



2019-2020 Annual Report  
Fiscal Year 10/1/2019 – 9/30/2020

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**334 Pine Ridge Road**  
**Sartell, MN 56377**

# To Our Supporters:

Although it has been a difficult year for What Would Bri Do, we have been able to work diligently with those that are grieving.

Currently, we are developing a list of available resources in our community and surrounding areas that will be provided to grieving individuals and their families so they can find the resources that best supports their needs. Some of the resources that we have listed on our website includes therapists, groups, events, camps, and more. What Would Bri Do is also available to respond to phone calls and emails from grieving individuals that are looking to talk to someone who has experienced a similar loss. These individuals are not connected to What Would Bri Do but will be there to be a companion and support those that are grieving the loss of a loved one. We are currently developing a list of those interested in being a Grief Companion in our area.

We know that every form of loss has a unique type of healing, so once Bri's Lodge is built, we will program based on the needs of each type of loss. We hope with using very specific programming, individuals can make stronger connections while they are at the lodge. Program development will begin in the fiscal year 2020-2021. Those involved in the development of our programming will include myself, board member Carolyn Neubauer, a local social worker, and individuals from the community.

For so many people, untreated grief from the loss of a loved one, especially a sudden loss, is destructive which may lead to depression and broken relationships. The good news is that people affected by grief can have hope and learn to cope with their loss if given the right resources. The lodge will provide all the professional, emotional, and physical resources our central Minnesota community needs to cope with the loss of a loved one. As our mission states, WWBD believes that "no one should grieve alone" so moving forward in the upcoming year, we will continue to provide the much-needed resources until Bri's Lodge is built.

Thank you for your continued support for What Would Bri Do and Bri's Lodge. May 2021 bring hope to all!



Tami Kruzel, President

# 2019-2020 Highlights

1. Board of Directors was strengthened and currently has 7 members.
2. Mission Statement was revised to fit our new direction:

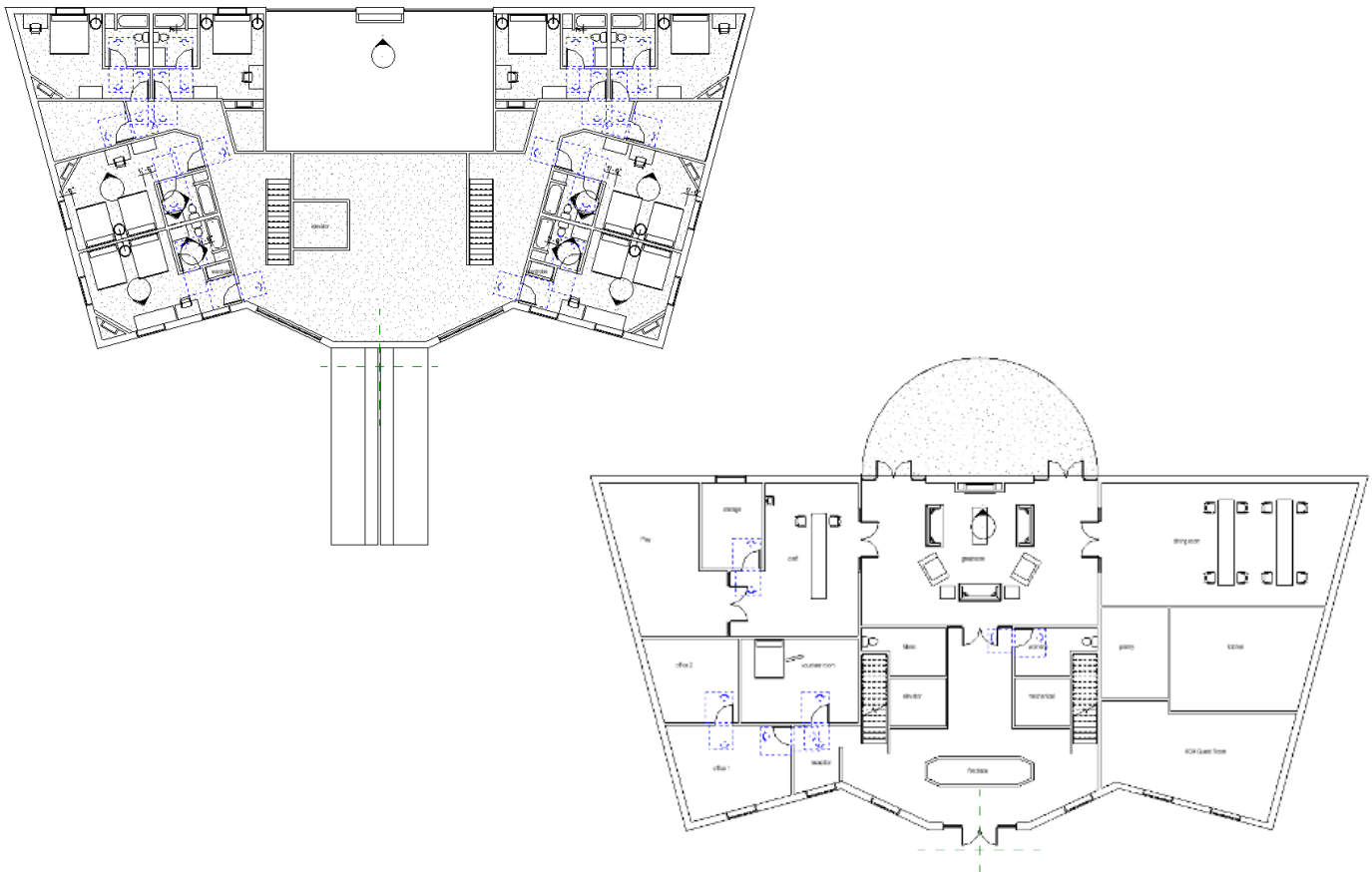
**“What Would Bri Do helps individuals cope with loss, supports their healing, nurtures their physical and emotional well-being and brings hope for the future – No one should grieve alone”.**

3. Articles of Incorporation and bylaws were revised to fit our new mission.
4. Lodge was named – Bri’s Lodge and an assumed name was filed.

5. Logo for Bri’s Lodge was designed



6. Concept Drawings for Bri’s Lodge were designed by BriAnna’s brother Josh Kulus.



# Bri's Lodge

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What Would Bri Do believes that no one should grieve alone and to achieve this mission we are committed to building a grief lodge in Central Minnesota.

In February of 2018, Randy and Tami had the opportunity to visit Faith's Lodge in Danbury, WI. Faith's Lodge provides a peaceful escape for families to getaway while spending time with others who understand what they are going through. During their stay, they spent several days with other couples who also lost their children tragically. The lodge offered discussions led by a licensed social worker, meditation, massage, healing crafts, complimentary meals, outdoor activities and so much more. They left this weekend with the sense of hope in their grief journey and made it their personal mission to bring a similar concept to Central Minnesota. They were truly inspired by their dedication to supporting those who have lost a child.

What Would Bri Do has developed a strong board of directors and has redefined our mission statement as "What Would Bri Do helps individuals cope with loss, supports their healing, nurtures their physical and emotional well-being and brings hope for the future - No one should grieve alone." We are committed to building a space for those who are grieving.

The grief lodge in Central Minnesota will aim to provide support for:

- Loss of a child at any age
- Miscarriage or stillborn
- Spousal loss
- Suicide loss
- Loss of a parent
- Sibling loss

Some examples of the programming for these retreat weekends will include healing through the five senses. Such as:

- Sight – Serene Scenery, Memory Displays
  - Smell – Bonfires, Aromatherapy, Fresh Air
  - Hearing – Story Telling, Nature, Music
  - Taste – Meals, S'mores, Hot Cocoa
  - Touch – Massage, Healing Crafts, Meditation
- And so much more!



## Why Bri's Lodge?

According to the Minnesota Department of Health in 2017 there were  
44,361 deaths in Minnesota  
and according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports  
2,813,503 deaths in the United States



With 44,361 Minnesota deaths each year  
4 people grieving each loss  
177,444 people need resources to cope with their grief

The Minnesota Department of Health reports  
as of September 30, 2020, there were  
2,034 deaths from COVID-19  
This only increases the need for grief resources in our community

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/data/mchs/vitalstats/death.html>  
<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/deaths.htm>

# What Would Bri Do Events

Rays of Hope  
Walk

Rays of Hope Walk – October 5, 2019

Co-Chairs: Holli Rathlisberger, Juli Sieben, Brittianee Neu and Stephanie Danger

The Rays of Hope Walk is held annually on the first Saturday in October. This walk starts with a fun filled family event in the Sartell Community Center and includes a duck pond, temporary tattoos, DJ and so much more. The walk then starts at the Angel of Hope with the reading of the names that attendees are walking in memory of along with the placement of a flower at the base of the angel. Since it rained this year, the walkers could choose to walk on the Sartell Community Center's indoor walking path. This year there were 130 walkers with 54 of them being children. The cost of an adult to walk is just \$25 per person and includes a t-shirt, Junior registration is \$10 with a t-shirt and children under 12 are free. Attendees can purchase an "In Memory of" sign in memory of their loved one. These signs get placed along the path of the walk along with inspirational quotes. What Would Bri Do would like to thank the following sponsors of this event:



Anytime Fitness\*\*  
Brenny Custom Cabinets\*\*  
CT Transport\*  
DJ Blakk – Chaz James\*(I)  
Dubow Textiles\*\*(I)  
St. Cloud Eagle's Club\*  
Fitzharris Ski, Bike & Outdoor\*  
Floral Arts(I)  
French Lake Curb\*  
GM Drilling\*\*  
Jennifer Kreitz\*  
Keller Electric\*  
Mark's Auto\*

Mike & Holli Rathlisberger\*  
MOMS Club of Sartell/Sauk Rapids\*  
National Property Inspections, Brian Nygaard\*  
Restore CST\*  
Robert & Karen Hengel\*  
Sailer Chiropractic\*  
Sam's Club\*\*  
Sartell Tax Service\*\*  
St. Cloud Financial Credit Union\*\*(I)  
State Farm, Kyle Hedtke\*  
Stephanie & Rhett Danger\*  
Upper Deck\*  
Wayne & Karen Hansmann\*

Devotion Sponsor \$250\*\*  
Hope Sponsor \$100\*  
In-Kind Donation (I)

## Angel of Hope Candlelight Vigil – December 6, 2019

Chair: Brenda Bollig

The Christmas Box Angel of Hope was introduced to the world in the international best-selling book and hit television movie “The Christmas Box”, written by Richard Paul Evans. The original Angel of Hope statue, inspired by the book, was dedicated on December 6<sup>th</sup>, 1994 in Salt Lake City, Utah. Since the placement of the first statue, it has become known as a place of hope and healing for anyone who has suffered the loss of a child. WWBD wants you to remember that everyone is a child of someone. When What Would Bri Do placed the Angel of Hope in 2016 they committed to holding a candlelight vigil annually on December 6<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. This year there were 170 people in attendance with 41 of them being children and additional 26 photos were submitted for the memorial video. This is a free event. Sponsors of this event were:

Build-A-Bear

Stearns Electric Operation Round Up



## An Evening of Hope – March 21, 2020

Co-Chairs: Tonia Maciej, Brenda Bollig, Karla Virnig, and Tami Kruzal

Our Evening of Hope Fundraiser was on track to be our largest fundraiser to date but unfortunately the event was canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic. Each year our event includes an elegant meal, live music, large silent auction, games of chance, and a short presentation. Even though the event was cancelled, our sponsors continued their support by donating their sponsorship funds to be used towards the building of Bri’s Lodge. What Would Bri Do would like to thank our sponsors for their continued support. Refunds were offered for tickets sold but many individuals chose not to be refunded for a total of \$4,667.

Our silent auction was converted to three small online auctions in which we raised \$2,844.

Sponsors of An Evening of Hope:

Albany American Legion\*

Fred & Jessie Kovall\*

Lone Eagle Auto Club\*

St. Cloud Hyundai\*\*

Sobieski Lions Club\*

VIP Table Sponsor \$500\*\*

Reserved Table Sponsor \$250\*

## Bri's Lodge Cash Raffle – March 21, 2020

Co-Chairs: Scott and Brenda Bollig

This year we held our first ever Bri's Lodge Cash Raffle. What Would Bri Do awarded \$25,000 out in cash prizes. Raffle tickets were \$100 each with the hopes of selling 500 tickets. Due to COVID, our sales were not as expected but we still sold 308 raffle tickets. When the money was awarded four people gave back a total of \$6,300 to What Would Bri Do towards the building campaign for Bri's Lodge. This was a total of \$12,100 in profit. Thank you to all of you that purchased a ticket and to those that graciously gave back to our cause.

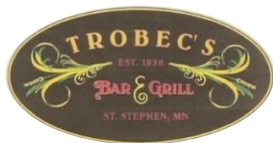
## Annual Garage Sale – June 11-14, 2020

Co-Chairs: Diane St Sauver & Tami Kruzel

2020 was our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual WWBD garage sale. Over 15 families donated their unwanted items and because the generous donations we were able to raise approximately \$1,200. This was down from our previous sale, but we believe that this was due to COVID. We will be accepting donations in early June for the 2021 Garage Sale. If you can mark the items, it would be a bonus but if not, we will have volunteers that will help with this. Thank you to all of you who donated and volunteered to help.



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## Kruzin' for Bri's Lodge – August 30, 2020

Co-Chairs: Brenda & Scott Bollig, Wayne & Karen Hansmann, Lee & Donna Southerland

In 2020, WWBD held its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Kruzin' for Bri's Lodge Car Show at Trobec's Bar & Grill in St. Stephen. We had 34 cars in attendance. Trobec's generously donated a free will donation spaghetti meal. There was a \$10 entry fee for all show vehicles and there were 10 trophies that were awarded to show vehicles and one People's Choice award that was chosen by the spectators. WWBD raised \$1,654.51 with the entry fees and donations. We would like to extend a thank you Trobec's for sponsoring this event. We appreciate your generosity!





# 2020 WWBD Memorial Scholarship

With BriAnna playing an important part of Big Brothers Big Sisters before she passed away, What Would Bri Do honors BriAnna's memory by awarding a current/past Little Brother/Sister or High School Big Brother/Sister with a \$500 scholarship to a college of their choice.

The applicant must be a current/past Little Brother/Sister or High School Big Brother/Big Sister in the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central MN program.

1. The applicant must be a senior in high school.
2. The applicant must have been matched thru Big Brothers Big Sisters for at least 18 months.



## **This year's winner was Lauren Peterson!**

Lauren was a senior at Sartell High School and plans on going into Child Psychology. She states that Big Brothers Big Sisters has directed her towards this field. She states, "BBBS has also taught me time management and responsibility." She enjoys spending time with children and states, "I love to make their days brighter and form lasting connections with them."

We would like to congratulate Lauren; we wish her the best in her future endeavors!

If you know anyone that would be interested in applying for this scholarship and meet the qualifications, please contact BBBS directly. They are also looking for Bigs to be a good role model in the lives of Littles in our community. Check them out at [Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Minnesota - Youth Mentoring Program \(bigdefenders.org\)](http://BigBrothersBigSistersofCentralMinnesota-YouthMentoringProgram(bigdefenders.org)).

# 2019-2020 Donors

To all our donors we would like to extend a thank you for making an impact on the lives of those grieving the loss of a loved one. With funds raised What Would Bri Do will be a step closer to building Bri's Lodge and to continue to support those that may be grieving alone.

## **\$1,000+**

Sauk Rapids VFW Post 6993

## **\$500 +**

Keith & Kelly Brinkman

Chris & Jamie Johannes

Fred & Jessie Kovall

Kwik Trip

Lyon Sheet Metal & Heating

St. Cloud Hyundai

## **\$250+**

Albany American Legion

Anytime Fitness, Sartell

Brenny Custom Cabinets

GM Drilling

Tami & Randy Kruzel

Lone Eagle Auto Club

Frank Posch

Sam's Club

Sartell Tax Service

Sartell Youth Hockey

Sobieski Lions Club

## **\$100+**

Janee Anez

CT Transport

Steph & Rhett Danger

Sue Derby

Julie Dornbusch

Kit Ferber

Fitzharris Ski, Bike & Outdoor

French Lake Curb

Kim Gregory

Wayne & Karen Hansmann

Robert & Karen Hengel

Kathleen & Ray Jackson

Keller Electric

Jennifer Kreitz

Lisa Kruzel

Mark & Tammy Lindell

Mark's Auto

MOMS Club of Sartell/Sauk Rapids

National Property Inspections, Brian Nygaard

Michael Neubauer

Brian & Heather Pietrzak

Benito Ramirez

Mike & Holli Rathlisberger

Restore CST

Sailer Chiropractic

St. Cloud Eagle's Club

Al & Aggie Schulte

Tammy Schulte

Nicole Schumacher

Dan Stachowski

State Farm, Kyle Hedtke

Nhat & Rebecca Tran

Upper Deck

Steve & Cheryl Wiechman

Tracey Worzala

Tom & Becky Zak

## **Up to \$99**

Mary Ackerman

Jason Adamski

Kathy Bartels

Jeri Betts

Jeff Botz

Lysa Buzay

Tom & Nancy Conlin

Katie Culshaw

Amy Einhaus

Karrie Fredrickson

Kelly Grack

Shannon Kardell

Amy Keller

Steph Kuklok

Andrew & Melissa Koltes

Matt Kropuenske

Joshua Kulus

Nina Kutz

Mike & Colleen Lucking  
Greg & Carol Maciej  
Kimberly Magnuson  
Sarah Maloney, Sara, Ally, BreAnn  
Ann Matvik  
Kathryn Meyer  
Eric Moyer  
Carolyn Neubauer  
Darla Neumann  
Erin Nysse  
Carter Olsen  
Jacqueline Osterhaus  
Brad & Jennifer Quart  
Sandra & Robert Pierce  
Cheryl Pietrzak

### **In-Kind Donations**

American Apple Group (Applebee's)  
Anjeos  
Anton's Restaurant  
Back to Balance Massage & Bodyworks  
Troy Baguhn  
Balaski Bay  
Bent Paddle Brewing Co  
Larry & Jeri Betts  
Scott & Brenda Bollig  
Buck Hill  
Build-A-Bear  
Burger King, Sartell  
Can Can Wonderland  
Casey's General Store  
Commonwealth Properties/Hotel 340  
Costco, St. Cloud  
D.J. Bitzan Jewelers  
DJ Blakk – Chaz James  
Dangerous Man Brewing Co  
Juli Dornbusch  
Dubow Textiles  
E & Co. Clothing  
Floral Arts  
Foiled Salon  
Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburgers  
GB & Co Hair Skin Spa  
Grand Casino  
Granite City Brewery, St. Cloud  
Great Lakes Aquarium  
Great Theatre  
Grizzly's Wood-Fired Grill & Bar, Waite Park

Restore CST  
Safeguard Security  
Craig Sharon  
Mike & Juli Sieben  
Denise Smieja  
Anna Stadnick  
Sharon Sundstrom  
Emily Unterberger  
Autumn Urbanski  
Stacy Voigt  
Kendra Wheeler  
Dennis & AnnaMae Woltman  
Gregg Zastrow  
Carla Zupko

Gutherie Theatre  
H R Pesty's Saloon & Eatery  
Harv & Arlene Hansmann  
Wayne & Karen Hansmann  
Helzberg Diamonds  
Holiday Inn Express/Three Bears Waterpark  
House of Pizza/Pacific Wok  
Cassie Huls  
J.F. Kruse Jewelers  
Jackpot Junction Casino Hotel  
Jersey Mike's  
Jimmy's Pour House  
Sarah Johnson  
Jules' Bistro  
Kelly Kalahar & Mick Newcomb  
Clint & Roxane Kathrein  
Kay's Kitchen  
Hailey Koep  
Amber Kurowski  
Richard & Carmen Kruzel  
Tammy Kuklok  
LaCasita  
Leighton Broadcasting  
Lunderby Photography Inc  
Sara Maciej  
Tonia & Gerry Maciej  
MacKenzie's  
Mall of America  
Manea's Meats  
Ken & Carol Merten  
Mike & Michelle Malakowsky  
McKay's

Midway Iron  
Miller Auto & Marine  
Minnesota Landscape Arboretum  
Minnesota State Fair  
Minnesota Timberwolves  
Minnesota Truck Headquarters  
Minnesota Vikings  
Mongo's Grill  
Emily Monnens  
Dave & Betty Montag  
Lani Mueller  
Mystic Lake Casino  
North Shore Scenic Railroad  
Old Log Theatre  
Marie Olson  
Natasha Orbeck  
Papa Murphy's, St. Cloud  
Perkin's, St. Cloud  
Powder Ridge  
Prairie's Edge Casino Resort  
Qdoba Mexican Grill  
R.F. Moeller Jeweler  
Lynette Raymond  
Rick Bronson's House of Comedy  
Kaye Ringwelski  
Rinke Noonan  
St. Anthony's Mission Group  
St. Cloud State University Intercollegiate Athletics  
St. Cloud Aviation  
St. Cloud Financial Credit Union  
St. Cloud Rox  
St. Cloud Toyota  
St. Joseph's Meat Market

St. Paul Saints Baseball Club  
Sartell Police Department  
Ryan Schepp  
Mike & Juli Sieben  
Skatin' Place  
Lee & Donna Southerland  
Eric & Amanda Tegels  
Texas Roadhouse, Waite Park  
The Boot Shack  
The Boulder Tap House  
The Great Blue Heron  
The Newsleaders  
Thrivent – Carmen Kruzel/Joanna Ringsrud  
Tin Whiskers Brewing Co.  
Tito's Handmade Vodka  
Total Wine & More  
Trobec's Bar & Grill  
Warren & Colleen Tunnell  
Scheels  
Patricia Schmitz  
Aggie Schulte  
Science Museum of Minnesota  
Annette Slivnik  
Summerland Family Fun Park  
University of MN Intercollegiate Athletics  
Valleyfair  
Von Hanson's Meats  
Tami Vossen  
Wheel of Fortune  
Wild Boar Bear & Grill  
Wild Mountain  
James & Jane Will  
Tracey Worzala

## **2019-2020 Grants**

Stearns Electric Operation Round Up

## **2019-2020 Memorial Donations**

Cora Linn  
Carolyn Hope  
Hannah Rathlisberger  
Mason Neu  
Rayna Danger  
Danny Gray

BriAnna Kruzel  
Lake William  
Brianna King Miller  
Noah & Isaac Arends  
Baby Schumacher

## 2019-2020 Volunteers

Bollig, Brenda	Neu, Brittianee
Bollig, Scott	Neubauer, Bruce
Bottman, Naomi	Neubauer, Carolyn
Capko, Jared	Olund, Kyle
Capko, Maryrose	Pederson, Lauren
Carmen, Cody	Pederson, Stacy
Danger, Rhett	Peterson, Shea
Danger, Stephanie	Pluimer, Erin
Davis, Karen	Post, Carey
Dingmann, Cassie	Rathlisberger, Holli
Hansmann, Amy	Rathlisberger, Mike
Hansmann, Karen	Schmidt, Kristin
Hansmann, Wayne	Sieben, Abby
Hoeschen, Blake	Sieben, Juli
Janson, Tyler	Sieben, Will
Johnson, Edin	Soumah, Ayanna
Joseph, Bailey	Southerland, Donna
Kruzel, Brandon	Southerland, Lee
Kruzel, Randy	St Sauver, Addison
Kruzel, Tami	St Sauver, Diane
Kuechle, Hope	Tran, Kalli
Kulus, Joshua	Virnig, Karla
Kurowski, Amber	Vreeland, Paul
Maciej, Sara	Walcheski, Katie
Maciej, Tonia	Weidlander, Linnea
Meling, Tricia	Young, Erin
Nelson, Ann	Young, Steve

**We work hard to be sure that we are keeping accurate records but if we missed you, we apologize for any errors.**

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Tami Kruzel, President

Randy Kruzel, Vice President

Tami Kruzel, Secretary

Karla Virnig, Treasurer

Tonia Maciej, Board of Director

Carolyn Neubauer, Board of Director

Juli Sieben, Board of Director

Charlene Ridlon, Board of Director

## **ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Kristin Schmidt, CliftonLarsonAllen

Paul Vreeland, Schlenner Wenner & Company

Robert Schumann, Moss & Barnett

Thank you for supporting What Would Bri Do in the 2019-2020 fiscal year we hope that you will continue to support our cause in 2020-2021!

For information on future events, donating or volunteering check out  
What Would Bri Do on:

[www.brislodge.com](http://www.brislodge.com)

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter or LinkedIn

