



Death with Dignity National Center
Death with Dignity Political Action Fund

ANNUAL REPORT 2011

BUILDING
PARTNERSHIPS

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**RESPECT THE WILL
OF THE PEOPLE**

OUR MISSION

Working to preserve, promote, and protect the rights of terminally ill Americans.



The mission of the Death with Dignity National Center is to provide information, education, research and support for the preservation, implementation and promotion of Death with Dignity laws which allow a terminally ill, mentally competent adult the right to request and receive a prescription to hasten death under certain specific safeguards. We promote Death with Dignity laws based on our model legislation, the Oregon Death with Dignity Act, as a stimulus to nationwide improvements in end-of-life care and as an option for dying individuals. We accomplish our mission by working to defend and promote Death with Dignity laws in court and in the court of public opinion through our nonprofit Death with Dignity National Center [501(c)(3)], and by working directly with public policymakers through our affiliated Political Action Fund [501(c)(4)].

RESPECT THE WILL
OF THE PEOPLE

Message from our Executive Director

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I am pleased to present this report detailing the organizational activities undertaken by the Death with Dignity National Center during fiscal year 2010-2011. Our nation is facing difficult times, and economic issues are at the forefront of all policy discussions. And, yet, donors to the National Center have been exceedingly generous this past year. Your support has made it possible for us to continue our work improving end-of-life options for terminally ill individuals.

Relationships. Partnerships. Networking. These are the keywords best describing our activities of the past year. Focused on grassroots organizing, staff and board members of the Death with Dignity National Center have forged important alliances with advocacy groups, interested individuals, and medical professionals throughout New England. The shift to New England from a focus on Washington and Oregon was necessitated by trends in the movement. Death with Dignity is no longer an issue viable only in a few states on the west coast. It is a policy experiencing broad public support around the country.

During the last fiscal year, we partnered closely with individuals from Vermont to provide public education and information to stakeholders and members of the general public. The Vermont Legislature is considering Death with Dignity legislation, and our organization has worked throughout the year to contribute non-political, educational presentations and materials to those who are participating in the important debate about expanded end-of-life care options in Vermont. We've raised and distributed funds to the grassroots organization *Patient Choices Vermont* to support their important work on this effort.

Additionally, we have provided grassroots organizing support to the people of Massachusetts in their pursuit of Death with Dignity. Three of our board members live in Boston, and we have a deep commitment to end-of-life care policy reform in the Commonwealth. Our organization provided the financial and legal resources necessary to author the Massachusetts Death with Dignity Act currently being considered for the 2012 Massachusetts ballot. We helped the Massachusetts-based organizers identify supporters and volunteers, and we will continue to participate in the campaign throughout 2012. When compared with other social movements in the United States, Death with Dignity is a movement moving from infancy to childhood. We've experienced vital success at the US Supreme Court, and we have firmly established laws in Washington and Oregon. Broad public support in New England and on the East Coast suggests there will be many successes in the upcoming years.

All of this success would not be possible without you. I invite you to peruse the rest of this Annual Report, and please feel free to contact me at psandeen@deathwithdignity.org if you have any questions about it.

My best to you,



Peg Sandeen
Executive Director



**BUILDING
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Our Organizations and Programs



The Center is comprised of two organizations, the Death with Dignity National Center and the Death with Dignity Political Action Fund, which work together to meet one mission. Both organizations are headquartered in Portland, Oregon, and they share office space and an Executive Director. Each organization is governed by a separate board of directors and maintains separate financial records.

The **Death with Dignity National Center** is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization focusing on public education and legal defense. This organization hosts the informational website, www.deathwithdignity.org, and provides educational materials and referrals to terminally ill patients and their family members nationwide. The National Center provides targeted education to a wide variety of groups who are interested in Oregon's model Death with Dignity law,

including medical students, elected officials, reporters and members of the media, college students, and church officials. The Center provided legal representation to Oregon physicians and pharmacists who were the focus of the Supreme Court case *Gonzales v. Oregon*.

The **Death with Dignity Political Action Fund** is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit, social welfare organization which traces its lineage to the original Oregon Right to Die PAC. This organization provides political experience and expertise to individuals and organizations in other states. You can find information about this organization's history and activities as well as sign up for action alerts through its website, actionfund.deathwithdignity.org. This organization was one of the leaders in the successful Death with Dignity ballot initiative campaign in Washington State and is currently partnering with *Patient Choices Vermont* on a Death with Dignity legislative effort in that state, and with *Dignity 2012* on a Death with Dignity ballot initiative in Massachusetts.

Promoting Death with Dignity

As part of our commitment to promoting and advocating for Death with Dignity laws effectively, we continue to diversify the way we educate the public and build community.

In the past year, we responded to over 70 inquiries per month by phone, email and mail. Typically, people wanted to know more about Death with Dignity laws and how to access them. We also received a large number of student requests which we find exciting because it represents a new generation of potential advocates and supporters of this important issue. In addition, we provided information and referrals to terminally ill individuals, their family members and health care providers about a wide range of end-of-life care issues, including advance directives, Death with Dignity, palliative care, and communicating with physicians. As part of our mission to further Death with Dignity laws, we partnered with *Patient Choices Vermont* to educate Vermonters on their proposed Death with Dignity legislation, and we are now partnering with *Dignity 2012* in Massachusetts.

In June 2010, we launched our Facebook and Twitter pages in response to increasing use of social media by our constituents. As of this publication, we have over 1,100 "likers" on Facebook and over 1,400 followers on Twitter. We have expanded our presence on Twitter, hosting monthly tweetchats about important and interesting issues we, the Death with Dignity movement, and our constituents face. In addition, we have published over 64 posts on our blog, *Living with Dying*, on subjects ranging from the facts about Death with Dignity to grieving a loved one to a tribute to Steve Jobs. This increased involvement on the web allows us to reach a broader audience, to engage constituents in real time, to respond more rapidly to questions or issues in the media, and to more effectively promote the work we do to improve end-of-life care.

However you prefer to communicate, we would love to hear from you!



An Investment in Progress

The staff of the Death with Dignity National Center and the Death with Dignity Political Action Fund are dedicated to working on your behalf to improve and expand end-of-life care options until we all enjoy the freedom to decide how we want to live our final days. This past year has been full of activity and excitement toward that goal! Through our partnerships with *Patient Choices Vermont* and *Dignity 2012* in Massachusetts, we have been working diligently to fulfill our mission to promote Death with Dignity laws.

We are very excited about the work these two groups are doing and about the prospect of 2012 being a banner year for the Death with Dignity movement. Given the positive momentum in each state, 2012 promises to be just that.

It is thanks to your steadfast commitment to our mission that we have come so far in the Death with Dignity movement. Many of you have been with us since the beginning. If there is one thing we have learned, it is patience and perseverance pay off. Our steadfast commitment to you is to invest your hard-earned dollars where they will have the most impact. It is our belief Vermont and Massachusetts are solid investments in a future leading to improved and expanded end-of-life care options for all.



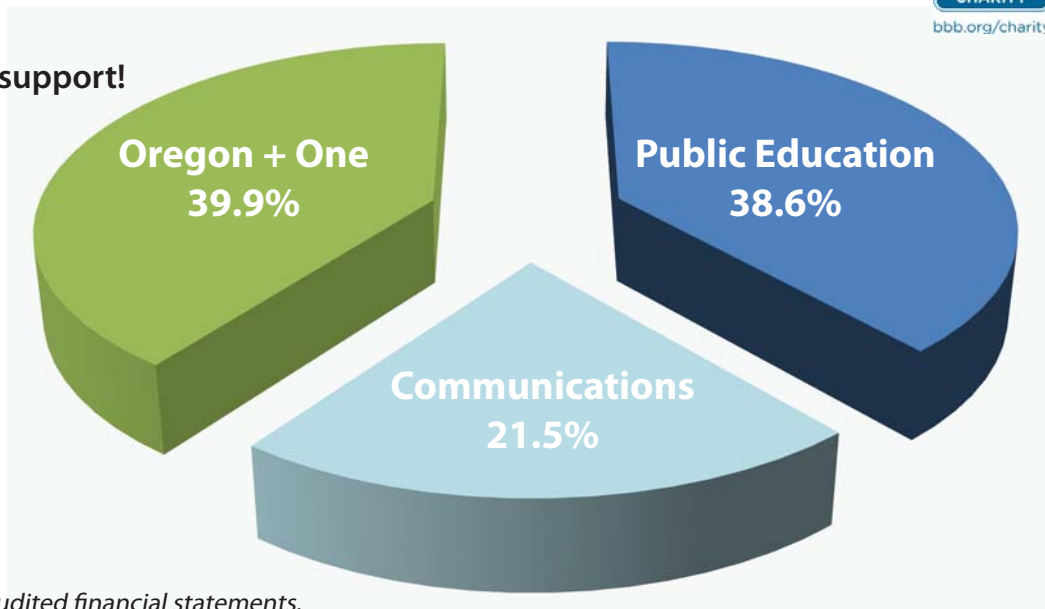
In our leadership role in the Death with Dignity movement, we are proud to stand beside the citizens of Vermont and Massachusetts, and we are honored to have you by our side, as we support their efforts to bring Death with Dignity to their states.

Investing Your Contributions Wisely

We are very grateful for your generous support. It is important to us to invest your hard-earned dollars wisely. This chart shows how our program dollars were spent during the 2010-2011 fiscal year.*



Thank you so much for your support!



*These amounts are derived from audited financial statements.

Consolidated Financial Statements

Death with Dignity National Center and Death with Dignity Political Action Fund
Comparative Financial Operations Report for the years ending March 31, 2011 and 2010.

Consolidated Statements of Financial Position

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$56,469	\$27,909
Contributions receivable	25,000	457
Prepaid expenses	6,736	9,746
Investments	352,132	408,755
Property and equipment, net	<u>8,824</u>	<u>8,702</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>\$449,161</u></u>	<u><u>\$455,569</u></u>
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable & accrued expenses	<u>\$7,551</u>	<u>\$12,455</u>
Total liabilities	<u>7,551</u>	<u>12,455</u>
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted net assets:		
Undesignated	\$338,231	\$388,331
Board designated	48,161	42,892
Property and equipment, net	<u>8,824</u>	<u>8,702</u>
Total unrestricted net assets	<u>\$395,216</u>	<u>\$439,925</u>
Temporarily restricted net assets	<u>46,394</u>	<u>3,189</u>
Total net assets	<u>\$441,610</u>	<u>\$443,114</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u><u>\$449,161</u></u>	<u><u>\$455,569</u></u>

These amounts are derived from audited financial statements.

The Death with Dignity National Center fiscal year 2010-2011 financials and 2010 tax forms filed in 2011 (IRS Form 990) are available at: www.deathwithdignity.org/aboutus/annual-report.

The Death with Dignity Political Action Fund fiscal year 2010-2011 financials and 2010 tax forms filed in 2011 (IRS Form 990EZ) are available at: actionfund.deathwithdignity.org/aboutus/annual-report.

Consolidated Financial Statements

Death with Dignity National Center and Death with Dignity Political Action Fund
Comparative Financial Operations Reports for the years ending March 31, 2011 and 2010.

Consolidated Statements of Activities

	2011			2010		
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
REVENUE AND SUPPORT:						
Contributions	\$358,093	\$103,205	\$461,298	\$325,043	\$22,089	\$347,132
Grants	26,550	-	26,550	7,489	-	7,489
In-kind contributions	9,900	-	9,900	12,600	-	12,600
Income (loss) on investments	43,727	-	43,727	106,840	-	106,840
Net assets released from restrictions:						
Satisfaction of purpose restrictions	60,000	(60,000)	-	18,900	(18,900)	-
TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT	\$498,270	\$43,205	\$541,475	\$470,872	\$3,189	\$474,061
EXPENSES:						
Program services:						
Public Education	\$149,762	-	\$149,762	\$158,719	-	\$158,719
Communication	83,351	-	83,351	38,109	-	38,109
Lobbying	-	-	-	1,250	-	1,250
Oregon Plus One	154,776	-	154,776	97,134	-	97,134
Total Program Services	\$387,889	-	\$387,889	\$295,212	-	\$295,212
Management and general	39,493	-	39,493	61,174	-	61,174
Fundraising	115,597	-	115,597	105,601	-	105,601
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$542,979	-	\$542,979	\$461,987	-	\$461,987
Change in net assets	(\$44,709)	\$43,205	(\$1,504)	\$8,885	\$3,189	\$12,074
NET ASSETS:						
Beginning of year	\$439,925	\$3,189	\$443,114	\$431,040	-	\$431,040
End of year	\$395,216	\$46,394	\$441,610	\$439,925	\$3,189	\$443,114

These amounts are derived from audited financial statements.

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

Board & Staff

Directors

Death with Dignity National Center

Dan Gregorie, MD
Connie Holden, RN, MSN
Edward Lowenstein, MD
Alan Meisel, JD
Carol Pratt, PhD, JD
Timothy E. Quill, MD
Eli D. Stutsman, JD
Steve Telfer

Officers

Death with Dignity National Center

Steve Telfer, *President*
Dan Gregorie, *Vice President*
Carol Pratt, *Treasurer*
Alan Meisel, *Assistant Treasurer*
Eli Stutsman, *Secretary*

Directors

Death with Dignity Political Action Fund

Charles "Buzzy" Baron, LLB, PhD
Dan Gregorie, MD
Midge Levy, ACSW
David "Doc" Mayo, PhD
Carol Pratt, PhD, JD
Timothy E. Quill, MD
Betty Rollin
Eli D. Stutsman, JD

Officers

Death with Dignity Political Action Fund

Steve Telfer, *President*
Dan Gregorie, *Vice President*
Carol Pratt, *Treasurer*
Alan Meisel, *Assistant Treasurer*
Eli Stutsman, *Secretary*

Staff

Peg Sandeen, MSW, *Executive Director*
Terry Miley, MPA, *Director of Finance and Operations*
DeVida Johnson, *Development Manager*
Melissa Barber, *Electronic Communications Specialist*
Peter Hybertsen, MA, *Outreach Supervisor*
Shaun Fairlee, *Outreach Coordinator*
Peter Williams, *Outreach Coordinator*
Michael Zotter, *Outreach Coordinator*



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Supporting Death with Dignity

We could not maintain our track record of success without your support. At the same time, we recognize all of our supporters have goals they 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 rights 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.



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.

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 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.

STAY CONNECTED

Death with Dignity National Center

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Death with Dignity Political Action Fund

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actionfund.deathwithdignity.org



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