



Death with Dignity National Center
Death with Dignity Political Fund

ANNUAL REPORT 2014

***THE ROAD
TO SUCCESS***

MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT: CHARTING THE COURSE

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Dear Friends and Colleagues:

I am proud to bring forth the FY2014 Annual Report for the Death with Dignity National Center and the Death with Dignity Political Fund. It was a year of leadership and accomplishments, and we are pleased with the progress and trajectory of the Death with Dignity movement.

Clearly, the crowning victory of the year was the passage of the Vermont Death with Dignity bill and the signing ceremony by Governor Peter Shumlin.

We partnered with Patient Choices Vermont for 10 years to bring this idea forward from a belief that the issue would gain traction to 10 years of cooperative work to obtain a favorable legislative vote. Vermont was a groundbreaking success because it was the first time in the history of our movement that Death with Dignity had been enacted by a legislative body. It was groundbreaking in that it featured work by three partners, the National Center, the Political Fund, and Patient Choices Vermont—all working in concert to ensure the people of Vermont had access to increased options at the end of life.

Looking at the road ahead, California is a promising state for policy reform. With a population of 38 million, succeeding in California would be a game changer for our movement. We could bring peace of mind and control at the end of life to 38 million people, and we could engage the entire population of the US in critically-important conversations about how we die.

California will be a multi-year effort, with work completed by a variety of local and national partners. There will be 501(c)(3) advocacy work, 501(c)(4) political work, and local organizing. We believe the media will be captivated, and ultimately, we will prevail in the California legislature.

While victories such as the one in Vermont and the one contemplated in California are exciting, it is always important to step back and remember what we are attempting to accomplish. Only those who are dying can take advantage of our work; only those who are terminally ill qualify. We are working to bring one of the most important freedoms to all Americans—the freedom to control the timing and manner of death for those who are terminally.

At its core, to work on behalf of those who are dying is an honor, and one I take seriously. We are proud you have joined us in this important effort. I invite you to peruse our report and share in our accomplishments.

Regards,



Steve Telfer, President
Board of Directors
Death with Dignity National Center
Death with Dignity Political Fund



LEGEND

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MISSION

The mission of the Death with Dignity National Center 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.

PROGRAMS:

Throughout the year, we serve as the expert resource for all things having to do with Death with Dignity laws. These communications fall into one of three categories.

People Seeking Information about Death with Dignity Laws:

This is the most common reason people contact the National Center. Many of the people who contact us are students and professors looking for specific, teachable information about these groundbreaking laws. Others reach out to us because they are facing a grave prognosis and want to learn more about the end-of-life options and resources available in their states. These options include hospice and palliative care throughout the US as well as Death with Dignity in Oregon and Washington.

Supporters Who Want to Get Further Involved as Advocates or Volunteers:

A testament to the growing national conversation about Death with Dignity, every year we hear from more people wanting to know how they can get involved to advance the national movement or become an advocate in their state. As the respected national leader in affecting real and lasting change around end-of-life healthcare policy reform, we are able to provide specific tips to build grassroots support as well as connect like-minded advocates to one another.

Reporters and Members of the Press:

As the national conversation and awareness about Death with Dignity grows, reporters throughout the US contact us to get the facts about our model legislation, the Oregon Death with Dignity Act. Members of our staff and Board of Directors are recognized national experts in the Death with Dignity movement. We are honored to serve as the leading resource about these laws and discuss the future of the movement with media outlets.

POLICY REFORM:

Strategic Analysis for the Movement

Our unique role in the movement has always been analysis of trends and identification of the clearest direction forward to policy reform, acting as the cartographers of the movement, so to speak. Working with policy reform experts in multiple social movements and applying our own criteria, during this fiscal year, we identified New England as the region most likely to achieve policy reform success. These hours of behind-the-scenes research, consultation, and meetings are the tedious work behind mapping the direction of the movement.

Your support helps fuel our efforts:

- *Helping to craft and pass successful Death with Dignity legislation and End of Life care reform*
- *Providing educational resources for patients, families and advocates*
- *Supporting local groups and grassroots efforts in support of Death with Dignity legislation and end of life care education*

FY 2014 ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN REVIEW

During FY 2014, our organization worked to build a regional advocacy and organizing hub in New England. We activated over 600 new volunteers at the state level in New England to promote the idea of Death with Dignity in their local communities. These volunteers organized their friends, family members, and community to discuss Death with Dignity policies. They showed the film "How to Die in Oregon," and we provided informational materials and discussion guides to attendees. Our relationship to state groups ranged from formal - we acted as the fiscal agent for Patient Choices Vermont - to informal - we provided volunteers in Massachusetts with a way to connect to each other.

At our home office in Portland, we provided referrals to approximately 1,000 patients who had received a devastating diagnosis of a terminal illness. These referrals included information about communicating with physicians, hospice and palliative care services and qualifications, and communicating end of life wishes in POLST forms, advance directives, and wills.

While it is difficult to measure accomplishments in social welfare advocacy organizations like the Death with Dignity Political Fund, certainly the enactment of Vermont's groundbreaking law is an accomplishment built on 10 years of active and energetic work in the Green Mountain State.



Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$81,668	\$36,813
Prepaid expenses	5,762	1,061
Investments	239,148	219,402
Property and equipment, net	8,342	16,799
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL ASSETS	334,920	274,075
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable & accrued expenses	\$58,222	\$108,869
Total liabilities	58,222	108,869
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted net assets:		
Undesignated	183,811	96,169
Board designated	56,726	51,788
Property and equipment, net	8,342	16,799
Total unrestricted net assets	248,879	165,206
Temporarily restricted net assets	27,819	-
Total net assets	248,879	165,206
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TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$334,920	\$274,075

These amounts are derived from audited financial statements.

The Death with Dignity National Center and The Death with Dignity Political Fund fiscal year 2013-2014 financials and 2014 tax forms filed in 2014 (IRS Form 990) are available at: <https://www.deathwithdignity.org/about/financials>

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

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

and Death with Dignity Political Fund
for the years ending March 31, 2014 and 2013.

Consolidated Statements of Activities

	2014			2013		
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
REVENUE AND SUPPORT:						
Contributions	\$503,125	\$50,000	\$553,125	\$434,022	\$17,749	\$451,771
Grants	-	-	-	-	-	-
In-kind contributions	13,564	-	13,564	15,304	-	15,304
Income (loss) on investments	10,835	-	10,835	23,045	-	23,045
Other Income	71	-	71	289	-	289
Net assets released from restrictions:						
Satisfaction of purpose restrictions	22,181	(22,181)	-	17,749	(17,749)	-
TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT	549,776	27,819	577,595	490,409	-	490,409
EXPENSES:						
Program services:						
Public Education	150,875	-	150,875	139,673	-	139,673
Communication	59,888	-	59,888	57,475	-	57,475
Oregon Plus One	81,510	-	81,510	290,094	-	290,094
Total Program Services	292,273	-	292,273	487,242	-	487,242
Management and general	40,959	-	40,959	42,046	-	42,046
Fundraising	132,871	-	132,871	125,461	-	125,461
TOTAL EXPENSES	466,103	-	466,103	654,749	-	654,749
Change in net assets	83,673	27,819	111,492	(164,340)	-	(164,340)
NET ASSETS:						
Beginning of year	165,206	-	165,206	329,546	-	329,546
End of year	\$248,879	\$27,819	\$276,698	\$165,206	-	\$165,206

We could not maintain our track record of success without your support. At the same time, we recognize you have goals you would like to achieve through giving. The Death with Dignity National Center offers a variety of giving options to meet each donor's needs. Our fundraising efforts are designed to give a voice to the overwhelming majority of Americans who support the right of terminally ill individuals to make their own end-of-life decisions. Our commitment is to improve health care for those who are terminally ill by guaranteeing that a range of options is available to each and every one of those we serve. Together we can help ensure access and dignity for all people.



The Death with Dignity National Center is a Better Business Bureau Wise Giving

Outright Gifts

Gifts can be made individually and directly to the Death with Dignity National Center for unrestricted support of our mission or designated for a specific purpose.

Automatic Recurring Gifts

You can provide ongoing, reliable support to the mission of the Death with Dignity National Center through our *Sustaining Partner Program* with monthly or quarterly donations transferred directly from your debit or credit card. You have no checks to write, no payments to remember, and no envelopes to mail. You can set up your Sustaining Partner gift by mail, phone, or through our secure online donation form.

Bequests and Planned Gifts

Bequests and Planned Gifts enable you to leave a legacy for future generations and create a lasting commitment to dignity and improved end-of-life options for all. You can make an outright bequest by leaving a specific dollar amount or a percentage of your estate. Your estate planner can guide you through this process. If you are interested in a Planned Gift, 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 to create a permanent legacy for change. Please see the following page for details and to read why one supporter has chosen to include the Death with Dignity National Center in her estate plans.

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. We have a broker/consultant who will assist you with completing your gift of stock or mutual funds. Please contact us for more information.

Giving In Memory or In Honor of Someone

Memorial and honorary gifts celebrate the lives and achievements of special individuals in a lasting way.

Workplace Matching Gifts

If you are an employee or retiree and your company has a matching gifts program, you can double or even triple the value of your gift at no additional cost to you. Your company's Human Resources office can provide appropriate information and forms.



**Please note currently we can only set up gift annuities for residents of Oregon.*



"I watched my mother, father, and two brothers die slow, horrible deaths. I've included the Death with Dignity National Center in my estate plans because I want to ensure future generations won't have to suffer like my loved ones did."

~Dee, RI

Have you left your legacy? I have and I encourage you to do the same.

It is never too late to plan ahead. One way you can advocate for Death with Dignity is to help ensure the Death with Dignity National Center's long-term financial strength. A wonderful way to accomplish this is to do what I did and include them in your estate plans. In doing so you will Leave a Legacy of Dignity to future generations. Two of the most common ways are bequests and planned gifts.

It is very easy to include them in your bequest. See the box to your right for sample language.

If you have questions about including the Death with Dignity National Center in your will or setting up a planned gift, please call Cindy at 503.228.4415 or speak with your attorney.

Bequests to the Death with Dignity National Center

may be made by including the following language in your will:

"I give, devise, and bequeath to the Death with Dignity National Center, 520 SW 6th Avenue, Suite 1220, Portland, Oregon 97204, EIN #: 93-1162366, _____% of my estate or the sum of \$_____ (or describe stocks, bonds, life insurance, or other assets) to be used for the general purpose of defending and promoting Death with Dignity laws throughout the United States."

