

Annual Report

DEATH WITH DIGNITY NATIONAL CENTER & POLITICAL FUND

2019



AN UNPRECEDENTED YEAR

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On the cover from left: Representative Patty Hymanson with Maine Death with Dignity's Valerie Lovelace following the 72-68 Maine House of Representatives vote on May 28, 2019



MISSION
 The mission of the Death with Dignity National Center 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 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

DeathwithDignity.org

/DeathwithDignity
 @DeathwDignity

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Being a leader in our movement has always required patience. Historically, it has taken years to move legislation and shift public opinion. But the whirlwind pace of progress last year proves ours is a movement whose time has come.

In 2018, we won in Hawai'i, a victory 16 years in the making. Then, in April 2019, New Jersey passed an aid-in-dying statute thanks to the tireless work of advocates on the ground. And just two months later, Maine adopted its own statute, nearly two decades after our initial ballot-initiative campaign. For the first time, multiple states passed aid-in-dying bills in a single year.

YOU HELPED US WIN

These victories would not have been possible without your generous contributions. Pages 4 and 5 detail the advances you and thousands of donors across the country made possible. I'm pleased to share our progress with you, and I hope every one of you know how grateful we are to have your trust and support.

STABILITY AND FLEXIBILITY

By embracing both stability and flexibility, we have honed a strategy

for success. We have made a long-term commitment to expanding our work in additional states through our Dignity50 State Leadership Incubator. At the same time, we have the resources on hand to respond to the urgent needs of a specific campaign, as we did in Maine.

The centerfold map illustrates the breadth and success of our movement in 2018 and 2019.

LOOKING FORWARD

Our ultimate goal of policy reform in all 50 states is ambitious, but our momentum grows every year. The political climate in 2020 will be volatile and we're prepared to break through the noise.

I've been a part of this movement for 25 years and I know we couldn't have gotten this far without your dedication to our work. I'm honored to lead this organization—and to have your steadfast support.

Thank you,

George Eighmey, JD
 President, Board of Directors

Your Impact: The Year in Numbers

70



MILLION

Americans who have access to a death with dignity law in 2019

104



Number of co-sponsors of death with dignity bills in Massachusetts and New York, two of our priority states for 2019 and 2020

1,005

Number of information, support, and referral requests fielded by our social workers who specialize in working with dying patients

72,079

Number of signatures Maine Death with Dignity volunteers gathered to place an assisted-dying measure on the state ballot

2,728*

* Individuals who made gifts to Death with Dignity during our last fiscal year, 4/1/2018–3/31/2019

610

Gifts made by first-time supporters

\$113.30

Average individual donation

“The speed with which states are adopting death with dignity laws has accelerated. There’s a growing awareness of how important these laws are, how impactful they can be in people’s lives.”

—PEG SANDEEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DEATH WITH DIGNITY
AS QUOTED BY ABC NEWS, JUNE 13, 2019

Death with Dignity Across the Nation: May 2018–June 2019

CALIFORNIA: Following a California Superior Court judge's May 2018 decision to invalidate the End of Life Option Act, we leapt into action, filing an amicus brief arguing death with dignity is a fundamental part of end-of-life care. While the law has been reinstated, our opponents continue their attempts to overturn it. We're prepared to defend the law from future challenges.

NEVADA: In 2019, we worked with State Senator David Parks to introduce a death with dignity bill. The bill passed out of its originating committee but did not advance to a floor vote. We are laying the foundation for the next session by building on our strong relationships in the statehouse and growing a network of grassroots supporters.

NEW YORK: As a founding member of the Alliance for Medical Aid in Dying, we are working with state-based and national organizations to advance policy reform in the Empire State. If legislators pass the proposed law next year, 20 million more Americans will gain access to expanded end-of-life options.

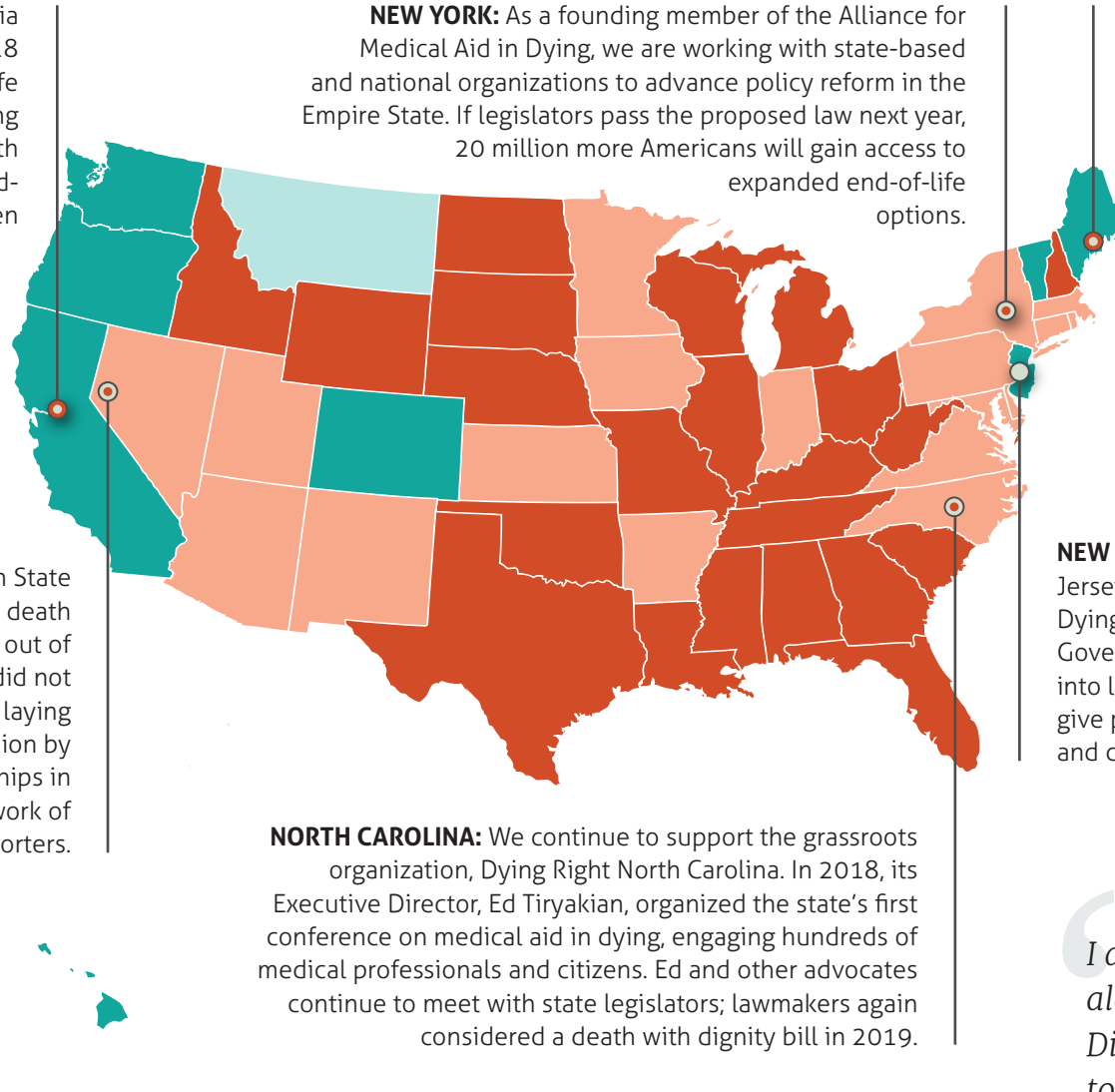
MAINE: In partnership with the grassroots Maine Death with Dignity, we worked throughout 2018 on a ballot-initiative campaign, gathering 72,079 signatures to place a measure on the state ballot. In early 2019, we set our sights on the statehouse, collaborating with lawmakers, advocates, and lobbyists to advance a bill. Five years of dedication paid off in June 2019, when Governor Janet Mills signed the Maine Death with Dignity Act into law.

NEW JERSEY: In March 2019, New Jersey lawmakers passed the Aid in Dying for the Terminally Ill Act. When Governor Phil Murphy signed the bill into law in April, he stated, "we must give patients the humanity, respect, and compassion they deserve."

NORTH CAROLINA: We continue to support the grassroots organization, Dying Right North Carolina. In 2018, its Executive Director, Ed Tiryakian, organized the state's first conference on medical aid in dying, engaging hundreds of medical professionals and citizens. Ed and other advocates continue to meet with state legislators; lawmakers again considered a death with dignity bill in 2019.

"I am committed to working alongside the Death with Dignity National Center to ensure all terminally ill New Yorkers have the right to decide how they die."

—JONATHAN PARTRIDGE, ADVOCATE, NEW YORK



DEATH WITH DIGNITY MOVEMENT IN 2019

- States with a death with dignity statute
- States with death with dignity legal by court decision
- States considering death with dignity in 2019
- States with no legislative activity in 2019

Our 2018–2019 Finances*

Consolidated Statements of Financial Position

	2019	2018
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 677,115	\$ 156,291
Contributions receivable	\$ 25,000	-
Prepaid expenses and other assets	\$ 5,130	\$ 4,513
Investments	\$ 2,417,858	\$ 709,408
Property and equipment, net	\$ 7,349	\$ 10,878
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 3,132,452	\$ 881,090
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 53,024	\$ 45,438
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 53,024	\$ 45,438
NET ASSETS		
Net assets without donor restrictions:		
Undesignated	\$ 962,708	\$ 751,353
Board designated	\$ 2,072,037	\$ 68,982
Property and equipment, net	\$ 7,349	\$ 10,878
Total net assets without donor restrictions	\$ 3,042,094	\$ 831,213
Net assets with donor restrictions	\$ 37,334	\$ 4,439
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$ 3,079,428	\$ 835,652
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 3,132,452	\$ 881,090

* The amounts in the sections "Consolidated Statement of Financial Position" and "Consolidated Statements of Activities" are derived from audited financial statements for the 2019 fiscal year, which ran from April 1, 2018, to March 31, 2019. Full financial statements for the year as well as tax forms are available at DeathWithDignity.org/About/Financials; hard copies are available at 520 SW 6th Avenue, Suite 1220, Portland, OR 97204.


To review our financial statements, visit
DeathWithDignity.org/About/Financials

Consolidated Statements of Activities

	2019			2018		
	Without donor restrictions	With donor restrictions	Total	Without donor restrictions	With donor restrictions	Total
REVENUE & SUPPORT						
Contributions	\$ 3,185,668	\$ 62,075	\$ 3,247,743	\$ 1,215,388	\$ 2,180	\$ 1,217,568
In-kind contributions	\$ 18,000	-	\$ 18,000	\$ 36,473	-	\$ 36,473
Investment income, net	\$ 30,877	-	\$ 30,877	\$ 1,801	-	\$ 1,801
Other income	\$ 63	-	\$ 63	\$ 454	-	\$ 454
Net assets released from restrictions:						
Satisfaction of purpose restrictions	\$ 29,180	\$ (29,180)	-	\$ 2,019	\$ (2,019)	-
TOTAL REVENUE & SUPPORT	\$ 3,263,788	\$ 32,895	\$ 3,296,683	\$ 1,256,135	\$ 161	\$ 1,256,296
EXPENSES						
Program services						
Public education	\$ 189,271	-	\$ 189,271	\$ 189,639	-	\$ 189,639
Communication	\$ 141,422	-	\$ 141,422	\$ 202,396	-	\$ 202,396
Oregon Plus One	\$ 461,013	-	\$ 461,013	\$ 269,774	-	\$ 269,774
Total program services	\$ 791,706	-	\$ 791,706	\$ 661,809	-	\$ 661,809
Management & general	\$ 127,507	-	\$ 127,507	\$ 117,162	-	\$ 117,162
Fundraising	\$ 133,694	-	\$ 133,694	\$ 129,551	-	\$ 129,551
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 1,052,907	-	\$ 1,052,907	\$ 908,522	-	\$ 908,522
Change in net assets	\$ 2,210,881	\$ 32,895	\$ 2,243,776	\$ 347,613	\$ 161	\$ 347,774
NET ASSETS						
Beginning of year	\$ 831,213	\$ 4,439	\$ 835,652	\$ 483,600	\$ 4,278	\$ 487,878
End of year	\$ 3,042,094	\$ 37,334	\$ 3,079,428	\$ 831,213	\$ 4,439	\$ 835,652

The Story Behind the Financials

We have been a people-powered organization since day one. Our coffers have never been filled by large corporate contributions or multi-year government grants.

Supporters like you strengthen our movement, and our financial statements reflect the impact of individual donations from people across the country. 

The Lasting Impact of Legacy Giving

Planned gifts had an immense impact on our finances last year. We received \$2,185,301 from the estates of six visionary donors. These generous donors provided the death with dignity movement with a strong foundation for the years ahead.

Similar to the first \$1 million bequest we received in 2002, we will continue our careful and strategic approach to stewarding

gifts. We use these contributions both to sustain our organization for the long haul and to make a critical short-term impact, as we did to bolster Maine's state-based campaign. By providing support to Mainers when they needed it most, we ensured they had the resources to achieve an historic victory.

We remember our supporters for their dedication to the cause, which lives on through their legacy giving.

Introducing...



The Dignity Circle honors those who have included Death with Dignity National Center in their estate plans.

YOUR TRUSTED PARTNER

We work in partnership with you to devise a planned giving strategy that meets your financial priorities, honors your personal values, and reflects your philanthropic vision.

JOIN THE DIGNITY CIRCLE

Dignity Circle members receive special invitations to events and regular updates on our work.

To learn more about joining the Dignity Circle, please contact Leadership Giving Manager Amy Lavan at (971) 808-2851 or amy@deathwithdignity.org.

“I hope to see death with dignity laws passed in every state—but if I’m not here to see it, my legacy gift ensures others are.”

—STEPHANIE BORDEAUX, FLORIDA

The Right to a Peaceful Death

By Michael Edberg, California

My daughter, Christine Whaley, died of melanoma last year after using California's End of Life Option Act. Her good death—and her commitment to advocating for the right of all Americans to decide how they die—inspires me to support Death with Dignity.

ADVENTUROUS AND TALENTED

Over the years, I watched Christine become an adventurous and talented woman. I cherish the memories I have of her painting, dancing, and mastering her favorite recipes. I will always remember the good times we had together.



Michael Edberg with his daughter, Christine

Christine received her cancer diagnosis in 2012. She was 36 years old.

For nearly six years, she took charge of her treatment plan and fought like a warrior through physical pain and emotional tumult. She shared her story with newspapers and dedicated her final months to doing everything she could to promote death with dignity as an end-of-life option. She did it all with her characteristic courage, determination, and wit.

A GOOD DEATH

On August 25, 2018, Christine used the California law. She died peacefully at home, according to her wishes. In my final communication with her, I told her she had inspired and touched so many people with her strength and kindness.

As I reflected on her life and her death, I knew I wanted to become an advocate for aid in dying. Having the option would be a gift and a relief for people like Christine, who do not want to die, but who are dying.

Christine's cause has become mine. It is my way of honoring her memory. 🙏



520 SW 6th Ave. #1220
Portland, OR 97204

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