

Annual Report

2021



A Year of Online Advocacy

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On the Cover

Passionate activists pushed our movement forward, learning to advocate remotely in 2020.



OUR 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

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Celebrating a Win and Creating the Future We Want



This year, we reached a notable milestone and achieved significant legislative victories, successes we are thrilled to share. But as I reflect on the year, I think first about every person supporting the death with dignity movement, and all those we are fighting for. This movement is not just about passing laws—it's about ensuring people have autonomy, dignity, and control at the end of their lives.

With determination, dedication, and a willingness to get creative, no goal is too ambitious. This year, with the historic win in New Mexico, we reached a ten-year milestone (after just eight years). Read more about our ambitious "10 in 10" plan on pg. 4.

Now we're laying the groundwork for the next ten years. The future of our movement relies on building additional connections and dismantling the barriers that separate us. As we do the hard and necessary work of propelling our movement forward, we're investing in resources that support and connect us. Read more about our new online Action Center on pg. 8.

We'll continue taking actions to ensure our organization is equitable and accessible to all. In addition to updating our hiring practices, we've hired new staff and advisers in Massachusetts, New York, and Ohio, bringing us closer to advocates on the ground across the U.S.

Our progress would not be possible without you. Your support and belief in our work means the world to us. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George Eighmey".

George Eighmey, JD, President, Board of Directors

10 States in 10 Years: An Outrageous Vision, Realized

When the future looked uncertain, Death with Dignity's Peg Sandeen doubled down with a bold vision. Nearly two years ahead of schedule, we've achieved it!



Peg Sandeen
circa 2013

In 2013, our movement was reeling from the devastatingly narrow loss of a death with dignity initiative in Massachusetts on the 2012 ballot. Advocates felt bruised and dejected; Peg recalls that "the movement felt mired in loss."

At the same time, Peg knew there were precedents for activists using defeat as a springboard: "I knew successful social movements transformed setbacks into successes. I just had to figure out a plausible path forward for us."

Driven by a belief that "roadblocks are just problems to be solved," Peg began to see "a glimmer" of how Death with Dignity could

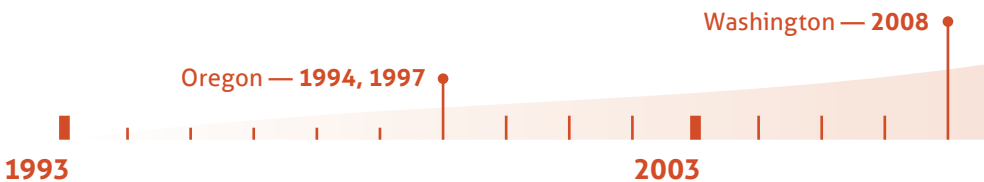
move forward. As her research deepened, so did her conviction.

Successful social movements, like the fights for marriage equality and cannabis decriminalization, were able to harness a loss to slingshot themselves into a legislative win.

Inspired by the trajectory of these social movements, and equipped with a bold vision and roadmap anchored in the history of social movements, Peg presented an ambitious plan to the board of directors: Within ten years, there would be ten states with death with dignity laws.

DEATH WITH DIGNITY LAWS ● Proposed ● Achieved

This timeline shows Peg's proposed "10 in 10" plan in gray alongside the actual laws passed over the last decade in orange.

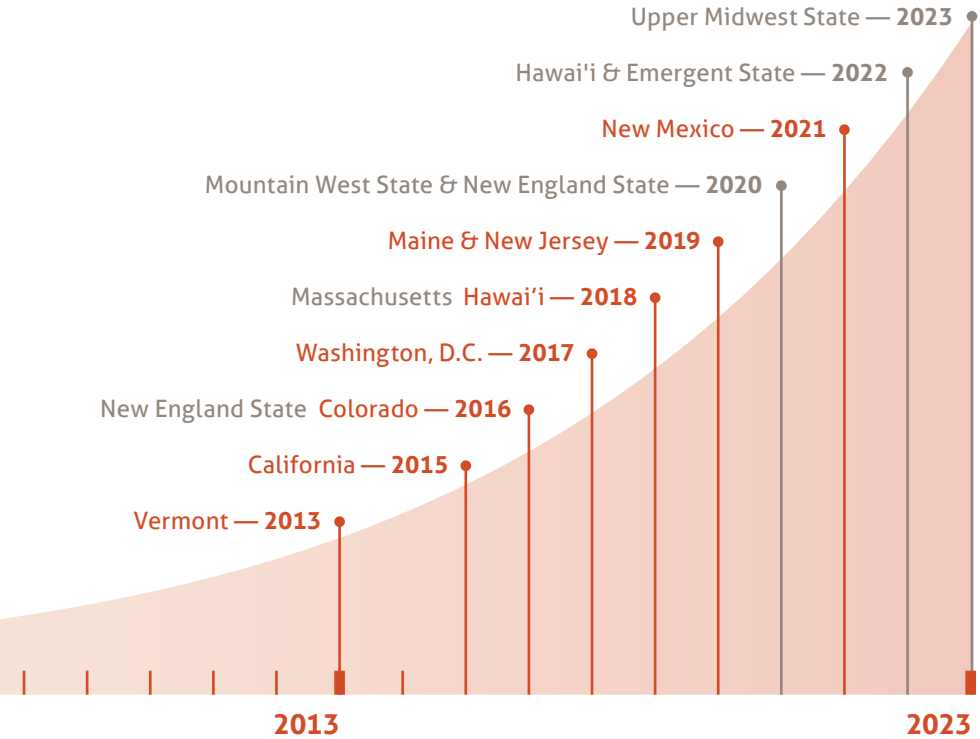


In 2012, only two states had death with dignity laws on the books. What Peg was proposing was a paradigmatic shift. But she was determined not to lose sight of the movement's mission or the millions of people still unable to make their own decisions about end-of-life care.

Peg's plan called for an organizational pivot from grassroots ballot initiatives to more direct work with legislative bodies and government policy makers. With the board of directors' support, we modified our tactics. We began by working with local advocates to

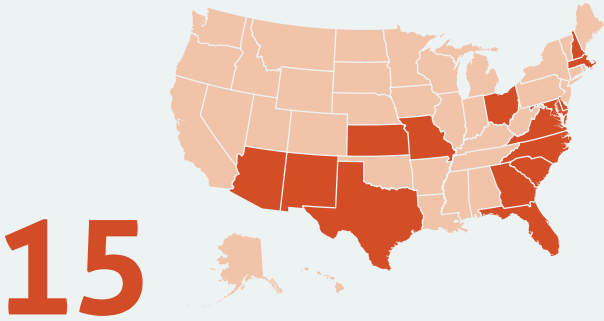
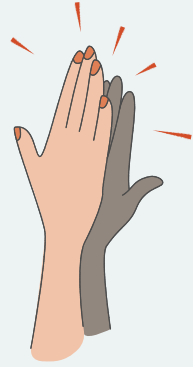
successfully bring death with dignity legislation to Vermont in 2013 (the culmination of a ten-year effort). In 2015, we collaborated with national and local groups to pass a law in California, a state where earlier efforts had failed. Our momentum grew.

Now, nearly two years ahead of schedule, nine states and the District of Columbia have passed death with dignity legislation. Today, 73 million people are able to make their own decisions about their end-of-life care, and they are able to do so with dignity, integrity, and support. 🌿



Death with Dignity by the Numbers

This has been an action-packed year. We are pleased and proud to share a selection of our achievements, fun facts, and exciting stats.



states where we're supporting active, grassroots death with dignity efforts



calls/emails fielded by our social work team

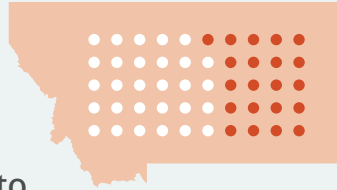


letters sent to NY legislators from constituents demanding death with dignity

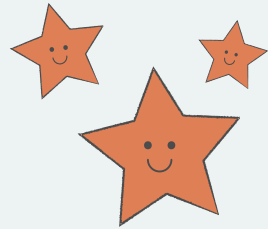


states where we're concentrating our efforts now—Arizona, Massachusetts, and New York

29-21

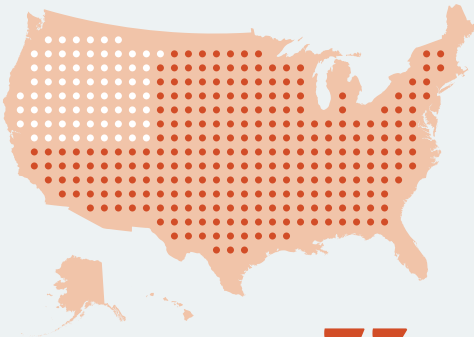


the final bipartisan vote to indefinitely postpone action on SB 290, a bill that sought to eliminate access to death with dignity in Montana



839

first-time donors



~73 million

people with access to death with dignity law

● = 1 million people

Launching the Death with Dignity Action Center

No matter where you live or how much experience you have, the Action Center makes advocacy accessible.

In February, we launched our newest advocacy resource: the Death with Dignity Action Center. A comprehensive and user-friendly online advocacy hub, the Action Center connects death with dignity supporters with everything they need to become advocates.

MAKING ADVOCACY ACCESSIBLE

Thousands of advocates across the country lend their time and expertise to the death with dignity movement by writing to legislators, providing moving testimony, and sharing stories.

In the spirit of shared determination and vision, we created the Action Center to make advocacy options even more easily accessible so anyone who wants to can join our movement, even if they've only got a few minutes to spare. From signing a petition

What can you do in the Action Center?

- ★ Sign up for our newsletter
- ★ Sign a petition in your state
- ★ Email your elected officials
- ★ Enroll in a three-part advocacy training and become an advocacy powerhouse!
- ★ Learn to write an opinion article
- ★ Learn to testify at a legislative hearing

to drafting a letter to the editor, the Action Center helps people engage with just a few clicks.

SUCCESS IN NEW MEXICO

The Action Center has already proved to be an invaluable resource for groups rallying to get a legislative or ballot initiative across the finish line. In New Mexico, where the Elizabeth Whitefield End-of-Life Options Act recently went into effect, advocates on the ground utilized the Action Center during their final push to get the bill passed. Our team added state- and bill-specific actions, tools, and language to the Center so advocates and volunteers had resources at the ready as they worked to get the bill passed. 🗳️

Visit the Action Center at DeathwithDignity.org/take-action.

Meeting the Moment: Changes at Death with Dignity in 2020–2021

OUR COMMITMENT TO EQUITY: A REPORT BACK

At Death with Dignity, we are listening to and working alongside communities of color and individuals belonging to historically marginalized groups to achieve justice and equity. Last year, we prioritized internal change to increase equity and accessibility in how we do business. Specifically, we updated our hiring practices and revised how we produce and distribute information. We continue to rigorously examine every aspect of our work and make changes based in principles of social justice. 🌱

DEATH WITH DIGNITY'S RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

One of the biggest shifts we've seen in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic is an increasing recognition of the need to speak openly and plainly about end-of-life care and planning.

With so many unexpected illnesses and losses during the pandemic, many people reached out to our team for support and resources. In response to frequently asked questions, we created the Life File Checklist, a resource for end-of-life planning, and published interviews with medical ethicists and care providers who offered guidance and insight into caring for a dying loved one during a pandemic. 🌱

You can find the Life File Checklist and other end-of-life resources at **DeathwithDignity.org/learn/end-of-life-resources**.

Our 2020–2021 Finances*

Our financial planning philosophy is twofold: We're prudent with an eye to long-term financial stability and we're committed to funding bold ideas when appropriate opportunities present themselves. This year, we seized such an opportunity by investing in Death with Dignity's digital future. We are remaking our organization into a digital campaigning powerhouse, a shift that will contribute to monumental successes for our movement. We're working to develop effective communication strategies and building staff capacity to continue our fight for death with dignity around the country. 🇺🇸

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS	2021	2020
Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,023,725	\$1,115,279
Prepaid expenses and other assets	9,327	5,640
Investments	3,322,698	2,345,318
Property and equipment, net	3,501	6,012
TOTAL ASSETS	\$4,359,251	\$3,472,249
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$66,231	\$75,121
Refundable advance	88,900	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES	155,131	75,121
NET ASSETS		
Net assets without donor restrictions:		
Undesignated	1,553,366	1,318,001
Board designated	2,522,189	1,980,276
Property and equipment, net	3,501	6,012
<i>Total net assets without donor restrictions</i>	<i>4,079,056</i>	<i>3,304,289</i>
Net assets with donor restrictions	125,064	92,839
TOTAL NET ASSETS	4,204,120	3,397,128
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$4,359,251	\$3,472,249

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

	2021			2020		
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
REVENUE & SUPPORT						
Contributions and grants	\$912,855	\$22,500	\$935,355	\$1,511,701	\$30,150	\$1,541,851
Donated assets and services	30,420	-	30,420	18,420	-	18,420
Investment income (loss), net	767,637	-	767,637	(142,191)	-	(142,191)
Conference sponsorships	-	21,268	21,268	-	120,796	120,796
Conference registration income	-	131	131	26	32,964	32,990
Net assets released from restrictions:						
Satisfaction of purpose restrictions	11,674	(11,674)	-	128,405	(128,405)	-
TOTAL REVENUE & SUPPORT	1,722,586	32,225	1,754,811	1,516,361	55,505	1,571,866

EXPENSES

Program services						
Public education	244,098	-	244,098	355,215	-	355,215
Communication	115,845	-	115,845	151,632	-	151,632
Dignity 50	345,743	-	345,743	458,220	-	458,220
Total program services	705,686	-	705,686	965,067	-	965,067
Management and general	142,089	-	142,089	144,963	-	144,963
Fundraising	100,044	-	100,044	144,136	-	144,136
TOTAL EXPENSES	947,819	-	947,819	1,254,166	-	1,254,166
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	774,767	32,225	806,992	262,195	55,505	317,700

NET ASSETS

Beginning of year	3,304,289	92,839	3,397,128	3,042,094	37,334	3,079,428
END OF YEAR	\$4,079,056	\$125,064	\$4,204,120	\$3,304,289	\$92,839	\$3,397,128

*The amounts in the sections "Consolidated Statement of Financial Position" and "Consolidated Statements of Activities" are derived from audited financial statements for the 2021 fiscal year, which ran from April 1, 2020, to March 31, 2021. Full financial statements for the year, as well as tax forms, are available at [DeathwithDignity.org/About/Financials](https://www.deathwithdignity.org/About/Financials); hard copies are available at 520 SW 6th Avenue, Suite 1220, Portland, OR 97204.



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2021 Annual Report

I am unspeakably sad at the thought of being gone, but what scares me is the potential agony of it. Having the option of medical aid in dying will bring me immeasurable peace in my journey to live and, eventually, to die.

— ERIN ARMSTRONG,
LIVING WITH STAGE IV CANCER, NEW MEXICO

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