On the Road to Human Liberty

Annual Report 2008
On The Road To Human Liberty

Road Trip Highlights:

Victory in Washington-Destination Dignity: Doubling the number of states with an aid-in-dying law, we pave the way for patients’ rights across the nation. Page 5.

Steering Health Care In a New Direction: When California’s Right to Know End-of-Life Options Act goes into effect in January, the impact will reverberate across the nation. Page 7.

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Paying it Forward in Connecticut: Alan and Jeannette Mittelsdorf support Compassion & Choices to protect human liberty and individual choice at the end of life. Page 15.
Letter from the President

Dear Members, Supporters & Friends,

Ahhh, road trips! Who doesn’t remember them fondly? The unexpected vistas, the exhilarating accomplishments, the glimpses of love and wisdom!

Each December we end the year with an “Annual Report” edition of Compassion & Choices Magazine. This year included adventures aplenty on our road to human liberty, with advances and developments at every turn. Inspiring principles and people joined us along the way, and you will meet them here.

Like road signs confirming our direction, indicators of tangible, meaningful progress and dignity appeared as we traveled on. We reached many milestones this year, including the legalization of aid in dying in a second state. We’ll share those successes in this magazine.

Oregonians have drawn a wonderful road map, empowering patients with choice, control and dignity at the end of life. Oregon state can now serve as a guide to Washington and others as they approach the previously uncharted territory of aid in dying.

Thomas Edison’s famous formula for success is “1 percent inspiration, 99 percent perspiration.” We agree. Hurdles and barriers dot every road and overcoming them can be grueling work.

But our solidarity with you, our generous supporters, keeps us going. You build the roads and bridges that make this journey possible. You give it shape and purpose.

And so together we journey on, in dogged pursuit of truth over lies, dignity over dogma, and free will over obedience. Thank you for joining us in loyal companionship and generosity.

Enjoy the ride!

Barbara Coombs Lee
President
Dying shouldn’t have to include fear, uncertainty unnecessary pain or suffering. We are committed to provide every American the opportunity to choose a peaceful death, consistent with personal wishes and beliefs.

We work for reform at local, state, and federal levels to empower patients with control of end-of-life care. We set national standards for end-of-life care and assert constitutional protection for aid in dying.

Our team of litigators and legislative experts fights bills that would force patients to endure futile, invasive treatment; establishes enforceability standards for advance directives; mandates pain and palliative care training for physicians; monitors legislative and policy initiatives; and ultimately shapes best-practice standards for end-of-life care.

This year, our team passed the nation’s second aid-in-dying law.

We successfully pushed legislation to give California residents the right to know all legal end-of-life treatment options.

We are fighting on behalf of terminally ill people in Montana for a constitutionally protected right to a dignified death.

We are working to prevent loss of health care as a result of hospital mergers.

These are only a few of the things that, with your help, our advocacy team has accomplished this year.
Victory in Washington - Destination Dignity

On March 4, 2009, aid in dying will be legal in Washington state. After three years of hard work by Compassion & Choices and coalition members, we are celebrating this resounding victory.

Washingtonians overwhelmingly supported the Death with Dignity measure by 59 percent to 41 percent. Dignity prevailed over dogma despite the opposition’s fierce advertising campaign, largely funded by the Catholic Church.

Thousands of volunteers gave their time, energy and money to support patient choice. Their heroic dedication and labor empower Washingtonians with choices and allow them to exercise the right to die peacefully.

The I-1000 measure garnered a stunning list of 14 newspaper endorsements across Washington state, including the Seattle Times, the Seattle Post-Intelligencer and The Olympian. Organizations also endorsed the measure, including: ACLU of Washington, Washington State Public Health Association, American Medical Women’s Association, American Medical Student Association and the Older Women’s League (OWL) of Seattle.

“The passage of Washington’s I-1000 is a turning point on the path to human liberty,” says Barbara Coombs Lee, president of Compassion & Choices. “Now, dying Washington residents can turn to legal aid in dying instead of feeling forced into violent, crude methods to end their suffering. We hope someday to be able to say the same for patients in the other 48 states.”
This year Compassion & Choices’ Legal Affairs Director, Kathryn Tucker, and Missoula attorney Mark S. Connell filed suit on behalf of a terminally ill Montanan and four distinguished physicians in *Baxter et al v. Montana*.

“This is my personal choice, based on my personal values and beliefs,” says plaintiff Bob Baxter, a retired truck driver who suffers from lymphocytic leukemia. “I want to be able to gather my loved ones and die with dignity in my own home. I should be free to make my choice without the state making the decision for me.”

At the recent hearing in Helena, District Judge Dorothy McCarter asked piercing questions. “Does the state have a compelling interest to preserve the life of a terminally ill patient whose death is soon in coming and who is suffering and who wants to end his suffering by hastening his own death?” she asked the defense.

This landmark lawsuit may establish the right to choose aid in dying for all mentally competent terminally ill people who want this option in the Big Sky State. The judge is expected to rule before year’s end.

Kathryn Tucker puts this case in context: “For a decade, Oregon has served as the ‘laboratory’ for other states, demonstrating that aid in dying can be implemented without harm to patients and, indeed, serving to galvanize improvements in end-of-life care for all citizens. It is timely for other states to follow in Oregon’s path. Through the Baxter case, Montana may soon be one such state.”
Right to Know Act: Steering Health Care in New Direction

California is the first state to require doctors to inform terminally ill patients of their treatment options. When California’s Right to Know End-of-Life Options Act goes into effect in January, the impact will reverberate across the nation.

The Act instructs doctors to disclose all legal and medically feasible options to a dying patient who asks about them. This includes options that relieve suffering, like hospice and palliative sedation and those that allow death, like stopping treatment, nutrition and hydration.

People can’t make good decisions in a vacuum. They can’t solve a puzzle without seeing all the pieces. This bill fills an important information gap. Compassion & Choices was surprised the bill drew vigorous opposition from some health care organizations.

With help from a broad coalition that included nurses, senior groups and human rights advocates, our bill narrowly passed both legislative chambers. Governor Schwarzenegger signed it into law on September 30, 2008.

Informed patients become empowered. When they are empowered, they direct the course of their own health care. We hope this bill will help establish a simple principle for people across the country:

“I have the right to know my options and decide for myself.”
Compassion & Choices’ Consultation program uses the power of choice and comfort to restore hope to individuals and their loved ones at the end of life.

In 2008 Compassion & Choices provided in-depth counseling to 372 clients in 39 states through our End-of-Life Consultation program.

The duration of our consultation averages 180 days and countless hours.

In 2008 we distributed more than 300,000 End-of-Life Consultation referral cards throughout the nation.

In 2008 we delivered 1,178 Advance Health Care Directives, along with instructions to ensure end-of-life wishes are known and respected.

Compassionate Care: End-of-Life Consultation

A solid foundation of expertise, experience and kindness drives our End-of-Life Consultation program.

Our professional staff and volunteers bring comfort and hope to thousands of clients each year. They listen without judgment to fears and concerns about the search for a peaceful, humane death.

Our counselors accompany clients on all aspects of their end-of-life journey. They provide advance directives, referrals to local services, tips on pain management, legal counsel for inadequate care and information on humane, self-determined dying.
Bringing Families Together

Jim Ora Powell taught his children to respect others’ choices. When he opted for aid in dying, they respected his.

Jim was a life-long Oregonian, World War II veteran, and owner of several businesses. He was also a devoted father, grandfather and great-grandfather, and a person of great integrity.

Over the years, Jim and his wife, Autry, counseled hundreds of patients to understand and exercise their rights. The more they volunteered, and the more people they comforted, the more Jim and Autry came to see the work of Compassion & Choices as their life’s calling.

Then Jim was diagnosed with lymphoma. After taming it for six years, Jim learned it had ravaged his body. His doctor told him further chemotherapy treatments would be futile and Jim likely had two weeks left to live.

In severe pain, Jim opted to end his suffering.

His daughter Katy wasn’t surprised. “I always knew from his advance directive and his involvement in Compassion & Choices that this was his wish, that he did not want to die in a lot of pain and discomfort,” she says. “But he also really loved his life and really wanted to live on just to be with my mother.”

Having legal aid in dying in Oregon allowed Jim to talk openly with his children and his minister about his decision. They all accepted it despite their religious differences.

Jim chose to gather his family over the second weekend of September, during which they shared laughter, tears, reminiscences and farewells.

On a Monday morning, he left this life surrounded by his three sons, two daughters, their spouses, 17 grandchildren, one great-grandchild and a handful of special friends.

Katy feels terminally ill people in other states deserve aid-in-dying laws because individuals deserve the right to decide how they die.

“Everybody needs to have the freedom of choice,” she says. “It’s a personal matter.”
The work of Compassion & Choices would be impossible without the dedicated efforts of volunteers. Our volunteers come from all walks of life, and contribute in many different ways.

Ways to Volunteer

End-of-Life Consultation volunteers are trained to work with clients and their families throughout the end of life.

Fundraisers and friendraisers hold house parties and assist in organizing events.

Board members of our local groups coordinate efforts to further the mission of Compassion & Choices, set policy and raise funds necessary to provide service.

Interns work on specific projects that include data entry, mailings and assisting at fundraisers and other events.

Administrative support volunteers spend time at a local or national Compassion & Choices office assisting in day-to-day operations, preparing materials for distribution or planning an event.

Compassion & Choices volunteers generously donated 8,520 hours of service in 2008.

In 2008 we trained 116 new volunteers.

Volunteers

8,520

Desert Road, Texas
Lone Star Volunteer, Don Moore

For 10 years, Don Moore’s Texas twang has served as a voice for choice in what he calls the “buckle of the Bible belt.” A resident of Bryan, Texas, Don is a Compassion & Choices volunteer in the Lone Star State. He has traveled as far as Washington State and Washington, D.C., to help clients.

A retired employee of AT&T and Lucent Technologies, he found us after reading about us as the Hemlock Society in Ann Landers.

He’s as passionate about the right to choose as he is about people’s right to a peaceful death.

“The problem is they just don’t know about the choices,” says Don, who discusses aid in dying every chance he gets. “They suffer because they don’t know.”

Recently, a doctor mistook a spot on Don’s lungs for cancer. It was scary, yet Don is happy to have had the experience because it allows him to further empathize with his clients.

His volunteer work has enriched his life.

“I have had some wonderful experiences,” he says. “You wouldn’t call somebody’s death a wonderful experience, but it is rewarding to me to know that they don’t have to suffer. And the families that I’ve met have been so caring. There are so many of both the families and the clients themselves that I could have been friends with over the years had I been given the opportunity.”

Join our journey - volunteer today!

For more information contact us at 1.800.247.7421 or e-mail us at volunteer@compassionandchoices.org.
More than ever, we are heard across the nation.

Compassion & Choices promotes informed end-of-life decision-making by educating the public and advising health care professionals.

Too many health care professionals turn away from their dying patients. Too many Americans are unprepared to navigate the complex options and restrictions surrounding the end of life.

We employ educational training programs, media outreach and online and print publications to change health care practice, inform policymakers, influence public opinion and empower individuals.
Driving Continued Quality Care

This year, Compassion & Choices ensured that hospitals across the nation offer quality care free of religious bias.

Compassion & Choices is working to prevent hospital transactions in Colorado, Maryland, Michigan and New Mexico that would transfer nonsectarian hospitals to Catholic management. Such transfers subject hospitals, medical staff and patients to the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Healthcare (ERDs).

The ERDs impose the church’s religious and moral values over patient care and can override patient choice. Compassion & Choices, its members and supporters, and coalitions of other “choice” organizations, join in collaboration to prevent these takeovers.

In New Mexico, the hospital in question agreed not to make any changes in services. We launched a “Get It in Writing” campaign and are closely monitoring the outcome.

In Colorado we are in the midst of a lawsuit to prevent a Catholic hospital from taking over a nonsectarian facility.

In Maryland and Michigan, we are raising public awareness regarding the potential impact of Catholic takeovers. Grassroots opposition can prevent these mergers.
Compassion & Choices’ grassroots force of members and supporters stand together to fortify our efforts across the nation.

“...I support and applaud your efforts and have your group in my will. There are hard decisions to make and not many places to go and feel comfortable discussing choices and issues with intelligent, caring people. Your group is one of the few.” — Anonymous Compassion & Choices client

Compassion & Choices is proud to be the recipient of a 4-Star charity rating by Charity Navigator, the largest independent evaluator of non-profit organizations. This is our second consecutive 4-star rating, which is received by only 17% of the charities they evaluate. In addition, we have an A- rating by Guidestar, another resource available to donors.

We take our responsibility of stewarding your money very seriously. Over 88% of your generous dues and contributions are spent on program activities. Here is how those expenses are broken down:

**Program Costs**
*For the Year Ending June 30, 2008*

- Public Education (78%)
- Local Presences/Community (6%)
- End-of-Life Consultation (14%)
- Lobbying (7%)
Paying it Forward in Connecticut

Alan Mittelsdorf and his wife, Jeannette, belong to the prestigious Compassion & Choices Council. These steadfast supporters comprise the leadership society of the movement.

After watching various family members experience prolonged and difficult deaths, Compassion & Choices supporter Alan Mittelsdorf knew he didn’t want that fate for himself.

The retired real estate owner/manager from Connecticut emphatically believes government should mind its own business where personal end-of-life decisions are concerned.

“I don’t want an institution to have control over my body, I want overall control of my body!” he says. “I think the issues surrounding end-of-life decisions should primarily reflect the will of the individual, not the will of an institution.”

That’s why for more than a decade he has chosen to contribute to Compassion & Choices.

Alan encourages potential donors to face end-of-life decisions while they are still healthy and clear of mind, and to express their wishes clearly to family members and trusted professionals.

Contributing to Compassion & Choices, he says, allows us to continue protecting human liberties and prevent powerful institutions from making personal decisions for us.

“Compassion & Choices is an organized force for necessary political and social change.”

– Alan Mittelsdorf
Dear Members, Supporters & Friends,

What do Compassion & Choices supporters across the nation have in common? They may be Baby Boomers or Baptist. Some live in Alabama while others inhabit Alaska. But the most unifying theme of our members and friends is the importance of individual choice.

Aid in dying is one of the most personal, private decisions anyone will ever make. It surpasses age, religion, politics, or geography. The vast majority of our supporters will never use aid in dying. But they are grateful the choice is there – if not for themselves, then for their loved ones, friends or fellow neighbors.

As Americans, one thing that unites us is our fierce independence, our freedom of spirit and the individual liberties we hold dear. The last eight years have made us realize how precious those liberties are.

By supporting Compassion & Choices, we are paving the way toward greater human liberties for all.

Just look at what we’ve done this year:

* We brought Death with Dignity to a second state. We passed a law in California that puts power in patients’ hands. We brought a lawsuit against the state of Montana advocating constitutional protections for the right to die with dignity. We counseled 372 people in 39 states, helping them to achieve a peaceful end to their suffering.

We are heading in the right direction. But we still have a long road ahead of us. With your help and contributions of money or time, we can make this journey together.

Van Zandt Williams Jr.,
Board Chair
Compassion & Choices is grateful to the tens of thousands of donors who give so generously to the mission we serve. From gifts of $1 to grants over $1,000,000, each and every one is vital to our success. While we only list donors here who have given $500 or more, or who give a sustaining monthly or quarterly gift, Compassion & Choices would like to thank everyone who is committed to our mission.

* Denotes bequest donor

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<th>Circle of Compassion - $25,000.00 +</th>
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<td>Dr. &amp; Mrs. James C. Allen MD</td>
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<td>Ms. Dolores Brandel-King*</td>
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<td>Mr. John H. Jordon Kohlberg Foundation Mr. Phillip Mackler* Mrs. Pearl A. Murray*</td>
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<td>gave a total of: $199,958.66</td>
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<td>Hawksglen Foundation Ms. Helen Davis Hermes Samuel S. Johnson Foundation</td>
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<td>Mr. &amp; Ms. Andrew Ross JD</td>
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<td>9 Circle of Compassion members gave a total of: $2,284,608.17</td>
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<th>Circle of Care - ($5,000.00 - $14,999.99)</th>
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<td>Anonymous* Blum-Kovler Foundation Ms. Juliette S. Bonelli Ms. Cecilia Boone &amp; Mr. Garrett Boone</td>
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<td>27 Circle of Hope members gave a total of: $92,681.18</td>
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<th>Circle of Love - $2,500.00 - $4,999.99</th>
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<td>Anonymous Dr. Robert V. Brody &amp; Ms. Andrea Jacoby</td>
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<td>Mr. Sidney Kaufman* Samuel &amp; Francine Klagsbrun Foundation</td>
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<td>51 Circle of Care members gave a total of: $394,784.76</td>
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& Choices -  
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59 Circle of Hope members gave a total of: $92,185.00  

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Thank You for Your Support!

Compassion & Choices values its supporters. We make every effort to produce an accurate donor list, but occasionally errors and omissions do occur. If you discover incorrect or missing information, please call Jane Sanders at 800.247.7421, ext. 2159. We apologize in advance for any inconvenience. Thank you.

Supporters listed in this annual report made donations between July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2008.
Circle of Champions members are those donors who have generously agreed to give a monthly or quarterly gift to Compassion & Choices. From a minimum of $10 to a maximum of $500, these gifts provide a stable foundation for our daily fundraising activities. We are very grateful for their ongoing support. Some names appear in the categories above due to the generosity of their gifts.

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In honor of Barbara Griffin: Ms. Maxine L. Adair  
In honor of Ermina Hart: Mr. & Mrs. James Hart  
In honor of Bill & Jen Holmlund: Mr. William T. Perry  
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In memory of Mr. Thomas: Ms. Gayle Bush

In memory of Helen Thrall: Ms. Martha S. Devis

During FYE 2008, Compassion & Choices was the beneficiary of nearly $400,000 in bequests (*) and charitable gift annuities (**). These gifts are the result of the generosity of those supporters who have made a life commitment to our mission. This list includes those donors as well as those people who have notified us that they have made a provision in their estate plans for a gift to Compassion & Choices. We are humbled by their generosity and truly grateful.
### Combined Statement of Financial Position*

**June 30, 2008**

#### ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Assets:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and Cash Equivalents</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating</td>
<td>$741,564</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>1,382,440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pledges Receivable, Current</td>
<td>34,146</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>597,198</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book Inventory</td>
<td>2,402</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid Expenses</td>
<td>51,127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Current Assets</td>
<td>1,375</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Current Assets** | **2,810,252**

| Property, Equipment and Improvements, at Cost: |  |
| Furniture and Fixtures | 414,335 |
| Leasehold Improvements | 9,904 |
| Signs | 6,016 |

**Less Accumulated Depreciation** | **(352,222)**

**Total Property, Equipment & Improvements** | **78,033**

| Other Assets: |  |
| Pledges Receivable, Non-current | 7,153 |
| Intangible Assets | 4,014 |
| Deposits | 19,589 |

**Total Other Assets** | **30,756**

**Total Assets** | **$2,919,041**

### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

| Current Liabilities: |  |
| Current Portion of Obligation |  |
| Under Capital Lease | $8,065 |
| Accounts Payable | 42,824 |
| Accrued Payroll and Taxes | 85,996 |
| Accrued Expenses | 30,445 |

**Total Current Liabilities** | **167,330**

| Long-term Liabilities: |  |
| Gift Annuity Payments Due | 274,999 |
| Capital Lease Obligation, Net of Current | 10,220 |
| Tenant Deposits | 2,250 |

**Total Liabilities** | **454,799**

| Net Assets: |  |
| Unrestricted | 1,138,791 |
| Temporarily Restricted | 1,075,451 |
| Board Designated | 250,000 |

**Total Net Assets** | **2,464,242**

**Total Liabilities and Net Assets** | **$2,919,041**

*The complete audited financial statement for the year ended 06/30/08 is available at [www.compassionandchoices.org](http://www.compassionandchoices.org) or by request via U.S. mail.*
Our journey will be long, with unforeseen roadblocks along the way. But we look forward to the adventure. We need you, our faithful supporters, as companions for our travels ahead.

Thank you for your continued support.


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