

January 2006

Volume 2

# The Dragonfly Buzzette



Newsletter for The Dragonfly Project

## Anne & The Dragonfly Project featured in Seventeen magazine by Anne Brooker

My friend and Dragonfly Project volunteer, Maggie Kane, wrote an essay about me and entered it in a contest in *Seventeen* magazine for girls who are good role models. I was one of five winners ages 13-17! In October I was flown to New York City to participate in a photo shoot with

the other winners at the Statue of Liberty, and a reporter for the magazine interviewed me about the Project. It was very fun to talk with the other winners and to hear about their volunteer work. The other winners' work included helping cancer patients, raising funds for juvenile

diabetes research, promoting fire safety, and making documentaries on missing children. The article on the teen volunteers is in the February issue of *Seventeen* (on newsstands now) and more pictures and the winning essays are online at [Seventeen.com](http://Seventeen.com).

## KARE 11 Honors Anne

Anne Marquardt Brooker received an "Eleven Who Care" award from KARE-11 Television on September 7, 2005, on behalf of the work she does for The Dragonfly Project. The Eleven Who Care event was televised live throughout the Channel 11's viewing area, and the program honored eleven volunteers who contributed to the community through their volunteer efforts. The eleven honorees were selected by a

board of governors of community and business leaders from nominations submitted by individuals and organizations. When asked how she felt about getting this award, Anne responded "It was such a special night! One of the coolest things about it was meeting and talking with the other recipients and hearing about their volunteer work." For additional information about each of the eleven award recipients, log onto to [kare11.com](http://kare11.com).



### Board of Directors:

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## Inspired Women's Retreat Rewards and Awards by Julie Bonde

We were grateful and surprised, more than once, by the results of our first silent auction which was held at the Inspired Women's Retreat, October 1, 2005. It was a privilege for me to share my dragonfly story and speak on Anne's behalf to the many women who attended the retreat at the Carondelet Center in St. Paul, but the bigger blessing was the Silent Auction. All one hundred two items that were donated sold. We were able to raise \$3,053 for The Dragonfly Project. The generosity and success of the auction surpassed all our expectations. Thanks to Anne Brooker, Valerie Marquardt, Leslie Vatne for their superb planning and leadership. Thank you to all those who donated products and services for the auction. And also a special thank you to Janae Bower for giving us space and graciously promoting this fundraiser.

The success of the Silent Auction was not the end of our surprises however. Janae Bower, Inspired Women's Retreat organizer and author of *The Little Girl Who Found IT* had another surprise for us. She awarded Anne Brooker and all the women/girls of The Dragonfly Project with her newly established "Power of IT Award." Anne was not able to attend the conference but several of the volunteers from The Dragonfly Project accepted on her behalf. At a recent Dragonfly Project board meeting Janae Bower was able to give the award, a beautiful hand-made quilted heart, to Anne personally. Congratulations to Anne and The Dragonfly Project women. Thank you Janae for this honor.

For more info about Janae Bower's work, see her website at [www.findingIT.com](http://www.findingIT.com)

## Meet Pete Bonde, Board Member, Treasurer, IT Specialist

When Anne Brooker asked Pete to be a member of The Dragonfly Project Board of Directors, he said yes. It was an easy yes. Pete's involvement on the board gives him the chance to daily honor the death of his son Hans in September 2000, and to pass on hope to others. His first priority as a board member has been to purchase a computer for The Dragonfly Project. This has involved setting up all the software and getting all the financial records entered and balanced. It has been an enjoyable challenge. Most evenings and weekends, you can find Pete sitting in his home office at the computer entering information, figuring out a new QuickBooks function, or balancing the books. Pete has worked at Thrivent Financial (formerly Lutheran Brotherhood) for 25 years in the IT (Information Technology) department first as a programmer, and then applications analyst, later manager and now IT project team lead. Since the purchase of his first PC 24 years ago, computers have been a hobby at home as well. Pete and wife Julie

received the dragonfly story in 2001. He is passionate about sharing his story of loss, grief, and hope with other employees who are grieving. It gives him great satisfaction to help others with their grief journeys and being part of The Dragonfly Project just makes it that much easier.



# Save the Date!

The Dragonfly Project Annual Celebration

1:00 pm, April 1, 2006

Nativity Lutheran Church

3312 Silver Lake Road, St. Anthony Village

All are welcome to attend.

Please R.S.V.P. to [RSVP@dragonflyproject.org](mailto:RSVP@dragonflyproject.org).

## A Word from Anne

Hello! It has been a wonderful and exciting few months for the Dragonfly Project. There have been many opportunities to spread the hopeful message of the dragonfly story. I have given several speeches to various groups including a Kiwanis club in northeast Minneapolis, the Bloomington-Richfield Grief Support Coalition, and Partnership Resources, Inc., in St. Louis Park.

I also have had the opportunity to participate in some very neat events, such as the Seventeen magazine photo shoot in New York City and a video recording session locally at Jamesland Studios ([www.jamesland.com](http://www.jamesland.com)) in Maple Grove. Jamesland Studios has become an in-kind donor for The Dragonfly Project and is helping us create a promo DVD about our good work as well as content for a webcast. The owner of Jamesland Studios also is a founder of a 24/7 internet broadcasting company called NetjamsTV ([netjamstv.com](http://netjamstv.com)) which features a Sports Channel, a News Channel, a Specialty broadcasting channel and seven TV/music channels and global broadcasting capability. Anna Bablitch (my friend and a Dragonfly Project volunteer/board member) and I recorded a short video about the Dragonfly Project that will run on NetJamsTV shortly. In the video, Anna and I talked about the outreach that the Dragonfly

Project does. The employees at Jamesland Studios made this new experience for us a really fun and enjoyable one. Check our website for updates about the airing of the video.

Dragonfly Project volunteer, John Adams, has been busy making updates to our website, and as a result we have been getting more requests for dragonfly packets from all over the country! For the months of August through December, 1215 condolence packets have been sent. This has all been possible because of our wonderful volunteers and generous donors. We look forward to the outreach that we will do in 2006 to comfort those who are grieving.

*Anne Brooker*

Anne Marquardt Brooker  
Founder



## Recipient Response Letters

### IN MEMORY OF CADEN FAIR

Dear Anne,

My husband and I received a dragonfly packet from you last week in the mail. Our son, Caden, passed away in early August at the age of 3 ½ months due to a rare chromosomal defect known as Trisomy 22. Caden was our first child. I never understood how you could move on after such a loss but you do. It is through the support you receive, many times from people you don't even know, that pulls you through. We are so grateful to have had Caden here with us and would do it all over again to have the 3 ½ wonderful months we had with him. We have turned what could have been a very negative experience into a positive experience and only hope that when we are able to, we can give back to other parents who suffer the loss of a child.

When my husband and I watched the Eleven Who Care this year it was very emotional. Dayle and Bruce Schnack (who were also Eleven Who Care awards recipients) donated their time to photograph our family the week before Caden passed-just over a month before the show aired. I am not sure how we could ever tell them what their generosity has meant to our family. Little did we know how much your story would also move us and that on one of those days when we were missing Caden so very much I would open up the mail box to find the dragonfly. I also cannot tell you how much your kind action has meant to us. Thank you. You are an amazing young person with an amazing heart. I can only begin to imagine how far you are going to go in life. It meant so much to us to receive the dragonfly story as we believe Caden has transitioned and is looking down on us.

Once again, thank you.

Greg, Alayne and our "little angel" Caden

(written by Alayne Fair)



### IN MEMORY OF RACHEL SCHREINER

Dear Anne,

We continue to mourn the death of our daughter, Rachel, on June 13, 2005, after a nine year battle with breast cancer. We praise God that Rachel got to know your Mom and you in the years before her death. The legend of the Dragonfly was a source of strength and hope for her especially in her last days. She lived - and died - in the faith that there is more to life than we can see with our eyes, that we never really "lose" a loved one; they are waiting for us to join them in eternal life.

Soon after Rachel's death, we joined a grief support group sponsored by Mercy Hospital, Coon Rapids, MN. We quickly noticed that several group members were wearing dragonfly pins. We learned that you had visited the support groups at Mercy almost two years ago and shared the legend of the dragonfly. The story became a source of comfort and hope for many of your listeners. They witnessed to that hope by wearing the dragonfly pins.

The dragonfly symbol has become a way for grieving people to identify each other and offer each other support. It reminds us that we are not alone in our grief. Others have walked this way before. They are ready to walk with us down that painful path. It also reminds us that there are other grieving people out there who need our help and support. We need to look beyond ourselves and our grief and share the strength and hope that God has given us.

Thanks, Anne, for introducing Rachel and us to the legend and symbol of the dragonfly.

Palmer and Lois Ruschke

(written by Palmer Ruschke)



Anne Brooker, founder of the Dragonfly Project, is available for speaking engagements. Anne has spoken at Women's Retreats, Rotary Clubs, Kiwanis Clubs, churches, grief support groups and other community organizations.

If you are interested in having Anne speak to your group, please contact us at [dragonflyproject@yahoo.com](mailto:dragonflyproject@yahoo.com)

## A BIG THANK YOU to all Volunteers! By Julie Bonde

A big thank-you to all our volunteers who offered their time and their hearts to help us continue to grow and reach grieving families. Several volunteer events were held in October, November and December to assemble packets in order to stock up for the holidays and beyond.

On October 12, 2005, Julie Bonde shared the story of The Dragonfly Project at a Lunch 'n' Learn event at Thrivent Financial after which twenty employees spent a half hour making packets. This

prompted the Birthday Bag group at Thrivent to offer their services. At a second packet event on November 16, hundreds more packets were made. In addition to giving time and labor, the Thrivent Minneapolis Corporate Chapter has also generously covered the cost of supplies used on those days. We look forward to a continued relationship with this outstanding group of people.

A special thank you to the four 9<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation girls and the women at the

fall retreat for Nativity Lutheran Church who made key chains to put in packets. November 19 and 20, two groups, involving adult, youth and Sunday School Children at Nativity assembled packets. And in December, the Happy Hustler 4-H Club in Circle Pines heard The Dragonfly Project story and helped with packets.

Thanks to all these people, we were able to assemble a total of 2,489 packets from October through December!

## Volunteer Spotlight



### NICOLE MAVES

Nicole read about The Dragonfly Project (TDP) in Women's Business Minnesota in September 2004. She contacted Anne to see how she and her co-workers could volunteer. There was a need for some forms to be created to help with the organizing of the packets being sent out. She was then invited to the Annual Celebration in April 2005. She was so moved by the TDP and hearing the personal stories of people who have been affected by the project that she asked how else she could help.

The Dragonfly Project found the perfect fit for her. She is now responsible for the email requests that come in through TDP website. Nicole finds her work extremely rewarding. Nicole says, "I volunteer because this is such an amazing project and I am inspired by Anne and her need to help others. When I read the personal stories they tug at my heart strings, but it makes me so happy to know that the work we are doing is really making a difference to them during this very difficult time."

Notice to all volunteers: Please keep track of your hours and report them monthly by email to Nicole Maves at [nmaves@alpine-capital.com](mailto:nmaves@alpine-capital.com).

If you are interested in volunteering contact Julie Bonde at [volunteers@dragonflyproject.org](mailto:volunteers@dragonflyproject.org).

## 10,000 Villages Store Raises Money for The Dragonfly Project

Ten Thousand Villages chose The Dragonfly Project as one of their benefit night recipients in December of 2005. On a designated evening, 20% of the profits from sales went to The Dragonfly Project. The total amount donated by 10,000 Villages was \$505.00.

Ten Thousands Villages provides income to Third World people by marketing their handcrafts and telling their stories in North America. Ten Thousand Villages works with artisans who would otherwise be unemployed or underemployed. This

income helps pay for essentials such as food, education, housing, health care and education. This is a wonderful place to shop for gifts because the purchases that are made support artisans who need income.

Kathy, the manager of Ten Thousand Villages stated, "We are delighted to support The Dragonfly Project because it serves in such a kind way members of our community (or seeking to console those) suffering the profound loss of loved ones."

For more information about Ten Thousand Villages (located in St. Paul at 867 Grand Avenue), visit their website at [www.tenthousandvillages.com](http://www.tenthousandvillages.com) or call 651-225-1043.

The Dragonfly Project is grateful for the money donated by Ten Thousand Villages. As a result of this generous donation, 168 packets will be sent to grieving families.

## Spanish Translation of The Dragonfly Story

### El Cuento de Libélula

Al fondo de un estanque viejo vivían unos gusanos que no entendían porque ninguno de su grupo regresaba después de subir los tallos de los lirios a la superficie del agua. Se prometieron entre ellos que el siguiente que fuera llamado para subir regresaría y les contaría lo que le paso. Poco después uno de ellos sintió un impulso urgente para buscar la superficie, descanso un momento sobre la almohada de un lirio y paso por una gloriosa transformación, el cual lo convirtió en una libélula con alas preciosas. Trato de cumplir con su promesa, pero fue en vano. Volando sobre el estanque, vio a sus amigos abajo. Al ver a sus amigos se dio cuenta que aunque lo podían ver no lo reconocerían como uno de su grupo porque ahora era una criatura radiante.

Aunque no podemos ver a nuestro amigos o comunicarnos con ellos después de la transformación que llamamos la muerte, no hay prueba ninguna de que dejen de existir.

- Por Walter Dudley Cavert

### Translator's Comments Story Translated into Spanish by Lilly Emery

The opportunity to translate a beautiful poem such as the one Anne uses for her Dragonfly cards is wonderful. As a translator I love the challenge of making sure the original intent of a poem shines through in it's translation. It gives me great pleasure to know that Anne's gift may now be enjoyed by others who don't speak English. A truly cross-cultural gift

that is at the heart of what Bridging Cultures offers - the bridge between your English and foreign languages needs.

[We are grateful to Lilly Emery for donating her time to do this translation for us. Lilly's business is Bridging Cultures. Her website is [www.bc-languages.com](http://www.bc-languages.com).]



### Donor Spotlight



#### MAGGIE KANE

Maggie has been volunteering with the Dragonfly Project for about two years. She first learned of the organization in seventh grade through Anne. She began volunteering because she thought it was amazing that her friend had her very own non-profit organization.

The Dragonfly Project is an organization that Maggie supports because she thinks that the message it sends is so amazing. As Maggie says, "One of the most comforting thoughts to me is that even after you lose someone close to you, they are still watching over you and are not completely gone at all." She puts aside part of her allowance every week and then a few times a year, she donates half of it to her church and the other half to the Dragonfly Project.

Maggie, 15, is a 9th grader. She attends Southwest High School and is in the International Baccalaureate program along with Anne Brooker. In her free time, Maggie likes to Irish Dance. She also play drums and guitar.

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## Donor Spotlight

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### HEATHER CUMMINGS

In 2002, I was finishing my final year of graduate school for Speech-Language Pathology at the U of MN. I had anxiously been awaiting my final placement, a hospital setting. I was placed at Mercy Hospital in Coon Rapids, MN. My new clinical supervisor was an angel sent straight from heaven, her name was Valerie Marquardt.. We connected immediately in many ways. We spent nearly 10 weeks together. During those weeks we learned a lot about one another. We discovered shortly that my home town of Pine City was right next to her husband Greg's hometown of Rush City. We then found out that my aunt Candy was Valerie's mother-in-law's hair stylist. We happened to have many unique connections that seemed to have a magical way of surfacing.

Valerie spoke often of her daughter Anne, and told me about this wonderful nonprofit organization she had started. I remember thinking she was an amazing 11 year old! The organization was of course The Dragonfly Project, which at that time was in the beginning stages of development. During my time at Mercy Hospital with Valerie, a high school friends' brother, Patrick Bombard, died in a terrible accident. My friend Brad lived in California at the time, and I had not seen him in over five years. I wanted to do something for him and his family, as many of us do during times like these. But I was not sure what I should or even could do. Valerie offered to have Anne send both Brad and his family, the Bombards, dragonfly packets. Those were the first packets I ever sent out. I never knew the kind of impact that simple act of empathy could invoke. The dragonfly poem and symbolism ended up making a big difference in that family's life. This past year the Bombard family was on the news spotlighting The Dragonfly Project and telling their special stories related to the project.

I have sent out many packets to friends and family over the past three years. I have always received gracious feedback from those that have been touched by the comforting poem, keychain, and card. Then on June 3, 2005, I for the first time found out what it felt like to be on the receiving end. My dad, Gary Cummings, was killed in a tragic accident at work. He was 57 years old. I had spoke with him the day before, making plans for the summer—BBQ's, birthday celebrations, and weekend trips to Pine City. My world stopped in an instant.

Although I had read the dragonfly poem at least 30 times before, when I received my personalized packet from Valerie, Anne, and Greg, it felt like it was the first time I had ever read it. I never dreamed that I would be receiving one...so soon in my eyes.

This Fall I donated a memorial on behalf of my dad because of my love for him and I do not want to see the chain end. I wanted to contribute to this great cause. I knew my dad would be so proud, looking down, knowing I had donated to such a wonderful cause in his name.

I wish that every single person who loses someone they love could have the opportunity to receive a dragonfly packet. During the darkest moments of grief, when nothing else seems to help, it is a blessing from heaven that this story can ease the pain. I believe that my personal dragonfly has buzzed full circle. What started out as me giving this story to others has turned in to those same people giving it back to me. This summer at a birthday celebration the Bombard family gave my brother, sister, and I some very special gifts. I received a stain glass dragonfly to hang in my window, a dragonfly card, and a big hug. How powerful!

The human act of pure kindness and compassion for others is the best gift anyone can give or receive. The Dragonfly Project is just that. It is a warm and comforting blessing. I know that it has changed my life and thousands of others. I thank The Dragonfly Project from the bottom of my heart. I thank Anne and her parents. I especially thank Valerie for bringing this into my life. I plan on staying involved for a very long time.

In loving memory,  
Heather L. Cummings

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<b>DID YOU KNOW THAT...The Dragonfly Project is staffed completely by volunteers?</b>
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## THE WINTER OF GRIEF

By Julie Bonde

As I walk through the season's first heavy snow fall,  
 The howling wind sends icy chills down my spine.  
 The lengthening night sandwiches my day in darkness.  
 The sun seems almost forgotten on this short cloudy day.  
 The season matches the cold, gloom of my grief.  
 The proper length for mourning my son eludes me.  
 A year is not enough to let go of a lifetime.  
 I lean forward into the wind, pulling my coat and hat closer around me.  
 I am determined to weather the winter storms however long it takes.  
 Though the season continues shrouded in the shadows,  
 There is one small gem shining to light the way.  
 It is the knowledge that I am loved, that I have loved,  
 And that I am free to choose to love again.  
 This small treasure glowing in my heart warms me.  
 I will conquer grief's challenge with hope,  
 And the spring will come again.



*A message of hope  
 for those who are grieving.*

P.O. Box 19264, Minneapolis, MN 55419

dragonflyproject@yahoo.com — www.dragonflyproject.org

### THOUSANDS OF DRAGONFLIES

Total numbers of dragonfly packets sent by year:

Year #1 (Feb 2002—Feb 2003) 233 packets

Year #2 (Mar 2003—March 2004) 433 packets

Year #3 (Apr 2004—Apr 2005) 1,444 packets

Year #4 (May 2005—Dec 2005) 2,038 packets!!!

Your support has made this possible.

Thanks!

The Dragonfly Buzzette is the official newsletter of The Dragonfly Project. Julie Bonde is editor/designer. Contributing writers in this issue are Julie Bonde, Anne Brooker, Heather Cummings, Alayne Fair, Darolyn Gray, Maggie Kane, Valerie Marquardt, Nicole Maves, and Palmer Ruschke.

# Coming Soon!

## "Dragonfly Moments" Music CD in Production



Dragonfly Moments

We are excited to announce that a CD compilation is currently in process and should be ready for distribution within the next 60 days. The CD starts with a reading of the dragonfly story by gospel virtuoso Robert Robinson, Executive/Artistic Director of the Twin Cities Community Gospel Choir. Following the reading of the story will be a beautiful song I wrote called Dragonfly Moments. I took my inspiration from the many personal stories that people have shared regarding their own dragonfly encounters. In particular, a story shared by the Bonde family about a visit from a lavender dragonfly this past summer prompted me to put some thoughts to music. I was blessed to have some professional musicians, including my friends Rachael Kroog and Libby Turner, assist with the arrangement and their wonderful voices really helped the song take wing. We also thank Dan Schwartz for his technical assistance and input during our most recent recording session. Rachael's vocal and gui-

tar work and Libby's incredible harmonies have helped me create a tender song which we hope will provide comfort and healing as we remember those who are in our hearts always. Rachael and Libby along with other artists are voluntarily contributing additional works to the project, and we are grateful for the tremendous support and enthusiasm we have received from Voiceworks Studio and for the ongoing in-kind support from Jamesland Studios. Special thanks to Elizabeth Seefeldt for the incredible dragonfly photo and to Susan Zukowski for the digital imaging artistry. Other artists who have already expressed an interest in contributing songs or accompaniment include Rick Barron, Nicholas Carter, Holly Collison, Julia Dinsmore, Lauren Redpath, David Livingston, Robert Robinson, Steve Morgan, Dan Schwartz, and Gregory Theisen. Net proceeds from the sale of the CD will go toward the continued outreach of The Dragonfly Project and to other nonprofits we may designate in the future. For information about the CD project or to reserve your advance copy, please contact me at [darolyngray@aol.com](mailto:darolyngray@aol.com).

Happy New Year!  
Darolyn Gray  
Executive Director

One of the dreams of The Dragonfly Project is that language barriers will not prevent us from sharing our hope with others. With that in mind we now have the "Dragonfly Story" by Walter Cavert available in French, Japanese, Vietnamese, Chinese and Spanish (see page 5). We are hoping to also get it translated into Russian.

If you are interested in providing us with a translation please contact us for specifications. Contact us at [dragonflyproject@yahoo.com](mailto:dragonflyproject@yahoo.com) or see our mailing address on the bottom of page 7.

Thanks to all the people who have donated their time to do the translations!

More Translations!

**DID YOU KNOW THAT...**In the summer of 2005, The Dragonfly Project also sent out Dragonfly cards with stories and key chains to 53 families whose loved ones were killed in the London bombings?



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**MEMORIALS and HONORARIUMS****August through December 2005**

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In memory of Chip Arnold  
-given by Richard and Deborah Bancroft

In memory of our unborn children  
-Bernard and Patricia Baier

In memory of LuVerne and Carl Berg  
-given by Valerie Marquardt, Greg Brooker and Anne

In honor of Mildred Berger  
-given by Steven and Jackie Hanson

In memory of Hans Bonde  
-Bill and Barb Bonde

In memory of Don Brooker  
-Given by Valerie, Greg and Anne

In memory of Hannah Brooke Balfour  
-given by Marge and Bill Nolan

In memory of Gary Cummings  
-given by Heather Cummings

In memory of Joey Domke  
-given by John and Jean Domke

In memory of Julie Garceau  
-given by Patrick and Judy Kearin

In memory of Angel Gonzales  
-given by Jessie Nickel

In memory of Sara Jensen  
-given by Steven and Christine Tjossem  
-given by Travas and Sarah Cortright

In memory of Drew Michael Larson  
-given by Blaine and Marilyn Peterson

In honor of the marriage of Lana and Dave Lindstrom  
-given by Ann Rudolph

In memory of Wally Marquardt  
-given by Marcy Marquardt  
-given by Valerie, Greg and Anne

In memory of David Olsen  
-Judy and Rich Olsen

In memory of Jonathan, Leo, Jason, & Angela Plude  
--Sandra Plude

In memory of Michael Radeztsky  
-given by Delmer and Clare Radeztsky

In memory of Liela Read  
-given by Laura and Kevin Mullen

In memory of Kyle Satrom  
-Donn and Linda Satrom

In memory of Severin Savat  
-given by Georgia Savat

In memory of Casey Joe Schluessler  
-given by Randy and Barbara Schluessler

In Memory of Rachel Schreiner  
-given by Lois and Palmer Ruschke  
-given by Ruth and Leonard Lye II

In Memory of Daniel Sowada  
-Lavon Sowada

In memory of Jerry Sparks  
-given by Steve and Jerri Dianne Sparks

In memory of Mike Walker  
-Margaret Whalin

In memory of Lucy Lee Watson  
-given by Marie, Drew and Matthew Hasty

In memory of Peyton Jo Winge  
-Pamela and Michael Winge

In memory of Jayne and Steve  
-Cindi Quehl

In honor of several high school seniors and a young lady  
who made her *Bat Mitzvah*  
-Cindi Quehl


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## DONORS

### August through December 2005

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August through December 2005

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Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

Voiceworks Studio

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The Dragonfly Project  
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Minneapolis, MN 55419

dragonflyproject@yahoo.com  
[www.dragonflyproject.org](http://www.dragonflyproject.org)

*A message of hope  
for those who are grieving.*



**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

Please contact us if your name or address is incorrect.

**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 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 2001 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, hundreds of dragonfly packets are sent out to individuals throughout Minnesota and beyond who are grieving the loss of a loved one.

To make a tax deductible donation to The Dragonfly Project or to request a dragonfly packet be sent to someone you know, please contact us. Each packet containing a condolence card, the dragonfly story and a dragonfly keychain, costs \$3.00 to make and send. The Dragonfly Project is operated by volunteer staff and a volunteer 7-member board of directors. Donations are welcome. The Dragonfly Project is a registered 501 ( c ) (3) non-profit. Your donations are tax-deductible.

For further information and to read the dragonfly story, visit our website at  
[www.dragonflyproject.org](http://www.dragonflyproject.org).

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