing to organize a packet making event in your home, school, work site, or church? Your job would be to invite your friends/family/colleagues to gather at the place of your choice. Our Lead Packet Making Coordinator, Julie Bonde, would bring all the supplies and lead your group in making packets! If you are interested in organizing an event like this or if you would like additional information about what a packet-making event would entail, please contact Julie Bonde directly at JulieB@dragonflyproject.org

Thanks again for all of your hard work!

Warmly, Valerie Marquardt, Board Member

*Editor's Note: Pete Bonde, Board Member, announced that as of June 1, 2013, we have made and sent out over 50,000 packets since the beginning in 2002. Way to go, Volunteers—Take a bow!!!*



## **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.

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

*Jay's Song  
by Wendy Olson  
(Written in loving memory of Jay Lechler)*

*Your smile lit up the room  
Your laughter warmed our hearts  
You were kind and you were good  
A true friend right from the start*

*Now you're gone  
And somehow we'll carry on  
May you rest in peace, my friend  
Until we meet again*

*May you rest in peace  
In the place*

*Where tears never fall  
Where only joy and laughter*

*Is shared by one and all  
I hope you know how much we love you  
And that feeling will never end  
May you rest in peace, my friend  
Until we meet again*

*You shared your gift of music  
With the young and the old  
And your music will live forever  
It's a treasure worth more than gold*

*And I believe  
Now you are free  
May you rest in peace, my friend  
Until we meet again*

## Jay's Song (continued from page 1)

We had several very consoling phone conversations and e-mail exchanges with the Farris'. Although we have not yet met them in person, it is on our future calendar. We are very grateful to them and to all of you for caring.

We also, since then, have met Stan and Lynn Liedman by phone and e-mail and our contact with them has also been very rewarding.

The Dragonfly Project cards are very meaningful. One of our relatives has had two sons killed in vehicle accidents. They ordered 14 cards to share with their relatives because their son, David, loved dragonflies.

We have ordered cards and sent them to people we know and we have also started trying to serve as volunteers in Eastern Wisconsin. We share our awareness of the Dragonfly Project anytime we have a chance, including with a group in Sheboygan, Wisconsin called Compassionate Parents which meets monthly.

Why did we hear from Roberta? She sent us a card because she read an obituary in the Madison, Wisconsin, newspaper about the death of Jay Helmuth Lechler, age 30, of Cottage Grove, Wisconsin, who passed away on Friday, August 10, 2012. Jay was our son.

Jay was intelligent, artistic, creative, talented, and perceptive. He was gifted in many ways and was an honor student. Jay worked as a studio recording engineer and taught 45 guitar and piano students at the Stoughton Center for the Performing Arts.

Examples of some things people have said to us or told us:

A friend of Jay's wrote us:

*"Jay's smile was infectious and he filled any room with his presence."*

A student's parent wrote us:

*"Dear Lechler Family,  
We are so very sorry for the sudden loss of your most talented and caring son. Jay taught our son, Logan, piano for a year. At 13-1/2, our son was nervous to take lessons, that is, until he met Jay. From the moment they met, Jay put him at ease. Jay made it fun, easy and very positive. Even*

*if Logan didn't practice like he should have, Jay kept him moving and growing and most importantly, loving to play. Music filled our house and will continue to because of Jay. His smile and contagious laugh will too. There is and will never be another Jay. His life was way too short and this world and all his students will miss him terribly. There are simply no words in moments like this that seem to comfort or be enough to help ease your loss. With each moment, with each hour as you honor and remember Jay, may memories cradle your heart."*

We received hundreds and hundreds of cards, e-mails and visits. We heard from grade school teachers, middle school teachers, high school teachers, his students, his friends, our friends, relatives, and the list goes on.

We soon experienced, however, what happens next. Everyone else's life returns to normal and their busy schedule continues. This is precisely why the card from Roberta was so important. It reminded us that people do care and that someone could take the time and effort to try and comfort a stranger.

Our son, Jay, was a gift to us. We cherish every day that he was a part of our lives. He brought joy and happiness to many people. He was compassionate and cared for others. Several of his friends said—Jay could channel everyone else's pain through humor, but wasn't able to handle his own pain.

We have suffered a great loss. We know we are not alone—because parents sadly lose children daily. We have read books, we have read poems, we have listened to songs, we have spoken with people, etc., etc., etc., but no matter what, it doesn't bring Jay back.

We are experiencing the new normal and we don't like it. We are thankful for all of our good memories and for the 30 wonderful years God graced our lives and the lives of others through Jay's life. He taught people music from ages 5 to 53, he recorded people from age 8 to 75, and he brought happiness to many.

At his memorial service a lady, he had previously recorded, wrote and sang this original song.

Dear Dragonfly Project workers and friends, we thank you for caring about us and we likewise extend our prayers and sympathy for all of you who have suffered and endured through the painful times of the loss of a loved one.

May God Bless You.



## The Dragonfly Door News

*The Dragonfly Door* by John Adams is now in paperback and is available on Amazon.com.

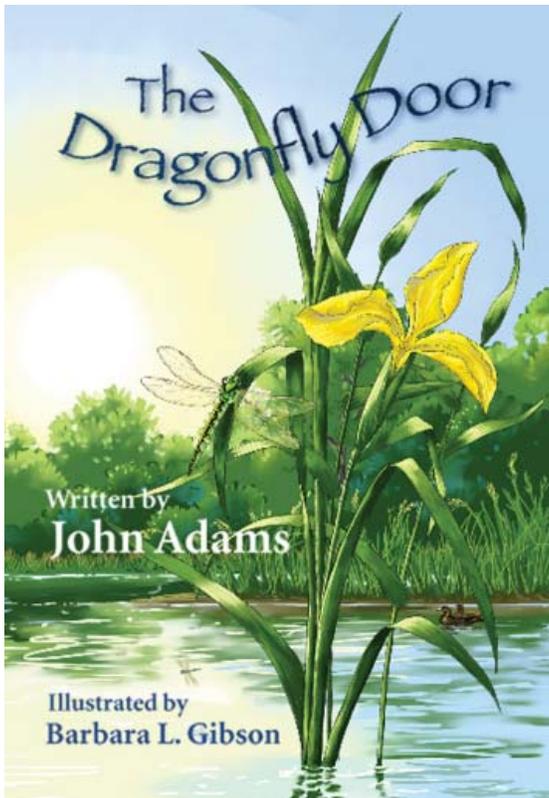
*The Dragonfly Door* is an award-winning story of friendship, loss, and change. It normalizes a child's grief while exploring a water nymph's transformation into a beautiful dragonfly. Some children volunteer their unique feelings about a loss after hearing the story.

The book gives parents an opportunity to express their views about life and death. *The Dragonfly Door* has been adapted into theatrical performances by various communities to help grieving children cope with tragic and sometimes violent death. It is recommended for children ages five and above.

Comments from reviews include:

*"The Dragonfly Door is both informational and spiritual. The core story is a message of healing for children coping with the loss of a loved one. Reaching out to children using the science of nature to address a sensitive and difficult topic, The Dragonfly Door is an invaluable tool for communication during a sensitive period."*—Armchair Interviews

*"The art is bright, simple, and will appeal to children. It enhances the text, sets the mood, clarifies emotions, and provides clues to the meaning of words. Don't pass up reading this book! The Dragonfly Door is a valuable resource for all families and communities."*—M. Meharry



**The Dragonfly Buzzette** is the official newsletter of The Dragonfly Project and is published twice a year. The next issue will be published in Fall 2013. The Dragonfly Buzzette committee consists of Julie Bonde, Peter Bonde, Anne Marquardt Brooker, Sharon Foss, Valerie Marquardt, Cheryl Seefeldt, 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](mailto:marciak@dragonflyproject.org) (put "address changes" as the subject) Or The Dragonfly Project, c/o Marcia Kurtz, 46 North 16th Avenue, Hopkins, MN55343

## Want to Donate?

### A. Go to [www.dragonflyproject.org](http://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](mailto:treasurer@dragonflyproject.org) as the e-mail address.
- Follow the PayPal instructions to complete.

### C. Go to our GiveMN website:

- [givemn.razoo.com/story/The-Dragonfly-Project](http://givemn.razoo.com/story/The-Dragonfly-Project)
- follow the directions on the website to donate with your credit card.



## September 2012

--March 2013

### MEMORIALS:

In Memory of Shirley Alper  
Given by Deborah Dupuis-Gass

In Memory of Patrice Anderson  
Given by Jeanne Michaud

In Memory of Ashley Johnson Aschenberg  
Given by James Aschenberg

In Memory of George Bandik  
Given by Margaret Righeimer

In Memory of Sharon A. Bauer  
Given by Ladonna Kiefat

In Memory of Earl and Hans Bonde  
Given by Gerald and Denise Bonde

In Memory of Hans Bonde  
Given by Pete and Julie Bonde

Given by Erik Johnson

Given by Dwight Dyrud

Given by Judy Salkas

In Memory of Nancy Bonde  
Given by Sue Trnka

In Memory of Joseph (Joe) Buttacavoli  
Given by Maureen Yorston

In Memory of Dolores Cavallo  
Given by Janet Otten

In Memory of Tara Christensen  
Given by Diane Christensen

In Memory of Ernest Crady  
Given by Betty Tucker

In Memory of Dale  
Given by Lou Ann Beal

In Memory of Sally Dale  
Given by Judy and Richard Olsen

In Memory of Irene DeBernardi  
Given by Delphine Arme

In Memory of Derl Donnell  
Given by John Donnell

In Memory of Dr. John & Carol Dooley  
Given by Janet Otten

In Memory of Betty Doris  
Given by Tiffany Taylor

In Memory of Victoria Dorkins  
Given by Jean Ferdinande

In Memory of David W. Dupuis II  
Given by Deborah Dupuis-Gass

In Memory of Kathy Ellison  
Given by Colleen Kiffmeyer

In Memory of Fran Engstrom  
Given by Delphine Arme

In Memory of Harris R. Grabow  
Given by Janet Otten

In Memory of Conrad Grove  
Given by Curtis Grove

In Memory of Jerry Gumbelton  
Given by Robin Elm

In Memory of Helen  
Given by Robin Elm

In Memory of Peter Hillesheim  
Given by P. J. Heidelberg

In Memory of Paul Holmgren  
Given by Charlotte and Paul Englund

In Memory of Laverne Hostetler  
Given by Betty Tucker

In Memory of John Iverson  
Given by Nancy Dvoracek

In Memory of Gregg Johnson  
Given by Nancy Dvoracek

In Memory of Helmut Kahlert  
Given by Sandy Wallace

In Memory of Paul Keller  
Given by Gloria Keller

In Memory of Sawyer Jean Anne Kennedy  
Given by Mary L Wildermuth

In Memory of William Krawchuk  
Given by Linda Krawchuk

In Memory of Scott Kull  
Given by Michele Moskwa

In Memory of James "Moon" Landi  
Given by Deborah Dupuis-Gass

In Memory of Duncan Lasley  
Given by Elizabeth Lasley

In Memory of Shawn Laudenbach  
Given by Judith Laudenbach

In Memory of Dick Lipa  
Given by Margaret Lipa

In Memory of John MacCormack  
Given by Mary Fitzgerald

In Memory of Kathy Mahoney  
Given by Becky (Rebecca) Fillmore

In Memory of Wally Marquardt  
Given by Valerie Marquardt

Given by Marcy Marquardt

In Memory of Zachary Scott Matschiner  
Given by Kathy Matschiner

In Memory of Margaret McDevaney  
Given by Deborah Dupuis-Gass

In Memory of Joan McDonnell  
Given by Britt-Inger McDonnell

In Memory of Tom McKenna  
Given by Stephanie Carlson

In Memory of JoAnn Miller  
Given by Sharon Foss

In Memory of Melissa Moore  
Given by Mary Sneide

In Memory of Les Moore  
Given by Charlotte and Paul Englund

In Memory of Mother  
Given by Georgia Savat

In Memory of Robert Netzloff  
Given by Diane Netzloff

In Memory of Bill Nolan  
Given by Charlotte Brooker

In Memory of Fred Nordenstrom  
Given by Charlotte and Paul Englund

In Memory of John Paul Novak  
Given by indy Novak

In Memory of Daniel Oltrogge  
Given by S. Oltrogge

In Memory of Mr. Lenny Parisi  
Given by Lori Prairie

In Memory of Keith M. Patterson  
Given by Richard Patterson

In Memory of John R. Paul  
Given by Audrey Paul

In Memory of Nickolas Paul, Son  
Given by Jeaninne Engler

In Memory of Douglas H. Peel  
Given by Patricia Peel

In Memory of Dennis Peters  
Given by Karen Kuwik

In Memory of Steven D. Platte  
Given by Janet Platte

In Memory of Keven Printz  
Given by Lisa Simmons

In Memory of Jake Rebecsek  
Given by Sandi Rebecsek

In Memory of Bruce Reimann  
Given by Valerie Marquardt

In Memory of Jason Rhea  
Given by Diane Feeney

In Memory of John M Roll  
Given by Leona Roll

In Memory of Leroy Sampson  
Given by Deborah Dupuis-Gass

In Memory of Students & Staff  
of Sandy Hook Elementary  
Given by Betty Bordwell

Given by Julie Christiansen

Given by Jan Johnson

Given by Linnea Solem

Given by Alison Samph

Given by Cheryl Biegler

Given by Valerie Marquardt

In Memory of Jake Sargent  
Given by Stephanie Carlson

In Memory of Delores & Russell Scaringi  
Given by Deborah Dupuis-Gass

In Memory of Alex D. Schlieff  
Given by Judith Schlieff

In Memory of Daughter Sherri  
Given by Judy Korblick

In Memory of Fumie Sikkila  
Given by Peggy Iverson

In Memory of Guy Smith  
Given by Marcia Smith

In Memory of Alex Solberg  
Given by Lisa Grant

In Memory of Michael Steadland  
Given by Janice Steadland

In Memory of Robert Taylor Jr  
Given by Tiffany Taylor

In Memory of Tommy Trixy & Amos  
Given by Margaret Klette

In Memory of Adam Vant Hof  
Given by Gene and Becky Van't Hof

In Memory of Margaret Voce  
Given by Ladonna Kiefat

In Memory of Austin Wagar  
Given by Jamie Olson

In Memory of Jeff Wagenlander  
Given by Margaret Wagenlander

In Memory of Joan Weiss, Love of My Life  
Given by Robert Weiss

In Memory of Alberta Whitaker  
Given by Amy Hennen

In Memory of Alberta Whtaker  
Given by Norman Whitaker

In Memory of Elaine J. Willis  
Given by Jeanne Walz

In Memory of Julie Woltzen  
Given by Joyce Woltzen

In Memory of Marilyn York  
Given by Jennifer McCann

In Memory of Mark Zahn  
Given by Michael Porter

In Memory of Margit Zimonyi  
Given by Evelyn Wicker

### IN HONOR OF:

In Honor of Kells/Peterson Wedding  
Given by Marcia Henigman

Given by Dawn Peterson

Given by Mary Jo Anderson

Given by Ray D. Anderson

Given by Phyllis Miller

Given by Valerie Marquardt

Given by Cheryl and Glenn Seefeldt

Given by Tom Peterson

In Honor of Jan Savat Lynch  
Given by Georgia Savat

### IN KIND DONATIONS:

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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](http://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](http://www.dragonflyproject.org).