

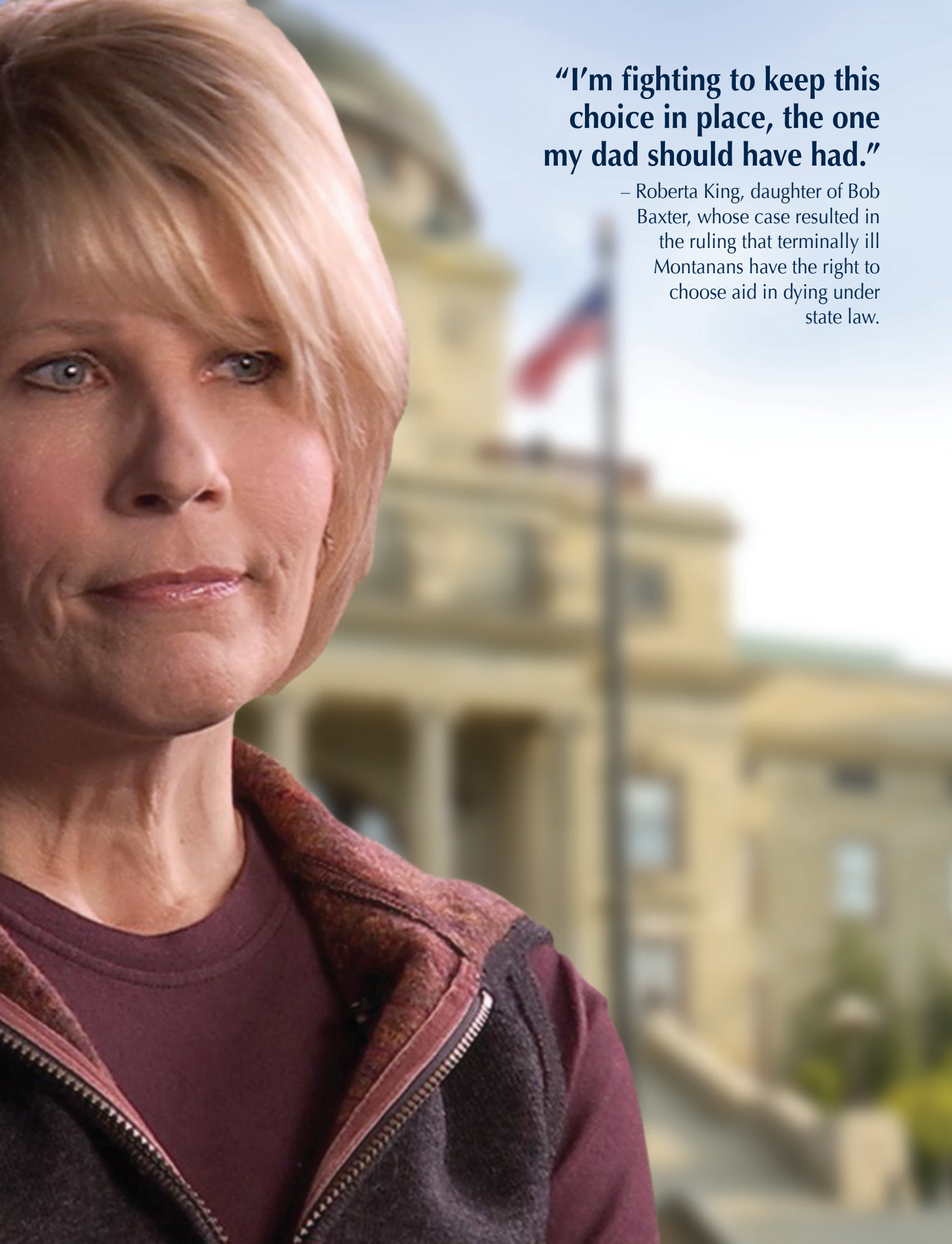
Compassion & Choices

MAGAZINE



**STEP BY STEP
STATE BY STATE**

ANNUAL REPORT 2010



“I’m fighting to keep this choice in place, the one my dad should have had.”

– Roberta King, daughter of Bob Baxter, whose case resulted in the ruling that terminally ill Montanans have the right to choose aid in dying under state law.



Compassion & Choices
MAGAZINE

Annual Report 2010
Volume 9, Number 3

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Compassion & Choices

MAGAZINE

Annual Report 2010

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Letter from the Board

Dear Members, Supporters & Friends,

Compassion & Choices is on the move. This year our footsteps echoed from the halls of Congress, to national news and academic journals. Our words thundered across the Internet, resounded in an Oscar-nominated film and comforted thousands at the end of life.

We progressed unmistakably toward our ultimate goal—a nation where people receive state-of-the-art palliative care and comprehensive choices at the end of life.

Montana's Supreme Court ruled their state allows terminally ill patients to choose aid in dying in the Compassion & Choices-led case *Baxter v. Montana* (page 6). Every Montanan must understand this newly affirmed right.

Washingtonians trust Compassion & Choices of Washington State to ensure access to the Death with Dignity law (page 8) and compliance with its guidelines. The state reported a successful first year under the law.

Compassion & Choices spread the word about the California Right to Know End-of-Life Options Act, which we led to passage (page 10). This fall, New York followed with even stronger "right to know" legislation (page 12). Both laws empower terminally ill patients and their families with an understanding of their legal rights and medical options.

This year, Oregon completes its thirteenth year of responsible stewardship of the Death with Dignity law (page 14). Sandra Day O'Connor insisted the "challenging task of crafting appropriate procedures for safeguarding . . . liberty interests is entrusted to the 'laboratory' of the States." Oregon has become an internationally trusted testing ground.

Compassion & Choices sparked a national dialogue on the importance of end-of-life options by backing Medicare reimbursement for a conversation with one's doctor. Additionally, we alerted the nation to restrictive guidelines on feeding tubes that threaten patient choice. As always, our consultation service brought advocacy to the bedside.

The law in five states now encourages doctors to offer and respect their patients' end-of-life choices. Across the nation, Compassion & Choices creates incentives for physicians to empower patients with information, choice and autonomy.

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MONTANA
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NEW YORK
OREGON
STEP BY STEP
STATE BY STATE

In five states, Compassion & Choices arrived at important milestones on our journey.

Across the nation we achieved quieter, but no less significant, accomplishments. Each step brings us closer to our destination.

"A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." —Lao Tzu.

STEP BY STEP, STATE BY STATE

Blazing a New Trail Under a Big Sky

Montana's Supreme Court ruled on the last day of 2009: end-of-life choice is a matter of personal liberty and solely between patient and doctor. Compassion & Choices' legal team won this landmark case, perhaps paving the way for similar rulings in other states.

A repeal effort in next year's legislature threatens to overturn or restrict this important new right. Compassion & Choices launched a vigorous and comprehensive grassroots campaign to inform and organize patient advocates, medical professionals and other Montana citizens.

Steve Johnson of Helena shared his cancer diagnosis and his desire to have a choice in his dying, on television, radio and in newspapers. Experts from Oregon and Washington traveled across Montana speaking with hospice workers, physicians and interested citizens, and answering their questions about aid in dying.

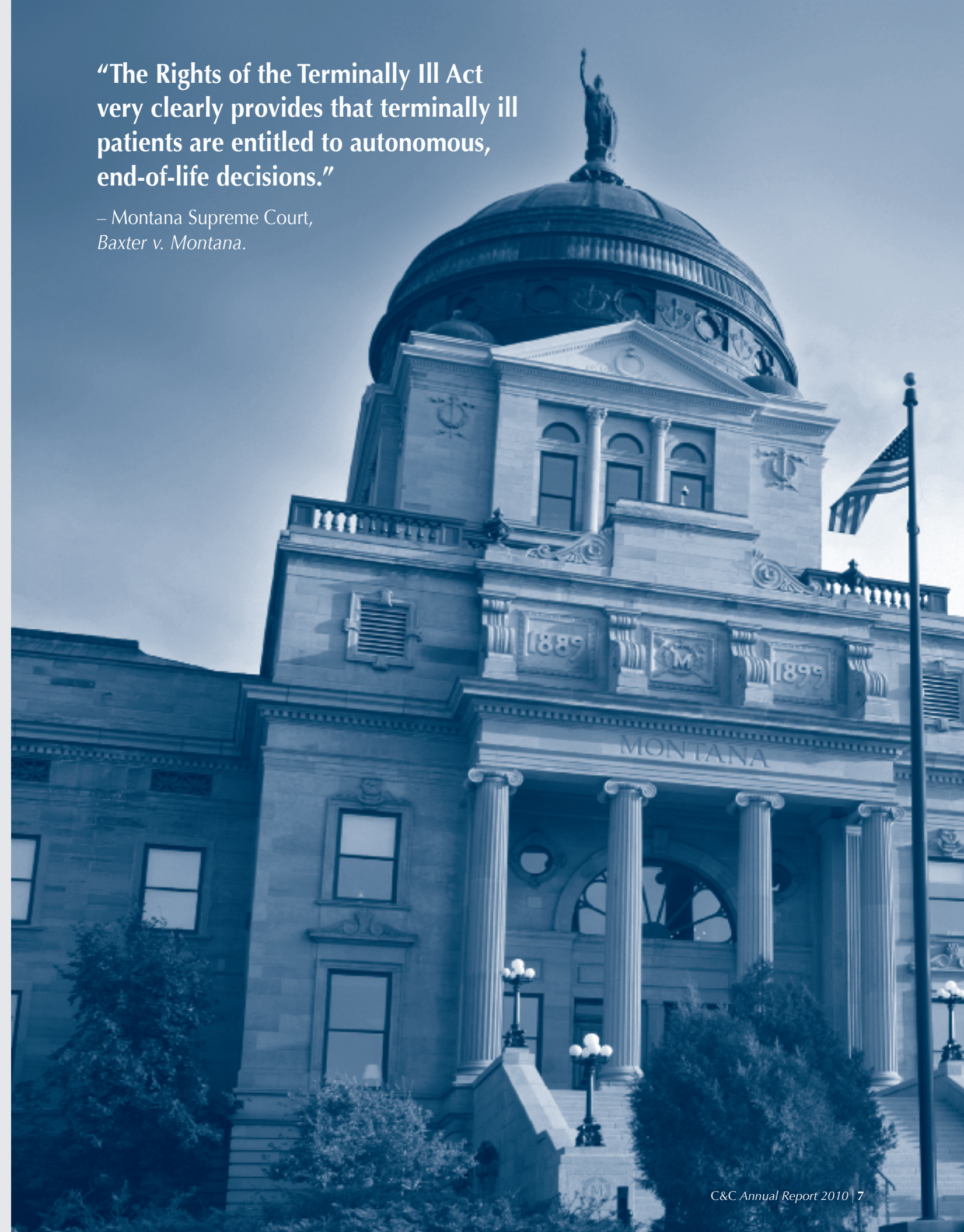
Roberta King, whose father brought the landmark court case, appeared around the state asking Montanans to help preserve the right her father fought to secure.

Compassion & Choices prepared to protect the court's ruling from lawmakers seeking to repeal or restrict it. In February we pledged to raise an army of volunteers to write letters to the editor, advocate at community meetings and influence legislators. We reached our goal by May; by August, we had tripled it. A full-time campaign coordinator on the ground in Montana and our Communications and Community Advocacy Team builds and organizes that growing army of volunteers.

"The Rights of the Terminally Ill Act very clearly provides that terminally ill patients are entitled to autonomous, end-of-life decisions."

– Montana Supreme Court,
Baxter v. Montana.

MONTANA



STEP BY STEP, STATE BY STATE

Keeping the Path Clear and Safe

Compassion & Choices of Washington has guided careful and successful implementation of the Death with Dignity Act since it took effect March 4, 2009.

The Washington Department of Health's report on the law's first year confirmed it works as intended. Qualified terminal patients used the Act appropriately. It is safe, it allows peaceful dying and its guidelines protect against abuse. The 47 deaths under the law in 2009 represent only one of every thousand deaths in the state. More terminally ill patients received prescriptions than ingested them, deriving hope and peace of mind from merely having the medication. None of the opponents' predicted abuses occurred.

Compassion & Choices notified all medical professionals, even those affiliated with religious institutions, they may honor their patients' decisions off the premises of those institutions, and they must inform patients of all lawful medical options.

Increasingly Washington physicians recognize aid in dying as a humane part of medical practice and a potential release from prolonged, agonized dying that palliative care cannot alleviate.

Dr. Robert Thompson of Seattle wrote prescriptions for three terminally ill patients who requested his aid in dying. Each benefited from the option in different ways. "One is still alive today," said Dr. Thompson in May. "One died in her sleep, but was greatly reassured by having her prescribed medications in case she needed them for a peaceful death. The third was himself a physician, with metastatic cancer in his bones. He took the medication and died peacefully according to his own values and choices."

"I'm going through experimental treatment now to gain some time. I don't know if I'll even take the prescription. But having it and the choice to use it to aid in achieving a peaceful death is of great benefit to me."

- Kathy Sparks of Issaquah, a former hospice nurse with Stage 4 Melanoma

WASHINGTON

STEP BY STEP, STATE BY STATE

Carrying Through on a Golden Promise

When a patient diagnosed with a terminal illness asks a physician, “What are my choices?” the California Right to Know End-of-Life Options Act (Right to Know Act) mandates a comprehensive answer. Compassion & Choices championed this law through the legislature and the governor’s signing two years ago.

But we did not rest at that. Education serves our advocacy too, so this year Compassion & Choices took the lead to spread information about the Right to Know Act.

We distributed 10,000 patient brochures, held over 100 community and provider information meetings and, with other end-of-life organizations, educated Californians about their right to information. We developed a plan to coordinate and maximize the efforts of state agencies, professional associations, and national, state and local organizations.

Recent research demonstrates terminally ill patients who discuss end-of-life care with their physicians are more likely to receive hospice care and less likely to die in a hospital intensive care unit. Study after study confirms these conversations determine whether patients get the best end-of-life care, or suffer needlessly.

Compassion & Choices is arming patients with information, enabling truly informed consent to end-of-life treatment.

“Compassion & Choices visited my mother and told her about all legal options available to her. As is usually the case, she just wanted to know, to give her a sense of control.”

– Stewart Florsheim, Piedmont, California

CALIFORNIA

STEP BY STEP, STATE BY STATE

Reaching a New Shore

In August, end-of-life liberty arrived at the East Coast of the United States. The New York Palliative Care Information Act charges health care providers with the duty to offer to talk about end-of-life choices.

Compassion & Choices and our New York affiliate drafted the bill and gained sponsorship from the chairs of the legislative health committees. Both houses overwhelmingly voted to send the bill on to the governor. To overcome opposition from the powerful New York Medical Society, we presented the governor with stacks of research demonstrating the need for this law. Relentless effort from our New York affiliate ultimately won the governor's signature, scoring a huge victory for patient-centered care.


Beyond New York State's own large population, the impact resonates across the country, in part because one in six of our nation's doctors receive training in New York. Other organizations, including the Hospice and Palliative Care Association of New York and the New York State Association of Health Care Providers championed our bill.

The American Public Health Association promoted the new law in its recent newsletter:

The goals of the legislation are to ensure quality clinical practice in end-of-life and palliative care and to empower patients who are dying. The legislation is also an important step in the shared decision-making movement because it will improve communication between patient and physician, promote trusting relationships, and provide the patient with the best evidence about treatment options.

Sharpening patient rights, extending our reach, enlarging the circle of allies, Compassion & Choices has arrived in exciting new territory.

NEW YORK



“Legislators have begun to recognize the medical, humanitarian and economic value of helping terminally ill patients and their families navigate treatment options as they approach the end of life.”

– Jane E. Brody, New York Times Personal Health columnist.

STEP BY STEP, STATE BY STATE

Retracing Early and Visionary Steps

Oregon's groundbreaking Death with Dignity Act has come of age, with nearly thirteen years' experience. Mandated state reports repeatedly confirm the safety of physician aid in dying. Most physicians consider it part of normal end-of-life care. None of the opponents' predicted problems have occurred. Oregon ranks high among states for quality care at the end of life.

Compassion & Choices has been at the forefront of protecting the law from opposition slander and national threat. Since the 2006 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that regulation of aid in dying is outside federal jurisdiction, public opinion has solidified and grown.

Compassion & Choices' staff and board members published compelling articles based on Oregon data, highlighting a repetition of positive results and increasing support from medical and public health organizations. Their articles appeared this year in scholarly journals, including *Oncology Issues*, the *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management*, and the *Idaho Law Journal*.

Ongoing independent research of Oregon's practice demonstrates positive results. This year the *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management* reported on family members of Oregonians who requested aid in dying. It concluded, "In summary, pursuit of aid in dying does not have negative effects on surviving family members and may be associated with greater preparation and acceptance of death." USA Today editorialized that more states should "follow Oregon's lead and enable the terminally ill who wish to die with dignity to have the ability to do so."

The accumulated knowledge of Oregon medical and public health professionals is an invaluable resource to other states and nations seeking to expand end-of-life choice for their citizens.

"The exceptional success of Oregon's law paved the way."

– USA Today Editorial

OREGON

Wherever You Go, Walking Beside You

“300,000 Terri Schiavos.” A front-page post on the influential Daily Kos blog “went viral,” explaining the new religious directive on feeding tubes that threatens end-of-life choice at nearly a quarter of American health care facilities. Within months, the story spread to nationally recognized news outlets. By April, visitors to our website could download a Sectarian Health Care Addendum to protect their advance directive from nullification.

President Obama encouraged hospitals to honor advance directives and the authority of non-traditional domestic partners as surrogate decision makers. The national media turned again to Compassion & Choices for expert information. The influential cable news program *Anderson Cooper 360* highlighted our legal advocacy.

Compassion & Choices’ End-of-Life Consultation service supported thousands seeking candid, authoritative information on approaching death in comfort and control. The program distributed 40,000 copies of its *Good to Go Resource Guide*, and published several new education pieces.

No other organization takes on the issues we do, and none speak on behalf of consumers. Our work provokes widespread interest and our impact is growing. The motion picture academy gave an Oscar nomination to *The Last Campaign of Governor Booth Gardner*, a documentary on Washington’s Death with Dignity campaign. But it was up to Compassion & Choices to persuade the film’s producer, HBO, to respect dying patients, and remove references to “suicide” from promotional materials.

Compassion & Choices responds to thousands who seek information each year. We shape federal public policy and we drive the national discussion of care and choice at the end of life.

“Your letter was so gratefully received. Like our phone visits it provided peace of mind—making it possible to open my arms and heart to the joy life offers.”

- Anonymous, End-of-Life Consultation client

Thank you to our Annual and Champions Circle Donors

As always, 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, Compassion & Choices would like to thank everyone who is committed to our mission. (Totals are for gifts made in FY 2010: July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010.)

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A Good Death: What is your story?

Everyone is a storyteller and Compassion & Choices believes everyone has a story to tell.

According to Jennie Chin Hansen, president of the AARP, "There needs to be an aggregation of stories about people who have had more positive end-of-life experiences."

Do you know of a good death? Did it harmonize with the desires and beliefs of the person who died? How?

Send us your story. Top prizes include a complementary one-year Compassion & Choices membership, an iPod Nano, a *Living to the End* journal plus a copy of *Compassion in Dying: Stories of Dignity & Choice*, autographed by author Barbara Coombs Lee. Get a set of hand-crafted note cards just for entering.

Email your story to jpowell@compassionandchoices.org or contact us by phone at 1.800.247.7421 with questions. Stories must be no more than 750 words long and received by January 15, 2011.

Compassion & Choices

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In Memory of: Alma White
Dr. Thomas J. White and Ms. Leslie Scalapino

In Memory of: Marion Winston
Mrs. Marcia O'Toole

In Memory of: Sylvia Wolf
Mr. Joseph W. Bertram

In Memory of: Nina Jill Woolis
Ms. Amy L. Godes

In Memory of: Gordon Wurster
Ms. Georgene Wurster

In Memory of: W. Dean Young
Mr. J.L. Young

In Memory of: Norma L. Ziegler
Dr. Ralph F. Ziegler DVM

In Honor Of:

In Honor of: Sue Alexander
Ms. Sharon Gitzen

In Honor of: Mrs. Edward Allardice
Ms. Patricia C. Schemm

In Honor of: Barbara Baird & Wallace Baird
Ms. Mary S. Baird

In Honor of: Elsie Barber
Mr. Donn R. Barber

In Honor of: John Brook
Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Simmonds

In Honor of: Marge Buchanan
Mr. and Mrs. David G. Buchanan

In Honor of: Kathryn C. Cherry
Dr. and Mrs. William B. Cherry

In Honor of: David Cuming
Mr. and Mrs. John Arnhold

In Honor of: David and Eugene
Mrs. Dorothy Wolfthal

In Honor of: Lillie Mae Daughtrey
Ms. Ann Gilson

In Honor of: Christine Farrington
Mr. Stanley S. Trotman and Mrs. Stanley Trotman

In Honor of: C. Eleanor Genovese
Mr. Frank Genovese

In Honor of: David Gill
Ms. Lyn Klein

In Honor of: Bea Gillette
Ms. Elaine H. Birn

In Honor of: Manley Goldberg
Mr. Howard I. Malmon

In Honor of: Harry Haig
Ms. Rose Haig

In Honor of: Lawrence Halprin
Ms. Janann F. Strand

In Honor of: Ellen L. Hamilton
Mr. Michael Hamilton

In Honor of: Derek Humphry
Mr. Kevin M. Harnett

In Honor of: Jill Johnson
Dr. Taylor Rockwell and Ms. Martha Wolf

In Honor of: Patricia S. Johnson
Mr. Jay L. Johnson

In Honor of: Marilyn Kappes
Mrs. Ellen Kappes

In Honor of: Dr. Kervorkian
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Steffan

In Honor of: Ruth & Otto Landman
Landman Family Charitable Giving Fund

In Honor of: Robert Leoni
Ms. Shellie Leoni

In Honor of: Jerry and Elas Lewis
Ms. and Mr. Estelle Milch

In Honor of: Nora and Robert Livengood
Mr. Steve Livengood

In Honor of: Mrs. Eve Mayer
Mr. Robert Brudner
Mr. Joseph Caroff and Dr. Phyllis Caroff
Mrs. and Mr. Gloria F. Cohen
Ms. Ruth Rosenberg

In Honor of: Jay MacDonald
Mr. Robert N. Strain

In Honor of: Dr. Henry J. Meunier
Ms. Sharon Moody

In Honor of: Maryanne Mott
Mr. Robert E. Bason
Ms. Rose E. Cohen

In Honor of: Julie Mulvaney
Ms. Julie Mulvaney

In Honor of: William H. Overhauser
Mr. Paul B. Overhauser

In Honor of: Owen
Ms. Melissa C. M. Andersen

In Honor of: Jamel Perkins
Ms. Barbara Greenberg

In Honor of: Sue Porter
Ms. Diana R. Deshler
Chris Garos and Gary Watson

In Honor of: W. Arch Riley
Ms. Mary P. Riley

In Honor of: Jordan Rubin
Mr. Marshall B. Rubin

In Honor of: Florence Schaefer
Mrs. Gail Sorensen

In Honor of: Milo P. Smith
Ms. Kay Stenberg

In Honor of: Ruth Proskauer Smith
Mr. William L. Bernhard and Ms. Catherine Cahill

In Honor of: Susan Torborg
Ms. Harriette Barber

In Honor of: Betsy Nimitz Van Dorn
Ms. Frances N. Zehmer

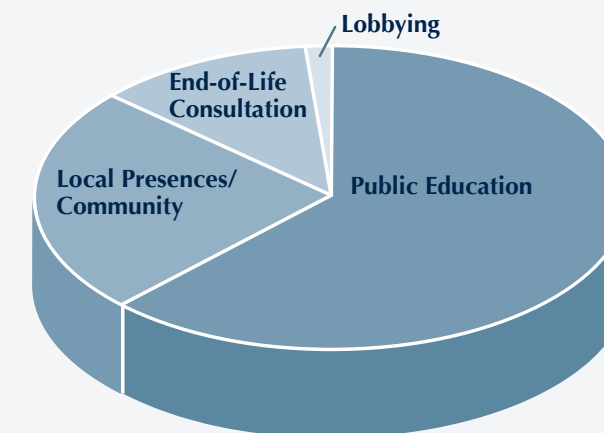
In Honor of: Bernice Warrington
Ms. Miriam R. Goldberg

In Honor of: Robert Williams & Katerina Zervas
Mr. and Mrs. Ken Williams

In Honor of: Merla Zellerbach
Mrs. Gretchen de Baubigny
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Newman

Program Costs

We take our responsibility of stewarding your money very seriously. Over 81% 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, 2010:

- Public Education 62.44%
- Local Presences/Community 24%
- End-of-Life Consultation 12.02%
- Lobbying 1.53%

Combined Statement of Financial Position

June 30, 2010

ASSETS

Current Assets:

Cash and Cash Equivalents	
Operating Investments	1,364,479
Investments	308,743
Investments	1,421,140
Book Inventory	4,297
Prepaid Expenses	54,161
Other Current Assets	1,930
Total Current Assets	3,154,750

Property, Equipment and Improvements, at Cost:

Furniture and Fixtures	476,149
Leasehold Improvements	26,604
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(318,500)
Total Property, Equipment & Improvements	184,253

Other Assets:

Intangible Assets	3,014
Deposits	11,931
Total Other Assets	14,945

Total Assets 3,353,948

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities:

Current Portion of Obligation Under Capital Lease	3,680
Accounts Payable	38,957
Accrued Payroll and Taxes	173,328
Accrued Expenses	92,713
Total Current Liabilities	308,678

Long-term Liabilities:

Gift Annuity Payments Due	256,649
Capital Lease Obligation, Net of Current	1,893
Total Liabilities	567,220

Net Assets:

Unrestricted	2,786,728
Total Net Assets	2,786,728

Total Liabilities and Net Assets 3,353,948

Combined Statement of Activities & Changes in Net Assets

For the Year Ended June 30, 2010

	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	TOTAL
Revenue and Other Support:			
Contributions	2,244,409	1,900,00	4,144,409
Membership Fees	281,994		281,994
Sales	(2,360)		(2,360)
Grants	2,080,150		2,080,150
Investment income net of related expenses	6,477		6,477
Realized & unrealized gain on investments	40,742		40,742
Loss on sale of assets	(7,230)		(7,230)
Other income	214,986		214,986
Net assets released from restrictions:			
Satisfaction of program restrictions	1,956,610	(1,956,610)	0
Total revenue and other support	6,815,778	(56,610)	6,759,168
Expenses:			
Programs	5,464,338		5,464,338
General and administrative	735,743		735,743
Fundraising	281,083		281,083
Total expenses	6,481,164		6,481,164
Increase (decrease) in net assets	334,614	(56,610)	278,004
Net asset increase(decrease) for:			
Net assets, beginning	2,452,114	56,610	2,508,724
Net assets, ending	2,786,728	-	2,786,728

Lifelong Human Rights Supporter Makes Long-Term Commitment to Death with Dignity Law

Actions speak louder than words for Patricia Bixby, who supports Compassion & Choices as a voice for people unable to speak up for themselves at the end of life.

Patricia, 82, is a retired mental health professional with a master's degree in clinical psychology. Patricia's lifelong interest in supporting human rights and death with dignity laws peaked when her mother, Gertrude, experienced health crises that left her paralyzed and unable to speak.

"It was difficult to see her like that," Patricia says, "because she really liked to talk." Patricia was her mother's voice and advocate when needed, ensuring Gertrude was well cared for and receiving the pain medications and treatments she needed. But Patricia says she knows that not everyone is so fortunate.

In 2009, Patricia established two charitable gift annuities with Compassion & Choices, extending her support for end-of-life initiatives beyond her lifetime. "This issue is very important to me—to have the right to make the decisions and choices for what you want to do at the end of life," Patricia says.

Through her annuities, Patricia has made two tax-deductible contributions to Compassion & Choices. In exchange, Patricia receives quarterly payments to help cover living expenses for the rest of her life. Upon Patricia's death, remaining funds will be used by Compassion & Choices to improve care and expand choices for people at the end of their lives. "Patricia's investment in Compassion & Choices is a win-win situation for both Patricia and our organization," says Jane Sanders, Director of Membership & Planned Gifts.

How You Can Help

Compassion & Choices relies on the generosity of our donors to provide direct services to patients who are terminally ill, as well as their families. If you're interested in supporting our mission, please contact Jane Sanders at 800.247.7241. She would be happy to help you find an option that works for you.



compassion & choices

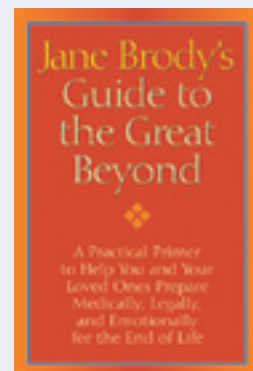
Support. Educate. Advocate. Choice & Care at the End of Life

P. O. Box 101810 • Denver, Colorado 80250-1810
CompassionAndChoices.org

Compassion & Choices' Online Bookstore

FEATURED BOOK: *Guide to the Great Beyond* by New York Times health columnist Jane Brody, who observes that we are all going to die sometime, so we might as well do it right. Brody mixes intellect with humor and makes the poignant observation that our attitudes about life affect our attitudes about death. Checklists and anecdotes help readers put their own house in order, sparing loved ones the uncertainty of what to do should one no longer be able to communicate for themselves.

Retail price \$26.00 | Member price \$18.00



Visit us online at CompassionAndChoices.org/care/bookstore to see many more books, DVDs and documents, or call 800.247.7421 to request a bookstore list and order form by mail.