

AT OUR RECEPTION

Help the Dragonfly Project's mission of spreading hope to those who are grieving

7 sympathy card designs available



Other items available for purchase:

Children's Books:

"The Dragonfly Door" by John Adams

"The Dragonfly Secret" by Clea & John Adams

"Dragonfly Moments" CD by Darolyn Gray and 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
Minneapolis, MN 55419

dragonflyproject.org



Thank you to our sponsors!



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DRAGONFLY PROJECT

Celebration & Remembrance Event
Bringing You a Message of Hope

Saturday, March 11th, 2023 | 1:00 pm

21st Annual Celebration

THE PROGRAM



-  **Prelude**
"Siciliana" performed by Carmina Stensland
-  **Welcome**
Julie Bonde, Hans's Mom
-  **Reading of the Dragonfly Story**
Luke Bonde, Hans's Brother
-  **Dragonfly Project Update**
Karen Bonde, Board of Directors Chair
-  **My Dragonfly Story #1**
Nancy Proulx, Dragonfly Project card recipient
-  **Special Music**
"Welcome to the Light" by Sarah Burgess, arranged and performed by Luke Bonde & Annie Schlaefer
- My Dragonfly Story #2**
Julie Wylie, Dragonfly Project supporter
-  **Memorial Montage**
Created by Julie Bonde
Music composed and performed by Luke Bonde
-  **Candle Lighting Ceremony**
Ben Schori, Nativity Pastor
"La Folia" by Antonio Vivaldi performed by Carmina Stensland
-  **Challenge Match**
Pete and Julie Bonde
Paula & Dan McQuillen
-  **Closing Remarks**
Julie Bonde, Hans's Mom
-  **Postlude**
"Lesson for Two Lutes" by John Downland, performed by Carmina Stensland

Event committee: Karen Bonde, Pete Bonde, & Julie Bonde
Program design: Jen and Emma DeBruin



THANK YOU 2022 VOLUNTEERS!



General Volunteers

Jacob Bonde
Julie Bonde
Karen Bonde
Luke Bonde
Pete Bonde
Donna Brandell
Anne Brooker
Dawn Dahlberg
Ann Danko
Cole DeBruin
Emma DeBruin
Jennifer DeBruin
Michelle Dehn
Beth Fischer

Sharon Foss
Kelly Gleonde
Lisa Hanneman
Amy Hennen
Arlaine Higgins
Patsy Kahmann
Marcia Kurtz
Sue Lamprich
Tina Langhans
Michelle Lease
Jack Lechler
Jermaine Lechler
Valerie Marquardt
Paula McQuillen

Dan McQuillen
Kristen Nold
Bob Parrott
Nicci Rider
Winda Roets
Melissa Sandry
Georgia Savat
Jan Savat-Lynch
Janell Stanton Soderberg
PJ Tombarge
Brianna Walvoort
Annie Young
Courage Kenny
Rehab Group

Adopt-a-State Volunteers

Debbie Ansin
Jeanne Bartlett
Leanne Burkman
Josi Burkhart
Donna Campbell
Mara Christensen
Natasha Cronsell
Jennifer DeBruin
Alyssa Dodds
Diane Feeney
Eileen Fink
Caitlyn Fitzchowen
Kathy Floresch
Rebecca Gentry
Shirley Gilliam
Sheri Gittinger
Cindy Glover

Judi Good
Anne Greigo
Brenna Grund
Lisa Hanneman
Lori Harmer
Michelle Haygood
Amy Hennen
Kim Karsnia
Gloria Keller
Julie Kimball
Joanne Kintop
Teresa Kohman
Sally Kramer
Lisa Kretsch
Natalie Kritenbrink
Michelle Kubiak
Nicole Kunza

Sue Lamprich
Becky Laney
Tina Langhans
Brenda Leigh
Erika Leraaen
Susan Lewis
Amy Lindgren
Valerie Loutsch
Paula McQuillen
Regina Medina
Vera Miller
Callie Ogburn
Michaela Ohlemann
Pam Olson
Tanya Renner
Anne Roberts
Winda Roets

Dawn Roggenkamp
Jeanne Rosdahl
Alura Rose
Sharon Said
Holly Schott
Joan Schneider
June Shashura
Mary Shaw
Kimberly Sitko
Bertha Steele
Katy Swimelar
Meg Swimelar
Wanda Taylor
Linda Tygar
Tammy Weber
Kristin Wehrman
Sonja Yadon
Kristin Zigan





RECIPIENT RESPONSES

I recently lost my best friend/girlfriend/rock of 10 years and you guys sent her family a letter. I just wanted to say thank you. I wrote most of what I want to say on their post but it is reassuring to know that people can be so compassionate and care about complete strangers of their own free will. It is truly inspiring and I don't have anything I can do or give but I'm going to try writing a song about what you guys do. It is incredible. Thank you so much. -Zach

Today, on Father's Day, we received our card when we got to church. Friday marked 3 months since our son's passing. Thank you so very much!! Such a beautiful gesture! ♥ Kim

Lost my husband January 2022, we have a private pond with Lily pads and lots of dragonflies. They always remind me of my sweetheart. Love this! A friend gave me one of your cards and I plan to pay it forward. Thanks again. -Annie

Thank you so much for these beautiful cards and keychains. My mom received one from you after the death of my daughter and we just love it because when my beautiful Jennifer Rose was taken from us due to Domestic Violence, we saw dragonflies everywhere for months. They are very special to our family! -Michelle

Thank you so much for all you do in providing a small, yet meaningful gift for those that are experiencing a loss. My best friend lost a child, she fell upon your website one night. Sent us all cards from you with keychains in honor of her son. Since then, I have continued to pass it forward by doing the same to others, in honor of my best friend, her son, and all those who have loved ones they've lost. So grateful! -Katie

Thank you for all you do-I have been sending these cards for years. I received a card when my 21-year-old daughter died in a car accident. It was so comforting. - Rose



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*



2023 CHALLENGE MATCH

Paula & Dan McQuillen, longtime supporters of the Dragonfly Project, have graciously agreed to provide a challenge match of \$2,000 for today's event. They have hosted several large packet-making events over the years in conjunction with their Friends Forever church group. Paula dedicated many years of helping with our bulk mailings of packets and recently retired from this role.

Additionally, Pete & Julie Bonde will match \$1,000. Pete is our Executive Director and manages our computer systems. Julie manages our website and packet events and helps create the Buzzette newsletter. This brings the total Challenge Match to \$3,000. Watch our match thermometer rise on our website!

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

2022 Packet Assembly Groups



Did you know, about 10 people touch a card packet with their hands and heart before it's sent to the final recipient?

Keychains are assembled, cards folded, envelopes stamped and stuffed, obituaries searched, addresses found, cards get addressed, and finally cards are sorted by zip code and delivered to post office.

Thrivent Action Teams

- Emma DeBruin & UW-Madison Students
- Julie & Pete Bonde & friends
- Melissa Sandry & friends
- Nativity Lutheran General Volunteers-God's Work, Our Hand Event
- Winda Roets & friends
- Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN
- Ann Bistodeau & friends

Thrivent Champions Events

- Appleton, WI
- Minneapolis, MN

Group Events

- Cooper High School IB Students, Robinsdale, MN
- KIDS4 Event, Crystal, MN
- Megan McLeod & Sisters, St. Anthony, MN
- Trinity Lutheran Church, Bismarck, ND
- Volunteer Event for Compassionate Friends Conference Outreach
- Women in Action, Nativity Lutheran Church, St. Anthony, MN
- WoMN Strong, Anoka, MN

Extra Keychain Makers

- Ann Danko
- Jack & Germaine Lechler
- Jen DeBruin & Thrivent contact center employees
- Kim Verrechia

Volunteer Opportunities



- Adopt-A-State
- Annual Celebration planning or volunteer
- Packet assembly
- Social media and communications
- Data entry

Visit the volunteer section on dragonflyproject.org to apply for one of these opportunities.



Thank you for being here today!

Welcome to the 21st Annual Dragonfly Project Celebration & Remembrance Event! We are excited to have you join us in person for an afternoon of profound stories, celebrating this year's accomplishments, music, remembering loved ones, and reconnecting with other Dragonfly Project supporters. Welcome all those who could attend!

A very special thanks to Andy Birkey for his artistic efforts, designing this year's invitation and artwork. Also thank you to Nancy Proulx and Julie Wylie for sharing their dragonfly story with us today! We are honored to have guitar music provided by Carmina Stensland and special music provided by Luke Bonde and Annie Schlaefer. Also, we'd like to thank Nicci Rider for providing the photography for today. A special thanks to Luke Bonde for reading the Dragonfly Story. A big thank you to Donna Brandell and Jennifer DeBruin for designing the table decorations and special gift for those attending the reception today. Furthermore, thank you to Julie Bonde for creating the Memorial Montage, Ben Schori for the Candle Lighting Ceremony and Bob Parrott for his 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.

Business Update

By Pete Bonde



The Dragonfly Project is celebrating its 21st anniversary this year. Since 2002, we have sent out over 154,000 dragonfly packets, each representing an individual or family touched by our mission.

In 2022, we reached our goal of sending out over 13,000 packets. Half of these were from our website and one-third of them as part of the Adopt-a-State program. This program entails volunteers searching online obituaries to find recipients who lost a loved one and sending a card to them. Currently our 60 Adopt-a-State volunteers cover 44 states as well as outreach to Canada. We would love to increase our coverage to all 50 states! To volunteer for the Adopt-a-State program, visit our website.

Some additional highlights from 2022 include:

- Distributed 630 packets and 31 Dragonfly Door books to families and staff of three schools through our School Outreach program.
- Provided 352 packets to the 32nd precinct in NY City and people impacted by the Waukesha, WI parade tragedy.
- Sent an additional 55 books as part of our Dragonfly Door outreach.
- Nativity Lutheran Church members assembled 5,953 packets. Additionally, they supported us in many ways including lending space for events and board meetings, providing volunteers, and promoting our mission.
- Thrivent employees assembled 1,530 packets and 4,799 keychains. Thrivent is our number one financial supporter through many program offerings including Thrivent Action Teams and Thrivent Choice.
- Supported The Compassionate Friends' annual conference by providing 1,200 packets.
- Cooper High School made 3,025 card packets for us in December.

Financially, The Dragonfly Project continues to do well, and we have a very strong balance sheet. We raised over \$2,088 at our GiveMN event and appreciate your support.

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
FOUNDER | ANNE MARQUARDT BROOKER