

Annual Report

Death with Dignity **NATIONAL CENTER & POLITICAL FUND**

2016



**VICTORY IN
CALIFORNIA**

Unique Brand of Advocacy
Our Financial Strength

The Year in Review
Be a Part of Our Success

Table of Contents

A Message from the Board President	3
Accomplishments	4
Who We Are	6
Financials	8
How to Give	10

Front cover: Northern California coastline by Don McCullough

Back cover: A field of California poppies by Rennett Stowe

Death with Dignity National Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation whose mission it is to promote Death with Dignity laws based on the model Oregon Death with Dignity Act, both to provide an option for dying individuals and to stimulate nationwide improvements in end-of-life care.

Death with Dignity Political Fund is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization that acts as the political arm of the National Center, drafting Death with Dignity laws; campaigning, lobbying, and advocating for Death with Dignity legislation in the 46 states that lack them; and defending Death with Dignity Acts against legal challenges.

We authored, passed, and defended the Oregon law (1994/1997/2006); spearheaded the successful efforts to pass Death with Dignity statutes in Washington (2008), Vermont (2013), and California (2015); and led the Maine (2000), Hawaii (2002), and Massachusetts (2012) campaigns.

DEATH WITH DIGNITY NATIONAL CENTER DEATH WITH DIGNITY POLITICAL FUND



520 SW 6th Avenue, Suite 1220
Portland, OR 97204-1510

P: 503.228.4415

F: 503.967.7064

E: info@DeathwithDignity.org

www.DeathwithDignity.org

 /DeathwithDignity
 @DeathwDignity

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

George Eighmey, JD, *President*
David J. Mayo, PhD, *Vice-President*
Carol Pratt, PhD, JD, *Treasurer*
Eli D. Stutsman, JD, *Secretary*
Steve Telfer
Stephen Dunn
Midge Levy, ACSW
Lisa Vigil-Schattinger, MSN, RN

STAFF

Peg Sandeen, PhD, MSW
Executive Director
Cindy Silveira
Director of Leadership Giving
Jennifer Haliewicz
Development Associate
Peter Korchnak
Digital Communications Manager
Shaun Fairlee
Outreach Coordinator

A Message from the Board President



This was a monumental year for the Death with Dignity National Center and Political Fund as well as our entire movement. A quarter century after we started working on policy reform there, California joined the ranks of states with assisted dying laws. It was an honor for me to work with California State Senate Majority Leader Bill Monning and many others to expand end-of-life options for Golden State residents.

When our opponents failed to place a measure overturning the new End of Life Option Act on the ballot, it was clear that terminally ill individuals in California would, beginning in June, soon have the ability to control the timing and manner of their death in the most compassionate and dignified manner possible.

California was but a pinnacle of the progress we made this year. Legislatures in nearly half the states considered assisted dying legislation. A bill in Maine fell short of passage by a single Senate vote. And through our work we see great potential for policy reform success in Maryland, Hawaii, and the District

of Columbia, where we have been actively working for over a year.

Amid this activity, we ended the year on a somber note, with the deaths of three staunch Death with Dignity advocates and friends occurring in quick succession: Dr. Peter Rasmussen and John Duncan in Oregon and Penny Shelfer in Texas. Through the loss of such essential colleagues and friends, we bring focus and determination to our work in the Death with Dignity movement.

Finally, as freshman President, I was honored to welcome two knowledgeable and influential members to the Board of Directors. Stephen Dunn from New York brings fiscal and business expertise and Lisa Vigil Schattinger from Ohio represents the nursing profession.

Thank you for your involvement in the Death with Dignity movement. Together, we are making a difference.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Eighmey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

George Eighmey
President, Board of Directors

The 2015-2016 Year in Review

In the first decade of our movement, we defined and defended Death with Dignity in Oregon. In the second, we established the practice and expanded the laws to additional states (Washington and Vermont).

In 2015-2016 we faced the third decade of the movement's history, anticipating further advances and acceleration. At the outset, Americans rallied around the story of Brittany Maynard, a young woman diagnosed with a devastating brain cancer, who was forced to uproot her family in California to move to Oregon so she could end her life in a humane and dignified manner surrounded by her loved ones. Brittany's decision sparked a resurgence of the debate in California (and elsewhere).

Public support, as measured by the Gallup and other polls, soared to nearly 70 percent. The number of states attempting policy reform jumped from one or two per year to 25. Most importantly, less than a year after she died, Brittany's home state of California passed legislation based on Oregon's model law, the End of Life Option Act. The number of Americans covered under Death with Dignity legislation jumped from 10 to 50 million.

How We Won in California

The path to the passage of the California End of Life Options Act last October was as long and difficult as the ones we had faced in Oregon, Washington, and Vermont. Our President George Eighmey led our organization's efforts to support and pass the law.

The Death with Dignity National Center worked with State Senators Bill Monning and Lois Wolk and other California lawmakers, consulting with the legislators and traveling to the Golden State to help craft and shepherd the bill through the legislative process.

From testimony at legislative hearings to op-eds in newspapers to tireless behind-the-scenes efforts to convince legislators to come on board, George worked on the bill as hard and as effectively as he had when championing similar causes as a member of Oregon House of Representatives.

George was one of many local and national voices who joined together to spur the bill to passage. From Brittany's mother, Debbie Ziegler, to allied groups of concerned citizens and healthcare professionals across



George Eighmey flanked by with California State Senators Lois Wolk and Bill Monning

the nation, we are so proud to have helped lead California to this place.

Looking Ahead

After the End of Life Option Act goes into effect on June 9, 2016, we will begin the long and careful process to ensure the law works as intended.

Part of that work is to ensure the hard political victory we helped achieve is not swept aside by legal indifference.

Even after ABX2-15 passed, opponents who failed to stop us at the Capitol tried—and failed—to put a repeal measure on the November ballot. They are now pledging to take their desperate fight to the courts. These lawsuits will be a real threat, and we will fight them vigorously, the same way we fought—and defeated—the legal challenges to the Oregon Death with Dignity Act that reached all the way to the US Supreme Court.

Along with our efforts to protect the law in court, our new CaliforniaDeathwithDignity.org website helps patients navigate the End of Life Option Act. We educate doctors about how to safely and legally implement the law.

We've already won the battle for the hearts and minds of the American people; now we continue to convince lawmakers to allow people this right. Our focus includes Washington, DC, where the Council will vote on the bill in the fall. In Hawaii, we've been working closely with local activists and advocates to reintroduce legislation that is now a priority in the coming legislative session. The same goes for Maryland and Maine, which will be at the top of our list going forward.

Today, 1 in 6 Americans lives in a state where death with dignity laws have been passed. Let us join together as we work toward an even stronger future. ■

About Death with Dignity

Death with Dignity National Center

...is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that

- expands the freedom of all qualified terminally ill Americans to make their own end-of-life decisions, including how they die;
- promotes Death with Dignity laws around the United States based on the groundbreaking Oregon model;
- provides information, education, and support about Death with Dignity as an end-of-life option to patients, family members, legislators, advocates, healthcare and end-of-life care professionals, media, and the interested public.
- mounts legal defense of physician-assisted dying legislation.

Death with Dignity Political Fund

...is a 501(c)4 nonprofit organization that acts as the political arm of the National Center. The Fund

- drafts Death with Dignity laws based on the Oregon model;
- campaigns, lobbies, and advocates for Death with Dignity legislation in the states that lack them.

We authored, campaigned for, and defended the Oregon law (1994/1997/2006); spearheaded the successful efforts to pass Death with Dignity statutes in Washington (2008), Vermont (2013), and California (2015); and led the Maine (2000), Hawaii (2002), and Massachusetts (2012) campaigns, which were all defeated only by narrow margins.

Mission

Our mission is to promote Death with Dignity laws based on our model legislation, the Oregon Death with Dignity Act, both to provide an option for dying individuals and to stimulate nationwide improvements in end-of-life care.

Our 2016 fiscal year ran from April 1, 2015, to March 31, 2016.

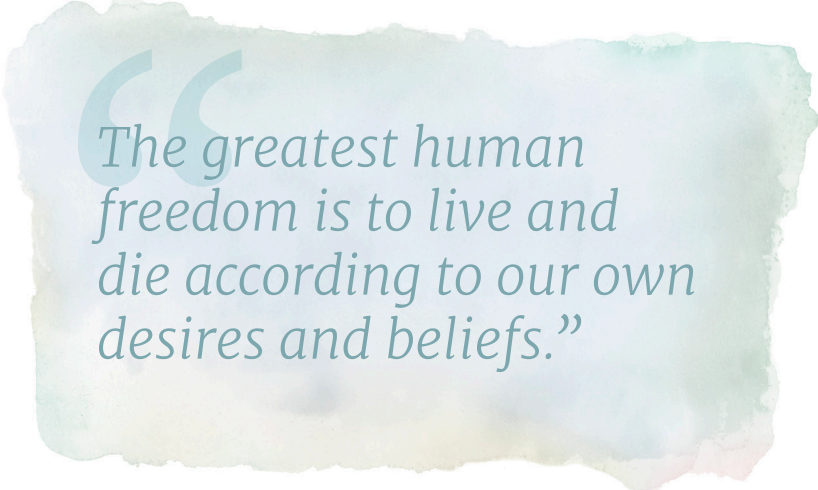
Our Unique Brand of Advocacy

Both the Death with Dignity National Center and Death with Dignity Political Fund bring a unique brand of advocacy and political strategy to end-of-life care policy reform. Our work centers around insider organizing with politically savvy legislative and community leaders who are endeavoring to enact Death with Dignity statutes through the state legislative process.

This is the style of policy work that seeks not to draw attention to our organization, but rather focuses on the movement and the behind-the-scenes efforts necessary to move controversial legislation through the political process.

We work directly with state legislators to craft the best bills possible and shepherd them through the legislative process by providing political strategy guidance and other support.

We partner with local advocates, grassroots groups, and organizations, providing them with technical assistance in terms of strategy, online organizing, or fundraising, and looking to them for their local expertise and leadership in order to bring Death with Dignity to their state. ■

A quote is presented on a rectangular background with a soft, watercolor-like texture in shades of light blue, green, and yellow. The text is in a teal, serif font and is enclosed in large, light blue quotation marks.

“The greatest human freedom is to live and die according to our own desires and beliefs.”

Our Finances:

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 241,128	\$ 192,994
Prepaid expenses	4,879	3,762
Investments	167,503	167,083
Property and equipment, net	<u>17,609</u>	<u>7,417</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 431,119</u>	<u>\$ 371,256</u>
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable & accrued expenses	\$ 56,424	\$ 39,291
Total liabilities	<u>56,424</u>	<u>39,291</u>
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted net assets:		
Undesignated	299,027	255,851
Board designated	56,261	58,571
Property and equipment, net	<u>17,609</u>	<u>7,417</u>
Total unrestricted net assets	372,897	321,839
Temporarily restricted net assets	<u>1,798</u>	<u>10,126</u>
Total net assets	<u>374,695</u>	<u>331,965</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 431,119</u>	<u>\$ 371,256</u>

These amounts are derived from audited financial statements. The Death with Dignity National Center and The Death with Dignity Political Fund fiscal year 2015-2016 financials and 2015 tax forms filed in 2016 (IRS Form 990) are available at: deathwithdignity.org/about/financials/.

Copies of the full audit are available at 520 SW 6th Avenue, Suite 1220, Portland, OR 97204.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

	2016			2015		
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
REVENUE AND SUPPORT						
Contributions	\$ 662,506	\$ 99,555	\$ 762,061	\$ 590,201	\$ 31,126	\$ 621,327
In-Kind contributions	32,364	-	32,364	54,632	-	54,564
Investment income, net	(1,650)	-	(1,650)	6,125	-	6,125
Other income	-	-	-	232	-	232
Net assets released from restrictions:						
Satisfaction of purpose restrictions	107,883	(107,883)	-	48,819	(48,819)	-
TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT	<u>801,103</u>	<u>(8,328)</u>	<u>792,775</u>	<u>700,009</u>	<u>(17,693)</u>	<u>682,316</u>
Expenses:						
Program services						
Public Education	193,159	-	193,159	177,770	-	177,770
Communication	91,480	-	91,480	70,047	-	70,047
Oregon Plus One	253,500	-	253,500	155,731	-	155,731
Total Program Services	538,139	-	538,139	403,548	-	403,548
Management and general	64,576	-	64,576	54,791	-	54,791
Fundraising	147,330	-	147,330	168,710	-	168,710
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>750,045</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>750,045</u>	<u>627,049</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>627,049</u>
Change in net assets	51,058	(8,328)	42,730	72,960	(17,693)	55,267
NET ASSETS:						
Beginning of Year	321,839	10,126	331,965	248,879	28,819	276,698
End of year	<u>\$ 372,897</u>	<u>\$ 1,798</u>	<u>\$ 374,695</u>	<u>\$ 321,839</u>	<u>\$ 10,126</u>	<u>\$ 331,965</u>



*The Death with Dignity
National Center is a Better
Business Bureau Wise Giving
Alliance Accredited Charity.*



*The Death with Dignity
National Center is a gold-level
Guidestar participant.*

How to Give to Death with Dignity

We cannot do our work without you; together we can ensure all Americans have the freedom to make their end-of-life decisions. You can financially support our work in many ways while at the same time meeting the goals you wish to achieve through giving.

Outright Gifts

You can donate online at DeathwithDignity.org, call us with your credit card information at (503) 228-4415, or mail a check to:

Death with Dignity
520 SW 6th Avenue, Suite 1220
Portland, OR 97204

Your gift can be a one-time contribution or you can provide ongoing, reliable support to our mission through our Sustaining Partner Program with monthly or quarterly donations transferred directly from your debit or credit card.

You can also donate in memory or honor of someone. Memorial and honorary gifts celebrate the lives and achievements of special individuals in a lasting way. At your request, we can notify family members of your thoughtful gift.

Matching Donations

You can double or even triple the value of your gift at no cost to yourself by having your employer match your donation at no additional cost to you. Ask your Human Resources representative about a matching gifts program.

Gifts of Stock or Mutual Funds

Donating stocks or mutual funds may provide you a charitable deduction for the fair market value of your gift, along with an exemption from capital gains tax. To donate stock, please contact Meike Weyrauch, Director of Leadership Giving, by phone at 360.261.8983 or by email at mweyrauch@deathwithdignity.org, to notify her of your intent to transfer stock.

Your financial adviser, broker, or banker will need the following information to transfer stock to the Death with Dignity National Center:

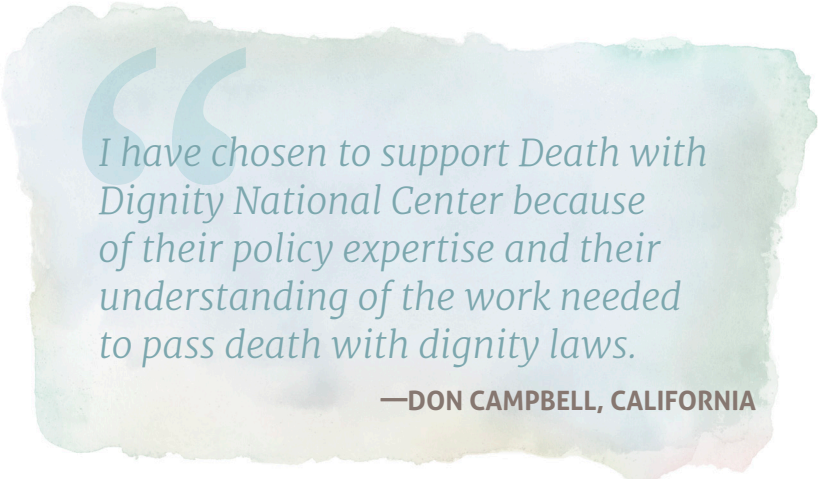
- Charles Schwab Brokerage Account Number: 4526-9641
- DTC Number (for wire transfers): 0164 Code 40
- Account Name: Death with Dignity National Center
- Our Broker: Richard Teutsch, 503.224.4089
- Our tax ID is 93-1162366.

Legacy Gifts

A long-term gift is a commitment to Death with Dignity that makes an impact beyond your lifetime. Two of the most common legacy gifts are bequests (with a specific dollar amount or a percentage of your estate) and planned gifts. You can work with your estate planner to set up an annuity trust, a unitrust, or a gift annuity, or you can designate the Death with Dignity National Center as a beneficiary on your life insurance or retirement plan. If you have questions about leaving a legacy with the Death with Dignity National Center, please call Meike Weyrauch at 503.228.4415.

Shop on AmazonSmile

Amazon.com will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Death With Dignity National Center whenever you shop on AmazonSmile. Sign in to your account and support Death with Dignity at smile.amazon.com. ■



I have chosen to support Death with Dignity National Center because of their policy expertise and their understanding of the work needed to pass death with dignity laws.

—DON CAMPBELL, CALIFORNIA

 Death with
Dignity

