



# *Bringing You a Message of Hope*

**The 19th Annual  
Dragonfly Project  
Celebration and Remembrance Event  
Saturday, March 13, 2021**

**The Dragonfly Project 19th Annual  
Celebration & Remembrance Program**

Welcome Julie Bonde  
*Packet Events/Newsletter*

Challenge Match Pete Bonde  
*Executive Director*

Reading of The Dragonfly Story PJ Tombarge  
*Board Member*

Dragonfly Project Update Karen Bonde  
*Board Chair*

My Dragonfly Story Lisa Hanneman  
*Recipient & Adopt-a-State Volunteer*

Special Music GERALYN DANIELSON SORENSEN  
*"Nature's Sweet Endless Song" by Hap Palmer*

My Dragonfly Story Bertha Steele  
*Recipient & Adopt-a-State Volunteer*

Memorial Montage Julie Bonde  
*"Thank You!" composed & performed by Luke Bonde*

How Much is Half a Million? Pete Bonde

Candle Lighting Ceremony Julie & Pete Bonde



*Please put names of loved ones in the chat box.  
While a video of candle lighting is playing, Pete will  
be reading the names from the chat box out loud.*



Closing Remarks Pete Bonde

Small Group Social Time  
*You will be placed in breakout rooms so you can visit  
with each other and meet others in small groups.*

## 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 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Dragonfly Project Celebration & Remembrance Event! Due to the COVID-19 pandemic this year we are having an all virtual Celebration. Using the "Zoom" platform we are excited to have you join us for an afternoon of profound stories, celebrating this year's accomplishments, music, remembering loved ones, and reconnecting with other Dragonfly Project supporters.

Special thanks to Julie Bonde for her artistic efforts, contributing the design for this year's invitation and program. Also thank you to Lisa Hannerman and to Bertha Steele for sharing their dragonfly stories with us today! We are honored to have acoustic music provided by Geralyn Sorensen. A special thanks to PJ Tombarge 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 and Peter Bonde for the Candle Lighting Ceremony.

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 Coordinators: Karen Bonde ~ Pete Bonde ~ Julie Bonde

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR..... Pete Bonde**

**FOUNDER .....Anne Marquardt Brooker**





## **Business Update**

The Dragonfly Project (TDP) is now 19 years old. Since we started in 2002, we have sent out over 130,000 dragonfly packets, each representing an individual or family touched by our mission. In 2020, we sent out over 11,000 packets. More than half of these were from our website. Almost a quarter of these were sent as part of the Adopt-a-State program. In this program, volunteers find people to send a packet to from looking at obituaries taken from newspapers or other sources. Our Adopt-a-State volunteers shrank from 57 to 50 at the end of 2020. The number of states impacted by this program decreased from 39 to 36. We also added Canada to our outreach in 2020. We could use some more Adopt-a-State volunteers!

We sent out 240 packets and 100 Dragonfly Door books to 4 different schools, as part of our School Outreach program, in February of 2020. 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 was severely impacted by COVID-19, which closed schools, and limited volunteer gatherings.

We gave an additional 90 books as part of our *Dragonfly Door* outreach. This included 31 books distributed to Survivor Resources, which offers crisis response, grief support and other services for families of victims of death due to homicide, suicide, accidental overdose, and violent death. We also put books in Minneapolis little libraries, including some in south Minneapolis in memory of George Floyd.

Financially, TDP continues to do well. Although our numbers were down, this was mostly related to the cancelation of our annual event, in which we had expenses but raised little funds. Our Gross Profit was around \$56,000, a 10% decrease from the previous year. Our expenses were a little higher at about \$44,000. Our Net Income was approximately \$20,400, a 20% decrease from 2019. We continue to have a very strong balance sheet.

### **HERE ARE SOME OTHER HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2020:**

Due to the pandemic, our packet making events had to take on a different approach. 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 do in their own homes. This was a challenge and we miss forming relationships with the people who volunteer with us.

Nativity Lutheran Church and its members were involved in packet events where volunteers assembled 6,923 packets. Because Nativity had local volunteers for our new packet process, this is three times as many packets than they made last year. We needed them. Only one of these events were held as a group in person. All other events were virtual or done in homes. Nativity supports The Dragonfly Project in many ways including lending space for events and board meetings, and promoting our mission.

Thrivent Financial and its members were involved in three events where they assembled 1,163 packets and 1,079 extra keychains. Thrivent was also restricted by the pandemic. Thrivent Financial is our number one financial supporter through their many different programs.

The Dragonfly Project started a relationship with Camp Penuel in Costa Rica to bring comfort to those in Hispanic areas who have recently lost a loved one. Camp Penuel's vision is to love others with God's love. They do this by bringing children and youth from impoverished areas to a camp-like setting. Camp Penuel staff is distributing Spanish dragonfly cards and keychains to those needing a message of hope.

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

We welcomed Jennifer DeBruin as a new Dragonfly Project board member. Jennifer comes to us with a wealth of business experience. She is currently a manager in the Life Insurance Operations area at Thrivent Financial.

## Thanks to all our Volunteers!

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

## Adopt-a-State Volunteers for 2020-21

These volunteers pick a city or state and look up obituaries and addresses to send our cards to. To learn more, contact our Adopt a Sate Coordinator, Tina Langhans at [tinal@dragonflyproject.org](mailto:tinal@dragonflyproject.org).

Leanne Burkman	Sheri Gittinger	Teresa Kohman	Amy Lindgren	Jeanne Rosdahl
Donna Campbell	Cindy Glover	Sally Kramer	Valerie Loutsch	Aura Rose
Mara Christiansen	Judi Good	Lisa Kretsch	Vera Miller	Holly Schott
Natasha Cronsell	Brenna Grund	Natalie Krittenbrink	Peggy Mills	Kim Sitko
Jennifer De Bruin	Lisa Hanneman	Michelle Kubiak	Callie Ogburn	Bertha Steele
Aylssa Dodds	Lori Harmer Michelle	Nicole Kunza	Michaela Ohlemann	Katy Swimelar
Diane Feeney	Haygood	Sue Lamprich	Pam Olson	Meg Swimelar
Eileen Fink	Amy Hennen	Becky Laney	Tanya Renner	Linda Tygar
Caitlyn Fitzchowan	Gloria Keller	Brenda Leigh	Jo Roberts	Kristin Zigan
Rebecca Gentry	Julie Kimball	Erika Leraaen	Winda Roets	
Shirley Gilliam	Joanne Kintop	Susan Lewis	Dawn Roggenkamp	

## Packet Assembly Volunteers in 2020

Keychains are assembled, and envelopes are stuffed, usually in a group. With the pandemic shut down in March, we had to have people working on their own at home even if they were part of a group. In addition, some volunteers worked on just keychain assembly. To learn more, contact our Packet Assembly Coordinator, Julie Bonde at [julieb@dragonflyproject.org](mailto:julieb@dragonflyproject.org).

### **PACKET ASSEMBLY GROUPS**

- ◇ Ann Bistodeau & friends—Thrivent Action Team
- ◇ Melissa Sandry & friends—Thrivent Action Team
- ◇ Winda Roets & family---Thrivent Action Team
- ◇ Church of St. Cecilia, St. Paul, MN
  - Confirmation Groups
- ◇ Nativity Lutheran Church, St. Anthony Village, MN
  - Women in Action group
  - God's Work/Our Hands volunteers
  - Adopt-a-State Volunteers—Thrivent Action Team

### **KEYCHAIN ASSEMBLY**

- ◇ Ann Danko
- ◇ Emma DeBruin
- ◇ Jennifer DeBruin
- ◇ Mike Edlund
- ◇ Jack Lechler
- ◇ Megan McLeod
- ◇ Freda Myhrwold
- ◇ Winda Roets
- ◇ Mike Salkas
- ◇ Melissa Sandry

### **PACKET ASSEMBLY INDIVIDUALS**

- ◇ Jeanne Bartlett
- ◇ Julie Bonde
- ◇ Donna Brandell
- ◇ Ann Danko
- ◇ Mike & Lauren Edlund
- ◇ Lois & Mark Finney
- ◇ Megan MacLeod & husband
- ◇ Megan MacLeod & sisters
- ◇ Freda & Adeline Myhrwold
- ◇ Judy Parizek
- ◇ Mike & Judi Salkas
- ◇ PJ Tombarge
- ◇ Sherri Truchinski





## Recipient Responses



- ◆ *Thank you for the beautiful Dragonfly keychain in the memory of our beloved son and brother. The card arrived almost 6 months after his death and has brought us comfort. His brother put the dragonfly keychain with the car keys and said, “we will always have him with us on car rides”. Our son had both physical and mental challenges that took him away from us too soon. ~ Diane & Jim*
- ◆ *Thank you for the dragonfly keychain, along with your encouraging words and wonderful story. Bless you for lifting our spirits, as well as anyone who is grieving the loss of a loved one. In memory of our son. ~ Paul & Patty*
- ◆ *Thank you for the beautiful card and dragonfly pin. It came at the perfect time. The card had such a meaningful message. It brought comfort and peace to my heart. Thank you so much for that. ~ Bonnie*
- ◆ *For weeks I have wanted to send this thank you. There seems no correct words that can express our gratitude. Our only son has sent us signs. Your card, your gift reinforced that those signs are true. Brian is now at true peace, true contentment in God’s love. Thank you from our family. I read your card daily and will hold the keychain close to my heart. Absolutely beautiful project. ~ Kevin and Laura*
- ◆ *The elementary school that my niece, Charlene, attended as well as my sister and my family received your beautiful books, card, and dragonfly charm. I have no doubt that it gave my sister some peace after receiving it. This project moves me so much and it really touches my heart that even after 5 months people are still saying her name and thinking about her. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. ~ Jackie*
- ◆ *I received one of these cards in the mail today. My mom [battled] against multiple myeloma for two years and she was finally set free on July 15<sup>th</sup>. I cried when I opened it and am so touched by not only my dear friend that sent it, but the enormity of heart in your project. Thank you so much for helping ease the pain of loss. ~ Laurie*
- ◆ *This project is really very touching and incredible. Such a nice way to show someone who is suffering that you are thinking of them and offering them some peace with such a beautiful story. ~ Brittney*
- ◆ *I don’t quite know what to say other than thank you so very much for the beautiful card, dragonfly keychain and especially the touching message inside the card. My Lizzie passed over unexpectedly in April of this year and it has changed my life tremendously. Your beautiful card couldn’t have come at a better time. Thank you for caring and its encouraging to know humanity still exists and thank you to your founder Anne Marquardt Brooker. ~ Corinne*
- ◆ *Thank you to the volunteers who gave time and money to show the support to our school. I am the teacher of the class who little Sophia was in before she passed. It was a hard and difficult time for our school community. We recently celebrated her birthday last month and it was so nice to receive the cute key-chains today. It is a comfort to know she is still be remembered and honored for what an amazing person she was and how much she added to our lives while she was here. ~ Chad*
- ◆ *Thank you! Our dear Aunt Naomi passed away from COVID-19 two weeks ago. The Dragonfly Project was her thing and we have seen many since her passing. God Bless you for this project. ~ Daniel*





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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, founded The Dragonfly Project. This simple act of kindness fostered an organization that now has hundreds of volunteers; 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](http://dragonflyproject.org)

