UNPRECEDENTED PROGRESS: UNPRECEDENTED THREATS

2016 – 2017 Annual Report
It was another landmark year for Compassion & Choices and our mission to improve care and expand options for people at life’s end. With this report comes our respect and gratitude to steadfast and generous supporters like you.

We passed medical aid-in-dying laws in Colorado and Washington, D.C.; expanded the ranks of providers and medical associations supporting our goals; persuaded major healthcare systems to make medical aid in dying accessible; and launched our ground-breaking Truth in Treatment™ patient-empowerment initiative.

These successes produced more than just greater visibility and acceptance for patient choices. They heightened awareness of the profound risks of passive acceptance: deferring without question to doctors’ recommendations, whether or not a treatment reflects our values, priorities or even true informed consent.

Compassion & Choices’ gains put medical aid in dying in a far stronger position than a generation ago. Yet in dozens of states where the full range of end-of-life options have yet to be authorized, millions of people still face systemic hurdles to their own empowerment: a yawning information and power gap between doctors and patients, physicians who reflexively apply what they judge best for every individual, patients denied the information and autonomy to choose a treatment path preserving their most cherished wishes.

We’re confident these hurdles will fall, but not without continued vigorous effort. We face zealous opposition, of course. And a dramatically altered political environment has unleashed serious threats to our gains. But the sleeping giant of self-determination has awakened for good. The same community of supporters, volunteers, constituents and donors who made our 2017 successes possible will sustain an unstoppable momentum. I’m sure of it.

With great thanks and resolve,

Barbara Coombs Lee
PA, FNP, JD, President
As our California victory resonated nationwide, Compassion & Choices selected Colorado as the next state poised for success. Years of coalition building, legislative advocacy, public education and other efforts, we believed, heralded a winning grassroots-led campaign.

We chose well: In November, Coloradans approved medical aid in dying by a 65–35 margin, giving it more votes than any other measure or candidate on the ballot. Weeks later, our next victory came in Congress’ backyard. By 11–2, the District of Columbia Council approved a medical aid-in-dying law widely supported by residents.

Our field teams, activists and volunteers advanced medical aid-in-dying legislation in over two dozen other states. C&C’s New York campaign doubled the number of Assembly sponsors for the Medical Aid in Dying Act and won the New York State Academy of Family Physicians’ endorsement. Elsewhere, we persuaded seven other influential medical associations to shift their positions to neutral — a powerful strategy to better align doctors and patients.

In the courts, Compassion & Choices worked with pro bono counsel and patient advocates to file lawsuits in Hawaii and Massachusetts, gaining widespread media coverage in the process. We thank plaintiffs John Radcliffe and Dr. Roger Kligler, both confronting terminal illness, for their heroic support.

Our media campaign featuring actor Mauricio Ochmann and journalist Jorge Ramos dramatically reduced the use of inaccurate and offensive language like “assisted suicide” in Spanish-language media — one of multiple outreach efforts to positively influence debate and discussion of our goals.

People should have access to a full range of healthcare options for life’s end, including peacefully ending unbearable suffering. We are committed to achieving this through advocacy, education and empowerment to ensure that every American can die in accordance with their own values and priorities.

As a Colorado petitioner, I became a petitioner for the Colorado End-of-Life Options Act because I watched my dad suffer in his dying and suffer a horrific death. My dad had wanted medical aid in dying, and I promised him that I would see his wish through so that others who want the option — and who qualify — should have it in Colorado. As a result of the leadership, foresight and resources of Compassion & Choices and the Compassion & Choices Action Network, and the fantastic efforts of a grassroots corps of volunteers, Colorado residents now have access to this peaceful option at the end of life.”

– Julie Selsberg, petitioner, Yes on Colorado End-of-Life Options

Top left: 150,000+ petitions signed by Colorado voters; Mauricio Ochmann’s public service announcement. Center right: Dr. Roger Kligler, physician plaintiff. Bottom right: Compassion & Choices advocates at Hawaii hearing. Bottom left: Dr. Omega Silva, D.C. physician, addresses a news conference.
A dramatically shifted political environment in 2017 has put decades of hard-won progress toward patient autonomy at life’s end in jeopardy. Through advocacy in the courts and legislatures, we will protect our gains and the growing local and national momentum they’ve ignited.

In February, the U.S. Supreme Court nomination of Neil Gorsuch, a vehement opponent of medical aid in dying, was a critical opportunity to tell Congress that his views are dramatically out of step with their constituents. Thousands contacted their representatives and helped us spotlight the judge’s threat to a generation of medical aid-in-dying cases.

This helped position us for our first successful federal win in a decade! In Congress, we staved off a Resolution of Disapproval to nullify the new D.C. law, then took aim at a matching amendment passed by the House Appropriations Committee. We feared for D.C. residents and the entire country, as the brazen overreach threatened a nationwide ban. So we mobilized thousands to call on representatives to reject the amendment. We expect this to be a recurring threat in the annual federal appropriations processes going forward.

Compassion & Choices defeated opponents who sought to undermine medical aid-in-dying laws in Montana, Colorado, Vermont and California.

“Compassion & Choices could not have been a better partner in our ongoing efforts to prevent Congress from repealing the D.C. Death with Dignity Act. The congressional, legal and local legislative experience of its talented staff has helped us mount a successful campaign to defend the medical aid-in-dying law passed by the District of Columbia Council.”
– Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D.C.)

**Montana**: We stopped two bills, including one calling for doctors writing medical aid-in-dying prescriptions to be executed.

**Colorado**: We narrowly won an amendment to restore funding for the new law after a legislator sought to cripple state monitoring requirements.

**Vermont**: We helped dismiss a lawsuit that would allow doctors to not disclose all end-of-life options to patients on purported religious liberty grounds.

**California**: We opposed a suit challenging the End of Life Option Act’s legality. The judge denied opponents’ request to suspend the law but ruled the suit could proceed. The case remains a serious threat.
IMPLEMENTING MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING LAWS

Laws bring little, if any, benefit when people can’t access them. Yet our entrenched health system often fails to respect or recognize hard-won legal options for terminally ill patients. Without a concerted effort to dismantle the paternalistic, outmoded status quo, polling shows millions of people will be subjected to unwanted treatment that directly contravenes their values and priorities.

Compassion & Choices supported successful implementation of medical aid-in-dying laws through Access Campaigns nationwide, helping secure the laws’ long-term viability and resident confidence that the option will be available when and if needed.

A year into our California Access Campaign, nearly 500 healthcare facilities and over 100 hospice locations have adopted policies supporting patients who choose medical aid in dying. Further, 80 percent of private insurers cover the cost of medication. Among them: Huntington Hospital, which originally forbade its 800 affiliated physicians from participating in the law. A powerful community campaign pressured Huntington to drop its opposition and take out a full-page ad in the Los Angeles Times to announce the reversal.

Our Access Campaign in Colorado provided education and model policies to every healthcare system and hospice in the state, and participated in webinar and conference events. All of the large secular systems and two major hospice networks adopted policies to support patient access.

In Oregon, our Access Campaign secured a 70 percent increase in physician participation in medical aid in dying. And outreach from a patient and our staff led the Portland Clinic to drop its 18-year prohibition.

C&C advocates in Vermont helped persuade the Dartmouth-Hitchcock health system to allow policyholders to access medical aid in dying. Our Access Campaign’s first year catalyzed a 400 percent increase in medical aid-in-dying prescriptions, signaling public faith in the law and its long-term success.

Below: Huntington Hospital’s full-page advertisement in the Los Angeles Times reversing its opposition to the End of Life Option Act. Huntington will participate in the law and allow its physicians to decide for themselves.

“Compassion & Choices’ Doc2Doc consultation program has educated the California healthcare community about how to help interested patients access the state’s End of Life Option Act. Equally important, the law has spurred conversations with terminally ill adults about all their end-of-life care options, including hospice and palliative care, to minimize suffering and maximize quality of life.”

– Dr. Lucille Ridgill, Medical Director of the Coastal Cities office for VITAS Healthcare, the nation’s leading provider of end-of-life care
EMPOWERING PEOPLE

Compassion & Choices is committed to empowering people to get care that is consistent with their values and priorities throughout the final chapter of their life, including their death. We offer tools to help people take charge of their healthcare, navigate a challenging health system and ultimately achieve a peaceful death.

With visionary support from donors, Compassion & Choices launched our Truth in Treatment™ initiative to ignite a movement that empowers people to raise their voice in a health system that rarely offers them real options. We released two online tools — the Trust Card™ and Diagnosis Decoder™ — to help people change how and when they question doctors about treatment options and outcomes, increasing the likelihood they will choose an end-of-life path in line with their values.

We also launched a completely updated End-of-Life Information Center at CompassionAndChoices.org/information. This authoritative and comprehensive resource addresses all end-of-life needs, from state-specific advance directive forms to a full range of downloadable planning documents and worksheets.

To further boost patient empowerment, we launched an online Find Care tool in California, Colorado and Oregon. The unique service helps residents in these authorized states choose healthcare facilities and providers that will support their end-of-life preferences, including medical aid in dying.

To improve end-of-life care on a person-to-person basis, we continued to provide confidential support, free of charge, through our End-of-Life Consultation program. This allows patients, their loved ones and caregivers to speak to trained experts about navigating the health system.

We merged with DeathWise, a 6-year-old group established to help people conduct end-of-life planning in innovative, interactive ways. The merger enables us to provide people with the latest information, guidance, tools and other resources to live their last chapter in comfort, dignity and control.

Nearly every physician that I have met since I was diagnosed with breast cancer assumed my highest priority was quantity of life. As a result, I have undergone a number of burdensome procedures and painful treatments which I believe I would have refused if I knew then what I know now because my highest priority is quality of life. But since I started using the Truth in Treatment Trust Card and Diagnosis Decoder, these tools have helped me establish a foundation of strong communication with my doctors so I can ask good questions about the benefits and burdens of my treatment options and make fully informed healthcare decisions.”

– Debbie Stuckey, psychologist with stage 3 breast cancer, Washington, D.C.
Financials

Combined Statement of Financial Position*

June 30, 2017

Assets

Current Assets
Cash and cash equivalents:
Operating 847,722
Investments 1,910,276
Pledges receivable-current portion 3,109,000
Investments 10,262,276
Prepaid expenses 184,908
Beneficial interest in charitable remainder trusts 157,385
Other current assets 215
Total current assets 16,475,782

Property, Equipment and Improvements, at Cost
Furniture, fixtures and equipment 435,886
Leasehold improvements 62,446
Less accumulated depreciation and amortization 498,332
Total property, equipment and improvements 406,407

Other Assets
Pledges receivable net of current portion 591,000
Intangible assets 13,430
Deposits 30,875
Total other assets 635,305
TOTAL ASSETS 17,203,012

Liabilities and Net Assets

Current Liabilities
Accounts payable 197,444
Accrued payroll and vacation 465,207
Total current liabilities 662,651

Long-Term Liabilities
Gift annuity payments due 478,662
Total long-term liabilities 478,662
Total liabilities 1,141,313

Net Assets
Unrestricted:
Operating 14,714,575
Net investments in property, equipment and improvements 91,925
Temporarily restricted 1,255,199
Total net assets 16,061,699
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS 17,203,012

Combined Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets*

For the Year Ended June 30, 2017

Revenue and Other Support
Conferences and events —
Contributions 13,156,766
Membership fees 119,888
Foundation revenue 125,000
Investment income, net of expenses 98,336
Realized and unrealized gain on investments 510,759
Loss on sale of asset (3,810)
Other income 632,336
Total revenue and other support 14,639,275

Expenses
Programs 15,344,656
General and administrative 1,957,383
Fundraising 1,298,198
Total expenses 18,600,237
Decrease in net assets (3,960,962)

Net Assets, Beginning
Total net assets, beginning, 20,022,661
NET ASSETS, ENDING 16,061,699

Costs*

For the Year Ended June 30, 2017

ALL COSTS

End-of-Life Consultation
Fundraising
Lobbying
Administration
Public Education
Community

PROGRAM COSTS

End-of-Life Consultation
Fundraising
Lobbying
Administration
Public Education
Community

* Compassion & Choices and Compassion & Choices Action Network
Revised Program Expenses and Ratios*
*For the Year Ended June 30, 2017

For a detailed look at how Compassion & Choices’ expenses are distributed by program area, please see the pie chart and table. Helping donors stay informed is our best practice.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Area</th>
<th>Compassion &amp; Choices</th>
<th>Compassion &amp; Choices Action Network</th>
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<td>Direct Lobbying</td>
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<td>End-of-Life Consultation</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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<td><strong>1,415,152</strong></td>
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* Compassion & Choices and Compassion & Choices Action Network
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Thank You to Our Extraordinary Donors

Compassion & Choices and the Compassion & Choices Action Network deeply appreciate the generosity of our donors — more than 50,000 individuals, families and foundations. Our incredible successes over the past year are a direct result of your philanthropic support. Gifts from $1 to more than $1,000,000 propel us further and ensure the future of our movement. Many give to us annually; others join our Legacy Circle and include Compassion & Choices in their estate plans. While space limitations allow us to list only donors of $1,000 or more, we value every contribution we receive. Thank you for your commitment, which provides the cornerstone from which we will continue to grow.

* indicates a Legacy Circle gift from a deceased donor

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Mary Klein loves life, spending time with her partner of 37 years, Stella Dawson, and their two German Shepherds. She stays active, visiting family and friends, and enjoying the rich culture of Washington, D.C.

In 2014 Mary was diagnosed with late-stage ovarian cancer, which put her on the path to becoming a staunch advocate for medical aid in dying in the District.

Stella told Yahoo! News that she “was not surprised at all” when Mary decided to help pass the law: “Mary was always a very strong, very courageous, very independent person. I knew that she would want things on her own terms.” Mary appeared in dozens of news pieces this year advocating to authorize, and then protect, D.C.’s Death with Dignity Act.

First she met with D.C. Council members and their staff, saying, “Everyone should have the right to decide how they want to die. Whatever the person’s choice is, I respect that, and I only ask that they respect mine.” The D.C. Council listened to her and many other advocates, then passed the Death with Dignity Act 11–2.

Mary’s contribution to Compassion & Choices has been enormous. She spoke at hearings and press conferences, attended meetings, and she and Stella have supported Compassion & Choices financially. When the D.C. law faced opposition in Congress, Mary was ready to fight for what she had worked so hard to pass.

The U.S. House recently approved an amendment to overturn D.C.’s Death with Dignity Act. “They voted to impose their will and beliefs on me and take away the most personal of decisions: How to die. I am counting on members of the Senate from the six states with medical aid-in-dying laws and those senators who are focusing on urgent national issues — not on overturning a law implemented by a local government — to strip this amendment from the final appropriations bill.”
To our donors, allies, coalition partners, supporters, foundation funders, volunteers, activists, pro bono firms, clients and friends: **THANK YOU!** We owe our 2017 successes to your **courage, commitment and generosity.** Together, we will continue our progress and achieve the full range of **end-of-life options for every American.**